



Bipin Nambiar
(SBI PO 2018)



Shiraz Khan
(SBI Clerk 2018)



Kuldeep Yadav
(SBI PO 2018)



Rajat Saxena
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



Anupam Tyagi
(IBPS PO 2018)

FRIENDS!
WE USED **TESTZONE**
AND CRACKED BANK EXAMS
बैंक परीक्षाओ के लिए निश्चित
रूप से सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक
टेस्ट सीरीज

IT'S YOUR TURN NOW
TAKE A **FREE** MOCK TEST



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



Testzone presents
Full-Length Current Affairs Mock
Test Series Month-wise

March
MockDrill100
PDF No.7

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 17th Apr 2021

[Attempt Test No 7 Now!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

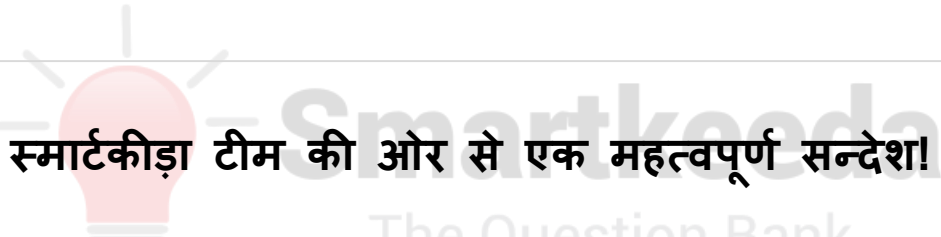
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

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

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

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

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	10
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	10
Defence Affairs.....	12
Schemes & Initiatives	13
Sports & Games.....	13
Important Days & Dates.....	15
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	16
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	17
Appointments & Resignations.....	18
Amount & Agreements.....	19
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	19
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	21
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	21
Books & Authors.....	23
Obituaries.....	24
Persons in News	24
Science & Technology.....	25
Ordinance, Bills and Acts.....	27



National & States Affairs

601. On March 17, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated the ₹52 Cr state-of-the-art Yogiraj Baba Gambhirauditorium and cultural centre in Gorakhpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – inaugurated the ₹52 Cr Yogiraj Baba Gambhirauditorium and cultural centre – in Gorakhpur
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

602. On March 23, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) has established an e-Tendering Portal “PRANIT” which will lead to less paperwork and ease of operation, making the tendering process more transparent. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- POWERGRID – established an e-Tendering Portal “PRANIT”
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant

603. On March 23, The Central Government has notified to set up an Empowered Committee for manufacturing in High Technology Areas. The proposed 10-member committee will be headed by the minister of Commerce and Industry. The Committee will be serviced by the DPIIT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Government – notified to set up an Empowered Committee for manufacturing in High Technology Areas
- The 10-member committee will be headed by – Minister of Commerce & Industry | Serviced by – DPIIT

604. On March 25, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has raised the limit for Tax Exemption on interest earned on Provident Fund Contribution by employees to Rs 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against Rs 2.5 lakh proposed in the Budget. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PF contribution limit raised to Rs 5 lakh for tax-free interest (from Rs 2.5 lakh)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

605. On March 24, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered an investigation into WhatsApp’s new privacy policy for breaching The Competition Act, 2002. The investigation has been ordered under Section 26(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI ordered an investigation into WhatsApp’s new privacy policy for breaching “The Competition Act, 2002”
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



606. On March 24, Under this “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” campaign, Tripura has been paired with Bihar. Tripura is well known for its scenic beauty, rich natural resources, and rich art and cultural heritage. Many people from Bihar visit Tripura either for traveling purposes or many have come and settled down or live for a job. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tripura + Bihar = newly paired under “Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat” campaign
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

607. On March 23, The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has decided to launch a “Poshan Abhiyan” for the Elderly, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition. According to the ‘Report of Government of India’s Technical Group on Population Projection for India and States’ brought out in July, 2020, till the year 2036, population of senior citizens would be 22.74 Cr (14.9%). Moreover, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) celebrated ‘Poshan Pakhwada’ (Nutrition Fortnight) across India under POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission from March 16-31, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – to launch a “Poshan Abhiyan” for the Elderly
- Population of senior citizens would be 22.74 Cr (14.9%) – by 2036
- Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrated ‘Poshan Pakhwada’ (Nutrition Fortnight) across India
- POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in 2018
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)

608. On March 23, Bangladesh has taken initiative to open more ‘Border Haats’ along the border with Mizoram. There are several opportunities of expanding trade and connectivity between Mizoram and Bangladesh. Mizoram can supply items like bamboo, timber, ginger, sugar and stone to Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh – took an initiative to open more ‘Border Haats’ along the border with Mizoram
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

609. On March 22, LT Foods has become the first Company globally to be certified with highest level of verification - L3, by UN-backed Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) ecolabel. This will enable the Company to use Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) verified logo on the packs of Rice. The L3 SRP certification is the highest level of verification for sustainable cultivation of rice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LT Foods – became 1st Company globally to be certified with highest level of verification “L3” – by SRP
- LT Foods – Gurugram, Haryana

610. On March 23, In Madhya Pradesh, a campaign named “Sankalp”, the Resolution, has been started in the state to control the spike in cases of corona infection. Sankalp campaign is focused on “My mask - My security” theme. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- A campaign named “Sankalp” started in Madhya Pradesh
- Theme – “My mask - My security”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

611. On March 24, Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA has launched “i-Learn”, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – launched “i-Learn” self-learning app
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

612. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a Climate Data Service Portal with data of over 100 years which can be accessed by the public. The IMD has meteorological data since 1900. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMD launched a “Climate Data Service Portal” with data of over 100 years
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

613. On March 23, SEBI in consultation with the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) has launched a new penal structure for Commodity Derivatives Segment in the event of delivery default. The delivery default norms will be effective from the first trading day of May 2021. With regard to futures contracts on agri-commodities and on non-agri commodities, penalty on seller in case of delivery default would be 4% and 3% respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – issued a new framework for delivery default in Commodity Derivatives Segment
- Penalty on seller in case of delivery default – 4% (on agri-commodities) & 3% (on non-agri commodities)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of CCIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Hare Krishna Jena | Established in – 2001

614. On March 23, National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched on pilot basis in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. Under NDHM scheme, the expenditure has been borne by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare which is Rs 11.82 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDHM is launched on pilot basis in 6 UTs
- Rs 11.82 Cr Expenditure to implement NDHM is born by – Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



615. On March 23, Dr Harsh Vardhan, in inauguration of 'World Tuberculosis Day' celebrations, awarded best performing states/UTs based on their State TBI Index. Lakshadweep (UT) and the district of Budgam (J&K) were declared TB-free. India has 30% of the world's TB cases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep & Budgam (J&K) – declared TB-free
- India has 30% of the world's TB cases

616. On March 26, Kurnool Airport - the sixth airport in Andhra Pradesh has been named after freedom fighter Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy. The new airport will enhance the reputation of Kurnool, which is designated as the judicial capital of Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kurnool Airport (6th airport in Andhra) – named after Uyyalawada Narasimha Reddy (a freedom fighter)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

617. On March 25, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs has launched Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) to scrutinise the filings by users under straight through processes. The finance minister also launched the mobile app of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA). The two initiatives aim to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Digitally empowered India'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs – launched the Central Scrutiny Centre (CSC) & IEPFA mobile App
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

618. On March 24, Tata Safari will be the Official Partner for VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL) 2021. This marks the continuation of Tata Safari with the BCCI for the fourth consecutive year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Safari – will be the Official Partner for the IPL 2021
- Title sponsor of the 14th edition of "IPL 2021" – Vivo

619. On March 25, The SEBI has relaxed norms for listing of start-ups and approved the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform. The term 'Accredited Investor' for the purpose of IGP is renamed as 'Innovators Growth Platform Investors'. SEBI has decided to reduce the period of holding of 25% of pre-issue capital of the issuer company by eligible investors to 1 year from 2 years. The regulator has also decided that threshold trigger for open offer should be relaxed from the existing 25% to 49%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – approved the framework for listing on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP)
- SEBI – to reduce the holding period of 25% of pre-issue capital by eligible investors to 1 year (from 2 years)
- Threshold trigger for open offer to be relaxed – to 49% (from 25%)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



620. On March 25, The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Oceanography (CSIR-NIO), Goa, has initiated a project for mapping the genetic diversity of organisms and the effect of micronutrients and trace metals on them in the Indian Ocean through its TraceBioMe flagship project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NIO – initiated a project for mapping the genetic diversity of organisms in the Indian Ocean
- ‘TraceBioMe’ flagship project belongs to – CSIR-NIO
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa

621. On March 26, Prahlad Singh Patel and Shivraj Singh Chouhan has inaugurated the “Chhatrasal Convention Centre” at Khajuraho developed under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism. They also launched “MICE Roadshow Meet in India” Brand and Roadmap for the Promotion of India as MICE Destination in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Chhatrasal Convention Centre” & “MICE Roadshow Meet in India” – inaugurated in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

622. On March 22, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’, a brainchild of Khandu conceptualized in line with PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Dekho Apna Desh’ campaign. The campaign is launched to promote tourism within the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arunachal Pradesh – launched ‘Dekho Apna Pradesh’ campaign to promote tourism
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

623. On March 23, Maithri Aquatech, a company formed under the ‘Make in India’ initiative has set up the “World's First Mobile Water from Air Kiosk and Water Knowledge Centre” in the smart city of Visakhapatnam. This project is set up in partnership with GVMC, USAID, and Safe Water Network (SWN) as part of their SEWAH initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maithri Aquatech – set up “World's 1st Mobile Water from Air Kiosk & Water Knowledge Centre” – in Visakhapatnam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

624. On March 26, BharatPe has launched a new lending product called “Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance” that would provide instant liquidity to distributors, wholesalers, traders and dealers. D2R would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of 7 days to 30 days. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- BharatPe – launched a new lending product called “Distributor to Retailer (D2R) Finance”
- D2R would offer collateral-free loans of up to ₹50 lakh for a period of 7 days to 30 days
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover

International Affairs

625. The Norwegian Coastal Administration (Kystverket) has proposed a plan to complete a tender process this year for the construction of the world’s first shipping tunnel in western Norway. The total value of the 1.7km tunnel project is expected to be approximately \$325m. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway – to construct world’s first shipping tunnel | Length – 1.7km | Estimated cost – \$325m
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg

626. On March 23, New Zealand’s parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth. New Zealand has become only the second country in the world to do so. India is the only other country with similar legislation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – became 2nd country to pass miscarriages bereavement leave law | 1st country – India
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern

Banking & Economic Affairs

627. On March 23, The SEBI has eased valuation rule of Perpetual Bonds. The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be 10 years until 31 March, 2022, and would be increased to 20 and 30 years over the subsequent 6-month period. From April 1, 2023, onwards, the residual maturity of AT-1 bonds will become 100 years from the date of issuance of the bonds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – eased valuation rule of ‘Perpetual Bonds’
- The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will be 10 years – until 31 March, 2022
- The residual maturity of Basel III AT-1 bonds will become 100 years – from April 1, 2023
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



628. On March 24, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched “IOB Trendy”, a savings account customized for the growing millennial population in India by keeping their banking preferences in mind. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Overseas Bank – launched “IOB Trendy” - a customized savings account for millennial population
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta

629. On March 24, ICICI Bank is the first in India to introduce instant EMI facility called “EMI @ Internet Banking” on its internet banking platform. The Bank has tied up with BillDesk and Razorpay, leading online payment gateway companies to offer this facility. It enables customers to convert their high-value transactions up to Rs. 5 lakh into easy monthly installments (EMIs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – the 1st in India to introduce instant EMI facility called “EMI @ Internet Banking”
- ICICI Bank tied up with – BillDesk & Razorpay for this facility | EMIs for high-value transactions up to – Rs 5 lakh
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

630. On March 25, YES Bank has launched “YES Essence Plus” - a unique accelerator program to support women-led startups in partnership with SHEROES, the women-only social network. Over a 10-week period, the cohort startups will receive customised training through virtual workshops conducted by industry experts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + SHEROES = partnership to launch “YES Essence Plus” - a unique accelerator program to support women
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

631. On March 25, Niyox has launched “Niyox” - a mobile banking solution for millennials in partnership with Equitas Small Finance Bank and Visa. Niyox is aiming to on-board 2 million customers by the end of 2021. Addressing the banking needs of millennials, the Niyox is offering 007 banking’s features. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niyox + Equitas SFB + Visa = partnership to launch “Niyox” - a mobile banking solution
- HQs of Niyox – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Vinay Bagri
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

632. On March 25, The Supreme Court of India has rejected the plea for further extension of the 6-month loan moratorium scheme that was issued by RBI. A bench headed by Justice Ashok Bhushan had reserved its verdict on these pleas on December 17, 2020. The Centre had waived the compound interest charged on certain categories of loans up to Rs 2 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The SC rejected the plea for further extension of the 6-month Loan Moratorium Scheme – issued by RBI
- The Centre waived the compound interest charged on certain categories of loans up to – Rs 2 Cr
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

633. On March 26, Karnataka Bank and IIFL Securities Limited have partnered to introduce “KBL Smart Trade”, a facility under which all Karnataka Bank customers can access IIFL Securities Demat and Trading account solution for their capital market needs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank + IIFL Securities Ltd = partnership to introduce “KBL Smart Trade”
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S.
- HQs of IIFL Securities Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Nirmal Jain

Defence Affairs

634. On March 17, The US Navy will hold Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise alongside Belgium, France and Japan in the Mideast amid tensions over Iran’s nuclear programme in the region. The Exercise will see ships from 4 countries conduct drills in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US Navy – will hold Group Arabian Sea Warfare Exercise (alongside Belgium, France & Japan)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

635. On March 24, L&T-built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Vajra was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff, at Chennai, Tamil Nadu. ICGS Vajra is the 6th vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T under a Ministry of Defence contract signed in the year 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS Vajra – commissioned into service at Chennai, TN
- ICGS Vajra – 6th vessel in the series of seven OPVs being built by L&T
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

636. On March 25, In a first, the navies of India and Madagascar undertook joint patrolling of Madagascar’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and also conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the western Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The INS Shardul and Malagasy Naval Ship Trozona undertook the patrol. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Madagascar = conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) – in western IOR
- INS Shardul & Malagasy Naval Ship Trozona – participated in the patrol
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina



Schemes & Initiatives

637. On March 23, Irfan Ali, a 25-year-old man from Bihar's Gopalganj district, has received the 10th Cr card under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10 Cr cards – issued under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
- Irfan Ali ([Bihar](#)) – received 10th Cr card under AB-PMJAY

638. On March 23, The Uttar Pradesh government will start the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme for poor people living in cities. The ARHC scheme has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under 'Self-reliant India' campaign. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to start the Affordable Rental Housing and Complexes (ARHC) scheme
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Sports & Games

639. On March 17, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has extended "Khelo India Scheme" from 2021-22 to 2025-26. An amount of Rs 8750 Cr has been estimated as financial implication of the new Khelo India Scheme. An amount of Rs 657.71 Cr has been allocated in the Budget Estimate (B.E.) for the year 2021-22 under the Khelo India Scheme. The first Khelo India Games were held in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – extended "Khelo India Scheme" to 2025-26 (from 2021-22)
- Rs 657.71 Cr – allocated in the Budget Estimate for FY22 under 'Khelo India Scheme'
- The first Khelo India Games were held – in 2018
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West

640. Manish Narwal has clinched the Gold medal in the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 event at the "2021 Para Shooting World Cup". This was India's second gold medal in the event after Singhraj claimed the yellow metal in P1 men's 10m air pistol SH1 event. India has bagged 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) & finished at 3rd Position in the "2021 Para Shooting World Cup". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India bagged 7 medals (2 Gold, 1 Silver & 4 Bronze) & stood at 3rd Position in "2021 Para Shooting World Cup"
- Manish Narwal & Singhraj ([Para Shooters](#)) – clinched Gold medals



641. On March 25, Sports Minister Kiren Rijju has included 'Yogasana' in "Khelo India Youth Games 2021" in a bid to develop it as a competitive sport. An International Yogasana Sports Federation was formed under the presidentship of yoga guru Baba Ramdev with HR Nagendra as secretary general in November 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – included 'Yogasana' in "Khelo India Youth Games 2021"
- President of International Yogasana Sports Federation – Baba Ramdev | Formed in – 2019
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West

642. On March 25, The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay has kicked off in Fukushima, Japan. It will travel through all of the country's 47 prefectures over the next 121 days before arriving in Tokyo for the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony on July 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Tokyo 2020 Olympic Torch Relay" started from – Fukushima, Japan
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

643. India Legends emerged champions in the 1st edition of the "Road Safety World Series T20" after defeating Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs in the final. Total 7 countries had participated in the series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Legends – won the 1st edition of the "Road Safety World Series T20" (defeating Sri Lanka Legends)
- Total 7 countries participated in the series

644. On March 26, DY Patil Stadium (Navi Mumbai), TransStadia (Ahmedabad) and Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar) have been finalised as the three venues for the "2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament" to be hosted by India. India is also scheduled to host the next edition of the "FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup in 2022". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The "2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup football tournament" – to be hosted by India
- 3 venues: DY Patil Stadium (Navi Mumbai), TransStadia (Ahmedabad) and Kalinga Stadium (Bhubaneswar)
- India will also host the "FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup in 2022"
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino



Important Days & Dates

645. World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed each year on March 24 to raise awareness amongst the public about the debilitating health, social as well as economic consequences of tuberculosis. March 24 also marks the day on which Dr Robert Koch announced in 1881 that he had made the discovery of the bacterium which causes TB. This year the theme is “The Clock is Ticking”. India has set a target to end Tuberculosis by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day | Theme – “The Clock is Ticking”
- India’s Target to end Tuberculosis – by 2025

646. On March 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has greeted the Assam Rifles personnel and their families on the occasion of the 186th Raising Day of Assam Rifles. Raised in 1835 as the Cachar Levy, the Assam Rifles now is the oldest paramilitary force in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – 186th Raising Day of Assam Rifles
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | Founded in – 1835 | Motto: “Sentinels of the North East”

647. The “International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members” was observed across the globe on 25th March. According to UN data, as of 15 March, 20 United Nations personnel are in detention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – “International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members” – by UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

648. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery is celebrated every year on March 25. The theme for this year is “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery – by UN
- Theme – “Ending Slavery’s Legacy of Racism: A Global Imperative for Justice”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

649. On March 24, the U.N. has marked the “International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims”. It is a day designated to honor the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and promote the importance of the right to truth and justice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – Int. Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations & for Dignity of Victims
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres



650. World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on March 27th by ITI centers and the international theatre community. World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute ITI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – World Theatre Day (since 1961)
- HQs of ITI – Paris, France | Director-General of ITI – Tobias Biancone

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

651. On March 23, Sanjay Dhotre has represented India at the “World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021” that represents one of the world’s largest annual gathering of the ‘ICT for development’ community. It is co-organized by International Telecommunications Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre – represented India at the “World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2021”
- It is co-organized by = ITU + UNESCO + UNDP + UNCTAD

652. On March 24, India and the U.S. have agreed to re-establish the “US-India Homeland Security Dialogue”. The first Homeland Security Dialogue between the two countries was held in 2011 when Janet Napolitano, Barack Obama’s DHS Secretary visited New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = to re-establish the “Homeland Security Dialogue” (the 1st dialogue was held in 2011)
- India’s Ambassador to the US – Taranjit Singh Sandhu
- US Defence Secretary – Lloyd Austin
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

653. On March 23, The Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi as a part of the 116th meeting of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). The IWT was signed in 1960. Pakistan raised objections on the 1000MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project built over Marusudar river. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 116th meeting of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) – held between India & Pakistan
- Pakistan raised objections on the 1000MW Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project (built over Marusudar river)
- The IWT was signed in – 1960
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

654. On March 23, Esaf Small Finance Bank has been awarded “Great Place to Work” certification by the Great Place to Work Institute. This recognition acknowledges the bank’s commitment and credibility amongst its employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Esaf SFB – awarded “Great Place to Work” certification
- HQs of Esaf SFB – Thrissur, kerala | MD & CEO – K. Paul Thomas

655. On March 24, Well known Hindi writer Prof Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious “Vyas Samman - 2020” for his novel “Patliputru Ki Samragi”. The Vyas Samman, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sharad Pagare – to be conferred with “Vyas Samman - 2020” for his novel ‘Patliputru Ki Samragi’
- Vyas Samman is given by – K. K. Birla Foundation | It was started in – 1991 | Given for – Literary work in Hindi

656. On March 24, With a wealth of Rs 44,270 Cr, Mangal Prabhat Lodha of Macrotech Developers (Lodha Group) topped the list of richest real estate tycoons for the fourth year in a row. According to “GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020”, his wealth has increased by 39% in 2020. He was followed by Rajiv Singh of DLF at second and Chandru Raheja & family at third. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “GROHE Hurun India Real Estate Rich List 2020”
- 1st – Mangal Prabhat Lodha (Macrotech Developers - Lodha Group)
- 2nd – Rajiv Singh (DLF)
- 3rd – Chandru Raheja & family (K Raheja)

657. The Maharashtra government has announced that singer Asha Bhosle has been selected for the “Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2020”, the State government’s highest honour. The award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation. The award was instituted in 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Asha Bhosle – selected for the “Maharashtra Bhushan Award for 2020”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

658. On March 25, HDFC Bank was adjudged the ‘India’s Best Bank for SMEs’ at the “Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021” for the transformation of its MSME business over the past few years. Kotak Mahindra Bank was awarded with the award for Best Domestic bank while DBS Bank was awarded with Best International bank and Best corporate & investment bank 2021. Axis Bank was adjudged Best Digital bank. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Asiamoney Best Bank Awards 2021”

Bank	Award Category
HDFC Bank	India’s Best Bank for SMEs
Kotak Mahindra Bank	Best Domestic bank
DBS Bank	Best International bank Best Corporate & Investment bank
Axis Bank	Best Digital bank

659. On March 23, Kerala’s Tuberculosis Eradication Programme has won National Honour as the state bagged the Union government's award for reducing the prevalence of the disease through various systematic initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala’s Tuberculosis Eradication Programme – won National Honour from Union government
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

660. On March 23, A team of four undergraduate students from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-K) emerged as winners at the “CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0”. It was sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield, KI and IA: Interior Architects. The team will be awarded \$5,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A team from IIT Kharagpur – won the “CoreNet Global Academic Challenge 6.0” | Prize - \$5,000
- It will be sponsored by – Cushman & Wakefield + KI & IA: Interior Architects

Appointments & Resignations

661. On March 24, Despite an ongoing economic crisis in the Republic of Congo, the country's veteran President Denis Sassou Nguesso has been reelected with more than 88% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denis Sassou Nguesso – reelected as the President of Republic of Congo
- Republic of Congo – Brazzaville – CFA franc | President – Denis Sassou Nguesso

662. On March 25, Senior bureaucrat Saurbah Garg has been appointed as the CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Sanjeev Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI). And Atish Chandra will be Chairman and Managing Director of Food Corporation of India. There are a total of 22 bureaucrats who have been appointed to different ministries as part of this reshuffle effected by the Centre. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Saurbah Garg – appointed as the CEO of UIDAI (HQs – New Delhi)
- Sanjeev Kumar – appointed as the Chairman of AAI (HQs – New Delhi)
- Atish Chandra – appointed as the MD & Chairman of FCI (HQs – New Delhi)

Amount & Agreements

663. On March 25, Tata Cleantech Capital has secured a 10-billion-yen loan agreement from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for offering loans to Indian firms focusing on clean energy projects. Under the Paris Agreement, India has committed to cut greenhouse gas emissions intensity of its GDP by 33-35% by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Cleantech Capital + JICA = 10-billion-yen loan agreement to finance Clean Energy Projects
- HQs of Tata Cleantech Capital – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajiv Sabharwal
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

664. On March 23, Every person may have to live on less water as per capita reservoir capacity is decreasing globally, according to the United Nations World Water Development report titled “Valuing Water” released on March 22, which is also observed as World Water Day. While the world population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2040, the projected reservoir volume seemed to be stabilising to be around 7,000 billion cubic metre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- United Nations World Water Development report titled “Valuing Water” – released by UNESCO
- The world population is expected to reach 9 billion – by 2040
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- HQs of UN-Water – Geneva Switzerland | Chair – Gilbert Houngbo

665. On March 23, A proposal has been initiated by National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Ministry of Earth Sciences to estimate thickness of Himalayan glaciers using Airborne Radar Surveys in collaboration with established Indian researchers in India and abroad. A pilot study is proposed in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will estimate thickness of Himalayan glaciers using Airborne Radar Surveys
- A pilot study will be done – in Lahaul-Spiti basin of Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya



666. On March 23, According to the report titled “India: Transforming to a Net-zero Emissions Energy System” by TERI and Shell, India needs a suitable policy and innovation driven context to reach a Net-zero Emissions Energy System by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India: Transforming to a Net-zero Emissions Energy System” report – by TERI & Shell
- Target to reach a Net-zero Emissions Energy System in India – by 2050
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur | Established in – 1974
- HQs of Shell – Hague, Netherlands | CEO – Ben van Beurden

667. On March 23, India has ranked 40 among 53 global economies scoring 38.4 out of 100 in the 9th edition of the “International Intellectual Property (IP) Index” released by the US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC). The index was topped by the US with 95.31% score followed by the UK & Germany. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “International Intellectual Property (IP) Index” – released by the US Chamber of Commerce GIPC
- India – 40th | 1st – US | 2nd – UK | 3rd – Germany

668. On March 23, Himachal Pradesh has achieved the first rank in India among states with a population of more than 50 lakh, in the Tuberculosis Elimination Programme. The state is aimed to wipe out tuberculosis by 2030. But the nation is committed to ending TB by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – achieved the 1st rank in “Tuberculosis Elimination Programme” in India
- HP’s target to end TB by – 2030
- India’s target to end TB by – 2025
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

669. On March 23, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Lt. Governor Admiral D. K. Joshi has declared that the UT has achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage in Islands. Andaman and Nicobar Islands becomes the 3rd state/UT in India to achieve the target after Goa and Telangana under Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andaman and Nicobar Islands – achieved 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) coverage in Islands
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

670. The IUCN cited data showing that the populations of Africa’s Savanna Elephants found in a variety of habitats had decreased by at least 60% over the last 50 years while the number of African Forest Elephant decreased by 86% over 31 years. Savanna Elephant was listed as ‘Endangered’ and African Forest Elephant was listed as ‘Critically endangered’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IUCN Red List: Savanna Elephant – ‘Endangered’ & African Forest Elephant – ‘Critically Endangered’
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinheng Zhang



Acquisitions & Mergers

671. On March 23, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) will acquire 58.1% stake in Gangavaram Port Ltd (GPL) for ₹3,604 Cr which is held by D.V.S. Raju and family. With this acquisition, firm will have 89.6% stake in Gangavaram Port. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APSEZ – will acquire 58.1% stake (₹3,604 Cr) in “Gangavaram Port Ltd” – held by D.V.S. Raju & family
- Total share of APSEZ in Gangavaram Port after this acquisition – 89.6%
- HQs of APSEZ – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Karan Adani
- Gangavaram Port – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

672. On March 24, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has signed an agreement to purchase 100% stake in Toronto-headquartered SkyPower Global's 50MW solar power project in Telangana. AGEL has a portfolio of 14.9GW of operating, under-construction and awarded projects – the highest in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AGEL – acquired 100% stake in 50 MW Telangana Solar Power Project of SkyPower Global (Toronto, Canada)
- HQs of AGEL – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S Jaain
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

673. On March 24, The government will dilute 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) via an offer for sale to raise nearly Rs 750 Cr. Offer for Sale in RVNL opened for Non Retail investors. Government would divest 10% equity with a 5% Green Shoe option. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will dilute 15% stake in Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd to raise Rs 750 Cr
- HQs of RVNL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Pradeep Gaur

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

674. On March 19, TRIFED and Arunachal Pradesh have signed an MoU for the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana in Arunachal Pradesh. Under this agreement, 100 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are planned to be set-up in the state this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Arunachal Pradesh = an MoU for the Implementation of MSP for MFP Scheme & Van Dhan Yojana
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra



675. On March 23, The Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Cooperation signed between India and Japan. It aims at achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability in water resources development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = a MoC in the field of water & delta management for achieving water security
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

676. On March 23, The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of an MoU between the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and the Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC) of Afghanistan to share experience on modern approach to public service recruitment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UPSC + IARCSC (Afghanistan) = an MoU to share experience on modern approach to public service recruitment
- HQs of UPSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Josh
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

677. The Consulate General of India in South Africa has partnered with Uttar Pradesh to boost tourism to India post COVID-19, highlighting the state's various religious sites and other attractions. A large number of the descendants of the first Indians had arrived in South Africa from 1860 onwards came from UP and Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Consulate General of India in South Africa + Uttar Pradesh = partnership to boost tourism to India post COVID-19
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

678. On March 25, Thermax Babcock & Wilcox Energy Solutions Private Ltd (TBWES), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thermax, has recently signed a know-how transfer and license agreement with Steinmuller Babcock Environment GmbH (SBE), Germany for Waste to Energy technology. As a part of the agreement, TBWES will design, engineer, manufacture, and sell Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) fired waste to SBE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TBWES + SBE (Germany) = a know-how transfer and license agreement for Waste to Energy technology
- HQs of Thermax – Pune, India | CEO of TBWES – Pravin Karve



Books & Authors

679. Indian author Jeet Thayil has a new book titled “Names of the Women” coming out this year. The book talks about the women whose roles were suppressed, reduced, or erased in the Gospels. He is a renowned author, best known for his book “Narcopolis” which was shortlisted for the “Man Booker Prize 2012” and won the “DSC Prize” for South Asian Literature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Names of the Women” – authored by Jeet Thayil
- Jeet Thayil – received “Man Booker Prize 2012” – for his “Narcopolis” | “DSC Prize” for South Asian Literature

680. A new book titled “Escaped: True stories of Indian Fugitives in London” is authored by Danish Khan and Ruhi Khan. The book on some high-profile, as well as lesser-known Indian extradition cases, attempts to decode why the UK is considered a safe haven for those wanting to escape the law in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Escaped: True stories of Indian Fugitives in London” – authored by Danish Khan & Ruhi Khan ([London](#))

681. Actor Samir Soni will come out with his debut book later in 2021. “My Experiments with Silence” is slated to be published by OM Books International. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “My Experiments with Silence” book – authored by Samir Soni

682. Namit Arora has authored a book “Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization”. There are chapters on six places: Dholavira, Nagarjunakonda, Nalanda, Khajuraho, Hampi and Varanasi. There are five chapters on travelers: Megasthenes, Faxian, Xuanzang and Yijing, Alberuni, Marco Polo and Francois Bernier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indians: A Brief History of a Civilization” book – authored by Namit Arora

683. Vivek Wadhwa, Ismail Amla & Alex Salkever have co-authored a book titled “From Incremental To Exponential: How Large Companies Can See the Future and Rethink Innovation”. A wealth of checklists, tips, and examples of business innovation is featured in the new book.

Key Points:

- “From Incremental To Exponential: How Large Companies Can See the Future and Rethink Innovation”
- Co-authors – Vivek Wadhwa, Ismail Amla & Alex Salkever

684. HarperCollins India is proud to announce the upcoming publication of journalist turned filmmaker, Vinod Kapri’s compelling book, “1232 km: A Long Journey Home”, a true account of human grief, grit, and gumption, which will release in May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1232 km: A Long Journey Home” book – Vinod Kapri



Obituaries

685. On March 23, AIADMK Rajya Sabha member and former Minister A. Mohammedjan has died of heart attack at his residence in Ranipet. He was 72. He was elected chairman of Ranipet Municipality in 1996 and 2001. He was also chairman of Tamil Nadu Wakf Board. He was elected as Rajya Sabha member in July 2019 from Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. Mohammedjan – a Politician – passed away (Party – AIADMK | RS member from – Tamil Nadu)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

686. On March 26, Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker has passed away in Mumbai. He was 74. He was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival, held in November every year. He had been a columnist and writer, an architect, a member of the advisory committee of the film censor board and more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Dharker – a Journalist & Author – passed away

687. On March 23, Adam Zagajewski, one of Poland's greatest poets has passed away. He was 75. Zagajewski's poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" was published in the New Yorker magazine and it came to symbolise the world's sense of shock and loss after the September 11 attacks in the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adam Zagajewski (Poland) – a Poet – passed away
- "Try to Praise the Mutilated World" poem – by Adam Zagajewski
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastin Duda

Person in News

688. Afghan foreign minister Mohammad Haneef Atmar has arrived in New Delhi for a 3-day visit on March 22. Atmar will hold talks with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and other senior officials during the visit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Haneef Atmar (Foreign Minister of Afghanistan) – arrived in New Delhi (India) for a 3-day visit
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani



689. On March 25, Chief Justice of India S. A. Bobde has officially recommended the second most senior Judge of the Supreme Court, Justice N. V. Ramana, as his successor. Ramana will take over from CJI Bobde, who is due to demit office on April 23, and serve as the the 48th Chief Justice of India till August 26, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chief Justice S. A. Bobde – recommended the name of “Justice N. V. Ramana” as his successor (48th CJI)

690. The Ministry of AYUSH has set up an Interdisciplinary Team of experts to explore the potential of Yoga as a productivity enhancing tool for the population. The committee is chaired by H. R Nagendra (Chancellor of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH Ministry set up Interdisciplinary Team of experts to explore potential of Yoga
- The committee is chaired by – H. R Nagendra
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

Science & Technology

691. The study led by researchers from city-based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) has discovered a new diatom species called “Epithemia Agharkarii” named after S P Agharkar. It was found in Mula river, Pune, Maharashtra. Diatoms are single-celled algae. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARI researchers discovered a new diatom species “Epithemia Agharkarii” – in Mula river, Pune, Maharashtra
- HQs of ARI – Pune, MH | Founder Director – Shankar Purushottam Agharkar | Founded in – 1946
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

692. Russia has successfully launched “Soyuz-2.1” carrier rocket with 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries into orbit from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Among them was the ‘Challenge-1’, the first satellite made completely in Tunisia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia successfully launched “Soyuz-2.1” carrier rocket – in Kazakhstan (with 38 foreign satellites from 18 countries)
- ‘Challenge-1’ – the 1st indigenous satellite of Tunisia
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Hichem Mechichi



693. On March 23, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300m for the first time. The demonstration included live videoconferencing using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – demonstrated free-space quantum communication over a distance of 300m
- The demonstration is done using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

694. On March 23, IISc Bengaluru signed a Research & Development pact with Applied Materials India to explore applications of advanced materials. Applied Materials India has joined the Industry Affiliate Program (IAP) of the Centre for Nanoscience and Engineering (CeNSE), IISc Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc Bengaluru + Applied Materials India = signed a pact to explore applications of advanced materials
- HQs of Applied Materials India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | President – Srinivas Satya

695. On March 24, Google and Microsoft have partnered to fix compatibility issues in their browsers. The cross-browser effort named “#Compact2021” aims to eliminate compatibility problems in five key focus areas such as CSS Flexbox, CSS Grid, and others. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + Microsoft = partnership to fix compatibility issues in their browsers
- The name of cross-browser effort – “#Compact2021”
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

696. North Korea has fired two Ballistic Missiles into sea, the first such test reported since US President Joe Biden took office in January. North Korea’s ballistic missiles are banned under United Nations Security Council Resolutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- North Korea – fired two Ballistic Missiles into sea
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

697. On March 26, Researchers from the NASA and University of Hyderabad (UoH) have jointly discovered a novel species of bacteria from the International Space Station (ISS) that could help in space agriculture to meet the long-term food needs of astronauts and space tourists to the moon or Mars. “Methylobacterium Ajmalii”, has been found to bust stress that plants undergo in zero gravity in space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA + UoH = jointly discovered “Methylobacterium Ajmalii” a novel species of bacteria from the ISS
- It is named after – Seyed Ajmal Khan
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958



698. On March 26, Pakistan has successfully test-fired “Shaheen-1A” - a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 900 kilometres. It was aimed at re-validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system including advanced navigation system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired “Shaheen-1A” - a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile
- Range of the missile – 900 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

699. On March 23, Lok Sabha has passed the “National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021” to amend the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991”. The Bill amends certain powers and responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly and the Lieutenant Governor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha – passed the “National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2021” to amend the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991”
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

700. On March 22, Lok Sabha has passed the “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill-2021”, which is proposed to replace the “Lighthouse Act, 1927”. India has 195 lighthouses now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lok Sabha passed “Marine Aids to Navigation Bill-2021” – to replace “Lighthouse Act, 1927”
- India has 195 lighthouses





SmartKeeda

The Question Bank

Presents

TestZone

India's least priced Test Series platform



ALL BANK EXAMS

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

₹ 599/-

300+ Full Length Tests

- Brilliant Test Analysis
- Excellent Content
- Unmatched Explanations

JOIN NOW

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



Join us