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March
MockDrill
PDF No. 9
(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of March 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मार्च 2022 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

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National & States Affairs

401. On March 17, Delhi high court concluded that members of the armed forces (including Air Force, Navy & Army) can approach the High Courts to challenge the final decisions of the Armed Forces Tribunals (AFT) involving issues of pay, pension, promotion and discipline. On the other hand, the central government argued that members of the armed forces need not approach the High Courts against decisions of the AFTs as they have an alternative effective remedy of filing an appeal before the Supreme Court under Armed Forces Tribunal Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi HC: Defence personnel can approach the High Courts to challenge the final decisions of the AFT
- [Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court – Vipin Sanghi](#)

402. On March 16, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) placed the US-based Hewlett Foundation on its watchlist following an investigation that foreign contributions sent by it were being used for climate awareness campaigns, an activity not permissible under the FCRA (Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act). Hewlett Foundation was placed under the “Prior Reference Category (PRC)” under the provisions of the FCRA after it emerged that it also sent funds via the European Climate Foundation (ECF). The ECF is also a foreign donor. When a foreign donor is included in the PRC, banks are mandated to seek the MHA’s clearance before any grant or donation is transferred to the intended NGO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MHA – placed the Hewlett Foundation on its watchlist & under the “Prior Reference Category (PRC)” under the FCRA
- FCRA – **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act**
- [Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik](#)

403. On March 16, National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC) unveiled India’s first Rapid Rail. The Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train will run on the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor and cover a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes. It will also be the first in the country to have a business or ‘premium’ coach on a regional corridor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCRTC – unveiled India’s first Rapid Rail along the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor
- RRTS train will cover a distance of 82 km in just 55 minutes
- [MD of NCRTC – Vinay Kumar](#)

404. On March 18, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the year-long celebrations of the centenary year (100th anniversary) of Malayalam newspaper namely “Mathrubhumi”. Mathrubhumi began operations on March 18, 1923. The newspaper has 15 editions and 11 periodicals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated the year-long celebrations of 100th anniversary of Malayalam newspaper namely “Mathrubhumi”
- [HQs of Mathrubhumi – Kozhikode, Kerala | Founder – K. P. Kesava Menon](#)

405. On March 18, in a major scare, a deer on the IIT Madras campus died of anthrax, and three more were suspected to have succumbed to the highly infectious zoonotic disease. Anthrax is a serious infectious disease caused by gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria known as Bacillus anthracis. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- A deer died of 'Anthrax' disease recently – on IIT Madras campus
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

406. On March 19, a recent study by scientists has suggested a significant decline in the habitat of 'Golden Langur' (Trachypithecus Geei), an endangered primate species that's distributed in the trans-boundary region of Bhutan and India. A recent paper titled "Future simulated landscape predicts habitat loss for the Golden Langur (Trachypithecus geei): A range level analysis for an endangered primate" throws light on whether the habit of the endangered primate is protected or not. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A significant decline is noticed in the habitat of 'Golden Langur' (Trachypithecus Geei) – an Endangered primate species
- These species are found in the trans-boundary region of – Bhutan & India
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering

407. On March 21, the NTPC awarded the Standalone Fuel-Cell based 50kW micro-grid pilot project with hydrogen production using Electrolyser to Bloom Energy India Private Limited, Bengaluru at NTPC Simhadri. The project will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project. The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240kW solid oxide electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby floating solar project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC-Simhadri – to develop standalone fuel cell-based 50kW microgrid pilot project with hydrogen using Electrolyser
- India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project – at NTPC-Simhadri Plant (Visakhapatnam, AP)
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

408. As on March 16, Kerala is set to become the first State in India to introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming methods in selected locations, for which the government has allotted ₹6 Cr in the 2022-23 Budget. In the first phase, carbon-neutral farming will be implemented in 13 farms under the Agriculture department and tribal area. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – to become the first State in India to introduce Carbon-Neutral Farming methods
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

409. On March 14, the ceremony for a new facility of Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO) was held at Sattari in Goa. HE-MRO is a joint venture of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and Safran. The facility will be operational by the end of 2023 with a capacity to repair 50 engines a year and a full-capacity goal of 150 engines in the coming years. Both companies signed an MoU to extend their cooperation for new helicopter engines in civil and military markets towards India's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". HAL has produced over 500 Shakti engines till date. Shakti is the Indian variant of the Safran Ardiden 1H1, co-developed with HAL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + Safran = launched a new facility of their JV called Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Ltd – at Sattari, Goa
- HAL – makes 'Shakti' engines which is the Indian variant of 'Safran Ardiden 1H1'
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



International Affairs

410. On March 18, Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated the World's Longest Suspension Bridge across Turkey's Dardanelles Strait. Connecting Turkey's European and Asian shores, the '1915 Canakkale Bridge' was built by Turkish and South Korean firms with an investment of 2.5 billion euros (\$2.8 billion). The 2,023 metre (1.25 mile) length of its midspan is an allusion to the Turkish Republic's 100th anniversary in 2023. It is the fourth bridge linking the European and Asian shores in Turkey, alongside the three built in Istanbul. Its towers are 318 metres (347.8 yards) high and the total length of the bridge is 4.6 km (2.9 miles). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World's Longest Suspension Bridge namely '1915 Canakkale Bridge' – opened across Dardanelles Strait in Turkey
- Total Length of the bridge – 4.6 km (2.9 miles)
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

411. On March 18, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for a year till March 17, 2023. Resolution 2626 decides that UNAMA and the UN Secretary-General's special representative will continue to carry out their mandate in support of the people of Afghanistan. The resolution was adopted with 14 votes in favour. Russia abstained. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNSC adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the "UNAMA" for a year till March 17, 2023
- UNAMA – UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in March – UAE (Feb – Russia | April - UK)

412. World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep. This year, it falls on March 18. In 2022, the theme is "Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World". The day was first observed in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – World Sleep Day (since 2008)
- 2022's Theme – "Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World"

413. On March 19, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) signed an MoU with One Health Alliance to advance Human, Ecosystems & Animal Health simultaneously in line with the sustainability agenda. Other members of the expanded One Health Alliance include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNEP + One Health Alliance = an MoU to advance Human, Ecosystems & Animal Health simultaneously
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

414. On March 21, Digital payments platform PhonePe acquired 100% stake in Pune-based GigIndia, a network for freelance micro-entrepreneurs. GigIndia has 1.5 million entrepreneurs and over 100 enterprises as customers. According to some estimates, India's freelance community space is projected to grow to \$20-30 billion by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe acquired 100% stake in GigIndia
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015
- HQs of GigIndia – Pune, Maharashtra

415. In March 2022, Asset-backed digital lending platform Rupeek launched “Rupeek Academy” in collaboration with the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), an initiative by NSDC. The partnership is aimed at attracting young talent looking to seek career opportunities within India's gold loan industry. Besides, Rupeek has set up first of its kind skilling programme as part of Rupeek Academy. On successful completion of the apprenticeship training programme, trainees are absorbed in Rupeek as Loan Managers and awarded an apprenticeship certificate by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rupeek + NAPS = launched “Rupeek Academy” to build skilled gold appraisers
- HQs of Rupeek – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Sumit Maniyar
- NAPS – an initiative by NSDC (Launched in - Aug 2016)

416. On March 21, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Kanpur over lack of adequate capital and earning prospects. On liquidation, every depositor with the bank would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the licence of People's Co-operative Bank Limited (Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

417. On March 22, One97 Communications Limited's wholly-owned subsidiary Paytm Payments Services Limited launched a first-of-its-kind service called “Payment Analytics”, a data analysis feature for online and offline merchants. This is available to all Paytm merchants at no extra cost. It offers three services - Payment Source Analytics, Customer Analytics and Payment Flow Analytics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm – launched a first-of-its-kind service called “Payment Analytics”, a data analysis feature for merchants
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010



Defence Affairs

418. “Cold Response 2022” is a long-planned and regular exercise, which Norway hosts biannually. This Multilateral Military exercise involving Army, Navy and Air Force, will be conducted from March 14 to April 1, 2022 by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in Norway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Multilateral Military exercise “Cold Response 2022” – to be conducted by NATO in Norway (from March 14 to April 1)
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store

419. In March 2022, for the first time, the Indian Army has created 3D printed home for soldiers at South Western Air Command in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The Military Engineering Services (MES) completed the construction of two houses within four weeks using 3D rapid construction technology. The 3D Printed houses were inaugurated in presence of Engineer in Chief Lt Gen Harpal Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MES of Indian Army – constructed 2 houses within 4 weeks using 3D rapid construction technology at Gandhinagar
- Location of MES – New Delhi | DG – Mahesh Kumar Gupta | Engineer-In-Chief – Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh

420. On March 17, Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Flight Control System (FCS) integration complex at the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE). This new facility will support the research and development (R&D) activities to develop the avionics for fighter aircraft and FCS for the fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). The complex is constructed by DRDO in a record 45 days, with in-house hybrid technology consisting of conventional, pre-engineered and precast methodology. The technology is developed by DRDO and Larsen & Toubro (L&T). Design check and technical support is provided by the teams of IIT Madras and IIT Roorkee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated the FCS integration complex at DRDO’s Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)
- The complex is constructed by DRDO with in-house hybrid technology which is developed by DRDO & L&T
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

Sports & Games

421. On March 20, Venezuelan athlete, Yulimar Rojas won a Gold medal in triple jump at the “World Indoor Championships 2022” in Belgrade, Serbia. With this, she created a World Record by clearing 15.74 metres on her sixth and final effort in Belgrade, smashing the previous world indoor best of 15.43m she set in Madrid in February 2020. She also holds the outdoor world record, 15.67m, which she set when winning gold in Tokyo last summer. Moreover, Ukraine’s Yaroslava Mahuchikh won a Gold medal in the women’s high jump at the World Indoor Championships 2022. The Ukrainian went out to 14.74m with her sixth and final effort. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Yulimar Rojas ([Venezuelan Athlete](#)) – won a Gold medal in triple jump at “World Indoor Championships 2022”
- With this, Yulimar created a World Record by clearing 15.74 metres (broke her own record of 15.43m)
- Yaroslava Mahuchikh ([Ukrainian Athlete](#)) – won a Gold medal in high jump at “World Indoor Championships 2022”

422. On March 21, American Taylor Fritz claimed the biggest pay-cheque of his tennis career, winning his maiden ATP Masters 1000 title by defeating Spanish stalwart Rafael Nadal in the BNP Paribas Open. Fritz became the first American men's champion at Indian Wells since Andre Agassi in 2001. It was 21-time Grand Slam-winner Nadal's first defeat of the 2022 season. The Indian Wells Masters, also known as the Indian Wells Open and BNP Paribas Open is an annual tennis tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taylor Fritz ([American - Tennis Player](#)) – won ‘BNP Paribas Open’ or ‘Indian Wells Open’ (defeating - Rafael Nadal)
- It was Taylor’s maiden ‘ATP Masters 1000’ title

423. On March 19, India’s ace cueist Pankaj Advani won his 8th Asian billiards title beating Dhruv Sitwala in the final of the 19th “Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022” in Doha, Qatar. Advani last won the Asian billiards title in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pankaj Advani – won his 8th Asian billiards title in the 19th “Asian 100 UP Billiards Championship 2022” in Doha, Qatar
- Pankaj defeated – Dhruv Sitwala

424. In March, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) organised India’s first “Ice Wall Climbing Competition” in Ladakh. More than 100 climbers participated in the competition organised jointly by North-West Frontier, ITBP, Leh, and Ladakh Mountaineering Guides Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITBP organised India’s first “Ice Wall Climbing Competition” in Ladakh
- HQs of ITBP – New Delhi | DG – Sanjay Arora | ADG – Manoj Singh Rawat | Established on – October 24, 1962
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur

425. In March 2022, Cristiano Ronaldo became the highest goal scorer in the game of football with 807 goals after he scored a hat-trick against Tottenham Hotspur during the ‘English Premier League 2022’. Although the all-time top goalscorer title in football is much contested and FIFA does not keep an official record, but the world governing body estimates that, earlier, Austro-Czech Josef Bican had scored 805 goals during a career that lasted from 1931 to 1955. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cristiano Ronaldo ([Portugal](#)) – became the all-time highest goal scorer in football with 807 goals

426. In March 2022, the trio of Prithviraj Tondaiman, Zoravar Singh Sandhu and Vivaan Kapoor lost to Kuwait in the men's trap final to clinch a Silver as India finished with 9th rank in the first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup for Shotgun in Nicosia, Cyprus. India was represented by an 11-member shotgun contingent in the event. Italy finished at the top of the standings with three of the 10 gold medals on offer, while Turkey came second and Slovakia third. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India lost to Kuwait & won Silver medal in the men's trap final at "ISSF World Cup for Shotgun"
- India – finished with 9th rank in the first "ISSF World Cup for Shotgun" in Nicosia, Cyprus
- 1st – Italy | 2nd – Turkey | 3rd – Slovakia

Science & Technology

427. On March 19, Researchers in China have developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)", that could jam or destroy satellites in space. The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)" that could destroy satellites in space
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

Appointments & Resignations

428. On March 19, US President Joe Biden appointed Indian-American public health expert Dr. Ashish K Jha as the White House's next Covid-19 Response Coordinator. Jha will be replacing Jeffrey D Zients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Ashish K Jha ([Indian-American](#)) – appointed as the US White House's next Covid-19 Response Coordinator
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

429. On March 21, Indian Development Economist & Former JNU Professor Jayati Ghosh is appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to a new 12-member High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism in the UN. Ghosh, 66, is a Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jayati Ghosh – appointed by Antonio Guterres to a 12-member High-level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism

430. On March 15, Flipkart's healthcare business Flipkart Health+ appointed Prashant Jhaveri as its CEO. Flipkart Health+ was formerly known as SastaSundar Healthbuddy Limited. Flipkart launched its healthcare business in November 2021 and acquired SastaSundar in the same month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prashant Jhaveri – appointed as CEO of "Flipkart Health+" (Flipkart's healthcare business)
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of Flipkart Health+ – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Prashant Jhaveri



431. On March 15, Retired Jharkhand high court judge Harish Chandra Mishra was appointed as the Lokayukta of Delhi. Mishra will hold office for a term of 5 years from the date of his joining. He was also the acting chief justice of Jharkhand high court. The post of Lokayukta in Delhi was lying vacant since the retirement of Rewa Khetrapal in December 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harish Chandra Mishra (Retired Jharkhand HC Judge) – appointed as the Lokayukta of Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

432. On March 14, Professor Narayan Pradhan was selected by the KK Birla foundation for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences. His research work focused on understanding the chemistry and physics of light-emitting semiconductor nanocrystals. Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is Professor Chandrima Shaha, the President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Professor Narayan Pradhan – selected by the KK Birla foundation for the 31st “GD Birla Award for Scientific Research”
- The recipient is chosen by a selection board headed by – Chandrima Shaha (President of INSA)

433. NITI Aayog organized the 5th edition of the “Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards” on 21 March, 2022. This year, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India’s independence, the WTI Awards were conferred on 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a ‘Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of the “Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards” – organized by NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog conferred ‘WTI Awards’ on 75 women achievers
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

Important Days & Dates

434. Every year World Poetry Day is observed on March 21 to celebrate the most treasured cultural and linguistic expression and identity in the form of poems. The day was first started by UNESCO at its 30th General Conference in Paris in the year 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Poetry Day – by UNESCO



435. The 2022 edition of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed across the globe on March 21 with the theme “Voices for Action against Racism”. This day is observed annually on the day when the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 2022’s Theme – “Voices for Action against Racism”

436. On March 21, the occasion of World Puppetry Day, Sangeet Natak Akademi of New Delhi, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture, organised a puppet festival “Putul Utsav” in five cities - Varanasi, Hyderabad, Angul district, New Delhi & Agartala. The theme of the festival was “Azadi ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Puppetry Day
- Sangeet Natak Akademi (under Ministry of Culture) – organised a puppet festival “Putul Utsav” in 5 cities
- Theme of the festival – “Azadi ke Rang, Putul Ke Sang”

437. “International Day of Nowruz 2022” was observed across the globe on March 21 to create awareness about Nowruz. Nowruz or Navroz, is the Iranian New Year that marks the beginning of the spring season. Nowruz or Navroz, the Iranian New Year that marks the beginning of the spring season, is celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm among various Parsi communities across the world. The word 'now' means new and 'ruz' means day, which translates to 'a new day'. Nowruz marks the beginning of Farvardin, the first month of the Solar Hijri calendar and is usually celebrated on March 20 or 21 globally. In India, the festival is observed around August 16-17 by Parsi community following the Shahenshahi calendar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – “International Day of Nowruz 2022”
- Nowruz or Navroz, the Iranian New Year – observed by Parsi community

438. Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is commemorated as a global initiative to increase awareness about the hereditary disorder. According to the United Nations, the global incidence of Down Syndrome is estimated to be between 1 in 1,000 and 1 in 1,100 live births. Every year, between 3,000 and 5,000 infants worldwide are born with this chromosomal abnormality. Trisomy 21 is another name for Down Syndrome. The first World Down Syndrome Day was observed in 2006. In 2022, the theme is “Inclusion Means”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – World Down Syndrome Day (since 2006)
- 2022’s Theme – “Inclusion Means”

439. UN French Language Day is celebrated annually on March 20. On this day, international celebrations are held to express the importance of the French language in various fields. UN French Language Day has been celebrated since 2010, specifically on the day that coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the International Francophone Organization which was officially founded in 1970. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – UN French Language Day (since 2010)
- UN language days:
 - Arabic (18 December)
 - Chinese (20 April)
 - English (23 April)
 - French (20 March)
 - Russian (6 June)
 - Spanish (23 April)

440. March 20 was celebrated as World Oral Health Day. The 3-year campaign theme 2021-2023 of World Oral Health Day is “Be Proud of Your Mouth”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Oral Health Day
- 2021-2023’s Theme – “Be Proud of Your Mouth”

441. The UN’s International Day of Happiness takes place each year on March 20. It is UN-sponsored annual event that promotes happiness as a universal human right. In 2022, the theme is “Build Back Happier”. The official theme/campaign announced by HappinessDay.org is “Happiness for All, Ukraine”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – UN’s International Day of Happiness | 2022’s Theme – “Build Back Happier”
- Official theme/campaign announced by HappinessDay.org – “Happiness for All, Ukraine”

442. World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep. This year, it falls on March 18. In 2022, the theme is “Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World”. The day was first observed in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 18 – World Sleep Day (since 2008)
- 2022’s Theme – “Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World”

443. World Water Day is observed on March 22 to raise awareness about the importance of water and educate people to conserve it. A principal focus of World Water Day is to support the achievement of United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal 6 (UNSDG-6), which is to ‘Ensure Safe Water and Sanitation’ for all by 2030. In 2022, the theme is “Groundwater, making the Invisible Visible”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – World Water Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Groundwater, making the Invisible Visible”



Books & Authors

444. On March 21, the coffee table book “The Shield: Covishield”, penned by Prakash Kumar Singh, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at Serum Institute of India (SII), was launched in the presence of Adar C Poonawalla, the CEO of the world's largest vaccine manufacturer - SII. The aim is to introduce readers to the chronological journey of the Covishield vaccine from lab to people. The book was unveiled by Amit Shah. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Shield: Covishield” book – authored by Prakash Kumar Singh

Obituaries

445. On March 16, Bangladesh’s former President and chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed passed away at the age of 92. Ahmed was the interim head of state as the consensus nominee of all parties amid a mass upsurge in 1990 to topple ex-military dictator HM Ershad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shahabuddin Ahmed – Bangladesh’s former President & Chief Justice – passed away
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

446. India and Japan set an investment target of 5 trillion Yen (\$42 billion) in the next 5 years, the leaders announced during the 14th India-Japan Annual Summit 2022 held in March in New Delhi. During the meeting, PM Narendra Modi gifted a “Krishna Pankhi” to Japanese PM Fumio Kishida. This artefact is made of pure sandalwood and the intricate carving on the sandalwood is done with precision by master artisans in Churu in Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 14th “India-Japan Annual Summit 2022” – held in New Delhi
- India & Japan – set an investment target of 5 trillion Yen or Rs 3.2 trillion (\$42 billion) in the next 5 years
- PM Narendra Modi gifted a “Krishna Pankhi” to Japanese PM Fumio Kishida
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

447. On March 17, India’s National Security Adviser Ajit Doval co-chaired the 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue (IISD) with Mohammad Mahfud. They discussed issues including cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime, defence and cyber. The Dialogue was held in Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia is looking to acquire Indian defence technologies, including BrahMos missile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajit Doval – co-chaired the 2nd India-Indonesia Security Dialogue held in Jakarta, Indonesia
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



Ranks, Report & Surveys

448. On March 14, According to a study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), Bangladesh tops the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies. According to the latest figures, there was an increase in the percentage of women who are independent directors on listed companies from 5% in 2020 to 6% in 2021. Celebrating International Women's Day, IFC partnered with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), UN Women, and United Nations Global Compact for the 7th consecutive year to 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A study by IFC + DSE: Bangladesh topped the list in South Asia in terms of women on board of listed companies
- IFC + DSE + UN Women + United Nations Global Compact = partnered to 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' (for 7th year)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

449. On March 17, Cochin Shipyard Ltd and Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) signed an agreement to build India's 1st indigenous dredger. The vessel with a 12,000 cubic metre capacity, will cost around ₹920 Cr. The Dutch dredging technology major, IHC Holland, will be technology partners in the project. This is the 1st attempt that India will be making towards manufacture of trailing suction hopper dredgers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd + DCI = to build India's 1st indigenous dredger with 12,000 cubic metre capacity & ₹920 Cr cost
- HQs of DCI – Visakhapatnam | Chairman – K. Rama Mohana Rao | MD & CEO – George Yesu Vedha Victor
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair

450. On March 19, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) signed a pact with IIT-Kharagpur for exploration of minerals using drones. Under the pact, NMDC and IIT-Kharagpur would develop spectral products, methods and algorithms for 'drone based mineral exploration' and develop software spectral tools for mineral excavation and capacity building programmes on mining technology. NMDC is the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to conduct drone based geophysical surveys and hyperspectral studies for mineral exploration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC + IIT Kharagpur = an MoU for drone-based mineral exploration
- NMDC – first CPSE in India to conduct drone based mineral exploration
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958
- Director of IIT Kharagpur – Virendra Kumar Tewari





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