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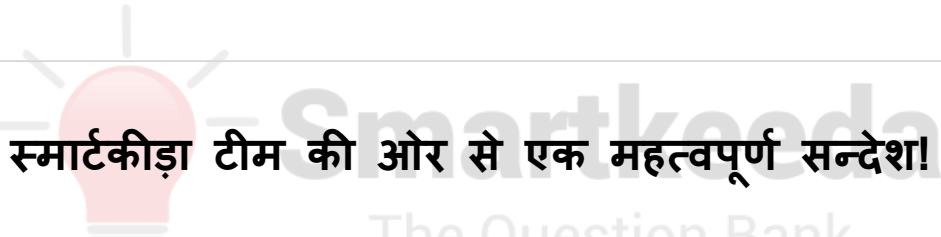
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

401. In view of the large crowd that gathered on the first Shahi Snan on Maha Shivaratri (March 11), the central government has deployed a high-level team led by National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Director Dr S. K. Singh to review the Covid-19 situation for “Kumbh Mela” in Haridwar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Government deployed a high-level team to review the Covid-19 situation for “Kumbh Mela” in Haridwar
- The team is led by – Dr S. K. Singh ([Director of NCDC](#))

402. On March 16, ReNew Power has become 2nd company to be named as the World Economic Forum’s (WEF) Global Lighthouse Network, which recognises companies using new technologies to achieve environmentally sustainable, community supportive, profitable growth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ReNew Power – became 2nd company to be named as the WEF’s Global Lighthouse Network
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab | Founded in – 1971

403. On March 15, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has introduced “Bachat Plus”, which is a non-linked, participating individual savings plan with a combination of protection and savings. The minimum basic sum assured is ₹1 lakh with no upper limit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC introduced “Bachat Plus” - an Individual Life Insurance savings plan
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956

404. On March 15, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched “UPI-Help” on BHIM UPI, which will act as a grievance redressal mechanism for the users of the BHIM application. This will be available for the customers of State Bank of India, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched “UPI-Help” on BHIM UPI
- This feature will be available for the customers of – SBI, AXIS Bank, HDFC Bank & ICICI Bank
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

405. On March 15, The SEBI has approved Paytm UPI handle to enable fast & seamless payment mandates for Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications. Paytm Payments Bank (PPBL) has also entered into a partnership with Paytm Money to enable payment mandates for IPO applications. Paytm Money has the aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by the financial year 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SEBI approved Paytm UPI handle for IPO applications
- Paytm Money's aim to bring 10 million Indians to equity markets by 2022
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank– Satish Kumar Gupta | CEO of Paytm General Ins. Ltd. – Vineet Arora

406. As part of Mission Sagar - IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa has arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar on 22 March 2021 to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice and 100,000 Hydroxychloroquine tablets. This is the second visit of an Indian Navy ship to Madagascar within a span of one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Jalashwa – arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

407. As part of Mission Sagar-IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa has arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros on 14 March 2021 to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Jalashwa – arrived at Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver a consignment of 1,000 Metric Tonne of rice
- Comoros – Moroni – Comorian franc | President – Azali Assoumani

408. MG Motor India has joined hands with IIT Delhi's Centre for Automotive Research and Tribology (CART) for research in the field of electric and autonomous vehicles. The partnership through Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi aims at furthering the automaker's focus on CASE mobility (Connected Autonomous Shared Electric). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MG Motor India + IIT Delhi's CART = for research in the field of Electric and Autonomous Vehicles
- HQs of MG Motor India – New Delhi | President & MD – Rajeev Chaba

409. Four States - Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation. 27 States (including UTs) in India have less than 30% micro-irrigation system out of which 23 have less than 15% micro-irrigation. "Per Drop More Crop" was included as a component under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim, AP, Karnataka & Maharashtra have more than half of the net cultivated farmlands under micro-irrigation
- "Per Drop More Crop" – included as a component under 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'



410. On March 15, The Government has approved financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each in respect of death cases of journalists due to Covid-19. Prakash Javadekar said that his ministry has carried out a special drive for financial assistance under the 'Journalist Welfare Scheme'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each in respect of death cases of journalists due to Covid-19
- I & B ministry carried out a special drive for financial assistance under the 'Journalist Welfare Scheme'

411. On March 16, The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched its pilot project, "RE-HAB" (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees). The project, estimated to cost ₹15 lakh, proposes to create "Bee-fences" to mitigate human-elephant conflicts in the district, state and country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – launched its pilot project "RE-HAB" (Reducing Elephant-Human Attacks using Bees) | Cost – ₹15 lakh
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

412. On March 16, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has conducted the Boiler light-up of 1 x 800 MW NCTPS Stage III at its North Chennai Thermal Power Station (NCTPS) in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL – conducted the Boiler light-up of 1 x 800 MW NCTPS Stage III – in Tamil Nadu
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

413. On March 16, The J&K Administrative Council has approved the proposal of the Housing and Urban Development Department to provide interest-free loan up to Rs 2 lakh to the urban houseless economically weaker section beneficiaries under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna-Urban (PMAY-U). The tenure of the BLC interest-free loan has been fixed at 10 years and includes a moratorium of six months, repayable through monthly installment of Rs 2,500. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K – approved to provide additional interest-free loan up to Rs 2 lakhs for house construction under "PMAY-U"
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

414. On March 17, According to a report by PTI, the Indian Railways has connected the two ends of the main arch of the world's highest bridge on the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district which will provide direct connectivity to Kashmir Valley. It is being built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL) at a cost of Rs 12,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways connected 2 ends of the main arch of world's highest bridge – on Chenab river in Reasi, J & K
- It is being built by – Konkan Railway Corp Ltd | Cost – Rs 12,000 Cr
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



415. On March 16, The Union Cabinet has approved the closure of loss-making Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd (HHEC). HHEC is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the administrative control of Ministry of Textiles. The Cabinet has also approved a revised cost estimate of ₹9,129.32 Cr for strengthening intra state electricity transmission and distribution network of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the closure of loss-making “Handicrafts & Handlooms Export Corporation of India Ltd (HHEC)”
- HHEC functions under – Ministry of Textiles
- Cabinet approved ₹9,129 Cr for Arunachal Pradesh & Sikkim Intra-State Electricity Network

416. On March 22, The Rajasthan government will set up 100 Nursery Sports Academies to give an opportunity to children to play in their districts in the academies. A rehabilitation center will be built in the state at a cost of Rs 16 Cr for the players who get injured and unable to take part in competitions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – to set up 100 Nursery Sports Academies to give an opportunity to children
- A rehabilitation center will be built in Rajasthan at a cost of Rs 16 Cr
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

417. On March 18, India will propose a law banning cryptocurrencies and will fine anyone trading, mining or even just holding these digital assets. If the ban becomes law, India would be the first major economy to make holding cryptocurrency illegal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will propose a law banning cryptocurrencies and will fine anyone trading, mining or just holding

418. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has launched a vendor onboarding mobile app for its upcoming e-commerce portal “Bharat e Market”. The app will enable businesses and service providers to register on the portal and create their own “e-dukaan”. The other e-commerce portals are charging commission from 5% to 35% on transactions happening on their portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CAIT – launched a vendor onboarding mobile app for its upcoming e-commerce portal “Bharat e Market”
- Commission of e-commerce portals on transactions – 5% to 35%
- HQs of CAIT – New Delhi | Secretary General – Praveen Khandelwal

419. On March 16, The J&K Administrative Council (AC) has approved the incorporation of the 850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project (HEP) on river Chenab in Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K approved the incorporation of the “850 MW Ratle Hydro-Electric Project” – on Chenab river, in Kishtwar, J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



420. On March 17, The government has constituted an Experts Advisory Committee which will be responsible for the overall execution and monitoring of the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS). The committee would be chaired by H. K. Mittal from the Department of Science and Technology. The SISFS has been approved for the period of next 4 years starting from 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government constituted an Experts Advisory Committee for Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)
- The committee would be chaired by – H. K. Mittal | SISFS is approved for next 4 years
- [The implementing body of SISF scheme – DPIIT](#)

421. On March 15, Ministry of Education has decided to link the certificates with DigiLocker in order to ensure hassle-free access to verified Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System (OTPRMS) Certificates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Education – to link OTPRMS certificates with DigiLocker
- OTPRMS – Online Teacher Pupil Registration Management System
- [Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ \(Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand\)](#)

422. The Telangana government has presented a Tax-Free Budget for 2021-22, proposing a total expenditure of Rs 2,30,825.96 Cr. It proposed a new scheme ‘CM Dalit Empowerment Programme’, with an allocation of Rs 1,000 Cr and Rs 11,728 Cr for ‘Aasara’ (social security) Pensions Scheme. It also allocates Rs 14,800 Cr for ‘Rythu Bandhu Scheme’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – presented a tax-free Budget for 2021-22 | Total expenditure of Rs 2,30,825.96 Cr
- Amount allocated for various schemes:
 - CM Dalit Empowerment Programme – Rs 1,000 Cr
 - ‘Aasara’ (social security) Pensions Scheme – Rs 11,728 Cr
 - Rythu Bandhu Scheme – Rs 14,800 Cr
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

423. On March 17, The AYUSH ministry along with the FICCI, is currently holding stakeholder consultations to explore setting up of an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (EPC). The Harmonized System (HS Codes) is an international nomenclature for the classification of products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH ministry + FICCI = to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (EPC)
- [MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa](#)
- [HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy](#)



424. On March 17, The UNDP has launched “Sahi Disha” campaign to celebrate women’s livelihoods & entrepreneurship in rural India. The Disha initiative is a 5-year collaboration between UNDP and the IKEA Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP – launched “Sahi Disha” campaign for women entrepreneurship
- Disha initiative – a 5-year collaboration between UNDP & IKEA Foundation
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

International Affairs

425. On March 18, Italy has signed the International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement. The amendments to the Framework Agreement of the ISA entered into force, opening its Membership to all Member States of the UN. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Italy – signed the International Solar Alliance under the amended ISA Framework Agreement
- Total 73 countries have signed the ‘ISA Framework Agreement’
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 124
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

426. On March 18, Spain’s parliament has voted in favour of a law legalising Euthanasia. This makes Spain the fourth European nation to decriminalise assisted suicide, alongside the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spain’s parliament voted in favour of a law legalising Euthanasia
- Spain is 4th country to do so (others are Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez

427. As on March 17, Singapore is building one of the world’s largest floating solar farms. It has resorted to setting up these energy plants off its coasts and on reservoirs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore is building one of the world’s largest floating solar farms
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob



Banking & Economic Affairs

428. On March 15, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30. A move aimed at faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service. The CTS is in use since 2010 and presently covers around 1,50,000 branches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) – by September 30, 2021
- The CTS is in use – since 2010
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

429. On March 15, NITI Aayog has kept 6 public sector banks (PSBs) out of the Privatisation Plan in last round of consolidation. These banks are Punjab National Bank, Union Bank, Canara Bank and Indian Bank, and Bank of Baroda and SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – kept 6 public sector banks (PSBs) out of the Privatisation Plan
- 6 PSBs: SBI, PNB, BoB, Union Bank, Canara Bank & Indian Bank
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

430. On March 17, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 Cr on State Bank of India (SBI) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 2 Cr on SBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

431. On March 17, The SBI has signed India's first Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR)-linked \$100 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) deal with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for 5 years. SOFR will replace World Bank's LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + IOCL = signed India's 1st SOFR-linked \$100 million ECB deal for 5 years
- SOFR will replace World Bank's LIBOR
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate | LIBOR – London Inter-Bank Offered Rate
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



432. State-run Union Bank of India has partnered with SMC Global Securities to offer online trading services to the bank's customers. SMC has a presence in more than 550 cities which can service the lender's 9,500 branches. UBI had launched India's First Talking bilingual accessible ATM in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI + SMC Global Securities = partnership to offer online trading services to the bank's customers
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of SMC Global Securities – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Mahesh C. Gupta

433. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has raised 307 million dollars from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade, representing its largest-ever borrowing in an Asian local currency. The bond pays a 3.2% annual coupon and features a 5-year bullet maturity redeeming in March 2026. Chinese Currency will be used in Panda bond. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – raised \$307 million from its first panda bond issue in more than a decade
- Chinese Currency will be used in Panda bond
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

434. On March 16, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has set up a wholly-owned subsidiary namely PNB Cards & Services Ltd to manage its credit card business. The authorised capital of the company is Rs 25 Cr and the paid-up capital is Rs 15 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – set up a wholly-owned subsidiary namely “PNB Cards & Services Ltd”
- The authorised capital of the company – Rs 25 Cr | The paid-up capital – Rs 15 Cr
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

435. On March 16, International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed up Standard Chartered Bank to provide a ‘Pay as you Go’ service to travel agents that replaces the traditional billing and settlement system. This EasyPay service will provide greater payment flexibility to travel agents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IATA + SCB = partnership to provide a ‘Pay as you Go’ service to travel agents for greater payment flexibility
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG & CEO – Alexandre de Juniac
- HQs of IATA India – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters

436. On March 16, Deutsche Bank and Continuum Energy Levanter Pte Ltd have executed the world's 1st Green Hedging Transaction, with a second party opinion based on a specially designed Green Hedge Framework. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Deutsche Bank + Continuum Energy Levanter Pte = executed the world's 1st Green Hedging Transaction
- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr
- HQs of Deutsche Bank AG, India – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of Continuum Energy Levanter Pte – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Defence Affairs

437. Indian Army has de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems. The Mahajan Field Firing Ranges witnessed the decommissioning ceremony marked by the customary firing of last salvos of the 130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns and the 160mm Tampella Mortars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army de-commissioned two of its longest serving Artillery systems
- Two Artillery systems – “130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns” & “160mm Tampella Mortars”
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

438. On March 16, India has commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called 'INS Dhruv'. INS Dhruv will play a critical role in triangulating incoming ballistic missiles in conjunction with geostationary satellites and land-based radars. With this India has become the 5th Country to possess such a Tracking vessel after US, France, Russia & China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called 'INS Dhruv'
- India – 5th country to possess such a Tracking vessel (after US, France, Russia & China)

439. Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems (KRAS) has begun delivery of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits to the Indian Army and the Air Force. KRAS is a joint venture (JV) of Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KRAS began delivery of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile kits to the Indian Army & the Air Force
- KRAS – a JV of Kalyani Group (India) & Rafael Advanced Defense Systems (Israel)
- HQs of Kalyani Group – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairperson – Baba Kalyani

440. On March 18, Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility “L58”, the 8th and last ship of the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mark IV Class, was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair. It was indigenously designed and built by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE). Commander Krishan K. Yadav is appointed as the 1st Commanding Officer of the Ship. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “L58” the 8th and last ship of the LCU ‘Mark IV Class’ – commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair
- It was indigenously designed and built by – GRSE
- The 1st Commanding Officer of the Ship – Krishan K. Yadav
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

Sports & Games

441. On March 17, Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan has created a record as he bowled the most number of overs in a single Test in the 21st century. He surpassed Aussie spin legend Shane Warne’s record of 98 overs in a Test match against South Africa in Cape Town. Rashid ended up bowling 99.2 overs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) – created a record of bowling the most number of overs in a single Test in the 21st century
- He has broken previous record of – Shane Warne
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

442. International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup 2021 was held from March 17 at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges in New Delhi. The season’s first World Cup was held in all three disciplines - shotgun, rifle, and pistol. The event will end on March 29. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ISSF Shooting World Cup 2021” – held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges in New Delhi
- The season’s first World Cup was held in all 3 disciplines: Shotgun, Rifle & Pistol
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

443. On March 18, The ICC has slapped 8-year bans on United Arab Emirates (UAE) cricketers Mohammad Naveed and Shaiman Anwar Butt for their alleged role in trying to fix matches in the T20 World Cup qualifier in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Naveed & Shaiman Anwar Butt (Cricketers from UAE) – banned by ICC for 8 years
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

444. On March 18, Dhanalakshmi of Tamil Nadu has won a Gold medal in the 100-metre women’s final at the Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships in Patiala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhanalakshmi – won a Gold medal in 100-metre women’s final at ‘Federation Cup Athletics 2021’ – in Patiala
- Dhanalakshmi (Tamil Nadu) – an Athlete (Sprinter)



445. On March 18, The seasoned Achanta Sharath Kamal has become the first Indian paddler to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games after a dominant win over Pakistan's Muhammad Rameez at the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament in Doha. It will be Kamal's fourth appearance at the Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Achanta Sharath Kamal ([Table Tennis](#)) – became the 1st Indian paddler to qualify for the Tokyo Olympic Games
- Muhammad Rameez ([Pakistan](#)) – [Table Tennis](#)
- Asian Olympic Qualification tournament was held in – Doha, Qatar

Important Days & Dates

446. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has celebrated the 220th 'Ordnance Factory Day' on March 18, the three workers' federations which are opposing the corporatisation of OFB have decided to observe it as 'Save Ordnance Factories Day.' The Day is observed to mark the foundation of the first Ordnance Factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – 220th Ordnance Factory Day – by OFB
- The first Ordnance Factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in 1801
- HQs of OFB – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman – Hari Mohan

447. March 18th marks the annual "Global Recycling Day" around the world. Global Recycling Day is organized and supported by the Global Recycling Foundation formed in October 2018. The theme for this year's Global Recycling Day is "Celebrating our Recycling Heroes". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – Global Recycling Day
- Theme – "Celebrating our Recycling Heroes"

448. In Jammu and Kashmir, the Urban Forest Division Srinagar organized a programme to observe "Chinar Day" on March 15 at Shuhama Campus of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) to mark the importance of the Endangered tree. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 15 – "Chinar Day" – observed by Jammu & Kashmir
- Chinar Corps of Indian Army is also known as – 15 Corps
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

449. World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before Spring Equinox every year. This year, World Sleep Day is celebrated on March 19. This year, the slogan for World Sleep Day is "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 19 – World Sleep Day (since 2008)
- Slogan – "Regular Sleep, Healthy Future"



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

450. On March 17, The 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the event witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting – held on 16th March
- The event was led by – Ministry of Women and Child Development
- India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum was established – in 2007
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

451. On March 16, India's PM Narendra Modi and PM of the Republic of Finland Ms. Sanna Marin have held "India-Finland Virtual Summit" and discussed the entire gamut of bilateral issues as well as other regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. Wipro and Tech Mahindra are collaborating with Finnish companies to develop 5G and 6G technologies for use in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Ms. Sanna Marin = participated in "India-Finland Virtual Summit"
- Wipro + Tech Mahindra = collaborating with Finnish companies to develop 5G and 6G technologies
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

452. On March 17, Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers D. V. Sadananda Gowda has inaugurated the 11th Edition of "India Chem 2021" in New Delhi with the theme "India: Global Manufacturing hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals". Government has launched 12 PLI scheme for different sectors which will directly or indirectly benefit the chemicals sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. V. Sadananda Gowda – inaugurated the 11th Edition of "India Chem 2021" – in New Delhi
- Theme – "India: Global Manufacturing hub for Chemicals and Petrochemicals"

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

453. On March 17, French architects Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal have won the "Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021", considered to be the profession's highest honour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal (France) – won the "Pritzker Architecture Prize 2021"
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



454. On March 18, The U. S. Consulate has honoured Tamil Nadu-based anti-caste activist and human rights defender Gowsalya Shankar with a nomination for the “International Woman of Courage (IWOC) Award”. The IWOC Award Certificate of Nomination was handed over to her by U.S. Consul General in Chennai Judith Ravin at an event ‘Courageous Women Inspire a Better World’ held in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gowsalya Shankar (TN) – honored with the “International Woman of Courage 2021 Award”
- ‘Courageous Women Inspire a Better World’ event – held in Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Appointments & Resignations

455. On March 15, Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev was inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI). He had captained India to World Cup glory in 1983. Meanwhile, the “Delhi-NCR Open Golf Championship 2021” will be jointly organised by the TATA Steel PGTI and Prometheus School, Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kapil Dev (Cricketer) – inducted as one of the board members of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)

456. NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd has announced the appointment of cricketer Ajinkya Rahane as its Brand Ambassador for one year. Launched in 2013, NeoGrowth offers loans to small business owners. Rahane will feature in a campaign “Keeping it simple”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajinkya Rahane – appointed as Brand Ambassador of NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd
- HQs of NeoGrowth Credit Pvt. Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Piyush Khaitan

457. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the movement to eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) from India by 2025, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has been appointed as Chairman of the “Stop TB Partnership Board” for the period of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – appointed as Chairman of the “Stop TB Partnership Board” – for 3 years
- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)
- HQs of Stop TB Partnership – Geneva, Switzerland | Chairman – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Established in – 2000

458. On March 16, Former Cabinet Secretary and Principal Advisor in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) P. K. Sinha has resigned from his high-profile position due to personal reasons. Mr. Sinha is a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. K. Sinha – Former Cabinet Secretary & Principal Advisor in the PMO – resigned due to personal reasons
- P. K. Sinha – a retired 1977 batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre



459. On March 19, Samia Suluhu Hassan has sworn in as Tanzania's first female President. She has succeeded John Magufuli. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samia Suluhu Hassan – sworn in as the first female President of Tanzania
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa

460. On March 19, Senior IPS M. A. Ganapathy has assumed the charge as Director General of National Security Guard (NSG). Ganapathy is a 1986 batch IPS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. A. Ganapathy – assumed the charge as Director General of NSG
- HQs of NSG – New Delhi | DG – M. A. Ganapathy

Amount & Agreements

461. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) have announced a \$41 million-loan guarantee program to finance investment in renewable energy solutions by Indian SMEs. SMEs account for 48% of the total energy consumed in India's industrial sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAID + USIDFC = announced \$41 million-loan guarantee program
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power
- HQs of USIDFC – Washington, DC, US | Agency Executive – Dev Jagadesan

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

462. On March 15, Arms imports decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20 while India continues to remain the second largest arms importer after Saudi Arabia, according to a report from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Russia was the largest arms supplier and the US was the second largest arms supplier to India in both years. India has targeted Rs 1.75 Lakh Cr turnover in Defence manufacturing by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to SIPRI's report – Arms imports decreased by 33% between 2011-15 and 2016-20
- India – the second largest Arms Importer | 1st – Saudi Arabia
- Russia – the largest Arms Supplier | 2nd – US
- India targeted Rs 1.75 Lakh Cr turnover in Defence manufacturing sector – by 2025
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Director – Dan Smith



463. On March 17, The UN State of the world's indigenous peoples report titled "Rights to Land, Territories and Resources" is released on March 15, 2020. It advocates a host of measures to remedy the situation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted on September 25, 2015 by heads of state and government at a special UN summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Rights to Land, Territories and Resources" report – released by UN-DESA
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted – on September 25, 2015
- HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin

464. On March 17, According to the "World Air Quality Report - 2020" report by the Swiss organization IQAir, 22 of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India, with Delhi being ranked as the most polluted capital city globally. Delhi has ranked as the 10th most polluted city and the top polluted capital city in the world. Delhi's air quality has improved by approximately 15% from 2019 to 2020. As per the report, the top most polluted city in Xinjiang in China followed by nine Indian cities. India was the 3rd Most Polluted Country followed by Bangladesh & Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "World Air Quality Report - 2020" report – released by IQAir ([Switzerland](#))
- 22/30 world's most polluted cities are in India | most polluted capital city – Delhi
- Most polluted city – Xinjiang | Delhi – 10th
- Most Polluted Country – Bangladesh | India – 3rd

465. On March 17, Out of 104 measurable targets of the SDGs, the Asia-Pacific region is on track to reach only 9 by 2030 which is less than 10%, according to the report titled "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report - 2021" by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report - 2021" – released by ESCAP
- Asia-Pacific region may achieve less than 10% targets of SDGs
- HQs of UNESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary – Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

466. On March 17, With 56,000 dollar-millionaire households, Maharashtra leads India in wealth creation followed by Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat, according to a "Wealth Report - 2020" by Hurun India, known for its annual rich list. A household having an annual income of more than \$1 million is considered as a dollar-millionaire household. Maharashtra which has the highest GSDP among all the states is contributing around 16% of national GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Wealth Report - 2020" – released by Hurun India
- Maharashtra (Mumbai) leads India in wealth creation (followed by UP, TN, Karnataka and Gujarat)
- A household having an annual income of more than \$1 million is considered as a dollar-millionaire household



467. On March 16, Disruption in healthcare services may have contributed to 2,28,000 additional deaths of children under 5 years in 2020, according to United Nations Children’s Fund’s (UNICEF) recent report titled “Direct and Indirect Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic and Response in South Asia”. The report was prepared by UNICEF in partnership with WHO, UNFPA. India has recorded the largest increase of deaths among children aged 5 years and Maternal deaths in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Direct & Indirect Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic & Response in South Asia” report = by UNICEF + WHO + UNFPA
- India – recorded the largest increase of deaths among children aged 5 years and Maternal deaths in 2020
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem

468. On March 16, One in 3 women across the world, or around 736 million women, faced physical or sexual violence from their intimate partners or non-partners, according to a report titled “Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018” released by the World Health Organization (WHO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018” report – released by WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

469. On March 19, India’s market capitalisation has plunged 31% as the lockdown wrecked investor sentiment. Despite the rise, India has remained at the 8th position among countries with a market capitalisation of \$2.8 trillion. Indian stocks gained the most among the world’s top 10 nations by market value this fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India remained at the 8th position among countries with a market capitalisation of \$2.8 trillion
- Top 3 countries – US, China & Canada
- Indian stocks – gained the most among the world’s top 10 nations by market value

470. As on March 17, South Africa has been ranked as the world’s most dangerous country to drive while India came at 4th place, according to a research study by Zutobi. The safest roads in the world can be found in Norway followed by Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Africa – ranked as the world’s most dangerous country to drive | 2nd – Thailand | 3rd – US | 4th – India
- The safest roads in the world – Norway | 2nd – Japan

471. On March 17, The report titled “World Energy Transitions Outlook” is released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The report proposes energy transition solutions for the narrow pathway available to contain the rise of temperature to 1.5°C and halt global warming. 90% of the global energy need will be supplied through Renewable energy by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Energy Transitions Outlook” report – released by IRENA (UAE)
- 90% of the global energy need will be supplied through Renewable energy by 2050



Acquisitions & Mergers

472. On March 12, Indian conglomerate Tata Sons has planned to buy a majority stake in Alibaba-backed online grocery seller BigBasket. Tata Sons, proposed to buy 64.3% of BigBasket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Sons – to buy 64.3% stake in BigBasket
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

473. On March 15, Tech Mahindra has acquired 70% stake in Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd. This acquisition will help Tech Mahindra to augment expertise in the global pharmaceutical, healthcare and life science (HLS) sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra acquired 70% stake in Perigord Asset Holdings Ltd (Dublin, Ireland)
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

474. The government will sell its entire stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) through an offer for sale. Currently, the government holds 26.12% stake in Tata Communications, 34.8% in Panatone Finvest Ltd and 14.07% in Tata Sons. The government holds 7,44.46,885 equity shares of TCL, which, at last closing price of ₹1,289.75 per unit, stands at a value of over ₹9,601 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will sell its 26.12% stake in Tata Communications
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

475. On March 15, Vayana Network has partnered with CRIF India, an RBI-approved credit bureau, to introduce the Good Business Score (GBS). Good Business Score will help MSMEs measure and manage their business health effectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vayana Network + CRIF India = partnership to introduce the Good Business Score (GBS) to help MSMEs
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Founder – R. N. Iyer



476. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) of a strategic partnership with Aster DM Health care to support proactively the mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + Aster DM Health care = signed a Sol of a strategic partnership
- HQs of Aster DM Health care – Dubai, UAE | CEO – Dr. Harish Pillai

477. On March 16, TRIFED has tied up with Craft Village-by ZEPHYR, an established organization for the training and promotion of Craft Sector. With this collaboration, TRIFED has tied up with Craft Village-by ZEPHYR, an established organization that works for the training and promotion of Craft Sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Craft Village = tie up for the training and promotion of Craft Sector
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

478. On March 17, PTC India has signed an MoU with the National Productivity Council (NPC) to explore business opportunities in consultancy services. PTC has also been mandated by the Government of India to trade electricity with Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PTC India + NPC = an MoU to explore business opportunities in consultancy services
- NPC functions under – Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- HQs of PTC India – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Deepak Amitabh

479. On March 16, The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi has given approval for signing of an MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India and the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment of Maldives for cooperation in Sports and Youth Affairs. The MoU was signed on November, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved an MoU between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of “India & Maldives”
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

480. On March 16, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into a collaboration with Phinergy to form a Joint venture “IOC Phinergy Private Limited” to manufacture Ultra-Lightweight Batteries for Electric Vehicles (EVs) using Aluminium Air Batteries. Phinergy is an Israeli start-up company specialising in hybrid lithium-ion and aluminium-air/zinc-air battery systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC + Phinergy (Israel) = collaboration to form “IOC Phinergy Private Limited”
- IOC Phinergy Pvt Ltd will manufacture Ultra-Lightweight Batteries for EVs using ‘Aluminium Air Batteries’
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya



481. On March 18, Amazon Web Services (AWS) has partnered with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to strengthen and upskill companies building education technology (EdTech) solutions in India and empowering school students with cloud computing skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AWS + AIM (NITI Aayog) = partnership to strengthen and upskill companies building EdTech solutions in India
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

Books & Authors

482. On March 17, In “India’s Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution”, to be released in April by Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint, Sanjaya Baru will unveil the emerging dynamics of the power elites in contemporary India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India’s Power Elite: Caste, Class and Cultural Revolution” – authored by Sanjaya Baru

483. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the India tourism Mumbai, Regional Office of Ministry of Tourism in the Western Region has organized an online book reading session of “Gandhi in Bombay” authored by the authors Dr. Usha Thakkar and Ms Sandhya Mehta on 15th March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Gandhi in Bombay” book – authored by the Dr. Usha Thakkar & Ms. Sandhya Mehta

484. “Battle Ready for 21st Century” was released at Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) by Gen Bipin Rawat, CDS and Gen Deepak Kapoor, Former Chief of the Army Staff. The book is co-edited by Lt Gen AK Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gen Bipin Rawat + Gen Deepak Kapoor = released a book titled “Battle Ready for 21st Century”
- The book is co-edited by – Lt. Gen AK Singh

485. Climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe will release her new book titled “Saving Us” or “Saving Us: A Climate Scientist’s Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World” in September, 2021. Katharine Hayhoe hopes her book will convince people that the ongoing climate disasters are serious and to motivate them to act accordingly. She is the host of a digital series called ‘Global Weirding’ and was honoured as “Champion of the Earth” by the United Nations in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Saving Us” book – authored by Katharine Hayhoe
- She was honoured as “Champion of the Earth” by UN in 2019



Obituaries

486. On March 17, President John Pombe Magufuli of Tanzania has passed away. He was 61 years old. He was a prominent COVID-19 skeptic in Africa whose populist rule often cast his East African country in a harsh international spotlight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Magufuli – President of Tanzania – passed away
- Tanzania – Dodoma – Tanzanian shilling | President – Samia Suluhu Hassan | PM – Kassim Majaliwa

487. BJP MP Ram Swaroop Sharma has died by suicide at his residence in New Delhi. Born in 1958 in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, Sharma was first elected to Lok Sabha in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Swaroop Sharma – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | Constituency – Mandi, Himachal Pradesh)

488. On March 15, Bangladesh former Prime Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed has passed away in Singapore. He was 81. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moudud Ahmed – Former PM of Bangladesh – passed away
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

489. BJP leader and former Union Minister Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal Gandhi has passed away in New Delhi. He was 69. Gandhi had served as the Minister of State for Shipping in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led central government. He had won the Lok Sabha election 3 times from Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dilip Gandhi (MP from Maharashtra) – a Politician – passed away (Party – BJP | MoS for Shipping)

Person in News

490. On March 17, The Bloomberg Billionaires Index has showed that so far in 2021, Gautam Adani has added \$16.2 billion, taking his total net worth to \$50 billion. With this surge in his wealth, Adani is the World's biggest wealth gainer during the covid-19 pandemic and he is now the 26th richest person in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Adani – the World's biggest wealth gainer in 2021 (Total net worth – \$50 billion)
- Gautam Adani – 26th richest person in the world



491. On March 15, Duarte Pacheco, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, is in India on a seven-day visit. He was present in Rajya Sabha to observe the proceedings of the House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Duarte Pacheco ([President of IPU](#)) is in India on a seven-day visit
- [HQs of IPU – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Duarte Pacheco | Formed in – 1889](#)

492. On March 15, Oscar-nominated actor Elliot Page has become the first transgender man to star on the front cover of Time Magazine when the magazine’s latest edition goes on sale. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Elliot Page ([Canada](#)) – became the first transgender man to star on the front cover of Time Magazine
- [Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau](#)

Science & Technology

493. A team of botanists has recently stumbled upon a new rattlepod species named as “Crotalaria lamelliformis” in the Sadasivakona grove area of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. The discovery has been published in the latest edition of the noted international journal Phytotaxa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A team of botanists discovered a new rattlepod species named as “Crotalaria lamelliformis” – in Chittoor, AP
- The discovery has been published in “International Journal Phytotaxa”
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

494. On March 18, Samsung India has inaugurated a Samsung Innovation Lab at Delhi Technological University (DTU) to focus on collaborative research and training. It has set up the innovation lab under the Samsung Innovation Campus initiative as part of its new #PoweringDigitalIndia vision. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samsung India – inaugurated a “Samsung Innovation Lab” at Delhi Technological University
- [#PoweringDigitalIndia vision – belongs to Samsung India](#)
- [Country Head of Samsung India – Sunil Dutt](#)
- [HQs of Samsung Electronics – Suwon-si, South Korea | CEO – Kim Hyun Suk](#)

495. On March 18, Nokia in partnership with Google Cloud, Microsoft and Amazon Web Services (AWS) aims to research and enable Cloud RAN (vRAN) and Open RAN technologies to develop new customer-focused 5G solutions. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nokia + Google Cloud + Microsoft + AWS = to develop 5G solutions
- HQs of Nokia – Espoo, Finland | CEO – Pekka Lundmark
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)

496. On March 18, The government is keen to develop and strengthen its own mobile app store. India's first indigenously developed Appstore, "Mobile Seva Appstore" hosts more than 965 live apps from various domains and categories. According to "India App Market Statistics report 2021", around 5% apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first indigenously developed Appstore – "Mobile Seva Appstore"
- 5% apps on Android are from Indian Apps developers

497. On March 18, City-based Data Patterns (India) Pvt Ltd has successfully delivered the first major indigenous 'Checkout System' for ISRO's prestigious Gaganyaan programme. ISRO's manned mission is scheduled to be launched in 2022-23. ISRO has lined up the first unmanned mission in December 2021 and second unmanned mission in 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Data Patterns (India) Pvt Ltd – delivered the first major indigenous 'Checkout System' for Gaganyaan programme
- ISRO's manned mission is scheduled to be launched – in 2022-23
- ISRO's first unmanned mission in – December 2021 | Second unmanned mission in – 2022-23

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

498. On March 15, The Rajya Sabha has passed "The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019" that declares two food technology institutes at Kundli in Haryana and Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu as national institutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed "The National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019"
- The bill declares 2 food technology institutes as National Institutes - Kundli (Haryana) & Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu)



499. On March 13, The Union Cabinet has approved a Bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI). The Budget provided for an initial amount of ₹20,000 Cr for the institution. The institution would have Tax benefits for 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved a Bill to set up a Development Finance Institution (DFI) | Tax benefits for 10 years
- An initial amount for the institution in the budget – ₹20,000 Cr

500. On March 22, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021” in the Lok Sabha to pave way for setting up of a government-owned DFI to fund infra projects. NaBFID will be set up with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – introduced “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) Bill 2021”
- NaBFID will be set up with a corpus of – ₹20,000 Cr





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