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**(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

**151.** On March 8, India's first 100% women-owned FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) Industrial Park began operations with 25 green projects in Hyderabad. The 50 acres FLO Industrial Park was established with an investment of Rs 250 Cr is the flagship project and the first of its kind at a national level. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India's 1<sup>st</sup> 100% women-owned 'FLO Industrial Park' began operations – in Hyderabad
- **Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan**
- **HQs of FICCI FLO – New Delhi | President – Ujjwala Singhania**

**152.** On March 8, Department of Science & Technology organised an event on "Women Empowerment through Science and Technology". During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh announced 3 important programmes under "Women in Science & Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN Scheme" to celebrate the 'International Women's Day'. The 3 programmes are - Industrial Research Fellowship for Women, Senior Women Scientists Fellowship programme & Overseas Fellowship for Women. Dr. Jitendra Singh also released a book "WISE-KIRAN: At a Glance" on '75 Success Stories' from Women Scientists Scheme-C (WOS-C) programme of Department of Science & Technology. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- An event on "Women Empowerment through Science & Technology" – organised by Dept. of S&T
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – announced 3 important programmes under "WISE-KIRAN Scheme"
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released a book "WISE-KIRAN: At a Glance" on '75 Success Stories' from WOS-C program

**153.** On March 8, the National Dam Safety Authority, which seeks to maintain standards related to dam safety, prevent dam-related disasters and resolve inter-State issues in this regard, has come into force. The 22-member National Committee on Dam Safety is headed by the Chairman of the Central Water Commission, R. K. Gupta at present. The Authority's key function is to resolve any issue between the State Dam Safety Organisations of states.

## **Key Points:**

- Central Govt constituted a 22-member 'National Dam Safety Authority/Committee' – headed by R. K. Gupta

**154.** On March 5, Meghalaya became the 9<sup>th</sup> state in India to withdraw consent to the CBI to investigate cases in the state. Mizoram was the first state to withdraw consent in 2015. CBI, which is governed by The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, must obtain a state government's consent before investigating a crime there. In the absence of general consent, the agency has to apply to the state government in each case. The other states that have withdrawn consent are Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, and they are all ruled by the Opposition. They have alleged that the CBI is not fair and impartial, and has become the Centre's tool to target Opposition leaders. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Meghalaya – became the 9<sup>th</sup> state in India to withdraw consent to the CBI to investigate cases in the state
- Mizoram was the first state to withdraw consent in 2015
- **Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik**



**155.** On March 9, Puducherry started digitisation of the health records of students starting from Classes I to XII. Puducherry's Lieutenant Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan launched a Digital School Health Platform for the students of the UT. Under the digitisation project, the Health Department will feed the personal details of all government school students into a portal to maintain their health records. The software is developed with the assistance of Axis Bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Puducherry – launched a 'Digital School Health Platform' to digitise the health records of students from Classes I to XII
- A joint collaboration of = Department of Health + Puducherry + Axis Bank
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**156.** India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The statue will be 100 feet long and 30 feet high. Lord Buddha is in the sleeping posture in the statue. The construction of the giant statue started in the year 2019. It is being made with fiberglass and built by sculptors from Kolkata. The giant statue of Lord Buddha will be open for devotees from February 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's largest reclining statue of 'Lord Buddha' is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission in Bodh Gaya
- The statue will be 100 feet long & 30 feet high
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

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

**157.** On March 8, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar presented a Rs 1.77-lakh-Cr Budget for the financial year 2022-23 against the Rs 1.53-lakh-Cr Budget in 2021-22. He also announced the "Sushma Swaraj Award" for women for their significant contribution or achievements. The Sushma Swaraj Award will carry a commendation with the award money of Rs 5 lakh. He also announced the 'Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Scheme' to provide support to women for becoming entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana Govt – presented a Rs 1.77-lakh-Cr Budget for the financial year 2022-23
- Haryana Govt – announced "Sushma Swaraj Award" & 'Haryana Matrushakti Udyamita Scheme' for women
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

**158.** On March 9, Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), and Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd. announced their bancassurance partnership. This collaboration facilitates a common platform to reach out to the bank's customers with relevant life insurance solutions. This will further strengthen ABSLI's extensive distribution reach across the urban and semi-urban areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat. ABSLI is a 51:49 joint venture between the Aditya Birla Group and Sun Life Financial Inc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ABSLI + Bharat Co-operative Bank = a bancassurance partnership
- ABSLI – a 51:49 joint venture between Aditya Birla Group & Sun Life Financial Inc
- HQs of ABSLI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Kamlesh Rao



**159.** On March 9, ToneTag, a sound-based proximity communication and payments service provider, rolled out its VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank and NPCI. Reserve Bank of India launched UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users. Users can call '6366 200 200' where an Interactive voice response (IVR) guides the desired financial transaction. Every user can only proceed with the financial transaction through UPI PIN. They do not require internet connectivity or a smart phone for making payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ToneTag + NSDL Payments Bank + NPCI = launched "VoiceSe UPI" digital payment solutions for feature phones
- HQs of NSDL Payments Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**160.** On March 7, Banking tech unicorn and credit card provider Zeta announced a 5-year global partnership with Mastercard to power Next-Gen Credit Processing for banks & fintechs. Mastercard underscored the partnership by making a financial investment of \$30 million in Zeta. As part of the agreement, the firm will jointly launch credit cards with issuers worldwide on Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and fully API-ready credit processing stack. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Zeta + Mastercard = a 5-year global partnership to power Next-Gen Credit Processing for banks & fintechs
- HQs of Zeta – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Bhavin Turakhia
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966

**161.** On March 8, the RBI issued modified norms on Interest Equalization Scheme for Pre and Post-shipment Rupee Export Credit after the extension of the scheme till March 2024 by the government. The extension took effect from October 1, 2021. The telecom instrument sector having 6 HS (Harmonised System) lines shall be out of the purview of the scheme, except for MSME manufacturer exporters. Revised Interest Equalisation rates under the scheme will now be 3% for MSME manufacturer exporters exporting under any HS lines and 2% for manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters exporting under 410 HS lines. In notification, the RBI also mentioned that the extended scheme will not be available to those beneficiaries, who are availing the benefit under any production linked incentive (PLI) scheme of the government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI issued modified norms on 'Interest Equalization Scheme' for Pre & Post-shipment Rupee Export Credit
- In Oct 2021, 'Interest Equalization Scheme' was extended till March 2024 by the government
- Guidelines:
  - telecom instrument sector having 6 HS lines shall be out of the purview of the scheme
  - Revised Interest Equalisation rates under the scheme will now be 3% for MSME manufacturer exporters
  - 2% rate for manufacturer exporters and merchant exporters exporting under 410 HS lines
  - Extended scheme will not be available to those beneficiaries, who are availing the benefit under any PLI scheme
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**162.** On March 8, in its effort to bring ease of investment for investors, the SEBI increased the investment limit for payments through UPI mechanism for retail investors buying debt securities in public issues to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh at present. The new framework will be applicable to public issues of debt securities which open on or after May 1, 2022. In December 2021, NPCI had enhanced the per transaction limit in UPI from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for UPI-based Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) Initial Public Offer (IPO). [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- SEBI increased the investment limit via UPI for retail investors – to Rs 5 lakh (from Rs 2 lakh)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**163.** In March 2022, the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) introduced a development programme for the management of public sector banks with a view to improving the quality of bank boards. The 9-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) is designed for the directors of the PSBs and financial institutions. The programme designed in collaboration with IBA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BBB introduced a 9-month Directors' Development Programme (DDP) for the directors of the PSBs & FIs
- HQs of BBB – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairperson – Bhanu Pratap Sharma

**164.** On March 9, Madhya Pradesh presented Rs 2.79 lakh Cr budget for 2022-23 aimed at building an 'Aatmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh'. No new tax was proposed in this budget. For the first time, the state government presented a 'child budget' as part of the annual financial plan, allocating Rs 57,800 Cr for 220 schemes under 17 departments, including education, targeted at children aged below 18. Rs 1,157 Cr is allocated for the 'CM RISE' scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh presented Rs 2.79 lakh Cr budget for 2022-23
- No new tax was proposed & a 'child budget' was presented for the first time as part of the annual financial plan
- Rs 1,157 Cr is allocated for the 'CM RISE' scheme of Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**165.** On March 9, BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) and CreditAI Fintech Pvt Ltd (CAI) launched Unnati contactless co-branded credit card on the Visa network exclusively for farmers. CreditAI Fintech Pvt Ltd is a farmer digitisation and credit scoring company and BFSL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB). The credit card will work in a 'closed-loop system' with an 'end-use monitoring' feature to both enable and trace agricultural credit to its last mile. The Unnati Credit Card will first be launched in Karnataka on pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BFSL + CreditAI Fintech = launched 'Unnati Contactless Co-branded Credit Card' on Visa exclusively for farmers
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh

**166.** On March 8, BSE collaborated with the Bhartiya Swarnkar Sangh (BSS) and Jamshedpur Jewellers Association (JJA) to deepen commodities derivatives trade and proposed electronic gold receipt (EGR) markets in India. BSE will participate with the BSS and JJA in seminars and various other programmes to educate the community about the commodity and derivatives markets and their benefits. The pact with BSE will help mitigate price risks of gold in both domestic and international zones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSE + BSS + JJA = collaborated to deepen commodities derivatives trade and proposed EGR markets in India
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE – Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> Stock Exchange Company



**167.** On March 8, the Reserve Bank announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) by it under the RBI Act, 1934. It shall be the 5<sup>th</sup> AIFI after EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID was set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr. NaBFID Act, 2021 came to force with effect from April 19, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NaBFID – will be the 5<sup>th</sup> AIFI to be regulated & supervised by the RBI under ‘RBI Act, 1934’
- Other 4 AIFI : EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB & SIDBI
- NaBFID – set up as a DFI with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing
- HQs of NaBFID – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – K. V. Kamath

## Defence Affairs

**168.** In March 2022, the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of “SLINEX” (Sri Lanka - India Naval Exercise) was being conducted in 2 phases. The first one, the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam on March 7 and 8, followed by the sea phase on March 9 and 10 in the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka Navy was represented by SLNS Sayurala, and the Indian Navy by INS Kirch, a guided missile corvette. Another annual India-Sri Lanka military exercise is ‘Mitra Shakti’. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of this Exercise was conducted in Sri Lanka in October 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 9<sup>th</sup> edition of “SLINEX” between Sri Lanka & India – conducted at Visakhapatnam & Bay of Bengal
- Indian Navy was represented by INS Kirch
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## Sports & Games

**169.** On March 3, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) banned the athletes’ entries from Russia & Belarus from participating in Winter Paralympics in Beijing following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine for which Belarus has been key staging area. FIFA, Union of European Football Associations etc, have already banned participation from both countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IPC – banned the athletes from Russia & Belarus from participating in ‘2022 Beijing Winter Paralympics’
- HQs of IPC – Bonn, Germany | President – Philip Craven | Founded in – 1989

**170.** On March 6, Mithali Raj became the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani Javed Miandad. She made her maiden World Cup appearance in 2000. Fast bowler Jhulan Goswami is second on the list with five World Cup appearance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mithali Raj – became the 3<sup>rd</sup> cricketer & the 1<sup>st</sup> woman cricketer to appear in 6 World Cups
- Other two are: Sachin Tendulkar & Pakistani Javed Miandad



**171.** On March 2, Priyanka Nutakki, from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, became the 23<sup>rd</sup> Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India. She secured 3<sup>rd</sup> position at MPL 47<sup>th</sup> National Women 2022 held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. While Divya Deshmukh (22<sup>nd</sup> Woman Grandmaster of India) won the MPL 47<sup>th</sup> National Women Chess Championship 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Priyanka Nutakki ([Chess - Andhra Pradesh](#)) – became the 23<sup>rd</sup> Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India
- Priyanka Nutakki – 3<sup>rd</sup> position at MPL 47<sup>th</sup> National Women 2022 | Winner of the Tournament – Divya Deshmukh

## **Science & Technology**

**172.** On March 8, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) successfully put a second military satellite, the Noor 2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres. It was launched from the Shahroud space port. The first military satellite, Noor, or "light" in Persian, was launched by the Islamic Republic in April 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran's – successfully launched its second military satellite named "Noor 2" ('Noor' means 'light' in Persian)
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial](#) | [President – Ebrahim Raisi](#) | [Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei](#)

**173.** On March 9, The first 'Made in India' Petascale supercomputer 'PARAM Ganga', built under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), was successfully installed at IIT Roorkee. It is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The new supercomputer is a 1.66 PFLOPS (Peta Floating-Point Operations Per Second) supercomputing device installed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). IIT Roorkee had also signed an MoU with the CDAC to establish a state-of-the-art Supercomputing facility involving critical components such as motherboards for servers, direct contact liquid cooling data centres are manufactured in India progressing towards the Government of India initiative of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.' [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'PARAM Ganga' – first 'Made in India' Petascale supercomputer (1.66 PFLOPS) installed at IIT Roorkee by CDAC
- IIT Roorkee + CDAC = an MoU to establish a state-of-the-art Supercomputing facility involving critical components
- [Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi](#)
- [HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra](#) | [Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni](#) (functions under MeitY)

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**174.** On March 7, Homegrown pharma major Lupin Ltd signed six-time world boxing champion and Olympics bronze medalist Mary Kom as brand ambassador for its 'Shakti' campaign. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about heart diseases among women. In the next phase, the campaign aims to help women improve their health and significantly contribute to the wellbeing of society. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lupin Ltd – signed boxing champion Mary Kom as brand ambassador for its 'Shakti' campaign



**175.** As on March 11, 61-year-old Yoon Suk-yeol, the presidential election candidate of South Korea's main opposition People Power Party (PPP), is all set to become South Korea's next President after his win in the country's Presidential Election. He will assume the office as President on May 10, 2022 by replacing Moon Jae-in. Yoon served as the prosecutor general of South Korea from 2019 to 2021 under President Moon Jae-in. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yoon Suk-yeol – won the Presidential Election of South Korea (He will succeed Moon Jae-in)
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Yoon Suk-yeol (from May 2022)

**176.** On March 7, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) appointed T. Raja Kumar, a Singaporean, as its next president, marking the first time Singapore is taking on the FATF presidency. Raja is senior advisor (international) at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and the current head of Singapore's delegation to the FATF. He will assume the appointment as FATF president on Jul 1, 2022 for a fixed 2-year term, taking over from Marcus Pleyer. The FATF is an inter-governmental body established by G7 in 1989 to set international standards to prevent and combat money laundering, terrorism and proliferation financing. Singapore has been a member of the FATF since 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- T. Raja Kumar ([Singapore](#)) – appointed as President of FATF from Jul 1, 2022 (succeeding - Marcus Pleyer)
- Singapore will take on the FATF presidency for the first time
- FATF – established by G7 in 1989
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer (T. Raja Kumar from Jul 1, 2022) | Member Countries – 39

**177.** On March 7, Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava appointed as acting chief justice of Rajasthan High Court. He replaced chief justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi who retired on March 6. Supreme Court judges retire at the age of 65 and high court judges retire on attaining the age of 62 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manindra Mohan Shrivastava – appointed as acting chief justice of Rajasthan HC (succeeding - Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi)
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**178.** On March 8, Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, presented "Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)", "National Safety Awards (NSA)" for the performance year 2018 and "National Safety Awards (Mines)" for the performance years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020. In case of VRP, for the performance year 2018, total 96 awards were given whereas in case of NSA, total 141 number of awards were given. In case of NSA (Mines), total 144 awards were given for the performance year 2017, 2018, 2019 & 2020. The Ministry of Labour & Employment, has been operating the "Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)" and "National Safety Awards (NSA)" since 1965 and "National Safety Awards (Mines)" since 1983. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bhupender Yadav (Ministry of Labour & Employment) presented:
  - "Vishwakarma Rashtriya Puraskar (VRP)" to 96 individuals
  - "National Safety Awards (NSA)" to 141 individuals
  - "National Safety Awards (Mines)" to 144 individuals



# Schemes & Initiatives

**179.** On March 7, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana'. Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 5000 will be given to women on the birth of second girl child. He also released 'Kanya Vivah Yojana' Coffee Table Book, Sakhi One Stop Center Telephone Directory, and brochures of schemes related to women empowerment. He also felicitated Anganwadi workers, officials doing excellent work in the direction of women protection under 'Sakhi One Stop Center' and 'Nava Bihan Yojana'. On the occasion of 'Teeja-Pora', the state government also waived loans of Rs 13 Cr of Self-Help Groups and doubled their loan limit through 'Mahila Kosh'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Bhupesh Baghel – launched the 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' to give Rs 5000 to women on the birth of 2<sup>nd</sup> girl child
- Bhupesh Baghel – released 'Kanya Vivah Yojana' Coffee Table Book
- Other important schemes of Chhattisgarh – 'Sakhi One Stop Center', 'Nava Bihan Yojana'
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

**180.** On March 7, Telangana presented a tax-free budget of Rs 2.56 lakh Cr for 2022-23, up from about Rs 2.31 lakh Cr last year. The budget proposed an outlay of Rs 17,700 Cr for the state government's flagship Dalit welfare scheme 'Dalit Bandhu'. Moreover, Aasara pension for those between 57 and 65 years would be implemented from FY 2022-23. Till now the pension was being given to those aged above 65. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Telangana – presented a tax-free budget of Rs 2.56 lakh Cr for 2022-23
- Telangana – proposed an outlay of Rs 17,700 Cr for its flagship Dalit welfare scheme 'Dalit Bandhu'
- 'Aasara pension' will be provided to people aged between 57 & 65 years from FY 2022-23 in Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**181.** On March 8, Karnataka government launched "Women@Work (W@W) programme" with an aim to provide 5 lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills. As part of the programme, free certificate courses will be run for women to get them technically trained in various disciplines. Women who will be imparted training in specialized skills will become employable in the next 5 years. At present women constituted 35% of the workforce and the programme aims to raise their workforce strength to 50%. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Karnataka – launched "Women@Work (W@W) programme" for women to provide them with technical training
- The program aims to provide 5 lakh jobs within 2026 to women & to raise their workforce strength to 50%
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**182.** On March 10, Tripura announced a special scheme named "Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa" to ensure social security of over 7,000 tea garden workers of the state. A sum of Rs. 85 Cr would be spent from the government's exchequer for the implementation of the scheme. 75% among 7,000 tea garden workers are women. The government decided to provide wages of Rs 176 per day to every worker. The scheme assures housing, rations and financial support to the tea garden workers providing them with facilities of state and central government entitlements in a clubbed format. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Tripura – announced “Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa” scheme for tea garden workers
- The government will provide wages of Rs 176 per day to every worker
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

## Important Days & Dates

**183.** This year, March 10 was celebrated as the International Day of Women Judges. The day was celebrated and observed for the first time after the UN General Assembly passed the resolution concerning the same in April, 2021. The day also empowers young women and girls who aspire to become judges and leaders in the community. [{Read more}](#)

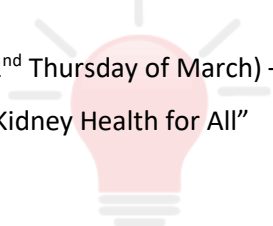
### Key Points:

- March 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Women Judges – by UN

**184.** World Kidney Day is an annual event observed on the second Thursday of March. This year World Kidney Day was observed on March 10, 2022 with the theme of “Kidney Health for All”. The day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 10, 2022 (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March) – World Kidney Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Kidney Health for All”



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## Books & Authors

**185.** “The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal” by Amitava Kumar, one of the most acclaimed novelists of contemporary times, is a memory book with hybrid literary and artistic parentage. The book is published by HarperCollins. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “The Blue Book: A Writer’s Journal” book – authored by Amitava Kumar
- Publisher – HarperCollins

**186.** Veteran cricket administrator Ratnakar Shetty authored a new book titled “On Board Test, Trial, Triumph: My years in BCCI”. The book was released by former President of BCCI, Sharad Pawar. The book offers a selection of anecdotes. A former chemistry professor, Shetty started his career as a cricket administrator in 1975 when he was appointed staff-in-charge of cricket in Wilson College, Mumbai.

### Key Points:

- “On Board Test, Trial, Triumph: My years in BCCI” book – released by Ratnakar Shetty



**187.** Twelve books penned by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee were published during the 45<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair held at Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal. The books chronicle recent events in her long political innings. The 12 books include titles such as 'Khela Hobe', 'Covidar Dinlipi', 'Duare Sarkar', 'Bidhansabhai Mukhyamantri', 'Kalam', 'Kabita Bitan', etc. Banerjee has penned 114 books in the last two decades. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 12 books penned by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee were published during the 45<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata](#) | [CM – Mamta Banerjee](#) | [Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)

**188.** March 9 marked the 92<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of the legal luminary & the former Attorney General of India, Soli Sorabjee. On this occasion, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced that the new book on the life and times of Soli Sorabjee will be released in April, 2022. The biography titled "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times" is authored by advocate and legal scholar Abhinav Chandrachud. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 9 – 92<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee (former Attorney General of India)
- "Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times" biography – authored by Abhinav Chandrachud

## Obituaries

**189.** On March 7, Rafiq Tarar, a veteran Pakistani politician, passed away. He was 92. He had served as Pakistan President between 1997 and 2001. He also had served as a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994 and the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafiq Tarar – former Supreme Court judge & President of Pakistan – passed away
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – ArifAlvi](#)

## Ranks, Report & Surveys

**190.** According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co investment data, India is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies, growing by a whopping 175% from \$8 billion in 2020 to \$22 billion in 2021. The UP topped the list with \$51 billion of investment. China stood at the third with \$14 billion. Among cities, Bengaluru topped globally with \$14 billion worth of Venture Capital (VC) investments in digital shopping in 2021, followed by Gurugram at No. 7 and Mumbai at No. 10. Bengaluru was followed by New York City (2<sup>nd</sup>) & San Francisco (3<sup>rd</sup>). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to the London & Partners analysis of Dealroom.co investment data:
- Largest global venture capital investment hub for digital shopping companies: 1<sup>st</sup> - US, 2<sup>nd</sup> - India, 3<sup>rd</sup> - China
- Among cities: 1<sup>st</sup> - Bengaluru, 2<sup>nd</sup> - New York, 3<sup>rd</sup> - San Francisco | Gurugram - 7<sup>th</sup> & Mumbai - 10<sup>th</sup>



**191.** India is set to export a record 7 million tonnes of wheat by the end of March 2022. By the end of February, India had already exported 6.6 million tonnes of wheat. India is the world's second biggest producer of wheat after China. India will also send 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan in a bid to help the country facing poverty and hunger. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India is set to export a record 7 million tonnes of wheat by the end of March 2022
- India – the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest producer of wheat | 1<sup>st</sup> - China, 3<sup>rd</sup> - Russia, 4<sup>th</sup> - US
- India – to send 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as a humanitarian aid

**192.** For the second consecutive year, India has been termed 'Partly Free' in terms of democracy and free society, according to the report titled "Freedom in the World 2022 - The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by US-based Freedom House. India scored 66 out of 100 in 2022 compared to 67 in 2021. South Sudan is a country with lowest freedom points (which scored 1 out of 100, 'not free'). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Freedom in the World 2022 - The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" – released by Freedom House (US)
- India's score – 66 | India's status – 'Partly Free'

## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**193.** On March 10, the CCI approved the acquisition of 100% share capital of L&T Investment Management Ltd by HSBC Asset Management (India) Pvt Ltd (HSBC AMC). The L&T MF schemes will be managed and operated by HSBC AMC, and HSBC Trustee will be appointed as the trustee of the L&T Mutual fund. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved the acquisition of 100% share capital of L&T Investment Management Ltd – by HSBC AMC
- HQs of HSBC AMC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ravi Menon
- HQs of L&T Investment Management Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kailash Kulkarni
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

**194.** On March 10, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of 76% equity shares of Prione Business Services Private Limited by Amazon Asia-Pacific Resources Private Limited. Acquirer is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Amazon. While Prione Business Services runs Cloudtail India, one of the largest sellers on Amazon in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved the acquisition of 76% share capital of Prione Business Services – by Amazon Asia-Pacific Resource
- Prione Business Services runs 'Cloudtail India'
- HQs of Amazon Asia-Pacific Resource – Singapore | HQs of Prione Business Services – Bengaluru, Karnataka





# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**195.** On March 4, Smart Power India (SPI) partnered with Adani Solar to encourage solar energy usage in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha. SPI is a subsidiary of the US-based The Rockefeller Foundation. Adani Solar is the solar photovoltaic manufacturing arm of Adani Group. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SPI + Adani Solar = partnered to encourage solar energy usage in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & Odisha

**196.** On March 8, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) partnered with camera firm Snap Inc to drive Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among the Indian youth. Snap Inc owns social media platform Snapchat. Snap Inc also partnered with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) to support the Indian startup ecosystem with AR advertising bootcamps, Ad credits and other opportunities. Over a two-year timeframe, Snap Inc is expected to train over 12,000 teachers affiliated with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality. As a part of the Lensathon, Snap will be hosting special workshops aimed to introduce young women in India to AR and skills that will be necessary to navigate the digital economy of the future. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- AIM + Snap Inc (Parent company of Snapchat) = to drive Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among the Indian youth
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of Snap Inc – California, U.S. | CEO – Evan Spiegel

**197.** On March 8, Ministry of Ayush signed a tripartite MoU with Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for Inter-Ministerial co-operation for the promotion and facilitation of research and development, validation, and deployment of agri-technologies related to medicinal plants and their value-added products of benefit to humans, plants and animals. Previously, the Parties had bilateral cooperation with each other. A Joint Working Group involving officers from the Ministry of Ayush, ICAR, and CSIR for effective implementation of the MoU, will be formed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Min. of Ayush + CSIR + ICAR = a tripartite MoU for promotion & facilitation of R&D and deployment of agri-technologies
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

**198.** On March 7, Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with Yupp TV, an OTT platform to expand the global reach of Doordarshan's DD India channel. DD India will now be available to its viewers through an over-the-top (OTT) platform in USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, to put forth India's perspective on various international developments on global platforms and showcase its culture and values to the world. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Prasar Bharati + Yupp TV = an MoU to expand the global reach of Doordarshan's DD India channel
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar



**199.** In March 2022, Union Cabinet approved an MoU signed between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and DFG, Germany for cooperation in scientific research and technological development. The cabinet also approved an MoU signed between the ICMR and Oxford University, the UK on Capacity building for Indian scientists and researchers. Moreover, an MoU signed between the ICMR and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) as well as National Institute of Health (NIH) of Department of Health and Human Services, USA, was also approved by the Cabinet. [{Read more}](#)

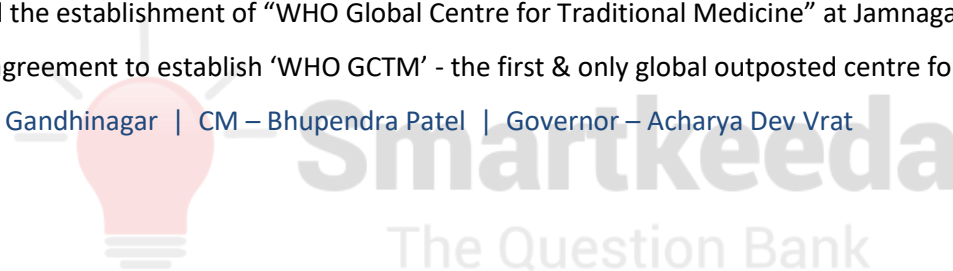
**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved some MoUs signed between:
  - ICMR + DFG ([Germany](#)) = for cooperation in scientific research & technological development
  - ICMR + University of Oxford ([UK](#)) = on Capacity building for Indian scientists & researchers
  - ICMR + NIAID ([US](#)) + NIH of Dept. of Health & Human Services ([US](#)) = an MoU
- [HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India](#) | [Director General – Balram Bhargava](#) | [Established in – 1911](#)

**200.** On March 9, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a “WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine” (WHO GCTM) at Jamnagar, Gujarat. An agreement was signed by the Government of India with the World Health Organization in this regard. The WHO GCTM, to be established under the Ministry of AYUSH, will be the first and only global outposted centre (office) for traditional medicines. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the establishment of “WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine” at Jamnagar, Gujarat
- WHO + Gol = an agreement to establish ‘WHO GCTM’ - the first & only global outposted centre for traditional medicines
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)





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