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**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 8**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 8 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

**351.** On March 16, Nitin Gadkari launched the world's most advanced technology - developed Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) "Toyota Mirai", first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem. IOCL will supply Hydrogen for this vehicle. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) conducted a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the Toyota Mirai which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic conditions. It is an important initiative to promote clean energy and environmental protection by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and making India 'Energy Self-reliant' by 2047. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched world's most advanced technology developed Green Hydrogen FCEV namely "Toyota Mirai"
- Toyota Mirai – launched by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (IOCL will provide Hydrogen for this vehicle)
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

**352.** On March 16, Indian Railways prepared a "National Rail Plan (NRP) for India - 2030" to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030. The NRP is aimed to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%. The plan also aims to - Reduce transit time of freight by increasing average speed of freight trains to 50Kmph, identify new Dedicated Freight Corridors & High Speed Rail Corridors, Sustained involvement of the Private Sector in various areas & Assess Locomotive requirement to meet twin objectives of 100% electrification (Green Energy) and increasing freight modal share etc. 'Vision 2024' also launched as part of 'NRP 2030' for 100% electrification, upgradation of speed & multi-tracking of congested routes etc. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indian Railways prepared "National Rail Plan for India - 2030" to create a 'future ready' Railway system by 2030
- NRP aims to increase modal share of the Railways in freight to 45%
- The key objectives of NRP:
  - Reduce transit time of freight by increasing average speed of freight trains to 50Kmph
  - Identify new Dedicated Freight Corridors & High Speed Rail Corridors
  - Sustained involvement of the Private Sector in various areas
  - Assess Locomotive requirement to meet 100% electrification (Green Energy) & increasing freight modal share
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

**353.** On March 12, 2022, the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) produced 7.62 lakh tonne of dry fuel which is the highest in a day during the FY22 reaching 157.7 million tonne (MT) & became the leading coal producing company in India with a growth of around 16% over the last financial year. MCL is a unit of the Coal India Limited. MCL surpassed all previous records and despatched over 166 MT dry fuel to the consumers, registering 22% growth over FY21. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- MCL – became the leading coal producing company in India & produced more than 157.7 MT in FY22
- MCL (a unit of CIL) – despatched over 166 MT dry fuel to the consumers with 22% growth over FY21
- HQs of MCL – Sambalpur, Odisha | CMD – O. P. Singh (addi. charge)
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal



**354.** On March 13, To improve healthcare services including bed-side care for patients, sanitation and ensure availability of manpower in government healthcare facilities, the Telangana government adopted Integrated Hospital Facility Management Services (IHFMS) by incurring an expenditure of Rs. 7,500 (from the earlier Rs. 5,000) per hospital bed in a month. The policy which is currently applicable in all the medical colleges is extended to all nursing colleges, nursing schools and hostels. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – adopted IHFMS & incurred an expenditure of Rs 7,500 per bed in a month (from earlier Rs. 5,000)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**355.** On March 14, a Menhir from the Iron Age was found at Ellarigudem, a hamlet of Beechrajupalli village of Maripeda mandal in Mahabubabad district of Telangana. The menhir could be 3,500 years old & would have been erected in memory of a dead person. It measures 6 ft in height and 3 ft in diameter and was buried 3ft deep by the side of a road in the hamlet. The discovery was made during the survey of archaeological and heritage remains in Maripeda mandal conducted under the 'Preserve Heritage for Posterity' programme by Pleach India Foundation. The menhir is made of a Leuco granite stone (weathered and comprising almost negligible mafic minerals) dating back to 2,500 million years, holding a lot of historical importance in terms of geology. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A Menhir from the Iron Age was found in Mahabubabad, Telangana – by Pleach India Foundation
- The menhir is made of a 'Leuco granite stone' dating back to 2,500 million years
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**356.** In a first, Visakhapatnam railway station in Andhra Pradesh will implement the "One Station, One Product" concept. It will become the first station in the East Coast railway to implement the concept. It would be running on a pilot basis for 15 days. Moreover, in the same month of March, Tirupati station was announced to become South Central Railways' first station to implement 'One Station One Product'. In Union Budget 2022-23, the government announced the Concept of "One Station, One Product". This concept's main objective is to make each railway station a promotional hub as well as showcase destination for a local product. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Visakhapatnam railway station – 1<sup>st</sup> station of East Coast Railways to implement "One Station, One Product" concept
- Tirupati railway station – 1<sup>st</sup> station of South Central Railways to implement "One Station, One Product" concept
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati](#) | [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy](#) | [Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**357.** On March 14, Telangana, for the first time in India, began recording crop diversification patterns in the form of an index called "Crop Diversification Index (CDI)". According to the crop diversification index, the state grows 77 varieties. The index has a base value of one. It denotes the percentage of total cropped area devoted to a single crop. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – 1<sup>st</sup> state in India to adopt "Crop Diversification Index (CDI)" for recording crop diversification patterns
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad](#) | [CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao](#) | [Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)



**358.** On March 16, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced 11 winning cities for the “EatSmart Cities Challenge”. These cities will now enter the deep engagement stage of the challenge wherein projects undertaken in pilot stage will be scaled up in a sustainable manner. The challenge was launched by MoHUA in collaboration with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, to scale up the ‘Eat Right India’ approach to city level. Top 11 Awardees of the pilot stage of the EatSmart Cities Challenge are: Chandigarh, Indore, Jammu, Jabalpur, Panaji, Rajkot, Rourkela, Sagar, Surat, Tumakuru and Ujjain. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA announced 11 winning cities for the “EatSmart Cities Challenge”
- The challenge was launched by MoHUA & FSSAI on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2021
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatota | CEO – Arun Singhal
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

**359.** Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY) under the Ministry of AYUSH organized “Yoga Mahotsav-2022”. Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the event. The basic objective of this event is to give a wider promotion and publicity to various dimensions of Yoga and its utility and also to promote the 100 days countdown campaign to International Day of Yoga. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated “Yoga Mahotsav-2022” – organized by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga
- MDNIY – functions under Ministry of AYUSH
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

**360.** On March 18, Tamil Nadu finance minister Palanivel Thiagarajan presented the budget for 2022-23 and said that for the first time since 2014 the revenue deficit was to decrease by over ₹7,000 Cr. In a significant move, the State government reshaped the “Thalikku Thangam” scheme (which provides gold and financial assistance for women’s marriages) into a Higher Education Assurance Scheme that will provide a monthly incentive of Rs 1,000 to girl students. Under the scheme, women over the age of 18 who had completed Class 10 could avail a marriage assistance of Rs 25,000. Under the “Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme”, all girl students, who studied from Class 6 to 12 in government and aided schools, will receive Rs 1,000 per month for college education. The students, who complete a 3-year degree, will effectively receive Rs 36,000 in cash. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu FM Palanivel Thiagarajan presented the budget for 2022-23
- Tamil Nadu’s scheme:
  - “Thalikku Thangam” scheme – provides Gold & financial assistance for women’s marriages
  - “Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme” – Rs 1,000/m to girl students of Class 6-12
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**361.** On March 17, Minister of State (I/C) for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh released India’s Arctic policy titled “India and the Arctic: Building a partnership for Sustainable Development” in New Delhi. India’s engagement with the Arctic dates back to a century when ‘Svalbard Treaty’ was signed in February 1920 in Paris, France. India is one of 13 nations holding Observer status in the Arctic Council. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh (MoES) – released India’s Arctic policy in New Delhi
- [HQs of Arctic Council – Tromso, Norway](#)

**362.** In March 2022, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar tabled the state budget 2022-2023 before the legislature with a revenue deficit of Rs 24,353 Cr. Pawar unveiled a “Panchasutri” (5-Point) development programme to turn Maharashtra’s economy into a \$1 trillion economy in next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Maharashtra Deputy CM & FM Ajit Pawar tabled the state budget for 2022-2023
- “Panchasutri” (5-Point) development programme – an initiative of Maharashtra
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

**363.** In March 2022, the Survey Settlement and Land Records unit of the Revenue Department in Karnataka attempted to make original land records available at a click on a smartphone screen through a mobile application called “Dishaank”. The Dishaank app leverages Karnataka’s decision to digitize all land records (under the Bhoomi project) since 1990. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Karnataka – developed “Dishaank” app to make original land records available at a click
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)



## International Affairs

**364.** Australia and the Netherlands announced to launch a new legal case against Russia over its alleged role in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 that crashed in eastern Ukraine’s Donetsk region in 2014, when Crimea was annexed by Russian forces. All 298 passengers and crew on board were killed when the plane crashed on 17 July 2014, after it was hit by a missile, alleged to be Russian. Both the countries have initiated legal proceedings before the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) under ‘Article 84’ of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Both the countries first held Russia responsible for the plane crash in 2018, but Russia, in 2020, unilaterally pulled out from negotiations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Australia + Netherlands = to launch a new legal case against Russia for downing a Malaysia Airlines flight ‘MH17’ in 2014
- The countries initiated legal proceedings before the ICAO under ‘Article 84’ of Convention on International Civil Aviation
- [HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Secretary General – Juan Carlos Salazar | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**365.** On March 16, the US Senate passed a legislation ‘S.623’, known as the Sunshine Protection Act, in an effort to make Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent. The legislation, if also passed by the House of Representatives and signed into law by President Joe Biden, would establish a permanent Daylight Saving Time and eliminate the need to change clocks' times every March and November. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- US passed a legislation 'S.623', known as 'Sunshine Protection Act' to make Daylight Saving Time (DST) permanent
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**366.** In March 2022, After Russian state communications regulator Roskomnadzor blocked access to Instagram, Russia decided to launch "Rossgam" - a replacement of Instagram. The website of Rossgam claims that the app will have additional features such as crowdfunding and paid access for some content. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – to launch "Rossgam" - a replacement of Instagram
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

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

**367.** On March 16, IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC) and RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH) signed an MoU to work together in developing the ecosystem necessary to support and scale fintech startups in India. They will jointly provide incubation support and nurture early-stage startups with innovative and disruptive solutions to accelerate their scale-up journey. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IITMIC + RBIH = an MoU to develop the ecosystem to support & scale fintech startups in India
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti
- CEO of RBIH – Rajesh Bansal | CTO of RBIH – Amit Saxena

**368.** On March 16, Singapore Exchange (SGX) selected TCS BaNCS to power the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect (Gift Connect) for trade execution and clearing of Nifty products on behalf of its members in Singapore and globally. NSE IFSC-SGX is a program of SGX to connect to NSE IFSC which is a fully owned subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE). SGX has set up SGX India Connect IFSC Private Limited, a special purpose vehicle at Gift City to enable international access to Indian capital markets. More than 40% of trades in India run through the TCS BaNCS Trading solution. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SGX – selected TCS BaNCS to power NSE IFSC-SGX Connect for trade execution & clearing of Nifty products
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

**369.** On March 17, Mahila Money, Visa and Transcorp tied up and launched Mahila Money Prepaid Card to help women entrepreneurs easily collect payments, loans, get incentives for transactions and use digital payments more effectively. Additionally, women will be offered incentives, rewards, and cashback from the Mahila Money ecosystem of partners. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Mahila Money + Visa + Transcorp = launched 'Mahila Money Prepaid Card' for women entrepreneurs
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

**370.** On March 16, State Bank of India (SBI) announced to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad to build in-house capability to bolster bank's current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation. The bank has already institutionalised a policy of partnering with fin-techs. The IIAC will help the bank develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills to develop new products and services, think and work like fin-techs. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SBI – to set up an "Innovation, Incubation & Acceleration Centre (IIAC)" at Hyderabad, Telangana
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**371.** On March 17, Kotak Mahindra Bank entered into an MoU with Business France to support companies in the Indo-French corridor. Business France is a French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in France. The MoU will try to promote business and start-up ecosystem cooperation and identify business and investment opportunities in India and France. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Business France = an MoU to support companies in the Indo-French corridor
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – "Let's make money simple"

**372.** On March 17, the SEBI amended the rules pertaining to investment aspects of 'Category III' of Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). Under the new norms called "SEBI's AIF Regulations, 2022", Category III AIFs cannot invest more than 10% of the investable funds in an investee company, directly or through investment in units of other AIFs. Various types of funds such as hedge funds, PIPE Funds, etc. are registered as Category III AIFs. Further, the large value funds for accredited investors of 'Category III AIFs' can invest up to 20% of the investable funds in an investee company. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SEBI amended the rules pertaining to investment aspects of 'Category III' of AIFs:
  - Category III AIFs cannot invest more than 10% of the investable funds in an investee company
  - Large value funds for accredited investors of 'Category III AIFs' can invest up to 20% of the investable funds in an investee company
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch | Established in – 1992

**373.** On March 17, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) partnered with UltraCash Technologies Pvt Ltd to become the first Indian company to offer digital payment to non-internet users, for its cooking gas consumers to book their LPG cylinders. UltraCash is a mobile payment application developed by UltraCash Technologies and authorised by the NPCI. BPCL launched a voice-based digital payment facility for its cooking gas consumers, who do not have smartphones or internet. BPCL is the first company in India to offer its service to consumers after the RBI Governor announced the launch of 'UPI 123PAY'. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- BPCL + UltraCash Technologies = to become the first Indian company to offer digital payment to non-internet users
- BPCL – became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian company to offer its service to consumers using RBI's 'UPI 123PAY'
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952

**374.** On March 18, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the 'on-device' wallet feature for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) users, which will be known as "UPI Lite", for facilitating small ticket transactions. Later, the central bank had issued guidelines that the upper limit of an offline payment transaction will be Rs 200 and there will be an overall limit of Rs 2,000 on a payment instrument at any point of time. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI – launched the 'on-device' wallet feature called "UPI Lite" for UPI users for small transactions
- Upper limit of an offline payment transaction – Rs 200 | Overall limit on a payment instrument – Rs 2,000
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**375.** Karnataka Bank bagged the "Best MSME Bank of the Year - Winner" award among private sector Banks at the 8<sup>th</sup> "MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony & Summit" held on March 9, 2022 instituted by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka Bank – bagged the ASSOCHAM's "Best MSME Bank of the Year - Winner" award among Private Sector Banks
- 8<sup>th</sup> MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony & Summit – instituted by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Vineet Agarwal

**376.** On March 15, DBS Bank India launched its "Green Deposit Programme" for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally friendly projects or avenues. To scale up India's cotton industry, the Bank partnered with fashion retailer Inditex, to arrange financing for the Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) to procure organic cotton from the farmers in a timely fashion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBS Bank India – launched "Green Deposit Programme" for corporate clients
- DBS Bank India + Inditex = partnership to arrange financing for the FPOs to procure organic cotton from the farmers
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome



## Defence Affairs

**377.** On March 15, on the 65<sup>th</sup> birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and 27<sup>th</sup> Army Chief, General Bipin Rawat, the Indian Army instituted a Chair of Excellence in his memory at the United Service Institution of India (USI). The aim of the proposed Chair of Excellence will be to conduct research on strategic issues of significance pertaining to the armed forces. The Chair will be open to veterans of the three Services and civilians having expertise in the field of national security and military affairs. The topic for this year's research is "Jointness and integration in the context of land warfare in India". United Service Institution of India is a national security and defence services think tank based in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Army – instituted a Chair of Excellence at the USI ([New Delhi](#)) in the memory of General Bipin Rawat
- The topic for this year's research – "Jointness and integration in the context of land warfare in India"
- HQs of Indian Army – [New Delhi](#) | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande
- Retirement age for India's Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) – 65 years

**378.** On March 18, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Saksham, the fifth in the series of 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) class, at Goa. This OPV is designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited and fitted with advance technology, navigation and communication equipment, sensors and machinery. The ship, on joining the Coast Guard fleet, will be based at Kochi. The ICGS Saksham is commanded by Deputy Inspector General P. Rajesh. 'Saksham', meaning 'capable', is manifestation of ICG will and commitment of 'Yatra, Tatra, Sarvatra' adage towards the maritime interest of the nation. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ICGS Saksham – the 5<sup>th</sup> in the series of 105-metre OPVs class, was commissioned at Goa
- ICGS Saksham – designed & indigenously built by Goa Shipyard Ltd
- ICGS Saksham is commanded by – Deputy Inspector General P. Rajesh
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – [Vasco da Gama, Goa](#) | CMD – [Bharat Bhushan Nagpal](#)

## Sports & Games

**379.** Under the captaincy of Himachal's Priyanka Thakur, India defeated Thailand and won Gold medal at the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The result also earned them a qualification for the Women's Junior World Handball Championship, scheduled to be held in Slovenia from June 22 to July 3. India's Chetna Sharma was named best goalkeeper. Bhavana Sharma was adjudged the Player of the Tournament as well as the best centre back. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India won Gold medal at the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship – held in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Indian Women Handball Team's Captain – Priyanka Thakur ([Handball Player - Himachal Pradesh](#))



# Science & Technology

**380.** On March 21, NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) rocket with the Orion spacecraft was arrived at Launchpad at the Kennedy Space Center in preparation for a final test before the NASA's Artemis I Moon mission. After the rehearsal, NASA will review data from the test before deciding on the launch date for the upcoming launch. With Artemis, NASA aims to establish long-term exploration at the Moon, preparing for a human mission to Mars, along with the human landing systems and a gateway in orbit around the moon. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NASA's SLS rocket & Orion spacecraft arrived at launchpad for a final test before the NASA's "Artemis I" Moon mission
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

# Appointments & Resignations

**381.** On March 17, the RBI gave a three-month extension to Rajeev Ahuja as interim managing director & chief executive officer of RBL Bank, with effect from March 25, 2022. Ahuja was appointed as the interim MD & CEO after the then MD & CEO Vishwavir Ahuja went on leave. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rajeev Ahuja – got 3 month extension as MD & CEO of RBL Bank
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

**382.** On March 15, Sunil Chordia (Chairman & MD of Rajratan Global Wire Ltd) is elected as Chairman of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Western Region for the year 2022-23, while Dr. Praveer Sinha (CEO & MD of Tata Power) is elected as Deputy Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Sunil Chordia – is elected as Chairman of the CII Western Region for 2022-23
- Praveer Sinha – is elected as Deputy Chairman of the CII Western Region
- HQs of CII Western Region – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**383.** On March 17, Senior IAS officer Vikas Raj is appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana. The senior bureaucrat replaces Shashank Goel who was transferred to the Union labour ministry recently. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vikas Raj – is appointed as the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**384.** On March 19, Architect Diebedo Francis Kere from Burkina Faso, West Africa has won the 51<sup>st</sup> Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2022. The 57-year-old is the first architect from Africa to win the prestigious award, in its over four-decade history. Professor Balkrishna Doshi is the first Indian to win 'Pritzker Architecture Prize' in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Diebedo Francis Kere ([Burkina Faso](#), [West Africa](#)) – won the 51<sup>st</sup> Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2022

**385.** On March 17, Karolina Bielawska from Poland has been crowned “Miss World 2021” at the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Indian origin Shree Saini of USA and Olivia Yace of Cote D’Ivoire emerged as the first and second runners-up, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Karolina Bielawska ([Poland](#)) – crowned “Miss World 2021” at the 70<sup>th</sup> edition of the pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico
- First runner-up – Shree Saini ([USA](#)) | Second runner-up – Olivia Yace ([Cote D’Ivoire](#))

## Important Days & Dates

**386.** “On March 15, the U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution setting March 15 as the “International Day to Combat Islamophobia”. The resolution, adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body and cosponsored by 55 mainly Muslim countries, emphasizes the right to freedom of religion and belief and recalls a 1981 resolution calling for “the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief.” [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 15, 2022 – First “International Day to Combat Islamophobia” by – UNGA
- HQs of UNGA – [New York, USA](#) | President – [Abdulla Shahid](#) | Member Countries – 193

**387.** Every year on March 18, Global Recycling Day is observed to help recognise and celebrate the importance of recycling in protecting our planet’s future. The Global Recycling Foundation, which was formed by Ranjit Baxi, launched Global Recycling Day in 2018. The theme of Global Recycling Day 2022 is to celebrate “Recycling Fraternity”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 18 – Global Recycling Day (since 2018)
- 2022’s Theme focuses on – “Recycling Fraternity”

**388.** Ordnance Factory Day is observed across India on March 18 to commemorate the foundation of the first ordnance factory at Cossipore near Kolkata in the year 1801. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), which comprised 41 institutions, ceased to exist from 1 October, 2021. The OFB was split into seven public sector undertakings (PSUs) and is now known as Directorate of Ordnance. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- March 18 – Ordnance Factory Day
- HQs of Directorate of Ordnance – [Kolkata, West Bengal](#) | DG – [E. R. Sheikh](#)



## Books & Authors

**389.** On March 12, “Wrist Assured”, the autobiography of former captain Gundappa Viswanath, one of the finest batters in the history of Indian cricket and hailed as an artist for his incredible wrist work, was launched. The book is co-authored by senior journalist R Kaushik. Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavakar unveiled the book. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Wrist Assured” – autobiography of former captain Gundappa Viswanath (co-authored by senior journalist R. Kaushik)

## Obituaries

**390.** On March 15, WWE star, Scott Hall, aka ‘Razor Ramon’ passed away. He was 63. He was a two-time WWE Hall of Famer. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Scott Hall (aka Razor Ramon) – WWE star – passed away

**391.** On March 11, Rupiah Banda, Zambia’s fourth President who ruled the country from 2008 to 2011, passed away. He was 85. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rupiah Banda – former President of Zambia – passed away
- Zambia – Lusaka – [Zambian Kwacha](#) | [President – Hakainde Hichilema](#)

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**392.** The 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC), themed “Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future” was held in New Delhi during 20-22 March, 2022. The 36<sup>th</sup> IGC is a joint endeavour of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and the Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. 58 years ago India had hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> session of the IGC which was the first IGC on the Asian soil. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 36<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress (IGC) – held in New Delhi from March 20-22, 2022
- Theme – “Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future”

## Ranks, Report & Surveys

**393.** India’s urban unemployment rate jumped to 12.6% in April-June quarter of 2021, compared to 9.3% in January-March quarter, according to the latest “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The unemployment rate is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” – released by the NSO
- India’s urban unemployment rate rose to 12.6% in April-June quarter of 2021 (compared to 9.3% in Jan-March)
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**394.** On March 15, Deloitte released its report “Global Powers of Retailing 2022” which identifies 250 largest retailers around the world and provides a global economic outlook, looks at the 50 fastest-growing retailers. Reliance Retail was ranked 56<sup>th</sup> on the top 250 list based on the retail revenue growth for FY2020. Walmart leads the list, while Amazon is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> position. Europe has the highest number of top 250 retailers with 90 companies being based in the region, whereas North America has the highest share of Top 250 retail revenue at 48.4%. Amongst the Fastest 50 retailers, Reliance Retail secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> position. 35 of the Fastest 50 were hypermarkets/supermarkets, specialty stores. Reliance Retail was able to secure the position in the list for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Report “Global Powers of Retailing 2022” – released by Deloitte
- World’s Fastest Growing Retail companies: 1<sup>st</sup> – Coupang (South Korea) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Reliance Retail Ltd
- Reliance Retail – ranked 56<sup>th</sup> in the list of ‘Top 250 retailers’ | 1<sup>st</sup> – Walmart | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Amazon
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

**395.** India ranked 136<sup>th</sup> out of 146 countries in the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the “World Happiness Report 2022”, while Finland became the happiest country for the fifth consecutive year. Finland was followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland & Netherlands, respectively. While the United States held the 16<sup>th</sup> spot. Afghanistan held the last position of 146<sup>th</sup> in the list. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India’s rank according to “World Happiness Report 2021” – 136<sup>th</sup> | Top – Finland | Last – Afghanistan

**396.** India added 1.2 GW of new solar open access capacity in 2021, marking a growth of 222% year-over-year (YoY), according to a Mercom India report. The cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market crossed 5 GW. India added 298 MW of new Solar Open Access Capacity in Q4 2021, a 75% increase compared to the same period in 2020. Uttar Pradesh had the maximum installations with 113 MW followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Mercom India report: India added 1.2 GW of new Solar Open Access Capacity in 2021 (growth of 222% YoY)
- Cumulative installed solar capacity in the Open Access Market crossed 5 GW
- States with maximum installations of new Solar Open Access Capacity: Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu & Maharashtra

## Amount & Agreements

**397.** On March 18, India extended a \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka as a humanitarian assistance to deal with severe economic crisis triggered by a shortage of foreign exchange. The “short term concessional loan facility” will be provided by State Bank of India. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- India extended a short term concessional loan facility worth \$1 billion to Sri Lanka to deal with severe economic crisis
- The loan will be provided by SBI
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**398.** On March 16, Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Council President Salvatore Sciacchitano and Geneva-based International Labour Organization (ILO) Director-General Guy Ryder signed an MoU to enhance cooperation on contributing to sustainable development and gender equality in aviation sector labour. The ICAO Assembly is comprised of all 193 member States, and meets triennially. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ICAO + ILO = an MoU to enhance cooperation on contributing to sustainable development & gender equality in aviation sector labour
- HQs of ICAO – Montreal, Canada | Council President – Salvatore Sciacchitano | Members – 193
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | Founded in – 1919

**499.** On March 17, US Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mastercard partnered to foster digital empowerment of women in India through an initiative called 'Project Kirana'. It is a business development and digital financial literacy programme for women entrepreneurs that aims to increase revenue streams, expand financial inclusion, and enable the adoption of digital payments and other digital tools by women-owned-and-operated kirana shops. The two-year programme, implemented by DAI and ACCESS Development Services, is working in select cities of Uttar Pradesh. Since Project Kirana's launch in November 2020, more than 2,100 women have benefitted from the programme. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- USAID + Mastercard = launched 'Project Kirana' initiative for digital empowerment of women in India
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966

**400.** On March 17, Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) signed a tripartite MoU with Norway's Eker Group and Kerala's Vaan Moto to explore opportunities in the field of manufacturing speed boats under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. These boats are high-end boats with smart, flexible solutions with superior manoeuvrability. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Hindustan Shipyard signed a tripartite MoU with Eker Group (Norway) & Vaan Moto (Kerala)
- HQs of Hindustan Shipyard – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | MD & Chairman – Hemant Khatri





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