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**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 5**  
**(PDF in English)**



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**Test Launch Date: 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 5 Here!](#)



## 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

**201.** Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd (TPL) received the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its product linear alkylbenzene (LAB) from the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. With this, TPL emerged as the only authorised seller of LAB with the BIS certification in the Indian market. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Tamilnadu Petroproducts Ltd – the only authorised seller of LAB to receive BIS certification
- HQs of TPL – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – S. Krishnan

**202.** In pursuance of the Prime Minister’s vision “Gati Shakti” and Ministry of Railways’ policy regarding ‘Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal’ (GCT), the Asansol Division of Eastern Railway successfully commissioned private siding of Maithan Power Limited at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand. This is the first such GCT commissioned in Indian Railways since the publication of GCT policy in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Asansol Division (ER) – commissioned Indian Railways’ first Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal at Thaparnagar, Jharkhand
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**203.** On March 8, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles organized “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/handloom, art and culture” at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs. The first event was organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of International Women’s Day at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station which is named after Queen Kamlapati of the Gond kingdom of Madhya Pradesh. A dedicated corner for Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) encompassing the culture and art of Manipur and Nagaland was also setup at the venue. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MoC + MoT = organized “Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/handloom, art & culture”
- 1<sup>st</sup> event was organized at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakshi Lekhi
- Ministry of Textiles: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Textiles: Darshana Vikram Jardosh

**204.** On March 7, the Gujarat government marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav massacre and called it a massacre ‘bigger than the Jallianwala Bagh’. The Pal-Dadhvav massacre took place on March 7, 1922, in the Pal-Chitariya and Dadhvaav villages of Sabarkantha district, then part of Idar state. On the occasion of Amalki Ekadashi, a major festival for tribals falls just before Holi, nearly 1,000 tribals (Bhils) were killed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Gujarat – marked 100 years of the Pal-Dadhvav massacre took place on March 7, 1922
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – AcharyaDevVrat



**205.** On March 8, Government eMarketplace (GeM) launched a new service vertical “Stitching and Tailoring Services” on the GeM portal in partnership with USHA International Ltd, through its Silai School Programme. Under this initiative, GeM will collaborate with USHA Silai School (USS) in developing stitching and tailoring service for Government buyers and facilitate the process for enlisting women associated with USS programme. Usha will provide technical experts who will share their knowledge at regional and local level. ‘GeM’ is a 100% Government owned Section 8 company setup under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for procurement of goods and services by State Government and Central Government organizations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GeM + USHA International Ltd = launched “Stitching and Tailoring Services” on the GeM portal
- [HQs of Usha International – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Dinesh Chhabra](#)

**206.** On March 7, Rajasthan government decided to set up high-quality telescopes in each district, including at four prominent tourists spots in Jaipur to promote night sky Astro tourism under Night sky tourism initiative. It will boost tourism activities in Jaipur, which is described as an astronomical haven by Time Magazine. A similar telescope will also be fixed at Bikaner House in New Delhi. The Night sky tourism initiative was launched by the state in 2021. As part of this initiative, various events are organised every month at different locations in Jaipur, according to the placement of the celestial bodies.

[{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – to set up high-quality telescopes in each district to promote ‘Night Sky Astro Tourism’
- ‘Night Sky Tourism’ initiative – launched by Rajasthan
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur](#) | [CM – Ashok Gehlot](#) | [Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)

**207.** On March 4, Gujarat announced to develop the Tapi riverfront in Surat similar to the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) has already been formed for the Tapi riverfront development project. Surat Municipal Commissioner B. N. Pani will be the managing director of the SPV. The project is estimated to cost over Rs 3,904 Cr and will be funded by the state government, the central government and the World Bank. Rs 1,991 Cr has been allotted by the state government and the World Bank will sanction a loan of Rs 1,500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – formed a SPV to develop the Tapi riverfront in Surat at estimated cost over Rs 3,904 Cr
- Gujarat Govt allotted Rs 1,991 Cr & World Bank will sanction a loan of Rs 1,500 Cr
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

**208.** The Ministry of Labour and Employment celebrated iconic Week from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, as a part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’. On this occasion, Dr Shashank Goel, Additional Secretary/Director General of Employment launched an e-Book at Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi. The e-Book provides a snapshot of the Journey of National Career Service (NCS), key achievements and glimpses of success stories since the inception of the NCS portal. NCS portal was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 July 2015 as part of the government’s focus on providing right skills and generating employment. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Ministry of Labour & Employment – launched an e-Book of National Career Service (NCS) Project
- NCS portal was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2015
- [Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav](#) | Constituency – Rajasthan
- [MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli](#)

**209.** On March 9, R. K. Singh, Union minister for power and MoS Krishan Pal Gurjar launched the Virtual Smart Grid Knowledge Center (Virtual SGKC) and Innovation Park at the POWERGRID Centre in Manesar to enable a digital footprint of the physical setup of SGKC. It will be one of the leading Centers of Excellence globally to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and research in smart grid technologies. The Virtual SGKC is conceptualized and developed by POWERGRID with support from the Union ministry of power and technical assistance from USAID. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- R. K. Singh + Krishan Pal Gurjar = launched the Virtual SGKC & Innovation Park at POWERGRID centre, Manesar, Haryana
- Virtual SGKC developed by = POWERGRID + Ministry of Power + USAID
- [HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- [HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US](#) | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961
- [Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh](#) | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- [MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal Gurjar](#)

**210.** On March 10, the government has set up a society named 'Power Foundation' under the Ministry of Power which will act as the top policy advocacy arm for the power and allied sectors. The Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh is the Chair of the society. This is a part of India's transition to clean energy sources. India is estimated to have an aggregate potential of more than 1,636 GW renewable energy. India is home to one of the world's largest RE programmes, with a target of 175 GW of installed Renewable Energy capacity by 2022. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to increase the country's RE capacity to 500 GW by 2030 at the COP26 Climate Conference in Glasgow. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Government has set up a society named 'Power Foundation' under the Ministry of Power
- Chair of the society – R. K. Singh
- India is estimated to have an aggregate potential of more than 1,636 GW RE
- India's target to achieve the installed RE capacity of 175 GW by 2022 & 500 GW by 2030

**211.** On March 9, the Union Cabinet approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of ₹5000 Cr and paid-up share capital of ₹150 Cr. NLMC will undertake monetization of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies. Ministry of Finance (MoF) will set up the company and act as its administrative ministry. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the setting up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC)
- Initial authorized share capital – ₹5000 Cr | Paid-up share capital – ₹150 Cr | Administrative Ministry – MoF





# International Affairs

**212.** Responding to the crisis, the European Union (EU) invoked Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for refugees of Ukraine war. Over 1.5 million people fled Ukraine in the first 10 days of war, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which described the displacement as the 'fastest growing refugee crisis' since the Second World War. The 'Temporary Protection Directive of 2001' is defined by the European Commission as an "extraordinary measure to provide immediate and temporary protection to displaced persons from non-EU countries and those unable to return to their country of origin. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- EU – invoked Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for refugees of Ukraine war
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

**213.** On March 8, Argentina federal police announced to effectively use the technique of Yoga for stress management of its personnel. The embassy of India in Argentina and the University Institute of the Argentine Federal Police (IUPFA) will jointly conduct a workshop on Yoga. The general objective of this workshop will be to promote the practice of Yoga as a tool to develop physical, mental and emotional well-being, incorporating discipline techniques for stress management. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Argentina federal police – will effectively use the technique of Yoga for stress management of its personnel
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez

**214.** On March 10, Philippines raised its age of sexual consent from 12 years to 16 years on the amendment to the "Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act". The law is gender-neutral and applies to both male and female children and offenders. With the Philippines' new law, the age of consent remains lowest in Angola at 12 years. The highest age of consent is seen in Bahrain at 21. In India, the "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012" defines a 'child' as anyone below 18 years of age, and hence, engaging in sexual activity with a 'child' is considered sexual assault. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Philippines raised its age of sexual consent from 12 years to 16 years
- Lowest age – Angola (12 years) | Highest age – Bahrain (21 years) | India – 18 years
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

**215.** On March 7, Sixty-nine-year-old Indian elephant named Nadungamuwa Raja that made Sri Lanka its home for nearly half a century, passed away. He was named a "national treasure" by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. He was known widely as the towering tusker that carried the casket containing the 'Sacred Tooth Relic' at the 'Perahera' festival or annual pageant in Kandy district. President Rajapaksa instructed officials to preserve Raja's body "for future generations to witness". Raja was handed over to taxidermists for stuffing, following Buddhist funeral rites. Raja was born in Mysuru in 1954 and belonged to Maharaja Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar who gifted him to a Sri Lankan monk physician for treating an illness. The monk could not maintain him, and sold him to a timber mill in Colombo from where Dr. Dharmavijaya's father purchased him. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Nadungamuwa Raja – an Indian Elephant – passed away in Sri Lanka
- He was named a “national treasure” by Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**216.** On March 11, the US President Joe Biden announced that he intends to designate Colombia as a major non-NATO ally. This step will provide the Latin American nation with certain benefits in the areas of defense, trade and security cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US President Joe Biden intends to designate Colombia as a major non-NATO ally
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30
- Colombia – Bogota – Peso | President – Ivan Duque Marquez

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

**217.** On March 11, the Union Government has awarded J&K Bank with ‘National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21’, in recognition of its best performance in Self Help Group (SHG) Bank linkage. Zonal Head Delhi Kirti Sharma received the national award on behalf of the Bank from the Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J&K Bank – awarded with ‘National Award for Outstanding Performance for FY 2020-21’ by central government
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar, J & K | MD & Chairman – R. K. Chhibber

**218.** On March 9, Karnataka Bank signed an MoU with SELCO Solar Light, engaged in the business of designing, assembling, selling and servicing of solar energy products for the last 27 years, with the main objective of providing energy access to underserved population. Under this collaborative initiative, the bank provides financial support to all categories of its customers to purchase the solar energy products of SELCO Solar Light Pvt Ltd in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Bank + SELCO Solar Light = an MoU to provide energy access to underserved population
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja
- HQs of SELCO Solar Light – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-founder & Chairman – Harish Hande

**219.** On March 9, the RBI conducted a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction as part of its liquidity management initiative, leading to infusion of dollars and sucking out of the rupee from the financial system. The central bank’s move will reduce the pressure on inflation and strengthen the rupee. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI conducted a \$5 billion dollar-rupee swap auction as part of its liquidity management initiative
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935



**220.** On March 10, India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) raised Rs 1500 Cr in debt to provide impetus to government's infrastructure vision. IIFCL raised funds after a span of 8 years from the domestic market through privately placed Non-Convertible Debt Securities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFCL raised Rs 1500 Cr in debt to provide impetus to government's infrastructure vision
- HQs of IIFCL – New Delhi | MD – Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

**221.** On March 10, IIFL Securities launched “OneUp”, India’s first primary markets investment platform for investing in initial public offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among others. Further, Real-time online IPO bidding for an amount greater than ₹2 lakh can be executed. [{Read more}](#)

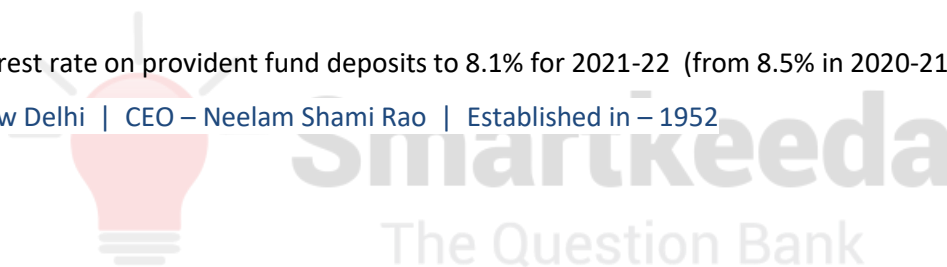
**Key Points:**

- IIFL Securities – launched India’s first primary markets investment platform “OneUp” to invest in IPOs, NCDs & SGBs
- HQs of IIFL Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sandeep Bhardwaj

**222.** On March 13, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) slashed interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.1% for 2021-22 from 8.5% credited in 2020-21 and 2019-20. This is the lowest in more than four decades. EPFO had credited 8.0% as interest rate in 1977-78. Since then, it has been either 8.25% or more. The interest rate of 8.1% is declared based on EPFO’s estimated income for the year at Rs 76,768 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- EPFO slashed interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.1% for 2021-22 (from 8.5% in 2020-21 & 2019-20)
- HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Neelam Shami Rao | Established in – 1952



## **Defence Affairs**

**223.** The Defence Expo 2022, proposed to be held in Gandhinagar & Ahmedabad from March 10 till March 14, was again postponed due to logistics problems being experienced by participants. The new dates will be declared soon. This year’s DefExpo would be the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of prestigious biennial defence exhibition. ‘Invest4iDEX’ will be one of the top highlights of Defence Expo 2022. iDEX, which works under the defence ministry, supports the defence startups in India. The theme of ‘Defexpo 2022’ is “India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Defence Expo 2022 – postponed (It was scheduled to held in Gandhinagar & Ahmedabad, Gujarat)
- Theme of ‘Defexpo 2022’ – “India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”
- ‘Invest4iDEX’ will be one of the top highlights of ‘Defexpo 2022’ | ‘iDEX’ works under Ministry of Defence

**224.** The Defence Ministry announced that 18 major military platforms (including naval ship-borne unmanned aerial systems and lightweight tanks) were identified for their design and development by the private sector. The move is part of the ministry's larger goal of boosting the domestic defence industry. 14 platforms are being developed by the private sector under the ‘Make-I’ category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020. Two platforms are planned to be developed under the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model. A platform called Low Orbit Pseudo Satellites will be developed under the ‘iDEX’ programme. Anti-jamming systems for multiple platforms will be developed under ‘Make-II’ category. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry: 18 major military platforms were identified for their design & development by the private sector
- These 18 platforms will be developed under 4 different categories:
  - 'Make-I' category
  - Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) model
  - 'iDEX' programme
  - 'Make-II' category

## **Sports & Games**

**225.** The Indian team topped the medal tally at the "ISSF World Cup 2022" in Cairo with a total of 7 medals comprising of 4 Gold, 2 Silver and 1 Bronze. Norway claimed second spot on the medals tally, followed by France. The four Gold medalists were - Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan & Saurabh Chaudhary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian team topped the medal tally at the "ISSF World Cup 2022" in Cairo, Egypt (4 Gold + 2 Silver + 1 Bronze)
- 4 Gold medalists: Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh, Rhythm Sangwan & Saurabh Chaudhary
- HQs of ISSF – Munich, Germany | President – Vladimir Lisin

**226.** On March 9, Fast bowler Shanthakumaran Nair Sreesanth announced his retirement from all forms of India domestic cricket. He represented India in 27 Tests, 53 ODIs and 10 T20Is. He took one of the most important catches of his life during the final of the first-ever T20 World Cup. He was banned for life after spot-fixing allegations during that IPL season. His punishment was reduced to 7 years in 2021 and it allowed him to get back to cricket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Sreesanth (India's Fast bowler) – announced his retirement from all forms of India domestic cricket

**227.** The 24-year old Indian Grandmaster, S. L. Narayanan emerged as winner in the Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament, while his compatriot R. Praggnanandhaa finished runner-up. He drew against Pier Luigi Basso (Italy) in the ninth and final round. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. L. Narayanan – emerged as winner in the "Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament"

## **Arts & Cultural Affairs**

**228.** On March 10, Minister of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurated 'Sahityotsav', the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi, India's most inclusive literature festival in New Delhi. Festival of Letters 2022 was celebrated to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's Independence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Ram Meghwal – inaugurated 'Sahityotsav', the Festival of Letters of Sahitya Akademi – in New Delhi

## Appointments & Resignations

**229.** Justice Vipin Sanghi was appointed as acting chief justice of Delhi High Court with effect from 13.03.2022 as incumbent Justice Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel retired on March 12, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Justice Vipin Sanghi – appointed as acting chief justice of Delhi HC (succeeding - Justice DN Patel)
- Chief Justice of Delhi High Court – Justice Vipin Sanghi

**230.** On March 10, Former finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey was appointed as chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of 3 years. He retired as revenue secretary in February 2021. Prior to becoming revenue secretary, he was Chief Executive of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The NFRA acts as an independent regulator for the auditing profession. The setting up of the NFRA was approved by the Cabinet in May 2018 under the Companies Act, 2013. The government has also appointed Praveen Kumar Tiwari and Smita Jhingranas full time members of NFRA. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ajay Bhushan Pandey – appointed as Chairman of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for 3 years
- Praveen Kumar Tiwari + Smita Jhingran = appointed as full time members of NFRA
- HQs of NFRA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ajay Bhushan Pandey | Founded in – 2018

**231.** On March 14, Former finance secretary Debasish Panda took charge as the new Chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for 3 years. He will succeed Subhash Chandra Khuntia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Debasish Panda – took charge as the new Chairman of the IRDAI for 3 years (succeeding – S. C. Khuntia)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Debasish Panda

**232.** On March 12, the Supreme Court accepted the resignation of Professor Ravi Chopra as Chairperson of a panel formed to oversee widening of roads under the Centre's ₹12,000 Cr ambitious Char Dham project, and appointed its former judge A. K. Sikri (Arjan Kumar Sikri) as the new Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- A. K. Sikri – appointed as Chairman of a panel formed to oversee widening of roads under Centre's Char Dham project
- A. K. Sikri succeeded Ravi Chopra

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**233.** On March 10, A total of 6 Indian airports have been adjudged as 'Best Airport by Size' in different categories (annual passenger traffic) by the Airports Council International (ACI) in its "Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey for 2021", in the Asia Pacific region. The Airport Service Quality rankings of the ACI takes into account 33 parameters related to passenger amenities and marking are given on the basis of flyers experiences. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey for 2021” – by the ACI
- 6 Indian airports – adjudged as ‘Best Airport by Size’ in different categories by ACI in Asia Pacific region
  - Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (Maharashtra)
  - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (Gujarat)
  - Chandigarh Airport
  - Cochin International Airport (Kerala)
  - Indira Gandhi International Airport (Delhi)
  - Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Telangana)
- HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada | DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

**234.** On March 12, the “MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards” were presented to the winners by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri. The Minister also launched the Ministry’s annual publication “Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21”. This is a repository of data which gives an overall picture of India’s oil & Gas sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hardeep Singh Puri (MoPNG) – presented the “MoPNG Swachhta Pakhwada Awards” to the winners
- He also launched MoPNG’s annual publication “Indian Petroleum & Natural Gas Statistics 2020-21”



## Schemes & Initiatives

**235.** On March 10, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) organised a special programme called “YUva Vigyani KARYakram” (YUVIKA) or “Young Scientist Programme” for Class 9 students to impart their basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications. The programme aims to select 150 students across India. The YUVIKA-2022 residential programme will run for two weeks from May 16 to May 28 at 5 ISRO centres. The programme is aimed at creating awareness about the emerging trends in Science & Technology amongst the youngsters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – organised “YUva Vigyani KARYakram” (YUVIKA) or “Young Scientist Programme” for Class 9 students
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

**236.** On March 10, Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane launched the “MSME Innovative Scheme” along with the “MSME Idea Hackathon 2022” under ‘MSME Champions Scheme’. MSME Innovation Scheme will promote and support untapped creativity of MSME sector. MSME Innovative Scheme is a combination of these 3 sub-schemes - Incubation, Design and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR). Under the MSME Idea Hackathon, financial assistance up to Rs 15 lakh per idea and up to Rs 1 Cr for relevant plant and machines will be provided. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narayan Rane launched “MSME Innovative Scheme” & “MSME Idea Hackathon 2022” under ‘MSME Champions Scheme’
- 3 sub-schemes of MSME Innovative Scheme: Incubation, Design & IPR

## Important Days & Dates

**237.** The second Wednesday in the month of March is celebrated as No Smoking Day across the world. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health. This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on 9 March. The day was first observed in 1984. In 2022, the theme is "Quitting Smoking doesn't have to be Stressful". [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 9 – No Smoking Day (since 1984)
- 2022's Theme – "Quitting Smoking doesn't have to be Stressful"

**238.** Annually, March 12 is observed as World Glaucoma Day. "The World is Bright, Save Your Sight" is the theme of this World Glaucoma Day. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness that can be easily prevented through early detection and treatment. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 12 – World Glaucoma Day
- 2022's Theme – "The World is Bright, Save Your Sight"

**239.** On March 11, Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah addressed the 37<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day celebrations of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) as the Chief Guest in New Delhi. He stated that the NCRB data should help reduce the crime rate in the country by 20% in next 5 years if it is made available to the right people at the right time. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 11 – 37<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day celebrations of NCRB – addressed by Amit Shah
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Vivek Gogia | Established in – 1986
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

## Books & Authors

**240.** In March 2022, a new book titled "Unfilled Barrels: India's Oil Story" authored by Richa Mishra & published by Bloomsbury India, was released. Richa Mishra is a journalist with The Hindu BusinessLine. In 'Unfilled Barrels', she tries to understand why the hunt for oil and gas has been challenging in India, despite strong foundations laid by the first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- "Unfilled Barrels: India's Oil Story" book – authored by Richa Mishra

**241.** On March 9, Labour Minister Bhupendra Yadav released a book titled 'Role of Labour in India's Development'. The Book contains 12 articles written by eminent academicians and practitioners on the contribution of labour in India's development journey. The V V Giri National Labour Institute published this book as a part of the 'Iconic Week' of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', celebrating 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's Independence. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Bhupendra Yadav – released a book titled “Role of Labour in India’s Development”
- Book published by – V V Giri National Labour Institute
- Ministry of Labour & Employment: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry of Labour & Employment: Rameswar Teli

**242.** As on March 11, Hindi novelist Geetanjali Shree’s translated Hindi novel “Tomb of Sand” has been long listed for the International Booker prize, making it the first Hindi language work of fiction to be selected for the literary award. The novel was originally published as “Ret Samadhi” and Daisy Rockwell, a US-based writer and translator has translated it into English. The story of ‘Tomb of Sand’ chronicles the journey of an 80-year-old woman from north India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Ret Samadhi” Hindi novel – authored by Geetanjali Shree
- “Ret Samadhi” translated into English as “Tomb of Sand” – by Daisy Rockwell
- For the 1<sup>st</sup> time, a Hindi language work of fiction is long listed at the ‘International Booker Prize’

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**243.** On March 8, Germany hosted the G7 Agricultural Ministers Meeting to discuss the impact of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on global food security and how to best stabilize food markets. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Germany – hosted the G7 Agricultural Ministers Meeting
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

**244.** A meeting of India, Bangladesh, and Nepal on the BBIN MVA was held at New Delhi on March 7-8, 2022. Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer. The Indian delegation was led by Ms. Smita Pant, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs. The meeting was held to discuss the Passenger and Cargo Protocols that are essential to operationalise the BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) for the Regulation of Passenger, Personal and Cargo Vehicular Traffic between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal, signed on June 15, 2015. During the meeting an MoU was signed by India, Bangladesh and Nepal for implementation of the BBIN MVA. Asian Development Bank provided technical and knowledge support to the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Meeting of India, Bangladesh & Nepal on the BBIN MVA was held at New Delhi (Observer country – Bhutan)
- Indian delegation was led by – Ms. Smita Pant (Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)
- ADB provided technical & knowledge support to the meeting
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966





## Ranks, Report & Surveys

**245.** On March 10, Andhra Pradesh retained its number one spot in the “SKOCH State of Governance Rankings” for the second consecutive year. The state has been a ‘Star’ in the rankings for the fourth year in a row. West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat and Maharashtra are the other States. Star is a category given to the States ranked from 1 to 5. It is also the only State from southern India to have been given ‘Star’ ratings in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – got first rank in the “SKOCH State of Governance Rankings” for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**246.** On March 12, RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) jumped 67 positions to rank 124<sup>th</sup> in the recently announced “Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022”. It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India. RailTel is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services providers in the country. Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309. There are total 10 (including RailTel) India government companies in the Fortune India 500 list 2022. RailTel is the only telecom PSU of Government of India on the list. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RailTel – ranked 124<sup>th</sup> in the “Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022” (the only telecom PSU on the list)
- IRCTC – ranked 309<sup>th</sup> in the list

**247.** Investing in universal childcare and long-term care services can generate up to 299 million jobs by 2035. Of these, 234 million (78%) will go to women, according to a new report titled “Care at work: Investing in Care Leave and Services for a more Gender Equal World of Work” by International Labor Organization (ILO). This job creation potential by 2035 will be driven by 96 million direct jobs in childcare, 136 million direct jobs in long-term care and 67 million indirect jobs in non-care sectors and for that, an annual investment of \$5.4 trillion will be required. According to the report, employment rates of women will rise by 10% points overall. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Care at work: Investing in Care Leave and Services for a more Gender Equal World of Work” report – released by ILO
- Investment in care services can generate 234 million jobs (78%) for women by 2035 (out of total 299 million jobs)
- An annual investment of \$5.4 trillion will be required for this job creation potential by 2035
- [HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | Founded in – 1919](#)

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**248.** On March 10, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog announced partnership with KidEx Venture Pvt Ltd to leverage KidEx’s existing technology platform “IKIGAI” to host AIM’s flagship programs “Tinkerpreneur”, “ATL Marathon” and other similar ATL related challenges. The programs will be available to 1 Cr+ school students on the AIM network across India. KidEx was started by alumni of IIT Kharagpur & IIM Calcutta. Its flagship product includes “National All Rounder Championship” & “Age Appropriate Holistic Development Report Card”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- AIM + KidEx Venture Pvt Ltd = partnered to host AIM’s programs on KidEx’s existing technology platform “IKIGAI”
- [AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog \(HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav\)](#)
- [HQs of KidEx – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Kapish Saraf](#)



**249.** On March 10, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed an MoU with IIT Roorkee for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at IIT Roorkee. This is the first Standardization Chair established by BIS in an Institute for activities on Standardization and Conformity Assessment. The MoU will help in sensitizing students on how standards can encourage and facilitate innovation and will help in grooming students making them better prepared for their future professional challenges. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BIS + IIT Roorkee = an MoU for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at IIT Roorkee
- Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

**250.** On March 12, the Odisha government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed an agreement for the creation of fisheries infrastructure to augment fish production in the state. The dedicated Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) would help in the creation of infrastructure facilities in marine and inland sectors. The FIDF aims to achieve a sustainable growth of 8-9% to augment the country's fish production capacity to around 20 million tonnes by 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha + NABARD = an agreement to create 'Fisheries & Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund'
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982





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