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March
MockDrill
PDF No. 12

(PDF in English)



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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

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National & States Affairs

551. On the occasion of 'World Water Day', National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), UNESCO and other partners released three animation films under its initiative "H2Ooooh! - Waterwise program for the Children of India". The initiative was launched by UNESCO along with the NMCG and others in July 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + UNESCO + Other partners = released 3 animation films on World Water Day under the initiative "H2Ooooh!"
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

552. On March 28, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia presented a Rs 75,800 Cr 'Rozgar budget' for 2022-23 for Delhi with a 5-year plan to create 20 lakh jobs. The budget size of 2022-23 is 9.86% higher than that of 2021-22 which was called the 'Deshbhakti' (patriotism) budget by the Kejriwal government. An artificial intelligence-based website and a mobile application, "Rozgar Bazaar 2.0", will be launched with an aim to provide at least 1 lakh jobs every year to the youngsters of Delhi, especially women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manish Sisodia presented a Rs 75,800 Cr 'Rozgar budget' for 2022-23 for Delhi (9.86% higher than that of 2021-22)
- Delhi's budget of 2021-22 was named – 'Deshbhakti' (patriotism) budget
- Delhi Govt – to launch a mobile application, "Rozgar Bazaar 2.0" for youngsters of Delhi, especially women
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

553. On March 26, the Central Government (Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance), on the basis of the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under Department of Commerce, has imposed anti-dumping duty for 5 years on 5 Chinese products - certain flat rolled products of aluminium, sodium hydrosulphite, silicone sealant, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) component R-32 and hydrofluorocarbon blends. Apart from these five products, the DGTR recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on other products originating in or exported from China PR in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt imposed anti-dumping duty for 5 years on 5 Chinese products – based on the recommendations of DFTR
- DFTR – functions under Ministry of Commerce & Industry

554. On March 25, the Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA) project to improve Governance and Service Delivery at the grassroots level in the state was nominated for the UN Awards in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022. Of the 20 projects from different countries, MeghEA made it to the top. The MeghEA was nominated under the category of 'The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development'. This is a first of its kind project which is based on India's National Enterprise Architecture framework. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "MeghEA" project – nominated for the UN Awards in the "World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022"
- "MeghEA" project – related to improving Governance & Service Delivery
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



555. On March 25, the Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh of NCR signed a Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements (CRCTA) covering both Contract Carriage & Stage Carriage since time period of earlier Agreements of Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement was coming to an end. The CRCTA shall come into force with immediate effect, for ensuring seamless movement of passenger vehicles in NCR and will be valid for next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan & UP – signed a Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements (CRCTA)
- The CRCTA will be valid for next 10 years

556. On March 27, the Diamond City of India, Surat, became the first in India to get a road that is made out of steel waste (steel slag). The road is built in the Hazira Industrial Area by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRRI (Central Road Research Institute) along with the NITI Aayog. The road is a stellar example of sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Surat – first city in India to get a road made out of steel waste (steel slag) in the Hazira Industrial Area
- The road is built by – Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India + CSIR India + CRRRI + NITI Aayog
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

International Affairs

557. On March 24, China and Solomon Islands are negotiating a security agreement to establish a Chinese military base on the island. It would allow China to protect the safety of Chinese personnel and major projects in the Pacific, less than 2,000km off Australia's coast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China & Solomon Islands – are negotiating a security agreement to establish a Chinese military base
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Solomon Islands – Honiara – Solomon Islands dollar | PM – Manasseh Sogavare

558. On March 25, Bulgaria abolished its controversial “Golden Passports” scheme offering citizenship of the EU member state in return for substantial investment, which had been criticised by Brussels. The beneficiaries were primarily from Russia, China and the Middle East. The scheme was launched in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bulgaria – abolished its “Golden Passports” scheme offering citizenship in return for substantial investment
- Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev | PM – Kiril Petkov

559. On March 25, the Sri Lankan government will set up a “North-East Development Fund” to increase investments in the war-affected areas. The announcement came, after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the largest grouping of parliamentarians representing districts in the north and east. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – will set up a “North-East Development Fund” to increase investments in the war-affected areas
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

560. On March 25, Australia announced a new Defence Space Command Agency to counter the growing influence of Russia and China in space. The agency will help Australia in developing and advocating space-specific priorities within the government, industry, allies and even international partners. The Australian government plans to triple the size of its space sector by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – announced a new Defence Space Command Agency to counter growing influence of Russia & China in space
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

561. The “Bucharest Nine” is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War. The Bucharest Nine or Bucharest Format, often abbreviated as the B9, was founded on November 4, 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania. The group was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been President of Romania since 2014, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015. The B9 include Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bucharest Nine (B9)” – a group of 9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe (Founded on Nov 4, 2015)
- Bucharest – the capital of Romania
- B9 countries: Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania
- Romania – Bucharest – leu | PM – Nicolae Ciuca | President – Klaus Iohannis

562. On March 25, the European Union agreed on a landmark law, “Digital Markets Act (DMA)” to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets. The Digital Markets Act includes a number of eye-catching groundbreaking measures that could shake up the way big tech companies operate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EU agreed on a landmark law, “Digital Markets Act (DMA)” to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

563. On March 23, Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central bank of Chile (BCCh) won the Governor of the Year Award at the “Central Banking Awards 2022”. While Bank of Korea was recognised as Central Bank of the Year. It also named Stanley Fischer (Israeli American Economist) as the recipient of this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award. The Czech National Bank won this year’s Transparency award. Moreover, Wenxin Du won this year’s award for Economics in Central Banking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Central Banking Awards 2022”:
 - Governor of the Year Award – Mario Marcel (Governor of the Central bank of Chile)
 - Central Bank of the Year – Bank of Korea
 - Lifetime Achievement Award – Stanley Fischer (Israeli American Economist)
 - Transparency Award – Czech National Bank
 - Economics in Central Banking – Wenxin Du

564. On March 25, Max Life Insurance launched “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan”, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers. Customers have the flexibility to choose a sum assured up to ₹10 Cr and can have their policies renewed on the PhonePe app. PhonePe, a digital payments platform, has been granted a direct broking licence by IRDAI that allows the selling of insurance on their app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance – launched “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on PhonePe app
- PhonePe – has been granted a direct broking licence by IRDAI
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

565. On March 24, the World Bank priced the world’s first wildlife bond called “RhinoBond”, raising \$150 million that will be partly used for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa. The five-year bond will pay returns determined by the rate of growth in populations of the animals in two South African reserves, the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve. The Wildlife Conservation Bond is a first-of-its-kind, outcome-based, financial instrument that channels investments to achieve conservation outcomes. The bond was sold at 94.8% of its “nominal aggregate amount” and will pay out a maximum success payment of \$13.8 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – created world’s 1st wildlife bond raising \$150 million for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

566. On March 25, India1 Payments (formerly BTI Payments Private Ltd) received a perpetual licence from the RBI to set-up, own and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India. The company deploys ATMs under the brand name ‘India1ATMs’ in the semi-urban and rural areas of India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India1 Payments – received a perpetual licence from the RBI to set-up, own & operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India
- The company's ATMs are called "India1ATMs"
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

567. On March 26, the RBI released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points for deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of India. Geo-tagging will enable proper monitoring of availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc. Such monitoring will support policy intervention to optimize the distribution of payment infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

Defence Affairs

568. On March 24, Malaysia hosted armed forces from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore & the UK in the annual "Bersama Shield 2022 (BS22)" training exercise. The exercise is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) - a series of bilateral and multilateral defense agreements established in 1971. The drills have been organized annually since 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia, New Zealand, Singapore & the UK participated in "Bersama Shield 2022 (BS22)" exercise – hosted by Malaysia
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

569. On March 27, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful tests of the Army version of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) at two different ranges off the coast of Odisha. The tests were conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur as part of the live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets. This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – conducted 2 successful tests of the Army version of 'MRSAM' at Chandipur, Odisha
- MRSAM – developed jointly by DRDO & Israel Aerospace Industries
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

570. On March 25, A Corner-Shot Weapon System (CSWS) designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is at an advanced stage of being inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police. The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the DRDO's lab, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Corner-Shot Weapon System (CSWS) to be inducted by the CRPF & J&K Police – is designed & developed by ARDE-DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

571. On March 22, in one-of-its-kind recognition for a military institution, the Centre of Excellence for Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji was recognised by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering was set up at the INS Shivaji in 2014. The recognition would further cement INS Shivaji's standing as a preferred training establishment for friendly foreign navies in the field of Marine Engineering & enable the establishment to augment partnership with industry and academic institutions of repute within and outside India for quality R&D. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE – recognized Centre of Excellence for Marine Engineering at – INS Shivaji
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

Sports & Games

572. On March 24, in a big move just two days ahead of the IPL 2022, MS Dhoni stepped down as captain of Chennai Super Kings and handed over the leadership to Ravindra Jadeja. Jadeja has been an integral part of Chennai Super Kings since 2012. Dhoni had led CSK since the first season of the IPL way back in 2008. Jadeja will become only the third player to captain CSK after Dhoni and Suresh Raina. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravindra Jadeja – became the new Captain of Chennai Super Kings (succeeding - MS Dhoni)
- Ravindra Jadeja – became the 3rd player to captain CSK (after Dhoni & Suresh Raina)

573. On March 24, Indian paddlers finished the “World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022” held in Doha with two medals, including a singles Bronze won by Achanta Sharath Kamal and a doubles Silver won by G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India won 2 medals at the “World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022” held in Doha, Qatar
- Silver – G. Sathiyam & Manika Batra (doubles) | Bronze – Achanta Sharath Kamal (singles)

574. On March 27, Indian badminton star PV Sindhu won “YONEX Swiss Open 2022” women's singles title with a win over Thailand's Busanan Ongnamrunphan at the St. Jakobshalle arena in Basel, Switzerland. Meanwhile, India's Prannoy H. S. lost the men's singles final to Indonesia's Jonatan Christie. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Swiss Open 2022” held in – Basel, Switzerland
- P. V. Sindhu – won women's singles title (defeating - Busanan Ongnamrunphan)
- Jonatan Christie – won men's singles title (defeating - Prannoy H. S.)



Persons in News

575. On March 23, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, and one of leading woman entrepreneurs from India who has made her mark in India and abroad in the biopharmaceutical arena, is elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). The RSE is Scotland's National Academy established in 1783, for the advancement of learning and useful knowledge. Kiran is among the 80 luminaries to be appointed to the RSE's Fellowship this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw – elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK)
- RSE – Scotland's National Academy established in 1783

Science & Technology

576. On March 24, a Marine Mammals Research (MMR) team of the Department of Environment and Forest in Lakshadweep reported the first-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) in Indian waters. Rough-toothed dolphins are found in tropical and warmer temperate waters all over the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) was sighted for the first time in India – in Lakshadweep
- Lakshadweep: Capital – Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel

Appointments & Resignations

577. On March 25, Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) appointed Hisashi Takeuchi as the MD and Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from 1st April 2022, consequent to the completion of the term of Kenichi Ayukawa on 31st March 2022. Takeuchi joined has been on the Board of Maruti Suzuki since July 2019 and as Joint Managing Director (Commercial) since April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hisashi Takeuchi – appointed as MD & CEO of Maruti Suzuki India from 1st April 2022 (succeeding - Kenichi Ayukawa)
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Hisashi Takeuchi

578. On March 28, Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa for a second consecutive term at a ceremony held at the Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao. He was administered the oath of office with 8 other MLAs by Goa Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai. The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Sawant – took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa for a second consecutive term
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

579. On March 25, Former Prime Minister of Togo, Gilbert Hougbo was elected as the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). He will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post. His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. He will replace the current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, who has held the office since 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gilbert Hougbo (Former PM of Togo) – elected as 11th DG of ILO from October 1, 2022 (succeeding - Guy Ryder)
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG –Guy Ryder | DG – Gilbert Hougbo (from Oct 1, 2022) | Founded in – 1919

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

580. On World Water Day, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) awarded the “2022 Stockholm Water Prize”, also known as the “Nobel Prize of Water”, to Wilfried Brutsaert, also known as Mr. Evaporation, for his groundbreaking work in quantifying environmental evaporation. Brutsaert will receive a glass statue and 1 million Swedish krona, about \$104,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wilfried Brutsaert (Mr. Evaporation) – received “2022 Stockholm Water Prize” or “Nobel Prize of Water”
- He was awarded for his groundbreaking work in quantifying environmental evaporation

581. On March 27, the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022) ceremony was held at California, US. Will Smith won the Oscar for “Best Actor in a Leading Role” for his performance in “King Richard”. Jessica Chastain won the Oscar for “Best Actress in a Leading Role” for her performance in “The Eyes of Tammy Faye”. “Dune” film, directed by Denis Villeneuve, won total 6 awards in different categories at the Oscars 2022. “The Windshield Wiper” film won the award for Best Animated Short Film. While “CODA” film won Best Picture award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022) ceremony – held at California, US
 - Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role – Will Smith
 - Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role – Jessica Chastain
 - Oscar for Best Animated Short Film – “The Windshield Wiper”
 - Oscar for Best Picture – “CODA”
- “Dune” film – won total 6 awards at the ‘Oscars 2022’ (directed by - Denis Villeneuve)

582. On March 22, Mohamad Reza Masoumi from Iran won the 13th edition of the prestigious Greenstorm Global Photography Award, which is organised in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Greenstorm Global Photography Award is organised by Greenstorm Foundation every year and the theme for this year’s festival was “Restore Green Lineage” based on the UNEP theme for 2021 World Environment Day - “Ecosystem Restoration”. The first runner-up for the award is Jophel Botero Ybiossa from the Philippines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohamad Reza Masoumi (Iran) – won the 13th edition of the “Greenstorm Global Photography Award”
- 2022’s Theme – “Restore Green Lineage”
- “Greenstorm Global Photography Award” – organised by Greenstorm Foundation + UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972



Schemes & Initiatives

583. On March 24, Polar Science & Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme comprising the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program is implemented successfully through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme was approved for continuation during 2021-2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Polar Science & Cryosphere (PACER) scheme – approved for continuation during 2021-2026
- PACER scheme is implemented through – NCPOR (Vasco da Gama, Goa) | PACER Scheme functions under MoES

Important Days & Dates

584. Every year on March 26, people around the planet take an hour off electricity by switching off their lights at homes and offices as a show of support for conservation of energy during the World Earth Hour. The theme of Earth Hour 2022 is “Shape Our Future”. This celebration was started by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and its partners in Sydney in 2007. The day is annually observed across the globe on the last Saturday of March by turning off the lights between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm (Local Time). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 26 – World Earth Hour or Earth Hour 2022 – by WWF (between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm)
- 2022’s Theme – “Shape Our Future”
- 1st Earth Hour was observed in Sydney – in 2007
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

585. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai addressed the 187th Raising Day celebrations of the Assam Rifles in Shillong as Chief Guest on March 24. Assam Rifles was established in 1835 as the “Cachar Levy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – 187th Raising Day of Assam Rifles – addressed by Nityanand Rai (MoS for Home Affairs)
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | DG – Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair
- Assam Rifles – popularly known as “Sentinels of the Northeast” (India’s oldest Paramilitary Force)

586. March 27 is observed as World Theatre Day across the globe. It was the 60th anniversary in 2022. This day preserves dramas and their essential role in the theatrical arts. The day promotes positivity amongst people by bringing about issues that need to be known to people. The day has been celebrated since 1962 at the International Theatre Institute (ITI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – 60th ‘World Theatre Day’ – by International Theatre Institute (since 1962)

587. World Piano Day is usually celebrated on the 88th day of the year (which falls on 29th or 28th March), and interestingly these 88 days are related to the number of keys on the piano. This year, the day was observed on March 29. The first Piano Day was observed in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 29 (88th day of the year) – World Piano Day (since 2015)



Books & Authors

588. On March 26, Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya”. The book is about the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a noted social worker from Andhra Pradesh. The book was authored by K. Syam Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya” book authored by – K. Syam Prasad (released by M. Venkaiah Naidu)
- The book is about the life story of – late Shri Somepalli Somaiah

589. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled “Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems”, at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Ramesh Chand, Pramod Joshi and Shyam Khadka are the editors of this book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – released a book titled “Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers’ Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems”
- Editors of the book – Ramesh Chand, Pramod Joshi & Shyam Khadka

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

590. On March 24, the 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) was organised in Visakhapatnam from March 24 to 26. The three-day conference was held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The conference was inaugurated by Justice P. Laxmana Reddy, Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh. The theme of the conference was “Bridging minds... Connecting generations”. The focus areas of the conference were drug and alcohol abuse in society, stress among students and growing incidence of suicides, depression and anxiety, old-age problems and dementia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) – organised in Visakhapatnam
- Theme – “Bridging minds... Connecting generations”
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

591. On March 26, Union Cabinet approved extension of ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)’ by six months till September 2022. The phase-5 of PMGKAY scheme was to end in March 2022. The government has spent approximately Rs 2.60 lakh Cr so far on the scheme and another Rs 80,000 Cr will be spent over the next 6 months till September 2022, taking the total expenditure under PMGKAY to nearly Rs 3.40 lakh Cr. PMGKAY is a welfare scheme announced by the government in March 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the extended PMGKAY, each beneficiary will get additional 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to the normal quota of foodgrains under the NFSA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) – got extension of 6 months till Sep 2022
- PMGKAY – launched in March 2020 & fully funded by the Union government
- Nodal ministry – Ministry of Finance



592. On March 28, Piyush Goyal, during his visit to the United Arab Emirates, announced the unveiling of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He visited UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively. India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit. The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – participated in “Investopia Summit” & “World Government Summit” held in Dubai, UAE
- Piyush Goyal – announced the unveiling of the CEPA between India & UAE
- ‘India-UAE CEPA’ – the first deep & full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Ranks, Report & Surveys

593. On March 25, Gujarat retained the top position at the NITI Aayog's 2nd edition of the “Export Preparedness Index 2021” followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka. Among union territories, Delhi has topped the index, followed by Goa and Jammu & Kashmir. While Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Tripura topped among Himalayan states. The index, prepared by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness (IFC), is a comprehensive analysis of India's export achievements. IFC is a research institute in Gurgaon, Haryana. The EPI ranks states & UTs on 4 main pillars - policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Export Preparedness Index 2021” (2nd edition) – by NITI Aayog + Institute of Competitiveness
- Top performing states: Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka
- Top performing UTs: Delhi, Goa & J&K
- Top performing Himalayan states: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Tripura

594. Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, famous for its brass work, is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to a report titled “Noise, Blazes and Mismatches” released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (db). The Frontier 2022 report mentions a total of 61 cities. Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh has recorded the highest noise pollution of 119 db, followed by Pakistan's Islamabad where the noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 db. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Frontier 2022 report titled “Noise, Blazes and Mismatches” – released by the UNEP
- Most noise polluted cities globally: 1st - Dhaka (Bangladesh), 2nd - Moradabad (UP), 3rd - Islamabad (Pakistan)
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

595. On March 25, According to the “Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22”, Delhi's Per Capita Income during 2021-22 at current prices, was ₹4,01,982 as against ₹3,44,136 during 2020-21, showing a growth of 16.81%. Per Capita Income of Delhi is ranked at 3rd place among States/UTs in terms of Per Capita Income while Goa stood at 1st place and Sikkim at 2nd place. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22”:
 - States/UTs in terms of Per Capita Income during 2021-22: 1st - Goa, 2nd - Sikkim, 3rd - Delhi
- Delhi’s Per Capita Income during 2021-22 at current prices – Rs 4,01,982 (Growth - 16.81%)

Amount & Agreements

596. On March 27, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) sanctioned Rs 837-Cr under its cluster development fund scheme to Odisha to help develop 18 MSME infrastructure projects. The projects include development of five new MSME parks, construction of 11 workers hostels and two projects to support MSME infrastructure. The funding will be given to the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, which is the implementing agency. SIDBI also run “EU Switch Asia Bamboo” project in the five districts of Odisha to generate an alternative source of livelihood as well as to promote an alternative for timber. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI – sanctioned Rs 837 Cr under its cluster development fund scheme to Odisha for 18 MSME infrastructure projects
- SIDBI – run “EU Switch Asia Bamboo” project in 5 districts of Odisha
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

597. On March 25, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, collaborated with the Indo-German Development Cooperation Project ‘Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her&Now)’ commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to end the gender-based barriers that pose significant obstacles to women entrepreneurs across India. The partnership between AIM and Her&Now will impart the ‘WINcubate Training Programme’ to the AIM Incubators and Innovation Centres and equip them in adopting a gender-focused approach. The WINcubate Training Programme has been developed by Her&Now together with the Indian NGO ‘Dhriiti - the Courage Within’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + Her&Now = to impart ‘WINcubate Training Programme’ to end gender-based barriers for women entrepreneurs
- Her&Now + ‘Dhriiti - the Courage Within’ = developed ‘WINcubate Training Programme’
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

598. In March 2022, in a major boost to the Government’s “Make in India” Initiative, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to jointly develop an indigenous civil Air Traffic Management System (ATMS). Under this Agreement, BEL and AAI will jointly develop ATMS with Advanced-Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- AAI + BEL = to jointly develop an indigenous civil Air Traffic Management System (ATMS)
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

599. On March 25, Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs 887 Cr with Larsen & Toubro Ltd for the acquisition of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) under the “Buy-Indian” category for Indian Navy. These MPVs have the capability to perform multi-role support functions which include maritime surveillance & patrol, surface and underwater targets for Gunnery/ASW firing exercises, launching/recovery of torpedoes and operation of various types of aerial. These vessels will also act as a trial platform for naval weapons and sensors which are under development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + L&T = a contract worth Rs 887 Cr for the acquisition of two MPVs for Indian Navy
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

600. On March 25, Airport operators Groupe ADP and GMR Airports together with Airbus, Axens and Safran signed an MoU to conduct a joint study on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and their potential in India. The objective of the study is to understand and evaluate the demand, the challenges and opportunities of supply, infrastructure and fuelling, as well as to prepare a business case for SAF production and use for all kind of aviation purposes. SAF is a clean substitute for fossil jet fuels. Rather than being refined from petroleum, SAF is produced from sustainable resources such as waste oils from a biological origin, agri-residues, municipal solid wastes or algae. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Groupe ADP + GMR Airports + Airbus + Axens + Safran = MoU to conduct a joint study on SAF & their potential in India
- SAF – Sustainable Aviation Fuels





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