

**MARCH 2021**

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**PRESS  
INFORMATION  
BUREAU  
(PIB) SUMMARY**

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## PIB SUMMARY: MARCH 2021

### PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

#### 1. International Women's Day

- On the occasion of International Women's Day (March 7), The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind extended his congratulations and best wishes to all the women.

#### 2. World Tuberculosis Day

- The President of India, gave a message on the eve of World Tuberculosis Day which is observed on 24th March to raise public awareness about TB.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT

- Air Surveillance System

- A presentation suggesting the setting up of sewage and air surveillance system in the Indian Parliament to find the prevalence of COVID-19 was made to the Vice President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha on March 30 by the Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Dr. Shekhar C Mande.

### PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

#### 1. COVID-19 Vaccine

- On March 1, PM Narendra Modi took the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at AIIMS, New Delhi.

#### 2. Maritime India Summit 2021

- On March 2 2021, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated 'Maritime India Summit 2021' through video conferencing.
- It is organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

#### 3. Maitri Setu

- The Prime Minister inaugurated 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh on 9th March 2021.

- The bridge 'Maitri Setu' has been built over Feni river which flows between Indian boundary in Tripura State and Bangladesh.

#### 4. QUAD

- The Prime Minister addressed the first summit of the leaders' of the Quadrilateral Framework (QUAD).
- QUAD consists of India, USA, Japan and Australia and its objective is to safeguard the interest of countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

### AYUSH

#### 1. BRICS

- The Ministry of AYUSH hosted a virtual meeting of the BRICS Experts in Traditional Medicines under India's Chairship of BRICS 2021 on 25 March 2021. The meeting was attended by Traditional Medicines Experts from Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa.

#### 2. Ayurveda Parav

- A 3-day "Ayurveda Parav" was organized by Vinoba Seva Pratisthan (VSP), in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, in order to promote Ayurveda as the mainstream treatment for the prevalent lifestyle related diseases.

### MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELFARE

#### 1. Agriculture Voltage Technology

- ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, developed an Agri-voltaic system of 105 KW capacity.

#### 2. King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award

- ICAR received the prestigious King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award acknowledges individuals/institutions that raise public awareness of soils by organising successful World Soil Day celebrations.

#### 3. Multi-Layer Farming

- ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram has undertaken research (on-station) and technology validation through farmers' participatory research (on-farm research) on Integrated Farming Systems and Cropping Systems under AICRP-Integrated Farming Systems (AICRP-IFS) in 24 states and 1 Union Territory with the participation of 34 State Agricultural Universities, 6 ICAR institutes and 1 Central University.

## MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

- 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas
  - Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) celebrated 3rd Janaushadhi Diwas on March 7 with the theme of “Seva Bhi – Rozgar bhi”.
  - Janaushadhi Diwas week was observed from 1st March to 7th March 2021.

## MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

- Kurnool Airport
  - Kurnool Airport was inaugurated at Orvakal, Andhra Pradesh by the Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
  - Kurnool is the 6th airport in Andhra Pradesh to become functional after Kadapa, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rajahmundry & Vijayawada.

## MINISTRY OF COAL

- 2nd Tranche of Commercial Coal Mining
  - On March 25, India launched its 2nd Tranche of auction for commercial coal mining offering 67 mines for sale of coal.
  - Out of the total 67 mines offered by the Ministry of Coal, 23 mines are under CM(SP) Act and 44 under MMDR Act.

## MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

### 1. BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues

- The BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) leaders held their first meeting under India’s Chairship from 9-11 March 2021.
- The theme of BRICS this year is -"BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus”.

### 2. Virtual Trade Fair

- First Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) to boost exports potential of India’s agricultural and processed food products during COVID19 pandemic was organised by APEDA.
- The VTF organised during March 10-12, 2021 drew huge response from participants, exporters and buyers from countries including India, UAE, Brazil, New Zealand and France.

### 3. INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES

- The Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released Index of Eight Core Industries for the Month of February, 2021.
- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 127.8 in February, 2021, which declined by 4.6% as compared to the Index of February, 2020.

### MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework
  - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in association with British High Commission, released a publication titled “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework”.
  - The Handbook details several aspects of professional ethics, including conflict of interest, independence, impartiality, objectivity and timelines, etc. in a comprehensive manner.

### MINISTRY OF CULTURE

#### 1. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2021

- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organised the third and final edition of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav-2021 at Murshidabad. All the seven Zonal cultural Centres presented the dance performances and made the evening memorable for the audience.

#### 2. Gandhi Peace Prize

- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 has been conferred on (Late) His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman.
- Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government of India since 1995, the 125th Birth Anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

### MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

#### 1. EX Desert FLAG VI

- The Indian Air Force participated for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- The exercise was scheduled from March 03, 21 to March 27, 21 at Al-Dhafra air base, UAE.
- Ex Desert Flag is an annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force.

#### 2. Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out a flight demonstration based on Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- SFDR technology is a missile propulsion system based on the concept of the Ramjet Engine principle which takes up oxygen from the atmosphere during flight.

### 3. Battle Ready for 21st Century

- Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) released a book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century” which defines emerging areas of conflict, desired capabilities and doctrinal issues that need careful examination.

### 4. Swarnim Vijay Varsh 2021

- Indian Navy conducted a maiden Operational Demonstration on the Hooghly River, Kolkata on March 20, 2021 as part of the Swarnim Vijay Varsh 2021 Celebrations.
- Two Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC), four Navy Patrol Boats, one each Sea King and Chetak Helicopter, a Marine Commando (MARCOS) team and a Coast Guard Air Cushion Vessel (CG ACV) demonstrated in the ‘Op Demo’.

### 5. 7th IN BN STAFF TALKS

- 7th Staff Talks between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted from 23 to 25 March 2021 at New Delhi with an objective of further bolstering existing defence relations between India and Bangladesh in the maritime domain.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

### 1. Indian Knowledge Tradition Courses Programme

- Union Minister of Education, Ramesh Pokhriyal released the study material of Bhartiya Jnana Parampara (Indian Knowledge Tradition) courses of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in Noida on March 02, 21.
- Under these courses the subject of Vedas covers topics such as the Ramayana epic narratives, the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, the Panini propounded Maheshwara Sutras, the Samarasa shloka sangraha, the Ekatyasastotra, the numerous Vedic hymns, the Vishnu Sahasranama stotra, the Shikshavalli, Brahmavalli, Bhriguavalli, Lallishatnama stotra.

### 2. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak

- Union Education Minister inaugurated Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in New Delhi on March 23, the day of martyrdom of Bhagat Singh.
- To honour and value the sacrifices made by the National heroes and to drive out lessons of inspiration from their lives and times, the Government of India has declared 23rd March as ‘Shaheed Diwas’.

## MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT

- International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing- 2021
  - Government of India, on the occasion of 30th foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021).
  - MEMP-2021 will provide an opportunity to scientists, researchers, academicians and young students to interact with eminent scientists/technologists working in the field of multifunctional electronic materials for various applications & their processing for making devices. Materials required for energy storage, energy generation, Nanostructured materials, Quantum dots, Sensors, Neutrino Energy Conversion /storage. Flexible devices, Photonic devices and processing techniques like Additive Manufacturing (3D printing) will be discussed.

## MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Women Forest Officers
  - On the eve of International Women's Day (March 08), the Union Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar released an e-book titled: "The Green Queens of India – A nation's pride", which is a compilation of case studies, best practices and life experiences as shared by the woman forest officers themselves.

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

### 1. 45th Civil Accounts Day

- The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) celebrated the 45th Civil Accounts Day on 01 March 2021.

### 2. New Development Bank

- Union Minister of Finance, Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 6th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank through video-conference in New Delhi.
- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia and South Africa.

### 3. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) 1.0 & 2.0

- In recognition of the continuing adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on certain service sectors, the Government has now extended the scope of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) through introduction of ECLGS 3.0 to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Sporting sectors which had, as on 29.02.2020, total credit outstanding not exceeding Rs. 500 crore and overdues, if any, were for 60 days or less, on that date i.e. 29th Feb 2020.



## MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

- Production Linked Incentive Scheme
  - The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Modi has approved the Central Sector Scheme - "Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)" to support creation of global food manufacturing champions.
  - The main objective of the Scheme is to strengthen select Indian brands of food products for global visibility and wider acceptance in the international markets.

## MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

### 1. Land Ports Authority of India

- On March 01, the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) celebrated its 9th Foundation Day at its Headquarter in New Delhi.
- LPAI works under MoH with an aim to build land ports on India's borders, to provide secure, seamless and efficient systems for cargo and passenger movement, to reduce dwell time and trade transaction costs, to promote regional trade and people-to-people contact and endeavour to imbibe the best international practices.

### 2. National Crime Records Bureau

- On March 11, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 36th Inception Day.
- NCRB is an Indian government agency (under MoH) responsible for collecting and analyzing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Special and Local Laws (SLL).

## MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN AFFAIRS

- Ease of Living Index 2020
  - The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry released the final rankings of Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020.
  - In Million+ category: Bengaluru emerged as the top performer 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 Bhubaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada, Salem, Vellore, Gandhinagar, Gurugram, Davangere, and Tiruchirappalli.

## MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

- 228th meeting of CBT, EPF

- The 228th meeting of Central Board of Trustees, EPF was held on March 04 in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir under the chairmanship of Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge).
- Chairman, CBT virtually inaugurated three new Regional Office buildings of EPFO at Raichur, Salem, Jamshedpur and annexed buildings for Zonal Office & Regional Office in Bengaluru.

### MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

#### 1. Outlook Business Leading Edge 2021

- Minister for Road Transport & Highways and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Nitin Gadkari Addressed Outlook Business Leading Edge 2021 - "Regaining Growth" in which he spoke about various Govt measures taken in order to ensure smooth recovery of the MSME sector.

#### 2. Khadi Mujib Jackets

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) supplied 100 custom-designed "Mujib Jackets" that were the attire of dignitaries during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to Bangladesh on March 26 & 27.
- "Mujib Jacket" is famed as the signature garment worn by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is called Bangladesh's Father of the Nation.

### MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

- Hunar Haat
  - On March 13, the 27th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen from across the country was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal in the presence of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.
  - On March 27, Goa CM Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated 28th "Hunar Haat" of indigenous artisans and craftsmen at Kala Academy, Campal, Panaji in the presence of Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi.

### MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS

- Indo-Israeli JV IOC Phinergy Pvt Ltd
  - On March 17, Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel, along with Minister of Energy, Israel, Dr. Yuval Steinitz, witnessed the launching of a Joint Venture (IOC Phinergy Private Limited) between Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Indian

Oil) and Phinergy, an Israeli start-up company specializing in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems.

## MINISTRY OF POWER

### 1. 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21

- NTPC Ltd, a Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power has been conferred the prestigious 'Role Model' Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21.
- The award was presented in the virtual conference "Learn from the Achievers".

### 2. GRAM UJALA

- GRAM UJALA programme was launched in Arrah, Bihar and Varanasi, UP by R.K. Singh, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power & New and Renewable Energy.
- Under this the LED bulbs are offered by state-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd's (EESL's) subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL).
- This is the first programme to be financed entirely through carbon credits.

## MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

### 1. Kotdwar-Delhi Junction-Kotdwar Siddhabali Jan Shatabdi Express Special

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal flagged off Kotdwar-Delhi Junction-Kotdwar Siddhabali Jan Shatabdi Special train through video conferencing.

### 2. Fog Pass Devices

- A GPS based portable hand-held Fog PASS device is being provided to loco pilots in fog affected areas which raises audio visual signals whenever landmarks like signals, level crossing gates etc. are approaching within the Geo-fence range.

### 3. AC Three Tier Economy Class Coach

- Indian Railways Production Unit, Railway Coach Factory, Kapurthala has recently rolled out the first prototype Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) AC three-tier economy class coach of Indian Railways (IR). Trial has been successfully completed.

## MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

### 1. Rating Mechanism for National Highways

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has released the ratings for 18,668 km of completed 4/6 lane NH stretches covering 343 toll plazas. This has been done by NHAI under

MoRTH, which has taken initiative to improve its accountability towards road users, who pay user fee for use of developed National Highways.

### 2. Tourist Vehicle Operators

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has announced a new scheme, All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an “All India Tourist Authorization/Permit” through online mode. It will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission of such applications.

## MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### 1. Global Bio India: Atma Nirbhar Bharat Conclave

- The largest bio-technology conglomerate Global Bio-India 2021 was inaugurated by Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan on March 1.
- The three-day event organized by DBT-BIRAC with participation of over 6000 delegates from 50 countries, saw different sessions touching down upon different aspects of biotechnology.

### 2. CSIR Floriculture Mission

- With an objective to raise farmers' income and employment by raising awareness about the floriculture, the Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched CSIR Floriculture Mission in New Delhi.
- This Mission is being implemented in collaboration with ICAR-Directorate of Floriculture; Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC); Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce; Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED); Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of MSME and Universities.

### 3. Air Pollution Control System for Crematoria

- The four pyres of Green Crematorium, Air Pollution Control System for Crematoria, developed by CSIR-NEERI, was launched by the Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan at Delhi's Nigam Bodh Ghat Crematorium.

### 4. US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative

- In a bid to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas, US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) initiative was launched.
- USIAI is an initiative of Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) which was established in March 2000.

## MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

- Sugamya Bharat App & Access - the Photo Digest
  - Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched “Sugamya Bharat App” and a handbook entitled “Access – The Photo Digest”.
  - Sugamya Bharat App is a Crowdsourcing Mobile Application for sensitising and enhancing accessibility in the 3 pillars of the Accessible India Campaign i.e. built environment, transportation sector and ICT ecosystem in India.
  - Access - The Photo Digest is a collection of photographs from across different States and UTs. This Book is envisaged as a tool and guide to sensitise stakeholders about 10 basic features of accessibility and related good-bad practices in easy to understand pictorial form.

### MINISTRY OF TEXTILES

#### 1. Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved the closure of Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Limited (HHEC), the Corporation, a Government of India undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles.

#### 2. Synthetic Yarn

- In order to boost exports, including textiles and garments, the Government of India launched a scheme namely "Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products' (RoDTEP).

### MINISTRY OF TOURISM

#### • 1000 BAR DEKHO- NORTH EAST DEKHO

- Ministry of Tourism organised an event “1000 BAR DEKHO- NORTH EAST DEKHO” under the tagline of “DEKHO APNA DESH” and “FIT INDIA” from 7 March to 18 March 2021.
- The Ministry of Tourism placed special emphasis on the development and promotion of tourism in the North Eastern Region (NER).

### MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

#### 1. GI Mahotsav

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda, inaugurated the Tribes India GI Mahotsav at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) Mussoorie on March 5.
- GI Mahotsav is organized by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation Ltd (TRIFED) with an aim to increase awareness about various GI products and cultural heritage of India.

### 2. Abki Holi Tribes India Wali

- Colorful kurtas for men and women, waistcoats in different types of weaves and styles, sarees, dresses and stoles in various traditions such as Maheshwari, Chanderi, Bagh, Kantha, Bhandara, Tussar, Sambhalpuri and Ikat along with organic gulal, organic soaps, shampoos, herbal oil packs formed a part of the Holi collection of Tribes India.

## MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

### 1. 6th IBSA Women's Forum Meeting

- The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the event witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries.

### 2. Working Women Hostels Scheme

- The Working Women Hostels scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development with an aim to ensure safe accommodation for women working away from their place of residence.

## MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

### 1. MoU between India and Maldives

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of Maldives for cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs, was given approval by the Union Cabinet.
- The prime objective of the MoU is to hold bilateral exchange programmes in the field of sports and expand knowledge and expertise.

### 2. Yogasana

- Yogasana sport for both male and female categories have been included in Khelo India Youth Games, 2021. The Government recognition makes the National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) eligible for financial assistance for conduct of national championships in all the categories, viz. Senior, Junior and Sub-junior and participation in international sporting events.

## NITI AAYOG

### 1. Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India

- NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India released a report 'Mobilising Electric Vehicle Financing in India', which highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of USD 266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh crore) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade.

### 2. AIM-PRIME

- With an objective of driving India into a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.

