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**Test Series Month-wise**

**March**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 11**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 11 Here!](#)



## 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 2022 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 2022 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 पढ़ना, 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 .....	6
International Affairs .....	7
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs .....	8
Defence Affairs .....	9
Sports & Games .....	10
Science & Technology .....	11
Appointments & Resignations .....	11
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes .....	13
Schemes & Initiatives .....	13
Important Days & Dates .....	13
Obituaries .....	15
Meetings, Conferences & Summits .....	15
Ranks, Reports & Surveys .....	16
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships .....	16



## National & States Affairs

**501.** On March 22, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave approval for the extension of applicability of “New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012” for 3 upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni. These three facilities aim to meet the demand for urea in seven states - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha. GAIL is supplying natural gas to these three units. HURL, incorporated in June, 2016, is a joint venture of Coal India Ltd, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CCEA - approved the extension of applicability of ‘NIP-2012’ for 3 upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd
- GAIL - is supplying natural gas to these three units
- HQs of GAIL - New Delhi | MD & Chairman - Manoj Jain

**502.** On March 22, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann declared a public holiday on March 23, on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas. Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to pay tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru. They were hanged on March 23, 1931. Moreover, Punjab State Assembly passed a resolution to install statues of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Assembly. Shaheed Diwas 2022 was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) by focusing on the theme “Tribute to Revolutionaries”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- March 23 - Shaheed Diwas - to pay tribute to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar & Shivaram Rajguru
- ‘Shaheed Diwas 2022’ - organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan | Focused Theme - “Tribute to Revolutionaries”
- Punjab - declared a public holiday on this occasion
- Punjab State Assembly - passed a resolution to install statues of Bhagat Singh & Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Assembly
- Punjab: Capital - Chandigarh | CM - Bhagwant Mann | Governor - Banwarilal Purohit



**503.** On March 24, the government has extended the timeline up to 10 years for startups to convert debt investments made in the company into equity shares, according to a press note of the DPIIT. Earlier the option of changing convertible notes into equity shares was allowed for up to 5 years from the day when initial convertible note was issued. Now, that timeline has been extended to 10 years.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government extended the timeline up to 10 years for startups to convert debt investments into equity shares

**504.** On March 24, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched data-driven research to eradicate TB - “Dare2eraD TB” by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day. The program was launched during the “STEP Up to End TB 2022” Summit which was virtually inaugurated by Anandiben Patel in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh - launched data-driven research to eradicate TB - “Dare2eraD TB” by Department of Biotechnology
- Anandiben Patel - inaugurated the “STEP Up to End TB 2022” Summit

**505** On March 22, Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that the government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025. The ministry has also set a target of nearly tripling air traffic to 40 Cr by 2023-24. As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data, 8.38 Cr people travelled on domestic flights in 2021, as compared to 6.3 Cr in 2020.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025
- Government has also set a target of nearly tripling air traffic to 40 Cr by 2023-24

**506.** Aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) introduced a 19-seater aircraft namely “Hindustan 228” in a first major attempt to develop small civil transport aircraft under the



Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme. The aircraft can be operated even in semi-prepared and unpaved airstrips. The design has been transferred to HAL from Dornier GmbH. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HAL introduced a 19-seater aircraft namely “Hindustan 228” under UDAN scheme
- HQs of HAL - Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO - Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD - R. Madhavan

**507.** On March 22, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the “Sujalam 2.0” campaign for greywater management to mark the World Water Day, 2022. Grey water is free from faecal contamination and doesn't include black water from toilets. The event was hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS). The funds to execute the activities for greywater management will be sourced from SBM-G Phase II or through 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission tied-grants or MGNREGS or through convergence of all. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide every rural household with tap water connection by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched “Sujalam 2.0” campaign for greywater management
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency - Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries - Prahlad Singh Patel

## International Affairs

**508.** On March 22, the Government of Indonesia as well as the United Nations have sought support and commitment from parties to the Minamata Convention for a Bali Declaration on combatting Global Illegal Trade of Mercury. The issue was discussed at the second round of the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4.2) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The meeting was held in-person from March 21-25 in Bali. The Minamata Convention on Mercury is the most recent global agreement on Environment and Health. It was adopted in 2013 and entered into force August 16, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indonesia + UN = called for support from parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Minamata Convention on Mercury - a global agreement on Environment & Health





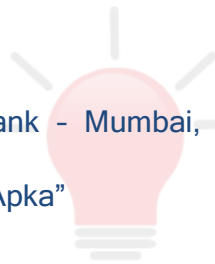
- Adopted - in 2013 | Effective - from 2017
- Indonesia - Jakarta - Rupiah | President - Joko Widodo

## **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**509.** On March 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its approval to SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML/ SBI Mutual Fund) together with other group entities of the State Bank of India (SBI) group for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up equity capital of ICICI Bank. RBI's approval is valid for a period of one year, up to March 22, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- RBI - approved SBI Group of entities for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up equity capital of ICICI Bank
- HQs of SBI Bank - Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman - Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of ICICI Bank - Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO - Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines - "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"



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**510.** On March 23, Airtel Payments Bank partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance to further strengthen its insurance offering available on its digital platform. Airtel Payments Bank customers can now buy smartphone insurance from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on the Airtel Thanks app. Customers can get this insurance on their own until 10 days after purchasing a smartphone priced between ₹10,000 to ₹100,000. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Airtel Payments Bank + ICICI Lombard General Insurance = to provide smartphone insurance from on Airtel Thanks app
- HQs of ICICI Lombard - Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO - Bhargav Das Gupta
- HQs of APB - New Delhi | CEO - Anubrata Biswas | Founded in - 2017



**511.** On March 25, State Bank of India signed a co-lending agreement with 5 housing finance companies (HFCs) including to give loans for affordable homes. Shortage in affordable housing continues to be a major concern for India, especially for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Informal Sections of the society. The two entities will jointly service housing loan customers as per the 20:80 co-lending model (CLM) of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI + 5 HFCs = a co-lending agreement to give loans for affordable homes
- HQs of SBI Bank - Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman - Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**512.** On March 25, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the “Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)” in Bengaluru, set up with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 Cr to encourage and nurture financial innovation. The Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman. The RBI has set up the RBIH as a ‘Section 8’ company under Companies Act, 2013.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the “Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)” in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Initial capital contribution - Rs 100 Cr | Chairman - Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan

**513.** On March 24, the Central government has set a target of about Rs 1 trillion for National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year FY23. The government-backed Development Finance Institution (DFI) will start operations in Q1 FY23. Moreover, the NaBFID is the 5<sup>th</sup> AIFI to be regulated & supervised by the RBI under ‘RBI Act, 1934’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Govt set a target of Rs 1 trillion for NaBFID for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the FY23
- HQs of NaBFID - Mumbai, MH | Chairperson - K. V. Kamath



**514.** On March 22, HDFC Mutual Fund filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI for India's first Defence Fund, "HDFC Defence Fund" - an open-ended equity scheme that will be investing in defence & allied sector companies. This fund will be benchmarked to the recently introduced Nifty India Defence Index TRI (Total Returns Index). The fund will be primarily managed by Abhishek Poddar.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC MF - filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI for India's first Defence Fund, "HDFC Defence Fund"
- [HQs of HDFC Mutual Fund - Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO - Navneet Munot](#)

**515.** On March 26, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU with Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd (MiDFC) to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. It will also help in building capacity of MSMEs using online platforms PSB 59, Mitra portals, GeMS, TReDS, initiating business information and counselling centres for micro enterprises among others. Moreover, SIDBI acquired 7.84% stake in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), through an investment of Rs 10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SIDBI + MiDFC = an MoU to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state
- SIDBI - acquired 7.84% stake in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for Rs 10 Cr
- [Meghalaya: Capital - Shillong](#) | [CM - Conrad Kongkal Sangma](#) | [Governor - Satya Pal Malik](#)
- [HQs of SIDBI - Lucknow, UP](#) | [MD & Chairman - Sivasubramanian Ramann](#) | [Established in - 1990](#)

## **Defence Affairs**

**516.** On March 25, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit in



recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war. INS Valsura was established in 1942. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind - awarded the prestigious President's Colour to INS Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital - Gandhinagar | CM - Bhupendra Patel | Governor - Acharya Dev Vrat

**517.** On March 24, In continuous pursuit of self-reliance in defence manufacturing and to minimize imports by DPSUs under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Ministry of Defence approved another list of 107 strategically important Line replacement Units (LRUs)/sub-systems with a timeline beyond which there will be an embargo on their import. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Defence banned import of 107 strategically important Line replacement Units (LRUs)/sub-systems
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

**518.** On March 23, An offshore security exercise, "Prasthan" was conducted in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai, under the aegis of Headquarters, Western Naval Command (WNC). Conducted every six months, this exercise is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. The exercise was conducted on the B-193 platform of ONGC located about 38 nm west of Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WNC conducted an offshore security exercise "Prasthan" at B-193 platform of ONGC in ODA off Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Exercise "Prasthan" was conducted under the aegis of Indian Navy



- Maharashtra: CM - Uddhav Thackeray | Governor - Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of WNC - Mumbai, MH | FOC-in-C - Ajendra Bahadur Singh | Chief of Staff of WNC - Krishna Swaminathan

## Sports & Games

**519.** On March 24, the Sports Ministry, in partnership with Youth Services and Sports department of Himachal Pradesh, is set to build India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The centre is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists so that they can compete for 18 Olympic medals on offer in the disciplines of MTB and BMX. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sports Ministry - sets up India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking & Bicycle Motocross in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital - Shimla & Dharamshala | CM - Jai Ram Thakur | Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- HQs of SAI - New Delhi | Director General - Sandip Pradhan

**520.** On March 20, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen defeated Lakshya Sen at the finals of All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham. Pullela Gopichand was the last Indian to win the title in 2001. On March 19, Indian women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly lost to Shu Xiang Zhang and You Zheng of China in the semifinals. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "2022 All England Badminton Championships": Venue - Birmingham | Gold - Viktor Axelsen | Silver - Lakshya Sen
- Denmark - Copenhagen - Danish krone | PM - Mette Frederiksen
- HQs of BWF - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President - Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen





**521.** Edtech giant BYJU'S became the official sponsor of the "FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022". This would make BYJU'S the first EdTech brand to sponsor this prestigious event globally. With corporate headquarters in Bengaluru, India, and offices in 21 countries, Byju's products are present in over 120 countries. The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will take place from 21 November to 18 December 2022.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BYJU'S - became the official sponsor of the "FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022"
- HQs of BYJU'S - Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO - Byju Raveendran | Founded in - 2011

**522.** On March 20, Jiya Rai, autistic teenager from Mumbai, became the youngest and fastest female swimmer in the world to cover 29km at a stretch in 13 hours and 10 minutes from Palk Strait (Talaimannar in Sri Lanka) to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu. Palk Strait (Gulf of Mannar) is one of the toughest sea routes in the world. In January 2022, Jiya Rai won the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. she also broke the previous record that was held by Bula Chowdhary, who had covered the distance in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004 when she was 34 years old. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jiya Rai - became the youngest & fastest female swimmer in the world to cover stretch from Palk Strait to Dhanushkodi in 13 hours & 10 minutes
- Palk Strait (Talaimannar in Sri Lanka) | Dhanushkodi (in Tamil Nadu)

## Science & Technology

**523.** On March 22, Astronomers at Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA added the 5,000<sup>th</sup> exoplanet to the NASA Exoplanet Archive. NASA hit this milestone following the discovery of 65 new exoplanets. The 65 new exoplanets will be studied for compositions that might support the presence of microbes, water, and gases or even life. More than 5,000 planets are now confirmed to exist beyond our solar system. Any planet that exists beyond our solar system is an exoplanet. NASA's Kepler Space Telescope suggests that the galaxy contains more planets than stars. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA) - discovered 65 new exoplanets & added 5,000<sup>th</sup> exoplanet to its Exoplanet Archive
- HQs of NASA - Washington D.C., USA | Administrator - Bill Nelson | Founded on - July 29, 1958

## Appointments & Resignations

**524.** World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to raise awareness about the infectious disease. The term tuberculosis was coined by Johann Schonlein in 1834. It was on March 24, 1882 that the bacteria causing TB was discovered by Dr. Robert Koch. A century later, the World TB Day observance began on the same day. In 2022, the theme is "Invest to End TB. Save Lives".

[{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- March 24 - World Tuberculosis Day (since 1982)
- 2022's theme - "Invest to End TB. Save Lives"
- TB causing Bacteria - discovered by Dr. Robert Kochin March 24, 1882
- Term tuberculosis coined by - Johann Schonlein in 1834

**525.** On March 23, Pushkar Singh Dhami took oath as the Uttarakhand chief minister for second term. Bharatiya Janata Party returned to power in the state bagging 47 of the 70 seats in the results declared on March 10. Dhami failed to win from his own Khatima constituency. He now needs to be elected as an MLA within six months to continue as chief minister. Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (retd)

Gurmit Singh administered the oath to the minister. Dhama is the state's 12<sup>th</sup> CM and, at 46, the youngest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pushkar Singh Dhama - took oath as the Uttarakhand chief minister for second term
- Uttarakhand: Capital - Dehradun & Gairsain | CM - Pushkar Singh Dhama | Governor - Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**526.** On March 23, the Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal, Deputy Managing Director, CSB Bank as interim Managing Director and CEO, for three months from April 1, 2022. C. V. Rajendran, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, announced in January 2022 to take early retirement due to health reasons. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI - appointed Pralay Mondal as interim MD & CEO of CSB Bank (succeeding - C. V. Rajendran)
- HQs of CSB bank - Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO - Pralay Mondal

**527.** On March 21, Two-time Aam Aadmi Party MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan was unanimously elected as Speaker of the 16<sup>th</sup> Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Mr. Sandhwan won from the Kotkapura seat in the recent State polls. He defeated Congress candidate Ajaipal Singh Sandhu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kultar Singh Sandhwan - elected as Speaker of the 16<sup>th</sup> Punjab Vidhan Sabha or Punjab Legislative Assembly
- Punjab: Capital - Chandigarh | CM - Bhagwant Mann | Governor - Banwarilal Purohit

**528.** On March 25, Yogi Adityanath scripted history as he took oath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for a second term in office after completing a full 5-year term, a feat none of his predecessors has been able to achieve. He has become the first such BJP leader to become the CM of UP for the second consecutive term. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**



- Yogi Adityanath - scripted history as he took oath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for a second term
- Yogi Adityanath - the first such BJP leader to become the CM of UP for the second consecutive term
- UP: Capital - Lucknow | CM - Yogi Adityanath | Governor - Anandiben Patel

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**529.** The Norwegian Academy of Science & Letters awarded the “Abel Prize for 2022” to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan. Topology is a field of mathematics which was born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dennis Parnell Sullivan’s key breakthrough is in developing a new way of understanding rational homotopy theory, a subfield of algebraic topology. Abel Prize is also known as the International Prize of Mathematics and it is named after Norway’s mathematician, Niels Henrik Abel. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Norwegian Academy of Science & Letters awarded “Abel Prize for 2022” to - Dennis Parnell Sullivan (a Mathematician)
- He was awarded for his groundbreaking contributions to ‘Topology’

## Schemes & Initiatives

**530.** Nai Roshni scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs aims to empower and enhance confidence in Minority women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for Leadership Development of Women. It is a training programme conducted for the women belonging to minority community between the age group of 18 years to 65 years. Funds to the tune of Rs 94 Cr have been allocated and Rs 85.83 Cr have been sanctioned for Nai Roshni scheme for leadership development of minority women for the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21. The scheme is being implemented through Programme Implementing Agencies/Non-Governmental Organizations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Minority Affairs - launched Nai Roshni scheme for providing knowledge, tool & techniques for Leadership Development of Women
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Constituency - Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla

## Important Days & Dates

**531.** March 20 was observed as 'Pakhala Dibas' to promote the cuisine in the modern era. The initiative was started in 2015 by Odias to celebrate their traditional food worldwide. Pakhala (rice water) is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water. Pakhala dish has its origin from Lord Jagannath Temple as the deities are offered different types of Pakhala.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 20 - "Pakhala Dibas" by Odias to promote the 'cuisine' in the modern era
- Odisha: Capital - Bhubaneswar | CM - Naveen Patnaik | Governor - Ganeshi Lal

**532.** International Day for Achievers is celebrated every year on March 24. It is a day to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of the genius minds who thought out of the box and did great work for the development of society. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 24 - International Day for Achievers

**533.** The "International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery" is celebrated every year on March 25. Observed first in 2008 after a December 2007 resolution, this day honours and remembers the more than 15 million men, women and children who were brutalized under a slavery system that endured for more than 400 years. In 2022, the theme is "Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery - by UN (since 2008)





- 2022's theme - "Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism"

**534.** The Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on March 22 as it was on this day that the British carved out Bihar from Bengal Presidency in 1912. In 2022, it was the 110th foundation day. It was CM Nitish Kumar who first declared Bihar Diwas a state programme. People from Bihar, living in different parts of the country or abroad, also celebrated the day. On the occasion of Bihar Day, HarperCollins India announced that "The Book of Bihari Literature", edited by poet-diplomat Abhay K, will be published in October, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 22 - Bihar Diwas or 110th Foundation Day of Bihar
- HarperCollins India announced to publish "The Book of Bihari Literature" in Oct 2022 (edited by Abhay K)
- Bihar: Capital - Patna | CM - Nitish Kumar | Governor - Phagu Chauhan

**535.** World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23 each year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, "Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India - State: Tamil Nadu" as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations. The e-atlas would help disaster management agencies take preventive steps. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 23 - World Meteorological Day
- IMD - launched an e-book "Climate Hazards & Vulnerability Atlas of India - State: Tamil Nadu"
- HQs of IMD - New Delhi | Director General - Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in - 1875
- Tamil Nadu: Capital - Chennai | CM - Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor - Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**536.** "International Day of Solidarity with Detained & Missing Staff Members" was observed across the globe on March 25. The day marks the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former British journalist. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 25 - "International Day of Solidarity with Detained & Missing Staff Members"



**537.** On March 25, Union Environment Ministry designated October 5 as National Dolphin Day, to be observed annually starting 2022. The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). The Gangetic dolphin is an indicator species, whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem, for the Ganga ecosystem and is extremely vulnerable to changes in water quality and flow. It is categorised as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red List. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- October 5 - National Dolphin Day (since 2022) - designated by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency - Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey



**538.** On March 23, Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away in New Delhi. He was 81. Justice Lahoti was appointed the 35<sup>th</sup> CJI on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Chandra Lahoti - 35<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India - passed away
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India - Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)

**539.** In March 2022, an American computer scientist Steve Wilhite, whose Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) helped personalize the internet, passed away. He was 74. He invented GIF in 1987. He was awarded a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Steve Wilhite (US) - Inventor of GIF (1987) - passed away



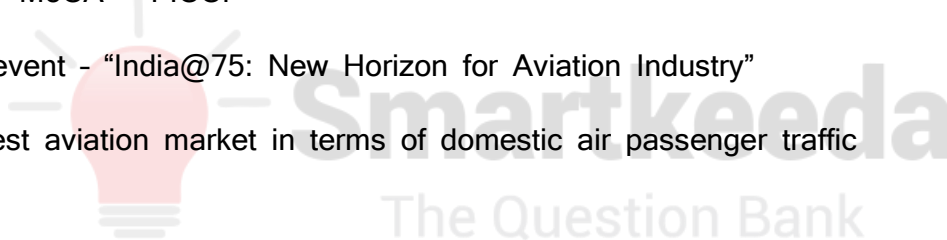
## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**540.** 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation, "Wings India 2022" was held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad from March 24 to 27. Led by the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India (MoCA) and the FICCI jointly, the theme of the event this year was "India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry". In terms of domestic air passenger traffic, India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest aviation market which stood at 274.05 million in FY20. It grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.91% during FY16-FY20.

[{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation, "Wings India 2022" - held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad
- Organised by = MoCA + FICCI
- Theme of the event - "India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry"
- India - 3<sup>rd</sup> largest aviation market in terms of domestic air passenger traffic



## Ranks, Report & Surveys

**541.** On March 23, India climbed up five spots in the "Knight Frank Global House Price Index" to the 51<sup>st</sup> rank in the fourth quarter of 2021 against 56<sup>th</sup> rank in Q4 2020. The price increase of 2.1% YoY in the fourth quarter makes it the quarter in the year 2021 for India. Turkey led the index with the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6% in the year to Q4 2021 in nominal terms while Australia recorded the highest rate of annual price growth in the year by 17.5% to Q4 2021 in real terms. Turkey is followed by New Zealand with 22.6% growth rate and Czech Republic with 22.1%. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**



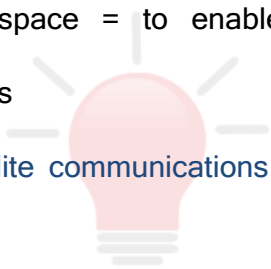
- India - ranked 51<sup>st</sup> in the “Knight Frank Global House Price Index” for Q4 2021 with 2.1% growth rate
- 1<sup>st</sup> - Turkey (59.6% growth rate) | 2<sup>nd</sup> - New Zealand (22.6%) | 3<sup>rd</sup> - Czech Republic (22.1%)

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**542.** On March 29, Tata-owned satellite communications company Nelco signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Omnispace. The aim of this strategic agreement with Omnispace is to enable and distribute world’s first global 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services. With this agreement, Omnispace becomes the fifth player in the LEO/MEO space to eye the Indian market to provide satellite-based connectivity. Other 4 players include Elon Musk’s Star Link, Canadian Telesat, Bharti-backed OneWeb and Jio’s partnership with SES. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nelco + Omnispace = to enable & distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services
- Nelco - a satellite communications company owned by Tata Group



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**543.** On March 24, the partnership has been established between bilateral Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) through the MoU with Tata Steel Ltd will institute a joint collaborative Research & Innovation (R&I) framework to facilitate new technologies development, conduct thought leadership workshops, and support human capital development. IGSTC has been established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Gol and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). A Letter of Intent (LoI) was also signed with BASF Chemicals India Pvt Ltd (BASF) for Scientific cooperation partnerships to foster Science and Technology led innovations and research partnerships in PPP mode. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IGSTC + Tata Steel + BASF = a Letter of Intent to facilitate new technologies development
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd - Mumbai | MD & CEO - T. V. Narendran



**544.** In March 2022, Microsoft partnered with Fortum, a Finnish energy company, to heat homes, services and businesses in Finland with sustainable waste heat from a new datacentre region that Microsoft has planned to build in the Helsinki metropolitan area in Finland. A datacentre is a physical facility that organisations use to store their critical applications and data, process data and disseminate them to users. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Microsoft + Fortum = partnered to use sustainable waste heat to heat homes, services & businesses in Finland
- HQs of Microsoft - Washington, US | Chairman & CEO - Satya Nadella | Founded in - 1975

**545.** On March 23, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and the Nepal Dairy Private Limited (NDPL) signed a tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise in Nepal. The Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) under the ICIMOD took initiative for the project to save yaks and yak farming culture from extinction and showcase their economic viability. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICIMOD + SDCL + NDPL = signed a tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise in Nepal
- Nepal - Kathmandu - Nepalese Rupee | President - Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM - Sher Bahadur Deuba

**546.** On March 24, Himachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali as the knowledge partner for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district. The State Planning Department has sanctioned Rs 74.95 Cr for the development of the park to the State Implementation Agency. An Investment Outreach Program has also been initiated with investors across India and countries such as Israel, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Germany that have cutting-edge technology in the Medical Devices sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh + NIPER = an MoU for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh, Solan
- NIPER - will be the knowledge partner for the park





- Himachal Pradesh: Capital - Shimla & Dharamshala | CM - Jai Ram Thakur | Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**547.** On March 21, India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with Australia's public service broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting. This will expand the reach of DD News, DD India and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prasar Bharati + SBS (Australia) = an MoU to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting
- HQs of Prasar Bharati - New Delhi | CEO - Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- Australia - Canberra - Australian Dollar | PM - Scott Morrison

**548.** On March 25, in a significant development of India's bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) signed an agreement with the government of Sri Lanka to build a floating dock valued at approximately \$20 million. The floating dock will be established at the Trincomalee Naval Dockyard within the next 30 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa Shipyard + Sri Lanka = an agreement to build a floating dock worth approx \$20 million
- HQs of Goa Shipyard - Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD - Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- Sri Lanka - Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte - Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM - Mahinda Rajapaksa | President - Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**549.** On March 25, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural youth and to enhance the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub scheme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIE + MoRD = an MoU to enhance the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme
- SVEP - the sub scheme of 'NRLM'



- Location of IIE - Guwahati, Assam

**550.** On March 22, IIT Madras (IIT-M) partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to launch a user-oriented programme on Industrial AI that is targeted at upskilling employees in corporates in the applications of AI to industrial problems. The 18-month course, designed in consultation with TCS, will be offered by IIT-Madras in a completely online live teaching mode through virtual classrooms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Madras + TCS = launched a programme on Industrial AI for upskilling corporates employees AI applications
- HQs of TCS - Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO - Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in - 1968
- Director of IIT Madras - V. Kamakoti





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