



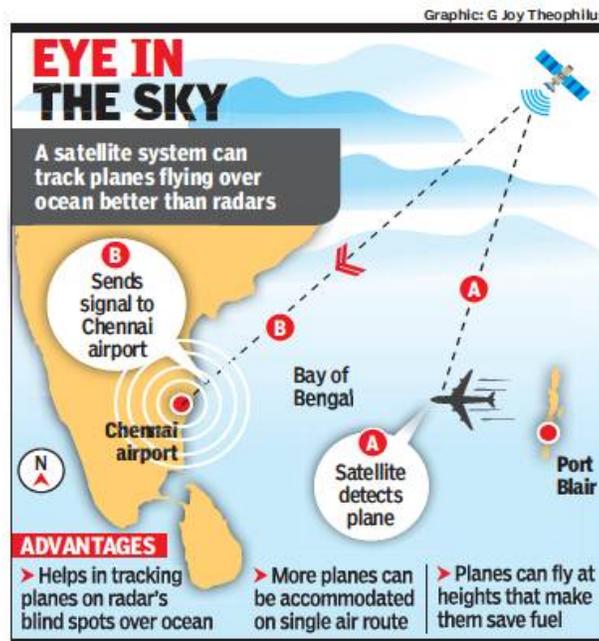
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 6, 2021

NATIONAL

- **On March 5, the government - termed as “misleading, incorrect and misplaced” the Freedom House report titled ‘Democracy Under Siege’ released on March 3**
 - ✓ As per the report, India’s status as a ‘free country’ declined to ‘partly free’ in 2020.
 - ✓ The non-profit organization, Freedom House, rates people’s access to political rights and civil liberties in 210 countries and territories through its annual ‘Freedom in the World’ report
 - ✓ It had released its India report on March 3 in which it pointed to a decline in the nation’s total score and status to a “partly free” country.
 - ✓ Separately, the report also referred to “Indian Kashmir” as “not free”, which was strongly objected by the Indian Government.
 - ✓ The government also took exception to the report’s assessment about the frequent use of the sedition law.
 - ✓ The report also noted that intimidation of academics and journalists and dissent by media increased in India last year, which was also countered by the government in its reply.

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI) – has completed the safety trial of the satellite based system to track planes flying over the Bay of Bengal**
 - ✓ A safety trial of space-based ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast) surveillance system for planes that fly over the sea from Chennai was completed successfully recently
 - ✓ The new system will make the flying over the Bay of Bengal to be safe and fuel efficient for planes
 - ✓ Tracking planes over the ocean using satellites is easier than tracking them with radar due to inherent signal issues on increasing distances.
 - ✓ ADS-B is now used by air traffic control where planes communicate with one another using data transmission.

- ✓ This is now being taken a step ahead by adding satellite signals to track the plane.



- ✓ Once approved, the new system will be activated in Chennai this year itself
- ✓ In this regard, an MoU was signed with a US company to implement the new system in Chennai and other flight information regions like Mumbai that control flights over the sea.
- ✓ Chennai airport used to handle more than 500 flights including overflying planes on the intercontinental routes.
- **The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – to form a Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in association with IIT-Bombay**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar, while addressing a virtual exhibition and prize announcement of “Khel Khel Mein”, a Pan-Maharashtra toy or game project design competition.
 - ✓ This centre of excellence (CoE) in gaming will come into effect when the new session will begin in 2021.
 - ✓ The CoE will be established to create indigenous games and apps in order to comply with the “Make in India initiative”
- **The Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Housing Affairs (MoHUA), Durga Shanker Mishra - has launched the on-field assessment of Swachh Survekshan, 2021.**
 - ✓ It is the sixth edition of this annual cleanliness survey which is conducted by the Government of India.

- ✓ The Swachh Survekshan was introduced by the MoHUA in the year 2016 to encourage the cities to improve their status of the urban sanitation through community participation



- ✓ In the initial year, only 73 cities with million plus population have participated in the survey
 - ✓ But in the subsequent surveys, the number of cities gradually increased.
 - ✓ In the year 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, a total of 434, 4203, 4237 and 4242 cities were covered in the survey
 - ✓ The on-field assessments for the survekshan usually take place in between January 4-31 every year.
 - ✓ During 2021, it got delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic and will now be conducted between March 1-28, 2021
 - ✓ To maintain the sustainability in the sanitation value chain, indicators for the year 2021 will focus on parameters like wastewater treatment and reuse and the faecal sludge.
- **The Parliament of India - have merged two of the TV channels namely, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV into an integrated channel “Sansad TV”.**
- ✓ This new TV channel will continue to ‘live telecast’ the house proceedings, provides news and the current affairs programme in Hindi as well as in English language.
 - ✓ The Rajya Sabha TV establishment will be merged with the infrastructure of Lok Sabha TV in order to create a new entity.
 - ✓ The former textiles secretary, Ravi Kapoor, has been appointed as the CEO of the Sansad TV on a contract basis for a period of one year.
 - ✓ The proposal for the merger of two entities was put forward by an expert committee headed by Prasar Bharati CEO Surya Prakash in 2019
 - ✓ The two entities have been merged into an integrated channel to cut costs, streamline the management of the channel and to organise the content, thereby making the new channel attractive for the viewers and advertisers.
 - ✓ The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha TV were profit-making entities.
 - ✓ Both the channels bagged the advertisements primarily from the public sector giants and the central ministries.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Canada – has become the first country to approve four different vaccines for public use**
 - ✓ The country's health regulator has now cleared a Johnson & Johnson vaccine shot that works with just one dose instead of two-doses of other vaccines
 - ✓ Canada has also approved vaccines from Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca
 - ✓ Canada has pre-purchased 10 million Johnson & Johnson doses, with options to buy another 28 million.
 - ✓ The J&J vaccine jab has indicated 85% efficacy over the Covid-19 illness in a massive study that spanned three continents.
 - ✓ The US had approved the Johnson & Johnson vaccine last month.

- **On March 2, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and Boeing Company - have announced that they completed the first flight test on a pilotless fighter-like jet which was designed to operate in concurrence with the crewed aircraft.**



- ✓ “Loyal Wingman” is the first military aircraft that has been designed and manufactured in more than 50 years in Australia with an investment of A\$40 million
- ✓ This first military aircraft made its first test flight under the supervision of a Boeing test pilot who was monitoring it from the ground control station located in South Australia.
- ✓ The aircraft was tested at different speeds and altitudes to verify its functionality and to demonstrate the design performance.
- ✓ The aircraft has also attracted considerable interest from United States and United Kingdom.
- ✓ It is a 38 feet long aircraft that has a range of 2,000 nautical mile or 3,704 km.
- ✓ The nose of the aircraft act like a shield to protect manned fighter jets and it can be removed to fit various payloads and weapons.
- ✓ The first Loyal Wingman is being used as the foundation for Airpower Teaming System of Boeing.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On March 5, PM Narendra Modi – held a virtual summit with his Swedish counterpart Stefan Lofven to discuss several regional and global issues**



- ✓ During the meeting, PM Modi had invited Swedish defence firms to participate in the Make in India programme, especially in the two defence production corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Further, Sweden made a determined effort to move the Gripen fighter aircraft production line of Swedish company SAAB to India
- ✓ SAAB has made this offer after India invited tenders for the acquisition of 114 fighter aircraft for the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ The Gripen—a fourth generation plus fighter jet—is one of the contenders for the deal along with other companies from the US and France.
- ✓ This is the first time the Swedish PM has backed the Saab offer with 100% government support
- ✓ Climate change, sustainable cities and smart transportation, all under the platform of green development, also featured in the virtual summit.
- ✓ During the summit, the two sides signed several agreements for increased collaboration in areas like smart cities, e-mobility, smart grids and waste management.
- ✓ This was the fifth interaction between the two leaders since 2015.
- ✓ The Indian PM had visited Stockholm in April 2018 for the First India Nordic Summit.
- ✓ Meanwhile, PM H.E. Stefan Lofven came to India back in February 2016 for the special 'Make in India' week.

SPORTS

- **India – finished joint seventh with host Egypt in the team championships at the year's first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shotgun World Cup in Cairo**
- ✓ On March 4, Indian women's trap team of Manisha Keer, Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari powered the country to silver after losing the gold to Russia

- ✓ It was the second medal for the Indian team, following the skeet team's bronze.
- ✓ Russia topped the medals table with five gold, three silver and a bronze.
- ✓ Manisha Keer, representing the Indian team, scored the highest 158 points out of 175 in the World Women's Event in the World Cup held from 22 February to 5 March 2021 in Cairo, Egypt.



- ✓ 20-year old Manisha Keer, a talented player of Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy, showcased brilliant talent in the World Cup and won the silver medal in the team Women's Event.
- ✓ Three years ago, she had equalled the world record by scoring 115 / 125 in the trap event at the World Junior Shooting Championship in Korea.
- ✓ Meanwhile, India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra bettered his own national record by one centimeter with an 88.07-metre throw at the Indian Grand Prix 3 in Patiala on March 5
- ✓ His previous record was 88.06m set at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Wildlife Day - March 3, 2021



*Sustaining
All Life on Earth*



- ✓ The day is celebrated in order to raise awareness about the important role played by the wildlife, forest and ecosystems to ensure sustainable lifestyle for livelihood

- ✓ It also highlights the threats faced by the wild animals like poaching, pollution, urbanization, destruction of wildlife habitat and the urgent need for the conservation of the wildlife by the humans
 - ✓ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed a resolution at its 68th session on December 20, 2013 to proclaim March 3 as World Wildlife Day as suggested by Thailand.
 - ✓ The day March 3 marks the adoption of “Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)” in the year 1972 to raise awareness about the benefits of the plants and animals.
 - ✓ This convention, also known as Washington Convention, is a multilateral treaty that seeks to protect the endangered plants and animals.
 - ✓ It was drafted after the adoption of a resolution in 1963 during a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and came into force in 1975.
- **The first day of March, 2021 - marked the beginning of Women’s History Month.**



- ✓ Every year, the month of March is designated as ‘Women’s History Month’ commemorating and encouraging the celebration of the vital role of women to events in history and contemporary society
- ✓ Theme 2021- “Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced”
- ✓ The month is celebrated predominantly in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia among other countries
- ✓ The countries started commemorating the week in the year 1978 in Sonoma County, California, championed by Gerda Lerner.
- ✓ As per the statistics, one in every three women was vulnerable to gender violence in her lifetime.
- ✓ Hence, this month is being observed to fight, protect, support and celebrate women.
- ✓ The month of March marks the celebration of International Women’s Day (IWD) on March 8 since the year 1977, when the United Nations officially announced it.
- ✓ The proposal to mark a special women day was started by German delegates after the Socialist Party of America celebrated Women’s Day in New York City in 1909 on February 28.

- ✓ On 19 March 1911, IWD was marked for the first time, by more than a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.
- ✓ March 8 was first announced as a national holiday in Soviet Russia after women gained suffrage in 1917 following the women's demonstration on the day in Petrograd, Russia.
- ✓ The UN began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975
- ✓ New Zealand was the first self-governing nation to allow women to vote.

