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March
MockDrill
PDF No. 3
(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

101. On March 4, NSE collaborated with the Telangana government to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing. As part of the pact, NSE with the support of the Telangana government will conduct awareness drives through seminars, camps, knowledge sessions, roadshows, and workshops to guide corporates across the state in fundraising on NSE Emerge platform, and also help the companies in the listing process. The state government will facilitate MSMEs to get listed on NSE Emerge by considering ways to reimburse certain expenses incurred on fundraising with a pre-defined upper limit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE + Telangana = collaborated to encourage and support the MSMEs of the state for listing
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

102. On March 5, Indian Railway conducted the successful trial and testing of indigenously developed a Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), called “Kavach”. Kavach will help preventing head-on collision even when two trains, either out of a possible human error or an abrupt technical failure, come running on the same track. The “Kavach” technology applies the brakes automatically soon after spotting another train coming from the opposite direction on the same track and stops the train at a safe distance. It will be installed across 2000 rail route networks during the current fiscal year of 2022-23. The Kavach is developed by the Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with three other vendors.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railway – successfully tested “Kavach” - a Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)
- Developed by – RDSO + 3 other vendors
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

103. On March 5, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with ‘Sulabh International’ organized an event “Swacchagraha” under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage the mass awareness with the core thought of “Swachhta, Swadhinta and Sulabh” in New Delhi. The evening session themed ‘Ek Shaam Sur, Taal aur Swachhta ke Naam’ was addressed by Chief Guest Vijay Goel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture + Jal Shakti + Housing and Urban Affairs + Sulabh International = organized “Swacchagraha” in Delhi

104. India’s first green charging station is being constructed by the National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway. NHEV will incorporate solar panels to provide renewable energy and will also use green construction techniques for EV station. The charging station will have a restaurant, coffee lounge, a bank, an ATM, a showroom and other amenities for the customers to use while their vehicle is charging. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHEV – constructing India’s first green charging station along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway



105. On March 5, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) collaborated with Tamil Nadu government's MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB) to promote awareness among MSMEs of the state about the benefits of listing. BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements. M-TIPB will offer support in mobilising the SME representatives and state or regional associations. The BSE was the first stock exchange in India to launch the SME platform in March 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE + M-TIPB (Tamil Nadu) = partnership to promote awareness among MSMEs
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE – Asia's 1st Stock Exchange Company

106. On March 4, Reliance Industries Ltd announced to open the Jio World Centre in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex. It will be India's "largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination". RIL will initially launch a dedication of the Dhirubhai Ambani Square and the musical Fountain of Joy to Mumbai and Jio World Convention Centre, the Jio World Centre will have a phase-wise opening over the course of the current and the next year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL – to open 'Jio World Centre' in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

107. On March 3, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the "Sagar Parikrama", organised by the Department of Fisheries, under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The Parikrama, starting from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava', is an endeavour to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk. It will be organised in other districts of Gujarat and other State/UTs in subsequent phases. The first leg of 'Sagar Parikrama' started on 5th March, 2022 from Mandvi and ended at Porbandar on 6th March, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parshottam Rupala (MoFAHD) – launched the "Sagar Parikrama" in Gujarat (organised by Dept. of Fisheries + NFDB)
- First leg of 'Sagar Parikrama' started from Mandvi & ended at Porbandar (both in Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

108. On March 9, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) notified the "LLP (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022" to amend the existing "LLP Rules, 2009". This was the second time these rules were amended. According to the 'Economic Survey 2021-22', India has 83 unicorns. Of these, 44 were created in 2021. One factor that has aided this development is the introduction of "Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)" - a platform that allows business to be carried out in partnership, but limits the liability of each partner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCA – amended the existing "Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Rules, 2009"
- 44 unicorns were created in 2021 in India (Total - 83 unicorns)
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh

109. On March 9, PM Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the premises of Pune Municipal Corporation. The statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall. Narendra Modi also inaugurated Pune Metro Rail's two priority stretches of 12 km, out of the total 32.2 km project in the city. Pune Metro is the first project in India to have Aluminium body coaches, indigenously manufactured under the 'Make in India' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – unveiled a 9.5-feet tall statue of 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj' in Pune
- It is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

110. On March 4, Addressing a post-budget webinar on "Energy for Sustainable Growth", PM Narendra Modi urged households to set up Solar Trees to meet the increasing energy demand of India, and contribute to saving up to 15% electricity for every house. India has set the target of extracting 50% of its energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – urged households to set up 'Solar Trees' & contribute to saving up to 15% electricity for every house
- India has set the target of extracting 50% of its energy from non-fossil fuels – by 2030

111. On March 7, Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant in Thoothukudi or Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. It is set up by the agri-nutrient and fertilisers company Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) Ltd. The state-of-the-art 25.3 megawatts DC/22 megawatts AC floating solar power plant was one of the initiatives of AM International Holdings Ltd, Singapore. SPIC Ltd is part of the AM International Holdings Ltd. The floating solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. The total project cost was Rs 150.4 Cr. This plant can generate 42 million units of electricity per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. K. Stalin – inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- Established by – SPIC Ltd | Cost – Rs 150.4 Cr | Capacity – 42 mn units/annum
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

112. On March 7, Microsoft announced its intent to establish its 4th Datacenter Region in Hyderabad, Telangana. The Hyderabad datacenter region will be an addition to the existing network of three regions in India across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. According to IDC, Microsoft datacenter regions in India contributed \$9.5B revenue to the economy between 2016 and 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – plans to establish its 4th Datacenter Region in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Microsoft's existing network of 3 Datacenter Regions in India: Pune, Mumbai & Chennai
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975



International Affairs

113. On March 4, India abstained from a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as the Council decided to set up an international commission of enquiry for Russia's actions in Ukraine. India was among 13 countries of the 47-member council elected from UN members that abstained from the resolution, along with China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Only Russia and Eritrea voted against the resolution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (+ 12 countries) – abstained from a vote at the UNHRC to set up an enquiry for Russia's actions in Ukraine
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan

114. On March 8, Mastercard and Visa blocked several Russian banks from their networks to comply with government sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As a result, Russia decided to use its local payments network 'Mir' and China-based card network 'UnionPay'. Visa and Mastercard branded cards issued by Russian banks will work inside the country until they expire. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard & Visa – blocked several Russian banks from their networks
- Russia – decided to use its local 'Mir' & China-based card network 'UnionPay'
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

115. On March 5, Global financial crime watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been included on a list of jurisdictions subject to increased monitoring, known as its 'Grey List'. Countries on the 'Grey List' risk reputational damage, ratings adjustments, trouble obtaining global finance and higher transaction costs. While, Pakistan is likely to remain on the 'Grey List' of the FATF until June, 2022 for failing to meet some of the targets under the additional criteria. Pakistan has been on the 'Grey List' of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FATF added the UAE on its 'Grey List' in March 2022
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer | Member Countries – 39
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

116. On March 8, the RBI chose Intellect Design Arena to implement the upgraded version of the "Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking Solution" to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda. The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices architecture. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI chose Intellect Design Arena for the “Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking Solution”
- HQs of Intellect Design Arena – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & MD – Arun Jain
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

117. On March 8, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC). The sanction is part of the Bank’s business plan to widen credit growth and funding infrastructure development across India. The bank has already disbursed ₹500 Cr of the sanctioned amount. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOB – sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC)
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”

118. On March 7, HDFC Mutual Fund launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative “LaxmiForLaxmi”. This initiative will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The #LaxmiForLaxmi initiative is a financial empowerment campaign for women, by women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Mutual Fund – launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative “LaxmiForLaxmi”
- HQs of HDFC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Navneet Munot

119. On March 7, the RBI released a booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds, titled “BE(A)WARE”, as a part of the public awareness initiative by its Consumer Education and Protection Department. This booklet is compiled from various incidents of frauds reported as also from complaints received at the offices of RBI Ombudsmen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released a booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds, titled “BE(A)WARE”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

120. On the International Women’s Day, health insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance, announced the launch of “Star Women Care Insurance Policy”, a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the health-care needs of women at every stage of their lives. This Policy is available to all females from 18 years up to 75 years of age. Under the policy, a new-born will gain health cover of up to 25% of the Sum Insured from day 1 and 100% of sum insured from the next subsequent year onward. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Star Health & Allied Ins. – launched a woman-centric comprehensive health cover “Star Women Care Insurance Policy”
- HQs of Star Health & Allied Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan

121. On March 9, Axis Bank started the “HouseWorksWork” initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space. The intent behind this initiative is to give these women the confidence that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles in a bank. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Axis Bank – started the “HouseWorksWork” initiative to bring educated women to workforce
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

122. On March 9, the RBI along with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched two landmark initiatives - “UPI123Pay” and “DigiSaathi”. UPI for feature phone, i.e., UPI123Pay is a three-step process - call, choose and pay. UPI123Pay is a service that allows those with feature phones to use UPI and allows one to make payments without the internet. In feature phone, a customer can access banking services by pressing *99# under the ‘National Unified USSD Platform’ of NPCI. This initiative will improve digital payments to a higher level, paving the way for a cashless economy. While DigiSaathi is a 24/7 information Helpline for providing information on digital payment products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI + NPCI = launched two landmark initiatives - “UPI123Pay” & “DigiSaathi”
- UPI123Pay is a 3-step process - Call, Choose & Pay | ‘UPI Pin’ is a unique 4-6 digit number
- NUUP (National Unified USSD Platform) – a mobile banking service from NPCI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

123. On March 6, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and Indian Banks Association (IBA) signed an MoU to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects. This MoU aims to build awareness on insolvency and bankruptcy matters among bankers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBBI + IBA = an MoU to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravi Mittal | Established in – 2016 (set up by Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
- HQs of IBA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Atul Kumar Goel | CEO – Sunil Mehta | Established in – 1946

124. On March 7, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with launching a credit card for subscribers of Bharti Airtel. Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, ‘Buy Now Pay Later’ offerings, and other services. The credit card will be exclusively available for eligible Airtel customers through the Airtel Thanks app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Axis Bank = collaboration to launch ‘Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card’
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

Sports & Games

125. The International Cricket Council’s Women’s Cricket World Cup began on March 04, 2022, which was hosted by New Zealand. The 2022 edition of the Women’s World Cup also called the Women’s ODI World Cup was contested between eight teams all of whom will play each other once in a league format which will be Round-Robin. The top four teams on the Points Table moved into the semi-finals. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- New Zealand – hosted the ICC Women’s ODI Cricket World Cup 2022 in Round-Robin format
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

Persons in News

126. On March 7, Aarushie Verma, a national level shooter in Pistol & trap shooting and an active Environmentalist, was selected to represent India at the “2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition” held in March 2022. The expedition aims to raise awareness and work for the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability solutions to combat the effects of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aarushie Verma ([Shooter](#)) – selected to represent India at the “2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition”

Science & Technology

127. On March 8, A new species of gin berry was discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. The findings are published in the Nordic Journal of Botany. Gin berry is an obscure member of the orange family bearing small, juicy fruit. This species is named “Glycosmis albicarpa”. Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Glycosmis albicarpa” - a new species of Gin Berry – discovered from Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

128. DRDO developed Monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs) were used in the radar imaging modules of the EOS04 satellite which was launched on February 14 by the Indian Space Research Organisation. The satellite is designed to provide high-quality images for applications such as forestry, agriculture, hydrology, soil moisture and flood mapping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – developed MMICs which were used in the EOS04 satellite which was launched on February 14 by ISRO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

129. On March 8, NASA has started building the Europa Clipper spacecraft that will be launched in 2024. The Europa Clipper mission will conduct detailed reconnaissance of icy moon of Jupiter to find if Jupiter’s moon Europa has conditions to support life. The mission will enter Jupiter’s orbit in 2030, according to NASA. Europa is named after a woman who, in Greek mythology, was abducted by the god Zeus. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NASA started building 'Europa Clipper spacecraft' – to be launched in 2024 to find life on Europa (Jupiter's Moon)
- Europa Clipper mission is expected to enter Jupiter's orbit in 2030
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

130. In March 2022, Experts and forest officials have installed GPS transmitters on Northern River Terrapin, a freshwater turtle, in Indian Sundarbans, West Bengal. In just six weeks after the release, at least 3 of the 10 individuals of the critically endangered Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska) have travelled hundreds of kilometers and are now in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Forest officials installed GPS transmitters on 'Northern River Terrapin' - a freshwater turtle in Indian Sundarbans, WB

131. On March 6, India's first indigenous Flying Trainer 'HANSA-NG' designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March, 2022. 'HANSA-NG' is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine. It is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'HANSA-NG' – India's 1st indigenous Flying Trainer, completed the sea level trials at Puducherry
- HANSA-NG – designed & developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942



Appointments & Resignations

132. On March 3, Abey Kuruvilla was appointed as General Manager of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Former India pacer, Abey Kuruvilla has played 10 Tests for India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abey Kuruvilla – appointed as General Manager of BCCI
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

133. On March 2, Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran assumed charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command. He commanded the prestigious Suryakiran Aerobatic Team for three years. The team was awarded the Chief of Air Staff's "Unit Citation". He was also the Commandant of Air Force Academy, Hyderabad. He was awarded the 'Vayu Sena Medal' in Oct 2005 and 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran – appointed as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh



134. On March 8, State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Nitin Chugh as deputy managing director (DMD) & head of digital banking. Chugh has earlier served as MD & CEO at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and at HDFC Bank as head of digital banking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Chugh – appointed as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) & Head of Digital Banking in SBI
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

135. On March 3, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC) received 1st prize in the “Ispat Rajbhasha Award” for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel. NMDC is India’s largest Iron Ore producer and a CPSE under Ministry of Steel. NMDC presented a short film on the status of Hindi language implementation in the company. Moreover, MOIL Ltd received Ispat Rajbhasha Samman 2018-19 & 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC received “Ispat Rajbhasha Award” for 2018-19 & 2020-21 and “Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award” for 2019-20
- MOIL Ltd – received “Ispat Rajbhasha Samman” 2018-19 & 2019-20
- Ministry of Steel: Ramchandra Prasad Singh | Constituency – Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Steel: Faggansingh Kulaste
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

Schemes & Initiatives

136. On March 5, Sikkim will implement the ‘Aama Yojna’ for non-working mothers and ‘Bahini scheme’ for girl students. Under the ‘Aama Yojna’ scheme all non-working mothers in the state will receive Rs 20,000 each annually in their bank accounts. In the ‘Bahini’ scheme the state government will provide free sanitary napkins to girl students studying in class 9 and above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim – to implement the ‘Aama Yojna’ for non-working mothers & ‘Bahini scheme’ for girl students
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

137. On March 4, the Government approved the scheme titled Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in continuation of “Modernisation Plan-III for CAPFs. The modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs from 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2026 with a total financial outlay of Rs 1,523 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Government approved “Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs” to be implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs
- Financial outlay – Rs 1,523 Cr
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

138. On March 3, Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav launched the “Donate-a-Pension” program under ‘Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM)’. This move is to make the process of creating and contributing to a pension fund for support staff easier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav (Labour Ministry) – launched the “Donate-a-Pension” program under ‘PM-SYM’
- ‘PM-SYM’ is a 50:50 voluntary & contributory pension scheme

139. Union Minister of State for MSME Narayan Rane inaugurated a “Mega International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management” organized by Ministry of MSME in association with the All-India Plastics Manufacturers’ Association (AIPMA) from March 4-5, 2022 at New Delhi. Ministry of MSME also launched two special initiatives - ‘Sambhav’ and ‘Svavlamban’ to promote entrepreneurship amongst youth & to address the issue of Plastic Waste. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mega International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management” in Delhi – organized by MoMSME + AIPMA
- Ministry of MSME – launched two special initiatives - ‘Sambhav’ & ‘Svavlamban’
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

140. On March 7, the Centre has approved the continuation of “Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)” till 2025-26 with a total financial outlay of Rs 3,274.87 Cr. Under the SSSY, freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits. The proposal for the continuation of the SSSY was received from Ministry of Home Affairs as the scheme functions under the same ministry. In 1972, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Independence, a regular scheme for grant of freedom fighters’ pension was introduced. While the ‘Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme’ has been implemented since 1980. The nomenclature of the Scheme was changed as ‘Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana’ in FY 2017-18. The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and Dearness Relief is also given since August 15, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre Govt approved the continuation of “Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)” till 2025-26
- Financial outlay – Rs 3,274.87 Cr | SSSY functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs



Important Days & Dates

141. Every year, March 8 is celebrated as International Women's Day around the globe. For 2022, the UN given theme is "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow". While IWD campaign theme is "#BreakTheBais". The IWD was adopted by the United Nations in 1977. On the eve of International Women's Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNICEF, launched "Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav", a landmark campaign to reintegrate out-of-school adolescent girls in India into the formal education and skilling system. On this occasion, Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Taty Rane, launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "SAMARTH" at New Delhi. Moreover, a special ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on this occasion where President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the "Nari Shakti Puraskar" - 2020 and 2021 on 29 outstanding and exceptional women achievers in recognition of their exceptional work towards empowerment of women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 8 – International Women's Day
- UN given Theme – "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow" | Campaign Theme – "#BreakTheBais"
- On the occasion of International Women's Day:
 - MoWCD + MoE + UNICEF = launched "Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav"
 - MoMSME launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - "SAMARTH"
 - President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the "Nari Shakti Puraskar - 2020 & 2021" on 29 outstanding women

142. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is one of the Central Armed Police Forces in India and CISF Raising Day is observed every year on March 10. India celebrated its 53rd CISF Raising Day this year. CISF is governed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. While on March 6, Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of the CISF at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The CISF was created in 1969 with a strength of 2,800 personnel to provide security cover to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 10 – 53rd CISF Raising Day (set up in - 1969)
- Amit Shah – addressed the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of the CISF – at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of CISF – New Delhi | DG – Sheel Vardhan Singh | Motto – 'Protection & Security' | Founded in – 1969

Books & Authors

143. Journalist Barkha Dutt's new book, "To Hell and Back" (published by Juggernaut Books), tells the story of the Covid-19 pandemic in India and draws from her own reporting on the subject. This excerpt is taken from the chapter Asphyxiated, which deals with the second wave in 2021 and the oxygen-shortage crisis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "To Hell and Back" book – authored by Barkha Dutt
- Publisher – Juggernaut Books



144. A book titled “The Kashmir That Was” is authored by Avanti Sopory. The book is a collection of those flashback moments. It is a point where the unseen, unheard and unimagined sides of Kashmir converge; to let the people in the world know that Kashmir was far more than what they know of her now.

Key Points:

- “The Kashmir That Was” book – authored by Avanti Sopory

145. A book titled “The Queen of Indian Pop” is the English translation of the biography of Usha Uthup, and it was published by Penguin Random House India. In this vivid biography, which was originally written in Hindi, Vikas Kumar Jha captures the entire arc of Uthup's career in music. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Queen of Indian Pop” - English translation of biography of ‘Usha Uthup’ – authored by Vikas Kumar Jha

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

146. On March 3, the leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad, held a Virtual Summit against the backdrop of the crisis in Ukraine and China’s continuing assertive actions across the Indo-Pacific. PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida participated in the Quad Leaders’ virtual meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – represented India at the “Quad Leaders’ Virtual Meeting” on March 3
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia

147. On March 4, the 2-day long “Study in India (SII) 2022 Meet” was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event, organised by the High Commission of India, was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dipu Moni and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. Bangladeshi students are the 3rd largest foreign student community in India. The “Study In India (SII)” programme is a flagship project launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Study in India (SII) 2022 Meet” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh (organised by - High Commission of India)
- Bangladeshi students – the 3rd largest foreign student community in India
- “Study In India (SII)” programme – launched by Ministry of Education (in 2018)

Ranks, Report & Surveys

148. According to the latest report titled “Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?” from V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute at Sweden’s University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels. India is one of the top ten ‘Autocratisers’ in the world. The report classifies India as an ‘Autocracy’ (Electoral Autocracy) rather than a ‘Democracy’, ranking it 93rd on the “Liberal Democracy Index”, out of 179 countries. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?” – released by V-Dem Institute
- India ranked 93rd on the “Liberal Democracy Index” of V-Dem Institute

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

149. On March 3, National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), signed an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIESBUD (MoSDE) + MoRD = an MoU for implementing the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)
- SVEP – a sub-component of DAY-NRLM (of Ministry of Rural Development)
- HQs of NIESBUD – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | DG – Anuradha Vemuri

150. On March 9, Google Cloud and e-commerce firm Flipkart, entered into a multi-year strategic partnership to help fast-track Flipkart’s innovation and cloud strategy. The partnership will propel Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India’s next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers. In 2017, Flipkart and Microsoft forged cloud partnership to expand e-commerce in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Cloud + Flipkart = a multi-year strategic partnership to fast-track Flipkart’s Innovation & Cloud Strategy
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy





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