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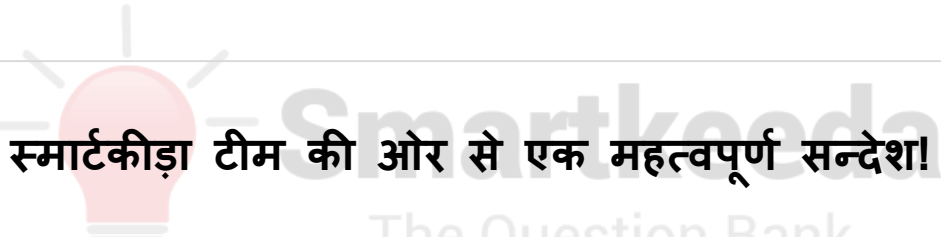
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

501. On March 16, Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors will become operational in 2022 as informed by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal in Lok Sabha. Rs 2,15,000 Cr have been allocated for Railways in 2021-22 Budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eastern & Western Dedicated Freight Corridors – to become operational in 2022
- Rs 2,15,000 Cr – allocated for Railways in 2021-22 Budget

502. The 28th MoU under the “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project has been awarded on 15th March 2021 for Dara Shikoh Library Building in Delhi. The duration of the MoU is for an initial period of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 28th MoU under “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” – awarded for ‘Dara Shikoh Library Building’
- Dara Shikoh Library Building – located in Delhi | Duration of the MoU – 5 years

503. On March 18, Fruit growers in rural Maharashtra have started an innovative movement to promote fresh fruit cakes as a healthier option, instead of the traditional bakery-made cakes. It is to encourage farmers and their families to increase the intake of fruits in their diet and to find a new way of selling their produce in the times of COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra farmers started fresh fruit cake movement to sustain during pandemic
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

504. On March 18, The Jharkhand government has launched SAAMAR (Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction) campaign to tackle malnutrition in the state. The campaign aims to identify anemic women and malnourished children and converge various departments to effectively deal with the problem. SAAMAR has been launched with a 1000 days target. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – launched “SAAMAR campaign” to tackle malnutrition
- SAAMAR – Strategic Action for Alleviation of Malnutrition and Anemia Reduction
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

505. NITI Aayog has submitted its first list of about 12 public sector undertakings (PSUs) for privatisation. The list will be considered by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and the Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD). India has targeted Rs 1.75 lakh Cr of disinvestment in the FY 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – submitted its first list of about 12 PSUs for privatisation
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

506. On March 19, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 4th edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival 2021” through video conference. This festival was organized by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) between March 12 and March 19. It featured lectures by 35 internationally renowned scientists and more than 150 Indian scientists. V. Muraleedharan is the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the festival.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 4th edition of the “Global Ayurveda Festival 2021” – organized by CISSA
- The festival was chaired by – V. Muraleedharan

507. On March 24, Shri R. K. Singh, the Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power & New and Renewable Energy, has launched the “GRAM UJALA” programme in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. Under this program Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL) will distribute high quality LED bulbs, at an affordable cost of Rs 10 per bulb in rural areas of Varanasi. Earlier, the scheme was launched in Arrah, Bihar where it has crossed 6,150 distribution mark within 2 days of launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh (Ministry of Power) – launched the “GRAM UJALA” programme in Varanasi, UP (earlier in Arrah, Bihar)
- CESL distributes high quality LED bulbs – at Rs 10 per bulb
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

508. On March 24, India has planned to conduct Airborne Radar Surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers, with a pilot study to be conducted in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. Once the pilot project is done, similar studies will be conducted in Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra sub-basins. India has planned to add 45 gigawatts (GW) of hydropower capacity to its energy basket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has planned to conduct Airborne Radar Surveys to estimate the thickness of Himalayan glaciers
- The pilot project will be conducted – in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

509. On March 19, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ took a ride in the “Energy Swaraj Yatra” bus built by Dr Chetan Singh Solanki, a Professor at IIT Bombay. The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in 2020 and will continue till 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ took a ride in the “Energy Swaraj Yatra” bus – built by IIT Bombay
- The Energy Swaraj Yatra began in 2020 and will continue till 2030



510. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, has inaugurated a Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Testing Facility at the IRCS NHQ Blood Centre. He also inaugurated 3 fully equipped vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated a Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) Testing Facility – at IRCS NHQ Blood Centre
- HQs of IRCS – New Delhi | Chairman – Dr. Harsh Vardhan

511. The Van Dhan Vikas Yojana is a programme for value addition, branding & marketing of Minor Forest Produces by establishing Van Dhan Kendras to facilitate creation of sustainable livelihoods for the forest-based tribes. Manipur has emerged as the model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana. Since the time that the programme was launched in the State in October 2019, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been established. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – emerged as the model state for Van Dhan Vikas Yojana
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

512. In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has initiated the project “Awaam Ki Baat” - a Radio program by launching its website at Raj Bhavan, Jammu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jammu and Kashmir – initiated the project “Awaam Ki Baat” - a Radio program
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

513. In Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan have launched the “Mission Gramodaya” in the state. Under the Gramodaya mission, besides providing housing facilities in rural areas, basic and fundamental infrastructure will also be expanded. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar & Shivraj Singh Chouhan – launched “Mission Gramodaya” in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

514. On March 19, NABARD’s wholly-owned subsidiary NABSanrakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd (NTPL) has been appointed by the government as a trustee for Rs 750 Cr Credit Guarantee Fund under Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF). The government has set up AHIDF with a corpus of Rs 15,000 Cr as part of the Aatmanirbhar package. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABSanrakshan Trustee Pvt Ltd – appointed by the government as a trustee for Rs 750 Cr Credit Guarantee Fund
- Government has set up AHIDF with a corpus of – Rs 15,000 Cr
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu | Founded in – 1982

515. On March 19, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has hiked the maximum cover under the standard health insurance plan “Arogya Sanjeevani Policy” from Rs 5 lakh earlier to Rs 10 lakh. Arogya Sanjeevani Policy was launched in March 2020. IRDAI has made it mandatory for insurers to offer a sum insured between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh under this policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI hiked the maximum cover under “Arogya Sanjeevani Policy” – to Rs 10 lakh (from Rs 5 lakh)
- Range of sum insured under this policy – between Rs 50,000 to Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

516. On March 18, As part of Kisan Kalyan Mission, Uttar Pradesh has launched a UP Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Shakti portal, a first of its kind in India, to benefit farmers at grass roots level. The initiative comes amid the BJP government’s resolve to double the income of farmers by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched “FPO Shakti portal” to benefit farmers – as part of Kisan Kalyan Mission
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

517. On March 18, Bihar has become the first state in India to implement an “Ethanol Promotion Policy” that would allow investors to directly make ethanol from maize, molasses, broken rice and rotten grains. An investor would get a 15% government subsidy a maximum of Rs 5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – became the first state in India to implement an “Ethanol Promotion Policy”
- An investor would get a 15% government subsidy a maximum of Rs 5 Cr
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

518. On March 21, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated state-of-the-art facilities at various research centres in Chandigarh and Mohali. He inaugurated IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre & Centre of Excellence for Intelligent Sensors and System at CSIR- IMTECH in Chandigarh. He also inaugurated “Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility at National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) in Mohali, Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated IMTECH Bio Innovation Centre – at CSIR-IMTECH ([Chandigarh](#))
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Intelligent Sensors & System – at CSIR-IMTECH ([Chandigarh](#))
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated Advanced High Resolution Microscopy Facility – at NABI ([Mohali, Punjab](#))



519. On March 21, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has inaugurated the state's first formal indigenous language and knowledge system school in East Kameng district. The first-of-its-kind school is called "Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – inaugurated "Nyubu Nyvgam Yerko" the state's 1st formal indigenous language & knowledge system school – in in East Kameng
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra](#)

520. The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 310 also known as "The Cobras" has celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on March 21, 2021. The Cobras were raised in faraway France 60 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "INAS 310" also known as "The Cobras" – celebrated its Diamond Jubilee (completed 60 years)

521. As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a 3-day "Shehnai festival" was organised at Banaras Hindu University campus Varanasi from March 21. BHU has organised this music evening to remember the shehnai Maestro Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day "Shehnai festival" – organised at Banaras Hindu University campus ([Varanasi, UP](#))
- BHU has organised this music evening to remember – Ustad Bismillah Khan

522. PM Narendra Modi has launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign for conserving water and he also stressed that every penny of MGNREGA funds be spent on rain water conservation till the monsoon arrives. The campaign's theme is "Catch the rain, Where it falls, When it falls". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – launched "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign
- Campaign's theme – "Catch the rain, Where it falls, When it falls"

523. On March 17, Niti Aayog has constituted two task forces that will recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts as well as effective conciliation mechanism. One task force, which will suggest facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes between private entities and the government, will be headed by Amitabh Kant. The second task force, which will recommend a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts, will be led by Rajiv Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niti Aayog constituted 2 Task Forces for achieving policy certainty in contract enforcement
- One task force – suggesting facilitation of speedy resolution of contractual disputes – headed by Amitabh Kant
- Second task force – recommending a policy framework for the enforcement of contracts – headed by Rajiv Kumar

524. On March 18, To expedite the transition of India from a linear to a Circular Economy, 11 committees have been formed by the central government. The committees will be led by the concerned line ministries and comprising officials from MoEFCC and NITI Aayog, domain experts, academics and industry representatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government formed 11 committees to expedite the transition of India from a linear to a Circular Economy
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

525. On March 18, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have signed an agreement to link the Ken and Betwa rivers and irrigate the water deficient Bundelkhand region (spread over both States) as well as provide electricity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + Madhya Pradesh = an agreement to link the Ken & Betwa rivers
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

526. On March 22, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia has announced lowering of legal age to drink liquor in the national capital to 21 from 25. An expert committee set up by the government recommended in December that the legal drinking age be changed to 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – lowered the legal age to drink liquor to 21 (from 25)
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

527. On March 22, To further boost the animal husbandry and veterinary sector in Andhra Pradesh, the state government has decided to set up “India's first government-run Ambulance Network” for animals. A total of 175 mobile ambulances (veterinary) clinics will be placed at Assembly Constituency Level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – to set up “India's first government-run Ambulance Network” for animals
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

528. On March 23, The government has recently formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th century Tomar king, Anangpal II. Anangpal Tomar II was succeeded by his grandson Prithviraj Chauhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government formed a committee to popularise the legacy of 11th century Anangpal II (Tomara Dynasty)



International Affairs

529. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte's party has won the most seats in parliamentary elections. His last government resigned in January over a child welfare fraud scandal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mark Rutte – won the Parliamentary Elections of Netherlands
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

530. A second batch of 20,000 litres of Malathion 95% ULV pesticide is being supplied by India to Iran under a Government-to-Government Locust Control Programme. The consignment reached Chabahar Port on March 18, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India supplied 20,000 litres of Malathion pesticide to Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

531. On March 17, 2021, the European Commission has proposed to create a “Digital Green Certificate” to facilitate the safe and free movement of citizens within the European Union (EU) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. A Digital Green Certificate is proof that a person has either been vaccinated against COVID-19, has received a negative test result or has recovered from COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- European Commission – proposed to create a “Digital Green Certificate” for citizens
- HQs of European Commission – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen

532. On March 22, The European Union (EU) has officially on-boarded as a member of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). To support the CDRI, the US has announced funds of up to \$9.2 Million. The CDRI was launched in 2019 by PM Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Change Summit. PM Narendra Modi has also addressed at the 3rd edition of the annual conference of the Coalition for Disaster resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EU – joined Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- US announced funds of up to \$9.2 Million to support the CDRI | Launched by PM Modi – in 2019
- PM Modi addressed at the 3rd edition of the annual conference of the CDRI
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

533. On March 22, The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has agreed to assist the Bangladesh aviation regulator in enhancing its capacity in terms of infrastructure and skilled manpower. India is currently celebrating “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”, the golden jubilee year marking the 1971 war victory over Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- AAI – agreed to assist the Bangladesh aviation regulator in enhancing its capacity
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | President – Arjun Munda

534. On March 22, The Danish Red Cross has sponsored and launched the world's first Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) to offer dedicated insurance against volcanic eruptions. The project's partners aim to raise as much as \$3 million with the launch of the note. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Danish Red Cross (Denmark) – launched the world's 1st Catastrophe Bond (cat bond) to cover 10 volcanoes
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

Banking & Economic Affairs

535. On March 17, The RBI has set up the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for universal and small finance banks. Shyamala Gopinath, former Deputy Governor, RBI, has been appointed as the chairperson of the SEAC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI set up the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for Universal & SFBs
- Chairperson of the SEAC – Shyamala Gopinath
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

536. Indian Navy has undertaken Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Bahrain Naval Force Corvette Al Muharraq in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. Maritime Security Operations, code-named 'Op Sankalp' was initiated in the Gulf region on June 19, 2019, in the aftermath of the attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Bahrain = undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Persian Gulf under 'Operation Sankalp'
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa



537. On March 20, The Union Defence Ministry has signed a Rs 1,188-Cr deal with the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) for the supply of 4,960 Milan-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGMs) to the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry + Bharat Dynamics = Rs 1,188-Cr deal for the supply of 4,960 Milan-2T ATGMs to Indian Army
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

538. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) has paid an interim dividend of Rs 92.56 Cr to the Ministry of Defence. MDL has paid a total dividend of Rs 138.73 Cr to the government of India during FY 2020-21, including final dividend of Rs 46.17 Cr for FY 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders – paid an interim dividend of Rs 92.56 Cr to the Ministry of Defence
- HQs of MDL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – Narayan Prasad
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

539. On March 19, Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS) has received a contract of manufacturing 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles (LSV) worth ₹1,056 Cr. Light Specialist Vehicles will be inducted into the Indian Army's fleet in a phased manner over the next 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahindra Defence Systems – received a contract of manufacturing 1,300 Light Specialist Vehicles (LSV)
- Worth – ₹1,056 Cr
- HQs of Mahindra Defence Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra

Schemes & Initiatives

540. In a move to turn the goal of 'Health for All' into reality, Rajasthan government has announced a cashless insurance of up to Rs 5 lakh under a universal health scheme 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojna' for all families of the state under BPL (Below Poverty Line), NFSA (National Food Security Act) & SECC categories (Socio-Economic Caste Census) from May 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan announced a universal health scheme 'Mukhyamantri Chiranjeevi Yojna'
- A cashless insurance of up to – Rs 5 lakh (from May 1)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



541. On March 22, The Delhi government has launched the “Education Mentoring Programme” through its ‘Youth for Education’ initiative, which focuses on mentoring girls studying in Classes 9 to 12 in government schools. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – launched “Education Mentoring Programme” through its ‘Youth for Education’ initiative
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

Sports & Games

542. Mumbai batsman Aditya Tare has led his team with a 91-ball hundred as Mumbai went on to beat Uttar Pradesh and lifted their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy. Prithvi Shaw became 1st player to score 800 runs in single edition. Uttar Pradesh batsman, Madhav Kaushik scored an unbeaten 158, the highest score by any player in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai Team – lifted their 4th Vijay Hazare Trophy
- Prithvi Shaw – became 1st player to score 800 runs in single edition

543. Ireland wicketkeeper Gary Wilson has retired from International Cricket ending his 16-year international career to become head coach of North-West Warriors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gary Wilson (Ireland) – retired from International Cricket
- Ireland – Dublin – Euro | PM – Micheal Martin

544. 3000 metre Steeplechaser Avinash Sable from Maharashtra has broken the National Record for the fifth time in his career clocking 8:20.20s and rewriting his previous best achieved in Doha which was 8:21:37s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Avinash Sable (MH) – broke the National Record for the 5th time (latest record in 3000m Steeplechase – 8:20.20s)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

545. On March 21, Yashaswini Deswal has won the first Gold medal for India in 10m pistol events at the ongoing “ISSF World Cup” in Delhi. She is one of India’s 15 Tokyo Olympics quota winners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yashaswini Deswal – won the first Gold medal for India in 10m pistol events – at the “ISSF World Cup” in Delhi
- Yashaswini Deswal (New Delhi) – Shooting



546. The Indian Style Wrestling Association of India (ISWAI) has officially been recognised as a National Sports Federation (NSF) by the Sports Ministry, making it eligible to receive fund and support from the government.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – officially recognised “Indian Style Wrestling Association of India” as NSF
- HQs of ISWAI – New Delhi | Formed – 1958

547. On March 21, Malaysian shuttler Lee Zii Jia has defeated defending champion Viktor Axelsen to win the men's singles crown at the Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships while Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's title for a second time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lee Zii Jia ([Malaysia](#)) – won men's singles at the “Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships”
- Nozomi Okuhara ([Japan](#)) – won women's singles at the “Yonex All England Open Badminton Championships”

548. On March 19, Kamalpreet Kaur has qualified for Tokyo Olympics breaking national record in women's discus throw. Kamalpreet Kaur set a new national record of 65.06 metres. The Olympic qualification benchmark is 63.5 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamalpreet Kaur – set a new national record of 65.06 metres in ‘Discus Throw’ & qualified for Tokyo Olympics

549. The ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 has announced its official song ‘Girl Gang’ by New Zealand singer Gin Wigmore. The song is from Wigmore’s fourth album Ivory released in 2017. The ICC Women’s Cricket World Cup 2022 will be held in New Zealand from March 4 to April 3. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 – announced its official song ‘Girl Gang’ – by Wigmore ([New Zealand singer](#))
- ICC Women’s World Cup 2022 – to be held in New Zealand
- [New Zealand](#) – [Wellington](#) – [Dollar \(NZD\)](#) | [Prime Minister](#) – [Jacinda Ardern](#)

Important Days & Dates

550. Every year March 20 is observed as “World Sparrow Day” to raise awareness about the bird. The need for marking this day was felt due to the tremendous decrease in its population. The house sparrow is on the verge of extinction. The initiative was started by Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India. This year, the theme is “I Love Sparrows”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Sparrow Day (since 2010)
- Theme – “I Love Sparrows”



551. World Oral Health Day is observed every year on March 20 with the purpose of spreading awareness about the importance of maintaining oral hygiene. The theme for the next three years is “Be proud of your mouth”. The Campaign theme is “2021-2023”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Oral Health Day
- Theme – “Be proud of your mouth” | Campaign theme – “2021-2023”

552. The International Day of Happiness is observed every year all over the world on March 20 to highlight the importance of happiness in the diurnal lives of people. This year, the theme is “Happiness For All, Forever”. The World Happiness Report 2021 which was released by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. India ranked 139 out of 149 countries in the report. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – International Day of Happiness (since 2013)
- Theme – “Happiness For All, Forever”
- India’s rank according to “World Happiness Report 2021” – 139th | Top – Finland | Last – Afghanistan

553. “International Astrology Day” was observed on March 20th this year. The Day is celebrated with great passion amongst the Vedic astrology followers as well as western astrologers. In the year 1993, the association for astrological networking declared the International Astrology Day which varies from March 19 to match 22. It is observed on the ‘Spring Equinox’ every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – International Astrology Day 2021 (since 1993)
- It is observed on the ‘Spring Equinox’ every year

554. Every year, March 20 is observed as World Frog Day to celebrate the existence of these tailless amphibians. The day was first observed in 2009 with an aim to raise awareness of the different species of frogs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Frog Day (since 2009)

555. Every year, French Language Day is celebrated on March 20. Spoken in more than 25 countries, French developed from Latin between the 5th and 8th centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – French Language Day

556. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has celebrated its 82nd Anniversary on March 19. It was on this day in 1950 that the then Home Minister, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented colours to the CRPF after the CRPF Act was enacted and the force rechristened to its present name. The CRPF was raised in 1939 as the Crown Representative's Police. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 19 – 82nd Raising day of CRPF
- Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel presented colours to the CRPF – in 1950
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldiep Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – Service & Loyalty

557. Bihar has observed its 109th foundation day on March 22. Every year on March 22, the state observes 'Bihar Diwas' or 'Bihar Day' and a public holiday since 2010. The state government has decided "Jal Jeevan Hariyali" as the theme of this year's celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – 109th foundation day of Bihar or 'Bihar Diwas' (since 2010)
- Theme of this year's celebrations – "Jal Jeevan Hariyali"

558. The United Nations has observed March 21 as the "International Day of Forests", commemorating the green cover around the world and reiterating its importance. This year, the theme is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day of Forests (since 2012)
- Theme – "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being"

559. The UNESCO has come up with "World Poetry Day" that is celebrated on March 21. UNESCO adopted this on March 21 in its 30th General Conference held in Paris in the year 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Poetry Day – by UNESCO

560. World Water Day is observed annually across the globe on March 22 with the purpose of highlighting the importance of water and raising awareness about the water crisis. According to the United Nations (UN) website, the main focus of the day is to support the achievement of sustainable development goal (SDG) 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030. This year, the theme is "Valuing Water". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – World Water Day | Theme – "Valuing Water"
- Aim: To support the achievement of SDG 6: Water & Sanitation for all by 2030

561. On March 21, the world celebrates "International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" to create awareness about the impacts of racial discrimination. This year, the theme is "Youth standing up against racism". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Theme – "Youth standing up against racism"



562. World Down Syndrome Day is observed on March 21 every year, with an aim to spread awareness about the Down syndrome. The syndrome is also called 'Trisomy 21'. #LotsOfSocks campaign was conducted for this. The campaign theme is "#CONNECT". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day | Campaign conducted – #LotsOfSocks campaign
- Campaign theme – "#CONNECT"

563. The World Puppetry Day was recently observed across the globe on March 21 to promote the puppetry arts. The Day was launched by UNIMA in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Puppetry Day
- The Day was launched by UNIMA in 2003

564. The Communist Party of India urged the Union government to declare March 23 (Shaheed Diwas) - the martyrdom day of Bhagat Singh and his comrades, as "Inquilab Diwas" to be marked with a national public holiday. This year is the 90th anniversary of martyrdom of freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – Shaheed Diwas / Martyr's day / Inquilab Diwas
- 90th anniversary of martyrdom of freedom fighters – Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru
- January 30 – Martyr's day (death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

565. World Meteorological Day 2021 is celebrated on March 23 every year. This year, the theme is "The Ocean, our Climate and Weather". The World Meteorological Organisation or WMO was established on March 23 in the year 1950. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – World Meteorological Day
- Theme – "The ocean, our climate and weather"
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

566. Russia has hosted a peace conference for Afghanistan. The one-day gathering is the first of three planned international conferences ahead of a May 1 deadline for the final withdrawal of U. S. and NATO troops from the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia hosted a peace conference for Afghanistan
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani



567. On March 18, the decision to hold the joint exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” was announced during the 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. India, Pakistan, China and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021” this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 36th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) – held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- SCO members will hold a joint anti-terrorism exercise “Pabbi-Antiterror-2021”
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)
- [SCO member countries \(8\): China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan & Uzbekistan](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

568. NTPC Ltd has been conferred the prestigious ‘Role Model’ Award at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21. This award is the highest level of recognition in the field of Human Resources by Confederation of Indian Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – conferred the prestigious ‘Role Model’ Award – at the 11th CII National HR Excellence Award 2020-21
- [HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975](#)

569. Riz Ahmed, who has been nominated for his stellar act in Amazon movie ‘Sound of Metal’, is the first Muslim actor to be nominated in the Best Actor category in Oscar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Riz Ahmed ([UK](#)) – first Muslim actor to be nominated in the Best Actor category in Oscar
- For his role in the movie – ‘Sound of Metal’

571. On March 17, The “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020” is conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The prestigious prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman. The Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by government of India since 1995, the 125th birth anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – conferred “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020”
- Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman – conferred “Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019”
- [Gandhi Peace Prize was first awarded in – 1995](#)



570. On March 18, The Jury for the 67th National Film Awards has announced the winners for the year 2019. Sikkim has bagged the award for being Most Film Friendly State. The other awards were given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 67th National Film Awards:

Category	Winner
Most Film Friendly State	Sikkim
Best Feature Film	Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)
Best Non-Feature Film	An Engineered Dream (Hindi)
Best Children's Film	Kastoori (Hindi)
Best Hindi Film	Chhichhore
Best Marathi Film	Bardo
Best Assamese Film	Ronuwa - Who Never Surrender
Best Telugu Film	Jersey
Best Kannada Film	Akshi
Best Malayalam Film	Kalla Nottam
Best Bengali Film	Gumnaami
Best Tamil Film	Asuran
Best Actor	Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi) Dhanush for Asuran (Tam)
Best Actress	Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) & for Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)
Best Child Artist	Naga Vishal for KD (Tamil)
Best Female Playback Singer	Savani Ravindra for Bardo (Marathi)
Best Male Playback Singer	B Praak for Kesari (Hindi)

Appointments & Resignations

572. A 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Arindam Bagchi is set to be the new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), succeeding Anurag Srivastava. Bagchi served as India's ambassador to Croatia from November 2018 to June 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arindam Bagchi – to be new spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (by succeeding Anurag Srivastava)
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

573. On March 19, WhatsApp Pay has appointed senior Amazon Executive Manesh Mahatme to head its newly launched payment service in India. In February, WhatsApp Pay processed 5.5 million UPI transactions worth Rs 32.4 Cr as per latest data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manesh Mahatme – appointed by WhatsApp Pay to head its newly launched Payment Service in India
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum



574. On March 23, US President Joe Biden has nominated former Senator Bill Nelson to serve as the 14th NASA Administrator. Earlier, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) appointed Indian-American Bhavya Lal as the agency's acting chief of staff. Nelson will succeed Jim Bridenstine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill Nelson – to serve as the 14th Administrator of NASA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D. C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

575. On March 24, The Labour Bureau and Employment & Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Ltd (BECIL) have signed a service level agreement for providing technical and manpower support to Labour Bureau to conduct All India Surveys on Migrant Workers & All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Bureau + BECIL = an agreement for All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES)
- HQs of BECIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – George Kuruvilla

576. China has the strongest military force in the world scoring 82 out of 100 points while India stands at number four, according to a study released by defence website Military Direct on March 21. The USA comes in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and then France with 58. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China has the strongest military force in the world (Score – 82/100)
- 2nd – US (74) | 3rd – Russia (69) | 4th – India (61) | 5th – France (58)

577. The e-commerce sector in India is predicted to grow at a 27% CAGR over 2019-24 and is expected to reach \$99 billion by 2024, according to a report titled “India Trend Book 2021” released by EY-IVCA. The report also revealed that India will have 220 million online shoppers in India by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Trend Book 2021” report – released by EY-IVCA
- E-commerce sector in India is expected to reach \$99 billion – by 2024 (to grow at a 27% CAGR)

578. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pumped in a record \$36 billion into equities so far this fiscal up to March 10, which is the highest since FY13, according to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India. On the other hand, net foreign direct investment inflows jumped to \$44 billion, till end January. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FPIs pumped in a record \$36 billion into equities up to March 10 (the highest since FY13) – according to RBI



579. On March 17, The RBI has released the data related to the 2019-20 round of its annual survey on exports of computer software and information technology enabled services. India's export of software services stood at \$ 128.6 billion during 2019-20, registering 9.1% growth over the previous year. The USA was the major destination for software exports with 56.6% share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's export of software services stood at \$ 128.6 billion during 2019-20 (Growth – 9.1% in FY20)
- The major destination for software exports – USA (56.6% share)

580. On March 18, India has moved down 13 spots in Knight Frank's latest "Global House Price Index" to finish last at 56th rank in the quarter ending December 2020. The country saw a decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices. Turkey continues to lead the annual rankings followed by New Zealand and Slovakia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Knight Frank's "Global House Price Index" in Q4 2020: India – 56th | Topped by – Turkey
- India saw a decline of 3.6% year-on-year (YoY) in home prices

581. On March 19, More than 450 million, or one in five children, worldwide resided in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability, according to a new report "Reimagining WASH: Water Security For All" released by the UNICEF on March 18, 2021. The document identified 37 hot-spot countries where children faced especially dire circumstances. UNICEF had set an ambitious goal to ensure every child had access to Climate-Resilient Water Services by 2025 and by 2030, for all children to have access to a safe and affordable water supply and to live in water secure communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Reimagining WASH: Water Security For All" – released by the UNICEF
- Over 450 million children live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability
- The document identified 37 hot-spot countries with High Water Vulnerability
- UNICEF's Aim: To ensure every child has access to Climate-Resilient Water Services – by 2025
- All children to have access to a safe and affordable water supply – by 2030

582. On March 18, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Labour & Employment Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar has released the Compendium on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) (Volume I-IV, 1945 to 2020). Labour Bureau began compiling the index since 1945. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoS I/C for Labour & Employment – released the Compendium on Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers
- Volume I-IV – 1945 to 2020 (Labour Bureau began compiling the index since 1945)
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh



Acquisitions & Mergers

583. On March 22, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) has signed a Share Purchase Agreement with Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd (JPVL) to acquire 74% stake in Jaypee Powergrid Ltd (JPL) in which POWERGRID holds 26% equity. JPL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of POWERGRID following this acquisition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- POWERGRID – to acquire 74% stake in Jaypee Powergrid Ltd (of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd)
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- HQs of JPVL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD – Suren Jain

584. On March 22, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of 51% equity share of North Eastern Electricity Supply Company of Odisha (NESCO Utility) by Tata Power Company Ltd (TPCL) from Grid Corporation of Odisha Ltd (GRIDCO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of 51% equity share of NESCO Utility – by Tata Power
- HQ of TPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

585. On March 17, CA Rover Holdings has divested 4.25% stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd for Rs 3,943 Cr through an open market transaction. SBI Cards is the second-largest credit card issuer in India with an 18% market share. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CA Rover Holdings – divested 4.25% stake in SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd for Rs 3,943 Cr
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

586. National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) has partnered with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to help its MSME members in the export potential of their agricultural and processed foods products. APEDA and NSIC will also facilitate the participation of MSMEs in fairs of international level including B2B & B2C fairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSIC + APEDA = partnership to boost export of agricultural & processed foods products
- HQs of NSIC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vijayendra
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur | Established in – 1986



587. India's DPIIT and the Japan Patents Office (JPO) have signed a Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) to act mutually as competent International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) from July to accelerate prosecution (drafting, filing & negotiating) of patent applications in both countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT (India) + Japan = Memorandum of Co-operation to act mutually as competent ISA & IPEA from July
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

588. On March 19, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and National Institute of Technology (NIT), Rourkela have signed an MoU for setting up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC). This collaboration with ISRO will open up new opportunities for research and development as well as space start-ups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + NIT (Rourkela, Odisha) = an MoU to set up a Space Technology Incubation Centre (S-TIC)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

589. FIFA has collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to launch the Global Integrity Programme a comprehensive international programme aimed at providing all 211 member associations with enhanced knowledge and tools to fight and prevent match manipulation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FIFA + UNODC = to launch the 'Global Integrity Programme'
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of UNODC – Vienna, Austria | Director-General – Ghada Fathi Waly

590. ITC's Social Investments programme, "Mission Sunehra Kal" has entered into a partnership with the Government of Karnataka to execute a Watershed Development Programme covering over 1 million acres and 100 watersheds across the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITC's "Mission Sunehra Kal" + Karnataka = partnership to execute a Watershed Development Programme
- HQs of ITC Limited – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Sanjiv Puri
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

591. On March 19, The Jal Shakti Ministry entered a partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and Denmark to help bring tap water connections to 11 water-scarce districts in Uttar Pradesh's water-starved Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions under the Jal Jeevan mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry + UNOPS + Denmark = to help bring tap water connections – to 11 water-scarce districts in UP



- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- HQs of UNOPS – Copenhagen, Denmark | Executive Director – Grete Faremo
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Books & Authors

592. On March 19, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has released a “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework” to stimulate the highest standards of ethics and professionalism. This handbook has been prepared by the IBBI in association with the British High Commission.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBBI – released a “Handbook on Ethics for Insolvency Professionals: Ethical and Regulatory Framework”
- The handbook is prepared by = IBBI + British High Commission
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. S. Sahoo

593. Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu has launched book “Bringing Governments and People Closer”. The book was authored by Dr M. Ramachandran, IAS (Retd), Chancellor, The ICAI University, Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bringing Governments and People Closer” book – authored by Dr M. Ramachandran
- The book was launched by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

Obituaries

594. On March 15, Wrestler Ritika Phogat, a cousin of the Phogat sisters, has allegedly died by suicide in Haryana’s Charkhi Dadri district after she lost the final bout of a tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ritika Phogat ([Rajasthan](#))– a Wrestler – passed away
- [Rajasthan](#): Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

595. On March 20, Former Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman G. V. Ramakrishna has passed away in Chennai. Ramakrishna, born in 1930, was the first Chairman of SEBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. V. Ramakrishna – Former & the 1st Chairman of SEBI – passed away
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



596. On March 23, Veteran Writer-filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi has passed away due to age-related illness. He was 88. He was credited with films like Kabhi Kabhie, Silsila and Chandni. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

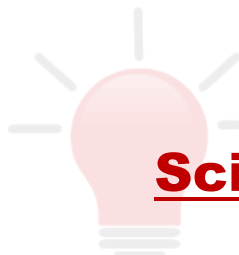
- Sagar Sarhadi – a Writer & Filmmaker – passed away

Person in News

597. Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Foreign Minister of Kuwait has visited India on 17-18 March 2021. A Joint Statement on establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers to steer the relationship was issued during the visit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Foreign Minister of Kuwait – visited India for 2-day visit
- Joint Ministerial Commission at the level of Foreign Ministers – to be established
- Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah – Foreign Minister of Kuwait
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah



Science & Technology

598. On March 17, The Indo-US Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) has launched the US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative to focus on AI cooperation in critical areas that are priorities for both countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India-US S&T forum launched Artificial Intelligence initiative
- US – Washington, D. C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

599. As on March 20, India and France are working on their 3rd joint satellite mission “TRISHNA” (Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment). ISRO and French space agency CNES (Centre National dEtudes Spatiales) have undertaken two joint missions “Megha-Tropiques”, which was launched in 2011 and “Saral-Altika” in 2013. The two space agencies have also finalised all interface control documents for accommodating CNES's 'ARGOS' instrument in ISROs “OCEANSAT-3” satellite. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO (India) + CNES (France) = working on their 3rd joint satellite mission “TRISHNA”
- TRISHNA – Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High resolution Natural resource Assessment
- “Megha-Tropiques” (2011) & “Saral-Altika” (2013) – between India & France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

600. On March 21, The Rajya Sabha has approved the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2021” to amend the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971” on 16th March 2021. The Bill was approved in Lok Sabha on 17th March 2020. The Upper Gestation limit to terminate pregnancy is 24 weeks (earlier 20 weeks) for special categories of women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – amended the “Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971”
- The Upper Gestation limit to terminate pregnancy is 24 weeks (from 20 weeks earlier)





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