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March
MockDrill
PDF No. 1
(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

1. Bihar's first floating power plant will be commissioned in Darbhanga district. The floating power plant will meet two goals at a time: Producing green energy from solar panels and promoting fish farming underwater. The unit, commissioned to Avaada Energy, a private firm, will come up over a six-acre pond. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar's first floating power plant will be commissioned in Darbhanga district – by Avaada Energy
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

2. On March 1, International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) was launched at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The event was jointly hosted by IITM and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). At the event, announcement of launch of the 3rd phase of Monsoon Mission was also made. First launched in 2012, the Monsoon Mission is a flagship project undertaken by the MoES to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons. The IMPO, along with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), will work towards coordinating with global monsoon experts and undertake collaborative research on monsoon affecting the Asian, African, American and Oceania countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoES – launched International Monsoons Project Office at the IITM, Pune
- MoES – announced to launch 3rd phase of 'Monsoon Mission'
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

3. India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), "Hoegh Giant", arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra. Hoegh Giant sailed from Keppel Shipyard, Singapore. Vessel "Hoegh Giant" is basically an LNG Tanker. The FSRU has a storage capacity of 1,70,000 cubic metres and has an installed re-gasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (equivalent to 6 million tons annually). The Hoegh Giant will deliver re-gasified LNG to the 56-km long Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first Floating Storage & Regasification Unit "Hoegh Giant" – arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra
- FSRU's storage capacity – 1,70,000 cubic metres | Installed re-gasification capacity – 750 million cubic feet per day

4. The Indigenously built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam was formally 'affiliated' to Visakhapatnam Port, the fifth-busiest cargo port in India. It is often referred to as "A City of Destiny" and "Jewel of the East Coast". INS Visakhapatnam is built in the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd with 75% Indian content. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Visakhapatnam was formally 'affiliated' to Visakhapatnam Port ("A City of Destiny" or "Jewel of the East Coast")

5. Madhya Pradesh Government created a Guinness Record in Ujjain city by lighting 21 lakh lamps as a part of Maha Shivratri celebrations on March 1, 2022. The event saw participation from over 17,000 volunteers, who had registered for this massive event. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) – created a Guinness Record by lighting 21 lakh lamps as a part of Maha Shivratri celebrations
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal](#) | [CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan](#) | [Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

6. On March 2, At a programme organised as part of the celebrations of International Women’s Day week, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani announced an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for the workers of One-Stop Centres (OSC), established under ‘Nirbhaya Fund’, to provide mental, legal and medical aid to distressed women. The ministry had launched the One-Stop Centre scheme in 2015 under the Nirbhaya fund. The ministry also announced “Naari Adaalat” as a pilot project with National Legal Aid Services Authority (NALSA). The ministry, in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) launched the “Stree Manoraksha Project” to provide certificate training to OSC staff. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoWCD – announced Rs 5 lakh insurance for OSC workers helping distressed women
- MoWCD + NALSA ([New Delhi](#)) = launched the “Naari Adaalat”
- MoWCD + NIMHANS ([Bangalore](#)) = launched the “Stree Manoraksha Project”
- March 1 to 8 – International Women’s Day week

7. On March 1, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) revised the deadline to Geotag all Waqf properties across India from March, 2022 to November, 2023. The long-delayed project began in 2017 under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs’ “Quami Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme”. According to estimates, there are over 6 lakh Waqf properties, out of which, 2 lakh properties have been geotagged in last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoMA revised the deadline to Geotag all Waqf properties across India – from March, 2022 to November, 2023
- “Quami Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme” – belongs to Ministry of Minority Affairs
- [Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi](#) | [Constituency – Jharkhand](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla](#)

International Affairs

8. Nepal’s House of Representatives accepted \$500 million grant assistance-Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) pact along with ‘interpretative declaration’. Millennium Challenge Corporation is a US foreign aid agency established by the US Congress in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal’s House of Representatives accepted \$500 million grant assistance-Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) pact
- ‘MCC Compact’ was initiated by the US | Millennium Challenge Corporation – a foreign aid agency of the US

9. On March 2, Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of Netherlands to India, launched a special logo to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands. The logo features a lotus and a tulip - the national flowers of both countries. The chakra in the middle of the logo depicts the bond of our friendship. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sanjay Verma + Marten van den Berg = launched a special logo to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India & Netherlands
- The logo features a lotus & a tulip - the national flowers of both countries
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

10. On March 1, Swiss International Air Lines and its parent Lufthansa Group signed a new strategic collaboration with Switzerland-based Synhelion to use its solar aviation fuel. This will make SWISS the first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel or Solar Aviation fuel. Synhelion will build the world's first facility for the industrial production of solar fuel in Germany in 2022. Swiss International Air Lines is set to become the first customer for the solar kerosene in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swiss International Air Lines + Synhelion = partnership to use Synhelion's solar aviation fuel
- Swiss International Air Lines – to be the first airline in the world to use Solar Aviation fuel
- Synhelion – to build the world's first facility for the industrial production of solar fuel in Germany in 2022

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

11. On March 1, Religare Broking Ltd announced the launch of Religare "Pre Apply LIC IPO" app, which will be a one-stop app to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the LIC IPO. All types of investors, including existing LIC policy holders and first-time investors can register their interest by filling up their name, email ID and mobile number. There are 3 different types of Demat accounts - Regular Demat account, Repatriable Demat account & Non-Repatriable Demat account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Religare Broking Ltd – launched "Pre Apply LIC IPO" app to open demat account
- 3 Types of Demat accounts: Regular Demat account, Repatriable Demat account & Non-Repatriable Demat account
- [HQs of Religare Broking Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Nitin Aggarwal](#)

12. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) was merged with DBS Bank in November 2020, following the amalgamation with DBIL due to which the IFSC & MICR codes of all branches of erstwhile LVB have now changed. The Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) is a unique 11-digit alphanumeric code that is used for online fund transfer transactions done via NEFT, RTGS and IMPS. MICR code is a 9-digit code printed on cheques using MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition technology). MICR uniquely identifies the bank and branch participating in an Electronic Clearing System (ECS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSC & MICR codes of all branches of Lakshmi Vilas Bank have now changed
- IFSC – Indian Financial System Code (11 digits) | MICR – Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (9 digits)



13. On March 1, Ambit Finvest, the NBFC of the Ambit Group, signed a co-lending agreement with Union Bank of India (UBI) for lending to MSME customers at a lower rate of interest and helping them deploy capital more effectively in their business. This tie up will ensure underwriting for originations, positively impacting the creditworthiness of MSMEs, in 11 states that are currently covered by Ambit Finvest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ambit Finvest + UBI – a co-lending agreement for lending to MSME customers at a lower rate of interest
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

14. On March 2, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) tied up with Mahagram, a leading fintech company to roll out the ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha to provide financial technology and infrastructure support to the project. As part of the tie-up, the company onboarded more than 11000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform. This tie-up with Bank of Maharashtra will provide access to the doorstep and hassle-free banking services to the people of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoM + Mahagram = rolled out ‘Bank Sakhi’ project & to provide doorstep & hassle-free banking services in Odisha
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

15. On March 1, Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) became first depository to open 6 Cr active Demat accounts. CDSL is the only listed depository in the country. The focus of registration of new demat accounts is shifting from metros to tier II and tier III cities. Commenced in 1999, CDSL facilitates holding and transacting in securities in the electronic form and facilitates settlement of trades on stock exchanges. Major shareholders of CDSL include BSE, Standard Chartered Bank, PPFAS Mutual Fund, HDFC Bank and LIC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Depository Services (India) Ltd – became first depository to open 6 Cr active Demat accounts
- CDSL is the only listed depository in India
- HQs of CDSL – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – Balkrishna V. Choubal | MD & CEO – Nehal Vora

16. On March 3, IIFL Finance Limited collaborated with fintech firm NIRA as part of its strategy to strengthen its digital footprint. Through this partnership, salaried customers can avail of a personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh from IIFL Finance by downloading the NIRA app. IIFL Finance is a diversified retail-focused NBFC. NIRA is a Bengaluru-based consumer finance business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Finance + NIRA (Bengaluru) = collaboration to offer personal loan through ‘NIRA app’
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

17. On March 2, the RBI cancelled the licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank (Sangli, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



18. On March 2, Edelweiss Housing Finance announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property (LAP) to prospective customers, especially MSMEs. Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain 20% of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80% will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss Housing Finance + SCB = co-lending partnership for loans against property (EHFL - 20% & SCB - 80%)
- HQs of EHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajat Avasthi
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters | Chairman – Dr Jose Vinals | CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung

19. On March 2, UCO Bank extended the fintech partnership with Fisdom to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing, with an objective to offer customers a three-in-one personal banking experience. The extension suite will be offered through UCO Bank's mobile banking application, UCO mBanking Plus, and will gradually be accessible through its internet banking platform also. Fisdom is a brand operated under legal entity Finwizard Technology Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UCO Bank + Fisdom = extended the fintech partnership to offer Demat account & stockbroking services
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”
- HQs of Fisdom – Mumbai | Co-founder & CEO – Subramanya SV

20. On March 1, IDBI Bank announced the launch of two new products namely Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) designed to meet the needs of Institutional customers. The purpose of C-LMS and G-LMS is to provide real-time, web-based and formula-driven liquidity management solution. Additionally, C-LMS helps corporate customers to automate the transfer of funds across various accounts of the entity. It also helps corporate customers to manage liquidity efficiently, thereby helping in efficient working capital management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – announced to launch ‘C-LMS’ & ‘G-LMS’ to provide real-time, web-based liquidity management solution
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964

21. For the first time, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called “Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS)” which will provide savers and people from the salaried class an option for their investments. The regulator has appointed Ernst & Young (EY) Actuarial Services Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) as a consultant to help design the proposed MARS under the National Pension System (NPS). This is similar to the ATP system in Denmark, where 80% of contributions are guaranteed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFRDA is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called “Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS)”
- PFRDA – appointed ‘EY Actuarial Services LLP’ as a consultant to help design the proposed MARS under the NPS
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003

22. On March 2, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered Yatra.com and SBI Card to launch a co-branded ‘Yatra SBI Card’ on the RuPay network. The card offers exclusive travel benefits on booking flights and hotels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + Yatra.com + SBI Card = launched co-branded 'Yatra SBI Card' on RuPay network
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

Defence Affairs

23. On March 4, "Milan 2022", Indian Navy's largest multilateral exercise, was ended. Over 40 countries participated in this exercise. The harbour phase of the exercise was held from February 25 to 28 and the sea phase from March 1 to 4. The theme of the Exercise was 'Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration'. This Sea phase of the 11th edition of exercise witnessed an increase in the "Complexity of Exercises" and saw the participation of 26 ships, one submarine and 21 aircrafts. The closing ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. It began with the participation of only four countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in 1995. Earlier, the exercise was held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar but this edition was shifted to Visakhapatnam for the first time as it offers more infrastructure as well as sea space for the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Milan 2022" – Indian Navy's largest multilateral exercise conducted in Visakhapatnam (in harbour phase & sea phase)
- Theme of 11th edition of "Milan 2022" exercise – "Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration"
- Closing ceremony was presided over by – Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla (Flag Officer Commanding 'Eastern Fleet')
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- HQs of Eastern Fleet – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOCEF – Sanjay Bhalla

Sports & Games

24. On March 1, the 31st Southeast Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, is set to be held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi from May 12 to 23, 2022. The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events. Vietnam will host the event for the second time since 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 31st Southeast Asian Games is set to be held in – Hanoi, Vietnam
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

25. Dabang Delhi KC overcame 3-time champions Patna Pirates to clinch the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 trophy in the final. Joginder Singh Narwal is the Captain of Dabang Delhi team. While Krishan Kumar Hooda is the Head Coach. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dabang Delhi KC – won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 trophy (defeating - Patna Pirates)
- Captain of Dabang Delhi – Joginder Singh Narwal | Head Coach – Krishan Kumar Hooda



Persons in News

26. President Joe Biden nominated federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman selected to serve on a court. She would be only the sixth woman to serve on the court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ketanji Brown Jackson – first Black woman selected to serve as the U.S. Supreme Court Judge
- Present Chief Justice of the US – John Glover Roberts Jr.
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Science & Technology

27. On March 2, NASA successfully launched Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, 'GOES-T', the third in a series of next-generation weather satellites for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It was launched on a United Launch Alliance's 'Atlas V' rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Once 'GOES-T' is positioned in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above earth, it will be renamed 'GOES-18'. GOES satellites bring advanced new capabilities to help forecasters better monitor and predict dangerous environmental conditions like hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, and fires. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched 'GOES-T' - a weather satellite for National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

Appointments & Resignations

28. In March 2022, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government appointed Manukumar Srivastava as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra. He took over from Debashish Chakrabarty. He is likely to get a tenure of over a year before retiring in April 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manukumar Srivastava – appointed as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra (succeeding – Debashish Chakrabarty)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

29. On March 1, LIC Mutual Fund appointed T. S. Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective March 1, 2022. He will succeed Dinesh Pangtey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T. S. Ramakrishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund (succeeding - Dinesh Pangtey)
- HQs of LIC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – T S Ramakrishnan



30. On March 2, BharatPe removed co-founder and managing director (MD) Ashneer Grover from all positions in the company. The firm accused Grover's family and relatives of engaging in extensive misappropriation of company funds. The move comes a day after Grover resigned as MD and from the company's board. Moreover, BharatPe appointed Suhail Sameer as the CEO of BharatPe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BharatPe – removed co-founder and MD Ashneer Grover from all positions in the company
- Suhail Sameer – appointed as the CEO of BharatPe
- [HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Suhail Sameer](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

31. On March 1, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on his 69th birthday launched “Naan Mudhalvan” (I am first), a skill-enhancing programme that aims to hone the education, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh TN youth every year. A web portal and logo for the scheme were also launched on the day. The portal will have information on higher education and career opportunities for students of Classes 9-12. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched a skill-enhancing programme called “Naan Mudhalvan” (I am first) for youth
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai](#) | [CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

32. On March 2, Government of India approved the proposal for continuation of the 7 existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme “Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates” for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs 1,452 Cr. The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme continues to reach beneficiaries through the Ministry of Home Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt approved the continuation of 7 sub schemes under “Relief & Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates” scheme
- Extended for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26 | Outlay – Rs 1,452 Cr | Launched by – Ministry of Home Affairs

Important Days & Dates

33. World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 each year to create awareness about the importance of civil protection and preparedness. The day is celebrated by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO). In 2022, the theme is “Civil Defence and Management of Displaced Populations in Face of Disasters and Crises; Role of Volunteers and the Fight Against Pandemics”. It commemorates the anniversary of the day when the ICDO was recognised as an intergovernmental organisation by the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – World Civil Defence Day – by ICDO
- 2022's Theme – “Civil Defence and Management of Displaced Populations in Face of Disasters and Crises; Role of Volunteers and the Fight Against Pandemics”
- [HQs of ICDO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [Secretary-General – Mrs. Njoupou YAP Mariatou](#)



34. Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated on March 1 every year by United Nations and various other international organisations to promote equality and fairness, both before the law and in practice. The day was launched and first celebrated on March 1, 2014 by UNAIDS to fight the systemic and cultural discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. In 2022, the theme is “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower,” under which UNAIDS aims to address the urgent need for action against discriminatory laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day (since 2014)
- 2022's Theme – “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”
- HQs of UNAIDS – Geneva, Switzerland | Executive Director – Winnie Byanyima
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

35. On March 1, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) celebrated its 17th Foundation Day. On the occasion, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the new motto of NCPCR, ‘भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः’. She also complemented the collaboration between NCPCR & Border Security Force for the special initiative called ‘SAHARA’, to provide psycho-social counselling & support to children of BSF jawans who made the supreme sacrifice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 17th Foundation Day of NCPCR
- New motto of NCPCR – ‘भविष्यो रक्षति रक्षितः’
- NCPCR + BSF = collaboration for ‘SAHARA’ initiative to provide psycho-social counselling
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”
- HQs of NCPCR – New Delhi | Chairman – Priyank Kanungoo

36. On March 2, the 46th “Civil Accounts Day” was celebrated in New Delhi. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest. On this event, she launched the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system. At Budget 2022-23, it was announced that the e-Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments as a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency and faceless-paperless payment system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 2 – 46th Civil Accounts Day

37. Every year, World Birth Defects Day is observed across the world on March 3. There may be 5,00,000 or more babies born each year with birth defects in India. The Birth Defects and Childhood Disability Research Centre has published an edited volume, “Birth defects in India: Epidemiology and Public Health Implication”. The year 2022 marked the 7th edition of World Birth Defects Day with the theme of “Many Birth Defects, One Voice”. The day was first observed in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – 7th edition of World Birth Defects Day (since 2015)
- 2022's Theme – “Many Birth Defects, One Voice”



38. World Hearing Day was observed on March 3 to raise awareness on hearing loss and widely disseminate the WHO Global standard for safe listening. The WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing throughout the life. In 2022, the theme is “To hear for Life, Listen with Care”. On this occasion, the WHO released “mSafeListening handbook”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – World Hearing Day
- 2022’s Theme – “To hear for Life, Listen with Care”
- WHO released “mSafeListening handbook”

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

39. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member’s 35-nation Board of Governors held an Emergency Meeting to discuss the current situation in Ukraine after Russia’s invasion. Russian forces took over the decommissioned Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant after a fierce battle with the Ukrainian battalion guarding the facility, where nuclear radiation is still leaking from the world’s worst nuclear disaster in 1986. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAEA member’s 35-nation Board of Governors held an Emergency Meeting to discuss the current situation in Ukraine
- HQs of IAEA – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi | Founded in – 1957 | Members – 173

40. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is organizing a National conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management’ in Raipur, in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh. Over the past 7 years, the SBM-U has harnessed the commitment of citizens towards building a ‘Clean India’ through the largest urban sanitation revolution in the world. In this journey of swachhata, Chhattisgarh has been adjudged the Cleanest State in India for 3 years in succession under Swachh Survekshan, as well as the Best State in the SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge run by MoHUA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBM-U 2.0 + Chhattisgarh = organizing a National conclave on ‘Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities’ in Raipur
- Chhattisgarh – adjudged the Cleanest State in India for 3 years in succession under ‘Swachh Survekshan’
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

Ranks, Report & Surveys

41. The number of Ultra-High-Net-Worth-Individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3% in 2021. In India, the number of UHNWIs (net assets with US\$ 30 million or more) grew by 11% YoY in 2021, the highest percentage growth in APAC, according to Knight Frank’s latest edition of “The Wealth Report 2022”. India ranked 3rd in terms of billionaires’ population in 2021, following the US and China. India ranked 6th in percentage growth of the UHNWI population that is self-made and under the age of 40 years. Asia continues to be the forerunner in the billionaires’ club contributing to 36% of the total billionaires in the world in 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “The Wealth Report 2022” – released by Knight Frank (London, UK)
- Globally, UHNWIs increased by 9.3% in 2021 | In India, UHNWIs increased by 11% in 2021
- India ranked 3rd in terms of billionaires’ population in 2021 | 1st – US, 2nd – China

42. On March 2, as per the latest data, from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), the Telangana ranked the Highest in India among states with a population over 1 Cr in terms of growth rate in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices. Telangana surpassed Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become Top performing states in India. Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) in Telangana increased from 3,59,434 Cr in 2011-12 to 11,54,860 Cr in 2021-22 with the growth of 31.12%, one of the highest jumps for any state in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – topped in terms of growth in Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices
- Growth in Telangana’s GSDP – 31.12% (from 3,59,434 Cr in 2011-12 to 11,54,860 Cr in 2021-22)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

43. According to the Centre for Science and Environment’s 9th edition of “State of India’s Environment Report, 2022”, released by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, India’s rank dropped three spots from last year’s 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015. The report is the annual publication of the Centre for Science and Environment and Down To Earth (magazine). India’s overall SDG score was 66 out of 100. Kerala ranked first among states, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position. Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was ranked first, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the second place. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – released the 9th edition of “State of India’s Environment Report, 2022” – of CSE & Down To Earth
- India’s rank – 120th
- States: 1st – Kerala, 2nd – TN & Himachal Pradesh | UTs: 1st – Chandigarh, 2nd – Delhi, Lakshadweep & Puducherry

44. On March 2, the field assessment for the 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) - world’s largest urban cleanliness survey, was launched on March 1, 2022 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with around 3,000 assessors of the Assessment Agency - Ipsos Research Pvt Ltd. Designed with ‘People First’ as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers. Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years. This year another new indicator ‘Swachh Technology Challenge’ (launched by MoHUA in December 2021) has been added in SS 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched the field assessment for the 7th edition of ‘Swachh Survekshan 2022’
- Driving philosophy of ‘SS 2022’ – ‘People First’ | A new indicator added in ‘SS 2022’ – Swachh Technology Challenge
- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA – in 2016
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched – in 2014



45. The Agriculture Sector has been growing steadily at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11% since 2015, according to a report from Bain & Company and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) titled “Innovation in India’s Rural Economy”. India’s Rural Economy contributed nearly half of the nation’s overall GDP in 2019-2020. Agriculture sector had the highest share of output, contributing approximately 37% of the total rural GDP in 2019-2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Innovation in India’s Rural Economy” report – released by CII + Bain & Company
- Agriculture Sector grew steadily at a CAGR of 11% since 2015
- Agriculture sector registered the highest share of the total Rural GDP in 2019-2020 – 37%

46. On March 1, NITI Aayog is in the process of developing a “National Gender Index” to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. The index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals. NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on different indicators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog is developing a “National Gender Index” for India
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar



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The Question Bank

Ordinance

47. On March 3, Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend ‘Article 80’ of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha. ‘Article 80’ of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House and Rajya Sabha (Upper House). The Private Member Bill was introduced by Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, Manish Tewari. The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandigarh MC – approved a proposal to amend ‘Article 80’ of the Constitution of India
- Private Member Bill – a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

48. On March 2, MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google announced to form a group of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups to help build high-quality global apps and games as part of Google's Appscale Academy. The goal of the Appscale Academy is to identify, and support promising Indian startups and help them grow into successful global businesses. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + Google = to form a group of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups as part of 'Appscale Academy'
- 'Appscale Academy' – belongs to Google
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

49. India and Nepal signed an MoU for a long-term supply of Urea and DAP fertilizers from India to Nepal under a G2G arrangement. The MoU was signed by Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary (Chemical and Fertilizers), Government of India. The signing of this MoU is expected to help address the recurring fertilizer shortages in Nepal and enable improve agricultural productivity for the direct benefit of Nepali farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = signed an MoU for a long-term supply of Urea & DAP fertilizers from India to Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

50. On March 3, Paytm announced further expansion of its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across India. This is the first time Indian Railways is providing an option to pay digitally for ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs to promote cashless commuting among railway passengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + IRCTC = partnership for digital ticketing services to consumers through ATVM at railway stations
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)





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