



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 11, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Chennai's second doppler weather radar (DWR) located inside National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Pallikaranai - was energised on March 10, 2021
- ✓ The new radar is expected to become operational in April 2021
- ✓ Separately, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) scientists will replace bull gear, a crucial component in the existing nearly 20 years old radar at Chennai Port, to extend its life
- ✓ The new radar has been developed based on Isro technology by Chennai-based Data Patterns Ltd.

HOW RADARS WORK



➤ A beam of energy (radio waves) is emitted from an antenna

➤ When they strike objects in the atmosphere, energy gets scattered and some of it gets reflected to the radar

➤ The larger the object, the greater the amount of energy reflected

➤ Doppler radars can give

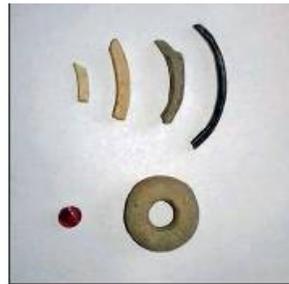
information on movement and position of targets

➤ New radar at NIOT campus:
An X-band radar with a range of 120km to help in daily forecast

Existing radar at Chennai Port |
An S-band radar (in pic) with a range of 500km capable of tracking cyclone

- ✓ The old radar is expected to be ready in six months before the onset of the northeast monsoon this year.

- ✓ The second radar, which is an X-band radar with a range of 150km, will be used for daily weather forecasting purpose.
- ✓ The existing radar is an S-band radar with a range of 500km and capable of tracking weather systems like cyclones.
- **A team of archaeologists from the Tamil Nadu archaeological department - has unearthed silver and copper coins, Tamil Brahmi letters, art material and pot urns during an excavation work at Kodumanal near Chennimalai in Erode district.**
- ✓ The antique materials were spotted during the eighth phase of excavation work which commenced in May 2020.



- ✓ The discovered material would be at least 2,300 years old.
- ✓ The team also identified a river channel passing into the Noyyal river.
- ✓ Further, they had identified a pit in which women's stone ornaments, glass pieces and conch bangles, material that were used to make mud pots were spotted.
- ✓ The team, led by Ranjith, started its ninth phase of excavation work at Kodumanal on February 26, 2021.
- ✓ The excavation works are expected to continue till September.

STATES

- **Tirath Singh Rawat – sworn-in as the 10th Chief Minister of the Himalayan state, Uttarakhand**
- ✓ He was administered the oath of office by governor Baby Rani Maurya on March 10
- ✓ Tirath Singh Rawat, 56, replaces Trivendra Singh Rawat, who resigned from the CM's post on March 9

KNOW THE NEW CM

<p>Age 56</p> <p>LS MP from Pauri</p> <p>Education MA Sociology</p> <p>Previous stints State edu min (2000), BJP state chief (2013), BJP nat'l secy (2017)</p>	 <p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;">New CM Tirath Singh Rawat celebrates with his supporters on Wednesday</p>
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- ✓ Other names in circulation for the CM's chair were those of Union education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, state tourism minister Satpal Maharaj and higher education minister Dhan Singh Rawat among others.
 - ✓ Tirath Rawat name was proposed by Trivendra Rawat at the legislative party meeting held at the BJP office
 - ✓ He is a close aide of former CM BC Khanduri and a former member of RSS and ABVP.
 - ✓ Tirath Rawat will have a tenure of one year as the state is scheduled to face assembly polls next year
 - ✓ Rawat has served as the first education minister of Uttarakhand, BJP state president, the party's state general secretary as well as BJP's national secretary.
 - ✓ He was MLA from Chaubattakhal in Pauri from 2012 to 2017, and backed out in favour of Satpal Maharaj in the 2017 assembly polls.
 - ✓ In 2019, he was fielded as BJP candidate from Pauri Lok Sabha seat against his mentor BC Khanduri's son Manish Khanduri who was fighting on a Congress ticket.
 - ✓ He won the seat with over 3 lakh votes, one of the biggest victory margins during the polls.
- **A 100 MW floating solar power project – is being set up at NTPC Ltd's Ramagundam thermal power plant reservoir near Peddapalli in Telangana**
- ✓ It is scheduled to be commissioned by May this year
 - ✓ Once commissioned, it will be the largest floating solar power project in the country and perhaps in the world
 - ✓ Coming up at a cost of ₹423 crore, the project will have 4.5 lakh photovoltaic (PV) panels floating on a 450-acre area on the reservoir
 - ✓ The world's largest floating solar power plant planned so far is the 600MW project to be set up on the Omkareshwar dam on river Narmada in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ However, this ₹3,000 crore power project will commence power generation only by 2022-23.
 - ✓ The largest dam-based floating power project in the world (41MW) is coming up at Hapcheon dam in South Korea
 - ✓ Singapore is also developing a 5MW floating solar project in Johor Strait off its coast.
 - ✓ The Ramagundam floating solar project is part of plans to set up a 217MW floating solar power capacity in south India.
 - ✓ This includes the 25MW, ₹110 crore floating solar project at NTPC Simhadri spread over 150 acres that will also be commissioned by May 2021 and a 92MW project coming up on the backwaters of Kayamkulam in Kerala's Alappuzha district.
 - ✓ NTPC already has a 105KW pilot floating solar plant operational at Kayamkulam and a 1MW plant at its Kawas gas-based power plant in south Gujarat.

- ✓ The floating solar initiative is part of the Maharatna PSE, NTPC's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and boost its green energy generation capacity by around 30% of total capacity.
- **Karnataka - has launched the "Xcelerator Bengaluru Initiative" to provide support to women-owned micro-businesses.**
 - ✓ The "Xcelerator Bengaluru" is a curated six-month accelerator programme.
 - ✓ It is jointly organised by the UBUNTU Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs' Associations, Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship (GAME) and Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI)
 - ✓ It will be executed in partnership with the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka (AWAKE)
 - ✓ The initiative seeks to reach out and provide support to 50,000 women-led enterprises
 - ✓ It will seek the help of several experts in women entrepreneurship development organisations, successful entrepreneurs and academicians.
 - ✓ The state presented the Budget for 2021-2021 on March 8, 2021 in which it has granted ₹37,188 crore for the women-centric programmes.
- **A village panchayat in Uttar Pradesh – has banned the wearing of pants or skirts by girls and short pants by boys**
 - ✓ The village panchayat in UP's Muzaffarnagar's Pipalshah village announced the ban after discussing cultural issues "affecting the society" among other things.
 - ✓ However, it had announced that the decision does not apply to children

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - plans to set up around 100 more Sainik Schools across the country in partnership with NGOs, private schools and desirous state governments**
 - ✓ This will be in addition to the already existing 33 Sainik Schools in the country.
 - ✓ Earlier, the government had launched a pilot project for admission of girl cadets in the Sainik School at Chhingchhip in Mizoram
 - ✓ After the success of pilot project, the government has now decided to admit girl cadets in all the 33 existing Sainik Schools from the academic session 2021-22.
 - ✓ The detailed guidelines and requisite approvals for this new scheme are in the process
 - ✓ This was announced by the minister of state for defence Shripad Naik in a written reply in Lok Sabha on March 10.
 - ✓ The schools to be run on the lines of Sainik Schools' curriculum are proposed to be affiliated to Sainik Schools Society.
 - ✓ They will be provided with part financial support by the Government to incentivise the effort

- ✓ The residential Sainik Schools were launched in the year 1961
 - ✓ They were set up to prepare boys academically, physically and mentally for entry into the National Defence Academy and to reduce regional and class imbalances in the officer cadre to ensure “all-India representation”
 - ✓ At present, hundreds of senior officers currently serving in the armed forces were alumni of Sainik Schools, including many two and three-star generals.
 - ✓ Chiefs like Air Chief Marshals PV Naik and Arup Raha as well as Generals Dalbir Singh Suhag and Deepak Kapoor are products of Sainik Schools.
- **The Amrit Mahotsav – is to be launched on March 12, 2021 to mark 75 years of India’s Independence**
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has urged all the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the public representatives to take part in ‘Amrit Mahotsav’.
 - ✓ It will start at the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 - ✓ This festival will be organised at the 75 locations for 75 weeks across the country.
 - ✓ The MyGov recently launched a logo design contest for the Amrit Mahotsav so as to commemorate the momentous occasion.
- **On March 10, the Union Cabinet - has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for the Health in the Public Account**
- ✓ This has been approved for the share of Health from proceeds of Health and Education cess which is levied under the Section 136-b of Finance Act, 2007.
 - ✓ The revenue in the fund will be used for the flagship schemes of the Health Ministry including the National Health Mission, Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres, Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
 - ✓ It will also be used for various emergency & disaster preparedness and responses in cases of health emergencies.
 - ✓ The fund will be administered and maintained by the Ministry of Health & Family welfare.
 - ✓ It also seeks to monitor the progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the National Health Policy 2017.
- **The Parliament - has passed the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 after the Rajya Sabha cleared it on March 10, 2021.**
- ✓ This bill was earlier passed in the Lok Sabha in February, 2021.
 - ✓ It seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 that governs the arbitration process
 - ✓ The legislation comprises of the provisions of dealing with the domestic and international arbitration procedure
 - ✓ It replaces the Ordinance comprising of the same provisions that was promulgated on November 4, 2020.

- **On March 10, Union Railway Minister, Piyush Goyal - announced that the Indian Railways have prepared a National Rail Plan (NRP) in order to establish a future-ready Railway system by the year 2030.**
- ✓ The National Rail Plan has been prepared with the aim of formulating the strategies on the basis of both operational capacities as well as the commercial policy initiatives.
- ✓ It seeks to increase the modal share of Railways to 45% in freight capacity alone.
- ✓ Further, several Business Development Units (BDUs) will be set up in all the zones of Indian Railways to attract new business by providing value-for-money solutions for logistics.
- ✓ The BDUs will be interacting with industries and will facilitate those industries in carrying consignments by rail
- ✓ The Indian railways is undertaking the “Public-Private Partnership (PPP)” approach for the Passenger Train Operations in order to enhance the overall service quality and operational efficiency.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China and Russia - have signed a planetary pact to set up a joint lunar space station.**
- ✓ The joint lunar space station pact is the largest international space cooperation project for China.
- ✓ On March 9, the Russian space agency Roscosmos stated that it had signed a pact with the National Space Administration (CNSA) of China
- ✓ The agreement intends to develop a “complex of experimental research facilities created on the surface and/or in the orbit of the Moon”.
- ✓ Under the collaboration, Russia’s first modern lunar lander called “Luna 25” has been scheduled to be launched on October 1, 2021.
- ✓ Russia will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of its first-ever manned space flight this year
- ✓ The country had sent Yuri Gagarin into space in April 1961.
- ✓ Later, in 1963, it again sent the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, into space.
- ✓ In 2020, China has launched the Tianwen-1 probe to Mars which is currently orbiting the Red Planet.
- ✓ Again, in December 2020, it successfully brought the rock and soil samples from Moon back to Earth through the Chang’e-5 probe.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) - launched the first virtual trade fair on March 10, 2021.**
- ✓ This trade fair was organised to boost the export of agricultural and processed food products.
- ✓ The fair has been conceived with the theme “India Rice and Agro Commodity”.

- ✓ It will display several key products such as basmati rice, non-basmati rice, wheat, maize, millets, coarse grains and groundnut.
- ✓ The virtual trade fair will feature around 135 exhibitors and 266 Indian and international buyers from the Brazil, France, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sudan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Bahrain, Philippines, Fiji, Myanmar, Netherlands, and Peru
- ✓ It will conclude on March 12, 2021

PERSONALITIES

- **On March 10, Union minister Anurag Thakur - became the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army.**
- ✓ The four-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur was commissioned into the Territorial Army as a Lieutenant by the then Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dalbir S Suhag in July 2016.



- ✓ Thakur was promoted as Captain in the 124 Sikh regiment
- ✓ Thakur joined the Army after clearing the SSB exam and a personal interview conducted in Chandigarh.
- ✓ He underwent over two weeks of pre-qualification training held in Bhopal.
- ✓ The Territorial Army, the second line of defence in the hierarchy, comprises volunteers who are imparted military training for about a month in a year.
- ✓ The Territorial Army can be called for the national service in case of any emergency.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) – develops an S-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and shipped it to Nasa for the world's first twin-radar satellite mission**
- ✓ On March 4, Isro chairman K Sivan flagged off the S-band SAR from the agency's Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre through virtual mode to Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Los Angeles County, California's Pasadena.

- ✓ The S-Band SAR will now be integrated with the L-band payload being developed by the US space agency, NASA
 - ✓ The Nasa-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is a collaboration between the Indian and US space agencies for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation.
 - ✓ Earlier, India and the US signed an agreement in 2014 to jointly develop the world's first earth observation satellite with two different radars that can produce extremely high-resolution images of the planet
 - ✓ Once the integration of two radars is done, Nasa will send the integrated module back to India in the first quarter of next year
 - ✓ Further, other parts of the Nasa-Isro SAR (NISAR) satellite will be built by 2022-end and later launched in early 2023 by Isro's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota
 - ✓ As per the agreement, Nasa is to provide the satellite mission's L-band SAR, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder and payload data subsystem
 - ✓ Further, Isro will develop the spacecraft bus, S-band radar, the launch vehicle (GSLV) and associated launch services for the mission.
 - ✓ NISAR, which will weigh 2,800 kg, is estimated to be the world's most expensive imaging satellite.
 - ✓ The total cost of the project includes Isro's work share cost of about ₹788 crore and about \$808 million (nearly ₹5,890 crore) of Nasa.
 - ✓ The satellite will have capability to collect data day and night and in any weather, including cloudy days.
 - ✓ The data will help the better management of natural resources and hazards like earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides, as well as provide information to better understand the effects and pace of climate change.
 - ✓ It will also assist in the understanding of the Earth's hard outer layer or the crust
- **Scientists – have recently discovered Earth's 'fifth layer', called the 'innermost inner core', which is a hidden structure inside the core of Earth**
- ✓ The Planet Earth consists of four layers - the crust, the mantle, the outer core and the inner core
 - ✓ Scientists have identified changes in the structure of iron within the inner core
 - ✓ This has suggested a new 'boundary line' stretching about 650 kilometres from the centre of the Earth.
 - ✓ The new discovery has the potential to change the long-standing concept of what lies at centre of Earth
 - ✓ To identify the new layer, the researchers used travel time data for seismic waves travelling inside the Earth and captured by the International Seismological Centre
 - ✓ The inner core of Earth reaches temperatures of more than 5,000 degrees Celsius and is relatively smaller in area, that is, it makes up only 1% of the total volume of Earth.

- ✓ This research study also implies that in the earliest phase of the Earth's evolution that is around 4.56 billion years ago, it underwent a dramatic and several unknown events.

DEFENCE

- **On March 8, the Defense Research & Development Organization (DRDO) - conducted the final development test of the "Air Independent Propulsion (AIP)" in Mumbai**
 - ✓ This is a major development which will make the Indian submarines more silent and lethal.
 - ✓ AIP allows a submarine to be submerged for longer periods (upto two weeks) under water without having to come to surface to recharge its batteries
 - ✓ This technology makes the sub-surface platform more deadly by making it quieter than a nuclear submarine
 - ✓ The system is being developed by Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of DRDO
 - ✓ The Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) is a marine propulsion technology which allows the non-nuclear submarine to operate without providing access to the atmospheric oxygen by surfacing or by using the snorkel.
 - ✓ Countries such as France, China, United States, United Kingdom and Russia are already using this technology, which is based on the Phosphoric acid fuel cell.
 - ✓ The Indian Navy has planned to retrofit all of its Kalvari class non-nuclear submarines built in India under Project 75 with the AIP system in its first upgrade, which is expected around 2023
 - ✓ The 1615-tonne Kalvari class submarine is being built by Mazagon Dockyards Limited in collaboration with French Naval Group and is based on Scorpene design
 - ✓ The test was conducted a day before the INS Karanj attack submarine was inducted into the Indian Navy on March 10, 2021.
 - ✓ INS Karanj is the third submarine of first batch of six Kalvari-class diesel-electric attack submarines in the Indian Navy, which are based on Scorpene class.
 - ✓ It was launched on January 31, 2018, delivered to Indian Navy in February 2021 and commissioned into service on March 10, 2021.
- **On March 10, the Indian Navy - has inducted into service the third Scorpene-class conventional diesel-electric submarine called INS Karanj**
 - ✓ It was commissioned by the former Navy Chief, Admiral V.S. Shekhawat.
 - ✓ He was the Commanding Officer of previous version of the INS Karanj during 1971 India-Pakistan War.
 - ✓ INS Karanj is the part of six Scorpene submarines which are being developed under Project-75.



#INSKaranj the third Scorpene class **#submarine** commissioned today by Adm VS Shekhawat, former CNS & Captain of the old Karanj at Naval Dockyard **#Mumbai**. The indigenous submarine built completely by Indians at Mazagon Dock is a testament to the **#AatmaNirbharta** push by **#IndianNavy**



SpokespersonNavy and 9 others

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- ✓ It was built by Mazagon Dock Limited under technology transfer from the Naval Group of France for which a \$3.75 billion deal was signed in October 2005.
 - ✓ Under the Project-75, the first submarine of the class called INS Kalvari was commissioned in the month of December, 2017.
 - ✓ The second submarine, INS Khanderi, was commissioned in the month of September, 2019.
 - ✓ The fourth submarine INS Vela was launched in May, 2019.
 - ✓ The fifth submarine INS Vagir was commissioned in November, 2020
- **The India–Uzbekistan joint military exercise “DUSTLIK II” – commenced on March 10 in the Foreign Training Node Chaubatia at Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.**



- ✓ It is the second edition of annual bilateral joint exercise of both the armies.
- ✓ The first edition of the exercise was held at Uzbekistan in the month of November, 2019.

- ✓ In the second edition, around 45 soldiers from each of Indian army and Uzbekistan army are participating.
- ✓ During the exercise, both the armies will share their expertise and skills with respect to the counter-terrorism operations under the mandate of United Nations in Mountainous or Urban or Rural scenarios.
- ✓ The exercise will also culminate into a 36-hour joint validation exercise which is scheduled for March 17 to March 18, 2021.
- ✓ It will conclude on March 19, 2021.

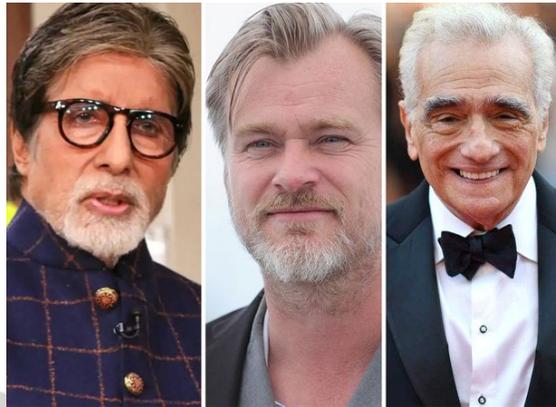
ECONOMY

- **The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) - recently notified that the finance ministry has decreased the threshold for mandatory e-invoicing from Rs.100 crore to Rs. 50 crore.**
 - ✓ This new rule will come into effect from April 1, 2021.
 - ✓ The GST Council, at its 37th meeting on September 20, 2019, recommended introduction of electronic invoice ('e-invoice') in GST in a phased manner.
 - ✓ The applicability of e-invoicing threshold remained at an annual turnover of Rs.500 crore till December 31, 2020 and then the limit was brought down to ₹100 crore from January 1, 2021
 - ✓ The 'e-invoicing' facilitates exchange of the invoice document between a supplier and a buyer in an integrated electronic format through invoicing portal to track suspicious taxpayers
 - ✓ The 'e-invoicing' system involves the reporting details of the specified GST-related documents in the government-notified portal and to obtain a reference number.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has removed IDBI Bank from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework on March 10, 2021 after four years as a result of its improved financial performance.**
 - ✓ The RBI had enlisted the IDBI Bank under the PCA framework in May 2017.
 - ✓ This is because the bank had breached the thresholds for capital adequacy, leverage ratio, asset quality and return on assets.
 - ✓ By December 31, 2020, the bank was not in breach of PCA parameters on regulatory capital, leverage ratio and net NPA and reported a net profit of ₹378 crore in that quarter.
 - ✓ Hence, it was removed from the regulatory framework.
 - ✓ The PCA was launched in the year 2002 with an aim of checking the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the banking sector
 - ✓ It seeks to provide alerts to the regulator, investors & depositors during the time of crisis in the banking system
 - ✓ The framework helps in monitoring the key performance indicators of the bands and restoring the financial health of the bank.
 - ✓ This framework is applicable only to the commercial banks.

- ✓ The co-operative banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are not covered under the framework.

AWARDS

- **Bollywood Actor Amitabh Bachchan – to become the first Indian actor to be bestowed with an award by the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP)**
- ✓ Hollywood filmmakers and previous recipients of the FIAF Award — Martin Scorsese and Christopher Nolan — will present the prestigious 2021 FIAF Award to Bachchan during a virtual showcase scheduled to take place on March 19.



- ✓ The award, instituted in 2001, will recognize and acknowledge the veteran actor's dedication and contribution to the preservation of the world's film heritage.
- ✓ The 78-year-old actor was nominated for the award by the FIAF affiliate Film Heritage Foundation which is a not-for-profit organisation founded by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, a filmmaker & archivist.
- ✓ This foundation is dedicated to preserve, restore, document, exhibit and study the film heritage of India.
- ✓ The FIAF was founded in the year 1938 in Paris by Cinematheque Francaise and by Museum of Modern Art in New York City.
- ✓ It is dedicated to collect, rescue, preserve and screen the moving images which are valued as works of art & culture as well as a historical document.
- ✓ It comprises of 172 film heritage institutions in 80 countries as of November 2020.

SPORTS

- **International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach - won an unopposed second term that will keep him in the post until 2025 on March 10**
- ✓ Bach was re-elected for additional four years following a vote on the first day of the virtual 137th IOC session held in Lausanne
- ✓ Running unopposed, Bach received 93 of the 94 eligible votes cast in an online process.



- ✓ President Bach was first elected IOC President in Buenos Aires in 2013 for an eight-year term.
- ✓ The first term will end on the last day of the Tokyo 2020 Games on 8 August 2021 with his second term beginning immediately afterwards.
- ✓ Bach, Olympic champion, won gold as part of the West German foil fencing team at the Olympic Games of Montreal 1976
- ✓ In his first term as IOC President, Bach initiated Olympic Agenda 2020, a set of reforms for the future of the IOC and the Olympic Movement.