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**March**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 6**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 6 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

**251.** On March 12, PM Narendra Modi dedicated the new complex building of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad village near Gandhinagar in Gujarat. Rashtriya Raksha University will emerge in the field of national security and defense that will change the security picture of the nation. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- PM Modi dedicated new complex building of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) at Lavad, near Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**252.** On March 11, India clarified, in the course of a routine maintenance, a technical malfunction led to the accidental firing of a missile that landed in Pakistan on March 9. There was no loss of life due to the accident. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- A technical malfunction in the course of a routine maintenance led to the accidental firing of a missile from India to Pak
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**253.** On March 10 & 11, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur & Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla addressed the function of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi. The objective of the NYPF is to hear the voice of the youth, who will join various careers in coming years. NYPF is based on the idea given by the PM Narendra Modi in his Mann Ki Baat Address on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017. Theme of this year's National Youth Parliament Festival was "Be the Voice of New India and Find Solutions and Contribute to Policy". [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur + Om Birla = addressed the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of 'National Youth Parliament Festival' in New Delhi
- 2022's Theme – "Be the Voice of New India and Find Solutions and Contribute to Policy"

**254.** On March 14, Mumbai announced detailed plans to zero out carbon emissions by 2050, a target that puts it two decades ahead of India's national goal of 2070 and makes it the first city in South Asia to set such a timeline. Mumbai's short-term priorities include the purchase 2,100 electric buses by 2023 at a cost of 130 billion rupees (\$1.7 billion). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Mumbai – became first South Asian city to set a target of zero out carbon emissions by 2050
- India's target to become a Net-zero Emissions Nation by 2070
- Maharashtra: CM – UddhavThackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**255.** On March 8, Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DONER, G. Kishan Reddy launched the E-marketplace platform in an event organised at Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), Gwalior. A Coffee table book on the theme Temple Iconography named "Temple Heritage of India" was released, which covers 75 plates on Indian Temples at 75 years of India's Independence. Moreover, a letter of intent was awarded to Bird Academy for collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) for soft skill training, for IITFC program participants. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- G. Kishan Reddy – launched “E-Marketplace” platform in an event organised at IITTM (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh)
- A Coffee table book “Temple Heritage of India” was released during the event

**256.** On March 7, Odisha topped the list of full immunisation and became the only state in India to achieve 90.5% of immunization under ‘Mission Indradhanush 4.0’. The intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0 was rolled out in the state for boosting full immunization coverage of the targeted women and children. Full immunisation includes preventive doses against 12 different kinds of diseases including polio, tuberculosis, jaundice, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, HIV, brain fever, pneumonia, measles, rubella, diarrhea, Japanese fever, and others. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – became the only state in India to achieve 90.5% of immunization under ‘Mission Indradhanush 4.0’ (topped)
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**257.** On March 12, Delhi government launched a portal named ‘My EV’ to provide 5% interest rate subvention on purchase of electric auto rickshaws (e-autos) on loans under Delhi Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy. A total of 4,261 LOIs for e-autos will be given with a 33% reservation for women. The portal has been created by Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL). With the launch of the portal, Delhi government became the first state in the country to provide easy financing along with interest subvention on the purchase of EVs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched “My EV” portal to provide 5% interest subsidy on purchase of e-autos on loans under ‘Delhi EV Policy’
- A total of 4,261 LOIs for e-autos will be given with a 33% reservation for women
- The portal created by – Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL)
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal](#) | [Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal](#) | [Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)
- [HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal](#) | [Head – Mahua Acharya](#) (CESL - a subsidiary of EESL)

**258.** On March 14, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation (established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji) announced to establish India’s first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway. Programs of Peace Education, prepared with the coordination of ancient knowledge and modern science, would be conducted for everyone such as students, teachers, youth, women, doctors, engineers, lawyers, traders, farmers etc. World Peace Center will be dedicated to the mental, emotional and character development of the people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation – to establish India’s first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana
- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by – Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh](#) | [CM – Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | [Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

**259.** On March 12, Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Hardeep Singh Puri launched the ‘India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge’ under Ministry’s “Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0”. MoHUA also organised ‘India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave’ at India Habitat Centre to provide first of its kind networking platform to startups, young innovators, industry partners, incubators and States/cities. AMRUT 2.0 is a transformative scheme with an outlay of over Rs 2.77 lakh Cr. Technology Sub-mission has been approved by Cabinet under ‘AMRUT 2.0’ to engage startups as ‘Technology Partner’. Under this initiative, Ministry will select 100 start-ups which will be provided with Rs 20 lakhs as funding support as well as mentorship. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- MoHUA – organised “India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave”
- MoHUA – launched “India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge” under ‘AMRUT 2.0’ on MyGov platform
- ‘AMRUT 2.0’ scheme outlay – Rs 2.77 lakh Cr
- MoHUA will select 100 start-ups to provide mentorship & Rs 20 lakhs as funding support
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**260.** On March 14, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry announced that more than 40,000 farmers across India benefited from the “Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela” held from March 9 to 11, 2022. 41 Innovative awards were given to farmers during the festival. The mela was organised by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) on the theme “Self-reliant Farmer with Technical Knowledge” in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela” organised by IARI in New Delhi
- Theme of the Mela – “Self-reliant Farmer with Technical Knowledge”

**261.** On March 12, Chief Justice of India N. V. Ramana laid the foundation stone for the International Arbitration and Mediation Centre in Hyderabad. Telangana government gave land as well ₹50 Cr for construction of the building. The centre would emerge as an alternative to those in Dubai, London and Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. V. Ramana – laid the foundation stone for the ‘International Arbitration & Mediation Centre’ in Hyderabad
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

## **International Affairs**

**262.** On March 10, International Monetary Funds (IMF) approved \$1.4 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine amid the ongoing war with Russia under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) to help meet urgent financing needs and mitigate the economic impact of the war. World Bank also approved a \$723 million package of loans and grants for Ukraine. World Bank has also set up a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) to facilitate channeling grant resources from donors to Ukraine, with contributions from the UK, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, and Iceland in the amount of \$134 million thus far. Japan also linked \$100 million in parallel financing to the support package. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMF – approved \$1.4 billion in emergency financing for Ukraine amid the ongoing war with Russia under the RFI
- World Bank – approved a \$723 million package of loans & grants for Ukraine
- World Bank – set up a Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) to facilitate channeling grant resources from donors to Ukraine
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant





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

**263.** On March 13, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) and India Bullion and Jewelers Association Ltd (IBJA) partnered to launch the Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange in line with SEBI guidelines. India is the second-largest consumer of gold, and it is the first time that a domestic bullion spot exchange is being set up under the aegis of SEBI. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NSE + IBJA = partnership to launch the “Domestic Bullion Spot Exchange” in line with SEBI guidelines
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- Location of IBJA – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**264.** On March 11, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed Paytm Payments Bank to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect by using its powers under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The bank was also directed to appoint an IT audit firm to conduct a comprehensive System Audit of its IT system. This action is based on certain material supervisory concerns observed in the bank. One97 Communications owns 49% equity interest in Paytm Payments Bank, while the rest 51% is owned by Vijay Shekhar Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI – directed Paytm Payments Bank to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta

**265.** On March 11, Mumbai-based Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) Issuer LivQuik became the first PPI to achieve full Interoperability as mandated by the RBI thereby allowing its customers the choice of issuing a prepaid payment Instrument that can be leveraged by a card, wallet or UPI. The RBI laid down guidelines for allowing Interoperability of PPI instruments to provide choice to customers. PPI Issuers are mandated to facilitate interoperability for full-KYC wallets by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Founded in 2012, LivQuik is an RBI authorised Prepaid Payment Instrument Issuer and operates 3 key business - Enterprise, Issuance & Acquiring. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- LivQuik – became the first PPI to achieve full Interoperability as mandated by the RBI
- LivQuik allowed customers the choice of issuing a PPI that can be leveraged by a card, wallet or UPI
- HQs of LivQuik – Mumbai, MH | CEO & Co-Founder – Mohit Lalvani
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**266.** On March 14, Axis Bank, India’s third-largest private sector bank, was awarded “Asian Bank of The Year 2021” award at the IFR Asia Awards 2021, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space. As per Refinitiv data, Axis Bank also ranks first in India in Debt Capital Markets (DCM) with 17.1% market share. This year, the bank won the “Best DCM House in India” Award at the IFR Asia Awards 2021. Axis Bank has been No. 1 on the Bloomberg League Table ranking for 15 consecutive calendar years. Globally, Morgan Stanley was honoured with the “Bank of the Year” Award and the JSW Group was awarded with the “Issuer of the Year” Award at the IFR Asia Award 2021. IFR Asia is a Hong Kong-based provider of capital markets intelligence. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- IFR Asia Awards 2021
  - “Asian Bank of the Year 2021” Award – Axis Bank
  - “Best DCM House in India” Award – Axis Bank
  - “Bank of the Year” Award – Morgan Stanley
  - “Issuer of the Year” Award – JSW Group
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**267.** On March 14, Baroda Asset Management Company and BNP Paribas Asset Management Company entered into a strategic partnership by combining their respective asset management businesses to form a new joint venture (JV) AMC “Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund”. Suresh Soni has been appointed as the CEO of the merged entity. Bank of Baroda, the parent company of Baroda AMC, will hold 50.1% stake in the new JV AMC, while BNP Paribas AM will hold the remaining 49.9%. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Baroda AMC + BNP Paribas AMC = merged to form a JV AMC “Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund”
- Suresh Soni – appointed as the CEO of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund
- HQs of Baroda BNP Paribas Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Suresh Soni

**268.** On March 14, Ujjivan SFB launched industry-first digital on-boarding for its micro banking customers. Ujjivan SFB customers will now be able to update their mobile number via ‘Ujjivan SFB Assisted app’. Ujjivan SFB Assisted app is designed to enable mobile number updation in real time basis. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB – launched industry-first digital on-boarding for its micro banking customers
- Ujjivan SFB customers will now be able to update their mobile number via ‘Ujjivan SFB Assisted app’
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ittira Davis | Founded in – 2004

**269.** On March 15, the RBI released the final guidelines for Microfinance Loans and increased eligibility criteria for microfinance loans to a household having an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh while removing the interest rate cap on such loans. Collateral-free loan given to a household having annual household income up to Rs 3 lakh will now be considered as ‘Microfinance Loan’, effective from April 1, 2022. Currently, a microfinance borrower is identified by the annual household income not exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh for rural and Rs 2 lakh for urban and semi-urban areas. The RBI also revised the criteria for NBFCs who do not qualify as NBFC-MFIs to extend microfinance loans up to 25% of their total assets from 10% earlier. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI removed interest cap for microfinance loans & increased eligibility criteria to a household having an annual income of up to Rs 3 lakh – effective from April 1
- Previous eligibility criteria: Rs 1.25 lakh for rural areas & Rs 2 lakh for urban & semi-urban areas
- Criteria to extend microfinance loans to NBFCs who do not qualify as NBFC-MFIs – 25% of their total assets
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935



## Sports & Games

**270.** On March 10, Tiger Woods was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame. Additionally, the World Golf Hall of Fame presented two new distinguished service awards for the first time. Renee Powell was honored as the inaugural recipient of the Charlie Sifford Award while Peter Ueberroth and the late Dick Ferris were honored through a Lifetime Achievement recognition for their contributions to golf. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Tiger Woods (USA) – was formally inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame

**271.** On March 7, Swedish Olympic champion, Armand Duplantis nicknamed “Mondo” broke his own world record in the Pole Vault, clearing 6.19m at his third attempt at the indoor meeting in Belgrade. He had held the record since February 2020, when he cleared 6.17m in Torun in Poland and then 6.18m in Glasgow. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Armand Duplantis (Sweden) – broke his own world record in the Pole Vault by clearing 6.19m
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Magdalena Andersson

**272.** On March 12, Mithali Raj broke the record for most matches captained in the ICC Women’s World Cup, surpassing former Australian counterpart Belinda Clark. She achieved the feat when she stepped out to lead the country against the West Indies. She led India in 24 World Cup games while Clark had captained her side in 23 matches. Mithali and Clark are the only two cricketers to have led their country at more than two World Cups. Moreover, recently Mithali became only the third cricketer and the first woman to appear in six World Cups, joining the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Pakistani Javed Miandad. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mithali Raj – broke the record of Australia’s Belinda Clark for most matches captained in the ICC Women’s World Cup
- She led India in 24 World Cup games (24<sup>th</sup> against West Indies)
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

## Science & Technology

**273.** In March 2022, 325-mn-year-old fossil, unearthed in Montana, was named after Joe Biden. “Syllipsimopodi bideni” represents the oldest-known relative of today’s Octopus. Some 325-328 million years later, a new paper published in Nature Communications provides some interesting insights into this mysterious and ancient cephalopod. Octopuses and squids are among the most familiar cephalopods, but also in this group are cuttlefishes, nautilus and the extinct belemnites, ammonites and others. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Syllipsimopodi bideni” - a 325-mn-year-old fossil of a cephalopod unearthed in Montana, US – named after Joe Biden
- It represents the oldest-known relative of today’s Octopus



**274.** On March 14, the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) announced the successful ground testing of the newly developed Solid Booster Stage (SS1) for the new launch vehicle Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The SS1 stage was tested at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The remaining stages of SSLV (SS2 & SS3) have successfully undergone necessary ground tests and are ready for integration. SSLV is a small-lift launch vehicle with the capacity to deliver 600 kg payload to low Earth orbit (LEO) or 300 kg payload to Sun-synchronous orbit (SSO). The design of the vehicle was completed in 2018 by Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the maiden flight is expected in April 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – successfully ground tested the newly developed ‘Solid Booster Stage (SS1)’ for the new launch vehicle SSLV
- SSLV – a small-lift launch vehicle with the capacity to deliver 600 kg payload to LEO or 300 kg payload to SSO
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**275.** On March 14, Mumbai-based online gaming company, Games24x7 appointed cricketers Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad as its new brand ambassadors for its My11Circle fantasy gaming platform. They joined other brand ambassadors of My11Circle including, Mohammed Siraj, Saurav Ganguly, Ajinkya Rahane, VVS Laxman and actor Ranveer Singh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shubman Gill & Ruturaj Gaikwad – appointed as new brand ambassadors of ‘My11Circle’ cricket platform of Games24x7

**276.** On March 15, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance extended the tenure of Tapan Singhel, the current Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO) of the company, by another 5 years, effective April 1, 2022. Singhel has already completed 10 years as the MD & CEO of the company as he has been serving since 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tapan Singhel – tenure extended as MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance by another 5 years
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

**277.** On March 8, Air Marshal B. Chandra Sekhar took over as Commandant, Air Force Academy, Indian Air Force (IAF). He hails from Telangana. He was commissioned in the IAF in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Air Marshal B. Chandra Sekhar – took over as Commandant, Air Force Academy, Indian Air Force (IAF)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**278.** On March 11, Ashwani Bhatia, who is currently the managing director of the State Bank of India, was appointed as the whole time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for 3 years. The positions of two whole time members were vacant at SEBI, after the tenures of G. Mahalingam and Madhabi Puri Buch ended in 2021. Buch has been appointed as the SEBI Chairperson. The other two whole time members on the board of SEBI are SK Mohanty and Ananta Barua. The government has also nominated Ajay Seth and Rajesh Verma to the SEBI’s board. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashwani Bhatia (MD of SBI) – appointed as the whole time member of the SEBI for 3 years
- Other two whole time members on the board of SEBI – SK Mohanty & Ananta Barua
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992



**279.** On March 11, Hungarian parliament elected Katalin Novak as country's first ever woman president. She will succeed party co-founder Janos Ader, who has held the job since 2012. She will take office after Ader's term expires May 10. She was decorated with the Legion of Honor in 2019 for her contribution to improving relations between Paris and Budapest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Katalin Novak – elected as first ever woman President of Hungary (succeeding - Janos Ader)
- Hungary – Budapest – Forint | President – Janos Ader (till May 10 | later - Katalin Novak)

**280.** On March 14, Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the chairman of Tata Sons, was appointed as the chairman of Air India. Alice GeeVarghese Vaidyan (former CMD of General Insurance Corporation) and Sanjiv Mehta (Chairman of Hindustan Unilever) were inducted as Independent Directors on the board. Moreover, N. Chandrasekaran was reappointed as Chairman of Tata Sons on February 2022 for a second term of 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N. Chandrasekaran – appointed as the Chairman of Air India
- Alice GeeVarghese Vaidyan + Sanjiv Mehta = inducted as Independent Directors on the board of Air India
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**281.** On March 14, Rizwana Hasan, a Bangladeshi environmental lawyer, was awarded the “International Women of Courage (IWOC) Award” for 2022. She is the Chief Executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association. She received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2012. Total 12 women were honoured by the US Department of State with the award for showing exceptional courage and leadership to make a difference in their communities. US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken hosted the awards ceremony to honour the 12 women selected for the award. The International Women of Courage (IWOC) award was established in 2007 by the US Department of State to honour women of exceptional courage, strength and leadership who work to bring change to their communities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rizwana Hasan ([Bangladeshi Environmental Lawyer](#)) – awarded with “International Women of Courage Award 2022”
- Total 12 women were honoured with the Award | Awards Ceremony was hosted by – Antony J. Blinken ([US](#))
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

## Schemes & Initiatives

**282.** On March 8, in the urban areas of Telangana, for the development of the cities a programme called “Pattana Pragathi” was launched. All municipalities are being provided financial assistance under this scheme every month. An amount of Rs 1,394 Cr was allocated under “Pattana Pragathi” programme. With regard to Palle Pragathi, allocation of Rs 3,330 Cr was made. The village gardens and parks known as ‘Palle Prakruthi Vanams’ were also developed. The State government has allocated total Rs 4,724 Cr towards these programmes. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Telangana – allocated Rs 4,724 Cr for “Palle Pragathi” (Rs 3,330 Cr) & “Pattana Pragathi” (Rs 1,394 Cr) programmes
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**283.** On March 14, the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, released the guidelines for the “Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)” scheme with a total financial outlay of Rs 500 Cr for FY2021-22 to FY2025-26. The scheme will address the rising demand in terms of support required for existing pharma clusters and MSMEs across the country to improve their productivity, quality and sustainability. The scheme will have three 3 components - Assistance to the Pharmaceutical Industry for Common Facilities (APICF); Pharmaceutical Technology Up-gradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS); and Pharmaceutical & Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS). [{Read more}](#)

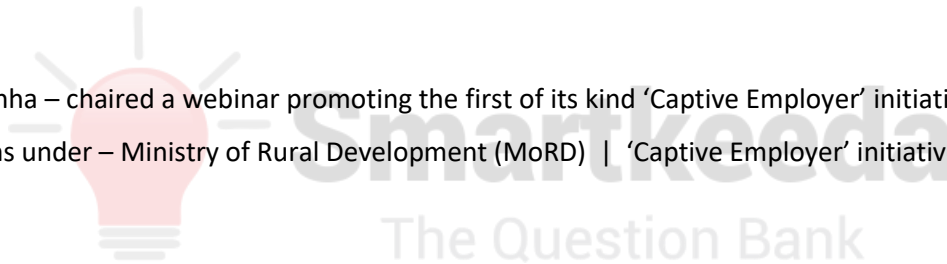
### Key Points:

- Dept. of Pharmaceuticals – released the guidelines for “Strengthening of Pharmaceutical Industry (SPI)” scheme
- Financial outlay of SPI scheme – Rs 500 Cr | Period – FY2021-22 to FY2025-26

**284.** On March 10, Union Rural Development Secretary Nagendra Nath Sinha chaired a webinar promoting the first of its kind ‘Captive Employer’ initiative under the “Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)”. ‘Captive Employer’ initiative is funded by the Ministry of Rural Development. The initiative is a shot in the arm for the DDU-GKY programme, assuring post-training placement of candidates for a minimum of six months with a minimum CTC of Rs 10,000. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nagendra Nath Sinha – chaired a webinar promoting the first of its kind ‘Captive Employer’ initiative under ‘DDU-GKY’
- DDU-GKY functions under – Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) | ‘Captive Employer’ initiative is funded by MoRD



## Important Days & Dates

**285.** The UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed 4 March as World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development during its 40<sup>th</sup> session in November 2019, to raise awareness of the role of engineering in modern life. World Engineering Day Hackathon was hosted by the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO) and its members and partners and focused on the theme: “Build Back Wiser - Engineering the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 4 – World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development (since 2020)
- ‘World Engineering Day Hackathon’ focused on the theme: “Build Back Wiser - Engineering the Future”

**286.** The International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day is celebrated on March 14<sup>th</sup> as the date, which is written as 3/14 in many countries resembles the value of pi. In 2022, the theme is “Mathematics Unites”. The theme was proposed by Yuliya Nesterova, a graduate student from the University of Ottawa in Canada. The day was first marked in 2012 by former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to commemorate Ramanujan’s 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 14 – “International Day of Mathematics” or “Pi Day” (since 2012)
- 2022’s Theme – “Mathematics Unites”

**287.** The International Day of Action for Rivers is celebrated every year on March 14 to raise awareness about the value and importance of rivers. 2022 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day of Action for Rivers, with a theme “To highlight the importance of Rivers to Biodiversity”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 14 – 25<sup>th</sup> “International Day of Action for Rivers”
- 2022’s Theme – “To highlight the importance of Rivers to Biodiversity”

**288.** World Rotaract Day was observed on March 13 to appreciate the service provided by Rotaractors across the globe. This year, the World Rotaract Week was celebrated from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2022. President Shekhar Mehta had announced the Presidential Theme of Rotary for the year 2021-2022 which is “Serve to Change Lives”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 13 – World Rotaract Day
- March 7 to 13 – World Rotaract Week
- Presidential Theme of Rotary for 2021-2022 – “Serve to Change Lives”

**289.** Every year on March 15, World Consumer Rights Day is commemorated to safeguard consumer rights and to ensure that customers are not subjected to market exploitation or social injustice that may jeopardize their rights. In 2022, the theme is “Fair Digital Finance”. National Consumers Rights Day is commemorated yearly in India on December 24. Moreover, Department of Consumer Affairs organised “Consumer Empowerment Week” from March 14-20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Fair Digital Finance”
- March 14-20 – “Consumer Empowerment Week” organised by Department of Consumer Affairs
- December 24 – National Consumers Rights Day

## **Books & Authors**

**290.** On March 12, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala addressed the “Saurashtra Maldhari Sammelan” organised by Sahjeevan (Centre for Pastoralism), at Upleta in Rajkot, Gujarat with the theme of “Fostering Pastoralism in Saurashtra- Conservation and its Sustenance”. Parshottam Rupala released a book “Pastoral Breeds of India”, compiled by Sahjeevan andan “APEKSHA (Expectations) PATRA”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Parshottam Rupala – addressed the “Saurashtra Maldhari Sammelan” in Rajkot, Gujarat (organised by Sahjeevan)
- Parshottam Rupala (MoFAHD) – released “Pastoral Breeds of India” book
- Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Parshottam Rupala | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying: Sanjeev Kumar Balyan & L. Murugan



**291.** On March 14, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh released an e-book on Land Governance Reforms announced in Budget titled “Empowering Citizens-Powering India”. The contents of the e-book are related to Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN), National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and Multilingual Land Records - to break the linguistic barrier in land records. Department of Land Resources, MoRD will plan to roll out the multilingual software from April 2022. After that, the land records will be available in 22 languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Giriraj Singh released an e-book on Land Governance Reforms titled “Empowering Citizens-Powering India”
- The book includes information related to:
  - ULPIN – **U**nique **L**and **P**arcel **I**dentification **N**umber (14-digit Alphanumeric unique ID)
  - NGDRS – **N**ational **G**eneric **D**ocument **R**egistration **S**ystem
  - Multilingual Land Records

## Obituaries

**292.** On March 6, India’s envoy to Palestine Mukul Arya passed away in Ramallah. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 2008. He had served at the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi, in addition to serving at the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO in Paris, and at the Embassies of India in Kabul and Moscow. Moreover, Indian Embassy in Ukraine was temporarily shifted from the capital of Ukraine to neighbouring Poland. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mukul Arya – India’s envoy to Palestine – passed away
- Indian Embassy in Ukraine was temporarily shifted from the capital of Ukraine to Poland
- [Palestine – Jerusalem – New Israeli shekel](#) | [PM – Muhammad Shtayyeh](#) | [President – Mahmoud Abbas](#)
- [Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty](#) | [President – Andrzej Sebastin Duda](#)

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**293.** On March 10, the Union Minister of AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 2-day “International Conference on Unani Medicine” with the theme of “Diet and Nutrition in Unani Medicine for Good health & well-being” in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. The conference was organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM). The CCRUM is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of AYUSH. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated “International Conference on Unani Medicine” in Srinagar – organized by CCRUM
- Theme of the Conference – “Diet & Nutrition in Unani Medicine for Good Health & Well-Being”

**294.** On March 13, Union Communication Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated a seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: Way Forward for Stakeholders (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA & Aadhaar)” organised by Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). At the event, Shri Vaishnaw also released the updated TDSAT Procedures 2005 and TDSAT Rules, 2003. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act was enacted in 1997. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated a seminar on “25 Years of TRAI Act: Way Forward for Stakeholders” organised by TDSAT
- HQs of TDSAT – New Delhi | Chairperson – D. N. Patel

## Ranks, Report & Surveys

**295.** On March 12, Kerala emerged on top and recorded the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 30 (per one lakh live births) in India. This puts Kerala way ahead of the national MMR of 103. According to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) special bulletin on maternal mortality in India (2017-19), brought out by the office of the Registrar General of India, Kerala’s MMR has dropped by 12 points. Kerala developed the Quality Standards in Obstetric Care, in partnership with the NICE International and leading specialists in 2012-13 and focused on the management of some of the common causes of maternal deaths. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kerala – recorded the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio in India
- Kerala MMR – 30 | India – 103
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**296.** On March 12, India’s equity market entered the world’s Top Five Club in terms of market capitalisation for the first time. India ranked 5<sup>th</sup> with total market cap of \$3.21 trillion, surpassing the UK (\$3.19 trillion). This year, India climbed two positions, despite a 7.4% drop in its market cap. Germany, once among the top five markets, slipped to 10<sup>th</sup>. The US topped the list with market cap of \$47.32 trillion, followed by China (\$11.52 trillion), Japan (\$6 trillion) and Hong Kong (\$5.55 trillion). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in terms of market capitalisation with total m-cap of \$3.21 trillion, surpassing the UK (\$3.19 trillion)
- 1<sup>st</sup> – US (\$47.32 trillion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – China (\$11.52 trillion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Japan (\$6 trillion)

**297.** On March 14, Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav & Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat jointly released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on rejuvenation of 13 major rivers through forestry interventions. The 13 rivers for which DPRs were released are Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej, Yamuna, Brahmaputra, Luni, Narmada, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna, and Cauvery. The DPRs were funded by National Afforestation & Eco-development Board (NAEB), (under MoEF&CC) and prepared by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav & Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – released ‘Detailed Project Reports’ on rejuvenation of 13 major rivers
- DPRs were prepared by – ICFRE (Dehradun, Uttarakhand) | Funded by – NAEB



## Amount & Agreements

**298.** On March 10, Government of India, the Government of West Bengal, and World Bank signed a \$125 million IBRD (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) loan to support efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services in West Bengal. This project will focus on building the capabilities of the state government to expand coverage and access to social assistance and targeted services for poor and vulnerable groups within the State.

[{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India + World Bank = signed a \$125 million IBRD loan to support social protection services in West Bengal
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**299.** On March 10, Lt Gen Richard Burr, the Chief of the Australian Army was on a 3-day visit to India from March 8, 2022. In order to establish academic cooperation and engagement, an MoU was signed between Australian Army Research Centre (AARC) and Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) on the side-lines of the visit. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- AARC (Australia) + CLAWS (India) = an MoU to establish academic cooperation & engagement
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**300.** On March 13, India and Sri Lanka signed a Joint Venture and Shareholders' Agreement (JVSHA) for developing a 100 MW Solar Power Plant in Sri Lanka's eastern port district of Trincomalee, as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral economic partnership. Trincomalee Power Company Limited (TPCL) will be a joint venture between India's National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Sri Lanka's Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB). Moreover, India's Adani Group signed a deal for two large power projects at Mannar & Pooneryn in Sri Lanka's Northern Province. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India + Sri Lanka = Joint Venture & Shareholders' Agreement to develop 100 MW Solar Power Plant in Trincomalee
- Adani Group – signed a deal for two large Power Projects at Mannar & Pooneryn in Sri Lanka's Northern Province
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa





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