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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

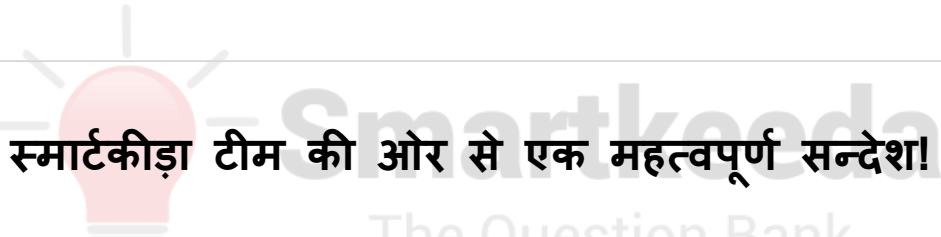
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 पढना, 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

**201.** On March 9, Google is launching a global 'Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls' under which it will provide \$25 million in overall funding to nonprofits and social organizations in India and around the world. Based on learnings from the 'Internet Saathi' programme, Google is introducing a new "Women Will" web platform to support 1 million women entrepreneurs in rural India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Google is launching a global 'Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls'
- Google is introducing a new "Women Will" web platform to support 1 million women entrepreneurs
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

**202.** On March 5, The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 200-foot 'Bailey bridge' on Joshimat-Malari road across the Rishiganga river in record of 26 days, restoring connectivity to the 13 border villages in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. The bridge has been named "The Bridge of Compassion" as a tribute to the fallen Karma Yogis of the Reini power plant and the NTPC Power Plant. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BRO constructed a 200-foot 'Bailey bridge' or "The Bridge of Compassion" – across Rishiganga river
- It restores connectivity to the 13 border villages – in Chamoli, Uttarakhand
- [HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary](#)
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

**203.** On March 7, India's first forest healing centre based on the concept of making people healthy by bringing them into direct contact with nature was opened to the public at Kalika in Uttarakhand. It was inspired from the Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) for stress relief and mood rejuvenation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India's first forest healing centre – opened in Kalika, Uttarakhand
- It was inspired from Japanese technique of forest bathing (shinrin-yoku) for stress relief & mood rejuvenation
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

**204.** India has launched a real-time vessel tracking system that can help seafarers and fishermen in the times of need. The system is termed "Sagar-Manthan: Mercantile Marine Domain Awareness Centre" (MMDAC) and it will be operated by Directorate General of Shipping. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India has launched – a real-time vessel tracking system termed as "Sagar-Manthan" (operated by DG Shipping)

**205.** Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched the Global Encyclopedia of the Ramayana. The encyclopedia in an e-book format is prepared by the Ayodhya Research Institute. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched the Global Encyclopedia of the Ramayana
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**206.** On March 6, The Delhi government approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly 2,700 schools in the city. In the beginning, 21-22 state government schools will be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE) and in the next 4 to 5 years all the schools will be brought under it. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – approved the formation of a separate school board for nearly 2,700 schools in the city
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**207.** On March 6, The Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system is commissioned in Western Railway trains to prevent accidents. It was launched at the Divisional Railway Manager's office in Mumbai. MTRC acts in a similar way to that of air traffic control (ARC) for aircrafts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system is commissioned in Western Railway
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

**208.** On March 6, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind World Skill Centre (WSC) at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The centre has been developed at an investment of Rs 1,342.2 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first-of-its-kind World Skill Centre (WSC) – inaugurated at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**209.** On March 8, In the state's budget for 2021-22, Maharashtra has proposed to provide 1% concession over prevailing stamp duty for women homebuyers. The state government is estimated to face revenue shortfall of around Rs 1,000 Cr owing to this concession being provided to women homebuyers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – proposed to provide 1% concession over prevailing stamp duty for women homebuyers
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**210.** On March 9, A 'Transgender Community Desk' has been inaugurated at Gachibowli police station. It is the first-of-its-kind gender inclusive community policing initiative in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever 'Transgender Community Desk' – inaugurated at Gachibowli police station, Hyderabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



**211.** On March 9, Union Minister V. Muraleedharan has stated that two Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) are being transformed into All Women PSK, one in New Delhi and the other at Cochin, in Kerala. A total of 1670 women employees are deployed in the Passport Seva Programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) – being transformed into All Women PSK – at Delhi & Kochi
- [Minister of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)
- [Minister of State for External Affairs – V. Muraleedharan](#)

**212.** On March 9, To overcome the inconvenience over multiple helpline numbers for grievances and enquiry during railway travel, Indian Railways has integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 (Rail Madad Helpline) for quick grievance redressal and enquiry during the journey. The 139 helpline will be available in 12 languages and the passengers can either opt for IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System) or directly connect to the call centre executives. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways – integrated all railway helplines into single number 139 (Rail Madad Helpline)
- The 139 helpline will be available in 12 languages
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma](#)

**213.** On March 10, Bareilly Airport is functional now and has started flight operations; with this development, Bareilly becomes the 8<sup>th</sup> airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh. As per the reports, the Bareilly airport has been upgraded for commercial flight operations under UDAN - RCS. With this, Bareilly becomes the 56<sup>th</sup> airport to be successfully operationalized under UDAN. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bareilly Airport – became the 8<sup>th</sup> airport to operate in Uttar Pradesh (56<sup>th</sup> airport under UDAN)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**214.** On March 7, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju and Women and Women and Child Development minister Smriti Irani have launched an online training programme exclusively for Female Physical Education Teachers and Community Coaches to celebrate the International Women's Day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Sport + MoWCD = launched an online training programme for Female Physical Education Teachers
- [Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Kiren Rijju \(Constituency – Arunachal West\)](#)
- [Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Textiles \(Amethi, Uttar Pradesh\)](#)

**215.** On March 8, Andhra Pradesh would become the first State to come up with a Gender Budget this year. CM Jagan Mohan Reddy has virtually inaugurated women help desks and cyber kiosks in police stations across the State, launched 'Swechha programme' intended to create awareness on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and flagged off a fleet of 900 Disha patrolling vehicles and 18 Disha crime scene management vehicles. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – the first State to come up with a Gender Budget this year
- Andhra Pradesh – launched ‘Swechha programme’ & a fleet of 900 Disha patrolling vehicles
- Andhra Pradesh – also launched 18 Disha crime scene management vehicles
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**216.** On March 8, The Delhi government has announced to set up 500 anganwadi hubs under the “Saheli Samanvay Kendra” for incubating individual start-ups and to promote self-help groups. Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has set aside Rs 4,750 Cr for the Department of Social Welfare, women and Child Development and welfare of SC/ST/OBC. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Delhi has announced to set up 500 Anganwadi Hubs under the “Saheli Samanvay Kendra”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**217.** On March 10, NTPC Southern Region is all set to commission about 217 MW floating solar capacity, including one of the Largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Peddapalli district of Telangana by May, 2021. The project costs ₹430 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India’s largest Floating Solar Power Plant of 100 MW – to be commissioned in Peddapalli, Telangana – by NTPC
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of NTPC Southern Region – Secunderabad, Telangana
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

**218.** Indian Railways (Ministry of Railways) has ensured 100% compliance of payment of minimum wages to contract workers through “Shramik Kalyan Portal”. The Shramik Kalyan e-application of the national transporter was launched on 1 October 2018. As on 9 March 2021, a total of 15,812 contractors and as many as 3,81,831 contract workers are registered on this portal. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Railways ensured 100% compliance of payment of minimum wages to contract workers through “Shramik Kalyan Portal”
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**219.** Union Minister for Railways, commerce & industry and consumer affairs, food and public distribution, Piyush Goyal has flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive indigenously developed by Banaras Locomotive Works (formerly Diesel Locomotive Works), Varanasi. The export of locomotives to Mozambique shall boost the Indo-African relationship. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal flagged off the 3000 HP Cape gauge locomotive developed by Banaras Locomotive Works (Varanasi)
- Mozambique – is set to receive two 3000 HP Cape Gauge Locomotives
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

## International Affairs

**220.** On March 4, A new cultural centre of the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is the second cultural centre of the High Commission of India in Dhaka. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated a new (2<sup>nd</sup>) cultural centre of the High Commission of India – in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

**221.** El Salvador has become the first country in central America and the third in all Americas to get the malaria-free certificate from the World Health Organization (WHO). Malaria elimination certificate is awarded to a country when the chain of indigenous transmission of the disease has been disrupted nationwide for at least 3 consecutive years. El Salvador recorded its last malaria death in 1984. In India, the malaria infections fell by 14.4 million between 2000 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- El Salvador – became 1<sup>st</sup> central American country to be declared malaria-free by WHO (last death – 1984)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- El Salvador – San Salvador – US Dollar | President – Nayib Bukele

**222.** On March 9, PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge (Maitri Setu) over the Feni river at Sabroom in south Tripura. He also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 8 other infrastructure projects together worth ₹ 3,518 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge “Maitri Setu”
- It was inaugurated – over Feni river at Sabroom, Tripura
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for 8 other infrastructure projects worth ₹ 3,518 Cr
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



**223.** On March 9, Swiss voters have voted in favour of the proposal to ban face coverings, both the Niqabs and Burqas worn by Muslim women in the country and the ski masks and bandannas used by protesters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Switzerland voted in favour of the proposal to ban face coverings both Niqabs & Burqas worn by Muslim women
- [Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin \(New\)](#)

**224.** As part of the “Swarnim Vijay Varsh” celebration commemorating 50 years of the 1971 war triumph against Pakistan, INS Sumedha and INS Kulish have made the first-ever visit to the historic port town of Mongla in Bangladesh from March 8 to 10. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Sumedha & INS Kulish – made the 1<sup>st</sup> ever visit to the historic Mongla Port, in Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**225.** On March 9, India has attracted total FDI inflow of \$67.54 billion during April to December 2020. It is the highest ever inflow for the first 9 months of a financial year. Besides, FDI equity inflow grew by 40% in the first 9 months of FY21 to \$51.47 billion from an year ago period of \$36.77 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India has attracted total FDI inflow of \$67.54 billion during April to December 2020 (highest ever)
- FDI equity inflow grew by 40% in the first 9 months of FY21 to \$51.47 billion

**226.** On March 9, Axis Bank has partnered with WhatsApp to offer basic banking services to its customers. This will allow customers to seek information regarding their account balance, recent transactions, credit card payments, fixed and recurring deposit details, besides getting their queries answered in real-time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + WhatsApp = partnership to offer basic banking services to its customers
- [HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”](#)

**227.** On March 8, HDFC Bank has launched “SmartUp Unnati Programme” for mentoring women entrepreneurs by women leaders at the bank. This programme is available only to existing customers and will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs associated with the bank's SmartUp programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – launched “SmartUp Unnati Programme” for mentoring women entrepreneurs
- [HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”](#)



**228.** On March 9, Maharashtra State Finance Minister Ajit Pawar has presented a ₹4,84,118.19 Cr Budget. The state government announced Rajmata Jijau Griha-Swamini Yojna, Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule scheme, Tejasvini Yojana, Maharashtra Apprentice Promotion Scheme and Sant Janabai Social Security and Welfare scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra FM Ajit Pawar – presented a ₹4,84,118.19 Cr Budget
- Schemes:
  - Rajmata Jijau Griha-Swamini Yojna
  - Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule scheme
  - Tejasvini Yojana
  - Maharashtra Apprentice Promotion Scheme
  - Sant Janabai Social Security and Welfare scheme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**229.** Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has launched the 'Vikas Asha' loan scheme for women. Under this scheme, the bank will extend loan up to a maximum of ₹10 lakh with a repayment period of 84 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank – launched the 'Vikas Asha' loan scheme for women (loan upto ₹10 lakh)
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna

**230.** March 9, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has launched a women savings account named "Garima Savings Account" catering to the financial needs of women. It will offer multiple customised benefits to women, including up to a maximum of 7% rate of interest on the savings account. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank – launched "Garima Savings Account" for women
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh

**231.** March 8, Yes Bank has launched "YES Essence", a holistic banking proposition for women across customer segments – homemakers, salaried professionals, entrepreneurs and senior citizens. The proposition offers a bouquet of solutions including complementary healthcare benefits, earn on auto sweep to FD, preferential pricing on loans, fee waiver on demat and trading account, and more. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Bank launched "YES Essence" - a banking service customized for women
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"



**232.** March 5, AckoDrive, a one-stop solution for first-hand car buying, has partnered with IDFC FIRST Bank to issue free FASTags. With AckoDrive getting a FASTag is hassle free and convenient. Unlike FASTags issued by others, AckoDrive's digital platform requires no issuance fee, no paperwork or security deposit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AckoDrive + IDFC FIRST Bank = partnership to issue free FASTags
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan
- HQs of AckoDrive – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Dua

**233.** On March 8, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has proposed a budget outlay of ₹69,000 Cr for 2021-22. The theme for this year's budget will be "Patriotism" to celebrate 75 years of the India's Independence. ₹10 Cr will be allocated on programmes and events on the life of Bhagat Singh and another ₹10 Cr for programmes and events on the life of BR Ambedkar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – proposed a budget outlay of ₹69,000 Cr for 2021-22
- The theme for this year's budget – "Patriotism"
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**234.** On March 16, DBS Bank India has partnered with TRRAIN (Trust for Retailers & Retail Associates of India) as part of the 'DBS Stronger Together Fund'. The partnership will support youth from low-income households by providing them with long-term employment opportunities. The program aims to train and secure jobs for over 800 individuals by the end of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBS Bank India + TRRAIN = to provide long-term employment opportunities to Youth
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

**235.** On March 16, Bank of Baroda in partnership with Aquaconnect will provide credit access to 1.6 million aquaculture farmers under the Kisan Credit Card scheme at an annual rate of as low as 10%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bank of Baroda + Aquaconnect = partnership to provide credit access to 1.6 million aquaculture farmers
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – India's International Bank
- HQs of Aquaconnect – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Rajamanohar Somasundaram

**236.** On March 10, State Bank of India (SBI) has topped the ministry of electronics and information technology's (MeitY) Digital Payment Scorecard for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive month with 64 Cr transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform and a user base of 13.5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI topped the MeitY's Digital Payment Scorecard for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive month
- Total transactions on UPI platform – 64 Cr | User base – 13.5 Cr
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



**237.** On March 10, Axis Bank has become the first bank to launch contactless payment wearable devices “Wear ‘N’ Pay” for Rs 750. Customers can make contactless payments up to Rs. 5,000 at PoS machine using simple wave or tap. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank became the first bank to launch contactless payment wearable devices “Wear ‘N’ Pay” for Rs 750
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**238.** On March 10, Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) and Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company (Chola) jointly announced launching of the co-lending business in a partnership. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KVB + Chola = launched the co-lending business in a partnership
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – B. Ramesh Babu
- HQs of Chola – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – M. M. Murugappan

**239.** On March 9, The Finance Ministry has notified the change in the GST Act on the recommendation of the GST Council. The CBIC has made e-invoices filing of GST mandatory for businesses with annual revenue of over Rs 50 Cr from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBIC made e-invoices filing of GST mandatory for businesses with annual revenue of over Rs 50 Cr from April 1, 2021
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

## **Defence Affairs**

**240.** On March 8, The Indian Army has leased 4 Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) made by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for possible deployment along the 3,488-km India-China border. The lease period is for three years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army leased 4 Heron unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – made by Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

**241.** On March 9, The armies of Indian and Uzbekistan have conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of exercise namely “Dustlik-2” recreating Kashmir-like counter-terror operations between March 9 and 21 in Chaubatia near Ranikhet in Uttarakhand. The exercise is aimed at carrying out joint counter-terror operations in a mountainous rural and urban scenario. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of exercise namely “Dustlik-2” – held between Indian & Uzbekistan – in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**242.** On March 10, France has begun its first military exercises codenamed “AsterX” in space to test its ability to defend its satellites. Michel Friedling, the head of France's newly created Space Command, called the exercises a ‘Stress test of our Systems’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- France – began its first military exercises codenamed “AsterX”
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**243.** On March 9, The Indian Navy has signed a contract with Suryadipta Projects to construct 11 Ammunition-Cum-Torpedo-Cum-Missile (ACTCM) barges. Delivery of barges is scheduled to commence from May 22. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Suryadipta Projects = a contract to construct 11 Ammunition-Cum-Torpedo-Cum-Missile Barges
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of Suryadipta Projects – Thane, Maharashtra | MD – Shyamashish Ghoshal



**244.** On March 8, The Women and Child Development Ministry has classified all its major programmes under 3 umbrella schemes - Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, for their better implementation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Women and Child Development Ministry classified all its major programmes under 3 umbrella schemes:

Scheme	Particular	Amount allocated in 2021-22 budget
Mission Poshan 2.0	Strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcomes	Rs 20,105 Cr
Mission Shakti	One Stop Centre, Mahila police volunteer, Women's helpline, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana	Rs 3,109 Cr
Mission Vatsalya	Child protection services & Child welfare services	Rs 900 Cr

**245.** On March 9, On International Women's Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched “Super-75 scholarship scheme” to support the education of meritorious girls from poor families. Mission Youth will provide 10% of the project cost and will also pay the interest every year. The Lt Governor also announced a new scheme - “Tejaswini” under Mission Youth, to provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakhs to the girls between the age group of 18 to 35 years to start their business. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- J & K – launched “Super-75 scholarship scheme” – to support the education of meritorious girls
- J & K – launched “Tejaswini” scheme for girls | Financial assistance – ₹5 lakhs | Age group – 18 to 35 years
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**246.** On March 9, Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund for share of Health from the proceeds of Health and Education Cess. PMSSN will be administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under ‘Section 136-b’ of Finance Act, 2007. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN) as a single non-lapsable reserve fund
- The proceeds of Health and Education Cess are levied under ‘Section 136-b’ of Finance Act, 2007

## Sports & Games

**247.** Indian Women’s Trap Team trio Kirti Gupta, Manisha Keer and Rajeshwari Kumari (Shooters) won a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt after being defeated by Russia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Women’s Trap Team – won a Silver Medal in the ISSF World Cup in Cairo, Egypt (winner – Russia)
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**248.** On March 9, The National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) disciplinary panel has imposed sanctions on weightlifter Madhavan R for 4 years and boxer Ruchika for 2 years for violation of its code. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NADA imposed sanctions on Madhavan R (Weightlifter) & Ruchika (Boxer) – for 4 years & 2 years respectively
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal | Motto – Play Fair | Founded in – 2005

## Important Days & Dates

**249.** The 52nd CISF Raising Day was observed this year on March 10. The CISF was set up under an act of the Parliament of India on March 1969 with strength of around 2,200 personnel. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 10 – 52nd CISF Raising Day (set up in - 1969)
- HQs of CISF – New Delhi | Director – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal | Motto – ‘Protection & Security’



**250.** On March 8, the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Day is observed on March 10. Gestational diabetes puts women at a greater risk for developing diabetes later in life. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 10 – 3<sup>rd</sup> National Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) Day (1<sup>st</sup> in 2019)

## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**251.** At the invitation of National Security Adviser Shri Ajit K. Doval, the National Security Adviser of Nigeria Major General (Retd.) Babagana Monguno has visited India (New Delhi) for the First Strategic and Counter-Terrorism Dialogue between India and Nigeria at the level of NSA from March 4-5, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The First Strategic & Counter-Terrorism Dialogue – held between India & Nigeria
- National Security Adviser of India – Shri Ajit K. Doval
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhar

**252.** On the occasion of 30<sup>th</sup> foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) on March 8, Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated the International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing (MEMP 2021) at Pune. India's share in global electronics manufacturing increased from 1.3% in 2012 to 3.6% in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 8 – 30<sup>th</sup> foundation day of Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (Pune)
- Sanjay Dhotre – inaugurated International Conference on Multifunctional Electronic Materials & Processing – at Pune
- MoS for Ministry of Education – Sanjay Dhotre

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**253.** On March 9, Minister of Culture and Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' at Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prahlad Singh Patel – inaugurated the All-Women's Art Exhibition titled 'Akshya Patra' – in New Delhi
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)





# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**254.** On March 6, Bangladesh has announced the names of 9 individuals and one organization for conferring the 'Swadhinta Puraskar', the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for the year 2021. The award has been given since 1977 ahead of the Independence Day of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bangladesh – announced names of 9 individuals and one organization for conferring the 'Swadhinta Puraskar'
- Swadhinta Puraskar' – the highest civilian award of Bangladesh since 1977
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**255.** On March 8, Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan was presented the "Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award for 2020" at the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional International Women's Day Gala at Naperville, Illinois. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Tamilisai Soundararajan – received "Top 20 Global Women of Excellence Award for 2020"

**256.** On March 8, The former Puducherry lieutenant governor Kiran Bedi has received a "Baton of Honor" decorated with the emblem of the Indian Republic and a letter of appreciation from President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kiran Bedi – received a "Baton of Honor" – from President Ram Nath Kovind

**257.** On March 8, Petra Kvitova has won the women's singles "Qatar Open title 2021". It was her second Qatar Open title & 28<sup>th</sup> career title from 38 finals played. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) – won the women's singles "Qatar Open title 2021" (28<sup>th</sup> Career Title)
- Czech Republic – Prague – Koruna | President – Milos Zeman

**258.** On March 10, After Vinesh Phogat has grabbed the 53kg Gold medal, Bajrang Punia has won the Gold medal in the final of the men's 65kg event at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome, Italy. With this, he has become the World Number 1 in the 65 Kg category. The 14-member Indian Wrestling Contingent has won total 8 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver, 5 Bronze). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) – won Gold medal in men's 65kg at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series in Rome, Italy
- Vinesh Phogat (Wrestler) – won Gold medal in women's 53kg at Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series
- 14-member Indian Wrestling Contingent won total 8 medals (2 Gold + 1 Silver + 5 Bronze)

**259.** On March 9, Chess player Koneru Humpy has won the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of "BBC India Sportswoman of the Year award for 2020". The award was based on a public vote in which Humpy beat sprinter Dutee Chand, shooter Manu Bhaker, wrestler Vinesh Phogat and hockey captain Rani Rampal. Humpy became the Youngest Grandmaster in 2002 at the age of 15. She has received the Arjuna Award in 2003 and the Padma Shri in 2007. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Koneru Humpy ([Andhra Pradesh-Chess](#)) – won the 2<sup>nd</sup> “BBC India Sportswoman of the Year award - 2020”
- Manu Bhaker ([Shooting](#)) | Vinesh Phogat ([Wrestling](#)) | Rani Rampal ([Hockey](#))

**260.** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has received the prestigious “King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award” by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Ms Suchitra Durai, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Thailand received the award on behalf of the ICAR in a ceremony in Bangkok. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Suchitra Durai – received the “King Bhumibol World Soil Day - 2020 Award” by the FAO (on behalf of ICAR)
- Ms Suchitra Durai – Ambassador of India to Thailand
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945

## Appointments & Resignations

**261.** On March 10, Union Minister Anurag Thakur has become the first serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army. Thakur was promoted as Captain in the 124 Sikh regiment. He is 4-time BJP MP from Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – became the 1<sup>st</sup> serving MP to be appointed as Captain in the Territorial Army (124 Sikh regiment)
- He is 4-time BJP MP from – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh

**262.** On March 9, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd (Arcil) has appointed Pallav Mohapatra as its Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director. Prior to the appointment, Mohapatra was the MD and CEO of Central Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Pallav Mohapatra – appointed as MD & CEO of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd
- HQs of Arcil – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Pallav Mohapatra

**263.** On March 10, Garhwal Member of Parliament Tirath Singh Rawat has taken oath as 9<sup>th</sup> Chief Minister of Uttarakhand at the Raj Bhawan in Dehradun after he was elected by the BJP Legislature Party. His predecessor Trivendra Singh Rawat resigned on March 9. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Tirath Singh Rawat – took oath as 9<sup>th</sup> CM of Uttarakhand | Trivendra Singh Rawat resigned
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Tirath Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

**264.** On March 8, Thomas Bach from Germany has been re-elected unopposed for a second term as the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for a 4-year term until 2025. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thomas Bach ([Germany](#)) – re-elected as the President of the IOC for 4 years (till 2025)
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach
- [Germany](#) – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier

**265.** On March 10, Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Girish Chandra Murmu has been re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the United Nations for the year 2021. The UN General Assembly had in 1959 established the Panel of External Auditors. Presently, the panel consists of 13 countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Girish Chandra Murmu – re-appointed as the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of the UN for 2021
- The Panel of External Auditors – established in 1959 | Present Member countries – 13
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

## Amount & Agreements

**266.** On March 10, REC (Rural Electrification Corporation) Ltd and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) have entered into a pact with Bhutan-based Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd (KHEL) to finance a 600-megawatt Hydroelectric Project at Trashiyangtse in Bhutan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- REC Ltd + PFC = a pact with Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Ltd to finance 600-MW Hydroelectric Project – in Bhutan
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Sanjeev Kumar Gupta

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**267.** On March 4, According to a report titled “COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage” released by the UNICEF, 10 million additional child marriages may occur before the end of the decade. Five countries, including India, account for about half of the total child brides in the world. Worldwide, an estimated 650 million girls and women alive today were married in childhood. A target is to end Child Marriage by 2030 under the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “COVID-19: A threat to progress against child marriage” – released by the UNICEF
- Worldwide, an estimated 650 million girls & women alive today were married in childhood
- UN’s target to end Child Marriage by – 2030
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



**268.** As per the “UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020 - Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean”, India has ranked 71 out of 152 countries. India had ranked at 75<sup>th</sup> position in 2019. Switzerland has topped the list. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “UNCTAD B2C E-COMMERCE INDEX 2020 - Spotlight on Latin America and the Caribbean” report
- India – 71<sup>st</sup> | Topped by – Switzerland
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

**269.** As on March 4, According to the UNCTAD’s “Technology and Innovation Report 2021”, India is the biggest ‘overperformer’ in frontier technologies amongst countries with similar per capita GDP. India has overperformed other countries by 65 ranking positions. It was followed by the Philippines, which overperformed by 57 ranking positions. The US, Switzerland and the UK were ‘best prepared’ for frontier technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Technology and Innovation Report 2021” – released by UNCTAD
- India is the biggest ‘overperformer’ with 65 ranking positions | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Philippines (57)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

**270.** March 8, Singapore with a score of 89.7 has topped the global ranking for the second year in a row in the latest “Economic Freedom Index - 2021” published by US conservative think-tank, The Heritage Foundation. In the 2021 Index, India came in around the middle of the pack among Asia-Pacific countries ranking 26<sup>th</sup> out of 40 countries, scoring 56.5 points. Globally, the Foundation rates India’s economy as the 121<sup>st</sup> freest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Economic Freedom Index - 2021” report – published by The Heritage Foundation (US)
- India – 121<sup>st</sup> (56.5) | Topped by – Singapore (89.7)

**271.** On March 9, Seamless transport connectivity between India and Bangladesh has the potential to increase national income by as much as 17% in Bangladesh and 8% in India, according to a new World Bank report titled “Connecting to Thrive: Challenges and Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Connecting to Thrive: Challenges & Opportunities of Transport Integration in Eastern South Asia” – by World Bank
- Seamless Indo-Bangladesh connectivity to increase national incomes 17% in Bangladesh & 8% in India
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**272.** On March 7, With a vision to promote Nano-entrepreneurship amongst youth in the financial services sector, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has collaborated with SahiPay - an Android-based integrated platform developed by Manipal Business Solutions (MBS) to promote digital enablement and financial inclusion in India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NSDC + SahiPay = collaboration to promote digital enablement and financial inclusion in India
- SahiPay – developed by Manipal Business Solutions (MBS)
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

**273.** On March 7, The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed an MoU with the Central Silk Board under the Ministry of Textiles on a convergence model for the implementation of Agroforestry in the silk sector under the ongoing Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF) Scheme. At present, the scheme is being implemented in 20 States and 2 UTs. National Agroforestry Policy was launched in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare + Central Silk Board = an MoU for promotion of Agroforestry in Silk Sector
- HQs of Central Silk Board – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman – K. M. Hanumantharayappa

**274.** Wipro Ltd has joined the ‘Partnering for Racial Justice in Business’ initiative launched by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to promote a culture of diversity, inclusion, equity and justice for people of all racial backgrounds in the workplace. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Wipro + Partnering for Racial Justice in Business = partnership to advance racial justice & social equality
- ‘Partnering for Racial Justice in Business’ – an initiative of WEF
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

**275.** PNB Housing Finance has partnered with Delhi-based NGO Azad Foundation for the new initiative, ‘Women With Wheels’ to facilitate underprivileged women gain driving skills and also donate electric cars to them in Jaipur and Indore. The initiative is part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project called ‘SHE’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- PNB Housing Finance + Azad Foundation = for the new initiative ‘Women With Wheels’
- ‘Women With Wheels’ initiative is part of its CSR project called ‘SHE’
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tag Line – Ghar Ki Baat



**276.** On March 8, An MoU between the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Invest India was signed to enhance co-operation in the thematic areas of Nutrition, Child Protection and Development, Women Empowerment and convergent capacity building in mission mode. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Women and Child Development + Invest India = an MoU to enhance co-operation in thematic areas
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla

**277.** On March 8, The Punjab government has collaborated with various United Nations and other global agencies i.e. UN Women, UNDP, UN Population Fund, J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab) and FUEL (Friends Union for Energizing Lives) to scale its efforts to empower and protect women. Punjab government is also launching Technical Fest (Techshiksha) with UN Women. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab + various UN agencies = collaboration to scale its efforts to empower & protect women
- Punjab + UN Women = launching Technical Fest (Techshiksha)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**278.** On March 9, The state-run Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) have signed an MoU to develop a Plastic Park in Paradip. The project costs Rs 107 Cr. An incentive of Rs 2000 for each metric tonne of polypropylene granules from Paradip Refinery shall be offered to the manufacturing units located in the Paradip Plastic Park till March 31, 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha + IOCL = an MoU to develop a Plastic Park in Paradip (Cost – Rs 107 Cr)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

**279.** On March 9, The Uttarakhand based Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has signed an MoU with IBM to improve the education standards among the female children of the state by introducing “IBM STEM for Girls” program. It will be introduced in 130 secondary and higher secondary schools across 5 districts - Dehradun, Pauri, Haridwar, Almora and Udham Singh Nagar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand + IBM = an MoU to introduce “STEM for Girls” program – to improve female education standards
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, USA | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- HQs of IBM India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Sandip Patel



**280.** On March 16, Magicbricks has tied up with Razorpay and HDFC Bank to allow users of its platform pay rent online through credit cards. The user will get interest-free credit for 45 days when the rent is paid through credit card. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Magicbricks + Razorpay + HDFC Bank = to allow users pay rent online through credit cards
- [HQs of Magicbricks – Noida, UP | CEO – Sudhir Pai](#)

**281.** On March 8, Telangana’s WE Hub in collaboration with the Australian government has announced to launch the 12-week pre-incubation programme “UPSurge”. UPSurge is a pre-incubation programme to aid women entrepreneurs from across India to achieve financial independence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WE Hub ([Telangana](#)) + Australia = to launch the 12-week pre-incubation programme “UPSurge”
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

**282.** Samsung Electronics’ System LSI Business, Mastercard, Samsung Card, have signed an MoU to develop a biometric card that features a built-in fingerprint scanner to authorize transactions securely at in-store payment terminals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mastercard + Samsung Card = an MoU to develop a Biometric Card
- [HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga \(From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach\)](#)

**283.** On March 10, The National Health Authority (NHA) has signed an agreement with UTI Infrastructure Technology and Services Limited (UTIITSL) to issue free PVC card Ayushman cards to eligible beneficiaries. Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) beneficiaries residing in atleast 11 States/Union Territory can avail free PVC Ayushman cards UTIITSL from now. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHA + UTIITSL = an agreement to issue free PVC card Ayushman cards to eligible beneficiaries
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma](#)
- [HQs of UTIITSL – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vijay K. Jain](#)

## **Books & Authors**

**284.** On March 9, Union Environment Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar has released an e-book titled: “The Green Queens of India - A nation’s pride” on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Conference of Women Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers and women frontline personnel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Green Queens of India - A nation’s pride” e-book – released by Prakash Javadekar
- The book is dedicated to – Indian Women Forest Officers



**285.** On March 8, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the state level Tribal Conference at Singrampur Gram Panchayat in Damoh district of Madhya Pradesh by laying the foundation stone for the conservation work of Singaargarh Fort. First copy of 'Bangi' booklet is presented to the President. The book showcases the Tribal Heritage of Madhya Pradesh. Singaur region can be developed as a National Tribal Hub. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the state level Tribal Conference – at Singrampur, Damoh in MP
- The booklet “Bangi” released to showcase the tribal heritage of – Madhya Pradesh
- Singaur region – to be developed as a National Tribal Hub | Singaargarh Fort – located in Madhya Pradesh
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**286.** On March 7, “A Road Map for Entrepreneur” book is published by the Biz Ayuris Foundation. Jitendra Gupta, Director of Biz Ayuris Foundation wrote the book. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “A Road Map for Entrepreneur” book – authored by Jitendra Gupta

**287.** In “Karunanidhi: A Life” (published by Penguin House), A. S. Panneerselvan tells the story of the man who became a metaphor for modern Tamil Nadu, where language, empowerment, self-respect, art, literary forms and films coalesced to lend a unique vibrancy to politics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Karunanidhi: A Life” book – authored by A. S. Panneerselvan

**288.** Actor, producer, director, writer Susmita Mukherjee's new book of short stories “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women” released in January 2021. The book is a collection of 11 short stories written over 3 decades. Her debut novel was “Mee and Juhibaby”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Baanjh: Incomplete Lives of Complete Women” – authored by Susmita Mukherjee
- Susmita Mukherjee's debut novel – “Mee and Juhibaby”

## **Obituaries**

**289.** On March 6, Well-known Kannada Poet, critic and translator N. S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta has passed away in Bengaluru. Born in 1936 in Shivamogga district, he was a prolific writer. He won several awards including Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award, Masti Prashasti and Kannada Rajyotsava Award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. S. Lakshminarayana Bhatta – a Kannada Poet, Critic & Translator – passed away



**290.** On March 8, Former Rajasthan & Gujarat Governor Anshuman Singh has passed away in Lucknow. He was 86. Anshuman Singh had taken charge as the Governor of Rajasthan on January 16, 1999 and remained in office till May 2003. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anshuman Singh – a Politician – passed away (Former Governor of Rajasthan & Gujarat)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**291.** On March 9, French billionaire and member of Parliament Olivier Dassault has passed away in a helicopter crash. Since 2002 he was the lawmaker for the conservative Les Republicains party. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Olivier Dassault (France) – a Politician & Billionaire – passed away
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**292.** On March 10, Ivorian Prime Minister Hamed Bakayoko has passed away due to cancer in Germany. Bakayoko was chosen last July as the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast also known as Cote d'Ivoire. He was 56. Patrick Achi has been appointed as interim Prime Minister, while Tene Birahima Ouattara has been named interim Defence Minister. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hamed Bakayoko – a Politician – passed away (PM of Ivory Coast or Cote d'Ivoire)
- Patrick Achi – appointed as interim Prime Minister of Ivory Coast
- Tene Birahima Ouattara – appointed as interim Defence Minister of Ivory Coast
- Cote d'Ivoire – Yamoussoukro – CFA franc | President – Alassane Ouattara

## Person in News

**293.** On March 10, Google has shared a doodle to celebrate 89<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of renowned Indian professor and scientist Udipi Ramachandra Rao. Known as 'India's Satellite Man', Rao passed away in 2017 due to age-related ailments. He was born in a remote village of Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google shared a doodle to celebrate 89<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of – Udipi Ramachandra Rao (India's Satellite Man)
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998



# Science & Technology

**294.** The Starship SN10 spacecraft of SpaceX has touched down successfully after a high-altitude test flight on March 3 in its third attempt. SN10's two immediate predecessors, SN8 and SN9 were failed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SpaceX – successfully tested its 'Starship SN10' prototype rocket after two failed attempts
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**295.** On March 8, The ISRO along with the NASA has completed development of "NISAR" (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) capable of producing extremely high-resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission. NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimetre across. The mission is targeted to launch in early 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ISRO + NASA = completed development of "NISAR" (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)
- It is targeted to launch in 2022 from ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

**296.** On March 8, The indigenously-instrumented Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) successfully cleared its maiden flight trial with a parachute system from the Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft. It is designed and developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden flight trials of "Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL)"
- The test was conducted from Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 maritime patrol aircraft
- It is designed and developed by – NSTL (Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

**297.** The DRDO has successfully developed a prototype of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system that will allow Indian Navy submarines to operate for up to 2 weeks without having to surface to recharge its batteries. The system is being developed by Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of DRDO. NMRL is expected to operationally field its indigenous AIP by 2023-24. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NMRL-DRDO – developed a prototype of an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system for Submarines
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of NMRL – Thane, Maharashtra | Director – Dr. Manoranjan Patri



**298.** On March 7, ISRO has planned to launch an earth observation satellite “GISAT-1” that will provide it near real-time images of its borders and also enable quick monitoring of natural disasters. GISAT-1 is slated to be lofted into space by ‘GSLV-F10’ rocket from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh's Nellore district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO planned to launch an earth observation satellite “GISAT-1” (by ‘GSLV-F10’)
- It will be launched from Sriharikota spaceport, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

**299.** On March 9, Russia’s Roscosmos space agency and China have signed an MoU to set up an International Lunar Scientific Research (ILSR) Station. The lunar station will be designed for conducting research on the surface or orbit of the moon. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia + China = an MoU to set up an International Lunar Scientific Research (ILSR) Station
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**300.** On March 10, Paytm has launched 2 new Internet of Things (IoT)-based payment devices, helping businesses to accept card payments on Android phones. The Paytm “Smart PoS” application allows smartphones to accept debit and credit card payments. Paytm upgraded its IoT device, “Soundbox 2.0” that comes equipped with a digitally enabled screen that gives instant visual confirmation of the paid amount along with a voice-based response. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm launched 2 new-based payment devices – “Smart PoS” app & “Soundbox 2.0”
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma





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