

Current Affairs: 25.03.2021

Fitch Ratings Projects India's GDP to 12.8% for FY22



American credit rating agency **Fitch** has revised **India's GDP** growth estimate for the fiscal 2021-22 to **12.8%**, from its previous estimate of 11%, in its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO). The improvement in GDP rate is based on factors like stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment. Also, for the fiscal year **2022-23**, **Fitch** expects GDP growth at **5.8%**.

Andhra Pradesh to Launch India's first Govt-run Ambulance Network For Animals



The **Andhra Pradesh** Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy, has decided to set up **India's first government-run ambulance network for animals**, in a move to boost the **animal husbandry and veterinary sector** in the state. Every assembly constituency in the state will get one Mobile Ambulance Veterinary Clinic to achieve the mission of reaching out to the distressed animals and provide them with proper animal healthcare. A total of **175 mobile ambulances (veterinary) clinics** will be set up to provide veterinary first aid services along with spot diagnosis and attending to emergency cases.

World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway



The Norwegian Coastal Administration has received the green signal to start working on the construction of **world's first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships**. The tunnel is dubbed as "**Stad Ship Tunnel**" and would be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway. The 1.7 km tunnel will be able to handle ships of up to 16,000 tonnes and give ships a safer passage through the treacherous **Stadhavet Sea**. The tunnel will be 49 metres (161 ft) high and 36 metres (118 ft) wide. It is estimated to cost at least 2.8 billion **Norwegian kroner (NZ\$460 million)** in the construction of this ship tunnel. The construction would begin in 2022 and would take three to four years in completion.

Indian-American Doctor Vivek Murthy appointed as US Surgeon General

The US Senate has voted, 57-43, to confirm the appointment of **Indian-American doctor Vivek Murthy as the Surgeon General** under US President Biden's administration. The 43-year-old Dr Murthy would occupy the position of America's Surgeon General for the second time. Prior to this, Dr Murthy was appointed as surgeon general under the Obama administration in 2011 but was fired by former President Trump in 2017.



Sri Lanka inks 3 year USD 1.5 billion currency swap deal with China



Sri Lanka has signed a **10 billion yuan (about USD 1,5 billion) currency swap deal** with China with the main motive to promote bilateral trade and direct investment between the two countries. The agreement for the same was signed between the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and the People's Bank of China. This agreement is valid for **three years**. The People's Republic of China is the largest source of imports for Sri Lanka.

India, Pakistan and China to participate in multinational anti-terror exercise "Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021"



The member states of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**, including India, Pakistan and China, will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise named "**Pabbi-Anti-Terror 2021**" in later 2021. The exercise will be hosted by **Pakistan** at its premier anti-terrorism centre in **Pabbi in Nowshera district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**. It would be the first time that Indian forces will travel to Pakistan for any military exercise. The decision to hold "Pabbi-Antiterror-2021" was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 18 March. **RATS** is a permanent organ of the 8-member bloc-SCO to promote cooperation of member states **against terrorism**, separatism and extremism. SCO member states include: India, Kazakhstan, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan

Mangal Prabhat Lodha & Family named India's richest real estate tycoon in GROHE Hurun Real Estate Rich List 2020

Mangal Prabhat Lodha and family has emerged as the **richest real estate developer in India**, as per the **GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List for 2020**.

The total net wealth worth of Mumbai-based Lodha Group was Rs 44,270 crore as of December 31, 2020, an increase of 39 percent.

It is for the **fourth consecutive year** that Lodha continues to hold the first position.

GROHE Hurun Real Estate Rich List 2020

The GROHE Hurun Real Estate Rich List 2020 is fourth edition of the annual list.

The list ranks the most successful real estate entrepreneurs, inheritors in India, based on net worth proportionate to their ownership in their respective real estate businesses. The survey was conducted by the London-based the rich-list compiler, **HURUN**, in partnership with Düsseldorf-headquartered bathroom solutions and kitchen fittings firm **GROHE**

Cross & Climb, Rohtak



TOP 10 ON THE GROHE HURUN INDIA REAL ESTATE RICH LIST 2020

Rank	Name	Net Worth (₹ Cr)	Main Company	City of Residence
1	Mangal Prabhat Lachha & family	44,270	Macrotech Developers	Mumbai
2	Rajiv Singh	36,430	DLF	New Delhi
3	Chandru Raheja & family	26,260	K Raheja	Mumbai
4	Jitendra Virwani	23,220	Embassy Office Parks	Bengaluru
5	Niranjan Hiranandani	20,600	Hiranandani Communities	Mumbai
6	Vikas Oberoi	15,770	Oberoi Realty	Mumbai
7	Raja Bagmane	15,590	Bagmane Developers	Bengaluru
8	Subhash Runwal & family	11,450	Runwal Developers	Mumbai
9	Ajay Piramal & family	6,560	Piramal Realty	Mumbai
10	Atul Rula & family	6,340	Phoenix Mills	Mumbai

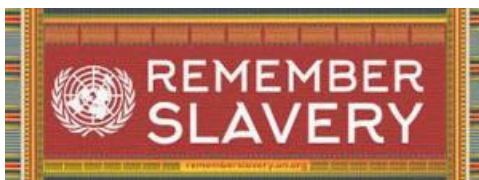
Rank increase joy Rank decrease YoY No Rank change joy New to Top 10
Source: Hurun Research Institute 2020. GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020

Hindi Writer Prof. Sharad Pagare Selected for Vyas Samman 2020



Well known Hindi writer **Professor Sharad Pagare** has been chosen to be conferred with the prestigious **Vyas Samman for the year 2020**. He will be awarded the **31st Vyas Samman** for his novel **‘Patliputru Ki Samragi.’** The Vyas Samman was started in 1991. It is given by **K K Birla Foundation** every year for an outstanding literary work in Hindi. The work should be authored by an Indian citizen and published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of Rs 4 lakh along with a citation and plaque.

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March



International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is marked on **25 March** every year since 2008 to remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. The day was designated for

international observance by United Nations in 2007 and aims at raising awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice. 2021 Theme: **“Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”**

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members: 25 March

Every year, the United Nations observes the **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on 25 March**. The day commemorates the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett in 1985 by armed gunman. He was a former journalist who was working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).