

Weekly One Liners 08th March to 14th of March 2021

Economic Freedom Index 2021 announced

The **Heritage Foundation**, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the “**Economic Freedom Index**”. The index was prepared by covering 184 countries this time for the period of **July 2019 to June 2020**. This is the first time the index has been published since the COVID-19 pandemic overturned lives as well as global economies and the scoring reflects a small extent how governments have responded to the health crisis.

Ranking:

In the index, **Singapore** has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year. In the 2021 Index, **India** came in around the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries ranking **26th** out of 40 countries, scoring 56.5 points. Globally, the Foundation rates India’s economy as the **121st freest**. Although its overall score is unchanged, improvements were made in business freedom. This was offset by declines in judicial effectiveness and other scores.

Index

- **Rank 1:** Singapore
- **Rank 2:** New Zealand
- **Rank 3:** Australia
- **Rank 4:** Switzerland
- **Rank 5:** Ireland

Important Fact of the Index:

- The biggest news generated from the “2021 Index of Economic Freedom” was however not the rankings or how COVID-19 impacted the scores but that The Heritage Foundation decided to exclude **Hong Kong** from its rankings for the first time ever.
- The Heritage Foundation said that the reason for leaving Hong Kong out is that the Special Administrative Region and its economic policies have now come under the direct control of Beijing.

What is Economic Freedom Index?

- The Heritage Foundation’s Index of Economic Freedom is an annual guide published to measure the progress made in advancing economic freedom which it claims brings greater prosperity.

- The Foundation also believes that “the ideals of economic freedom are strongly associated with healthier societies, cleaner environments, greater per capita wealth, human development, democracy, and poverty elimination.”
- The index ranks 12 indicators from property rights to financial freedom under four categories: rule of law, size of government, regulatory efficiency and open markets.
- The small island nation of Singapore made improvements or maintained its score for all 12 indicators except monetary freedom and judicial effectiveness which declined marginally, but its scores in these two indicators are still exceptionally high when compared with most other countries.

Winners List of Swiss Open 2021

India’s ace shuttler **PV Sindhu** has won a silver medal in the **BWF Swiss Open Super 300** in the final of the women’s singles event held at **Basel, Switzerland**. The World No. 7 Sindhu lost to World No. 3 and reigning Olympic champion **Carolina Marin**.

- Men’s Singles : **Viktor Axelsen** (Denmark) beat Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand).
- Women’s Singles: **Carolina Marin** (Spain) beat PV Sindhu (India).
- Men’s Doubles: **Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen** (Denmark) beat Mark Lamsfuss-Marvin Seidel (Germany).

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1200+ Total Tests

12 + 12 Months Validity

- Mixed Doubles: **Thom Gicquel-Delphine Delrue** (France) beat Denmark pair, Mathias Christiansen-Alexandra Boje.

2021 Dandi March to mark 75 years of Independence

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has flagged off the **91st anniversary** of **Dandi March** on **March 12** in **Ahmedabad** to celebrate the **75th anniversary** of **India's Independence**. The Salt March, which took place from **March to April 1930**, was an act of civil disobedience led by **Mahatma Gandhi** to protest the British rule in the country. The event is kicked off from **Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram** and this event is also the part of the State government's programme to mark "**Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav**."

What was the original Dandi March?

The Dandi March or Salt March as part of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent protest against the British monopoly on the production of salt. Led by Gandhi, **78 people** started the 24-day march on **March 12** and reached Dandi on **April 5, 1930**. After making salt at Dandi, Gandhi headed to Dharasana Salt Works, 40 km south, but was arrested on May 5.

GoI Sets up 259-Member panel to Commemorate 75 Years of India's Independence

The Government of India has set up a **259-member** high-level national committee, to be headed by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to commemorate **75 years of India's independence**. The committee will provide policy direction and guidelines for the formulation of programmes for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence, at the national and international levels.

The celebrations are proposed to be launched 75 weeks prior to **August 15, 2022**, on March 12, 2021, which is the **91st anniversary** of the historic **Salt Satyagraha** led by Mahatma Gandhi. The celebrations will be held at the national and international level in the form of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The high-level committee will hold its first meeting on March 8, 2021.

Members include:

- The members of the panel include former president Pratibha Patil, Chief Justice of India SA Bobde, NSA Ajit Doval, 28 chief ministers, artistes like Lata Mangeshkar, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, senior BJP leader LK Advani, almost all Union ministers and several governors.
- Opposition leaders like Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee and former Uttar Pradesh chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati are also part of the committee.

PM Narendra Modi Launches Kindle Version Of Bhagavad Gita

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the Kindle version of **Swami Chidbhavananda's 'Bhagavad Gita'** via video conferencing. The event has been organised to commemorate the sale of over 5 lakh copies of the Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita. Swami Chidbhavanandaji is the founder of **Sri Ramakrishna Tapovanam Ashram** at Thirupparaithurai, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. Chidbhavananda Ji was devoted to India's regeneration. He noted that Swami Vivekananda's Madras lectures inspired Swami Chidbhavananda Ji to put the nation above everything else and serve the people.

National Affairs

- The Union Education Minister **Ramesh Pokhriyal** has inaugurated the **New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition**, through video-conferencing. The program has been organized by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**. The New Delhi World Book Fair 2021 is the 29th edition of the annual event. The theme of the 2021 New Delhi World Book Fair is '**National Education Policy-2020**'.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has addressed '**Janaushadhi Diwas**' celebrations through video conference. He dedicated to the nation the **7500th Janaushadhi Kendra** at NEIGRIHMS, **Shillong** during the event. **1st March to 7th March** is celebrated as '**Janaushadhi Week**' across the nation with the theme of "**Jan Aushadhi - Seva Bhi, Rozgar Bhi**" for creating awareness about the use of generic medicines.

- The President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind** has laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of **Singorgarh Fort** in Singrampur village of Damoh district, **Madhya Pradesh**. He also inaugurated the newly carved **Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India**.
- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the '**Maitri Setu**' bridge between India and Bangladesh through a video conference, to strengthen the connectivity between both countries and especially with the north-eastern region of India. Maitri bridge will also make Tripura the '**Gateway of North East**' with access to Chittagong Port of Bangladesh. The Maitri Setu bridge has been built on the **Feni river**, which lies between the Indian boundary in Tripura and Bangladesh.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**, as a single non-lapsable reserve fund. This has been **approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education Cess** which is **levied under the Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007**.
- The **Union Cabinet** has given its nod for amendments in the **Insurance Act**, paving way for **74 per cent** foreign direct investment in the sector. Currently, the permissible FDI limit in life and general insurance stands at **49 per cent** with ownership and management control with Indian. According to sources, the Cabinet in its meeting has approval for amendments in the **Insurance Act, 1938**.

- The commerce and industry ministry has stated that the central government is working to develop a portal called "**Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra Portal**" for information dissemination, hand-holding, and facilitation of domestic investors.

States in the News

- The Cyberabad Police has launched India's first-ever **Transgender Community Desk** at the **Gachibowli** Police Station in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country. It is the world's first-ever help desk for the transgender community and it will be managed by a Police Liaison Officer and a member of the transgender community who is designated as a community coordinator.
- The **First Forest Healing centre of the country** was inaugurated at **Ranikhet in Kalika Uttarakhand**. The forest healing centre has been developed by the Research Wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department after research on the healing properties of the forests and its revitalizing impact on overall health and well being. It is spread over an area of around 13 acres.
- **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has resigned as the chief minister of Uttarakhand, a year before the hill state is scheduled to go to polls. Rawat, who became the CM after the BJP swept the assembly elections here in early **2017**, tendered his resignation after meeting governor **Baby Rani Maurya**.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party's member of Parliament from Pauri Garhwal, **Tirath Singh Rawat**, will be the **next chief minister of Uttarakhand**. This was announced by outgoing chief minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, who resigned. Tirath Singh Rawat will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- The famous **Swarnim International Shivratri Fair** has begun with Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** formally launching it at the historic Paddal ground, Himachal Pradesh. Thousands of people dressed in their traditional attire participated in the procession carrying their local deities dancing all the way up to Paddal ground.



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International Affairs

- **Google** has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' on March 8, 2021, on the occasion of "International Women's Day". This platform will provide its support to **1 million rural** women in India in order for them to become entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- In the **50th year of Indian** victory over **Pakistan** in the **1971 Liberation war**, Indian Naval Ships arrived in the port town of **Mongla** for a three-day visit to **Bangladesh**. The Indian Naval Ships is on a three-day visit between March 8 to 10. This is the first time ever that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla in Bangladesh.
- **Switzerland** has voted in favour of a proposal banning full facial coverings including the **burqa and niqab** in almost all public places. In the public referendum, around **51.21 per cent** of voters voted in support of the controversial proposal.
- **Mahamadou Issoufou**, the incumbent President of **Niger** has won the "2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership", the world's largest leadership prize, worth **\$5 million**. He is the sixth winner of the Ibrahim Prize since it was introduced in **2006**, by Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim's foundation to promote good governance in the world's poorest continent.
- The **Japanese** scientific research institute called **RIKEN and Fujitsu** started developing the "Fugaku" six years ago. It is the world's most powerful supercomputers. Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for **Mount Fuji**.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **IBM** has announced a collaboration with **Samagra Siksha Uttarakhand**, the Government of Uttarakhand's education mission, to introduce the 'IBM STEM for Girls' program in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across five districts in the state. The collaboration is part of a three-year program between IBM and Uttarakhand State Government with the American India Foundation as the implementation partner to increase the participation of girls and women in STEM careers.

- The space agencies of **China** and **Russia** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on behalf of their national governments, to jointly construct a **lunar space station** that will be open to all countries. The MoU was officially signed between the Chinese space agency, **China National Space Administration (CNSA)** and the **Russian space agency Roscosmos**, on March 09, 2021.

Science and Technology

- **ISRO** has completed the development of a **Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR)** capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with the US space agency **NASA**. **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR)** is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation. NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (**L-band and S-band**) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimetre across. ISRO is providing the spacecraft bus, the **S-band radar**, the launch vehicle and associated launch services for the mission, whose goal is to make global measurements of the causes and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched a new online certificate course on **5G technology** to be conducted by the **National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT)**, which is the training institute of DoT.

Books and Authors

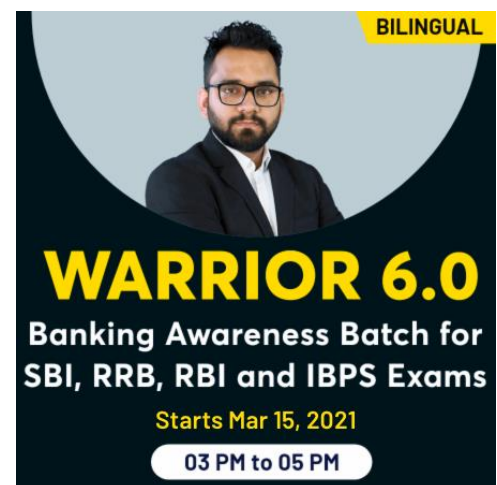
- The autobiography of **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, popularly known as the "Frontier Gandhi", titled "**The Frontier Gandhi: My Life and Struggle**" is set to be published in English by the publishing house Roli Books. This will be his first autobiography in English. The book was translated into English by **Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada**, the former Pakistani civil servant and author.

- The English translation of journalist-author Anant Vijay's book "**Amethi Sangram: Aitihāsik Jeet Ankahi Dastan**" will be released on March 15. The book, titled "**Dynasty to Democracy: The Untold Story of Smriti Irani's Triumph**", traces Union Minister Irani's journey from her defeat in 2014 to her victory in the Congress stronghold of Amethi, Uttar Pradesh during the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The board of **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has kept the interest rates on **Provident Fund deposits** for the financial year 2020-21 at **8.5 per cent**. The rate has been kept unchanged, as in 2019-20. The decision was taken by the Central Board of Trustees, at the 228th meeting, under the chairmanship of Labour Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar**.
- Alliance Insurance** has launched the insurance portal '**SMEInsure**' in order to provide financial security to **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, small shop and business owners Alliance. It is a portal to insure **5 crores Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)** under the insurance category.
- HDFC Bank** on the occasion of International Women' Day has announced the launch of a dedicated programme named "**SmartUp Unnati**" for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. Under the SmartUp Unnati programme, over the next one year, senior women leaders from HDFC Bank will mentor women entrepreneurs in helping them achieve their goals. This programme is available only to exist customers and will initially target more than **3,000 women entrepreneurs** associated with the bank's SmartUp programme.
- The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has released the list of "**Digital Payment Scorecard**". In the list, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has topped for the third consecutive months. The digital payment scorecard tracks the performance of the Commercial Banks on several digital parameters. SBI maintained the top remitter bank by recording the highest UPI transaction volume which accounted for nearly **Rupees 640 million**.

- Axis Bank** has launched a range of wearable contactless payment devices under the brand **Wear 'N' Pay**. These devices come in different forms of wearables like a band, key chain and watch loop and are available starting at **Rs 750**. The wearables are directly linked to the bank account of an Axis Bank customer and function like a regular debit card. It allows purchases at any merchant store which accepts contactless transactions.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has removed **IDBI Bank** from its enhanced regulatory supervision or **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework**. It was noted that as per published results for the quarter ending December 31, 2020, the bank is not in breach of the PCA parameters on regulatory capital, net NPA and leverage ratio.
- Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** interim economic outlook has pegged India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to rebound to **12.6%** in FY22, which will be the fastest in the world, followed by China at **7.8%** growth. India's GDP is expected to grow at **5.4%** in the following financial year, owing to the faster rebound of several large emerging-market economies.
- India's GDP growth is expected to rebound to **11%** in **FY'22** as people learn to live with the new normal, flattening of the **Covid-19** affliction curve, the rollout of vaccinations, and investment-focused government spending converge, according to rating firm **Crisil**.



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- Markets regulator **Sebi** has cancelled the certificate of registration of **Sahara India Financial Corporation Ltd** as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfil the “**fit and proper**” criteria. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations.

Appointments/Resignations

- 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**.
- NABARD chairman, **G R Chintala** has assumed charge as the chairman of **APRACA (Asia Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association)**. He has taken over from **DPK Gunasekera**, who is also the Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Ceylon.
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), **Girish Chandra Murmu** has been re-appointed as the **Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations** for the year 2021. Prior to this, Mr Murmu was elected as Chairman of the Panel for 2020 as well.
- The Central Government has appointed **Dr G P Samanta** as the new **Chief Statistician of India (CSI)** for a period of two years. He is India’s fourth CSI. He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji who was holding an additional charge of the post since September 2020.
- Union Minister **Anurag Thakur** has become the first serving MP to be appointed as **Captain in the Territorial Army**. Thakur has been promoted to the rank of Captain at **124 Infantry Battalion Territorial Army (Sikh)**.
- Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil)** has announced the appointment of **Pallav Mohapatra** as its **Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director**. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of the **Central Bank of India**.

Defence News

- The **Indian Navy** got its **third Scorpene submarine**, commissioned as **INS Karanj**, of Project P-75 in Mumbai. With the delivery of Karanj, India further cemented its position as a submarine-building nation. Mazagon Dock Ltd (MDL), one of India’s leading shipyards with the capacity and the capability to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Indian Navy. Before Karanj, **INS Kalvari** and **INS Khanderi** have been commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2017 and 2019, respectively.
- The **India - Uzbekistan** joint military exercise **DUSTLIK II** has commenced in Foreign Training Node **Chaubatia, Ranikhet in Uttarakhand**. This is the **Second Edition** of the annual bilateral joint exercise of both armies. It will continue till the 19th of this month. The first edition of the exercise was held in **Uzbekistan** in November 2019. 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and the Indian Army are participating in the exercise.

Awards and Recognitions

- World rapid chess champion **Koneru Humpy** has won the **BBC Indian Sportswoman-of-the-Year award**. BBC director-general Tim Davie, hosting the virtual awards ceremony. The Lifetime Achievement award went to veteran athlete **Anju Bobby George**. English cricket star **Ben Stokes** announced the 19-year-old Indian Shooter, **Manu Bhaker** as the winner of the **Emerging Player-of-the-Year award category**. Bhaker, won two golds at the ISSF World Cup in 2018, followed by gold at the Youth Olympics and a Commonwealth Games gold with a record to boot.
- Megastar **Amitabh Bachchan** will be honoured with an award by the **International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF)**. The veteran actor will be the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAF Award for his dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world’s film heritage.

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has presented a **baton of honour** and a letter of appreciation to former Puducherry lieutenant governor **Kiran Bedi** at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The former Puducherry lieutenant governor received a Baton of Honor decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and the appreciation letter recognizing her service in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Summit and Conference

- Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** has addressed the inaugural session of **TechBharat 2021**. Laghu Udyog Bharati and IMS Foundation have organized the 2nd edition of the conclave bringing together stakeholders from the HealthTech & Edutech sector on a virtual platform.
- Defence minister **Rajnath Singh** has attended the three-day **Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC)** along with top defence officials at **Kevadia, Gujarat**. Theaterisation of armed forces, self-reliance in the defence sector and evolving threats in the region will be the focus. It is a premier brainstorming event of the Military Commanders from the three Services.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, US President **Joe Biden**, Australian Prime Minister **Scott Morrison** and Japan Prime Minister **Yoshihide Suga** come together for the first **QUAD Summit**. The meeting was held virtually during which the four participants will exchange views on different areas of cooperation like maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region, COVID-19, emerging and critical technologies, maritime security, and climate change.

- Under the chairship of **India**, the First Meeting of the **BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI)** was held from 9th March 2021 to 11th March 2021. The 2021 theme of the BRICS is **"BRICS@15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus"**. India presented the calendar of events for BRICS CGETI 2021, this includes the priority areas for deliverables, schedule and scope of the MSME roundtable conference workshop on Services Statistics, and the **BRICS Trade Fair**.

Ranks and Reports

- The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** and WRAP released the **Food Waste Index Report 2021** and highlights that food wastes by different countries in 2019. As per the report, Over **931 million tonnes** of food were wasted globally in 2019. **In India**, the household food waste estimate is **50 kg per capita** per year, or **68,760,163 tonnes** a year. The household food waste estimate in the US is 59 kg per capita per year, or 19,359,951 tonnes a year. China these estimates are 64 kg per capita per year or 91,646,213 tonnes a year.

Sports News

- In wrestling, the World Championship bronze medallist **Bajrang Punia** won a gold medal at the **Matteo Pallicone ranking series** held in **Rome, Italy**. Apart from this, the ace India woman wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** won the gold medal in the 53kg title. The 26-year-old Vinesh beat Canada's Diana Weicker 4-0.
- India spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** was awarded the **ICC Player of the Month** award for February, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)**. Meanwhile, England opener **Tammy Beaumont** won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month** for February.
- **India** will play their inaugural **World Test Championship final** against **New Zealand** at **Southampton's Ageas Bowl Stadium, England** from June 18-22. Initially, the final was supposed to be held at the **Lord's** but Southampton, with a five-star facility inside the stadium, will make it easier for both the ICC and the England and Wales Cricket Board to create a bio-bubble for the two teams.

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40 TOTAL TESTS

- The veteran Indian women's cricketer **Mithali Raj** has become the first Indian woman cricketer that has completed **10,000 international runs** in all the cricket formats. She also becomes the second woman cricketer at the international level to complete 10000 runs. She achieved the milestone of 10,000 after she hit a boundary off the Anne Bosch in 28th over of Indian innings in the ongoing third ODI match against **South Africa**.

Important Days

- **International Women's Day** is celebrated on the **8th of March** every year. This day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. This year's theme for International Women Day, "**Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world**", celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The **Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) - Raising Day (CRD)** is observed on **March 10** in India every year. In 2021, the nation is celebrating the **52nd Raising Day of CISF**. The basic objective of the CISF is Better "**protection and security**" of industrial undertakings in both government and private sectors in the country.
- **World Kidney Day** is observed globally on the **second Thursday of March** every year. This year World Kidney Day is observed on **11th March 2021**. The theme of the 2021 World Kidney day is "**Living Well with Kidney Disease**". World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys.

Obituaries

- **M G George Muthoot**, the Chairman and Whole Time Director of **The Muthoot Group**, has passed away. He was the mentor and visionary leader who played a pivotal leadership role through his long career in building one of the most trusted financial powerhouses in the country.

- Noted Kannada poet, critic and translator **NS Lakshminarayana Bhatta** has passed away. Popularly known as 'NSL' in the Kannada literary world, he was born in 1936 in the Shivamogga district. A was recipient of the **Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award** and **Kannada Rajyotsava Award** among others, his popular works include **Thaye Ninna madilali**.
- Dhyani Chand National Sports Award-winning veteran Indian athlete **Ishar Singh Deol**, has passed away. Punjab-based Deol won the **Dhyani Chand National Award in 2009** for his lifelong contribution towards sports.
- Justice Shri **Anshuman Singh**, the former **Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat**, has passed away. Anshuman Singh was a retired Justice who served as the Governor of Rajasthan from January 1999 till 2003. Prior to that, he was appointed as the Governor of Gujarat state in 1998.
- The Marathi stage and film actor, **Shrikant Moghe** has passed away. He was popular for his work in both Marathi and Hindi languages.
- The incumbent Prime Minister of **Ivory Coast**, **Hamed Bakayoko**, has passed away due to cancer. He was named prime minister in July 2020 following the sudden death of his predecessor, Amadou Gon Coulibaly. President of Ivory Coast, **Alassane Ouattara**, has named **Patrick Achi** as interim prime minister in place of Bakayoko.

Miscellaneous News

- **Delhi government** has approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly **2,700 schools in the city**. There are around **1,000 Delhi government schools** and **about 1,700 private schools**, most of them affiliated to the CBSE, in the city.
- **Indian Railways' Western Railway zone** has introduced a **mobile train radio communication (MTRC) system** to facilitate direct and continuous communication between the train crew and the control centre and station master. This new communication system has already been deployed in **105 rakes**, operating between **Churchgate to Virar over Mumbai's** suburban segment.

- The Delhi government presented a **Rs 69,000-crore** budget themed on '**patriotism**' or '**Deshbhakti**' for the financial year 2021-22. The budget was presented by the Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, **Manish Sisodia**. While presenting the budget, he announced that the government has decided to celebrate the **75th Independence Day of India**.
- Actor **Deepika Padukone** has joined the list of the **Young Global Leaders (YGLs)** compiled by the **World Economic Forum**. The list also includes several Indian citizens and India-origin persons. They join a group of Nobel Prize recipients, Pulitzer winners, heads of state and chief executive officers committed to improving the state of the world.
- In the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir**, the festival of Shivratri '**Herath**' is being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir. Festival Mahashivratri locally known as Herath in Kashmir is being celebrated across J&K by Kashmiri Pandit Community with religious fervour by offering "**Watak Nath Pooja**".
- The **Jammu and Kashmir** Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** has launched "**Super-75**" scholarship schemes for meritorious girls, on the occasion of International Women's Day 2021. The basic aim of this scholarship scheme is to facilitate the education and entrepreneurship of women.
- In order to facilitate the '**One Nation-One Ration Card**' system in the country, the government has launched '**Mera Ration**' mobile app to benefit citizens in identifying the nearest fair price shop. This app will benefit especially those ration card holders who move to new areas for livelihoods.
- **Tata Motors** has launched '**Wheels of Love**', a holistic programme that supports new parents in the workforce. This is a move to promote a progressive culture of care, inclusion and sensitisation within the organisation across levels.
- Chief Minister of Telangana: K Chandrasekhar Rao; Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan.
- Google CEO: Sundar Pichai.
- Google Founded: 4 September 1998, California, United States.
- Google Founders: Larry Page, Sergey Brin.
- Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina; Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.
- President of Bangladesh: Abdul Hamid.
- Switzerland Currency: Swiss franc.
- Switzerland Capital: Bern.
- Niger Capital: Niamey.
- Niger Currency: West African CFA franc.
- China Capital: Beijing.
- China Currency: Renminbi.
- China President: Xi Jinping.
- Russia President: Vladimir Putin.
- Russia Capital: Moscow.
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo.
- Japan Currency: Japanese yen.
- Japan Prime minister: Yoshihide Suga.
- IBM CEO: Arvind Krishna.
- IBM Headquarters: Armonk, New York, United States.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.
- Uttarakhand CM: Tirath Singh Rawat.
- CEO of EPFO: Sunil Barthwal.
- EPFO Founded: 4 March 1952.
- EPFO Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Alliance Insurance CEO & Principal Officer: S. V. Thakkar.
- Alliance Insurance Headquarter: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Headquarters of HDFC Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- MD and CEO of HDFC Bank: Sashidhar Jagdishan(Succeeds Aditya Puri).
- The tagline of HDFC Bank: We understand your world.
- SBI Chairperson: Dinesh Kumar Khara.
- SBI Headquarters: Mumbai.
- SBI Founded: 1 July 1955.
- Axis Bank Commenced operations: 1994.
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Static Takeaways

- National Book Trust Founded: 1 August 1957.
- National Book Trust President: Govind Prasad Sharma.
- National Book Trust Headquarters: Vasant Kunj, Delhi.
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor: Anandiben Patel.

- Axis Bank Tagline: Dil Se Open.
- Axis Bank MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry.
- IDBI Bank CEO: Rakesh Sharma.
- IDBI Bank Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- OECD Headquarters: Paris, France.
- OECD Founded: 30 September 1961.
- OECD Secretary-General: Jose Angel Gurría.
- CEO of Crisil: Ashu Suyash.
- Crisil Chief Economist: Dharmakirti Joshi.
- Headquarters of Crisil: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Founded: 12 April 1992.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India Agency executive: Ajay Tyagi.
- CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank: John C. Williams.
- Federal Reserve Bank Chairperson: Jerome Powell.
- Federal Reserve Bank Founded: 23 December 1913.
- Federal Reserve Bank HQ: New York, United States.
- CAG Founded: 1858.
- CAG Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh.
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950.
- Capital of Uzbekistan: Tashkent; Currency: Uzbekistani Som.
- President of Uzbekistan: Shavkat Mirziyoyev.
- BBC director-general: Tim Davie.
- BBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom.
- BBC Established: 1922.
- FIAF Founded: 17 June 1938; Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Heritage Foundation Headquarters: Washington, D.C., US.
- Heritage Foundation Founded: 16 February 1973.
- Heritage Foundation Chairperson: Thomas A. Saunders III.
- UNEP Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya.
- UNEP Head: Inger Andersen.
- UNEP Founder: Maurice Strong.
- UNEP Founded: 5 June 1972, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Chairman of ICC: Greg Barclay.
- CEO of ICC: Manu Sawhney.

- Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Secretary-General of United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- United Nations founded: 24 October 1945.
- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, United States.
- Director-General of Central Industrial Security Force: Subodh Kumar Jaiswal.
- Ivory Coast President: Alassane Ouattara.
- Ivory Coast Capital: Yamoussoukro.
- Ivory Coast Currency: West African CFA franc.
- Chief Minister of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal; Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.
- Union Minister of Railways: Piyush Goyal.
- World Economic Forum Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland.
- World Economic Forum Founder: Klaus Schwab.
- World Economic Forum Founded: January 1971.
- Lieutenant Governor of J&K: Manoj Sinha.
- Tata motors HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Guenter Butschek.
- Minister of Commerce and Industry: Piyush Goyal.
- BRICS Establishment: 2009.
- BRICS Members: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The First BRICS Ministerial Meeting was held on 20th September 2006.
- Tata motors HQ: Mumbai; CEO: Guenter Butschek.
- Minister of Communications: Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- Chief Minister of HP: Jairam Thakur; Governor of HP: Bandaru Dattatraya.

BILINGUAL

Bank Prime Test Pack

IBPS | SBI | LIC | RBI | Others

1200+ Total Tests

12 + 12 Months Validity