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History of March 21

- ◆ **1858** : During the **First War** of Independence, **Indian soldiers** surrendered in Lucknow.
- ◆ **1887** : **Prarthana Samaj** was established in **Mumbai**
- ◆ **1958** : **The Soviet Union** conducted a **nuclear test**.
- ◆ **1975** : **New President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed** announced a case under **Section 352** against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- ◆ **1836** : **The first public** library was started in **Kolkata** now its name is National Library.

Current Affairs Related to 21 March

- ◆ **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has appointed **Jaideep Hansraj**, current MD and CEO of **Kotak Satyaj**, as Group President One Kotak with effect from April 1, 2024. These steps are to optimize the group's financial model and help in collaboration. The aim is to boost the bank's equity to promote a coordinated approach across its various portfolios under Hansraj's company One Kotak. Enhanced customer value judgment aims to provide comprehensive solutions and leverage cross selling opportunities for a more enriching customer experience.
- ◆ **India's merchandise exports** increased by **11.86 per cent year-on-year** to **\$41.4 billion** in **February 2024**. This is the largest monthly export so far in the current financial year. Industries including engineering items, electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and petroleum products have been the main drivers of exports. Disturbances in the Red Sea Exports have increased despite adverse conditions, including the recession of Western economies and falling commodity prices.
- ◆ **Google DeepMind** launches its latest **AI gaming agent SIMA**. **Scalable Instructional Multiworld Agents** are the latest AI gaming agents. It follows natural language instructions to perform tasks in a video game environment. SIMA is one step closer to the point where AI can intelligently collaborate with humans. SIMAs are different from AI models like OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google Gemini. SIMA is a general AI agent capable of performing a variety of tasks.
- ◆ **Tamilisai Soundararajan** resigned from the post of **Governor of Telangana** and **Lieutenant Governor** of Puducherry. However, this sudden decision has come because Soundararajan is expected to return to electoral politics and contest the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from Tamil Nadu. The resignation has been submitted to the Honorable President of India. In September 2019, he took over as the Governor of Telangana.
- ◆ **The election schedule for the general elections in 2024** as well as **assembly elections** in four states was announced by the Election Commission. Counting of votes will take place on June 4. Apart from this, the election schedule for the assembly elections in Sikkim, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh was also announced by the Election Commission. There are 97 crore registered voters in India and more than 10.5 lakh polling stations operated by 1.5 crore personnel. There will be 1.82 crore first time voters in this election.
- ◆ **TM Krishna and Neena Prasad** were selected for the **Sangeet Kalanidhi** and **Nritya Kalanidhi** awards. The Music Academy's Sangeetha Kalanidhi Award for 2024 will be given to renowned Carnatic singer and Magsaysay Award winner Thodur Madabusi Krishna. Considered the equivalent of an Oscar for Carnatic music, this award is given by the Music Academy in Chennai. Dr. Neena Prasad will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi Award 2024.
- ◆ **Royal Challengers Bangalore** won the **Women's Premier League 2024** by defeating **Delhi Capitals** by 8 wickets at the **Arun Jaitley Stadium** in New Delhi. Delhi Capitals set a target of 114 runs and RCB achieved it by scoring 115 runs for 2 wickets in 19.3 overs. Sophie Molineux was declared player of the match in the final.
- ◆ **A volcanic eruption occurred on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland**. The volcano released smoke and bright orange lava into the air. As of March 2021, the Reykjanes Peninsula had not experienced an eruption for eight centuries. A state of emergency has been declared in southern Iceland.
- ◆ **India's foreign exchange reserves** reached a **two-year high** of **\$636.1 billion**. This is the biggest jump after the week ending July 14, 2023. According to the weekly statistical supplement released by the RBI, foreign exchange assets increased by \$ 8.12 billion to \$ 562.35 billion.

National & International Current Affairs

1. When is World Forestry Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 20th March (B) 21st March
(C) 22nd March (D) 23rd March

(B) World Forestry Day or International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on 21 March to raise public awareness about the importance, significance and contribution of forests to the life cycle on Earth. World Forestry Day was established in 1971 at the 23rd General Assembly of the European Agricultural Union.



2. When is World Poetry Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 21st March (B) 22nd March
(C) 23rd March (D) 24th March

(A) World Poetry Day is celebrated every year on 21 March to promote the unique ability of poetry to express the agitated emotions of the human mind. The day was celebrated on 21 March 1999 during the 30th session in Paris. Its purpose is to promote the reading, publishing and teaching of poetry throughout the world.



3. Which state government has recently agreed to implement PM Shri Yojana?

- (A) Kerala (B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Telangana (D) Himachal Pradesh

(B) Tamil Nadu has agreed to sign an MoU with the Center to implement the PM SHRI School Scheme. Odisha, West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi are the only states that have not yet signed an MoU with the Union Education Ministry to open such schools.



4. Who is the Indian who was recently honored with the Diana Memorial Award?

- (A) Mansi Gupta (B) Uday Bhatia
(C) Ratan Tata (D) A and B both

(D) Delhi-based innovator Uday Bhatia and Mansi Gupta, a mental health campaigner from Haryana, are among the 20 people from the world honored with the Diana Memorial Award. Every two years, this award is given to exceptional youth of the world for their social work or humanitarian services.



5. When is World Down Syndrome Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 16th March (B) 18th March
(C) 20th March (D) 21st March

(D) World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated every year on 21 March. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring disorder in humans that may have transformative effects on learning styles, physical studies, or health. The General Assembly proclaimed 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day in December 2011.



6. Where has India's first Ayurvedic café opened recently?

- (A) Mumbai (B) Bengaluru
(C) Jammu and Kashmir (D) New Delhi

(D) Recently India's first Ayurvedic café opened in New Delhi. An interesting blend of Indian ancient medicine and food, Ayurvedic Hospital in Delhi has launched its first with a menu designed based on medicinal principles. This café is located in West, Block BP, Shalimar Bagh.



7. Where has the Formula-4 car race event started for the first time recently?

- (A) Bengaluru (B) Srinagar
(C) Gurugram (D) None of these

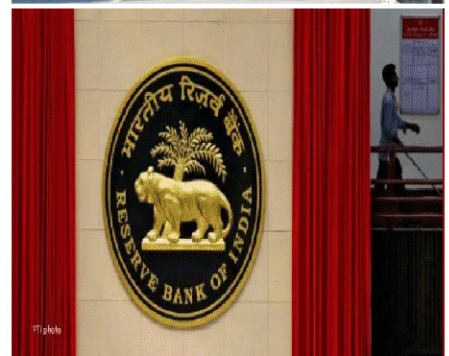
(B) Recently, for the first time, a Formula 4 car racing event was organized in Srinagar. This car racing event was held on the banks of Dal Lake in Boulevard Road located on the Jabarwan Mountain Range. This race was organized on a 1.7 kilometer track from Lalit Ghat to Nehru Park.



8. Recently, RBI has imposed a fine of Rs 29.55 lakh on which bank?

- (A) Bandhan Bank (B) Yes Bank
(C) Bank of India (D) UCO Bank

(A) Recently RBI has imposed a fine of Rs 29.55 lakh on Bandhan Bank. RBI said that the tenders given by valid shareholders were considered after considering the tenders given by the valid shareholders. RBI said that no decision can be taken on any group or its objectives based on shortcomings in any group or non-governmental group.



9. Who has won the title of the second season of WPL?

- (A) Delhi Capitals
(B) Mumbai Indians
(C) Royal Challengers Bangalore
(D) None of these

(C) Royal Challengers Bangalore created history by winning the Women's Premier League 2024 title. This franchise won the title for the first time by ending a drought of 16 years. Smriti Mandhana-led RCB defeated Delhi Capitals by 8 wickets with three balls to spare in the final of WPL 2024.



10. Which country's Foreign Minister Sergei Yelinik has recently reached India to promote bilateral relations?

- (A) Belarus (B) Germany
(C) Malaysia (D) None of these

(A) After meeting Foreign Minister S Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of Belarus Sergei Aleynik said that bilateral issues were discussed openly between the two sides. Sergei Aleynik said that we assessed our friendly relations. India was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Belarus.

