

## Current Affairs: 26-31.03.2021

### Hyderabad-based Maithri Aquatech sets up 'World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk' at Vizag Smart City



Hyderabad-based startup, **Maithri Aquatech** has set up the **world's first mobile water from air kiosk and water knowledge centre** in the smart city of **Visakhapatnam**, in **Andhra Pradesh**. This innovative water kiosk is such that the potable water is harvested from the air instead of depending on scarce groundwater and surface water resources. This initiative is supported by Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation and project SEWAH (Sustainable Enterprises for Water and Health), an alliance between USAID and SWN (Safe Water Network). The kiosk will provide clean, mineral-enriched potable water harvested from the air by making use of Maithri Aquatech's own Meghdoot solution as a source to generate water. Apart from this, the kiosk will also function as a Water Knowledge Resource Centre by creating awareness and imparting necessary information to members of the local underserved communities as well as nearby schools on the benefits of good water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices.

### Saurbah Garg, Sanjeev Kumar and Atish Chandra appointed Chief of UIDAI, AAI and FCI Respectively

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved various new appointments on March 25, 2021, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle..Senior bureaucrat **Saurbah Garg**, a 1991 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**. Similarly, **Sanjeev Kumar**, a 1991 batch IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman, **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**. **Atish Chandra**, a 1994 batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director, **Food Corporation of India (FCI)**.

### Veteran singer Asha Bhosle selected for Maharashtra Bhushan award, state's highest honour



The **Maharashtra** Government has named **legendary singer Asha Bhosle** for the **Maharashtra Bhushan Award**, the highest honour presented by the government of Maharashtra. Bhosle has been chosen for the award **for the year 2020**, by a committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray. Instituted in 1996, the Maharashtra Bhushan Award recognise distinguished work and achievements of eminent persons from the state, representing different walks of life. It carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a citation. Bhosle's sister Lata Mangeshkar won the award in 1997.

## Earth Hour 2021: 27 March



Every year, the **Earth Hour** is celebrated worldwide on the **last Saturday of the March** month to show support for fight against climate change and commitment towards better planet. **Earth Hour 2021 is being marked on March 27, 2021.** The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on “**Climate Change to Save Earth.**” The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from **8:30 to 9:30 p.m.** It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 to raise awareness for energy consumption and effects on the environment.

## World Theatre Day: 27 March



The **World Theatre Day** is celebrated all over the world on the **27 March** since 1962 to promote the art form “theatre” across the world. The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). Every year the Executive Council of ITI chooses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day. The author of the Message of World Theatre Day 2021 is: **Helen MIRREN, United Kingdom.**

## India tops the medals tally with 15 gold, 9 silver & 6 bronze in 2021 Delhi ISSF Shooting World Cup

**India** finished at the **top of the medals table at the 2021 ISSF World Cup New Delhi**, held from 18 to 29 March 2021 at the **Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.** India secured **30 medals which included 15 gold, 9 silver and 6 bronze.** **USA** came **second** with eight medals including four gold, three silver and one bronze.

## New Zealand becomes only second country after India to pass Miscarriages Bereavement Leave Law



The **New Zealand Parliament** has recently passed **legislation to provide leave for miscarriage and for stillbirth.** The Bill allows mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, without having to tap into sick leave. Employees will get three days leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth. With this, New Zealand has become **only the second country in the world to do so.** **India is the only other country in the world** with similar legislation that provides leave for miscarriage and stillbirth.

## Indian Navy to participate in French Naval Exercise in Bay of Bengal with QUAD nation



The **Indian Navy** is scheduled to participate in **France-led naval drill named “La Perouse”**, which will be held from **April 5 to 7, 2021 in the Bay of Bengal**. The participating nations also include the other **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)** member countries namely **Australia, Japan and the United States of America (USA)**. This is the first time that the Indian Navy will take part in ‘La Perouse’. Until now, India was not invited for the French naval exercise.

## Winners of Filmfare Awards for 2021

The **66th Filmfare Awards for the year 2021** were given out on 27 March 2021 to honour artistic and technical excellence in Hindi cinema for the year 2020. Anubhav Sinha directed ‘Thappad’ won the most awards with seven.

### List of Winners

- Best Film: Thappad
- Best Director: Om Raut (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
- Best Film (Critics): Prateek Vats (Eeb Allay Ooh!)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male): Irrfan Khan (Angrezi Medium)
- Best Actor (Critics): Amitabh Bachchan (Gulabo Sitabo)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female): Taapsee Pannu (Thappad)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Saif Ali Khan (Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Actor Role (Female): Farrukh Jaffar (Gulabo Sitabo)
- Best Story: Anubhav Sushila Singh and Mrunmayee Lagoo Waikul (Thappad)
- Best Debut Director: Rajesh Krishnan (Lootcase)
- Best Debut Female: Alaya F (Jawaani Jaaneman)
- Best Music Album: Pritam (Ludo)
- Best Lyrics: Gulzar (Chhapaak)
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Raghav Chaitanya (Ek Tukda Dhoop from Thappad)
- Best Playback Singer (Female) Asees Kaur (Malang title song)
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Irrfan Khan

## Uttarakhand Ranger Mahinder Giri Wins International Ranger Award 2021



**Mahinder Giri**, a range officer at **Rajaji Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand** has been honored with the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards conservation. He is the **only ranger from Asia to win the prize**. A total of 10 professionals from across the world have been awarded the International Ranger Award for 2021. All the winners will receive a uniform patch and their employing

# Cross & Climb, Rohtak



organisations will receive US \$10,000 (Rs 7,26,150) as prize money, which can be used to support the winner and their team to conduct their work. **International Ranger Award was created in 2020** through a collaboration between the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**, the International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.

## **Thisara Perera becomes first Sri Lankan to hit six Sixes in an Over**



**Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera** has become the **first cricketer from the island nation to hit six sixes from one over.** He achieved the feat on March 28, 2021 during a domestic match in Colombo while playing for Army Sports Cricket Club in List A match against Bloomfield Cricket and Athletic Club. He scored an unbeaten 52 runs from 13-ball, and thus **smashing the second-fastest half-century in List A cricket.**