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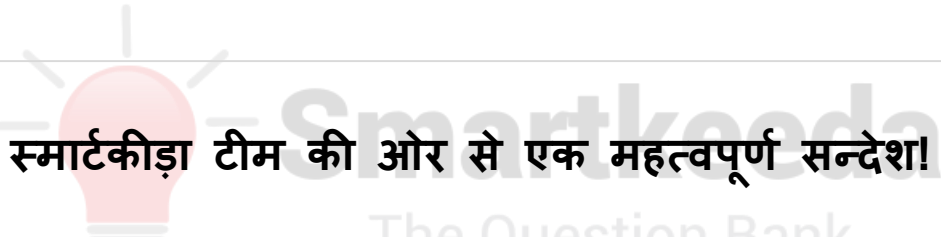
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

701. On March 26, In the presence of Prakash Javadekar, an MoU was signed by State Pollution Control Boards, Urban Local Bodies and Institutes of Repute for 132 identified cities for implementation of City Specific Action Plans under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The NCAP's target is to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 132 cities are selected to implement City Specific Action Plans – under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- NCAP's target: To achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) concentrations – by 2024

702. On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, India and Bangladesh are together making a film titled “Bangabandhu” - directed by the renowned film director Shyam Benegal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India & Bangladesh are together making a film titled “Bangabandhu”
- Film Director – Shyam Benegal
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

703. On March 23, Odisha is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's first ever visit to the state. On the occasion, Union Minister Sanjay Dhotre has digitally released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of the first visit of Gandhiji to Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha is celebrating the 100th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's first ever visit to the state
- Sanjay Dhotre – released a commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of the 1st visit of Gandhiji to Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

704. On March 24, Genome Sequencing by INSACOG shows variants of concern and a Novel variant in India. The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) is a grouping of 10 National Laboratories that was established by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 25 December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INSACOG is a grouping of 10 National Laboratories – established by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- INSACOG – Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics

705. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched “Dial 112” Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) wherein people can call the toll-free number for all emergency services including police, fire and health. The state government has allocated Rs 157.12 Cr for the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched “Dial 112” Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
- Rs 157.12 Cr allocated for the project
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



706. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) will assist states and union territories to prepare an 'Annual Export Ranking Index' of different districts to rank each district on its export competitiveness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGFT – to assist states & UTs to prepare an 'Annual Export Ranking Index' of different districts
- DGFT comes under – “Ministry of Commerce & Industry” (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DGFT – New Delhi | Director General – Amit Yadav

707. On March 27, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered the first 500 Pax passenger-cum-150-tonne cargo vessel Sindhu to the Andaman and Nicobar administration. The ship delivered is part of a series of 4 passenger vessels comprising two 500 Pax and two 1,200 Pax at a total order value of about ₹1,400 Cr under the 'Make in India' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard – delivered 1st 500 Pax passenger-cum-150-tonne Cargo Vessel 'Sindhu' – to Andaman & Nicobar
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

708. On March 24, The State Assembly of Odisha has passed a unanimous resolution for incorporation of word “Ahimsa” (Non-violence) in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – passed a resolution for inclusion of word “Ahimsa” (Non-violence) in the Preamble of Indian Constitution
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

709. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Union Minister of Education, has launched a competency-based Assessment Framework for the CBSE students of class 6-10 based on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The assessment aims to improve the overall learning outcomes of students mainly covering three subjects - English (reading), Science, and Maths. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – launched a competency-based Assessment Framework for CBSE students of classes 6-10
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

710. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Defence of Republic of Korea Mr Suh Wook have jointly inaugurated the first of its kind “India-Korea Friendship Park” in New Delhi. India and South Korea have agreed to go for joint production and export of military hardware. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh + Suh Wook = inaugurated the first of its kind “India-Korea Friendship Park” in New Delhi
- India + South Korea = agreed to go for joint production & export of Military Hardware
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in



711. The Supreme Court has rejected a plea for a stay on the issue of a fresh round of Electoral Bonds from April 1 to 10. Electoral bonds are available in the denomination of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakhs & Rs 1 Cr with No Maximum purchase limit. SBI is authorized to issue these bonds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The SC rejected a plea for a stay on the issue of a fresh round of Electoral Bonds
- Denominations of Electoral Bonds: Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakhs & Rs 1 Cr
- Authorized bank to issue the bonds – SBI

712. On March 28, The Centre has planned to issue a 14-digit identification number named Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) to every plot of land in India within a year's time. The ULPIN scheme has been launched in 10 States this year and will be rolled out across India by March 2022. This is the next step in the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) which began in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre planned to issue a 14-digit "Unique Land Parcel Identification Number" (ULPIN) to every plot of land
- ULPIN scheme has been launched in 10 States & will be launched across India by – March 2022
- Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) launched – in 2008

713. On March 28, Uttar Pradesh government will introduce a 'Happiness Curriculum' as a pilot project from this academic session. To be called 'Realisation Curriculum', it would be introduced in Mathura schools this session onwards. The happiness curriculum was first introduced by the Delhi government in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to introduce a 'Happiness Curriculum' also called 'Realisation Curriculum' – in Mathura schools
- 'Happiness Curriculum' was first introduced by Delhi in 2018
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

714. Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru became the first in south India to have Operational Parallel Runways. It was closed for renovation and upgrades in June 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kempegowda International Airport (Bengaluru) – 1st in south India to have Operational Parallel Runways
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar

715. HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd (HMEL) has become the first Indian company to buy oil from Guyana. India is the world's third-largest crude importer. HMEL has bought the 1 million-barrel cargo of Guyana's Liza light sweet crude. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HPCL-Mittal Energy – became the first Indian company to buy oil from Guyana
- India – world's 3rd largest crude importer
- Guyana – Georgetown – Guyanese Dollar | President – Irfaan Ali
- HQs of HMEL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Prabh Das



716. On March 30, Bihar is set to become India's first state to have two Green Energy efficient towns in Rajgir and Bodh Gaya. The towns will start getting Solar Energy through the first of its kind Renewable Energy project from 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – to become India's 1st state to have 2 Green Energy efficient towns – in Rajgir & Bodh Gaya
- The towns will start getting Solar Energy – from 2023
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

717. On March 30, A 104 feet tall flag mast hoisting the National Flag was inaugurated by Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad at the Mahatma Gandhi Marg in Gangtok. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 104 feet tall flag mast hoisting the National Flag was inaugurated – in Gangtok, Sikkim
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

718. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified “ICEGATE portal” or Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway as the common customs electronic portal for all customs related documentation and duty payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC notified “ICEGATE” or Indian Customs & Central Excise EC/EDI Gateway as common customs Electronic Portal
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar | Founded in – 1964

719. The Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) has revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal. The upgraded portal offers single IEM for one company to capture details of all its locations and sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT – revamped its Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEM) portal
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

International Affairs

720. The United States has notified that India has been added to the list of countries that have been affected by ‘African swine fever’, imposing restrictions on the import of pork and pork products from the country. India’s export of pork and related items to the U.S. in 2020 was \$5,00,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. adds India to list of countries affected by ‘African Swine Fever’ – imposing restrictions on the import of pork
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



721. Israel has recently held its 4th parliamentary election in two years, the product of protracted political deadlock and disagreement over longtime leader Benjamin Netanyahu's fitness to rule while facing corruption charges. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel recently held its 4th parliamentary election in 2 years
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

722. The third phase of the Indian beamline project was initiated on March 23, 2021, with special focus on industrial application research. It is a facility for materials research set up under India-Japan Scientific and Technological Cooperation. This India-Japan Scientific and Technological Cooperation project was initiated in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The third phase of the Indian beamline project was initiated – in Japan
- India-Japan S & T Cooperation project was initiated – in 2007
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

723. PM Narendra Modi has visited Bangladesh from 26 to 27 March 2021 to join the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Independence of Bangladesh. Government of India announced 1000 'Shuborno Jayanti Scholarships' (Swarna Jayanti scholarship) for Bangladeshi students for pursuing education/courses in India. To mark the 50th anniversary of India-Bangladesh friendship, both sides released respective commemorative postage stamps. Russia collaborated with India to establish "Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant" which is the 1st Nuclear Power Plant of Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi visited Bangladesh – to join the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Independence of Bangladesh
- India announced 1000 'Swarna Jayanti scholarship' for Bangladeshi students for pursuing education in India
- 1st Nuclear Power Plant of Bangladesh – "Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant" – to be established by India & Russia
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

724. On March 30, Swedish automaker Volvo Cars has announced to give its 40,000 employees worldwide the right to 6-month paid parental leave in a bid to increase gender equality and attract talent. As of April 1, employees who have worked for the carmaker for at least one year will be entitled to the benefit at 80% of their salary. The policy is based on Sweden's national parental leave policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Volvo Cars – to give its 40,000 employees worldwide the right to 6-month paid parental leave
- HQs of Volvo Group – Gothenburg, Sweden | CEO – Martin Lundstedt



725. On March 30, Iceland witnessed the awakening of a volcano near its capital Reykjavik, for the first time in 900 years. Streams of Red Lava bubbled and flowed out of a fissure in a valley in Geldingadalur, close to Mount Fagradalsfjall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iceland witnessed the awakening of a volcano for the first time in 900 years
- Mount Fagradalsfjall – located in Iceland
- Iceland – Reykjavik – Krona | President – Guoni Th. Johannesson

Banking & Economic Affairs

726. The RBI has set a deadline of March 31 for firms to submit their applications for setting up New Umbrella Entities (NUEs). As envisaged by the RBI, an NUE will be a non-profit entity that will set-up, manage and operate new payment systems, especially in the retail space such as ATMs, white-label PoS; Aadhaar-based payments and remittance services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI set a deadline for firms to submit their applications to set up New Umbrella Entities (NUEs) – by March 31
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

727. On March 22, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹15 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina), Mumbai, for non-compliance with certain provisions of the RBI's directions on monitoring of frauds. Fedfina is a subsidiary of Federal Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹15 lakh on – Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina)
- HQs of Fedbank Financial Services Ltd (Fedfina) – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anil Kothuri
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

728. On March 26, Union Bank of India has launched “UNI - CARBON CARD”, a Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) co-branded credit card on the Rupay platform of NPCI. This co-branded credit card is a Bank's maiden joint venture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HPCL co-branded the contactless credit card “UNI - CARBON CARD” – launched by UBI
- HQs of HPCL – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Chairperson – Mukesh Kumar Surana
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”



729. On March 24, As per the Reserve Bank of India's new guidelines on amalgamation of two or more UCBs, A uni-State Urban Co-operative Bank (UCB) can metamorphose into a multi-State UCB through amalgamation with a uni-State bank registered in another State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released new guidelines on amalgamation of two or more Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

730. On March 26, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended restrictions on withdrawals and deposits in the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank till 30 June, 2021. The RBI had imposed restrictions on PMC Bank in September 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended restrictions on withdrawals & deposits in the PMC Bank – till 30 June
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Administrator – A. K. Dixit
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

731. While attending the 6th annual meeting of Board of Governors of NDB, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that India is going to set up a new 'Development Financial Institution' with initial paid-up capital of around \$3 billion with a lending target of \$69 billion in next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to set up a new 'Development Financial Institution' with initial paid-up capital of around \$3 billion
- India's lending target – \$69 billion in next 3 years

732. On March 26, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has capped the volume of transactions via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) on Third Party App Providers (TPAPs) at 30%. This will be with effect from January 1, 2021. And the Providers have to comply with the market cap norms on UPI until December 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI capped the volume of transactions via UPI on Third Party Apps – at 30%
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

733. On March 30, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has partnered with nStore to digitise offline retailers and small businesses in India. Under this partnership, the lender will offer a mobile application "nLincs" to its current account holders who own local businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB + nStore = to take local kirana stores online with this new app "nLincs"
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh
- HQs of nStore – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Pradeep Sampath



734. On March 30, RBL Bank has tied-up with Tide India, a UK-based banking fintech, to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SME segment. Tide India aims to acquire 25,000 customers in the first year of the launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Tide India = tie up to provide banking infrastructure for Tide's India platform focused on the SMEs
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja

Defence Affairs

735. French multinational Naval exercise "La Perouse" was scheduled from 5 to 7 April 2021 in the Bay of Bengal. Post conduct of La Perouse, the Indo-French Naval exercise "Varuna" is scheduled in the Western Indian Ocean, wherein UAE too shall be participating. It is for the first time that Indian warships shall be participating in La Perouse exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naval exercise "La Perouse" – in the Bay of Bengal (India participated for the first time)
- Naval exercise "Varuna" – in the Western Indian Ocean

736. On March 29, India and the US has begun a two-day Passage Exercise 'PASSEX' in Bay of Bengal (Eastern Indian Ocean Region). Indian Navy's Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft 'P8I' participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with US Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + US = began a 2-day Passage Exercise 'PASSEX' in Bay of Bengal
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

737. Troops from Pune-headquartered Southern Command of the Indian Army have launched "Operation Thiruvallur" in Tamil Nadu for the safe disposal of at least 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance collected from the industrial sector in Thiruvallur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Southern Command of the Indian Army – launched "Operation Thiruvallur" in Tamil Nadu
- HQs of Southern Command – Pune, MH | Current commander – Jai Singh Nain
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



Schemes & Initiatives

738. On March 26, Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched “Tribal TB Initiative” in pursuit of TB Mukta Bharat by 2025. He also announced that government accords top priority to ensuring Universal Access to free treatment and care for TB across the country. Dr Harsh Vardhan has also announced to link the ‘NIKSHAY’ Portal of MoHFW & ‘Swasthya’ Portal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched “Tribal TB Initiative” – in pursuit of TB Mukta Bharat
- Dr Harsh Vardhan – announced to link the ‘NIKSHAY’ Portal of MoHFW & ‘Swasthya’ Portal of MoTA
- **Union Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi)**

739. On March 24, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Latoo Village. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh – inaugurated the first “Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme” of KREDA – at Latoo Village
- **Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur**

Sports & Games

740. On March 28, India has beaten England by 7 runs to win the ODI series 2-1. Virat Kohli has moved to 4th position in the “ICC T20 Batsman Rankings”. And Rohit Sharma ranked at the 14th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won the 3-match ODI Series against England
- “ICC T20 Batsman Rankings”: Virat Kohli – 4th | Rohit Sharma – 14th

741. Mercedes Driver Lewis Hamilton has won a thrilling season-opening “Bahrain Grand Prix - 2021” defeating Max Verstappen. It was Hamilton’s first season-opening triumph since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – won “Bahrain Grand Prix - 2021”
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’

742. On March 26, A “Centre of Excellence in Hockey” will be set up in Uttar Pradesh. A 100-bed hostel for boys and girls, modern sports medicine and physiotherapy centres as well as top coaches would be part of the centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Centre of Excellence in Hockey” will be set up in – Uttar Pradesh
- **UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel**



743. India has continued its Gold rush at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi as the trio of Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker and Chinki Yadav have won the Gold medal in the women's 25m pistol event. Yashaswini Singh Deswal has won the Gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yashaswini Singh Deswal – won the Gold medal in the Women's 10m Air Pistol event – at ISSF World Cup
- Rahi Sarnobat, Manu Bhaker & Chinki Yadav – won the Gold medal in the Women's 25m Air Pistol event
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

744. India has ended with the highest-ever medal tally in "ISSF World Cup" with 30 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze). India was followed by the US & Italy in the medal tally with total 8 and 4 medals respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped the medal tally in "ISSF World Cup" with 30 Medals (15 Gold, 9 Silver, 6 Bronze)
- 2nd – US (8) | 3rd – Italy (4)

Important Days & Dates

745. Every year, millions of people across the planet turn off the lights between 8:30 pm and 9:30 pm on the last Saturday in March, which is known as "Earth Hour". The goal of this activity is to spread awareness about sustainability and climate change. This year "Earth Hour" was observed on March 27, 2021. It was started by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). The first Earth Hour was held in Sydney in 2007. The theme of Earth Hour 2021 is "Climate Change to Save Earth". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – "Earth Hour 2021" – by WWF
- Theme – "Climate Change to Save Earth"
- 1st Earth Hour was observed in Sydney – in 2007
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

746. Rajasthan Diwas is observed on March 30th every year to commemorate the formation of the state. The state was formed on March 30th, 1949 & this year marks the 72nd foundation day of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 30 – 72nd foundation day of Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

747. Every year, World Piano Day is observed on the 88th day of the year (there being 88 keys on a conventional piano). So this year Piano Day falls on March 29th. The first Piano Day was in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 29 (88th day of the year) – "World Piano Day 2021"
- The first Piano Day was in – 2015



748. 23rd March is the day that commemorates the passage of the Pakistan Resolution by the Muslim League at its historic Lahore session in 1940. The day is observed as Pakistan Republic Day or Pakistan Resolution Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – Pakistan Republic Day or Pakistan Resolution Day
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

749. International Transgender Day of Visibility, held on March 31 every year since 2009, celebrates transgender individuals' contributions to society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility (since 2009)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

750. Dr. Harsh Vardhan has addressed the "India TB Summit". Last year, the government disbursed more than ₹ 249.43 Cr to over 11.10 lakh patients as nutrition support under Nikshay PoshanYojana. The theme for the summit is "Reimagining TB Care in India". India targets to end Tuberculosis by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – addressed the "India TB Summit"
- Theme – "Reimagining TB Care in India"
- India's target to end Tuberculosis – by 2025

751. Dr Harsh Vardhan has addressed the 7th annual summit of "NATHEALTH" focusing on the theme "Indian Health System Expansion in post-COVID Era". It was organized by NATHEALTH - Healthcare Federation of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the 7th annual summit of "NATHEALTH"
- Theme – "Indian Health System Expansion in post-COVID Era"

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

752. American author Carmen Maria Machado has won the "Rathbones Folio Prize" for her memoir, "In the Dream House". The Rathbones Folio Prize is a literary award that was backed by London-based publisher The Folio Society in the initial two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carmen Maria Machado (USA) – won the "Rathbones Folio Prize" for her memoir - "In the Dream House"



753. On March 26, Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet", an imagined take on the death of Shakespeare's son from the bubonic plague, has won the National Book Critics Circle prize for fiction. Tom Zoellner's "Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" won for nonfiction. The award was given in total 6 categories as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Book Critics Circle prize:

Category	Winner
Fiction	"Hamnet" – by Maggie O'Farrell
Nonfiction	"Island on Fire: The Revolt That Ended Slavery in the British Empire" – by Tom Zoellner
Biography	"Stranger in the Shogun's City: A Japanese Woman and Her World" – by Amy Stanley
Autobiography	"Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning" – by Cathy Park Hong
Poetry	"Here Is the Sweet Hand" – by Francine J. Harris
Criticism	"Marking Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration" – by Nicole Fleetwood

754. On March 28, Prakash Javadekar congratulates Mahinder Giri for winning IUCN's "International Ranger Award" for his contribution towards conservation. He is range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. The award has been announced for 10 professionals across the world by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahinder Giri – received IUCN's "International Ranger Award"
- Rajaji Tiger Reserve – Uttarakhand
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang

755. On March 28, The 66th Vimal Elaichi "Filmfare Awards 2021" took place at the Goregaon Filmcity, Mumbai. The Awards ceremony was hosted by Rajkumar Rao and Riteish Deshmukh. The complete list of winners for the 66th Vimal Elaichi Filmfare Awards 2021 is given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- List of winners at the 66th Vimal Elaichi "Filmfare Awards 2021":

Category	Winner
Best Film	Thappad
Best Director	Om Raut – for 'Tanhaji'
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Angrezi Medium'
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Taapsee Pannu for 'Thappad'
Best Film (Critics)	'Eeb Allay Ooo'
Best Actor (Critics) Male	Amitabh Bachchan for 'Gulabo Sitabo'
Best Story	Thappad
Lifetime Achievement Award	Irrfan Khan
Best Music Album	Pritam - 'Ludo'



756. On March 25, Harsh C. Mariwala (Chairman of Marico) has been named the “EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020”. Awards were also announced for 8 other categories. Byju Raveendran was conferred with the “Business Transformation Award”. Prathap Chandra Reddy was felicitated with the “Lifetime Achievement Award”. Peyush Bansal was conferred the “Manufacturing category Award”. Suresh Narayanan was honoured as the “Entrepreneurial CEO”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsh C. Mariwala – conferred with the “EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020”
- Byju Raveendran – conferred with the “Business Transformation Award”
- Prathap Chandra Reddy – conferred with the “Lifetime Achievement Award”
- Peyush Bansal – conferred with the “Manufacturing category Award”
- Suresh Narayanan – conferred with the “Entrepreneurial CEO”

757. Marathi novelist, poet, critic and short story writer Sharankumar Limbale was selected for the 30th edition of the 2020 Saraswati Samman, a prestigious literary recognition conferred annually by the KK Birla Foundation. The award carries a plaque and an award money of ₹15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sharankumar Limbale – selected for the 30th edition of the “2020 Saraswati Samman” – by KK Birla Foundation
- Sharankumar Limbale – Marathi novelist, poet, critic and short story writer



Appointments & Resignations

758. On March 26, Soma Mondal (Chairman of SAIL) has been elected as the new Chairperson of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), while Pradip Kumar Das (CMD of IREDA) has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the SCOPE. The newly elected members would take charge on April 1 and would continue in the office for the 2021-23 term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soma Mondal (Chairman of SAIL) – appointed as New Chairperson of SCOPE
- Pradip Kumar Das (CMD of IREDA) – appointed as Vice Chairman of SCOPE

759. On March 23, The board of directors of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) has appointed Anish Shah as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company effective from April 2. Shah is currently the deputy MD and group chief financial officer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anish Shah – appointed as MD & CEO of Mahindra and Mahindra (by replacing - Pawan Goenka)
- HQs of Mahindra and Mahindra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Anish Shah (2nd April onwards)



760. On March 24, Indian-American physician Vivek Murthy has sworn in as the 21st Surgeon General of the USA for the second time. In 2013, Mr. Obama nominated Dr. Murthy to be the surgeon general. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Murthy – sworn in as the 21st Surgeon General of the USA (2nd time)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

761. Agnes Callamard has been appointed as the new Secretary-General of Amnesty International for 4 years. He led a United Nations’ investigation into the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agnes Callamard ([France](#)) – appointed as the new Secretary-General of Amnesty International – for 4 years

762. On March 26, As per the official order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, the government has extended the term of Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) K. VijayRaghavan by a year until April, 2022. Dr. Vijayaraghavan, 67, was appointed PSA in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. VijayRaghavan – got extension as Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) – for 1 year (until April, 2022)

763. On March 31, Digit Insurance has roped in cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. With this association, the company aims to carry the message of ‘making insurance simple’ through the cricketer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – roped in as brand ambassador of – Digit Insurance

Amount & Agreements

764. On March 26, India and Japan have signed agreements for loans and a grant worth a total of 232.86 billion Yen (\$2.11 billion) for crucial infrastructure projects, including 119.9-billion Yen loan for phase IV of the Delhi Metro. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = agreements for loans and a grant worth a total of 232.86 billion Yen (\$2.11 billion)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

765. The Jal Shakti Ministry has approved Rs 465 Cr as performance incentive grant to 7 states - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). It is for the first time that 5 northeast states have qualified for the Performance Incentive Grant. In the financial year 2020-21, Rs 11,000 Cr was allocated for Jal Jeevan Mission. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry approved Rs 465 Cr as performance incentive grant to 7 states
- 5 northeast states – qualified for the Performance Incentive Grant
- Allocated amount for Jal Jeevan Mission in FY2020-21 – Rs 11,000 Cr

766. State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The bank had signed a similar deal with JBIC in October, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + JBIC = a loan agreement of up to \$1 billion
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

767. On March 22, According to a Bank of America (BofA) Securities Report, COVID-19 pandemic will delay the ambitious target of becoming the 3rd largest economy by 3 years to 2031-32 now. Currently, India is the 5th largest economy in the world behind Germany. The government has set a target of becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- COVID-19 will delay the ambitious target of becoming the 3rd largest economy by 3 years to 2031-32
- Currently, India is the 5th largest economy in the world
- India's target of becoming a \$5-trillion economy – by 2030

768. On March 25, According to the “World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives” released by World Bank, only 11% low-income countries consistently made available with a license classifiable as ‘Open’. India monitors 54 out of the 130 SDG indicators. India has dropped four indicators from its tracking list pointed out the State of India's Environment In figures, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Development Report 2021: Data for better lives” – released by World Bank
- 11% low-income countries made available a license classifiable as ‘Open’
- India monitors 54 out of the 130 SDG indicators
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



769. The global wind power industry needs to install capacity 3 times faster over the next decade in order to achieve the Net-Zero Target by 2050, according to a report titled “Global Wind Report 2021” by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC). 93 Gigawatt (GW) of new capacity was installed in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Wind Report 2021” – by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)
- Aim to achieve the Net-Zero Target – by 2050 | 175 GW Renewable Energy – by 2022
- 93 GW of new capacity was installed in 2020
- HQs of GWEC – Brussels, Belgium | CEO – Ben Backwell | Founded in – 2005

770. Healthcare has become one of the largest sectors of the Indian economy and is expected to reach \$372 billion in 2022, according to a report titled “Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector” released by Niti Aayog. The sector has the potential to generate 2.7 million additional jobs in India between 2017-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Investment Opportunities in India's Healthcare Sector” – released by Niti Aayog
- Healthcare sector in India is expected to reach \$372 billion in 2022
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

771. India has ranked 8th in terms of Market Capitalization among the top 10 nations with market capitalization of \$2.8 trillion in FY21 as per Bloomberg's report. The list was topped by the US followed by China & Canada.

Key Points:

- As per Bloomberg's report – India has ranked 8th in terms of Market Capitalization (\$2.8 trillion)
- 1st – US | 2nd – China | 3rd – Canada

772. The Asia-Pacific region including India is staring at a ‘K-shaped’ recovery of their economies, according to a report titled “Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-covid 19 resilient economies”, by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP). ESCAP has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7% in FY22 against a contraction of 7.7% in FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Economic and Social Survey of Asia & the Pacific 2021: Towards post-covid 19 resilient economies” – by UN-ESCAP
- ESCAP projected India's GDP: 7% in FY22 & 7.7% in FY21
- HQs of UN-ESCAP – Bangkok, Thailand | Executive Secretary - Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana



Acquisitions & Mergers

773. On March 25, Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus (EIYP), an AIF managed by Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors Limited (EAAA), has acquired 74% stake in Solar Energy Assets of French utility firm Engie Group in India. This partnership between the two companies is aimed at creating a solar platform with a plan to add 2 GW solar assets in India over the next couple of years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss Infrastructure Yield Plus acquired 74% stake – in Solar Energy Assets of Engie Group in India
- HQs of Engie Group – La Defense, France | CEO – Catherine MacGregor
- HQs of Edelweiss Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & CEO – Rashesh Shah

774. On March 27, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has sold its entire 61.5% stake in Numaligarh Refinery in Assam to a consortium of Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd (EIL) and Government of Assam for Rs 9,876 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Petroleum – sold its entire 61.5% stake in Numaligarh Refinery – to OIL, Engineers India & Assam gov
- Numaligarh Refinery – located in Assam
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- HQ of EIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – R. K. Sabharwal
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

775. On March 26, Tata Motors has signed a 3-year MoU with the State Bank of India, to offer financial assistance for the purchase of the company's range of small and light commercial vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + SBI = 3-year MoU for financing light commercial vehicles
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Guenter Butschek
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

776. On March 26, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has signed an MoU with CNB Logitech of Rs 100 Cr per annum to monitor, track and optimise the movement of 50 lakh containers in EXIM trade. The MoU will help to achieve India's maritime vision of 2030 by enhancing efficiencies. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust + CNB Logitech = an MoU of Rs 100 Cr to organize the movement of containers
- Location of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of CNB Logitech – Bengaluru, Karnataka

777. On March 26, Convergence Energy Services Ltd (CESL) has signed a pact with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd (CSC SPV) to create demand aggregation for electric mobility, solar, energy-efficiency solutions and other initiatives of CESL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CESL + CSC SPV = a pact to create demand aggregation for electric mobility
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya

778. The Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) has tied up with consulting firm Futurebrands, to launch a deep, immersive study into gender depiction in Indian advertising. The study GenderNext aims to provide actionable insights that can shape the gender narratives in advertising positively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASCI + Futurebrands (New Delhi) = tie up to launch a study on depiction of women in advertising
- HQs of ASCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Kamath

779. On March 22, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) have signed an MoU to establish a framework for collaboration and co-operation for development of Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) IFSC as a world class FinTech Hub. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FICCI + IFSCA = an MoU to jointly develop GIFT-City as a world class FinTech Hub
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

780. On March 24, Jammu & Kashmir has signed an MoU with Trade Promotion Corporation of India (TPCI) for Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector at South Asia's largest Integrated F&B Trade Show-Indusfood2021, being held at India Exposition Mart in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + TPCI = an MoU for Agro & Food Processing sector and Film Tourism sector
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of TPCI – New Delhi



781. A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was signed between the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) in New Delhi. The LoA defines provisions for civil aviation security responsibilities and functions at the upcoming international airport at Jewar, Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCAS (New Delhi) + YIAPL = signed a Letter of Agreement (LoA) in New Delhi
- Jewar Airport (Noida International Greenfield Airport) – located in Greater Noida, UP (Operated by YIAPL)

782. The India Centre for Migration (ICM), a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have entered into a collaboration for a joint study on strengthening data-informed and migrant-centred migration management frameworks in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India Centre for Migration + Int. Organisation for Migration = collaboration to study migrant management in India
- India Centre for Migration – a research thinktank of the Ministry of External Affairs
- HQs of IOM – Geneva, Switzerland | Director General – Antonio Vitorino | Formed in – 1951

783. TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently entered an MoU with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu for the implementation of the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu = an MoU to implement 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
- Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu: Capital – Daman | Administrator – Praful Patel

784. NSE Academy Ltd (NAL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), has signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ Ltd to assist in capacity building of trained manpower by developing, launching and conducting training programs related to International Financial Services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE Academy Ltd + GIFT SEZ Ltd = an MoU to mentor financial services professionals in GIFT City

Books & Authors

785. Neha Sinha, in her new book “Wild and Wilful”, chronicles tales of 15 iconic Indian species which are in need of conservation. Neha Sinha had won “Sanctuary Wildlife Service Award” in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Wild and Wilful” book – authored by Neha Sinha



786. “Name Place Animal Things” is a debut book of Daribha Lyndem. Lyndem’s debut novel is a coming-of-age story of a young Khasi girl (referred to as D) in Shillong during the early 2000s.

Key Points:

- “Name Place Animal Things” debut book – authored by Daribha Lyndem

Obituaries

787. On March 26, Former RBI Deputy Governor (DG) Kamalesh Chandra Chakrabarty has passed away in Mumbai due to a heart attack. He was 69. K. C. Chakrabarty was elevated as RBI DG in 2009. He also served at the Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and the Indian Banks’ Association (IBA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. C. Chakrabarty – Former RBI Deputy Governor – passed away
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

788. On March 21, Noted Odissi dancer Laxmipriya Mohapatra has passed away. She was the wife of legendary classical dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra. She was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Laxmipriya Mohapatra – Odissi Dancer – passed away
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

789. On March 21, Nawal Saadawi, a renowned Egyptian Feminist, Psychiatrist and Novelist has passed away. She was 89. She was born in October 1931 in a Nile Delta village, just north of Cairo. She published her famous book, “Women and Sex” in 1972. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nawal Saadawi (Egypt) – a Feminist, Psychiatrist and Novelist – passed away
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

790. Pune Lieutenant General Walter Anthony Gustavo “WAG” Pinto, former General Officer in the Indian Army has passed away on March 25. He was 97. Gen Pinto last served as the 8th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command. He is also known as “The Victor of Basantar”. The Battle of Basantar was one of the biggest ground battles ever fought by the Indian Army. He had received the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for his valour in the 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Walter Anthony Gustavo or WAG Pinto or “The Victor of Basantar” – Army Officer – passed away
- He served as the 8th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command
- He had received “Param Vishisht Seva Medal” for his valour in the 1971 war
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



791. On March 31, Punjabi writer Taran Gujral has passed away in Chandigarh. She was 90. A writer of short stories and children’s literature, Taran also dabbled in poetry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taran Gujral – a Punjabi writer – passed away

792. The former President Didier Ratsiraka who was President of Madagascar from 1975 to 1993 and from 1997 to 2002 had died on March 28 in Antananarivo. He was 84 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Didier Ratsiraka – Former President of Madagascar – passed away
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary | President – Andry Rajoelina

Science & Technology

793. On March 26, The ISRO has partnered with Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) to coordinate Joint Research Activities. ISRO’s partnership with the IIST is something similar to the JPL-Caltech model in the United States. JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) is federally funded by the U.S. space agency NASA and managed by Caltech (California Institute of Technology). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + IIST = to coordinate Joint Research Activities
- JPL – federally funded by NASA & managed by Caltech (JPL – Jet Propulsion Laboratory)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded in – 1958
- Location of ISST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | Director – Dr. V. K. Dadhwal

794. Google has launched a new tool called “Threadit” to help make remote work more efficient. The tool is like TikTok for workspaces. It lets users share short video recordings to share their work and connect with your team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched a new tool called “Threadit” to help make remote work more efficient
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

795. On March 25, Marine biologists from Central University of Punjab have discovered two new native species of marine algae, also called seaweeds, from the coasts of Gujarat, Diu and Tamil Nadu. The species are named ‘Hypnea Indica’ and ‘Hypnea Bullata’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marine biologists from Central University of Punjab – discovered 2 new native species of marine Algae (Seaweeds)
- ‘Hypnea Indica’ & ‘Hypnea Bullata’ – were discovered from the coasts of Gujarat, Diu & Tamil Nadu



796. Facebook along with Google has planned 2 new undersea cables named 'Echo' and 'Bifrost' to connect Singapore, Indonesia and North America. The two cables follow previous investments by Facebook to build up connectivity in Indonesia, one of its top five markets globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook + Google = planned 2 new undersea cables to connect Singapore, Indonesia & North America
- 2 cables are named – 'Echo' & 'Bifrost'
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

797. On March 25, Indian Telephone Industries Ltd (ITI) and Thalamus Irwine have developed a technology namely "Garuda Blockchain Platform" for storing Medical/Healthcare Data on blockchain and also conducted a Proof of Concept (PoC) with as many as 300 patients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITI Ltd + Thalamus Irwine = developed "Garuda Blockchain Platform" & conducted a PoC with 300 patients
- The platform stores & processes – Medical/Healthcare Data
- HQs of ITI Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman & MD – Rakesh Mohan Agarwal

798. On March 30, A new sub-species of the 6 line blue butterfly named "Nacaduba Sinhala Ramaswamii" has been discovered from the south Western Ghats. The new butterfly species is named after Lord Rama. It was published in the "Journal of Threatened Taxa" in March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Nacaduba Sinhala Ramaswamii" – a species of Butterfly – discovered from the south Western Ghats
- The discovery was published in – "Journal of Threatened Taxa"

799. On March 29, The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Bharat Biotech International are planning to bring the messenger RNA (mRNA) platform to India after seeing its successful use in quick development of covid-19 vaccines by US-based Pfizer and Moderna. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR + Bharat Biotech = to bring mRNA platform to India
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

800. President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021”. The Act provides that the term “Government” referred to in any law made by the Legislative Assembly will imply Lieutenant Governor. President Kovind also gave his assent to the “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021” and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 replacing the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. NBFID will be set up with authorised share capital of Rs 1 Lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021”
- It replaces the “Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957”
- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021”
- The term “Government” referred to in any law made by Legislative Assembly will imply ‘Lieutenant Governor’
- Ram Nath Kovind – approved “National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021”





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