

# WORLD AGENDA 2021

## JANUARY

**1** **Joe Biden** is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, while **Kamala Harris** takes the oath as the first woman vice-president

**2** Brexit kicks in as the transition period ends, with or without a deal between the UK and EU

**3** The 63rd **Grammy Awards** are broadcast from Los Angeles

## FEBRUARY

**4** Three probes – **Mars 2020**, **Hope** and **Tianwen-1** – launched by the U.S., UAE and China respectively, arrive at Mars

**5** Barring a last-hour rescue, the **New START Treaty** between the U.S. and Russia, limiting numbers of strategic nuclear weapons, is due to expire

**6** China marks the **Year of the Ox**. People born in Ox years are said to be honest and earnest

## MARCH

**7** The trial of four former police officers accused in the death of **George Floyd** is due to start

**8** A **NATO** summit in Brussels hopes to welcome **Joe Biden**, and to begin mending relations with the U.S.

**9** **Extreme E**, a new racing series based on electric SUVs which aims to raise awareness of climate change, starts in Saudi Arabia



## APRIL

**10** **Raúl Castro** is to step down as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, ending 62 years of Castro-led government

**11** Peru holds a general election amid a period of political turmoil

**12** The **Oscars** ceremony, moved from Feb 28 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, is held in Los Angeles



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## MAY

**13** The 65th **Eurovision Song Contest** – postponed from 2020 – is held in Rotterdam

**14** The second-shortest total lunar eclipse of the 21st century, lasting 14 minutes, will be visible from much of East Asia, Australia and the Americas

**15** Tennis player **Rafael Nadal** will seek to extend his record with a 14th French Open title



## JUNE

**16** **Euro 2020** and the 2021 **Copa América**, both delayed by a year, kick off across Europe, and in Argentina and Colombia

**17** **Mobile World Congress**, the world's largest telecoms conference, opens in Barcelona

**18** **Amazon** begins its switch to electric vans for deliveries across the U.S.



## JULY

**19** The postponed **Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games** are due to begin, retaining the original logo and name

**20** **Bang Sue Grand Station**, the largest rail station in Southeast Asia, opens in Bangkok

**21** The U.S. Air Force aims to pit an advanced autonomous aircraft against a piloted plane in a challenge set to revolutionize air-to-air combat



## AUGUST

**22** **Microsoft** ends support for its **Internet Explorer 11** web browser, which made its debut in 1995

**23** Mexico marks the 500th anniversary of the fall of the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) to the Spanish conquistadores

**24** **Walt Disney Studios** releases **The Beatles: Get Back**, filmmaker **Peter Jackson's** documentary about the Fab Four



## SEPTEMBER

**25** The era of **Chancellor Angela Merkel** comes to an end when Germans head to the polls to elect a new federal parliament

**26** Hong Kong holds legislative elections, postponed from September 2020

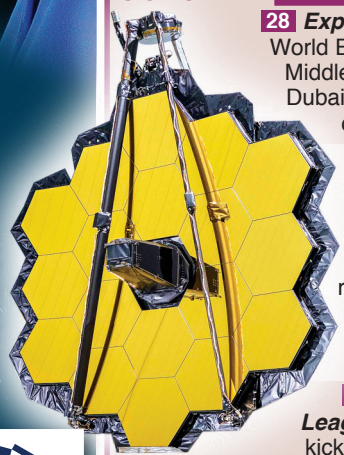
**27** The **Arc de Triomphe** in Paris will be wrapped in 25,000 sq. metres of blue fabric, an installation planned by the late artist **Christo**

## OCTOBER

**28** **Expo 2020**, the first World Exposition in the Middle East, opens in Dubai – one year late due to Covid-19

**29** NASA's **James Webb Space Telescope**, intended to replace **Hubble**, is scheduled to launch into orbit

**30** The **Rugby League World Cup** kicks off in England



## NOVEMBER

**31** Glasgow hosts the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)**, the most important climate forum since the Paris Agreement of 2015

**32** Barbados celebrates 55 years of independence, aiming to remove the British monarch as head of state and become a republic

**33** Italy hosts the **G20** summit of the 20 biggest economies



## DECEMBER

**34** The UAE celebrates 50 years of independence as an emerging economic power

**35** Citizens of Russia and the former Eastern-bloc nations mark the 30th anniversary of the dissolution of the **Soviet Union**

**36** India intends to launch its first manned spaceflight, becoming the fourth country to send people into space

