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March
MockDrill
PDF No. 14
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 22nd April 2022

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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

651. In March 2022, the Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad has recently set up a Retail Tech Consortium and plans to collaborate with several Retail and Technology Organisations in India. Flipkart has joined as a principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium. This consortium would bring to the fore unbiased voices of customers on the digitisation of retail to help retailers understand their consumers better. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad – set up a Retail Tech Consortium
- Flipkart – principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium

652. On March 29, according to data placed in the Lok Sabha, Uttar Pradesh has reclaimed its position as the top producing State in vegetables relegating West Bengal to the second position after two years. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh remains the top fruit producer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)" from 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector. Moreover, India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021-22 from the previous year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Top vegetables producer State – Uttar Pradesh
- top fruit producer State – Andhra Pradesh
- MoAFW is implementing 'MIDH Scheme' from 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector
- India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021-22

653. On March 30, in a move to make legal aid more accessible for women, the National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) has launched a 'Legal Aid Clinic' which will act as a single-window facility for resolving grievances of women by offering them free legal assistance. NCW is also planning to set up similar legal services clinics in other State Commissions for Women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW + DSLISA = launched a 'Legal Aid Clinic' to make legal aid more accessible for women
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

654. On March 30, Wildlife conservationists expressed concern after some local people spotted a few desert foxes, found in the scrub forests of Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, suffering from a loss of fur due to the mange skin disease. The very first time mange was spotted in the desert fox was in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Desert foxes in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district – found to be suffering from a loss of fur due to 'Mange' skin disease
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

655. "Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya", a museum dedicated to Prime Ministers of India, is built in New Delhi & it will be inaugurated on April 14 to coincide with BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary. The museum is built on a 10,000-square metre piece of land adjacent to Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Teen Murti Bhavan. The museum covers the life and times of all the 14 Indian Prime Ministers so far and will showcase their contributions. The museum which is coming up at a cost of Rs 271 Cr was approved in 2018. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya”, a museum dedicated to Prime Ministers of India, is built in New Delhi
- The museum covers the life and times of all the 14 Indian Prime Ministers so far | Cost – Rs 271 Cr
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

656. On March 28, the Waste to Wealth Mission (an initiative under the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Modi government) in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation inaugurated a Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park in New Delhi’s East Jaffrabad. K. Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the government of India inaugurated the park. The park has an ‘Enviro-RISE R-A110’, a technology from Denmark meant to remove the floating solid waste from 52-cusec drain flowing adjacent to the site. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Vijay Raghavan – inaugurated a “Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park” in New Delhi’s East Jaffrabad
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

657. On March 31, Chief Justice of India (CJI) N. V. Ramana formally launched a digital platform namely “FASTER” (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) for quick and effortless justice. The platform would be used by the court officials to instantly send e-copies of the orders through a secured electronic communication channel to intended parties.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. V. Ramana – launched a digital platform namely “FASTER” for quick & effortless justice
- FASTER – **F**ast & **S**ecured **T**ransmission of **E**lectronic **R**ecords

658. On March 28, Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a ‘City of Literature’ with the help of UNESCO. It is among the six places that the KILA plans to develop as ‘Creative Cities’. Thiruvananthapuram is vying for the title ‘City of Peace’, Kollam ‘City of Biodiversity’, Kochi ‘City of Design’, Thrissur ‘City of Learning’, and Kannur ‘City of Craft and Folk Arts’. The proposal will be submitted in 2023 with the help of the University of Prague in the Czech Republic. Prague got the tag in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KILA proposed to brand the following 6 cities of Kerala as ‘Creative Cities’:
 - Kozhikode – ‘City of Literature’
 - Thiruvananthapuram – ‘City of Peace’
 - Kollam – ‘City of Biodiversity’
 - Kochi – ‘City of Design’
 - Thrissur – ‘City of Learning’
 - Kannur – ‘City of Craft and Folk Arts’
- The proposal will be submitted in 2023 with the help of University of Prague ([The Czech Republic](#))
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)



659. On March 30, Department of Justice launched a new website to provide citizens a one stop platform for all digital initiatives of the Department. The revamped website was inaugurated by Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijiju. The new website is launched on S3WaaS platform (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service). The new website gives better access to citizen centric services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Justice – launched a new website to provide citizens a platform for all digital initiatives of Department
- The new website is launched on – S3WaaS platform (**Secure, Scalable & Sugamya Website as a Service**)
- [Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijiju](#) | [Constituency – Arunachal West](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel](#)

660. On March 31, Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned by July 2024 at BPX-Indira Dock. It is a first-of-its-kind iconic sea cruise terminal in India. The project cost is estimated at ₹495 Cr, from which, ₹303 Cr will be incurred by Mumbai Port Authority and the remaining by private operators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned – by July 2024 (Cost of project - ₹495 Cr)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

661. On March 30, the Punjab government’s resolution to install three statues in the Assembly Building of Capitol Complex, Chandigarh, a UNESCO World heritage site, hasn’t gone down well with heritage experts and architects as they say it tramples the ‘Edict of Chandigarh’. The Edict of Chandigarh was prescribed by Le Corbusier, the planner of Chandigarh. Heritage experts and urban planners term it a ‘mandated rule book’ on the city’s planning laid down by Corbusier as he wanted the citizens to become the guardians and saviours of the city. Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, known as Le Corbusier, was a Swiss-French architect, designer, painter, urban planner, writer, and one of the pioneers of what is now regarded as modern architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Edict of Chandigarh’ was prescribed by – Le Corbusier (the planner of Chandigarh)

662. On March 28, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) constituted a permanent coordination committee to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that 19 elephants were killed across India on railway tracks in 2018-19, 14 in 2019-20 and 12 in 2020-21. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Highway Authority (NHA), National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and World Bank Group has published a document named “Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure” to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railway lines, to reduce human-animal conflicts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC – constituted a Permanent Coordination Committee to prevent Elephant deaths on railway tracks
- WII + MoEFCC + NHA + NTCA + World Bank = published a document titled “Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure”
- [HQs of WII – Dehradun, Uttarakhand](#) | [Director – Satya Prakash Yadav](#)



663. On March 28, Konkan Railway Corporation has completed 100% electrification on its entire 741-km route between Roha in Maharashtra and Thokur in Karnataka. The foundation stone for the electrification of the 741-km route work was laid in November 2015. The total cost of the project is Rs 1287 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Konkan Railway has completed 100% electrification on its entire route between Roha (MH) & Thokur (Karnataka)
- Route length – 741 km | Cost – Rs 1287 Cr

664. The population of one-horned rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) has increased by 200 in the past 4 years. As per the census conducted between March 25 and March 28 in 2022, the count at KNPTR, which is the world's largest habitat for the 'endangered' one-horned rhinos, stood at 2,613. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Population of one-horned rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga NP&TR increased by 200 in 4 years (Total - 2,613)
- IUCN Red List status of one-horned rhinoceros – 'endangered'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

International Affairs

665. On March 29, During External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka, India & Sri Lanka signed an MoU and decided that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will build a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Sri Lanka's Colombo. With this, India will get another strategic edge against China in the Indian Ocean region after installing a coastal radar system in Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL – to build a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

666. On March 31, Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced to protect the ancient Buddha statues in an archaeological site 'Mes Aynak', also the site of a copper mine where the Taliban is hoping for Chinese investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced to protect the ancient Buddha statues in 'Mes Aynak'
- 'Mes Aynak' - an archaeological site in Afghanistan

667. In March 2022, leading media groups from the five BRICS countries put together a three-month long training programme for journalists to face a shared challenge of how media organisations in emerging markets can innovate and stay relevant in their unique contexts. The programme was an initiative of the BRICS Media Forum. Over the past three months, 25 journalists from the five countries participated in a first ever online media training programme. The Forum was established in 2015 by media organisations from the five countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRICS Media Forum – started a three-month long training programme for journalists
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2022 – China



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

668. On March 28, Maharashtra-based Redemption Digital Technology Pvt Ltd has soft-launched India's first KYC-compliant crypto token - Redemption. It's a unique crypto token with which users can earn investing time, instead of money. Also, it's India's first crypto token which users can redeem for fiat money, even before its listing on exchange. Redemption is an emerging 'Web 3.0 Technology' base, patent-filed crypto token which is developed on Binance Smart Chain (BSC) BEP20 protocol. Redemption crypto token works on "Reward & Redeem" principle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Redemption Digital Technology – launched India's first KYC-compliant crypto token - "Redemption"
- Redemption crypto token works on "Reward & Redeem" principle

669. In March 2022, MG Motor India launched "e-Pay", industry's first & a one-stop online car finance platform for an end-to-end digital auto finance process that provides instant loan approvals. The automaker has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and Axis Bank to offer instant financing options under the facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MG Motor India – launched "e-Pay", industry's first & a one-stop online car finance platform
- HQs of MG Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | President & MD – Rajeev Chaba

670. On March 30, HDFC Bank and Shoppers Stop launched a new range of co-branded Credit Cards. Through this tie-up, the two aim to source over 10 lakh cards in 5 years. The credit cards will be available for over 80 lakh 'First Citizen' customers of Shoppers Stop along with HDFC Bank customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Shoppers Stop = launched a new range of co-branded Credit Cards
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"
- HQs of Shoppers Stop – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Venu Nair

671. On March 28, Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI, dedicated "Varnika", the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI to the nation, in Mysuru, Karnataka. BRBNMPL has set up Varnika with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes. It is a boost to 'Make in India' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaktikanta Das – dedicated "Varnika", the Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL in Mysuru, Karnataka
- HQs of BRBNMPL – Bengaluru, Karnataka

672. In March 2022, Financial services company FinMapp received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS). It has also acquired a registration certificate from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recognizing it as a corporate agent. The company will launch NPS as an investment tool on its app. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- FinMapp received licence from PFRDA & IRDAI to sell insurance & NPS products
- HQs of FinMapp – Gurgaon, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Kumar Binit
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Debasish Panda

673. On March 31, the Union government announced its plan to raise Rs 8.45 lakh Cr through borrowing in the first half of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the economy, according to the Finance Ministry. Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 14.31 lakh Cr estimated for FY2022-23, Rs 8.45 lakh Cr is planned to be borrowed in the first half (H1).

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government plans to borrow Rs 8.45 lakh Cr in H1 of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the Economy
- Gross market borrowing estimated for FY2022-23 – Rs 14.31 lakh Cr

674. On March 30, Gurgaon-based Non-profit organization Nabet India and PNB Housing Finance Pvt Ltd partnered to carry out a special women's health and wellness initiative. Nabet India will promote livelihood for women particularly in rural areas and it will also promote health and wellness to improve their quality of life. The sanitary napkin machines sponsored by PNB Housing Finance's CSR arm, Peheil Foundation, would help create in-house employment at the production centre and distribution network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nabet India (Gurgaon) + PNB Housing Finance = to carry out a special women's health & wellness initiative
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tagline – "Ghar Ki Baat"

675. On March 31, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and HSBC India signed an agreement to establish a \$100 million partial guarantee programme to support more than 4,00,000 micro-borrowers and mostly women-run micro-enterprises across India. This programme will strengthen microfinance as a tool to build economic resilience, reduce gender disparities and support economic recovery across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + HSBC India = an agreement to establish a \$100 million partial guarantee programme
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Hitendra Dave

676. On March 31, the RBI extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks by 1 year till March 31, 2023. The cost of each cassette is in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. This is second extension of timeline that the central bank has given to banks. In July 2021, RBI had advised banks to consider using lockable cassettes in their ATMs which shall be swapped at the time of cash replenishment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks by 1 year till March 31, 2023
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



Defence Affairs

677. On March 28, Philippines & US Kicked Off Large-Scale Balikatan Military Exercise marking a positive turn in the U.S. Philippines alliance in the twilight of President Rodrigo Duterte's disruptive six-year term in office. This exercise is one of the largest military exercises in years, scheduled to run until April 8. Balikatan is a Tagalog word meaning "shoulder to shoulder". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Balikatan" military exercise – conducted between Philippines & US from March 28 to April 8
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

678. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held its maiden Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) at Goa and in Arabian Sea from 26 to 30 March 22. The exercise witnessed participation of 16 out of the 25 member nations of IONS which included Iran. IMEX - 22 was conducted in two phases with Harbour Phase at Mormugao Port, Goa from 26 to 27 March 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March 2022. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was established in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IONS – held its maiden "Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)" at Goa & in Arabian Sea
- Harbour Phase at Mormugao Port, Goa from 26-27 March | Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28-30 March
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

679. On March 31, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), United Arab Emirates exchanged an MoU to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence. The duo will also explore the export possibility of the products to reach out the global demands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + TEC (UAE) = an MoU to explore new business opportunities in the field of defence
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970

680. The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies - "VARUNA" was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 30 Mar to 3 April, 2022. The Bilateral Naval Exercise between the two Navies was initiated in 1993. The exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th edition of Bilateral Naval Exercise "VARUNA" between India & France – conducted in the Arabian Sea
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



Sports & Games

681. On March 28, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands won the “Formula One Saudi Arabian Grand Prix” for his first win of the season and the 21st of his career. Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco got second place and Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain got third place. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen ([Red Bull - Netherlands](#)) – won “F1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix” (21st win of his career)
- 2nd – Charles Leclerc ([Ferrari – Monaco](#)) | 3rd – Carlos Sainz ([Ferrari - Spain](#))
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

682. On March 2, Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram, world number 13, announced retirement from international badminton. He had won the Dutch Open twice besides finishing runner-up at the Korea Open Super Series in 2015. He last played at the Odisha Open Super 100 tournament in January, 2022. Ajay Jayaram was also a member of the 2016 Indian men’s team that claimed a bronze medal in Asia Team Championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Jayaram – retired from International Badminton
- [HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia](#) | [President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen](#)
- [HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi](#) | [President – Himanta Biswa Sarma](#)

Arts & Cultural Affairs

683. On March 27, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized “Yamunotsav” in association with a group of NGOs at ITO Bridge in Delhi, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a pledge to keep it clean. The ITO Bridge, also known as Indraprastha barrage and ITO barrage, is a 552 meter bridge over Yamuna River. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG organized “Yamunotsav” at ITO Bridge in Delhi
- 552-meter ITO Bridge (Indraprastha barrage or ITO barrage) – located over Yamuna River
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)
- [NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti](#) | [DG – G. Asok Kumar](#)

Science & Technology

684. India’s third moon mission ‘Chandrayaan-3’ and ‘Aditya-L1’ satellite will be tracked by the antennas of European Space Agency (ESA). According to ESA, the ISRO will launch two pioneering scientific spacecraft in 2022, one to study the Sun, and one to land on the Moon. Aditya-L1 satellite’s mission is to study the Sun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 3rd moon mission ‘Chandrayaan-3’ & ISRO’s ‘Aditya-L1’ satellite – will be tracked by the antennas of ESA
- [HQs of ESA – Paris, France](#) | [DG – Josef Aschbacher](#)



685. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project. A space debris tracking radar has a range of 1,500 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO is building up orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars & optical telescopes under 'NETRA' project
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

Appointments & Resignations

686. On March 31, Indian American Raj Subramaniam is appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of delivery major FedEx, replacing Frederick W. Smith, who is set to step down from the position on June 1. Smith, who founded FedEx in 1971, will now serve as the company's Executive Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raj Subramaniam – appointed as the new CEO of FedEx (replacing - Frederick W. Smith)
- HQs of FedEx – Tennessee, US | CEO – Frederick W. Smith (From June - Raj Subramaniam)

687. Uday Kotak stepped down as the Chairman of the board of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) after his term ended on April 2. C. S. Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and MD for 6 months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Rs 55,000 Cr debt of IL&FS is resolved so far during Uday Kotak's term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. S. Rajan – appointed as Chairman & MD of IL&FS for 6 months
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – C. S. Rajan

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

688. Former Karnataka chief minister M. Veerappa Moily and former Tamil Nadu health minister H. V. Hande were conferred with Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award at the 12th edition of "Sansad Ratna Awards 2022". NCP's Supriya Sule and BJD's Amar Patnaik are among 11 MPs who were honoured at the Sansad Ratna Awards 2022 under various categories. All the awardees were presented the awards by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra at the Maharashtra Sadan. Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) MP N. K. Premachandran and Shiv Sena MP Shirang Appa Barne were awarded the 'Sansad Vishisht Ratna' award. 'Sansad Ratna Awards' were instituted on the suggestion of former president late APJ Abdul Kalam, to honour the top-performing parliamentarians. The first award function was held in 2010 in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th edition of "Sansad Ratna Awards" in 2022:
- Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award – M. Veerappa Moily & H. V. Hande
- Sansad Vishisht Ratna Award – N. K. Premachandran & Shirang Appa Barne
- 'Sansad Ratna Awards' were instituted on the suggestion of – APJ Abdul Kalam



689. On March 2, Deepika Padukone was honoured at the “TIME100 Impact Awards” for the second time in her career at the ceremony held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai. She was lauded for her outstanding commitment to mental health advocacy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – honoured at TIME100 Impact Awards for her outstanding commitment to mental health advocacy
- The ceremony was held at ‘Museum of the Future’ in Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Schemes & Initiatives

690. Around 95.21% of total beneficiaries under the Rs 5-lakh-Cr Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) have been micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), according to the government. National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), which operates the ECLGS and announced the extension of the scheme till March 2023 from March 2022. ECLGS was launched in May 2020 with an initial limit of Rs 3 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Around 95.21% of total beneficiaries under ECLGS have been MSMEs
- NCGTC extended the ECLGS till March 2023 (from March 2022)
- HQs of NCGTC – Mumbai, Maharashtra

691. On March 30, Karnataka government launched “Vinaya Samarasya Yojana”, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state. The scheme has been named after a three-year-old Dalit Vinay, whose family, residents of Miyapur village in Koppal district, was slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 by the village leaders in September last year for the boy’s “offence” of straying into a local temple. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched “Vinaya Samarasya Yojana” to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

692. On March 28, Haryana Agriculture Minister J. P. Dalal launched the portal of “Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana”. Under this scheme, farmers will be compensated for the damage caused to their crops due to adverse weather and natural calamities. Total 21 crops are covered under this scheme. Under the scheme, the sum assured will be Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetables and spices and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits. The farmer's contribution/share will be only 2.5% of the assured amount. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana” portal
- Sum assured for vegetables – Rs 30,000 per acre | Sum assured for spices – Rs 40,000 per acre
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya



Important Days & Dates

693. “International Transgender Day of Visibility” is celebrated every year on March 31 as an annual event dedicated to celebrating transgenders and raising awareness faced by them in every sphere of life. The day was founded in 2009 by Rachel Crandall, a US-based transgender activist, to raise awareness. The day was first observed on March 31, 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility (since - 2009)
- The day was started by – Rachel Crandall

694. Every year, World Bipolar Day is observed on 30th of March on the birth anniversary of Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh. He was considered as one of the most influential artists in the history of western arts. This day is celebrated to raise awareness and educate masses on Bipolar disorder globally and end the social stigma attached to this mental disorder. Bipolar disorder can be defined as a mental health issue that affects a person’s mood. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 30 – World Bipolar Day (birth anniversary of Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh)
- Bipolar – a mental disorder

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

695. On March 30, PM Narendra Modi participated in the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit that was virtually hosted by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC. The Summit’s theme was “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the 5th BIMSTEC Summit – virtually hosted by Sri Lanka
- Theme – “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People”
- HQs of BIMSTEC – Dhaka, Bangladesh | Secretary General – H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell | Established in – 1997
- BIMSTEC members: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand | Current Chair – Sri Lanka

696. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, organized a 2-day “Mega International Summit on MSMEs” on March 29 and 30, 2022, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatu Rane inaugurated the Summit as Chief Guest and Union Minister of State for MSME, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma was the Guest of Honour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mega International Summit on MSMEs” was organised in New Delhi – by MoMSME & EDII, Ahmedabad
- Summit was inaugurated by – Narayan Tatu Rane | Guest of Honour of the Summit – Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma



Ranks, Report & Surveys

697. Unsafe abortions are the 3rd leading cause of maternal mortality in India, and each day, around 8 women die from causes related to unsafe abortions, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s "State of the World Population Report 2022". Between 2007-2011, 67% of abortions in India were classified as unsafe. The report, titled "Seeing the Unseen: The Case for Action in the Neglected Crisis of Unintended Pregnancy", has found that 121 million (nearly 50%) unintended pregnancies occur every year globally, out of all pregnancies Worldwide. One in seven unintended pregnancies in the world takes place in India. For adolescent fertility in India, women in the 15-19 age group have 43 births per 1,000 women (NFHS-5, 2019-21), which declined from 51 during NFHS-4 (2015-16). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "State of the World Population Report 2022" – released by UNFPA
- 121 million (nearly 50%) unintended pregnancies occur every year globally
- 'Unsafe abortions' are the 3rd leading cause of maternal mortality in India

698. India's Space Economy has evolved considerably and now accounts, on an average, for about 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21), according to a research paper titled "The Space Economy of India: Its Size and Structure" by researchers at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST). The estimated size of India's space economy as a percentage of the GDP has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% (₹36,794 Cr or approx \$5 billion) in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Space Economy of India: Its Size and Structure" research paper – by CDS & IIST
- India's Space Economy evolved considerably & accounts on an average for 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21)
- India's Space Economy as a percentage of the GDP: 0.19% (₹36,794 Cr or approx \$5 billion) in 2020-21

Amount & Agreements

699. On March 30, the Union Cabinet approved \$808 million (₹6,062.45 Cr) for a new scheme "Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)" which is expected to commence in the FY2022-23. Out of the total amount, ₹3,750 Cr (\$500 million) would be a loan from the World Bank, and rest ₹2,312.45 Cr (\$308 million) will be funded by the government of India. This program is set to complement the PM Modi's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission and will provide necessary technological inputs to the MSMEs to make them competitive and self-reliant. The RAMP is set to directly or indirectly benefit all 63 million enterprises that qualify as MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved \$808 million for a 'RAMP' scheme which is expected to commence in the FY2022-23
- World Bank – will provide \$500 million loan for this scheme
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



700. On March 31, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of 312.258 billion yen for the 7 projects - Dedicated Freight Corridor Project, Chennai Metro Project, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project, North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project, Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation & Greening Project for Climate Change Response and Assam Health System Strengthening Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JICA + Gol = loan agreement to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to 312.258 billion yen for 7 projects





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