

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MARCH 2021

Awards

The veteran playback singer who has been chosen by the Maharashtra government for the Maharashtra Bhushan award 2020 – **Asha Bhosle**

The noted Hindi writer who has been chosen to be honoured with Vyas Samman 2020 for his novel Patliputru ki samragi – **Prof Sharad Pagare**

The first President and former Prime Minister of Bangladesh who has been conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 – **Sheikh Muzibur Rahman**

The former Sultan of Oman who has been conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize for the Year 2019 – **Qaboos bin Said Al Said**

The research organisation which has been awarded the King Bhumibol World Soil Day 2020 Award of the FAO – **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**

The Indian author who has been chosen for the 30th Bihari Puraskar (instituted by KK Birla Foundation) for his book “Taslima: Sangharsh aur Sahitya” – **Mohankrishna Bohara**

Defence

The 11th edition of the joint special forces military exercise between India and the United States conducted at Special Forces Training School, at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh On March 30, 2021 was named – **Vajra Prahar**

The rank of India in military strength as per a study released by defence website Military Direct (China, USA and Russia occupying the top 3 positions) – **Fourth**

The operation launched by India Army's Southern command involving safe disposal of 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance in Tamil Nadu is named – **Operation Thiruvallur**

The second edition India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise being conducted at Ranikhet in Uttarakhand from 10 to 19 March 2021 is named – **DUSTLIK II**

The multinational large force employment warfare exercise hosted by UAE Air Force from 03.03.21 to 27.03.21 at Al-Dhafra air base with participation of USA, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain is named – **Ex Desert Flag**

Places

The place from which Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay kicked off in Japan – **Fukushima**

The place in Andhra Pradesh where world's first mobile water from air kiosk has been setup by Maithri Aquatech – **Visakhapatnam**

Persons

The noted journalist and author, associated with Debonair, 'Mid-Day'; 'The Independent' and 'The Illustrated Weekly of India' who passed away on 26.03.2021 – **Anil Dharker**

The Indian American doctor who has appointed the Surgeon General of the United States of America – **Vice Admiral Vivek Murthy**

The Dutch engineer and inventor best known for his invention of cassette tape who passed away on 06 Mar 2021 – **Lodewijk Frederik Ottens**

The Kathakali maestro and recipient of Padma Shri who passed away on 15.03.2021 at the age of 105 years – **Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair**

The renowned painter and recipient of Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri and Lalit Kala Akademi awards who passed away on 14.03.2021 – **Laxman Pai**

The Member of Parliament from Garhwal constituency who has been appointed the new Chief Minister of Uttarakhand – **Tirath Singh Rawat**

Sports

The Indian sportsperson who has become the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics (Tokyo, 2021) – **Bhavani Devi**

The number of T20 internationals in which Virat Kohli has scored 3000 runs to become the first batsman ever to do so – **87**

The veteran cricketer who has become the first Indian woman to score 10,000 runs combined across all formats of the game – **Mithali Raj**

The state/UT which has topped the medals tally at the 2nd Khelo India Winter National Games in Gulmarg, J&K – **Jammu and Kashmir**

Miscellaneous

The theme of the nation-wide campaign Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti from 22 March 2021 to 30 November 2021 – **Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls**

The sounding rocket launched by ISRO to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics from Sriharikota on 12.03.2021 is named – **RH 560**

The river over which Maitri Setu connecting Tripura with Bangladesh and inaugurated by the PM Shri Narendra Modi is built – **Feni**

The year 2023 has been declared by UN General Assembly, on resolution moved by India, as – **International Year of Millets**

The theme of National Safety Day being observed on 04 March 2021 – **Sadak Suraksha (Road Safety)**

The partner country of the 3-day Maritime India Summit-2021 held from 2 to 4 March 2021 inaugurated by PM Shri Narendra Modi – **Denmark**

The theme of 3rd Jan Ausadhi Diwas 2021 to be observed on 07 Mar 2021 – **Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi**

The 637 kilogram satellite of Brazil successfully launched by ISRO aboard its PSLV-C51 on 28 Feb 2021 from Sriharikota is named – **Amazonia-1**

67th National Film Awards 2019

#	Name of the Award	Name of the Film	Awardees
1.	Best Feature Film	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)	Director: Priyadarshan
2.	Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Helen (Malayalam)	Director: Mathukutty Xavier
3.	Best Popular Film	Maharshi (Telugu)	Director: Vamshi Paidipally
4.	Best Feature Film on National Integration	Taj Mahal (Marathi)	Director: Niyaz Mujawar
5.	Best Film on Social Issues	Anandi Gopal (Marathi)	Director: Sameer Vidwans
6.	Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Water Burial (Monpa (Arunachal Pradesh))	Director: Shantanu Sen
7.	Best Children's Film	Kastoori (Hindi)	Director: Vinod Uttreshwar Kamble
8.	Best Hindi Film	Chhichhore	Director: Nitesh Tiwari
9.	Best Direction	Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)	Director: Sanjay Puran Singh Chauhan
10.	Best Actor	Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle and Dhanush for Asuran	
11.	Best Actress	Kangana Ranaut for Manikarnika and Panga (Hindi)	
12.	Best Supporting Actor	Vijay Sethupathi for Super Deluxe (Tamil)	
13.	Best Supporting Actress	Pallavi Joshi for The Tashkent Files (Hindi)	
14.	Best Male Playback Singer	B Praak for the song "Teri Mitti (Kesari)	
15.	Best Female Playback Singer	Savani Ravindra for the song "Raan Petala" Bardo (Marathi)	
16.	Best Book on Cinema	A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Potrayal of Love in Cinema (Malayalam)	Author: Sanjay Suri
17.	Most Film Friendly State	Sikkim	-

This is only a selective list of awards. For complete awards please visit Govt of India website

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2020

Language	Title and Genre	Author
Assamese	Bengsata (Short Stories)	Apurba Kumar Saikia
Bengali	Eka Eka Ekashi (Memoirs)	Sankar (Manishankar Mukhopadhyay)
Bodo	Gwthenay Lamayao Gwdan Agan (Short Stories)	Late Dharanidhar Owari
Dogri	Baba Jitmal (Play)	Gian Singh
English	When God is a Traveller (Poetry)	Arundhathi Subramaniam
Gujarati	Banaras Diary (Poetry)	Harish Meenashru
Hindi	Tokri Mein Digant 'Their Gatha'"2014 (Poetry)	Anamika
Kannada	Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam (Epic Poetry)	M. Veerappa Moily

Kashmiri	Tilasm-e-Khanabadosh (Short Stories)	(Late) Hirday Koul Bharti
Konkani	Yugaparivarthanancha Yatri (Poetry)	R.S. Bhaskar
Maithili	Gachh Roosal Achhi (Short Stories)	Kamalkant Jhs
Manipuri	Malangbana Kari Hai (Poetry)	Irungbam Deven
Marathi	Udaya (Novel)	Nanda Khare
Punjabi	Aam Khass (Short Stories)	Gurdev Singh Rupana
Sanskrit	Vaishali (Novel)	Mahesh Chandra Sharma Gautam
Santali	Gur Dak Kasa Dak (Poetry)	Rupchand Hansdah
Sindhi	Jehad (Plays)	Jetho Lalwani
Tamil	Sellaatha Panam (Novel)	Imaiyam
Telugu	Agniswaasa (2015-2017) (Poetry)	Nikhileswar
Urdu	Amawas Main Khwab (Novel)	Hussain-ul-Haque

Awards for Nepali, Odia, Malayalam and Rajasthani languages to be declared later

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2021

Released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)

Subject	Top Rank
Arts and Humanities	University of Oxford
Engineering and Technology	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Life Sciences and Medicine	Harvard University
Natural Sciences	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Social Sciences and Management	Harvard University

12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 of the world - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati,, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi and O.P Jindal University.

Ease of Living Index 2020

Released by : Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Population above 1 million		Population below 1 million	
Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Bengaluru	1.	Shimla
2.	Pune	2.	Bhubaneswar
3.	Ahmedabad	3.	Silvassa

Municipal Performance Index 2020

Released by : Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Population more than 1 million		Population less than 1 million	
Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Indore	1.	New Delhi MC
2.	Surat	2.	Tirupati
3.	Bhopal	3.	Gandhinagar

Important Days of March

Zero Discrimination Day: 01 March 2021 Designated by: UNAIDS First Observed in: 2014
World Wildlife Day: 03 March 2021 Designated by: United nations General Assembly Theme: Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet First Observed in: 2014
World Hearing Day: 03 March 2021 Designated by: W.H.O. Theme: Hearing Care for All; Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate First Observed in: 2007
International Women's Day: 08 March 2021 Designated by: U.N.O. Theme: Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world First Observed by UN in: 1975
International Day of Mathematics: 14 March 2021 Designated by: International Mathematical Union Theme: Mathematics for a Better World First Observed in: 2020
World Kidney Day: 14 March 2021 Designated by: International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) Theme: Living well with kidney disease First Observed in: 2006
World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March 2021 Designated by: Consumers International Theme: Tackle Plastic Pollution First Observed in: 1983
International Day of Happiness: 20 March 2021 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Keep calm, stay wise and celebrate First Observed in: 2013
International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March 2021 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 1966 Theme: Youth standing up against racism
International Day of Forests: 21 March 2021 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being First Observed in: 2013
World Poetry Day: 21 March 2021 Designated by: UNESCO First Observed in: 2000
World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March 2021 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2012
World Water Day: 22 March 2021 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Valuing Water First Observed in: 1993

World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March 2021

Designated by: WHO

Theme: The Clock is Ticking

First Observed in: 1982

International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: 24 March 2021

Designated by: UN General Assembly

First Observed in: 2011

International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March 2021

Designated by: UN General Assembly

Theme: Ending Slavery's Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice

First Observed in: 2008

World Theatre Day: 27 March 2021

Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France

First Observed in: 1961

66th Filmfare Awards 2021

Best Film: **Thappad**

Best Film (Critics): **Eeb Allay Ooo!** by Prateek Vats

Best Director: **Om Raut** for **Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**

Best Actor in a Lead Role (MALE): **Irrfan Khan** (Angrezi Medium)

Best Actor (Critics): **Amitabh Bachchan** (Gulabo Sitabo)

Best Actor in a Lead Role (Female): **Taapsee Pannu** (Thappad)

Best Actress (Critics): **Tillotama Shome** (SIR)

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): **Saif Ali Khan** (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): **Farrokh Jaffar** (Gulabo Sitabo)

Best Playback Singer (male): **Raghav Chaitanya** - Ek Tukda Dhoop (Thappad)

Best Playback Singer (Female): **Asees Kaur** - Malang

Lifetime Achievement Award : **Irrfan Khan**

International Intellectual Property Index 2021

Released by: **US Chamber of Commerce**

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	USA	24.	China
2.	UK	40.	India
3.	Germany	52.	Pakistan

World Happiness Index 2021

Released by: United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Finland	84.	China
2.	Denmark	101.	Bangladesh
3.	Switzerland	139.	India
4.	Iceland	129.	Sri Lanka
5.	Netherlands	105.	Pakistan

Lowest rank of 149 is that of Afghanistan

India was ranked 140 in the last report

BBC Sports Personality Awards for Indians 2021

Sportswoman of the year: **Koneru Humpy** (Chess)

Emerging Player of the year: **Manu Bhaker** (Shooting)

Lifetime Achievement: **Anju Bobby George** (Athletics)

Grammy Awards 2021

Record of the year: Everything I Wanted by Billie Eilish

Album of the year: "Folklore" by Taylor Swift

Song the year: "I Can't Breathe" by Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas

Economic Freedom Index 2021

Released by: Heritage Foundation, USA

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Singapore	107.	China
2.	New Zealand	120.	Bangladesh
3.	Australia	121.	India
4.	Switzerland	131.	Sri Lanka
5.	Ireland	152.	Pakistan

78th Golden Globe Awards

Award	Drama	Musical or Comedy
Best Motion Picture	Nomadland	Borat Subsequent Moviefilm
Best Actor	Chadwick Boseman (M Rainey's Black Bottom)	Sacha Baron Cohen (Borat Subsequent Moviefilm)
Best Actress	Andra Day (The United States vs. Billie Holiday)	Rosamund Pike (I Care a Lot)
Best Television Series	The Crown (Netflix)	Schitt's Creek (Pop TV)
Best Animated Feature Film	Soul	
Best Foreign Language Film	Minari (USA)	
Best Director	Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)	

www.leadthecompetition.in