

## Current Affairs: 01.03.2021

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The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) undertook the first launch of the year 2021, with 19 satellites, on February 28, 2021, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharkota in Andhra Pradesh. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C51, was used to launch the 19 payloads, which included 637-kg Amazonia-1 satellite of Brazil as its primary passenger and 18 other co-passenger satellites. The 18 co-passenger satellites included **four from IN-SPACe and 14 commercial satellites from NSIL, consisting of one from India and 13 from the United States.** With this launch, the

total number of customer satellites from foreign countries placed in orbit by PSLV has reached 342 satellites from 34 countries.

#### Key Points to remember

1. **PSLV-C51 rocket is the 53rd mission of PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)**

2. **Amazonia-1 is the first Brazilian satellite launched from India**

It is an optical earth observation satellite of National Institute for Space Research (INPE), to provide remote sensing data to users for monitoring deforestation in the Amazon region and analysis of diversified agriculture across the Brazilian territory.

3. **First commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), Isro's commercial arm based in Bengaluru**

The PSLV-C51/Amazonia-1 marked the first dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Government of India company under the Department of Space, launched in May 2019.

The mission conducted by NSIL was undertaken under a commercial arrangement with US-based satellite rideshare and mission management provider, Spaceflight Inc

4. **Five student-built satellites**

- The co-passengers included 5 satellites which were developed by students. These included:

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“Satish Dhawan Satellite” (SDSAT) – It is nano satellite to study the radiation levels/space weather and demonstrate long range communication technologies. Built by Chennai-based Space Kidz India (SKI). SKI also sent 25,000 names on board SD SAT. “UNITYsat” – It is a combination of three satellites, for providing Radio relay services. Designed and built jointly by Jeppiaar Institute of Technology, Sriperumpudur (JITsat), G. H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur (GHRCEsat) and Sri Shakthi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Coimbatore (Sri Shakthi Sat). “SindhuNetra” – It is a technology demonstration satellite, to help in identifying suspicious ships through satellite imaging. Developed by students of Bengaluru-based PES University

## 5. Satellite carrying Bhagwad Gita and PM Modi’s photo

One of the 18 satellites carried an e-copy of the Bhagavad Gita, saved on an SD-card, as well as a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi engraved on its panel.

## 6. 14 satellites from NSIL included the commercial satellites from India (1) and USA (13).

## 7. 4 satellites from IN-SPACE included UNITYsats and Satish Dhawan Sat (SDSAT)

## 45th Civil Accounts Day celebrated on 01 March 2021

The **Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)** observes the “**Civil Accounts Day**” every year on March 01, 2021, since its inception in 1976.

The year 2021 marks the **45th Civil Accounts Day** celebrations.

## Land Ports Authority of India Celebrates its 9th Foundation Day on March 01, 2021

The **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** celebrated its **9th Foundation Day on 01 March 2021**.

### Key Points to Remember

LPAI is a statutory body under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India.

Founded- LPAI was setup by Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010 of Parliament of India on **1 March 2012**

Headquarter – **New Delhi**

Chairman LPAI – **Shri Aditya Mishra**

Role -Creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing border infrastructure in India. It manages several Integrated Check Posts all across Borders of India.

## 39th Agartala International Book Fair begins in Tripura

The 39th edition of Agartala International Book Fair was inaugurated on February 26, 2021 by Tripura Chief Minister **Biplab Kumar Deb**, at the **Hapania International Fair ground**. The theme of the 14-day long fair is “**Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura**” .

Altogether 162 stalls have been set up, which includes 96 stalls from Tripura publishers and booksellers, 51 stalls from Kolkata and West Bengal, 4 stalls from Delhi, 8 stalls from Assam, one each stalls from Daman and Die, Mumbai, Rajasthan and neighboring **Bangladesh**.

## Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021 inaugurated at Noida Haat

The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Food Processing **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated **Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021** at **Noida Haat** on February 26, 2021.

The fair will continue till 14 March, 2021.

More than 300 rural self-help groups (SHG) and craftsman from 27 states are participating in the Mela.

It has been organised by the **Ministry of Rural Development, under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

Objective – to bring the rural women Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed with support of DAY-NRLM, under one platform to show-case their skills, sell their products and help them build linkages with bulk buyers.

## Russia launches first Arctic-monitoring Satellite ‘Arktika-M’

The **Russian** space corporation Roscosmos successfully launched its **first satellite to monitor the Arctic’s climate and environment**.

The satellite called “**Arktika-M**”, was launched on February 28, 2021, onboard **Soyuz-2.1b** carrier rocket, from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome** in **Kazakhstan**.

This satellite will help to collect information to solve operational meteorology and hydrology problems, and monitoring the climate and environment in the Arctic region.

## Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurates Global Bio India 2021

The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated the **second edition of Global Bio-India-2021** in New Delhi through virtual mode. The three-day event will be held from **March 01 to 03, 2021**, on a digital platform. Theme 2021 – “**Transforming lives**” with the tag line “**Biosciences to Bio-economy**”.

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Purpose -to showcase the strength and opportunities of the biotechnology sector of India at national as well as international level. The event is co-organised by the **Department of Biotechnology** under the Ministry of Science & Technology along with its **Public Sector Undertaking**, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**BIRAC**) in partnership with industry association Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**), Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises (**ABLE**) and **Invest India**.

The Government of India has target of building a **USD 150 billion bio-economy by 2025**.

## PM Modi to receive CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award

Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** will receive the **CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award** during the **CERAWeek Conference-2021**, in recognition for his commitment to expanding India's leadership in sustainable development to meet the country's, and the world's, future energy needs. The CERAWeek Conference-2021, has been organised from **March 01 to 05, 2021**, by the information and insights company **IHS Markit** based in Houston, Texas. This is the **36th edition** of the conference and **first time that the conference will be an all-virtual event**.

**Theme:** The New Map: Energy, Climate, and Charting the Future

CERAWeek by IHS Markit is the annual international energy conference of energy industry leaders, experts, government officials and policymakers, leaders from the technology, financial and industrial communities – and energy technology innovators, to advance new ideas, insight and solutions to the biggest challenges facing the future of energy, the environment, and climate.

## Golden Globe Awards 2021

- The **Golden Globe Awards 2021** was held on February 28, 2021 to recognise excellence in film, both American and international, and American television.
- This was the **78th edition** of the annual event, which honored the best in American television, as well as film in 2020 and early 2021, as chosen by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.
- American TV series **"The Crown"** won the **most awards** for the ceremony with four awards.
- Late American actor **Chadwick Boseman** won the **Golden Globe award for Best Actor** in Drama category, posthumously, for his portrayal of Levee Green in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.