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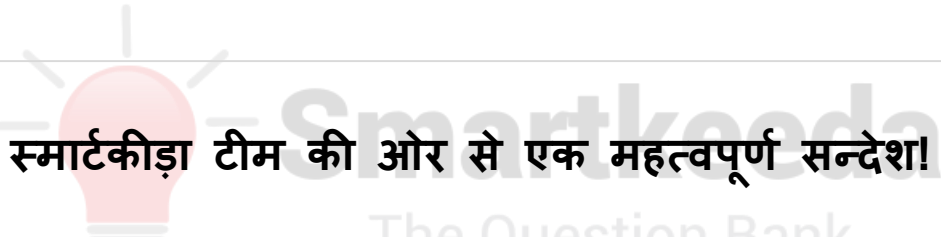
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मार्च 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

1. Aditya Birla Health Insurance has announced to offer up to 100% return of the premium if the customer has accrued adequate number of 'Activ Dayz' (one Activ Day means 10,000 steps a day, or any fitness activity specified by the insurer). The insurer will monitor the active lives of its customers through the Activ Health app. the new product is an enhanced version of its existing Activ Health policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance – to offer up to 100% return of the premium (India's 1st initiatives)
- 'Activ Health policy' – belongs to Aditya Birla Health Insurance
- HQs of ABHICL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mayank Bathwal

2. Alliance Insurance has recently launched "SMEInsure" portal to bring 5 Cr Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) under the insurance category. The new platform will benefit MSMEs, small shop and business owners amid financial emergency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alliance Insurance – launched "SMEInsure" portal – to bring 5 Cr SMEs under the insurance category
- HQs of Alliance Insurance – Mumbai, MH

3. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India under its "Waste to Wealth" Mission launched the 'Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship' to recognize students, community workers/self-help groups, and municipal/sanitary workers. The Waste to Wealth Mission is one of the 9 national missions of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser – launched the Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship
- It was launched under – "Waste to Wealth" Mission

4. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has virtually launched "Sugamya Bharat App" and a handbook entitled "Access - The Photo Digest" in New Delhi. The App and the handbook have been developed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot – launched "Sugamya Bharat App" & a handbook "Access - The Photo Digest"
- App & handbook have been developed by – DEPwD - under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

5. On March 1, Centuries-old St. George's Orthodox Church at Cheppad, Kerala has faced the risk of demolition for widening of National Highway (NH) 66, but it is now set to be declared a centrally protected monument of National Importance by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It is believed that the church was built in AD 950. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- St. George's Orthodox Church (Cheppad, Kerala) – declared as monument of National Importance – by ASI
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

6. On March 2, SBI Mutual Fund has announced the launch of SBI International Access - US Equity FoF, an open-ended Fund of Fund scheme that would invest in mutual fund scheme/ETFs that further invests in the US markets. The fund will be managed by Mohit Jain. The minimum investment required is Rs 5,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Mutual Fund – to launch “SBI International Access - US Equity FoF” - an open-ended Fund of Fund scheme
- ETF – Exchange Traded Fund
- HQs of SBI Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vinay M. Tonse

7. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced that the large companies can now divest a minimum 5% in the Initial Public Offering (IPO), instead of 10%. Further, they will get 5 years, instead of 3 years, to raise the public float to 25%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI announced that the large companies can now divest a minimum 5% in the IPO (instead of 10%)
- To raise the public float to 25%, the companies will get – 5 years (instead of 3 years)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

8. On March 1, General Manager, Western Railway, Shri Alok Kansal has inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system at Divisional Railway Manager's Office in Mumbai. This is the first time that MTRC is commissioned in Indian Railways. MTRC System is a TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) based Digital technology that is designed to prevent train accidents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Western Railway – inaugurated the newly commissioned Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system
- MTRC System – a TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio) based Digital technology
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

9. On March 2, Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV have been merged into a single entity called the “Sansad TV”. The decision was jointly taken by the Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Ravi Capoor is appointed as the CEO of the ‘Sansad TV’ channel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha TV + Rajya Sabha = merged as “Sansad TV” | CEO of new channel – Ravi Capoor
- Rajya Sabha Chairman – M. Venkaiah Naidu | Lok Sabha Speaker – Om Prakash Birla



10. On March 3, Karnataka has launched India's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy to raise its contribution to the sector in India to 45% in the next 5 years (by 2025). According to industry apex body Nasscom, ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in India in the next 5 years. The ER&D sector in India is the fastest growing industry with a CAGR of 12.8%. The ER&D sector in India is expected to generate over 6.5 lakh jobs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched India's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy
- ER&D has the potential to become a \$100-billion industry in India – by 2025 (in next 5 years)
- The ER&D sector in India is the fastest growing industry with a CAGR of 12.8%
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

11. Aequs Private Limited is developing a 400-acre toy manufacturing cluster at Koppal in Karnataka at an investment of \$500 million. India imports \$1.2 billion worth of toys annually. China exports \$20 billion worth of toys and recreation goods annually. Koppal is already famous for its Kinhal toys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aequs Private Ltd – is developing a 400-acre toy manufacturing cluster – at Koppal, Karnataka (\$500 million)
- HQs of Aequs – Hattargi, Karnataka | CEO & Chairman – Aravind Melligeri
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

12. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the India's 1st Toy Fair 2021 via video conference during which he urged the country to become 'Atmanirbhar' in the toy manufacturing sector. IIT Gandhinagar based Centre for Creative Learning (CCL) showcased 75 unique toys during the virtual event. The toy fair is divided into 5 stages - pre-school to Class II, primary, upper primary, secondary and senior secondary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the India's 1st Toy Fair 2021
- CCL showcased 75 unique toys during the virtual event | CCL is based at – IIT
- The Toy Fair is divided into 5 stages

13. Central Revenues Control Laboratory (CRCL), under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC), was recognized as a Regional Customs Laboratory (RCL) of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) for Asia-Pacific Region. With its recognition as RCL, CRCL joins a select group of Customs Laboratories in the region like those in Japan & Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRCL – recognized as a “Regional Customs Laboratory” of the WCO for Asia-Pacific Region
- Location of CRCL – New Delhi | Director – Sandeep Prakash | Established in – 1939
- HQs of WCO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Kunio Mikuriya
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar



14. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently completed development of a 25.54 km single lane stretch of road in just 18 hours, creating a world record. This took place during the construction of the 4-lane highway between Vijaypur and Solapur on the NH-52. The milestone will be entered in the Limca Book of Records. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI – created a world record by completing the development of a 25.54 km single lane stretch of road in 18 hours
- It took place during the construction of 4-lane highway between Vijaypur and Solapur on the NH-52
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu | Founded in – 1988

15. Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED) is organizing “GI Mahotsav” in collaboration with Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) and the Ministry of Culture on March 4-5. TRIFED is also working on the identification of new products that can be GI tagged and has listed out 54 such products so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + LBSNAA (Mussoorie) + Ministry of Culture = organizing “GI Mahotsav”
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

16. Union Minister of State for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually laid the Foundation Stone for the project “Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh” approved under ‘PRASHAD Scheme’ of the Ministry of Tourism. The project has been approved by the Ministry of Tourism with an estimated cost of Rs. 43.33 Cr in Oct. 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prahlad Singh Patel laid the foundation stone for “Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple” – at Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh
- The project was approved under – ‘PRASHAD Scheme’ of Ministry of Tourism
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

17. On March 3, Haryana has approved the bill providing 75% reservation in private sector to state job seekers who have a domicile certificate. The quota will apply for 10 years. The new law will provide quota to locals in private sector jobs that offer a salary of less than ₹50,000 a month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – approved the bill providing 75% reservation in Private Sector to state job seekers (for 10 years)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya



18. On March 2, Nagaland has launched its first air cargo services from Dimapur airport. Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio officially flagged off this service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched its 1st Air Cargo Services from Dimapur airport
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

19. Rishikesh is hosting the 7-day International Yoga Festival from March 1 to 7. The festival is being jointly organised by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7-day “International Yoga Festival” from March 1 to 7 – held in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivndra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

20. The Tripura government has launched a digital platform “Jagrut Tripura” to help people get benefits from various schemes of the Centre and the state government. At least 102 schemes of various departments are available on the platform. The project was developed by EasyGov, a Jio Group company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura – launched a digital platform “Jagrut Tripura” to help people get benefits from various schemes
- The project was developed by – EasyGov (a company of Jio Group)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

21. On March 4, The SEBI has cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation as a sub-broker citing its failure to fulfill the ‘fit and proper’ criteria. The regulator had appointed a designated authority in 2018 to enquire whether Sahara India Financial violated provisions of Intermediaries Regulations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – cancelled the certificate of registration of Sahara India Financial Corporation (SIFC)
- HQs of SIFC – Lucknow, UP | Executive Director – Anupam Prakash
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



International Affairs

22. Commemorating 50 years or Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of Liberation (defeating Pakistan), Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief RKS Bhadauria gifted a legacy 'Alouette III' helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) and got a legacy 'F-86 Sabre' aircraft as a return gift from Dhaka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – gifted a legacy 'Alouette III' helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force
- Bangladesh – gifted a legacy 'F-86 Sabre' aircraft to Indian Air Force
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria | Founded in – 1932
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

23. Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina has inaugurated the advanced digital cobalt therapy machine "Bhabhatron-II". India has donated this advanced telecobalt machine for cancer treatment & it is developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. The machine has been functional at HJRA since January and has the capacity to treat 50 patients per day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madagascar – inaugurated the advanced digital cobalt therapy machine "Bhabhatron-II"
- It is donated by – India & developed by – Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina
- India's Ambassador to Madagascar – Abhay Kumar

24. India and Pakistan have agreed to a strict observance of the '2003 Ceasefire Agreement' along the Line of Control (LoC) and all other sectors with effect from the midnight of February 24-25. The decision was announced after discussions between the Director Generals of Military Operations (DGsMO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Pakistan = agreed to a strict observance of the '2003 Ceasefire Agreement' along the LoC
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

25. On March 2, British cruise ships - the Marco Polo & the Magellan are no longer meant for use and they are finding their way to India to be scrapped. The Marco Polo, built in the 1960s, made its final voyage to Alang in Gujarat, referred to as the "world's largest ship graveyard". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Marco Polo & the Magellan - the cruise ships of Britain (UK) – being scrapped in India
- Alang (Gujarat) – known as world's largest ship graveyard
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



26. On March 2, Sri Lanka has approved a proposal to develop the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal (WCT) under a joint venture with India and Japan. Operate and Transfer (BOT) proposal approved by a negotiating committee had been forwarded to both the Indian High Commission and the Japanese embassy. The proposal presented by Adani Ports and special economic zone limited (APSEZ Consortium) has been approved by the Indian High Commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka approved a proposal to develop Colombo Western Container Terminal (WCT) – with India & Japan
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

27. India and Norway will work jointly in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for the next 5 years. They have identified Lakshadweep and Puducherry as pilot sites for the project. This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under an MoU signed between the two countries in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Norway – to work jointly in the area of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for the next 5 years
- Lakshadweep & Puducherry – identified as pilot sites for the project
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

28. India has described Sri Lanka as “Priority One” partner in the Defence Sector. The Sri Lanka Air Force (SLAF) has celebrated its 70th Anniversary on March 2 and to commemorate the historical event. A total of 23 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy would participate in the grand event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – described Sri Lanka as “Priority One” partner in the Defence Sector
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

29. The United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has recommended graduation of Bangladesh from the category of Least Developed Country (LDC) as it fulfilled the eligibility criteria in terms of per capita income, human assets and economic and environmental vulnerability. This is the second consecutive time since 2018 that the CDP has made recommendation for Bangladesh for graduation from LDC category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UN CDP – made recommendation for “Bangladesh” for graduation from LDC category (2nd time since 2018)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



Banking & Economic Affairs

30. According to the RBI's Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21, the current inflation target of 4% with a +/-2% tolerance band is appropriate for the next 5 years. India has adopted the Flexible Inflation Target (FIT) framework in 2016 and the next review of the inflation target is due before March 31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2020-21" – released by the RBI
- The current inflation target of 4% with a +/-2% tolerance band is appropriate for the next 5 years
- FIT – Flexible Inflation Target | FIT was adopted by India – in 2016
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

31. On March 1, Mizoram chief minister Zoramthanga has presented the annual budget for the 2021-22 fiscal with an outlay of ₹11,148.90 Cr and no proposal to levy new taxes or raise existing rates. He has also presented the supplementary demands for grants for 2020-21 amounting to ₹3,058.08 Cr. Revenue expenditure for 2021-22 is estimated at ₹9,216.39 Cr. Rs 5 Cr has been set aside for the Rehabilitation of MNF (Mizo National Front) Returnees and Rs 400 Cr has been allocated for various activities of Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram – presented the annual budget for the 2021-22 fiscal with an outlay of ₹11,148.90 Cr
- Rs 5 Cr – set aside for the Rehabilitation of MNF (Mizo National Front) Returnees
- Rs 400 Cr – allocated for various activities of Socio-Economic Development Policy
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

32. On March 1, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has presented a budget of Rs 97,106 Cr for 2021-22 in the Assembly. The budget defines the concept of development through the acronym "HEIGHT". In the budget, 38% provision is for the social sector, 39% for the economic sector and 23% for the general service sector. Besides, the main provisions of the budget are given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – presented a budget of Rs 97,106 Cr for 2021-22
- The concept of development through the acronym "HEIGHT":

H-Holistic development, E-Education, I-Infrastructure, G-Governance, H-Health, T-Transformation

- Main provisions of the budget:
- Setting up of rural industrial park in rural areas similar to 'Pauni Pasari scheme' in cities
- Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Collector Social Security Scheme
- Assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to journalists on accidental death due to accident
- Lump sum assistance of Rs 5,000 to women under 'Kaushalya Maternity Scheme' on birth of second child girl



- Mukhyamantri Dharsa Development Scheme
- Provision of Rs 5 Cr 85 lakh for 'Padhna Likhna Abhiyan Yojana'
- Provision of Rs 5,703 Cr for 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana'
- Provision of Rs 175 Cr for 'Godhan Nyaya Yojana'
- Provision of Rs 100 Cr for 'Mukhyamantri Sugam Sadak Yojana'
- Provision of 13 Cr for the 'Chief Minister Haat Bazar Clinic Scheme'
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

33. On March 2, Telangana Grameena Bank (TGB) and Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) have launched digital savings account opening facility through Video-Know Your Customer (KYC). Both banks are sponsored by SBI. They became first RRBs in India to adopt this tech that offers zero contact onboarding of customer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana GB + Andhra Pradesh GVB = became first RRBs in India to launch video-KYC facility
- Both banks are sponsored by – SBI
- HQs of TGB – Hyderabad, Telangana | HQs of APGVB – Warangal, Telangana
- Currently, total number of Regional Rural Banks (RRB) functioning across India – 43

34. On March 2, Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Nitin Gadkari has invited MSMEs to avail concessional debt finance to install rooftop solar for business efficiency. The MSME ministry along with SBI is working with World Bank on a \$100 million credit guarantee program to make financing accessible to unrated MSMEs. In 2016, The World Bank launched the "Solar Rooftop Financing Program" being implemented by the State Bank of India (SBI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSME ministry + SBI + World Bank = to launch a \$100 million (\$1 billion) Credit Guarantee Scheme
- World Bank + SBI = had launched the "Solar Rooftop Financing Program" in 2016
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

35. On March 3, Madhya Pradesh Finance Minister Jagdish Devda has presented a budget of ₹ 2,41,375 Cr for 2021-22 in the Assembly with no additional tax burden. An amount of ₹1.12 lakh Cr has been allocated for Socio-Economic Development schemes. ₹ 5,762 Cr has been allocated for providing tap water to households under the Jal Jeevan Mission. An amount of ₹3,200 Cr has been allocated under the CM's Farmers' Welfare Scheme (CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana) under which ₹4,000 are paid to each eligible farmer annually. A provision of ₹ 4,592 Cr has been made under the Atal Krishi Jyoti Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – presented a budget of ₹2,41,375 Cr for 2021-22
- ₹1.12 lakh Cr – allocated for Socio-Economic Development schemes
- CM Kisan Kalyan Yojana: amount allocated – total ₹3,200 Cr | ₹4,000 / year – to each eligible farmer
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

36. On March 3, In Jharkhand, Finance Minister Dr. Rameshwar Oraon has presented the budget worth Rs 91,277 Cr for the year 2021-22 in the State Assembly at Ranchi. The breakup of budget includes a revenue expenditure of Rs. 75755.01 Cr and Capital Expenditure of Rs 15521.99 Cr. The honorarium of MNREGA workers has been increased and fixed at Rs 225. A provision has also been made in the budget for better education for the ST and SC students of the state by opening of new State Tribal University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – presented the budget worth Rs 91,277 Cr for the year 2021-22
- Announcements:
 - The honorarium of MNREGA workers has been increased and fixed at Rs 225.
 - A provision for better education for the ST and SC students by opening 'State Tribal University'.
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

37. On March 3, Gujarat Finance Minister Nitin Patel has presented a revenue surplus budget with an Outlay of Rs 2,27,029 Cr for 2021-22, without new taxes or tinkering with existing rates. The Minister projected a revenue surplus of ₹588 Cr for the year 2021-22. Additionally, the Finance Minister also allocated ₹652 Cr for Statue of Unity Area Development and Rs 1,500 Cr for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project. Announcement of a new scheme 'MASIHA' is also made to construct houses for labourers. 'Whale Shark Tourism' was promoted for providing employment in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – presented the budget worth Rs 2,27,029 Cr for the year 2021-22
- Announcements:
 - Rs 652 Cr for Statue of Unity Area Development
 - Rs 1,500 Cr for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train Project
 - A new scheme 'MASIHA' to construct houses for labourers
 - 'Whale Shark Tourism' promoted for providing employment in rural areas
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

38. On March 3, Axis Securities has launched "YIELD" - an online platform to buy and sell bonds as well as debentures in the secondary market. With a simple investment process, YIELD is the first-of-its-kind initiative that aggregates only 'AAA' to 'A' rated quality debt instruments available for investment in the secondary market. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Axis Securities launched “YIELD” - an online platform to buy & sell bonds, debentures in secondary market
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

39. On March 3, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed an MoU with Our Food Pvt Ltd for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers through the bank loan. Vendor will ensure supply, delivery and installation of high-quality, standardised and branded equipment/machinery as per the requirement of the farmer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVGB + Our Food Pvt Ltd = an MoU for arranging cost-effective processing units to farmers
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna
- Location Our Food Pvt Ltd – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

40. On March 3, Exim Bank, on behalf of the Indian government, has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of \$10.40 million (Rs 75.99 Cr) to the government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland) for the construction of disaster recovery site. Till date, Exim Bank has extended 3 LoCs to Eswatini, taking the total value to \$68.30 million. With the signing of this latest agreement, Exim Bank has now in place 270 LoCs, covering 62 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – extended a LoC of \$10.40 million (Rs 75.99 Cr) – to Eswatini (Swaziland)
- Exim Bank has now total 270 LoCs, covering 62 countries
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982
- Eswatini (Swaziland) – Mbabane/Lobamba – Swazi lilangeni | King – Mswati III

Defence Affairs

41. On March 3, the Indian Air Force is for the first time participating in the annual multinational large force employment warfare exercise, “Desert Flag VI” hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force. The other countries taking part in the exercise scheduled from March 3 to 27 include Bahrain, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the U.S. Besides, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal R. K. S. Bhaduria has arrived in Colombo on a 2-day visit coinciding with the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Sri Lankan Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF for the first time participated – in the “Desert Flag VI” exercise – hosted by the UAE
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhaduria | Founded in – 1932
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



Schemes & Initiatives

42. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched 4 welfare schemes during the celebrations of the 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. He launched “Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana” to select 1 lakh poor families having lowest family income through Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) portal. He also announced that the BPL families belonging to any category will be able to avail the benefits of “Dr B. R. Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna”. Under “Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasaar Yojana”, a financial assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh will be provided to the social and religious organisations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched 4 welfare schemes during the celebrations of the 644th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas
- Mukhyamantri Antyodaya Parivar Utthan Yojana
- Dr B. R. Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna
- Sant Mahapurush Vichar Samman and Prasaar Yojana
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

43. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has launched “Gharoki Paachan, Chelik Naam” (daughter’s name is a home’s identity) programme and development schemes worth Rs 42 Cr in Nainital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched “Gharaikei Pehchand Chelik Naam” (daughter’s name is a home’s identity) programme
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

Sports & Games

44. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced that Odisha has hosted the 2020-2021 Hero Indian Women's League. India is set to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 and then the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha has hosted – “2020-2021 Hero Indian Women's League”
- AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022 & FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup – will be hosted by India
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

45. The Sports Ministry has restored the recognition of the faction-ridden Gymnastics Federation of India (GFI) after 10 years. The recognition has been granted for the period till 31st December 2021. The GFI was de-recognised by the ministry in 2011 because of infighting in the body. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – restored the recognition of Gymnastics Federation of India after 10 years (till 31st Dec 2021)
- The GFI was de-recognised – in 2011
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- President of GFI – Sudhir Mittal

46. On March 3, Jammu and Kashmir has topped the medals tally in the 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter National Games”. J&K won 11 Gold, 18 Silver & 5 Bronze medals. The event was e-inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event was organised by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council and the Winter Games Association of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter National Games” – held in Gulmarg, J & K
- J & K – topped the medals tally (11 Gold, 18 Silver & 5 Bronze)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

47. Indian shuttlers Varun Kapur and Malvika Bansod have won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament” in Kampala. Sankar and Anupama had to settle for silver medals in the 4-day tournament which saw participation of shuttlers from India, Germany and African countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Varun Kapur ([Badminton](#)) – won men's singles title at “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament”
- Malvika Bansod ([Badminton](#)) – won women's singles title at “2021 Uganda Badminton International Tournament”
- HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma

48. On March 4, Kieron Pollard has become the 3rd batsman in the history of International Cricket to hit six 6s in an over after Herschelle Gibbs and Yuvraj Singh. He achieved the feat in the first T20I of the three-match series against Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kieron Pollard ([West Indies](#)) – became the 3rd batsman in the history of International Cricket to hit six 6s in an over
- Other two players are: Herschelle Gibbs ([South Africa](#)) & Yuvraj Singh ([India](#))



Important Days & Dates

49. On March 1, the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) has celebrated its 9th Foundation Day at its Headquarter in New Delhi. Secretary, Border Management in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Sanjeeva Kumar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 9th Foundation Day of Land Ports Authority of India
- HQs of LPAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Aditya Mishra (LPAI functions under Ministry of Home Affairs)

50. World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 annually, across the world. This day was integrated by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) in 1990. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the ICDO. This year, the theme is “Strong Civil Protection to Preserve the National Economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – World Civil Defence Day
- Theme – “Strong Civil Protection to Preserve the National Economy”
- HQs of ICDO – Geneva, Switzerland

51. Zero Discrimination Day is observed annually on 1 March by the United Nations and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV & AIDS (UNAIDS) to celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life with dignity and equality. This year’s theme for Zero Discrimination Day is symbolised by a Butterfly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day – by UNAIDS
- This year’s theme is symbolised by – a Butterfly
- HQs of UNAIDS – Geneva, Switzerland | Executive Director – Winnie Byanyima

52. The Udupi District Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadhi Centres Owners’ Association has observed ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ on March 7. There are 40 Jan Aushadhi centres in Udupi district. The ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ was observed for the third consecutive year. This year, the theme is “Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 7– 3rd ‘Jan Aushadhi Diwas’ | Theme – “Seva bhi - Rozgar bhi”

53. On March 1, the 45th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated in New Delhi. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest of the event. Comptroller and Auditor General G. C. Murmu, Expenditure Secretary Dr T. V. Somanathan and Controller General of Accounts Soma Roy Burman were present on the occasion among others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 45th Civil Accounts Day | Chief Guest of the event – Nirmala Sitharaman
- CAG – G. C. Murmu | Expenditure Secretary – T. V. Somanathan | CGA – Soma Roy Burman



54. On December 20, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to celebrate March 3 as World Wildlife Day. March 3 was chosen as World Wildlife Day as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed on the same day in 1973. This year, the theme is “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – World Wildlife Day (since 2013)
- Theme – “Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet”

55. PM Narendra Modi has paid tribute to Morarji Desai on his 125th birth anniversary on February 28. Morarji Desai, a long-time Congress man, became the first non-Congress Prime Minister of India, after being elected Leader of the Janata Party in Parliament post the 1977 General Elections. He served as the 4th PM of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 28 – 125th birth anniversary of Morarji Desai (1st non-Congress PM & 4th PM of India)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

56. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre (PIC) have jointly convened the 5th “Asia Economic Dialogue 2021” (AED 2021). The theme for this year's conference is “Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics”. The conference was addressed by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MEA + Pune Int. Centre = convened the 5th “Asia Economic Dialogue 2021” (addressed by - S. Jaishankar)
- Theme of the conference – “Post Covid-19 Global Trade and Finance Dynamics”

57. On March 1, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has virtually inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Global Bio-India-2021” in New Delhi. The 3-day event will showcase the strength and opportunities of the India’s biotechnology sector at national level and to the global community. The theme for this year is “Transforming lives” with the tag line “Biosciences to Bio-economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Global Bio-India-2021” in New Delhi
- Theme – “Transforming lives” | Tagline – “Biosciences to Bio-economy”

58. The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat as Chief Guest. It was held at New Delhi as Hybrid event from 24th to 27th February 2021. ICOLD is organising Symposium on “Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “ICOLD Symposium on Sustainable Development of Dams & River Basins” as Hybrid event – at New Delhi
- Chief Guest – Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- HQs of ICOLD – Paris, France | President – Michael Rogers

59. Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr D V Sadananda Gowda has inaugurated the 6th Edition of “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021”. It was jointly organised by Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, FICCI & Invest India on 25-26 February & 1-2 March 2021. The theme for this year India Pharma is “Indian Pharma Industry: Future is Now” and for India Medical Device is “India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D V Sadananda Gowda – inaugurated the 6th Edition of “India Pharma & India Medical Device 2021”
- It was jointly organised by = Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers + FICCI + Invest India
- Theme for India Pharma – “Indian Pharma Industry: Future is Now”
- Theme for India Medical Device – “India MedTech Future: Innovate & Make in India through Global Alliance”

60. On March 2, The Government of India, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and UN-based Better Than Cash Alliance have hosted “Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat” with special focus on Himalayan Regions, North East Regions and Aspirational Districts of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Gov + FICCI + Better Than Cash Alliance = hosted “Merchant Digitization Summit 2021: Towards AatmaNirbhar (Self Reliance) Bharat”
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy
- HQs of Better Than Cash Alliance – New York, US | MD – Ruth Goodwin-Groen

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

61. PM Narendra Modi has received the “CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award” on March 5. He has also delivered the keynote address at the Cambridge Energy Research Associates Week (CERAWeek) 2021. Notably, CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr Daniel Yergin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – received the “CERAWeek Global Energy and Environment Leadership Award”
- CERAWeek was founded in 1983 by Dr Daniel Yergin



62. The 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 has recently taken place in a Hybrid Format. American drama film “Nomadland” has won the “Golden Globes 2021 Award” for ‘Best Motion Picture - Drama’. The drama film is directed, written and edited by Chloe Zhao. The other awards were given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 78th Golden Globes Awards 2021 – took place in a Hybrid Format

Category	Winner
Best Motion Picture Drama	‘Nomadland’ (America)
Best Director (Motion Picture)	Chloe Zhao (for Nomadland)
Best Actress (Motion Picture Drama)	Andra Day
Best Actor (Motion Picture Drama)	Chadwick Boseman
Best Picture (Musical/Comedy)	Borat Subsequent Moviefilm

Appointments & Resignations

63. On March 1, The 1985-batch IAS officer Arun Kumar Singh is appointed as the new Chief Secretary (CS) to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. Arun will replace Deepak Kumar. Singh is a native of Bihar’s West Champaran district and will retire this year on August 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arun Kumar Singh – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar (by replacing - Deepak Kumar)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

64. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension in the re-appointment of Shri Pramod Chandra Mody as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), for a further period of 3 months with effect from March 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 or until further orders, whichever is earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Chandra Mody – tenure extended for 3 months as Chairman of CBDT (till May 31, 2021)
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody

65. Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar has taken over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command (WNC). He succeeded Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar who retired after an illustrious career spanning 40 years. R. Hari Kumar was commissioned in the Navy on January 1, 1983. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral R. Hari Kumar – took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command
- HQs of WNC – Mumbai, MH | Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief – R. Hari Kumar
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

66. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh has taken over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command (ENC) by replacing Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain. Vice Admiral Jain is now the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) based out of New Delhi. Vice Admiral Ajendra was closely associated with the response to Super Cyclone Hudhud in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajendra Bahadur Singh – took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command
- [HQs of ENC – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOC-in-C – Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh](#)

67. On March 1, Shri Manpreet Vohra (IFS:1988), presently Ambassador of India to Mexico, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manpreet Vohra – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

68. The Competent Authority has approved assignment of additional charge of the post of Secretary of Department of Revenue to Tarun Bajaj (Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs) upon superannuation of Ajay Bhushan Pandey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tarun Bajaj – appointed as the Secretary of Department of Revenue (by replacing - Ajay Bhushan Pandey)

69. Six-time world champion Mary Kom has been appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) champions and veterans committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mary Kom – appointed as the Chairperson of the AIBA's champions & veterans committee
- [HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev \(from Russia\)](#)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

70. Around 375 million children (aged between 0-14 years) in India may suffer from the long-lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, including malnutrition to loss of education and work productivity, according to the annual report titled "State of India's Environment 2021" released by Down to Earth Magazine in association with the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE). As per the report, India has ranked 117 among 192 countries in the sustainable development goals (SDGs). The 5 best performing states on SDGs are Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. On air pollution, the report pointed out that 1.67 million Indians died due to air pollution in 2019. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “State of India’s Environment 2021” report released = by Down to Earth Magazine + CSE
- Around 375 million children (aged between 0-14 years) in India may suffer from the impact of the Covid-19
- India – ranked 117 in the sustainable development goals (SDGs)
- Top 5 states in SDGs: Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Telangana
- HQs of CSE – New Delhi | Founder & Director – Anil Kumar Agarwal

71. Reliance Industries Ltd’s (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani is the richest Indian and the 8th richest person in the world with the net worth of \$83 billion, according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2021. While in Asia, Mukesh Ambani has acquired the 2nd spot in 10th Edition of Hurun Global Rich List 2021. The list was topped by Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos & Bernard Arnault. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 10th edition of “Hurun Global Rich List 2021” – as on March 2, 2021
- 1st – Elon Musk (\$197 bn) | 2nd – Jeff Bezos (\$189 bn) | 3rd – Bernard Arnault
- Mukesh Ambani – 8th in the world & 2nd in Asia (\$83 bn)

72. Global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission has dropped by 5.8% in 2020 as the covid-19 pandemic brought economies to a standstill, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). China is the world’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases followed by the US & India. Global emissions from the electricity sector dropped by 450 million tonnes in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Global CO₂ emission dropped by 5.8% in 2020 – according to the IEA
- World’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases: 1st – China, 2nd – US, 3rd – India
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

73. Nearly 2.5 billion people worldwide or 1 in 4 people will be suffering from hearing loss by 2050, warns the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) 1st “World Report on Hearing”. The report was launched ahead of World Hearing Day on March 3. This year the theme was “Hearing Care for ALL! Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO: 1 in 4 people (approx 2.5 billion people worldwide) – will be suffering from hearing loss by 2050
- March 3 – World Hearing Day | Theme – “Hearing Care for ALL! Screen, Rehabilitate, Communicate”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194



74. Ministry of Housing and Housing Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the field assessment of “Swachh Survekshan 2021”, the 6th edition of the ‘Annual Cleanliness Survey’ conducted by the Government of India in New Delhi. Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016. Since its launch in 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) has made significant progress in the area of both sanitation and solid waste management. The second phase of SBM-U for a period of 5 years (2021-26) has recently been announced in the union budget of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched the 6th edition of the Annual Cleanliness Survey “Swachh Survekshan 2021”
- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA – in 2016
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched – in 2014
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)

75. Budget allocations towards Education were cut by 65% in the low and lower-middle income countries after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic while only 33% of high and upper-middle income countries did so, according to a report by the World Bank. The World Bank report was compiled in collaboration with UNESCO’s Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Budget allocations towards Education were cut by 65% in the low & lower-middle income countries
- World Bank Report – was compiled in collaboration with UNESCO’s GEM Report
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189](#)
- [President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#)

76. There are only ten countries in the world which offer full legal protections to women, according to the report “Women, Business and the Law 2021”, recently published by the World Bank. These 10 countries are Belgium, France, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, Sweden, Canada, Iceland, Portugal and Ireland. Saudi Arabia, which came in last in 2019, has improved its score majorly following new laws implemented in the country and now ranks 91st at 80% which is ahead of India. India has scored 74.4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Women, Business and the Law 2021” report – released by World Bank
- Only 10 countries in the world offer full legal protections to women | India’s score – 74.4

Acquisitions & Mergers

77. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Ltd (RSBVL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), has acquired an additional 28.16% stake in skyTran Inc for \$26.76 million. Following the deal, RSBVL's stake in Delaware-based skyTran, has increased to 54.46%. This is the 4th time RIL has increased stake in skyTran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Strategic Business Ventures – acquired additional 28.16% stake in skyTran Inc (for \$26.76 million)
- HQs of skyTran Inc – Delaware, US

78. On March 1, Siemens Ltd has completed the acquisition of 99.22% equity shares in C&S Electric Ltd from the company's promoters for Rs 2,100 Cr. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) had given its approval for the deal on August 20, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siemens – completed its acquisition of 99.22% equity shares in C&S Electric Ltd – for Rs 2,100 Cr
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Siemens Limited – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch + Joe Kaeser

79. On March 2, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will exit Numaligarh refinery in Assam by selling its entire 61.65% stake to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd for ₹9,875.96 Cr. The consortium of OIL and Engineers India Ltd is likely to acquire 49% and the rest 13.65% will be sold to the Government of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL – to sell its entire 61.65% stake in Numaligarh refinery ([Assam](#)) – to consortium of OIL & Engineers India Ltd
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- HQ of EIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – R. K. Sabharwal

80. On March 3, The government of India has planned to sell up to 7.52 Cr shares or 16% stake in IRCON International through an offer for sale (OFS) to raise about Rs 662 Cr. The base offer is for 10% share sale while the green shoes offer is 6%. The government holds 89.18% stake in IRCON. The government is looking to raise Rs 2.10 lakh Cr through disinvestment in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian gov planned to sell up to 7.52 Cr shares or 16% stake in IRCON International – to raise Rs 662 Cr
- The government holds 89.18% stake in IRCON
- HQs of Ircon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

81. On March 1, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has addressed the opening ceremony of virtual exhibition and prize announcement of 'Khel Khel Mein'. I&B ministry has decided to form Centre of Excellence in gaming and other related areas in collaboration with IIT Bombay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I & B + IIT Bombay = collaboration to form Centre of Excellence in gaming & other related areas
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)

82. On March 2, Bengaluru-based payments and banking technology company, Cashfree, has announced its partnership with PayPal to enable international payments for merchants and help SMEs sell across 200 markets. Businesses partnering with Cashfree can activate One Touch payments that would let their customers stay logged in and check out with a couple of clicks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cashfree + PayPal = partnership to enable international payments for merchants
- HQs of Cashfree – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-founder & CEO – Akash Sinha
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman

83. On March 2, Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) has signed an MoU with National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), India International Exchange (INX), National Securities Depository (NSDL) and Central Depository Services (CDSL) to set up International Bullion Exchange (IBX) at Gujarat International Financial Trade (GIFT) City Gandhinagar, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCX + NSE + INX + NSDL + CDSL = an MoU to set up International Bullion Exchange – at GIFT City Gandhinagar, Guj
- HQs of MCX – Mumbai, MH | CEO – P. S. Reddy | Chairperson – Mr. Saurabh Chandra
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

84. On March 3, The Goa government has collaborated with IBM to provide free skills training to the youth. The collaboration aims to upskill 10,000 learners across 10 institutions over one year in the state. The collaboration with IBM will provide a much desirable platform for accessing and availing digital content, personalised coaching and experiential learning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa + IBM = collaboration to provide free skills training to the youth
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna



85. On March 2, Post-harvest agritech firm Arya has entered into a strategic partnership with Canara Bank for collateral management and warehousing services. The objective is to support and extend finance to farmers, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), processors and various depositors stocking their produce in warehouses managed by Arya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya + Canara Bank = a strategic partnership to support and extend finance to farmers
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

86. On March 2, The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has entered into a pact with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to explore the feasibility of a debt capital platform for the MSMEs. The entities signed an MoU for co-operation in various ongoing MSMEs-related initiatives of the two institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE + SIDBI = an MoU to explore the feasibility of a debt capital platform for the MSMEs
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990

87. On March 3, The Odisha Government has signed an agreement with Hyderabad-based International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) to help tribals manage natural resources in the State. The agreement is signed to take up capacity building initiatives for the state’s ‘Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups’ that are dependent on agriculture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + ICRISAT (Hyderabad) = an agreement to help state’s ‘Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups’
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

88. On March 3, UAE's National Central Cooling Company - Tabreed has partnered with International Finance Corporation (IFC) to invest \$400 in India and South-East Asian countries to build cooling service infrastructure. IFC is a member of the World Bank Group. They have formed a joint venture (JV) to establish a district energy investment platform in Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tabreed (UAE) + IFC = to invest \$400 in India and South-East Asian countries
- IFC is a member of the World Bank Group
- HQs of IFC – Washington, US | Executive Vice President & CEO – Philippe Le Houerou



Books & Authors

89. National Book Award Winner & Pulitzer Prize winner Evan Osnos's latest book, "Joe Biden: American Dreamer", perhaps capture the essence of the personal and public sides of Biden's life, one riddled with suffering and the other marked by success. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Joe Biden: American Dreamer" – authored by Evan Osnos

90. The story of that Indian-origin barrister, George Edalji, has now been dug up in detail and brought to life in a new book by London-based historian-author Shrabani Basu. The book titled "The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the case of the foreigner in the English village" is recently released in the UK and in India on March 10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji and the case of the foreigner in the English village" book – authored by Shrabani Basu

Obituaries

91. Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, the BJP Lok Sabha member from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, has passed away recently on March 2. He was 69. He was an MLA from 1985 to 1996. He was elected as the Lok Sabha member for the first time in 1996. He was six-term MP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Constituency – Khandwa, MP)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Science & Technology

92. Russia has launched its space satellite "Arktika-M" on a mission to monitor the climate and environment in the Arctic amid a push by the Kremlin to expand the country's activities in the region. At the right orbit, the satellite will be able to monitor and take images every 15-30 minutes of the Arctic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – successfully launched its space satellite "Arktika-M"
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



93. ISRO has successfully launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite, "Amazonia-1" and 18 co-passenger satellites from India (5) and the USA (13) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. The satellites were carried on board the PSLV-C51. It was the 53rd flight of India's workhorse launch vehicle and the first dedicated mission for New Space India Ltd (NSIL). Five satellites belong to India including the 'Satish Dhawan SAT' (SDSAT) built by Space Kidz India. The 'UNITYsat' is a combination of 3 satellites JITSat, GHRCEsat & Sri ShakthiSat and developed by 3 Indian Colleges. Satellite 'Sindhu Netra' is developed by the DRDO. And satellites 'SAI-1 NanoConnect-2' and 'SpaceBEEs' belongs to the USA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched Brazil's optical earth observation satellite "Amazonia-1" & 18 co-passenger satellites
- The satellites were carried on board the 'PSLV-C51' (53rd flight of India's workhorse launch vehicle)
- 'Satish Dhawan SAT' – built by Space Kidz India | 'UNITYsat' – developed by 3 Indian Colleges
- 'Sindhu Netra' – developed by the DRDO | 'SAI-1 NanoConnect-2' & 'SpaceBEEs' satellites – USA
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

94. On March 1, Computer maker HP has made its first ever consumer PC using plastic waste in ocean. Newly launched Pavilion 13, Pavilion 14, and Pavilion 15 Laptops were manufactured using ocean-bound plastics. HP claims that with Wi-Fi 6, the Pavilion PCs will enable up to four times faster maximum Wi-Fi speeds and 75% lower latency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HP – made its 1st ever consumer PC using plastic waste in ocean
- HQs of HP – California, US | CEO – Enrique Lores

95. On March 3, In a bid to boost the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in India, The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) along with Microsoft has announced to launch "AI Gamechangers Programme". It will recognise innovators for their successful AI implementation at Nasscom's virtual 'Xperience AI Summit', one of the largest 'AI event' in India, in July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM + Microsoft = to launch "AI Gamechangers Programme"
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – UB Pravin Rao | Vice-Chairman – Rekha M Menon

96. On March 3, As part of a Global Science Programme, the International Astronomical Union (IAU) has recently confirmed the discovery of 18 new asteroids by Indian students. Conducted by STEM and Space, the International Asteroid Discovery Project was organised in collaboration with International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) as part of a NASA Citizen Science Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAU – confirmed the discovery of 18 new asteroids by Indian students
- NASA – initiated the International Astronomical Search Collaboration (IASC) – as a part of 'Citizen Science Project'



- HQs of IAU – Paris, France | President – Ewine van Dishoeck
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

97. On March 2, MapmyIndia has integrated with India’s official vaccination registration website, “Co-WIN portal” in order to make it easy for registered citizens to find nearby vaccine centres across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MapmyIndia – integrated with “Co-WIN portal” to help find nearby Covid-19 vaccination centres
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CEO – Rohan Verma | CMD – Rakesh Verma

98. On March 3, Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, has indigenously designed and developed the ‘Made in India’ optical spectrograph named “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera” (ADFOSC). The spectroscope has been commissioned on the 3.6-m Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT), the largest in India and in Asia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARIES (Nainital) – indigenously designed and developed the ‘Made in India’ Optical Spectrograph
- It is named – “Aries-Devasthal Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera” (ADFOSC)
- It is commissioned on – 3.6m Devasthal Optical Telescope (the largest in India and in Asia)

99. On March 3, Researchers from India and the U.S. have discovered 5 new species of shrub frogs (genus Raorchestes) from the Western Ghats which is one of the globally recognised biodiversity hotspots as 80% of the world’s Shrub frog species is found there. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers from India and U.S. discovered 5 new species of shrub frogs – from the Western Ghats
- Raorchestes Drutaahu (Fast-calling Shrub Frog) – discovered in Idukki & Palakkad (Kerala)
- Raorchestes Kakkayamensis (Kakkayam Shrub Frog) – discovered in Kerala
- Raorchestes Keirasabinae (Keira's Shrub Frog) – discovered in the southern Western Ghats
- Raorchestes Sanjappai (Sanjappa's Shrub Frog) – discovered from the Wayanad region (Kerala)
- Raorchestes Vellikannan (Silver-eyed Shrub Frog) – discovered in the Siruvani hills, TN & Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

100. On March 3, ISRO has embarked on a mission to take startups in the space sector to a higher orbit with a string of initiatives to help them realise their business potential. It is keen on formulating an exclusive space startup programme - “Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development (SEED)”. Department of Space (DoS) has also collaborated with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), Niti Aayog, to launch 3 challenges in space domain - ‘ARISE’ programme as a part of Aatmanirbhar Atal New India Challenges (ANIC) for promotion of applied research and innovation in small enterprises (MSMEs-Startups). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ISRO launched a space startup programme “SEED” (Space Entrepreneurship & Enterprise Development)
- DoS + AIM (Niti Aayog) = to launch 3 challenges in space domain - ‘ARISE’ programme
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

