

Current Affairs: 16.03.2021

Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi – a single non-lapsable reserve fund for Health from the proceeds of health and Education Cess



The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN)**, a single non-lapsable reserve fund for health. The share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess (4%) levied under Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007, will be credited to PMSSN.

Benefits of PMSSN

Enhanced access to universal & affordable health care through availability of earmarked resources, while ensuring that the amount does not lapse at the end of financial year.

Government announces “All India Tourist Vehicles Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021” to be effective from April 01



The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has announced a **new scheme for tourist vehicle operators**, under which any tourist vehicle operator may apply for an “All India tourist authorization and permit” through online mode. The new set of rules will be known as “All India Tourist Vehicles

Authorization and Permit Rules, 2021”. This will come into effect from **April 01, 2021**. The new rules for permits is aimed at promoting tourism across the states in our country, while simultaneously, helping to grow the revenue of state Governments. The permits will be issued, after relevant documents are submitted and fees deposited, within 30 days of submission of such applications. The authorization/permit will be granted, for a period of **three months** or its multiples thereof, not exceeding **three years** at a time.

INS Jalashwa reaches Port Anjouan in Comoros to deliver 1,000 tonnes of rice



The **Indian Naval Ship INS Jalashwa** arrived at **Port Anjouan, Comoros** on 14 March 2021 to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice, under **Mission Sagar-IV.SAGAR**, which stands for “**Security and Growth for all in the Indian Ocean Region**”, was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **May**

2020 to assist maritime neighbours such as Comoros amid the coronavirus pandemic. **INS Jalashwa** is the **largest amphibious ship of Indian Navy**.

2021 Grammy Awards Winners

The **63rd edition of Annual Grammy Awards** ceremony was held in Los Angeles on March 14, 2021.

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The 2021 Grammy awards recognized the best recordings, compositions, and artists of the eligibility year, between **September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020**. The award is presented by **The Recording Academy** to recognize achievements in the American music industry. **Beyonce** received the most nominations with nine, as well as the most awards with four.

List of Winners

- **Record of the Year** : “Everything I Wanted”, by Billie Eilish
- **Album of the Year** : “Folklore”, by Taylor Swift
- **Song of the Year** : “I Can’t Breathe”, by Dernst Emile II, H.E.R. and Tiara Thomas
- **Best New Artist** : Megan Thee Stallion

World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March



World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on **March 15** every year to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs, and protect consumers across the globe against market abuses. The **theme** for World Consumer Rights Day

2021 is “**Tackling Plastic Pollution**.” The day highlights the power of consumers and their rights for a fair, safe and sustainable marketplace for everyone.

National Vaccination Day: March 16

NATIONAL
VACCINATION
DAY



The **National Vaccination Day**, (also called the **National Immunization Day**), is celebrated every year on **March 16** in India, to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation. The day was first observed in the year **1995**. It was in 1995 that India started **Pulse Polio Programme** and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given. In 2021, the National

Vaccination Day is important as the country has started its biggest Covid-19 immunization programme. According to the World Health Organization, immunization is a process through which an individual’s immune system becomes fortified against foreign harm causing agent.

India’s Foreign Exchange Reserves surpasses Russia to become fourth biggest in world

India’s foreign-exchange reserves surpassed Russia’s to become the **world’s fourth largest reserve**. The foreign currency holdings of India stood at **\$580.3 billion** as of March 5, as per the data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The reserve of Russia was **\$580.1 billion**. Overall, **China** has the largest reserves, followed by Japan and Switzerland, as on the International Monetary Fund table.

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US surpasses Saudi Arabia to become India's second biggest oil supplier



The **United States** has overtaken **Saudi Arabia** as **India's second biggest oil supplier**. The overall import of India from the United States, rose 48 percent to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February 2021 compared to January 2021.

This accounts for 14 percent of India's overall imports in February 2021. In contrast, the imports from Saudi Arabia in February 2021 fell by 42 percent compared to January 2021, to a decade-low of 445,200 bpd. **Saudi Arabia** has consistently been one of India's top two suppliers, but unfortunately **slipped to No. 4 position** for the first time since at least January 2006. **Iraq continued to be the top oil supplier to India** despite a 23 percent decline in purchases to a five-month low of 867,500 bpd.