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## Today in History on 21 MAR

➤ **1413: Henry V is crowned King of England.**

In 1413, following the death of Henry IV on March 20, Henry V became King of England, and was crowned at Westminster Abbey on April 9. Henry V, known for his military prowess, focused on unifying the kingdom and establishing his authority. He introduced the formal use of English in government proceedings and sought to bridge differences that had cast doubt on his father's claim to the throne.



➤ **1791: British forces capture Bangalore from Tipu Sultan.**

In 1791, British forces capture Bangalore from Tipu Sultan, which was then part of the Mysore Kingdom. Tipu Sultan was the ruler of the Mysore Kingdom, a powerful kingdom in South India in the late 18th century. There were several wars between the British East India Company and the Mysore Kingdom, known as the Anglo-Mysore Wars.



➤ **1836: First public library started in Kolkata, now called the National Library.**

In 1836, the Calcutta Public Library was established in Kolkata, which later became the National Library of India. The library was established for reference and lending purposes, on the principle of self-financing, open to all irrespective of class, colour or nationality. In 1903, Lord Curzon merged the Calcutta Public Library with the Imperial Library. After India's independence, the Imperial Library was renamed the National Library in 1948.





#### ➤ 1954: First Filmfare Awards ceremony held.

In 1954, the first Filmfare Awards ceremony was held on 21 March at the Metro Theatre in Mumbai (then Bombay), honouring the best artists of Hindi cinema in 1953. The first awards ceremony had only five categories—Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Music Director. The winners were the only nominees in their categories. Starting from 1959, a number of nominees were gradually added. By 2024, there were around 30 awards in four broad categories—Popular, Critics, Special and Technical.



#### ➤ 1912 - Khwaja Khurshid Anwar - was a famous musician.

Khwaja Khurshid Anwar (21 March 1912 – 30 October 1984) was a Pakistani filmmaker, writer, director and composer who gained recognition in both India and Pakistan. He is considered one of the most original and inventive music directors of his generation.



#### Important NEWS on 21 MAR

#### ➤ Bajaj Auto Reappoints Rajiv Bajaj, Invests ₹1,500 Crore in Credit Arm

Bajaj Auto has reappointed Rajiv Bajaj as MD & CEO for a five-year term from April 1, 2025, pending shareholder approval. Leading since 2005, he has driven global expansion in two- and three-wheelers. Additionally, the company has infused ₹1,500 crore into Bajaj Auto Credit Ltd (BACL) to support FY 2025-26 asset growth, enhancing regulatory compliance, capital adequacy, and financial stability.





#### ➤ Ayushmann Khurrana Named 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Ayushmann Khurrana has been named 'Fit India Icon' by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, joining PM Modi's Fit India Movement. Launched on August 29, 2019, the movement promotes a healthy lifestyle, encourages daily physical activity, and makes fitness accessible to all through campaigns, challenges, and events.



#### ➤ VARUNA 2025: Strengthening India-France Naval Cooperation

The 23rd edition of the bilateral naval exercise VARUNA 2025 between India and France will take place on March, 2025, showcasing strong maritime cooperation and operational synergy. Established in 2001, this annual exercise enhances naval interoperability across multiple domains. Key assets include aircraft carriers INS Vikrant (India) and Charles de Gaulle (France), MiG-29K and Rafale-M fighter jets, along with destroyers, frigates, and an Indian Scorpene-class submarine.



#### ➤ Jasprit Bumrah Joins Skechers as Brand Ambassador, Strengthening Its Presence in Cricket

Jasprit Bumrah has signed with Skechers, joining its elite cricket lineup alongside Ishan Kishan and Yastika Bhatia. He will compete in Skechers Cricket footwear and feature in brand campaigns. Skechers, also the official kit sponsor of Mumbai Indians, continues expanding its presence in cricket.

#### ➤ Norris Triumphs in a Chaotic Australian GP Opener





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2025 Australian Grand Prix: Lando Norris secured a thrilling victory for McLaren in a dramatic season opener on March, 2025, in Melbourne, Australia. The race featured changing weather conditions, multiple crashes, and a late-race downpour. Despite briefly losing the lead to Max Verstappen (Red Bull), Norris reclaimed it to win. George Russell (Mercedes), Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes), and Alexander Albon (Williams) rounded out the Top 5, making it an exciting start to the Formula 1 season.



### ➤ Kabaddi World Cup 2025 Begins in England

The Kabaddi World Cup 2025 kicks off in England, marking the first time it is hosted outside Asia. The Indian men's team starts its campaign against Italy in Wolverhampton. The seven-day tournament features 10 men's teams (India in Group B with Italy, Scotland, Wales, and China) and 6 women's teams (India in Group D with Wales and Poland).



### ➤ India's First PPP Green Waste Processing Plant in Indore

Indore is set to establish India's first green waste processing plant under the PPP model at Bicholi Hapsi under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. Spanning 55,000 sq. ft., the plant, developed with Astronomical Industries Pvt. Ltd., will convert wood, branches, leaves, and flowers into valuable resources. It will generate revenue for IMC and produce wooden pellets as a coal alternative, promoting sustainability, innovation, and a circular economy while reducing pollution.



### Current affairs MCQS on 21 MAR

Q.1. Recently Rajiv Yuva Vikas Yojana has been launched by which state government?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Gujarat







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(d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (b) Telangana**

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the 'Rajiv Yuva Vikasam' scheme to create self-employment opportunities for five lakh unemployed youths in Telangana. The government allocated ₹6,000 crore for the initiative, reflecting its commitment towards youth empowerment and economic development. The scheme aims to empower the youth of Telangana and promote self-reliance through strong economic support.

**Q.2. Recently which country topped the medal table in Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025?**

- (a) India
- (b) Canada
- (c) Russia
- (d) Brazil

**Answer: (a) India**

India topped the medal table at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 by winning 134 medals including 45 gold, 40 silver and 49 bronze medals. Indian athletes have proved their strength in global para athletics by performing brilliantly in track and field sports. India's lead and multiple podium finishes maintained its strong position in the sport. The competition was held in New Delhi.

**Q.3. Recently K.K. Kochu passed away, who was he?**

- (a) Journalist
- (b) Scientist
- (c) Singer
- (d) Social worker

**Answer: (d) Social worker**

Renowned Dalit thinker, writer and social activist KK Kochu passed away. A prominent figure in Kerala's Dalit upliftment movement, KK Kochu made significant contributions as a writer, thinker and orator. A recipient of several awards, his impact on society was widely recognised and in 2021, he was honoured with the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award for his extensive work.

**Q.4. Recently who has been appointed as the CEO of ANRF?**

- (a) Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanraman
- (b) Vijay Mishra
- (c) Abhay Karandikar
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanraman**

Professor Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), has handed over the charge of CEO of National Research Foundation to Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanraman. Professor Karandikar was working as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of National Research Foundation (ANRF). With this, Dr. Shivkumar has taken over as the CEO of ANRF.

**Q.5. Recently who has won the 15th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship?**

- (a) Hockey Mizoram
- (b) Hockey Assam
- (c) Hockey Jharkhand
- (d) Hockey Haryana

**Answer: (c) Hockey Jharkhand**

Hockey Jharkhand registered a historic win at the 15th Hockey - India Senior Women's National Championship 2025, winning the national title for the first time by defeating defending champions Hockey Haryana in the final. The match was played at the Tau Devi Lal Complex in Panchkula, Haryana.

**Q.6. Recently, 'Chandrayaan-5 Mission' will be conducted with the cooperation of which country?**

- (a) Japan
- (b) Russia
- (c) China
- (d) America

**Answer: (a) Japan**

India's space programme has achieved another significant milestone. ISRO Chairman V Narayanan announced the Chandrayaan-5 mission. This mission will be conducted in collaboration with Japan (JAXA) and will study the surface of the moon in detail. Chandrayaan-5 will send a rover weighing







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250 kg, while Chandrayaan-3's 'Pragyan' rover weighed 25 kg, which will further strengthen India's lunar exploration capability.

**Q.7. Where has the 26th Flora Expo concluded recently?**

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) Bhutan
- (c) Nepal
- (d) Myanmar

**Answer: (c) Nepal**

The 26th Flora Expo concluded at Bhrikuti Mandap in Kathmandu, Nepal. Around 70 stalls were set up in this four-day event organized by Floriculture Association Nepal (FAN), which attracted plant lovers. This year's theme is 'Floriculture Business for Clean Environment and Economic Prosperity'.

**Q.8. Who has recently won the Australia Grand Prix 2025?**

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lewis Hamilton
- (c) Lando Norris
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Lando Norris**

McLaren's Lando Norris won the rain-affected Australian Grand Prix, his first victory at Albert Park, with the Briton managing to stay ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen after a third safety car late in the race. Lewis Hamilton had a disappointing Ferrari debut. The seven-time champion finished 10th and was troubled by persistent radio messages from his pit team.

**Q.9. Recently, India and which country have signed five agreements in the field of education, horticulture and forestry?**

- (a) Australia
- (b) France
- (c) Spain
- (d) New Zealand

**Answer: (d) New Zealand**

India and New Zealand have signed five agreements, including defence, and agreed to start negotiations on a free trade area agreement to boost trade ties between the two countries. These agreements were signed during the visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon to India.

**Q.10. Recently, China has handed over the second new submarine equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors to which country?**

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Myanmar
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Maldives

**Answer: (a) Pakistan**

China has handed over a second new submarine equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors to its all-weather friend Pakistan as part of efforts to strengthen its navy to support its growing presence in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The Hangor-class submarine, one of eight such submarines handed over to Pakistan in a deal worth around \$5 billion, was launched at Wuhan in China's Hubei province, official media in Beijing said.

**Q.11. Recently, the US has banned the entry of citizens of how many countries into the country?**

- (a) 50
- (b) 43
- (c) 32
- (d) 27

**Answer: (b) 43**

The Trump administration is considering targeting citizens of 43 countries under a new ban on travel to the US that would be far more sweeping than those imposed during President Trump's first term. A draft list of recommendations prepared by diplomatic and security officials suggests a "red" list of 11 countries whose citizens would be barred from entering the United States altogether.







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**Q.12. Recently who has inaugurated the newly built Lachit Borphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Assam?**

- (a) Amit Shah
- (b) Piyush Goyal
- (c) Narendra Modi
- (d) Rajnath Singh

**Answer: (a) Amit Shah**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy in Dergaon, Assam. This institute has been established with the aim of modernizing and strengthening police training in Northeast India. Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal were also present on the occasion.

**Q.13. Recently who has won the Best Player award at the 7th Annual Hockey India Awards ceremony?**

- (a) Arijit Singh Hundal
- (b) Amit Rohidas
- (c) Harmanpreet Singh
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Harmanpreet Singh**

Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh was awarded the Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Award for the Best Player of the Year 2024 in the men's category at the 7th Hockey India Annual Awards held at Le Meridien, Connaught Palace, New Delhi. This was his second Hockey India Player of the Year Award (2021).

**Q.14. Recently who has launched a dedicated app for the PIM Internship Scheme?**

- (a) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Nirmala Sitharaman**

Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the mobile app for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS) at the new Parliament House in New Delhi. It will be easy

to apply for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme through this app. Along with this, the first facility center has also been started to provide information related to the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme. This center has been set up by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). From here, youth will get information and help about internships.

**Q.15. Where was the QUAD workshop on pandemic preparedness inaugurated recently?**

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (d) New Delhi**

Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Singh Patel inaugurated the three-day Quad Workshop on Pandemic Preparedness for the Indo-Pacific Region in Delhi. According to a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs, the workshop, jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of External Affairs, aims to strengthen the global health emergency framework, promote preparedness and enhance resilience against future health threats.

