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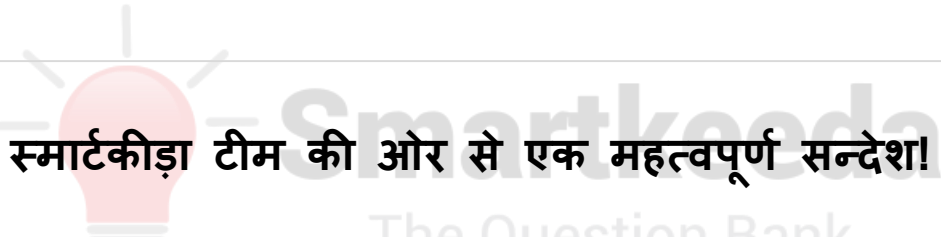
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

301. On March 10, India will levy a customs duty of 40% on solar modules and 25% on solar cells from April 2022, as it looks to cut imports and boost local manufacturing. India wants to ramp up its renewable capacity to 175 GW by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030, as part of its commitment under the Paris climate accords. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to levy a customs duty of 40% on solar modules & 25% on solar cells from April 2022
- India wants to ramp up its renewable capacity to 175 GW by 2022 & 450 GW by 2030

302. On March 8, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has announced the establishment of a 500-MW Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) Solar Power Park at a cost of ₹350 Cr at Firozabad of Kalaburagi district. He has also announced the establishment of 1,000 charging centres for such vehicles in the State under a public-private partnership model. Rs 7,795 Cr has been allocated for “Bengaluru Mission 2022” while Rs 850 Cr for suburban rail project in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – to establish a 500-MW Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) Solar Power Park – in Kalaburagi
- The cost of establishment of ISTS – ₹350 Cr
- Rs 7,795 Cr – allocated for “Bengaluru Mission 2022”
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

303. On March 8, Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal presenting the budget for 2021-22, announced 3 projects in name of Dr BR Ambedkar – a museum and a management institute in Doaba’s Kapurthala and a university chair at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar. A total allocation of Rs 1,064 Cr has been made for grants to universities such as Panjab University, Chandigarh; GNDU Amritsar, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana etc. A New Scheme namely ‘Kamyaab Kisan, Khushaal Punjab (K3P)’ is announced with an outlay of Rs 3,780 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab presenting the budget for 2021-22 announced 3 projects:
 - Dr BR Ambedkar museum (Cost: Rs 100 Cr)
 - Dr BR Ambedkar management institute
 - Dr BR Ambedkar university chair
- Punjab also announced – ‘Kamyaab Kisan, Khushaal Punjab (K3P)’ scheme
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore



304. On March 10, SEBI has formed a Group of Experts to examine the feasibility of introducing Special Purpose Acquisition Company (SPAC)-like structures in India. SPACs are usually formed by private equity funds or financial institutions with expertise in a particular industry or business sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – formed a Group of Experts to examine the feasibility of introducing SPAC-like structures in India
- SPAC – Special Purpose Acquisition Company
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

305. On March 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on ‘Shlokas’ of Srimad Bhagavadgita. J & K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Dr Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of Dharmarth Trust, J & K, were also present on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a manuscript with commentaries by 21 scholars on ‘Shlokas’ of Srimad Bhagavadgita

306. Madhya Pradesh CM Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the 27th “Hunar Haat” of indigenous products of artisans and craftsmen from across India in Bhopal with the theme of “Vocal for Local” from 12th to 21st March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – inaugurated the 27th “Hunar Haat” – in Bhopal
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs | Theme – “Vocal for Local”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

307. On March 12, To mark 75 years of India’s Independence, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” and flagged off Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated “Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav” – at Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
- PM Narendra Modi – flagged off Padyatra from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

308. On March 11, The Union Cabinet has given its nod to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit to 74% from the current 49%. The Cabinet in its meeting has approved amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – gave its nod to increase the FDI limit to 74%
- Union Cabinet – also approved amendments in the Insurance Act, 1938



309. On March 12, The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is in the process of developing a portal - "Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra" for hand-holding, information dissemination and facilitation of domestic investors. The portal is in testing phase and the final version will be ready for launch by May 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – to develop "Atmanirbhar Niveshak Mitra" portal | To be launched by – May 1, 2021
- DPIIT comes under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- DPIIT HQ – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

310. On March 12, The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has launched the 'Mera Ration' mobile app in line with the Central government's One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution – launched the 'Mera Ration' mobile app
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution | Constituency – Maharashtra

311. On March 13, As per the maximum limit recently set by the SEBI, Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 10% of their assets in debt with special features such as perpetual bonds and with a maximum of 5% in a single issuer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 10% of their assets in debt with special features
- Mutual fund schemes can invest a maximum of 5% of their assets in a single issuer
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

312. On March 11, PM Narendra Modi has launched the Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita through video conferencing. Tamil version of the Gita with his commentaries was published in 1951, followed by the English in 1965. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – launched the Kindle version of Swami Chidbhavanandaji's Bhagavad Gita
- Tamil version of the Gita with his commentaries was published in 1951 & English version in 1965

313. On March 13, Jharkhand Cabinet has approved an employment policy ensuring 75% of the private sector jobs up to a salary of Rs 30,000 for local candidates only. The Jharkhand's unemployment rate gradually fell down to 11.3% in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – approved an employment policy ensuring 75% of the private sector jobs up to a salary of Rs 30,000
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



314. During March 10-12, First Virtual Trade Fair (VTF) was organised by APEDA to boost exports potential of India's agricultural and processed food products during COVID19 pandemic. The fair was organised with a theme "India Rice and Agro Commodity". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA – organised 1st Virtual Trade Fair to boost exports potential of India's agricultural products
- Theme of the fair – "India Rice and Agro Commodity"
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur

315. On March 12, The Uttar Pradesh government has issued directions to senior administrative and police officials to remove all the religious structures on public roads, highways and pavements since 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP – issued directions to remove all the religious structures on public roads, highways and pavements since 2011
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

316. On March 14, The Uttarakhand government, in a recent meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, had sought withdrawal of "inner-line permit" (ILP) system in Niti Valley of Chamoli district and Nelang Valley of Uttarkashi district for better border management and expansion of tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand asked Amit Shah to withdraw the "ILP" system in Niti Valley & Nelang Valley in Uttarkashi
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

317. On March 11, The ministry of finance have announced that 17 states have successfully implemented 'One Nation, One Ration Card system' after Uttarakhand became the latest state to complete the operationalization of reforms. The scheme was launched on a pilot basis in four states in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17 states have successfully implemented 'One Nation, One Ration Card system' – as of March 11, 2021
- Latest state – Uttarakhand

318. On March 11, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated the New Green Campus of ICMR's National Institute for Research in Environment Health (NIREH), at Bhopal. The NIREH, Bhopal was set up in Bhopal on October 11, 2010 as the 31st permanent research centre of the ICMR. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the New Green Campus of ICMR's NIREH – at Bhopal
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911



319. On March 11, The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a framework and guidelines for testing, monitoring and surveillance of drinking water quality as well as a Water Quality Information Management System (WQMIS) portal to provide detailed information on laboratories for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Jal Shakti – launched Water Quality Information Management System (WQMIS) portal
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

320. On March 13, India's first centralised air-conditioned railway terminal will be operational in Bengaluru. Byappanahalli is the 3rd coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16, which has been named after Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya. It is built at the cost of ₹314 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sir M Visvesvaraya terminal” - India's 1st centralised air-conditioned railway terminal to be operational in Bengaluru
- It is the 3rd coach terminal sanctioned in 2015-16 | Named after – Bharat Ratna Sir M Visvesvaraya

321. On March 13, In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Ramban district has developed a mobile application named “e-Suvidha” to bring many public delivery services and departments on the digital platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramban, J & K – developed a mobile application named “e-Suvidha”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

322. On March 11, Tata Motors has launched the ‘Wheels of Love’ programme. It will support new parents in their exciting journey both as a parent and also as a valued employee while promoting a progressive culture of care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors – launched the ‘Wheels of Love’ programme to support new parents
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek

323. The agriculture sector has grabbed the lion’s share in the Haryana budget that chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar unveiled on March 12 with a sharp 21% hike in farming outlay. A special campaign “Har Khet Swasth Khet” will be started to focus on soil health and help farmers make cropping choices based on soil quality. Rs. 2400 are allocated for setting up India International Horticulture Market at Ganaur, Sonapat. The state has also increased financial assistance under Dr BR Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna to Rs. 80,000 from Rs. 50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to start a special campaign “Har Khet Swasth Khet”
- Rs. 2400 allocated to set up India International Horticulture Market – at Ganaur, Sonapat, Haryana



- Financial assistance under “Dr BR Ambedkar Awas Navinikarn Yojna” increased to – Rs 80,000
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

324. On March 10, The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has issued a notification for reconstitution of the Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River Sarasvati (Ghaggar-Hakra River) for the next 2 years. The ASI had first set up the committee on December 28, 2017 for a period of 2 years. The committee would continue to be chaired by the Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASI reconstituted an Advisory Committee for the Multidisciplinary Study of the River “Sarasvati” for 2 years
- The committee to be chaired by – Prahlad Singh Patel (Culture Minister)
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi

325. The Kempegowda International Airport in the city of Bengaluru has launched India’s first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal. The terminal has been launched exclusively for export and import of international couriers. The Common-User Express Terminal will be operated by the Express Industry Council of India (EICI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru) – launched India’s first ever dedicated Express Cargo Terminal
- The Terminal will be operated by the Express Industry Council of India (EICI)

326. Odisha will establish “District Funding Promotion Companies (DIPA)” in every of the 30 Districts throughout the State. DIPAs will work as an prolonged arm of IPICOL and shall be arrange in phases from April 2021 to December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to establish “District Funding Promotion Companies (DIPA)” in 30 Districts
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

327. On March 15, The Delhi government has announced that special ‘Women Mohalla Clinics’ namely “Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics” will be opened across the city in the next financial year to offer free gynaecological and other medical care services. In the UT government’s annual budget for year 2021-22, Rs 9,934 Cr has been allocated to the healthcare sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – announced to open special ‘Women Mohalla Clinics’ namely “Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics”
- Rs 9,934 Cr has been allocated to the healthcare sector in Delhi’s annual budget for year 2021-22
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



328. On March 15, The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the online 5G certification course to train and certify its officials on the next-generation wireless broadband technology, even as India braces for 5G. The course will run for a period of 12 weeks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoT – launched the online 5G certification course for a period of 12 weeks
- [Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice \(Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar\)](#)

329. On March 15, The new Parcel Management System (PMS) of the Indian Railways will soon be extended from 84 locations to 523 as part of its transformation geared towards providing transportation for small consignments over a vast network of stations. The new PMS will also include an FSLA (Freight System Ledger Accounting) module for online preparation of manifest for registered newspapers and magazines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways' Parcel Management System (PMS) to be extended to 523 locations (from 84 locations)
- [HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma](#)
- [Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra](#)

330. On March 15, President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated “Vanvasi Samagam” (Forest Dwellers convention) at Sevakunj Ashram in Sonhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. UP governor Anandiben Patel and chief minister Yogi Adityanath were also present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- [Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated “Vanvasi Samagam” \(Forest Dwellers convention\) – in Sonhadra, UP](#)
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

331. On March 14, In a bid to promote tourism, All India Tourist Authorization/Permit will be provided to operators within 30 days of online application submission. The new rules will be applicable from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All India Tourist Permit – to be provided to operators within 30 days of online application submission

332. On March 13, The finance ministry has written to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), requesting it to withdraw a rule that fixes the tenor or maturity of all perpetual bonds at 100 years. In a circular, SEBI had also stated that no MF would own more than 10 per cent of AT1 bonds issued by a single issuer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance ministry asked SEBI requesting it to withdraw a rule that fixes the tenor of all perpetual bonds at 100 years
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992](#)



International Affairs

333. On March 12, A Japanese-Australian venture has begun producing Hydrogen from brown coal in a A\$500 million (\$387 million) test project that aims to show liquefied hydrogen can be produced and exported safely to Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan + Australia = began producing Hydrogen from 'Brown coal' in a A\$500 million (\$387 million) test project
- 'Brown coal' – also known as 'Lignite'
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

334. On March 3, India has opened the 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) in Russia with a goal to push an already burgeoning energy partnership between the two strategic partners. The IEO in Moscow was inaugurated by Tarun Kapoor, Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India opened the 1st of its kind India Energy Office (IEO) • in Russia
- IEO was inaugurated by – Tarun Kapoor (Secretary in Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

335. INS Shardul has visited Port Louis, Mauritius from 10 to 13 March, 2021 on the occasion of National Day celebrations of Mauritius. INS Shardul is indigenously built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Kolkata and commissioned in the Indian Navy in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Shardul – visited Mauritius on the occasion of its National Day celebrations
- INS Shardul – indigenously built at GRSE (Kolkata) | Commissioned in – 2007

336. On March 12, A new species of weta - a giant flightless cricket that is endemic to New Zealand, has been named Hemiandrus jacinda after Jacinda Ardern, the Prime Minister of New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A giant flightless cricket – named "Hemiandrus jacinda" – after Jacinda Ardern the PM of New Zealand
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

337. On March 13, PM Modi has addressed the 1st ever Leader-Level Summit of QUAD countries. In the summit, India, USA, Japan & Australia vowed to work unitedly on manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines. The US will provide financial assistance to support Indian drug-maker Biological E's effort to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- PM Modi addressed the 1st ever Leader-Level Summit of QUAD countries
- US will support Biological E's effort to produce at least 1 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines by the end of 2022
- QUAD countries – 4 – India, USA, Japan & Australia

338. On March 12, US President Joe Biden and other top officials have announced “Help is Here Tour” to promote Covid Relief Plan. Biden has signed \$1.9 trillion coronavirus rescue package into law. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – announced “Help is Here Tour” to promote Covid Relief Plan
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

339. The KRL Cricket Ground of Rawalpindi, Pakistan has been renamed after Shoab Akhtar for his heroics at the international level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KRL Stadium in Rawalpindi has been renamed as “Shoab Akhtar Stadium” (Pakistan)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



Banking & Economic Affairs

340. On March 10, The Reserve Bank of India has removed IDBI Bank Ltd from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (PCAF) list after it found the bank was not in breach of the central bank's parameters. IDBI Bank was placed under the so-called PCA framework in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI removed “IDBI Bank Ltd” from its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework list
- The Bank was placed under PCA in – 2017
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rakesh Sharma



Defence Affairs

341. On March 12, The Indian Army is in the process of procuring Mobile Integrated Network Terminal (MINT) systems under Make II Category of DAP 2020. A total of 11 firms have been issued with the Project Sanction Order on 12 March 2021 for development of prototype. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – is in the process of procuring “MINT” systems under Make II Category of DAP 2020
- MINT – Mobile Integrated Network Terminal
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandni Prasad Mohanty

342. In a major step, the Indian Navy has recently deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships after a gap of around 23 years when lady officers were posted for the first time on the maritime force's vessels. Two of them are posted on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya while two other are deployed on the tanker ship INS Shakti. For the first time in 1998, women officers started getting deployed onboard warships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships after a gap of around 23 years (1st time in 1998)
- Two in INS Vikramaditya & Two in INS Shakti
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

Schemes & Initiatives

343. On March 13, The Labour Ministry has launched the convergence of PM-JAY (Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana) with ESI (Employees State Insurance) Scheme. The convergence will ensure that 1.35 Cr ESI beneficiaries in 113 districts avail cashless medical services through empanelled hospitals of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry launched the convergence of “PM-JAY” with “ESI Scheme”
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

344. In a bid to empower women in rural Maharashtra, the state government has launched the “Mahasamruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran” scheme on March 8. The state Rural Development department is the nodal body for implementing the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched the “Mahasamruddhi Mahila Sashaktikaran” scheme
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



Sports & Games

345. On March 11, Captain of the India women's team, Mithali Raj has become the first woman cricketer from the country and only the second overall to score 10000 international runs. Mithali Raj is currently the second highest run getter in women's international cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mithali Raj ([Cricket](#)) – became the first woman cricketer from India to score 10000 international runs

346. On March 14, C. A. Bhavani Devi has become the first Indian fencer to qualify for the “2021 Tokyo Olympics”. The sabre fencer secured a spot in the World Cup in Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. A. Bhavani Devi ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the “2021 Tokyo Olympics”

347. On March 16, India's skipper Virat Kohli has become the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T20 International. Kohli has achieved the milestone during the second T20I against England at Narendra Modi Stadium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli became the first-ever batsman to score 3,000 runs in T20Is
- [Narendra Modi Stadium \(world's largest cricket stadium\)](#) – at Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

348. On March 12, International Boxing Association (AIBA) has announced that “Asian Boxing Championships 2021” will be hosted by New Delhi, India from May 21-31. It will be the first boxing tournament in Asia to be held in 2021. The 2019 edition of the “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships” has set a new record with 304 boxers participating from 34 countries. It was hosted by Bangkok, Thailand. India's Amit Panghal & Pooja Rani had won Gold in the Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Asian Boxing Championships 2021” will be hosted – by New Delhi, India
- “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships” hosted – by Bangkok, Thailand
- Amit Panghal & Pooja Rani – won Gold in the “Asian Amateur Boxing Championships”
- [HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland](#) | [President – Umar Kremlev \(from Russia\)](#)



Important Days & Dates

349. The “World Kidney Day” is observed on March 11 with the theme of “Kidney health for everyone everywhere, living well with kidney disease”. The doctors are working to ensure back-up for patients and their care-givers during pandemics and similar challenging periods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 11 – “World Kidney Day”
- Theme – “Kidney health for everyone everywhere, Living well with Kidney Disease”

350. To honor the courageous and heroic deeds of the Great General of Assam, Chilarai's Birth Anniversary is observed as Bir Chilarai Divas every year across Assam on February 27. Bir Chilarai (1510-1571 AD) was a great general of the Koch Royal Dynasty of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 27 – Bir Chilarai Divas – celebrated in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

351. On March 11, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has celebrated its 36th Inception Day. On the occasion, the Union Home Secretary presented medals to 3 NCRB officers and personnel during a brief Investiture Ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 11 – 36th Inception Day of NCRB
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Ram Phal Pawar | Established in – 1986

352. 14 March, proclaimed by UNESCO as “International Day of Mathematics” (IDM), was celebrated under the theme “Mathematics for a Better World”. The Day highlights the essential role played by this discipline in reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The 1st “Pi Day” was observed on 14th March 1988. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 14 – 2nd edition of “International Day of Mathematics” | “Pi Day”
- Theme – “Mathematics for a Better World”
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

353. World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year on March 15 to protect the rights of consumers and to ensure that the consumers are not subjected to market abuse or social injustice that may undermine their rights. However, in India, National Consumers Right Day is observed on December 24 annually. This year, the theme is “Tackling Plastic Pollution”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day
- Theme – “Tackling Plastic Pollution”
- National Consumers Right Day in India – December 24



354. International Day of Action for Rivers is observed every year on March 14. This year marked the 24th edition. This year, the theme is “Rights of Rivers”. The aim is to unite against the destruction of rivers, other water bodies and the ecologically fragile watershed areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 14 – 24th edition of International Day of Action for Rivers
- Theme – “Rights of Rivers”

355. India has observed “National Vaccination Day” or “National Immunisation Day” every year on March 16. It was first celebrated at the time when the National Pulse Polio vaccination drive was launched, in 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 16 – “National Vaccination Day” or “National Immunisation Day” (since - 1995)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

356. The first Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) was held under India’s Chairmanship from 9th to 11th March. The theme of BRICS this year is “BRICS at 15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation, and Consensus”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meeting of the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues – held under India’s Chairmanship
- Theme – “BRICS at 15: Intra BRICS Cooperation for Continuity, Consolidation & Consensus”
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India

357. On March 10, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has inaugurated the South Asia Group on Energy (SAGE) at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in New Delhi. India is taking lead to promote regional approach to energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh Vardhan Shringla – inaugurated SAGE at Research & Information System for Developing Countries – in ND
- Foreign Secretary of India – Harsh Vardhan Shringla

358. Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan has addressed the 2nd edition of “TechBharat 2021”. The E-Conclave brings together stakeholders from the HealthTech & Edutech sector on a virtual platform. In the Union Budget 2021-22, the highest ever funding for health and well-being was allocated which is ₹2,23,846 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the 2nd edition of “TechBharat 2021”
- Funding allocated for health and well-being in the Union Budget 2021-22 – ₹2,23,846 Cr

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

359. On March 11, Megastar Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with an award by the “International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF)”. The veteran actor will be the first Indian cinema personality to be bestowed with the FIAPF Award. This year FIAPF celebrates the 20th anniversary of its annual Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amitabh Bachchan – to be honoured with 20th edition of “International Federation of Film Archives (FIAPF)” award
- HQs of FIAPF – Brussels, Belgium

360. On March 11, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named spinner Ravichandran Ashwin as the Men's Player of the Month (February) while England opening batter Tammy Beaumont is named as Women's Player of the Month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravichandran Ashwin – named as the Men's Player of the Month (February) – by ICC
- Tammy Beaumont ([England-Cricket](#)) – named as the Women's Player of the Month (February) – by ICC
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

361. On March 8, Mahamadou Issoufou (President of Niger) has been awarded the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”. The prize has been awarded since 2007 by the foundation set up by British-Sudanese telecoms tycoon Mo Ibrahim. Issoufou is the 6th recipient of the award. Winners receive \$5m over 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahamadou Issoufou ([Niger](#)) – awarded the “2020 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership”
- A winner receives \$5m over 10 years

362. On March 11, Actor Deepika Padukone and several Indian citizens and India-origin persons have joined the list of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) compiled by the World Economic Forum. The Forum of Young Global Leaders was founded in 2005 by Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – joined the list of the “Young Global Leaders (YGLs) - 2021” compiled by WEF
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971



363. On March 13, Politician-writer M. Veerappa Moily and poet Arundhathi Subramaniam are among 20 writers who will be bestowed with the “Sahitya Akademi Award 2020”. While Subramaniam won the award for her poetry collection “When God is a Traveller” in English, Moily was named for his epic poetry titled “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” in Kannada. The Akademi has named Gian Singh (Dogri) and Jetho Lalwani (Sindhi) the winners for their plays, while Shankar (Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay) in (Bengali) received the award for his memoir “When God is a Traveller”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sahitya Akademi Award 2020”:
 - M. Veerappa Moily – for his epic poetry titled “Sri Bahubali Ahimsadigvijayam” in Kannada
 - Mani Shankar Mukhopadhyay – for his book “Eka Eka Ekasi” in Bengali
 - Arundhathi Subramaniam – for her poetry collection “When God is a Traveller” in English

364. On March 15, Beyonce has set a new record at the “Grammys Awards 2021” by becoming the only female artist to ever win 28 Grammy awards. She has surpassed Alison Krauss to become the most decorated female act in Grammy history. Other winners are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beyonce – set a new record at the “Grammys Awards 2021” (the only female artist to win 28 Grammy awards)
- She is an American singer-songwriter
- Full list of winners:

Category	Winner
Record of the year	“Everything I Wanted” by Billie Eilish
Album of the year	“Folklore” by Taylor Swift
Best R&B performance	“Black Parade” by Beyonce
Best Pop Vocal Album	“Future Nostalgia” by Dua Lipa
Best Rap Song	“Savage” by Megan Thee Stallion
Song of the year (Songwriter's award)	“I Can't Breathe” by H.E.R., Dernst Emile II & Tiara Thomas
Best Pop Solo Performance	“Watermelon Sugar” by Harry Styles
Best Country Album	“Wildcard” by Miranda Lambert



Appointments & Resignations

365. On March 11, The Government has appointed G. P. Samanta as 4th Chief Statistician of India. He will also hold charge as Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). He will replace Kshatrapati Shivaji. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. P. Samanta – appointed as 4th Chief Statistician of India
- Secretary in the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) – G. P. Samanta

366. On March 11, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has announced that the Arjuna Sahayak irrigation project will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. The project is worth Rs 2,600 Cr. The project is on the river Dhasan and will offer irrigation facilities to 1.5 lakh farmers of as many as 168 UP villages of Hamirpur, Banda and Mahoba. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate – Arjuna Sahayak Irrigation Project – in UP (Cost - Rs 2,600 Cr)
- The project is on – Dhasan river
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

367. Imran Amin Siddiqui has assumed charge as Executive Director of Indian Bank with effect from March 10. He started his banking career with erstwhile Allahabad Bank as a SSI field officer in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Imran Amin Siddiqui – assumed charge as Executive Director of Indian Bank
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundururu | ED – Imran Amin Siddiqui

368. On March 10, Deepak Mishra has been appointed as the next Director and Chief Executive of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). He will take over from Rajat Kathuria. Mishra has held various positions at the World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepak Mishra – appointed as the next Director & Chief Executive of the ICRIER
- HQs of ICRIER – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Bhasin | Director & Chief Executive – Deepak Mishra



Amount & Agreements

369. On March 16, A tripartite Concession Agreement was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and GA Infra Private Ltd-Lahoti Buildcon Ltd for development of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) for Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh on Hybrid Annuity PPP mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + UP Jal Nigam + GA Infra-Lahoti Buildcon = to develop Sewage Treatment Plants – in Moradabad, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

370. According to a report titled “Unlocking APAC’s Digital Potential: Changing Digital Skill Needs and Policy Approaches” released by Amazon Web Services (AWS), India’s present workforce comprises only 12% digitally skilled employees, and the number of employees requiring digital skills in the country will need to increase 9-fold by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Unlocking APAC’s Digital Potential: Changing Digital Skill Needs and Policy Approaches” report – released by AWS
- India’s present workforce comprises only 12% digitally skilled employees
- No. of employees requiring digital skills in India will need to increase 9-fold – by 2025
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

371. On March 13, According to the report “India FinTech: A USD 100 Bn Opportunity” released by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) & FICCI, India's financial technology companies are poised to become 3 times as valuable in the next 5 years, reaching a valuation of \$150-160 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India FinTech: A USD 100 Bn Opportunity” report – released by BCG (US) & FICCI
- India's financial technology companies are expected to reach a valuation of \$150-160 billion – by 2025
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

372. On March 12, India has emerged as the 5th most attractive growth destination, after being surpassed by the UK, according to PwC's 24th Annual Global CEO Survey. The US is the number one market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 24th Annual Global CEO Survey – by PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- 1st – US | 2nd – China | 3rd – Germany | 4th – UK | 5th – India



373. At \$580.3 bn, India has the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world, after China, Japan and Switzerland. It surpassed Russia whose reserves stood at \$580.1 bn on March 14. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (\$580.3 bn) – the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world
- 1st – China | 2nd – Japan | 3rd – Switzerland | 5th – Russia

374. On March 15, The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier in February, according to trade data released by Reuters. India's imports from the world's top producer rose 48% to a record 545,300 barrels per day (bpd) in February. Iraq continued to be the top oil seller to India despite a 23% decline in purchases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's Biggest Oil Supplier in February – according to trade data released by Reuters
- 1st – Iraq | 2nd – US | Saudi Arabia – 3rd

375. On March 15, JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) has released the “Human Performance Indicator (HPI)”, a new formula that gives a comprehensive view of the different aspects of the workplace. India has ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98% among the Asia-Pacific (APAC) countries. This is followed by China at 97%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Human Performance Indicator (HPI)” – released by JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle)
- India ranked highest in workplace satisfaction at 98% among APAC countries | 2nd – China

376. On March 15, The report titled “Autocratization Goes Viral” released by V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute, based in Sweden has termed India an ‘electoral autocracy’ instead of democracy in its democracy report for the year 2021. Top 3 democratic countries in the world are Denmark, Sweden & Norway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Autocratization Goes Viral” report – released by V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute ([Sweden](#))
- V-Dem termed India an ‘Electoral Autocracy’ instead of ‘Democracy’ in its democracy report



Acquisitions & Mergers

377. The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has divested 26% of its equity holding in the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). IEX separately shed a 5% equity holding to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEX divested 26% of its equity holding in the IGX – to NSE
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Interim MD & CEO – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Head – Deepak Mehta
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

378. On March 12, BNP Paribas Cardif has sold 4.99% stake in SBI Life Insurance amounting to a little over 5 Cr shares. The French insurer now holds 0.2% stake in SBI Life Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BNP Paribas Cardif – sold 4.99% stake in SBI Life Insurance
- HQs of BNP Paribas Cardif – Paris, France | CEO – Renaud Dumora
- HQs of SBI Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

379. On March 10, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has launched Edelweiss Group Domestic Travel Insurance in partnership with InterMiles. This product is a free cancellation air travel policy. Customers, booking tickets on InterMiles, for travel anywhere in India, can opt for Zero Cancellation, by paying a nominal amount, at the time of booking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance + InterMiles = partnership to launch a new Group Domestic Travel Insurance
- It is a free cancellation Air Travel Policy
- HQs of Edelweiss General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO and Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh
- HQs of InterMiles – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Manish Dureja

380. On March 13, The National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL) has signed an MoU with Japan for the designs of high speed rail track works for T2 package comprising 237 km between Vadodara to Vapi in Gujarat for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail corridor project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHSRCL + Japan = an MoU for Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project
- HQs of NHSRCL – New Delhi | MD – Achal Khare
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga



Books & Authors

381. On March 10, Poet, cultural theorist Ranjit Hoskote released his 8th poetry collection titled, “Hunchprose”. The book is named after the poet's claim that poetry must be heard above “The buzz of data, to transform language, broken by history, into music”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjit Hoskote released his 8th poetry collection - “Hunchprose”

382. Bollywood actress and author, Tisca Chopra, unveiled the cover of her second book “What's up with me” on March 14, 2021. Her first book was “Acting Smart: Your Ticket To Showbiz”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “What's up with me” & “Acting Smart: Your Ticket To Showbiz” – authored by Tisca Chopra

383. Author Jahnvi Barua has won the “AutHer Award 2021” in the ‘Best Fiction’ category for her novel “Undertow” on March 17, 2021. The AutHer Awards is a joint initiative by JK Paper and The Times of India. Her other books are “Next Door” & “Rebirth”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jahnvi Barua – won the “AutHer Award 2021” in the ‘Best Fiction’ category – for her “Undertow” novel
- “Next Door” & “Rebirth” books – authored by Jahnvi Barua

384. On March 15, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has released a digital book depicting the history of Mumbai General Post Office building. The e-book, titled “Dawn Under The Dome” has been authored by Post Master General of Mumbai Swati Pandey in collaboration with Orchida Mukherjee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagat Singh Koshyari – released a digital book titled “Dawn Under The Dome”
- The book is authored by = Swati Pandey + Orchida Mukherjee

385. On March 16, Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi has a memoir coming out titled “My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future”. In India, it will be published by Hachette India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future” book – authored by Indra Nooyi

386. The children’s book, titled Prince with a “Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma”, is written by author-poet Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan. It is published under Westland’s ‘Red Panda’ imprint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Paintbrush: The Story of Raja Ravi Varma” children’s book – authored by Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan



Obituaries

387. On March 7, Lou Ottens, the Dutch inventor of audio cassette tapes has passed away at his home in Duizel, the Netherlands. He was 94. He had engineered the concept of magnetic tape players and compact discs (CDs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lou Ottens ([Netherlands](#)) – a Dutch Engineer & Inventor – passed away
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

388. On March 11, Veteran Marathi actor Shrikant Moghe has passed away following age-related illness. He was 91. Moghe was popular for his work in both Marathi and Hindi languages, in films and theatre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shrikant Moghe – Veteran Marathi Actor – passed away

389. Dadi Hriday Mohini, the chief administrator of the spiritual movement Brahma Kumaris, has passed away on March 11. She was 93. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dadi Hriday Mohini – Chief Administrator of Brahma Kumaris – passed away

390. On March 15, Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair, the Kathakali actor who also played a significant role in making classical dances like Bharatanatyam popular in north Kerala, has passed away. He was 105. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guru Chemancheri Kunhiraman Nair ([Kerala](#)) – a Kathakali actor – passed away
- Total 8 Classical dance forms of India have been recognised by the Sangeet Natak Academy

391. On March 14, Renowned painter and Padma Bhushan awardee Laxman Pai has passed away. He was 95. Born in Goa in 1926, Pai was honoured with several prestigious awards, including Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award and Lalit Kala Akademi Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laxman Pai – Renowned Painter – passed away
- Awards: Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award & Lalit Kala Akademi Award

392. On March 16, Former boxing champion 'Marvelous' Marvin Hagler has passed away at the age of 66. Hagler has become the undisputed middleweight champion in 1980 and held the title till 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Marvelous' Marvin Hagler ([US](#)) – Former Boxing Champion – passed away



Science & Technology

393. On March 10, JP Morgan has successfully tested a blockchain transaction in space using the satellites of GomSpace. It is the world's first bank-led tokenised value transfer in space. The transaction was executed between two GOMX-4 satellites in the low Earth orbit (LEO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JP Morgan + GomSpace = successfully tested a blockchain transaction in space
- HQs of JP Morgan Chase – New York, US | CEO – Jamie Dimon
- HQs of GomSpace – Denmark | CEO – Niels Buus

394. On March 11, Dubai Municipality, in collaboration with the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), has announced to launch the “DMSat-1” satellite, the region's first environmental nanometric satellite, from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on March 20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dubai Municipality + Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre = to launch “DMSat-1” satellite – from Kazakhstan
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

395. On March 12, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a sounding rocket to study altitudinal variations in the neutral winds and plasma dynamics from Sriharikota spaceport. ISRO has developed a series of sounding rockets called Rohini series ‘RH-560’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched sounding rocket called Rohini series ‘RH-560’
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

396. On March 12, The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has set up a portal called ‘SERB – Project Information System & Management (SERB - PRISM)’ that offers real time information on the various research projects supported by it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SERB – set up a portal called ‘SERB – Project Information System & Management (SERB - PRISM)’
- SERB – A statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma

397. On March 12, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have held a virtual meeting to review the progress made under the Joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission which is likely to be launched in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + JAXA = held a virtual meeting to review the progress made under “LUPEX” mission



- LUPEX – Lunar Polar Exploration – to be launched in 2024
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

398. On March 13, The indigenously-instrumented Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) has successfully cleared its maiden flight trial with a parachute system from the Indian Navy's 'Ilyushin Il-38' maritime patrol aircraft. It is developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO's NSTL conducted the 1st flight trial of Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) from Indian Navy's 'Aircraft IL-38SD'
- HQs of NSTL – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | President – V. Bhujanga Rao

399. On March 11, The world's most powerful supercomputer "Fugaku", developed by Japan, is now fully operational. Fugaku has topped the Top500 list, a supercomputer benchmark index, for 2 consecutive years. The computer is built to help build the "Society 5.0". "PARAM-Siddhi AI" is India's fastest Supercomputer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Fugaku" the world's most powerful supercomputer – topped the Top500 list (developed by Japan)
- India's fastest Supercomputer – "PARAM-Siddhi AI"
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

400. On March 16, A 30-member team of scientists and researchers from the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Panaji and another 30 crew members onboard its research vessel Sindhu Sadhana will spend the next 3 months traversing the course of over 10,000 nautical miles in the Indian Ocean to launch the first-of-its-kind project called "Genome Mapping". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A 30-member team of scientists and researchers from NIO – to launch "Genome Mapping" project
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa





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