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National & States Affairs

1. Bihar's first floating power plant will be commissioned in Darbhanga district. The floating power plant will meet two goals at a time: Producing green energy from solar panels and promoting fish farming underwater. The unit, commissioned to Avaada Energy, a private firm, will come up over a six-acre pond. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar's first floating power plant will be commissioned in Darbhanga district – by Avaada Energy
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

2. On March 1, International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) was launched at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The event was jointly hosted by IITM and the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). At the event, announcement of launch of the 3rd phase of Monsoon Mission was also made. First launched in 2012, the Monsoon Mission is a flagship project undertaken by the MoES to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons. The IMPO, along with the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), will work towards coordinating with global monsoon experts and undertake collaborative research on monsoon affecting the Asian, African, American and Oceania countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoES – launched International Monsoons Project Office at the IITM, Pune
- MoES – announced to launch 3rd phase of 'Monsoon Mission'
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

3. India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU), "Hoegh Giant", arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra. Hoegh Giant sailed from Keppel Shipyard, Singapore. Vessel "Hoegh Giant" is basically an LNG Tanker. The FSRU has a storage capacity of 1,70,000 cubic metres and has an installed re-gasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (equivalent to 6 million tons annually). The Hoegh Giant will deliver re-gasified LNG to the 56-km long Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first Floating Storage & Regasification Unit "Hoegh Giant" – arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra
- FSRU's storage capacity – 1,70,000 cubic metres | Installed re-gasification capacity – 750 million cubic feet per day

4. The Indigenously built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam was formally 'affiliated' to Visakhapatnam Port, the fifth-busiest cargo port in India. It is often referred to as "A City of Destiny" and "Jewel of the East Coast". INS Visakhapatnam is built in the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd with 75% Indian content. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Visakhapatnam was formally 'affiliated' to Visakhapatnam Port ("A City of Destiny" or "Jewel of the East Coast")

5. Madhya Pradesh Government created a Guinness Record in Ujjain city by lighting 21 lakh lamps as a part of Maha Shivratri celebrations on March 1, 2022. The event saw participation from over 17,000 volunteers, who had registered for this massive event. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh) – created a Guinness Record by lighting 21 lakh lamps as a part of Maha Shivratri celebrations
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

6. On March 2, At a programme organised as part of the celebrations of International Women’s Day week, Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani announced an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh for the workers of One-Stop Centres (OSC), established under ‘Nirbhaya Fund’, to provide mental, legal and medical aid to distressed women. The ministry had launched the One-Stop Centre scheme in 2015 under the Nirbhaya fund. The ministry also announced “Naari Adaalat” as a pilot project with National Legal Aid Services Authority (NALSA). The ministry, in collaboration with the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) launched the “Stree Manoraksha Project” to provide certificate training to OSC staff. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoWCD – announced Rs 5 lakh insurance for OSC workers helping distressed women
- MoWCD + NALSA (New Delhi) = launched the “Naari Adaalat”
- MoWCD + NIMHANS (Bangalore) = launched the “Stree Manoraksha Project”
- March 1 to 8 – International Women’s Day week

7. On March 1, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA) revised the deadline to Geotag all Waqf properties across India from March, 2022 to November, 2023. The long-delayed project began in 2017 under the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs’ “Quami Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme”. According to estimates, there are over 6 lakh Waqf properties, out of which, 2 lakh properties have been geotagged in last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoMA revised the deadline to Geotag all Waqf properties across India – from March, 2022 to November, 2023
- “Quami Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme” – belongs to Ministry of Minority Affairs
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Constituency – Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla

8. On March 1, the six-acre “Arogya Vanam” was inaugurated at the Rashtrapati Bhavan by the President Ram Nath Kovind, in the presence of PM Narendra Modi. The structure of Arogya Vanam is made in the shape of a human sitting in yoga posture (Arogya Manav). Aarogya Vanam has been conceived and developed with the aim of publicising the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human organs. The help of the forest department of Gujarat, which created the Arogya Van in Kevadia, was taken for conceptualisation, selection and procurement of plants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated “Arogya Vanam” at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- The help of the forest department of Gujarat was taken for this “Arogya Vanam”

9. On March 3, Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Limited, a Wholly-owned Subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited participated in a tender issued by Punjab State Power Corporation Limited for procurement of 250 MW Solar Power from ground mounted grid connected solar PV power plants and received the Letter of Award (LoA) to set-up 150 MW Solar Power Project. The fixed tariff for this project capacity is ₹2.34/ kWh for a period of 25 years. With this, Adani Green now has a total renewable energy project portfolio of 20.434 MWac capacity, out of which 5.410 MWac projects are operational. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen Ltd – participated in a tender issued by Punjab State Power Corporation & received the LoA to set-up 150 MW Solar Power Project
- Fixed tariff for this project capacity – ₹2.34/ kWh | Period – 25 years
- HQs of Adani Green Energy Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain

10. On March 1, In order to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance, MyGov (under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology) launched the “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series. This is a year-long project and consists of 14 episodes, all hosted at Quiz.MyGov.in. The series aims to sensitise the participants about the various government schemes and initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MyGov – launched the “Sabka Vikas MahaQuiz” series to build awareness amongst citizens about good governance
- MyGov platform was launched on – 26 July, 2014

11. On March 1, Goldi Solar, a global solar panel manufacturer and EPC services provider, in partnership with Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) laid the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of Dudhala in Southern Gujarat. A 450 KW Solar Rooftop Project will be used to power around 350 houses and public areas such as Anganwadis and gram panchayat. Once complete, this would be the first village to be completely powered with solar panels by a foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goldi Solar + EPC services provider + SRKKF = laid the foundation stone for the solarization of Dudhala village, in Gujarat
- Location of Goldi Solar – Surat, Gujarat | Location of SRKKF – Surat, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – AcharyaDevVrat

12. On March 4, Delhi’s Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia inaugurated the ‘Delhi Teachers University’ at Outram Lane, Mukherjee Nagar. It is Delhi’s first of its kind University. The university would begin its two-year BEd programmes this year, and a four year integrated BEd programme later. Dhananjay Joshi will be the first Vice-Chancellor of the university. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Teachers University – was inaugurated at Outram Lane, Mukherjee Nagar
- Dhananjay Joshi – to be the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi Teachers University
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

13. The Blue Cross of India, an animal welfare charity, launched a first-of-its-kind ambulance for street animals in Chennai in collaboration with Four Paw, the international animal welfare organisation. The Stray Animal Care programme will be called “Hospital on Wheels” with a veterinarian on board to provide on-site treatment for sick and injured street animals. It was launched by Madras High Court Justice Dr. Anitha Sumanth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Blue Cross of India + Four Paw = launched first-of-its-kind ambulance “Hospital on Wheels” for street animals in Chennai
- HQs of Blue Cross of India – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | HQs of Four Paw – Vienna, Austria

14. On March 4, Hero MotoCorp Ltd, India's largest two-wheeler maker, announced to make its entry into India's electric vehicle market in July through the 'Vida' brand. The new brand will house the New Delhi-based automaker's emerging mobility initiatives. The company will manufacture the electric vehicles at a factory in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hero MotoCorp – will enter India's electric vehicle market with its new EV brand 'Vida'
- HQs of Hero MotoCorp – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Pawan Munjal

15. On March 4, Tata Motors, India's third largest car manufacturer, introduced 'Anubhav', a new showroom on wheels, a doorstep car buying experience for the rural customers. A total of 103 mobile showrooms were deployed across India to enhance the Tata Motors' brand awareness in rural India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Anubhav" - a new 'showroom on wheels' for doorstep car buying experience – introduced by Tata Motors
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

16. On March 4, in a meeting was called by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, the Union government decided to re-establish Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in Jammu with a changed nomenclature to fight militancy, provide hi-tech weapons and ensure equal salary to its members. They will be called 'Village Defence Groups' now. The VDCs were constituted in 1995 in 10 districts of the Jammu region to fight militants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union government decided to re-establish Village Defence Committees (VDCs) in Jammu with a changed nomenclature
- VDCs will now be called 'Village Defence Groups' | VDCs were constituted in 1995
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

17. On March 4, NSE collaborated with the Telangana government to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state for listing. As part of the pact, NSE with the support of the Telangana government will conduct awareness drives through seminars, camps, knowledge sessions, roadshows, and workshops to guide corporates across the state in fundraising on NSE Emerge platform, and also help the companies in the listing process. The state government will facilitate MSMEs to get listed on NSE Emerge by considering ways to reimburse certain expenses incurred on fundraising with a pre-defined upper limit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE + Telangana = collaborated to encourage and support the MSMEs of the state for listing
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

18. On March 5, Indian Railway conducted the successful trial and testing of indigenously developed a Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), called "Kavach". Kavach will help preventing head-on collision even when two trains, either out of a possible human error or an abrupt technical failure, come running on the same track. The "Kavach" technology applies the brakes automatically soon after spotting another train coming from the opposite direction on the same track and stops the train at a safe distance. It will be installed across 2000 rail route networks during the current fiscal year of 2022-23. The Kavach is developed by the Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with three other vendors. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Railway – successfully tested “Kavach” - a Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS)
- Developed by – RDSO + 3 other vendors
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

19. On March 5, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with ‘Sulabh International’ organized an event “Swacchagraha” under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage the mass awareness with the core thought of “Swachhta, Swadhinta and Sulabh” in New Delhi. The evening session themed ‘Ek Shaam Sur, Taal aur Swachhta ke Naam’ was addressed by Chief Guest Vijay Goel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Culture + Jal Shakti + Housing and Urban Affairs + Sulabh International = organized “Swacchagraha” in Delhi

20. India’s first green charging station is being constructed by the National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV) along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway. NHEV will incorporate solar panels to provide renewable energy and will also use green construction techniques for EV station. The charging station will have a restaurant, coffee lounge, a bank, an ATM, a showroom and other amenities for the customers to use while their vehicle is charging. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHEV – constructing India’s first green charging station along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway

21. On March 5, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) collaborated with Tamil Nadu government’s MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB) to promote awareness among MSMEs of the state about the benefits of listing. BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements. M-TIPB will offer support in mobilising the SME representatives and state or regional associations. The BSE was the first stock exchange in India to launch the SME platform in March 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE + M-TIPB (Tamil Nadu) = partnership to promote awareness among MSMEs
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE – Asia’s 1st Stock Exchange Company

22. On March 4, Reliance Industries Ltd announced to open the Jio World Centre in Mumbai’s Bandra Kurla Complex. It will be India’s “largest and most prestigious multi-faceted destination”. RIL will initially launch a dedication of the Dhirubhai Ambani Square and the musical Fountain of Joy to Mumbai and Jio World Convention Centre, the Jio World Centre will have a phase-wise opening over the course of the current and the next year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL – to open ‘Jio World Centre’ in Mumbai’s Bandra Kurla Complex
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973



23. On March 3, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the “Sagar Parikrama”, organised by the Department of Fisheries, under Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB). The Parikrama, starting from Mandvi at Shyamiji Krishna Varma Memorial, Gujarat, as a part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava’, is an endeavour to know the problems of Coastal Fisher folk. It will be organised in other districts of Gujarat and other State/UTs in subsequent phases. The first leg of ‘Sagar Parikrama’ started on 5th March, 2022 from Mandvi and ended at Porbandar on 6th March, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parshottam Rupala (MoFAHD) – launched the “Sagar Parikrama” in Gujarat (organised by Dept. of Fisheries + NFDB)
- First leg of ‘Sagar Parikrama’ started from Mandvi & ended at Porbandar (both in Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

24. On March 9, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) notified the “LLP (Second Amendment) Rules, 2022” to amend the existing “LLP Rules, 2009”. This was the second time these rules were amended. According to the ‘Economic Survey 2021-22’, India has 83 unicorns. Of these, 44 were created in 2021. One factor that has aided this development is the introduction of “Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)” - a platform that allows business to be carried out in partnership, but limits the liability of each partner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCA – amended the existing “Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Rules, 2009”
- 44 unicorns were created in 2021 in India (Total - 83 unicorns)
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Rao Inderjit Singh

25. On March 9, PM Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the premises of Pune Municipal Corporation. The statue is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal and is about 9.5-feet tall. Narendra Modi also inaugurated Pune Metro Rail's two priority stretches of 12 km, out of the total 32.2 km project in the city. Pune Metro is the first project in India to have Aluminium body coaches, indigenously manufactured under the ‘Make in India’ initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – unveiled a 9.5-feet tall statue of ‘Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’ in Pune
- It is made up of 1,850 kg of gunmetal
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

26. On March 4, Addressing a post-budget webinar on “Energy for Sustainable Growth”, PM Narendra Modi urged households to set up Solar Trees to meet the increasing energy demand of India, and contribute to saving up to 15% electricity for every house. India has set the target of extracting 50% of its energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – urged households to set up ‘Solar Trees’ & contribute to saving up to 15% electricity for every house
- India has set the target of extracting 50% of its energy from non-fossil fuels – by 2030

27. On March 7, Tamil Nadu CM M. K. Stalin inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant in Thoothukudi or Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. It is set up by the agri-nutrient and fertilisers company Southern Petrochemicals Industries Corporation (SPIC) Ltd. The state-of-the-art 25.3 megawatts DC/22 megawatts AC floating solar power plant was one of the initiatives of AM International Holdings Ltd, Singapore. SPIC Ltd is part of the AM International Holdings Ltd. The floating solar power plant is owned by Greenam Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of AM International. The total project cost was Rs 150.4 Cr. This plant can generate 42 million units of electricity per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. K. Stalin – inaugurated India's largest floating solar power plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu
- Established by – SPIC Ltd | Cost – Rs 150.4 Cr | Capacity – 42 mn units/annum
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

28. On March 7, Microsoft announced its intent to establish its 4th Datacenter Region in Hyderabad, Telangana. The Hyderabad datacenter region will be an addition to the existing network of three regions in India across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. According to IDC, Microsoft datacenter regions in India contributed \$9.5B revenue to the economy between 2016 and 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – plans to establish its 4th Datacenter Region in Hyderabad, Telangana
- Microsoft's existing network of 3 Datacenter Regions in India: Pune, Mumbai & Chennai
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

Kant

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

- Government has set up a society named 'Power Foundation' under the Ministry of Power
- Chair of the society – R. K. Singh
- India is estimated to have an aggregate potential of more than 1,636 GW RE
- India's target to achieve the installed RE capacity of 175 GW by 2022 & 450 GW by 2030

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

Key Points:

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

46. 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

47. 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

48. On March 10 & 11, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur & Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla addressed the function of the 3rd 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 31st 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 3rd 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"

49. 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

50. 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

51. 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

52. 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)

53. 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

54. 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

55. 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”



56. 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 (48th)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

57. On March 14, Karnataka IT Minister C N Ashwath Narayan launched India’s first ever digital water data bank ‘AQVERIUM’, formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures in Bengaluru. The Digital water data bank is a curated list of water data from all institutions and sources, that will help tackle some common development challenges and aims to enhance water management system. AquaKraft Group offers a unique social franchising model to create ‘water entrepreneurs’ with an objective to make India ‘Water Positive’ by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AquaKraft Group Ventures – launched India’s first ever digital water data bank ‘AQVERIUM’ – in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

58. On March 12, Maharashtra announced to set up India’s first medical city in the Pune district’s rural area. It will be named ‘Indrayani Medicity’. It will be developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) with an investment of over Rs 10,000 Cr. It will not only provide medical education and research facilities, but also all kinds of specialty treatment under one roof. A 300-acre land parcel in Pune’s Khed taluka has been identified for the same. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to set up India’s first medical city named ‘Indrayani Medicity’ in Pune’s rural area
- It will be developed through a PPP with an investment of over Rs. 10,000 Cr
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

59. On March 13, Odisha government proposed to ban movement of mechanised fishing boats in Mangalajodi area on the banks of Chilika lake, an important bird area (IBA), in order to provide the birds an undisturbed ecosystem for six months ever year. Mangalajodi is recognised as globally important for the conservation of bird population. The area is used for roosting and nesting by migratory birds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – proposed to ban movement of mechanised fishing boats in Mangalajodi area on the banks of Chilika lake
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

60. On March 13, Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar visited the Gallium Nitride Ecosystem Enabling Centre and Incubator (GEECI) facility at the Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc), Bengaluru. The facility was jointly set up by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IISc Bengaluru aimed at establishing Gallium Nitride (GaN) based Development Line Foundry facility. Gallium Nitride Technology is of strategic importance with its application to 5G, space and defense application. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – visited the ‘GEECI facility’ at the IISc, Bengaluru
- GEECI – jointly set up by MeitY + IISc Bengaluru
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar



61. On March 16, MV Ram Prasad Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail on the river Brahmaputra and completed its pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Haldia Dock in Kolkata to Pandu port in Guwahati Brahmaputra. The 90 meters long vessel is 26 meters wide, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters. The Government of India along with Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh funded the dredging of this stretch with 80:20 ratios respectively for seamless navigation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MV Ram Prasad Bismil – became the longest vessel ever to sail on the river Brahmaputra
- Pilot run: from Haldia Dock (Kolkata) to Pandu Port (Guwahati)
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Sanjay Bandopadhyay

62. On March 16, Sales of affordable quality generic medicines under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) stood at Rs 814.21 Cr in the ongoing fiscal FY2021-22, leading to an estimated savings of about Rs 4,800 Cr to the citizens. Under the scheme, till February 28, 2022, about 8,689 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) have been opened, covering all districts of India. The product basket of PMBJP presently comprises 1,616 medicines and 250 surgical items covering all major therapeutic groups such as cardiovascular, anti-cancers, anti-diabetics, anti-infectives, anti-allergic, gastro-intestinal medicines and nutraceuticals. Nutraceuticals products were recently added in it. The government has set a target to have about 10,500 PMBJKs by March 2025 across the country. The target for the year 2022-23 is to have about 9,300 PMBJKs across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sales of affordable quality generic medicines under 'PMBJP' stood at Rs 814.21 Cr in FY22 (saved about Rs 4,800 Cr)
- 'Nutraceuticals' products were recently added in the product basket of 'PMBJP'
- 8,689 PMBJKs have been opened till Feb, 2022 | Targets: 10,500 PMBJKs by FY25 & 9,300 PMBJKs by FY23
- PMBJP was launched by Dept. of Pharmaceuticals in Nov 2008

63. On March 14, Ministry of Tourism has formulated a "National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism" in order to create a robust framework and synergy amongst the Central Government Ministries, State Governments and Private Sector for promoting India as a Medical and Wellness Tourism destination. 'Medical Visa' has been introduced, which can be given for specific purpose to foreign travellers coming to India for medical treatment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – formulated a "National Strategy and Roadmap for Medical and Wellness Tourism"
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

64. On March 14, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar announced that as a part of celebrations dedicated to the 400th Prakash Gurburb (4th centenary birth anniversary) of the 9th Sikh Guru, the state government will establish a Chair in the name of Guru Teg Bahadar at Kurukshetra University (KU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Chair in the name of Guru Teg Bahadar (9th Sikh Guru) will be established at Kurukshetra University (Haryana)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

65. On March 14, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray launched the 240-page Mumbai's Climate Action Plan (MCAP) which is India's first Climate Action Plan, to set short, medium and long-term climate goals aimed towards a net-zero (zero emission of greenhouse gas) target for 2050. The plan aims to serve as a 30-year road map for the city to tackle the challenges of climate change by adopting inclusive and robust mitigation and adaptation strategies. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Uddhav Thackeray launched a 240-page Mumbai's Climate Action Plan (MCAP) - India's first Climate Action Plan
- The plan aims to serve as a 30-year road map for Mumbai

66. On March 11, Bihar government announced to launch doorstep delivery of digitized land documents, including khatian and map. Khatian is a document for identification of land for determining possession. Bihar will be the first state in India where people will get the facility of doorstep delivery of digitized land documents. Bihar will launch an intensive drive in April to remove encroachments both in commercial and residential areas. The drive will begin from Muzaffarpur and it will be carried out in other parts of the state. The encroachments will be removed by March 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – to be the first state in India to launch doorstep delivery of digitized land documents
- Bihar – to start a drive from Muzaffarpur to remove encroachments by March 2023
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

67. 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

68. 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

69. 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

70. 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

71. 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

72. 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 – 1st station of East Coast Railways to implement "One Station, One Product" concept
- Tirupati railway station – 1st station of South Central Railways to implement "One Station, One Product" concept
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

73. 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 – 1st state in India to adopt “Crop Diversification Index (CDI)” for recording crop diversification patterns
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

74. 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 15th 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 15th April, 2021
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Arun Singhal
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

75. 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

76. 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



77. 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

78. 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

79. 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

80. 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

81. 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



82. 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

83. 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

84. 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

85. 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

86. 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



87. 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

88. 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

89. The Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram, a classical wind music instrument traditionally made by artisans based at a village near Kumbakonam in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The nagaswaram now being used by artists throughout is called 'pari nagaswaram', which is longer than the 'thimiri'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Narasinghapettai Nagaswaram" a classical wind music instrument – received GI tag
- This instrument is traditionally made by artisans based at a village in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

90. On March 20, Africa's Boma technique is undertaken at Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district for capturing and translocating deer to Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve, situated 450 km away. Boma capturing technique is popular in Africa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Africa's Boma technique is undertaken at Keoladeo National Park for translocating deer to Mukundara Hills
- Keoladeo National Park + Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve = located in Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

91. On March 22, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the "BRICS Vaccine R&D Center" and "Workshop on Vaccine Cooperation" through video-conference. India has one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturing industries which supplies vaccines to more than 150 countries and meets 65-70% of WHO's vaccine requirements. This Centre will help to pool together complementary advantages of BRICS countries in vaccine research and development and boost the capacity of BRICS countries to prevent and control infectious diseases and provide timely help to other developing countries in need. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya – launched the "BRICS Vaccine R&D Center" & "Workshop on Vaccine Cooperation"
- India's vaccines supply meets 65-70% of WHO's vaccine requirements



92. On March 20, Nagaland became the first paperless Legislative Assembly in India by implementing the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme. Now members can use electronic devices to participate in House proceedings. This initiative encourages paperless operations and reflects government's commitment towards Ashta Lakshmi. NeVA is a device neutral and member-centric application deployed on GI Cloud (MeghRaj) and it is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The expenses for implementing NeVA are funded by the Centre and the state government on a 90:10 sharing basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagaland – became the first paperless Legislative Assembly in India by implementing “NeVA” programme
- Expenses for implementing ‘NeVA’ are funded by the Centre & the state government in the ratio of 90:10
- ‘NeVA’ is launched by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

93. In March 2022, Environment Ministry’s Expert Appraisal Committee has given grant of environment clearance for Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Ltd’s expansion project in the Madurantakam taluk near Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu. The estimated project cost would be ₹202.36 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sun Pharma’s expansion project near Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary (TN) received grant of environment clearance
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

94. On March 24, Kerala’s Tourism Minister P. A. Mohamed Riyas launched its 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot “Maya” to enable tourists to access all information and updates about the tourism ecosystem in the state by just sending a ‘Hi’ to the WhatsApp no 7510512345, or by scanning the QR code to access the service. After the launch of Caravan Tourism, Kerala is also exploring the possibilities of more new products like heli-tourism and cruise tourism for holidayers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Tourism – launched its 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot “Maya” for tourists
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

95. On March 22, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave approval for the extension of applicability of “New Investment Policy (NIP)-2012” for 3 upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd (HURL) at Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni. These three facilities aim to meet the demand for urea in seven states - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha. GAIL is supplying natural gas to these three units. HURL, incorporated in June, 2016, is a joint venture of Coal India Ltd, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA – approved the extension of applicability of ‘NIP-2012’ for 3 upcoming units of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd
- GAIL – is supplying natural gas to these three units
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Manoj Jain

96. On March 22, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann declared a public holiday on March 23, on the occasion of Shaheed Diwas. Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to pay tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru. They were hanged on March 23, 1931. Moreover, Punjab State Assembly passed a resolution to install statues of Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Assembly. Shaheed Diwas 2022 was organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) by focusing on the theme “Tribute to Revolutionaries”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – Shaheed Diwas – to pay tribute to Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar & Shivaram Rajguru
- ‘Shaheed Diwas 2022’ – organized by Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan | Focused Theme – “Tribute to Revolutionaries”
- Punjab – declared a public holiday on this occasion
- Punjab State Assembly – passed a resolution to install statues of Bhagat Singh & Babasaheb Ambedkar in the Assembly
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

97. On March 24, the government has extended the timeline up to 10 years for startups to convert debt investments made in the company into equity shares, according to a press note of the DPIIT. Earlier the option of changing convertible notes into equity shares was allowed for up to 5 years from the day when initial convertible note was issued. Now, that timeline has been extended to 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government extended the timeline up to 10 years for startups to convert debt investments into equity shares

98. On March 24, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launched data-driven research to eradicate TB - “Dare2eraD TB” by the Department of Biotechnology, M/o Science & Technology, on the occasion of World TB Day. The program was launched during the “STEP Up to End TB 2022” Summit which was virtually inaugurated by Anandiben Patel in presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – launched data-driven research to eradicate TB - “Dare2eraD TB” by Department of Biotechnology
- Anandiben Patel – inaugurated the “STEP Up to End TB 2022” Summit

99. On March 22, Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that the government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025. The ministry has also set a target of nearly tripling air traffic to 40 Cr by 2023-24. As per the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) data, 8.38 Cr people travelled on domestic flights in 2021, as compared to 6.3 Cr in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025
- Government has also set a target of nearly tripling air traffic to 40 Cr by 2023-24

100. Aerospace and defence company Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) introduced a 19-seater aircraft namely “Hindustan 228” in a first major attempt to develop small civil transport aircraft under the Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme. The aircraft can be operated even in semi-prepared and unpaved airstrips. The design has been transferred to HAL from Dornier GmbH. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL introduced a 19-seater aircraft namely “Hindustan 228” under UDAN scheme
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

101. On March 22, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the “Sujalam 2.0” campaign for greywater management to mark the World Water Day, 2022. Grey water is free from faecal contamination and doesn’t include black water from toilets. The event was hosted by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS). The funds to execute the activities for greywater management will be sourced from SBM-G Phase II or through 15th Finance Commission tied-grants or MGNREGS or through convergence of all. Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide every rural household with tap water connection by 2024. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat – launched “Sujalam 2.0” campaign for greywater management
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel

102. On the occasion of ‘World Water Day’, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), UNESCO and other partners released three animation films under its initiative “H2Ooooh! - Waterwise program for the Children of India”. The initiative was launched by UNESCO along with the NMCG and others in July 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + UNESCO + Other partners = released 3 animation films on World Water Day under the initiative “H2Ooooh!”
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

103. On March 28, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia presented a Rs 75,800 Cr ‘Rozgar budget’ for 2022-23 for Delhi with a 5-year plan to create 20 lakh jobs. The budget size of 2022-23 is 9.86% higher than that of 2021-22 which was called the ‘Deshbhakti’ (patriotism) budget by the Kejriwal government. An artificial intelligence-based website and a mobile application, “Rozgar Bazaar 2.0”, will be launched with an aim to provide at least 1 lakh jobs every year to the youngsters of Delhi, especially women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manish Sisodia presented a Rs 75,800 Cr ‘Rozgar budget’ for 2022-23 for Delhi (9.86% higher than that of 2021-22)
- Delhi’s budget of 2021-22 was named – ‘Deshbhakti’ (patriotism) budget
- Delhi Govt – to launch a mobile application, “Rozgar Bazaar 2.0” for youngsters of Delhi, especially women
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

104. On March 26, the Central Government (Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance), on the basis of the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), under Department of Commerce, has imposed anti-dumping duty for 5 years on 5 Chinese products - certain flat rolled products of aluminium, sodium hydrosulphite, silicone sealant, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) component R-32 and hydrofluorocarbon blends. Apart from these five products, the DGTR recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on other products originating in or exported from China PR in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt imposed anti-dumping duty for 5 years on 5 Chinese products – based on the recommendations of DFTR
- DFTR – functions under Ministry of Commerce & Industry

105. On March 25, the Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA) project to improve Governance and Service Delivery at the grassroots level in the state was nominated for the UN Awards in the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022. Of the 20 projects from different countries, MeghEA made it to the top. The MeghEA was nominated under the category of ‘The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development’. This is a first of its kind project which is based on India’s National Enterprise Architecture framework. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “MeghEA” project – nominated for the UN Awards in the “World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2022”
- “MeghEA” project – related to improving Governance & Service Delivery
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

106. On March 25, the Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh of NCR signed a Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements (CRCTA) covering both Contract Carriage & Stage Carriage since time period of earlier Agreements of Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement was coming to an end. The CRCTA shall come into force with immediate effect, for ensuring seamless movement of passenger vehicles in NCR and will be valid for next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan & UP – signed a Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements (CRCTA)
- The CRCTA will be valid for next 10 years

107. On March 27, the Diamond City of India, Surat, became the first in India to get a road that is made out of steel waste (steel slag). The road is built in the Hazira Industrial Area by Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India with CSIR India (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) & CRRRI (Central Road Research Institute) along with the NITI Aayog. The road is a stellar example of sustainable development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Surat – first city in India to get a road made out of steel waste (steel slag) in the Hazira Industrial Area
- The road is built by – Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India + CSIR India + CRRRI + NITI Aayog
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

108. “Modi Story”, a volunteer-driven initiative to uncover the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that will include anecdotes of his life as told by various personalities from different walks of life, was launched. The “Modi Story” web portal was inaugurated by the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumitra Gandhi Kulkarni (granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi) – inaugurated “Modi Story” web portal

109. On March 25, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) declared Real estate developer Supertech Ltd as bankrupt. A two-member NCLT bench comprises P. S. N. Prasad and Rahul Bhatnagar. Acting on a petition filed by the Union Bank of India for non-payment of about ₹432 Cr worth dues, the bankruptcy court ordered the initiation of insolvency proceedings against real estate firm Supertech Ltd., one of the companies of Supertech group. The tribunal admits a petition and initiates CIRP on the corporate debtor with immediate effect. CIRP refers to Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). NCLT was created on the recommendations of Eradi Committee in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCLT declared Real estate developer Supertech Ltd as bankrupt for non-payment of about ₹432 Cr worth dues
- President of the NCLT – Ramalingam Sudhakar | Created in 2016 – by Eradi Committee

110. On March 27, Union Minister Anurag Thakur launched a Skill India International Project namely “TEJAS” (Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills) at Dubai Expo to train overseas Indians. The project is aimed at skilling, certification and overseas employment of Indians. Tejas aims at creating a 10,000 strong Indian workforce in UAE during the initial phase. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – launched a Skill India International Project namely “TEJAS” at Dubai Expo to train overseas Indians
- TEJAS – Training for Emirates Jobs And Skills

111. On March 27, with the first pour of concrete for a 700 MW atomic power plant in Karnataka's Kaiga, India is set to start construction of 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors from 2023. The first pour of concrete (FPC) signals the beginning of construction of nuclear power reactors from the pre-project stage. The Centre had approved the construction of 10 indigenously developed pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) of 700 MW each in June 2017. The 10 PHWRs will be built at a cost of ₹1.05 lakh Cr. Currently, India operates 22 reactors with a total capacity of 6780 MW in operation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First pour of concrete for a 700 MW atomic power plant – in Kaiga, Karnataka
- Construction of 10 indigenously developed PHWR of 700 MW each was approved in June 2017 (cost – ₹1.05 lakh Cr)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

112. On March 29, Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges were included in the UNESCO world heritage site tentative list. Locally known as "Jingkieng Jri", there are around 100 known living root bridges found in 72 villages in the East Khasi Hills district and West Jaintia Hills district of the mountainous state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Living Root Bridges (Meghalaya) – included in the UNESCO world heritage site tentative list
- The bridges are locally known as – "Jingkieng Jri"
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

113. On March 30, Maharashtra government decided to offer personal loans of up to ₹50,000 to prisoners against their earnings from work done in jail. It will be a first of its kind initiative in India & it aims to improve the living standard of the families of the inmates. Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank will give loans under the scheme up to ₹50,000 at an interest rate of 7%. The scheme will be implemented on a pilot basis at Yerawada Central Jail, Pune. Such type of loan is called "khavti" loan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to offer personal loans of up to ₹50,000 to prisoners (first of its kind initiative in India)
- Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank will give loans under the scheme at an interest rate of 7%
- Such type of loan is called "khavti" loan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

114. In March 2022, Uttarakhand Police has set up "Defense Forces Help Desk" for the security and quick redressal of complaints of the families of the army and paramilitary forces deployed away from their homes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand Police – set up "Defense Forces Help Desk"
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

115. In March 2022, the Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad has recently set up a Retail Tech Consortium and plans to collaborate with several Retail and Technology Organisations in India. Flipkart has joined as a principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium. This consortium would bring to the fore unbiased voices of customers on the digitisation of retail to help retailers understand their consumers better. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre for Digital Transformation at IIM Ahmedabad – set up a Retail Tech Consortium
- Flipkart – principal partner for the inaugural year of the consortium

116. On March 29, according to data placed in the Lok Sabha, Uttar Pradesh has reclaimed its position as the top producing State in vegetables relegating West Bengal to the second position after two years. On the other hand, Andhra Pradesh remains the top fruit producer. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) has been implementing a centrally sponsored scheme "Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)" from 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector. Moreover, India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021-22 from the previous year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Top vegetables producer State – Uttar Pradesh
- top fruit producer State – Andhra Pradesh
- MoAFW is implementing 'MIDH Scheme' from 2014-15 for holistic growth of the horticulture sector
- India's horticulture output is likely to drop marginally by 0.4% to 333.25mt in 2021-22

117. On March 30, in a move to make legal aid more accessible for women, the National Commission for Women (NCW) in collaboration with Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DSLISA) has launched a 'Legal Aid Clinic' which will act as a single-window facility for resolving grievances of women by offering them free legal assistance. NCW is also planning to set up similar legal services clinics in other State Commissions for Women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW + DSLISA = launched a 'Legal Aid Clinic' to make legal aid more accessible for women
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

118. On March 30, Wildlife conservationists expressed concern after some local people spotted a few desert foxes, found in the scrub forests of Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district, suffering from a loss of fur due to the mange skin disease. The very first time mange was spotted in the desert fox was in 2006. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Desert foxes in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district – found to be suffering from a loss of fur due to 'Mange' skin disease
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

119. "Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya", a museum dedicated to Prime Ministers of India, is built in New Delhi & it will be inaugurated on April 14 to coincide with BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary. The museum is built on a 10,000-square metre piece of land adjacent to Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Teen Murti Bhavan. The museum covers the life and times of all the 14 Indian Prime Ministers so far and will showcase their contributions. The museum which is coming up at a cost of Rs 271 Cr was approved in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya", a museum dedicated to Prime Ministers of India, is built in New Delhi
- The museum covers the life and times of all the 14 Indian Prime Ministers so far | Cost – Rs 271 Cr
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

120. On March 28, the Waste to Wealth Mission (an initiative under the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Modi government) in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation inaugurated a Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park in New Delhi's East Jaffrabad. K. Vijay Raghavan, the principal scientific adviser to the government of India inaugurated the park. The park has an 'Enviro-RISE R-A110', a technology from Denmark meant to remove the floating solid waste from 52-cusec drain flowing adjacent to the site. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- K. Vijay Raghavan – inaugurated a “Decentralised Waste Management Technology Park” in New Delhi’s East Jaffrabad
- [New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

121. On March 31, Chief Justice of India (CJI) N. V. Ramana formally launched a digital platform namely “FASTER” (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) for quick and effortless justice. The platform would be used by the court officials to instantly send e-copies of the orders through a secured electronic communication channel to intended parties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. V. Ramana – launched a digital platform namely “FASTER” for quick & effortless justice
- FASTER – **F**ast & **S**ecured **T**ransmission of **E**lectronic **R**ecords

122. On March 28, Kozhikode was proposed by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) to be branded as a ‘City of Literature’ with the help of UNESCO. It is among the six places that the KILA plans to develop as ‘Creative Cities’. Thiruvananthapuram is vying for the title ‘City of Peace’, Kollam ‘City of Biodiversity’, Kochi ‘City of Design’, Thrissur ‘City of Learning’, and Kannur ‘City of Craft and Folk Arts’. The proposal will be submitted in 2023 with the help of the University of Prague in the Czech Republic. Prague got the tag in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KILA proposed to brand the following 6 cities of Kerala as ‘Creative Cities’:
 - Kozhikode – ‘City of Literature’
 - Thiruvananthapuram – ‘City of Peace’
 - Kollam – ‘City of Biodiversity’
 - Kochi – ‘City of Design’
 - Thrissur – ‘City of Learning’
 - Kannur – ‘City of Craft and Folk Arts’
- The proposal will be submitted in 2023 with the help of University of Prague ([The Czech Republic](#))
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

123. On March 30, Department of Justice launched a new website to provide citizens a one stop platform for all digital initiatives of the Department. The revamped website was inaugurated by Union Minister of Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju. The new website is launched on S3WaaS platform (Secure, Scalable and Sugamya Website as a Service). The new website gives better access to citizen centric services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Justice – launched a new website to provide citizens a platform for all digital initiatives of Department
- The new website is launched on – S3WaaS platform (**S**ecure, **S**calable & **S**ugamya **W**ebSite as a **S**ervice)
- [Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel](#)

124. On March 31, Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned by July 2024 at BPX-Indira Dock. It is a first-of-its-kind iconic sea cruise terminal in India. The project cost is estimated at ₹495 Cr, from which, ₹303 Cr will be incurred by Mumbai Port Authority and the remaining by private operators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned – by July 2024 (Cost of project - ₹495 Cr)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

125. On March 30, the Punjab government's resolution to install three statues in the Assembly Building of Capitol Complex, Chandigarh, a UNESCO World heritage site, hasn't gone down well with heritage experts and architects as they say it tramples the 'Edict of Chandigarh'. The Edict of Chandigarh was prescribed by Le Corbusier, the planner of Chandigarh. Heritage experts and urban planners term it a 'mandated rule book' on the city's planning laid down by Corbusier as he wanted the citizens to become the guardians and saviours of the city. Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, known as Le Corbusier, was a Swiss-French architect, designer, painter, urban planner, writer, and one of the pioneers of what is now regarded as modern architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Edict of Chandigarh' was prescribed by – Le Corbusier (the planner of Chandigarh)

126. On March 28, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) constituted a permanent coordination committee to prevent elephant deaths on railway tracks. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said that 19 elephants were killed across India on railway tracks in 2018-19, 14 in 2019-20 and 12 in 2020-21. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), National Highway Authority (NHA), National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and World Bank Group has published a document named "Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure" to assist project agencies in designing linear infrastructure, including railway lines, to reduce human-animal conflicts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoEFCC – constituted a Permanent Coordination Committee to prevent Elephant deaths on railway tracks
- WII + MoEFCC + NHA + NTCA + World Bank = published a document titled "Eco-Friendly Measures to Mitigate Impacts of Linear Infrastructure"
- HQs of WII – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Director – Satya Prakash Yadav

127. On March 28, Konkan Railway Corporation has completed 100% electrification on its entire 741-km route between Roha in Maharashtra and Thokur in Karnataka. The foundation stone for the electrification of the 741-km route work was laid in November 2015. The total cost of the project is Rs 1287 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Konkan Railway has completed 100% electrification on its entire route between Roha (MH) & Thokur (Karnataka)
- Route length – 741 km | Cost – Rs 1287 Cr

128. The population of one-horned rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) has increased by 200 in the past 4 years. As per the census conducted between March 25 and March 28 in 2022, the count at KNPTR, which is the world's largest habitat for the 'endangered' one-horned rhinos, stood at 2,613. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Population of one-horned rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga NP&TR increased by 200 in 4 years (Total - 2,613)
- IUCN Red List status of one-horned rhinoceros – 'endangered'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



International Affairs

1. Nepal's House of Representatives accepted \$500 million grant assistance-Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) pact along with 'interpretative declaration'. Millennium Challenge Corporation is a US foreign aid agency established by the US Congress in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal's House of Representatives accepted \$500 million grant assistance-Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) pact
- 'MCC Compact' was initiated by the US | Millennium Challenge Corporation – a foreign aid agency of the US

2. On March 2, Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of Netherlands to India, launched a special logo to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands. The logo features a lotus and a tulip - the national flowers of both countries. The chakra in the middle of the logo depicts the bond of our friendship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Verma + Marten van den Berg = launched a special logo to mark 75th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India & Netherlands
- The logo features a lotus & a tulip - the national flowers of both countries
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

3. On March 1, Swiss International Air Lines and its parent Lufthansa Group signed a new strategic collaboration with Switzerland-based Synhelion to use its solar aviation fuel. This will make SWISS the first airline in the world to use 'sun-to-liquid' fuel or Solar Aviation fuel. Synhelion will build the world's first facility for the industrial production of solar fuel in Germany in 2022. Swiss International Air Lines is set to become the first customer for the solar kerosene in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swiss International Air Lines + Synhelion = partnership to use Synhelion's solar aviation fuel
- Swiss International Air Lines – to be the first airline in the world to use Solar Aviation fuel
- Synhelion – to build the world's first facility for the industrial production of solar fuel in Germany in 2022

4. On March 1, Turkey is set to activate the "Montreux Convention" and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. The Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, also known as the Turkish Straits or the Black Sea Straits, connect the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea via the Sea of Marmara. It is the only passage through which the Black Sea ports can access the Mediterranean and beyond. Montreux Convention came into effect in the year 1936. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turkey is set to activate the "Montreux Convention (1936)" & ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea
- Bosphorus & Dardanelles straits – also known as 'Turkish Straits' or 'Black Sea Straits'
- [Turkey – Ankara – Lira](#) | [President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#)

5. On March 4, as western leaders came together to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Switzerland broke its traditional 200-year old 'Neutrality Policy' to sanction Moscow and its leaders. Switzerland implemented the financial sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Switzerland – broke its traditional 200-year old ‘Neutrality Policy’ to sanction Moscow & Russian leaders
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin

6. On March 4, India abstained from a vote at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva as the Council decided to set up an international commission of enquiry for Russia’s actions in Ukraine. India was among 13 countries of the 47-member council elected from UN members that abstained from the resolution, along with China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela. Only Russia and Eritrea voted against the resolution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (+ 12 countries) – abstained from a vote at the UNHRC to set up an enquiry for Russia’s actions in Ukraine
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan

7. On March 8, Mastercard and Visa blocked several Russian banks from their networks to comply with government sanctions following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. As a result, Russia decided to use its local payments network ‘Mir’ and China-based card network ‘UnionPay’. Visa and Mastercard branded cards issued by Russian banks will work inside the country until they expire. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard & Visa – blocked several Russian banks from their networks
- Russia – decided to use its local ‘Mir’ & China-based card network ‘UnionPay’
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

8. On March 5, Global financial crime watchdog the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been included on a list of jurisdictions subject to increased monitoring, known as its ‘Grey List’. Countries on the ‘Grey List’ risk reputational damage, ratings adjustments, trouble obtaining global finance and higher transaction costs. While, Pakistan is likely to remain on the ‘Grey List’ of the FATF until June, 2022 for failing to meet some of the targets under the additional criteria. Pakistan has been on the ‘Grey List’ of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) since June 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FATF added the UAE on its ‘Grey List’ in March 2022
- HQs of FATF – Paris, France | President – Marcus Pleyer | Member Countries – 39
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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



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

Key Points:

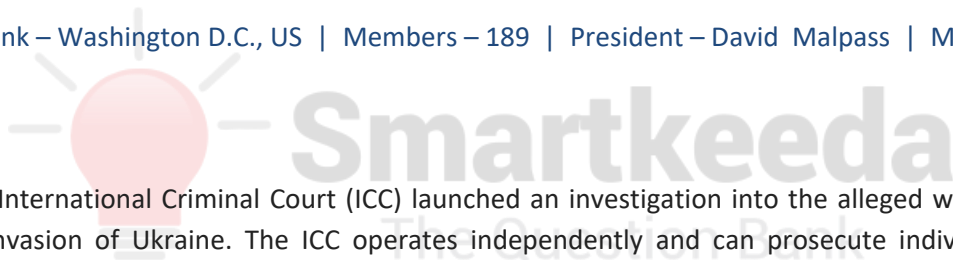
- US President Joe Biden intends to designate Colombia as a major non-NATO ally
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30
- Colombia – Bogota – Peso | President – Ivan Duque Marquez

14. 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



15. In March 2022, International Criminal Court (ICC) launched an investigation into the alleged war crimes committed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The ICC operates independently and can prosecute individuals for 4 primary offences: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and the crime of aggression. The court tries individuals and not countries. Any individual accused of a crime from a country that falls under the ICC's jurisdiction can be tried. Russia pulled out of the court in 2016 after the ICC's verdict on Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC – launched an investigation into the alleged war crimes committed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- Russia pulled out of the ICC in 2016 after the its verdict on Russia's occupation of Crimea in 2014
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- HQs of ICC – Hague, Netherlands | President – Judge Piotr Hofmanski | Established in – 2002

16. On March 13, Google announced to add Air Strike alerts for its Ukrainian Android users amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine crisis at the request of the Ukrainian government. The feature is supposed to be supplemental to the already existing raid alert systems. Google has used the same low-latency system that it uses for detecting earthquakes. Google had earlier announced to disable some of its Google Maps features in Ukraine such as traffic information and crowd data as the data could be used as military intelligence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – to add Air Strike alerts for its Ukrainian Android users amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

17. On March 13, United States President Joe Biden approved a \$200-million arms package for Ukraine, which would include US-made Stinger Missiles, which are a type of shoulder-fired Man-Portable Air-Defence Systems (MANPADS). In the first week of March itself, more than 17,000 anti-tank weapons and 2,000 Stinger missiles had been sent by the US and NATO. MANPADS have a maximum range of 8 kilometres and can engage targets at altitudes of 4.5 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US approved a \$200-million arms package for Ukraine including 'MANPADS'
- US & NATO had sent 17,000 anti-tank weapons & 2,000 Stinger missiles to Ukraine (in 1st week of March)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30

18. On March 13, a senior Ukrainian police officer accused the Russian forces of using phosphorous bomb attacks in the separatist-controlled Lugansk. Nazis used to call it a 'flaming onion'. According to international laws, the usage of white phosphorus shells are banned in the extremely populated civilian areas, but are allowed to be used in open spaces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A senior Ukrainian police officer accused the Russian forces of using 'Phosphorous bomb' attacks in Lugansk
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

19. 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

20. 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 | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

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

Key Points:

- Russia – to launch “Rossggram” - a replacement of Instagram
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

22. 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

23. 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)

24. 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”

25. 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

26. In March 2022, Germany signed a long-term energy agreement with Qatar to reduce its dependence on Russia. Minister for Economic Affairs Robert Habeck secured the deal on a visit to Doha as part of efforts to diversify Germany's energy supply. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Germany – signed a long-term energy agreement with Qatar to reduce its dependence on Russia
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

27. On March 23, France's President Emmanuel Macron suggested "Finlandization" of Ukraine amid rising tensions of Russia's invasion. 'Finlandization' refers to the policy of strict neutrality between Moscow and the West that Finland followed during the decades of the Cold War. The principle of neutrality was rooted in the Agreement of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance that Finland signed with the USSR in April 1948. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France's President suggested "Finlandization" of Ukraine
- 'Finlandization' refers to the policy of strict 'neutrality' between Moscow & the West
- Ukraine – Kyiv – Ukrainian hryvnia | President – Volodymyr Zelensky

28. On March 20, Russia attacked Ukraine with cruise missiles from ships in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and launched hypersonic missiles from Crimean airspace. Russia fired "Kalibr" cruise missiles from the Black Sea & Caspian Sea and hypersonic "Kinzhal (Dagger)" missiles from airspace of Crimea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – used "Kinzhal" hypersonic missile & "Kalibr" cruise missiles against Ukraine
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

29. On March 22, the Government of Indonesia as well as the United Nations have sought support and commitment from parties to the Minamata Convention for a Bali Declaration on combatting Global Illegal Trade of Mercury. The issue was discussed at the second round of the 4th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-4.2) to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The meeting was held in-person from March 21-25 in Bali. The Minamata Convention on Mercury is the most recent global agreement on Environment and Health. It was adopted in 2013 and entered into force August 16, 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia + UN = called for support from parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Minamata Convention on Mercury – a global agreement on Environment & Health
- Adopted – in 2013 | Effective – from 2017
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



30. On March 24, China and Solomon Islands are negotiating a security agreement to establish a Chinese military base on the island. It would allow China to protect the safety of Chinese personnel and major projects in the Pacific, less than 2,000km off Australia's coast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China & Solomon Islands – are negotiating a security agreement to establish a Chinese military base
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Solomon Islands – Honiara – Solomon Islands dollar | PM – Manasseh Sogavare

31. On March 25, Bulgaria abolished its controversial “Golden Passports” scheme offering citizenship of the EU member state in return for substantial investment, which had been criticised by Brussels. The beneficiaries were primarily from Russia, China and the Middle East. The scheme was launched in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bulgaria – abolished its “Golden Passports” scheme offering citizenship in return for substantial investment
- Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev | PM – Kiril Petkov

32. On March 25, the Sri Lankan government will set up a “North-East Development Fund” to increase investments in the war-affected areas. The announcement came, after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa met a delegation of the Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the largest grouping of parliamentarians representing districts in the north and east. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – will set up a “North-East Development Fund” to increase investments in the war-affected areas
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

33. On March 25, Australia announced a new Defence Space Command Agency to counter the growing influence of Russia and China in space. The agency will help Australia in developing and advocating space-specific priorities within the government, industry, allies and even international partners. The Australian government plans to triple the size of its space sector by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – announced a new Defence Space Command Agency to counter growing influence of Russia & China in space
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

34. The “Bucharest Nine” is a group of nine NATO countries in Eastern Europe that became part of the US-led military alliance after the end of the Cold War. The Bucharest Nine or Bucharest Format, often abbreviated as the B9, was founded on November 4, 2015, and takes its name from Bucharest, the capital of Romania. The group was created on the initiative of Klaus Iohannis, who has been President of Romania since 2014, and Andrzej Duda, who became President of Poland in August 2015. The B9 include Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bucharest Nine (B9)” – a group of 9 NATO countries in Eastern Europe (Founded on Nov 4, 2015)
- Bucharest – the capital of Romania
- B9 countries: Romania, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania
- Romania – Bucharest – leu | PM – Nicolae Ciucu | President – Klaus Iohannis

35. On March 25, the European Union agreed on a landmark law, “Digital Markets Act (DMA)” to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets. The Digital Markets Act includes a number of eye-catching groundbreaking measures that could shake up the way big tech companies operate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EU agreed on a landmark law, “Digital Markets Act (DMA)” to prevent tech giants from dominating digital markets
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

36. In March 2022, A UK consortium led by United Traffic Management (UTM) software provider ‘Altitude Angel’ plans to build the world’s largest and longest ‘Drone Superhighway’ network. Known as “Project Skyway”, the blueprint for a 165 mile (265km) drone superhighway has been submitted by the consortium. ‘Project Skyway’ aims to enable businesses to develop and grow through commercialisation of innovative drone-based products, processes and service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World’s largest & longest ‘Drone Superhighway’ network called “Project Skyway” – to be built in England
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

37. On March 26, India handed over a coastal radar system to chief of the Maldives National Defence Force, Maj Gen Abdulla Shamaal during external affairs minister S. Jaishankar’s two-day visit to Maldives. The radar system is an example of India’s “SAGAR” (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and “Neighbourhood First” policies. The system, which comprises 10 radar stations, was built with an Indian grant of \$15.8 million. Maldives President Ibrahim Solih and Jaishankar jointly inaugurated the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement in Addu city, one of the largest projects implemented in the Maldives with an Indian grant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – handed over a Coastal Radar System to Maldives during S. Jaishankar’s two-day visit
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

38. On March 29, French ambassador to India, Emmanuel Lenain, announced the 4th edition of the India-France cultural connect festival, “Bonjour India”. It will be held across multiple cities in India in collaboration with the cultural outreach arm Alliance Francaise and its network of consulates as well several French and Indian corporate sponsors. This year’s edition will celebrate 75 years since India and France established diplomatic relations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th ‘Bonjour India 2022’ (India-France cultural festival) – marks 75 years of diplomatic relations between India & France
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

39. On March 28, India and the UAE will set up a Technical Council on Investment, Trade Promotion and Facilitation as part of a free trade agreement called “CEPA” signed between the two countries in February to boost economic ties. India and the UAE on February 18 had signed the CEPA with a view to boosting bilateral trade to \$100 billion over 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UAE = to set up a “Technical Council on Investment, Trade Promotion & Facilitation” as part of “CEPA”
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

40. On March 29, During External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka, India & Sri Lanka signed an MoU and decided that Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will build a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Sri Lanka's Colombo. With this, India will get another strategic edge against China in the Indian Ocean region after installing a coastal radar system in Maldives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL – to build a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

41. On March 31, Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced to protect the ancient Buddha statues in an archaeological site 'Mes Aynak', also the site of a copper mine where the Taliban is hoping for Chinese investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced to protect the ancient Buddha statues in 'Mes Aynak'
- 'Mes Aynak' - an archaeological site in Afghanistan

42. In March 2022, leading media groups from the five BRICS countries put together a three-month long training programme for journalists to face a shared challenge of how media organisations in emerging markets can innovate and stay relevant in their unique contexts. The programme was an initiative of the BRICS Media Forum. Over the past three months, 25 journalists from the five countries participated in a first ever online media training programme. The Forum was established in 2015 by media organisations from the five countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRICS Media Forum – started a three-month long training programme for journalists
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2022 – China



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

1. On March 1, Religare Broking Ltd announced the launch of Religare “Pre Apply LIC IPO” app, which will be a one-stop app to open demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the LIC IPO. All types of investors, including existing LIC policy holders and first-time investors can register their interest by filling up their name, email ID and mobile number. There are 3 different types of Demat accounts - Regular Demat account, Repatriable Demat account & Non-Repatriable Demat account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Religare Broking Ltd – launched “Pre Apply LIC IPO” app to open demat account
- 3 Types of Demat accounts: Regular Demat account, Repatriable Demat account & Non-Repatriable Demat account
- HQs of Religare Broking Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Nitin Aggarwal

2. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) was merged with DBS Bank in November 2020, following the amalgamation with DBIL due to which the IFSC & MICR codes of all branches of erstwhile LVB have now changed. The Indian Financial System Code (IFSC) is a unique 11-digit alphanumeric code that is used for online fund transfer transactions done via NEFT, RTGS and IMPS. MICR code is a 9-digit code printed on cheques using MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition technology). MICR uniquely identifies the bank and branch participating in an Electronic Clearing System (ECS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSC & MICR codes of all branches of Lakshmi Vilas Bank have now changed
- IFSC – Indian Financial System Code (11 digits) | MICR – Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (9 digits)

3. On March 1, Ambit Finvest, the NBFC of the Ambit Group, signed a co-lending agreement with Union Bank of India (UBI) for lending to MSME customers at a lower rate of interest and helping them deploy capital more effectively in their business. This tie up will ensure underwriting for originations, positively impacting the creditworthiness of MSMEs, in 11 states that are currently covered by Ambit Finvest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ambit Finvest + UBI – a co-lending agreement for lending to MSME customers at a lower rate of interest
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

4. On March 2, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) tied up with Mahagram, a leading fintech company to roll out the ‘Bank Sakhi’ project in Odisha to provide financial technology and infrastructure support to the project. As part of the tie-up, the company onboarded more than 11000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform. This tie-up with Bank of Maharashtra will provide access to the doorstep and hassle-free banking services to the people of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoM + Mahagram = rolled out ‘Bank Sakhi’ project & to provide doorstep & hassle-free banking services in Odisha
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

5. On March 1, Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) became first depository to open 6 Cr active Demat accounts. CDSL is the only listed depository in the country. The focus of registration of new demat accounts is shifting from metros to tier II and tier III cities. Commenced in 1999, CDSL facilitates holding and transacting in securities in the electronic form and facilitates settlement of trades on stock exchanges. Major shareholders of CDSL include BSE, Standard Chartered Bank, PPFAS Mutual Fund, HDFC Bank and LIC. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Central Depository Services (India) Ltd – became first depository to open 6 Cr active Demat accounts
- CDSL is the only listed depository in India
- HQs of CDSL – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – Balkrishna V. Chaubal | MD & CEO – Nehal Vora

6. On March 3, IIFL Finance Limited collaborated with fintech firm NIRA as part of its strategy to strengthen its digital footprint. Through this partnership, salaried customers can avail of a personal loan of up to ₹1 lakh from IIFL Finance by downloading the NIRA app. IIFL Finance is a diversified retail-focused NBFC. NIRA is a Bengaluru-based consumer finance business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFL Finance + NIRA (Bengaluru) = collaboration to offer personal loan through 'NIRA app'
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

7. On March 2, the RBI cancelled the licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects. On liquidation, every depositor 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). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank (Sangli, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

8. On March 2, Edelweiss Housing Finance announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property (LAP) to prospective customers, especially MSMEs. Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain 20% of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80% will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss Housing Finance + SCB = co-lending partnership for loans against property (EHFL - 20% & SCB - 80%)
- HQs of EHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajat Avasthi
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters | Chairman – Dr Jose Vinals | CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung

9. On March 2, UCO Bank extended the fintech partnership with Fisdom to include demat account and stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing, with an objective to offer customers a three-in-one personal banking experience. The extension suite will be offered through UCO Bank's mobile banking application, UCO mBanking Plus, and will gradually be accessible through its internet banking platform also. Fisdom is a brand operated under legal entity Finwizard Technology Pvt Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UCO Bank + Fisdom = extended the fintech partnership to offer Demat account & stockbroking services
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”
- HQs of Fisdom – Mumbai | Co-founder & CEO – Subramanya SV



10. On March 1, IDBI Bank announced the launch of two new products namely Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) designed to meet the needs of Institutional customers. The purpose of C-LMS and G-LMS is to provide real-time, web-based and formula-driven liquidity management solution. Additionally, C-LMS helps corporate customers to automate the transfer of funds across various accounts of the entity. It also helps corporate customers to manage liquidity efficiently, thereby helping in efficient working capital management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – announced to launch ‘C-LMS’ & ‘G-LMS’ to provide real-time, web-based liquidity management solution
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964

11. For the first time, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called “Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS)” which will provide savers and people from the salaried class an option for their investments. The regulator has appointed Ernst & Young (EY) Actuarial Services Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) as a consultant to help design the proposed MARS under the National Pension System (NPS). This is similar to the ATP system in Denmark, where 80% of contributions are guaranteed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFRDA is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called “Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS)”
- PFRDA – appointed ‘EY Actuarial Services LLP’ as a consultant to help design the proposed MARS under the NPS
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003

12. On March 2, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered Yatra.com and SBI Card to launch a co-branded ‘Yatra SBI Card’ on the RuPay network. The card offers exclusive travel benefits on booking flights and hotels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + Yatra.com + SBI Card = launched co-branded ‘Yatra SBI Card’ on RuPay network
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

13. On March 3, Axis Bank has committed a \$150 million (about Rs 1,140 Cr) loan for strengthening India’s healthcare infrastructure by signing an MoU with IPE Global for the ‘SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility’. The continued threat of new variants has reinforced the need to boost investments and partnerships in the health sector. SAMRIDH is an initiative supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank + IPE Global = an MoU for the ‘SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility’
- Axis Bank – committed a \$150 million loan for strengthening India’s healthcare infrastructure
- ‘SAMRIDH’ initiative – supported by USAID
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

14. On March 3, PayU collaborated with VTEX, one of the largest global digital commerce platforms, to offer multiple payment solutions to VTEX merchants. PayU platform will be available for VTEX’s merchants when they are doing business in India. PayU is regulated under the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayU + VTEX = to offer multiple payment solutions to VTEX merchants
- HQs of PayU Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Prashanth Ranganathan
- HQs of VTEX – London, UK | CEO – Mariano Gomide

15. On March 3, LoanTap, a fintech digital lending platform, announced business collaborations with an NBFC called ArkaFincap Ltd. LoanTap also partnered with NBFC, MAS Financial Services Ltd in a co-lending model for the salaried and MSME segment. With these announcements, LoanTap will have six Co-lending partnerships along with its own NBFC platform. LoanTap recently launched the Limitless Credit Card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LoanTap + ArkaFincap + MAS Financial Services = business collaborations in a co-lending model
- LoanTap – also launched the ‘Limitless Credit Card’
- HQs of LoanTap – Pune, Maharashtra | Co-founder & CEO – Satyam

16. On March 2, LIC Housing Finance Ltd and Common Services Centers (CSC) entered in a strategic partnership to provide loan facility to citizens through the network of over 4 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs). LIC HFL offers home loans starting from 6.70% interest rate. The product allows entry age of the borrower to be latest up to 65 years and the loan tenure till attainment of 80 years of age or maximum up to 30 years, whichever is earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC HFL + CSC = partnership to provide loan to citizens through the network of over 4 lakh VLEs
- HQs of LIC Housing Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Y. Viswanatha Gowd
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi (set up by MeitY)

17. On March 3, Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII) launched FG Dog Health Cover, a comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs, along with industry-first ‘Emergency Pet Minding’ cover. The policy premium starts at ₹323 per month. The insurance policy covers pet dogs aged between six months to four years for giant breeds and seven years for small, medium, and large breeds. The exit age is 10 years for small, medium, and large breeds and 6 years for giant breeds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Future Generali India Insurance – launched industry-first ‘Emergency Pet Minding’ health insurance cover for pet dogs
- HQs of FGII – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anup Rau

18. On March 3, the RBI exempted urban cooperative banks (UCBs) from the 10% cap for their investments in the umbrella organisation. According to norms, investments in non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) securities by primary (urban) cooperative banks is to be limited to 10% of a bank’s total deposits as on March 31 of the previous year. Furthermore, the norms mandate that investments in unlisted securities should not exceed 10% of the total non-SLR investments at any time. The RBI exempted the UCBs from both the norms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI exempted UCBs from the 10% cap for their investments in the umbrella organisation
- According to norms:
 - investments in non-SLR securities by primary UCBs is to be limited to 10% of a bank’s total deposits
 - investments in unlisted securities should not exceed 10% of the total non-SLR investments at any time
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

19. On March 4, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) announced a strategic partnership to launch the Indian Oil Kotak Co-branded Fuel Credit Card. The collaboration will offer more value to customers in the form of an enhanced rewards programme giving customers value on fuel spends. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + IOCL = partnership to launch the Indian Oil Kotak Co-branded Fuel Credit Card
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

20. On March 8, the RBI chose Intellect Design Arena to implement the upgraded version of the “Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking Solution” to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda. The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI chose Intellect Design Arena for the “Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking Solution”
- HQs of Intellect Design Arena – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & MD – Arun Jain
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

21. On March 8, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC). The sanction is part of the Bank’s business plan to widen credit growth and funding infrastructure development across India. The bank has already disbursed ₹500 Cr of the sanctioned amount. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOB – sanctioned a loan of ₹1,000 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC)
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta | Tagline – “Good people to grow with”

22. On March 7, HDFC Mutual Fund launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative “LaxmiForLaxmi”. This initiative will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service. The #LaxmiForLaxmi initiative is a financial empowerment campaign for women, by women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Mutual Fund – launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative “LaxmiForLaxmi”
- HQs of HDFC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Navneet Munot

23. On March 7, the RBI released a booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds, titled “BE(A)WARE”, as a part of the public awareness initiative by its Consumer Education and Protection Department. This booklet is compiled from various incidents of frauds reported as also from complaints received at the offices of RBI Ombudsmen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released a booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds, titled “BE(A)WARE”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



24. On the International Women's Day, health insurance company Star Health and Allied Insurance, announced the launch of "Star Women Care Insurance Policy", a woman-centric comprehensive health cover specially designed to protect the health-care needs of women at every stage of their lives. This Policy is available to all females from 18 years up to 75 years of age. Under the policy, a new-born will gain health cover of up to 25% of the Sum Insured from day 1 and 100% of sum insured from the next subsequent year onward. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Star Health & Allied Ins. – launched a woman-centric comprehensive health cover "Star Women Care Insurance Policy"
- HQs of Star Health & Allied Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan

25. On March 9, Axis Bank started the "HouseWorksWork" initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space. The intent behind this initiative is to give these women the confidence that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles in a bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – started the "HouseWorksWork" initiative to bring educated women to workforce
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

26. On March 9, the RBI along with the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) launched two landmark initiatives - "UPI123Pay" and "DigiSaathi". UPI for feature phone, i.e., UPI123Pay is a three-step process - call, choose and pay. UPI123Pay is a service that allows those with feature phones to use UPI and allows one to make payments without the internet. In feature phone, a customer can access banking services by pressing *99# under the 'National Unified USSD Platform' of NPCI. This initiative will improve digital payments to a higher level, paving the way for a cashless economy. While DigiSaathi is a 24/7 information Helpline for providing information on digital payment products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI + NPCI = launched two landmark initiatives - "UPI123Pay" & "DigiSaathi"
- UPI123Pay is a 3-step process - Call, Choose & Pay | 'UPI Pin' is a unique 4-6 digit number
- NUUP (National Unified USSD Platform) – a mobile banking service from NPCI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

27. On March 6, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and Indian Banks Association (IBA) signed an MoU to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects. This MoU aims to build awareness on insolvency and bankruptcy matters among bankers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBBI + IBA = an MoU to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors
- HQs of IBBI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Ravi Mittal | Established in – 2016 (set up by Ministry of Corporate Affairs)
- HQs of IBA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Atul Kumar Goel | CEO – Sunil Mehta | Established in – 1946

28. On March 7, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank announced a collaboration for offering financial services, starting with launching a credit card for subscribers of Bharti Airtel. Under the partnership, the companies will provide pre-approved instant loans, 'Buy Now Pay Later' offerings, and other services. The credit card will be exclusively available for eligible Airtel customers through the Airtel Thanks app. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Axis Bank = collaboration to launch 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card'
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

46. 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

47. 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 (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta

48. 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 31st 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 (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

49. 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"

50. 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

51. 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

52. 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 (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

53. On March 15, ICICI Bank tied-up with Emirates Skywards to launch a range of co-branded credit cards on Visa platform. ICICI is the first Indian bank to partner with Emirates Skywards to offer an exclusive range of credit cards in India. Emirates Skywards is a loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai. The co-branded credit cards are available in three variants: ‘Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Emerald Credit Card’, ‘Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Sapphire Credit Card’, and ‘Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Ruby Credit Card’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Emirates Skywards = launched a range of ‘Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card’ on Visa platform
- The cards are launched in 3 variants : Emerald, Sapphire & Ruby
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

54. On March 11, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the IIT Bombay Alumni Association virtually. She mentioned that India’s digital economy is expected to witness exponential growth to \$800 billion by 2030 on the back of rising internet penetration and increasing income. A 10% rise in internet penetration results in an increase of 3.9% in GDP per capita. India has over 6,300 fintechs, of which 28% are into investment technology, 27% into payments, 16% into lending and 9% into banking infrastructure, while over 20% are into other fields. She also mentioned that the combined valuation of India’s fintech industry is set to surge to \$150 billion in next three years. The total number of retail investor accounts has almost doubled, from about 45 million as of March 2016 to 88.2 million by March 31 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – addressed the IIT Bombay Alumni Association
- According to her address:
 - India's digital economy is expected to witness exponential growth to \$800 billion by 2030
 - India has over 6,300 fintechs
 - Combined valuation of India's fintech industry is set to surge to \$150 billion in next 3 years
 - Total number of retail investor accounts increased from 45 million (March 2016) to 88.2 million (March 31 2021)
- [Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | [Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad](#)

55. On March 15, Union Minister of State for Finance Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad informed that 'PSB Loans in 59 minutes' recorded significant growth in disbursing credits across India. 2,01,863 loans proposals were made on the [psbloansin59minutes.com](#) portal amounting to ₹39,580 Cr in the business category since its inception, September 25, 2018 and February 28, 2022. Through the portal, an MSME can avail business loan from a minimum of ₹1 lakh to a maximum of ₹5 Cr post-in-principle approval. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'PSB Loans in 59 minutes' portal – recorded significant growth in disbursing credits across India
- 2,01,863 loans proposals worth ₹39,580 Cr were made on the portal between Sep 25, 2018 & Feb 28, 2022
- [Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | [Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad](#)

56. On March 17, the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) has recommended some names for the positions of MD & CEO in Union Bank of India (UBI), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) and State Bank of India (SBI). A Manimekhalai was recommended as the MD & CEO of UBI, Ajay Kumar Srivastava for IOB, Swaroop Kumar Saha for PSB & Alok Kumar Choudhary for the SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BBB recommended some names for the positions of MD & CEO in 4 different banks:
 - Manimekhalai – for UBI
 - Ajay Kumar Srivastava – for IOB
 - Swaroop Kumar Saha – for PSB
 - Alok Kumar Choudhary – for SBI
- [HQs of BBB – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairperson – Bhanu Pratap Sharma](#)

57. On March 7, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) launched an e-commerce platform titled as "L&T-SuFin" for B2B industrial products and services. The platform will provide working capital to MSMEs from a large array of banks and other financial institutions at attractive interest rates. The company has partnered with Banks including Axis Bank, ICICI Bank and Deutsche bank along with Public Sector Bank and NBFCs who will help the MSMEs to get the funding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T – launched an e-commerce platform called "L&T-SuFin" for B2B industrial products & services
- [HQs of L&T Investment Management Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO – Kailash Kulkarni](#)



58. 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

59. 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

60. 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

61. 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

62. 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”

63. 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

64. 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 1st 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

65. 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

66. Karnataka Bank bagged the “Best MSME Bank of the Year - Winner” award among private sector Banks at the 8th “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
- 8th 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

67. 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

68. 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

69. 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)

70. 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



71. 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

72. For the first time, India achieved its target of reaching \$400 billion in merchandise exports. India achieved the exports target nine days ahead of the intended deadline. India's goods exports registered 37% increase over its exports in FY21 which were \$298.1 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India achieved its target of reaching \$400 billion in merchandise exports for the first time (9 days ahead of the deadline)
- India's goods exports registered 37% increase over FY21's exports of \$298.1 billion

73. On March 23, SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, partnered with Nature's Basket, India's leading premium grocery store brand, to launch "Nature's Basket SBI Card". The card will be introduced in two variants - 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' and 'Nature's Basket SBI Card Elite'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Card + Nature's Basket = partnership to launch "Nature's Basket SBI Card"
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of Nature's Basket – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Devendra Chawla

74. On March 20, HDFC Bank decided to launch an application "AutoFirst" that will offer fully automated auto loans. The bank also plans to launch "SmartHub Vyapar programme" to give a digital push to small business loans. The bank plans to onboard 20 million retailers in 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – to launch "AutoFirst" app to offer fully automated auto loans
- HDFC Bank – also plans to launch "SmartHub Vyapar programme"
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

75. On March 23, EbixCash, a technology-based provider of digital products and services in the B2C, B2B and financial technology space has announced a partnership with Axis Securities for providing trading services to its customers. Under the agreement, customers of EbixCash will be offered a 3-in-1 account that integrates their savings, demat and trading accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EbixCash + Axis Securities = partnership for providing trading services to EbixCash's customers
- HQs of EbixCash – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President & CEO – Robin Raina
- HQs of Axis Securities – Mumbai | MD & CEO – B Gopkumar



76. On March 23, ICICI Bank launched a co-branded credit card called “Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card” in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK), one of the most successful cricket teams in India. The card has been specially designed with a range of exclusive privileges for millions of cricket fans of the iconic team. Four years ago, ICICI Bank had launched a similar co-branded credit card with Manchester United, a professional football club of England. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + CSK = launched a co-branded credit card called “Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card”
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”
- CSK Captain – Ravindra Jadeja | Owner – India Cements | Head Coach – Stephen Fleming

77. On March 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gave its approval to SBI Funds Management Ltd (SBIFML/ SBI Mutual Fund) together with other group entities of the State Bank of India (SBI) group for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up equity capital of ICICI Bank. RBI’s approval is valid for a period of one year, up to March 22, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – approved SBI Group of entities for acquiring up to 9.99% of the paid-up equity capital of ICICI Bank
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

78. On March 23, Airtel Payments Bank partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance to further strengthen its insurance offering available on its digital platform. Airtel Payments Bank customers can now buy smartphone insurance from ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company on the Airtel Thanks app. Customers can get this insurance on their own until 10 days after purchasing a smartphone priced between ₹10,000 to ₹100,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank + ICICI Lombard General Insurance = to provide smartphone insurance from on Airtel Thanks app
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – Anubrata Biswas | Founded in – 2017

79. On March 25, State Bank of India signed a co-lending agreement with 5 housing finance companies (HFCs) including to give loans for affordable homes. Shortage in affordable housing continues to be a major concern for India, especially for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Informal Sections of the society. The two entities will jointly service housing loan customers as per the 20:80 co-lending model (CLM) of the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + 5 HFCs = a co-lending agreement to give loans for affordable homes
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

80. On March 25, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the “Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)” in Bengaluru, set up with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 Cr to encourage and nurture financial innovation. The Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman. The RBI has set up the RBIH as a ‘Section 8’ company under Companies Act, 2013. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the “Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)” in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Initial capital contribution – Rs 100 Cr | Chairman – Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan

81. On March 24, the Central government has set a target of about Rs 1 trillion for National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the next financial year FY23. The government-backed Development Finance Institution (DFI) will start operations in Q1 FY23. Moreover, the NaBFID is the 5th AIFI to be regulated & supervised by the RBI under ‘RBI Act, 1934’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt set a target of Rs 1 trillion for NaBFID for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the FY23
- HQs of NaBFID – Mumbai, MH | Chairperson – K. V. Kamath

82. On March 22, HDFC Mutual Fund filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI for India’s first Defence Fund, “HDFC Defence Fund” - an open-ended equity scheme that will be investing in defence & allied sector companies. This fund will be benchmarked to the recently introduced Nifty India Defence Index TRI (Total Returns Index). The fund will be primarily managed by Abhishek Poddar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC MF – filed a scheme information document (SID) with SEBI for India’s first Defence Fund, “HDFC Defence Fund”
- HQs of HDFC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Navneet Munot

83. On March 26, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed an MoU with Meghalaya Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd (MiDFC) to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. It will also help in building capacity of MSMEs using online platforms PSB 59, Mitra portals, GeMS, TReDS, initiating business information and counselling centres for micro enterprises among others. Moreover, SIDBI acquired 7.84% stake in the open public digital infrastructure framework entity, Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), through an investment of Rs 10 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + MiDFC = an MoU to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state
- SIDBI – acquired 7.84% stake in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) for Rs 10 Cr
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990

84. On March 23, Mario Marcel, the Governor of the Central bank of Chile (BCCh) won the Governor of the Year Award at the “Central Banking Awards 2022”. While Bank of Korea was recognised as Central Bank of the Year. It also named Stanley Fischer (Israeli American Economist) as the recipient of this year’s Lifetime Achievement Award. The Czech National Bank won this year’s Transparency award. Moreover, Wenxin Du won this year’s award for Economics in Central Banking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Central Banking Awards 2022”:
 - Governor of the Year Award – Mario Marcel (Governor of the Central bank of Chile)
 - Central Bank of the Year – Bank of Korea
 - Lifetime Achievement Award – Stanley Fischer (Israeli American Economist)
 - Transparency Award – Czech National Bank
 - Economics in Central Banking – Wenxin Du



85. On March 25, Max Life Insurance launched “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan”, a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan on the PhonePe app to enhance financial protection for digitally-savvy customers. Customers have the flexibility to choose a sum assured up to ₹10 Cr and can have their policies renewed on the PhonePe app. PhonePe, a digital payments platform, has been granted a direct broking licence by IRDAI that allows the selling of insurance on their app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance – launched “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on PhonePe app
- PhonePe – has been granted a direct broking licence by IRDAI
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

86. On March 24, the World Bank priced the world’s first wildlife bond called “RhinoBond”, raising \$150 million that will be partly used for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa. The five-year bond will pay returns determined by the rate of growth in populations of the animals in two South African reserves, the Addo Elephant National Park and the Great Fish River Nature Reserve. The Wildlife Conservation Bond is a first-of-its-kind, outcome-based, financial instrument that channels investments to achieve conservation outcomes. The bond was sold at 94.8% of its “nominal aggregate amount” and will pay out a maximum success payment of \$13.8 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – created world’s 1st wildlife bond raising \$150 million for the conservation of black rhinos in South Africa
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

87. On March 25, India1 Payments (formerly BTI Payments Private Ltd) received a perpetual licence from the RBI to set-up, own and operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India. The company deploys ATMs under the brand name ‘India1ATMs’ in the semi-urban and rural areas of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India1 Payments – received a perpetual licence from the RBI to set-up, own & operate White Label ATMs (WLAs) in India
- The company’s ATMs are called “India1ATMs”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

88. On March 26, the RBI released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points for deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of India. Geo-tagging will enable proper monitoring of availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc. Such monitoring will support policy intervention to optimize the distribution of payment infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

89. On March 30, Equitas Small Finance Bank launched Equitas Bank CSK Debit Card in association with the IPL franchise Chennai Super Kings owned by cement manufacturer The India Cements Ltd. Equitas partnered with CSK and the bank’s logo is imprinted on the back of the helmet worn by the CSK players. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Equitas SFB + CSK = launched “Equitas Bank CSK Debit Card”
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

90. On March 28, DBS Bank India partnered with EaseMyTrip to launch an environment-friendly international debit card made using 99% recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material. Through this collaboration, EaseMyTrip aims to promote sustainability and incentivise sustainable tourism by the numerous rewards offered through the Debit Card for people opting for eco-friendly and sustainable booking options through the EaseMyTrip website and mobile app. In 2020, DBS introduced the “Towards Zero Food Waste” initiative as part of a global sustainability practice to encourage a shift in behaviours and mindsets to reduce food waste. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India + EaseMyTrip = launched an environment-friendly international debit card made using 99% recycled PVC
- HQs of EaseMyTrip – New Delhi | CEO – Nishant Pitti
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome

91. The total liabilities of the government of India rose by 2.15% to ₹128.41 lakh Cr during Q3 of FY22, according to the Union Finance Ministry’s quarterly report on Public Debt Management. As per the report, public debt accounted for 91.60% of total outstanding liabilities at the end of December 2021. In the same period between October and December 2021, the central government issued dated securities worth ₹2.88 lakh Cr. During Q3 of FY22, repayments stood at ₹75,300 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry’s quarterly report on Public Debt Management:
- Total liabilities of the government of India during Q3 of FY22 – ₹128.41 lakh Cr (increase of 2.15%)
- Total repayments during Q3 of FY22 – ₹75,300 Cr

92. On March 30, IDBI Bank announced to sell its balance 25% stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company (AFLI) to Ageas Insurance International NV. In December 2020, IDBI Bank had sold a 23% stake in an insurance joint venture to Ageas Insurance International JV for Rs 507 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IDBI Bank – to sell its balance 25% stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance to Ageas Insurance International NV
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964

93. On March 29, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched an industry-first digital customer engagement and rewards program called “VAULT program”. The Company has taken advantage of the Regulatory Sandbox by IRDAI, in the form of VAULT, an experiment to test a new idea. Under this program, the insurer will incentivize its Optima Restore health insurance customers by way of reward points. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO – launched an industry-first digital customer engagement & rewards program called “VAULT program”
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar

94. On March 29, Central Bank of India selected Kwik.ID to implement digital know your customer (KYC), video KYC and eKYC for its network across India. This partnership will support the bank in driving its digital transformation agenda and supporting digital finance initiatives championed by the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of India – selected Kwik.ID to implement digital KYC, video KYC & eKYC for its network across India
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”

95. On March 28, Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI, laid foundation stone for the establishment of a Learning and Development Centre (LDC) of the Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI, in Mysuru, Karnataka. LDC is being established with active collaboration from Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaktikanta Das – laid foundation stone to establish a Learning & Development Centre (LDC) of BRBNMPL in Mysuru
- HQs of BRBNMPL – Bengaluru, Karnataka

96. On March 30, Google Pay in collaboration with Pine Labs announced the launch of Tap to Pay for UPI to bring the seamless convenience of Tap to Pay to UPI. So far, Tap to Pay was only available for cards. To complete a payment, users will need to tap their phone on the POS terminal and authenticate the payment from their phone, using their UPI PIN. The functionality will be available to any UPI user who wants to use their NFC-enabled Android smartphone to transact using any Pine Labs Android POS terminal across India. This was piloted with Reliance Retail and will now be available at other large merchants such as Future Retail and Starbucks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Pay + Pine Labs = launched ‘Tap to Pay for UPI’
- Payment can be done from user’s NFC-enabled Android smartphone using the UPI PIN
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – B. Amrish Rao
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

97. On March 28, Maharashtra-based Redemption Digital Technology Pvt Ltd has soft-launched India’s first KYC-compliant crypto token - Redemption. It's a unique crypto token with which users can earn investing time, instead of money. Also, it's India's first crypto token which users can redeem for fiat money, even before its listing on exchange. Redemption is an emerging ‘Web 3.0 Technology’ base, patent-filed crypto token which is developed on Binance Smart Chain (BSC) BEP20 protocol. Redemption crypto token works on “Reward & Redeem” principle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Redemption Digital Technology – launched India’s first KYC-compliant crypto token - “Redemption”
- Redemption crypto token works on “Reward & Redeem” principle

98. In March 2022, MG Motor India launched “e-Pay”, industry’s first & a one-stop online car finance platform for an end-to-end digital auto finance process that provides instant loan approvals. The automaker has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime and Axis Bank to offer instant financing options under the facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MG Motor India – launched “e-Pay”, industry’s first & a one-stop online car finance platform
- HQs of MG Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | President & MD – Rajeev Chaba



99. On March 30, HDFC Bank and Shoppers Stop launched a new range of co-branded Credit Cards. Through this tie-up, the two aim to source over 10 lakh cards in 5 years. The credit cards will be available for over 80 lakh 'First Citizen' customers of Shoppers Stop along with HDFC Bank customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + Shoppers Stop = launched a new range of co-branded Credit Cards
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of Shoppers Stop – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Venu Nair

100. On March 28, Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI, dedicated “Varnika”, the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI to the nation, in Mysuru, Karnataka. BRBNMPL has set up Varnika with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes. It is a boost to 'Make in India' initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaktikanta Das – dedicated “Varnika”, the Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL in Mysuru, Karnataka
- HQs of BRBNMPL – Bengaluru, Karnataka

101. In March 2022, Financial services company FinMapp received licence from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) under the National Pension Scheme (NPS). It has also acquired a registration certificate from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) recognizing it as a corporate agent. The company will launch NPS as an investment tool on its app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FinMapp received licence from PFRDA & IRDAI to sell insurance & NPS products
- HQs of FinMapp – Gurgaon, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Kumar Binit
- HQs of PFRDA – New Delhi | Chairperson – Supratim Bandyopadhyay | Founded in – 2003
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Debasish Panda

102. On March 31, the Union government announced its plan to raise Rs 8.45 lakh Cr through borrowing in the first half of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the economy, according to the Finance Ministry. Out of gross market borrowing of Rs 14.31 lakh Cr estimated for FY2022-23, Rs 8.45 lakh Cr is planned to be borrowed in the first half (H1). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government plans to borrow Rs 8.45 lakh Cr in H1 of 2022-23 to fund the revenue gap for reviving the Economy
- Gross market borrowing estimated for FY2022-23 – Rs 14.31 lakh Cr

103. On March 30, Gurgaon-based Non-profit organization Nabet India and PNB Housing Finance Pvt Ltd partnered to carry out a special women's health and wellness initiative. Nabet India will promote livelihood for women particularly in rural areas and it will also promote health and wellness to improve their quality of life. The sanitary napkin machines sponsored by PNB Housing Finance's CSR arm, Pehel Foundation, would help create in-house employment at the production centre and distribution network. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nabet India (Gurgaon) + PNB Housing Finance = to carry out a special women's health & wellness initiative
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tagline – “Ghar Ki Baat”



104. On March 31, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and HSBC India signed an agreement to establish a \$100 million partial guarantee programme to support more than 4,00,000 micro-borrowers and mostly women-run micro-enterprises across India. This programme will strengthen microfinance as a tool to build economic resilience, reduce gender disparities and support economic recovery across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + HSBC India = an agreement to establish a \$100 million partial guarantee programme
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966
- HQs of HSBC India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Hitendra Dave

105. On March 31, the RBI extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks by 1 year till March 31, 2023. The cost of each cassette is in the range of ₹15,000 to ₹20,000. This is second extension of timeline that the central bank has given to banks. In July 2021, RBI had advised banks to consider using lockable cassettes in their ATMs which shall be swapped at the time of cash replenishment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs by banks by 1 year till March 31, 2023
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



Defence Affairs

1. On March 4, “Milan 2022”, Indian Navy’s largest multilateral exercise, was ended. Over 40 countries participated in this exercise. The harbour phase of the exercise was held from February 25 to 28 and the sea phase from March 1 to 4. The theme of the Exercise was ‘Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration’. This Sea phase of the 11th edition of exercise witnessed an increase in the “Complexity of Exercises” and saw the participation of 26 ships, one submarine and 21 aircrafts. The closing ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. It began with the participation of only four countries such as Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in 1995. Earlier, the exercise was held at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar but this edition was shifted to Visakhapatnam for the first time as it offers more infrastructure as well as sea space for the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Milan 2022” – Indian Navy’s largest multilateral exercise conducted in Visakhapatnam (in harbour phase & sea phase)
- Theme of 11th edition of “Milan 2022” exercise – “Camaraderie Cohesion Collaboration”
- Closing ceremony was presided over by – Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla (Flag Officer Commanding ‘Eastern Fleet’)
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950
- HQs of Eastern Fleet – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOCEF – Sanjay Bhalla

2. On March 4, the Indian Air Force (IAF) postponed Exercise “Vayu Shakti” that was scheduled to take place at the Pokharan range in Jaisalmer on March 7. The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducts Exercise Vayu Shakti at the Pokharan range every three years to demonstrate its readiness to conduct full spectrum operations. The last one took place in 2019. Ministry of Defence also postponed defence exhibition ‘DefExpo-2022’, which was proposed to be held in Gandhinagar between March 10 and 14. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – postponed exercise “Vayu Shakti” (scheduled to be held at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer)
- Ministry of Defence – postponed ‘DefExpo-2022’ (scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

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

Key Points:

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



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

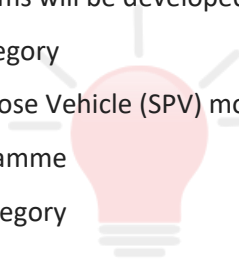
Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

6. On March 15, on the 65th birthday of late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and 27th 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

7. 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 5th 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

8. “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

9. 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

10. 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

11. The 3rd edition of India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise “Dustlik” was conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan from March 22 to 31, 2022. The joint exercise focused on Counter-Terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of Joint Military Exercise “Dustlik” conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan – between India & Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

12. On March 22, Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division and Maharashtra Police organized a joint exercise "Suraksha Kavach 2" at Lullanagar, Pune. The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures undertaken by Army and Police to counter any likely terrorist actions in Pune. The exercise involved participation of Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTTF) of Indian Army, Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police alongwith Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), Dog Squads and Bomb Disposal Teams of both agencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army's Agnibaaz Division & Maharashtra Police – organized "Suraksha Kavach 2" exercise at Lullanagar, Pune
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

13. On March 22, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the Chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition proposals of Armed Forces amounting to Rs 8,357 Cr. AoNs accorded by DAC include procurement of Night Sight (Image Intensifier), Light Vehicles GS 4X4, Air Defence Fire Control Radar (Light) and GSAT 7B Satellite. The satellite will be for communication requirements of the Army. As an impetus to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', all of these proposals have been approved under 'Buy (Indian IDDM)' category with focus on indigenous design & development and manufacturing in India. The DAC also cleared the procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380.43 Cr from the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) startups/MSMEs. AoN to Procurement timelines is reduced from 2+ years to 5 Months, keeping in line with the Innovation Ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition proposals of Armed Forces worth Rs 8,357 Cr
- DAC also cleared the procurement of 14 items worth Rs 380.43 Cr from the 'iDEX' startups/MSMEs
- AoN to Procurement timelines are reduced from 2+ years to 5 Months

14. Indian Army contingent arrived in Seychelles for the 9th edition of the 10-day-long Joint Military Exercise "Lamitiye 2022", conducted between the Indian Army and Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF) from March 22 to 31. The Indian Army comprises troops from the 2/3 Gorkha Rifles group (Prikanthi Battalion). Lamitiye, which in Creole means friendship, is a biennial training event being conducted in Seychelles since 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 9th edition of Joint Military Exercise "Lamitiye 2022" – conducted between Indian Army & Seychelles Defence Forces
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande
- Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee | President – Wavel Ramkalawan

15. On March 25, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the prestigious President's Colour to Indian Naval Ship (INS) Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The President's Colour is bestowed on a military unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war. INS Valsura was established in 1942. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – awarded the prestigious President's Colour to INS Valsura in Jamnagar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

16. On March 24, In continuous pursuit of self-reliance in defence manufacturing and to minimize imports by DPSUs under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Ministry of Defence approved another list of 107 strategically important Line replacement Units (LRUs)/sub-systems with a timeline beyond which there will be an embargo on their import. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence banned import of 107 strategically important Line replacement Units (LRUs)/sub-systems
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

17. On March 23, An offshore security exercise, “Prasthan” was conducted in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai, under the aegis of Headquarters, Western Naval Command (WNC). Conducted every six months, this exercise is an important element of ensuring offshore security and aims to integrate efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. The exercise was conducted on the B-193 platform of ONGC located about 38 nm west of Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WNC conducted an offshore security exercise “Prasthan” at B-193 platform of ONGC in ODA off Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Exercise “Prasthan” was conducted under the aegis of Indian Navy
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of WNC – Mumbai, MH | FOC-in-C – Ajendra Bahadur Singh | Chief of Staff of WNC – Krishna Swaminathan

18. On March 24, Malaysia hosted armed forces from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore & the UK in the annual “Bersama Shield 2022 (BS22)” training exercise. The exercise is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA) - a series of bilateral and multilateral defense agreements established in 1971. The drills have been organized annually since 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia, New Zealand, Singapore & the UK participated in “Bersama Shield 2022 (BS22)” exercise – hosted by Malaysia
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Ismail Sabri Yaakob | King – Al-Sultan Abdullah

19. On March 27, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two successful tests of the Army version of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) at two different ranges off the coast of Odisha. The tests were conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur as part of the live firing trials against high-speed aerial targets. This MRSAM version is a Surface-to-Air Missile developed jointly by DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – conducted 2 successful tests of the Army version of ‘MRSAM’ at Chandipur, Odisha
- MRSAM – developed jointly by DRDO & Israel Aerospace Industries
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

20. On March 25, A Corner-Shot Weapon System (CSWS) designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is at an advanced stage of being inducted by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir police. The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the DRDO’s lab, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Corner-Shot Weapon System (CSWS) to be inducted by the CRPF & J&K Police – is designed & developed by ARDE-DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

21. On March 22, in one-of-its-kind recognition for a military institution, the Centre of Excellence for Marine Engineering at INS Shivaji was recognised by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The Centre of Excellence in Marine Engineering was set up at the INS Shivaji in 2014. The recognition would further cement INS Shivaji's standing as a preferred training establishment for friendly foreign navies in the field of Marine Engineering & enable the establishment to augment partnership with industry and academic institutions of repute within and outside India for quality R&D. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE – recognized Centre of Excellence for Marine Engineering at – INS Shivaji
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

22. On March 28, Indian Air Force collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and introduced a 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' for its varied fleet of vehicles. HQ Western Air Command was earmarked as lead agency in the implementation and execution of this innovative concept of "Fuel on Move". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Air Force + IOCL = introduced 'Fleet Card - Fuel on Move' for IAF's varied fleet of vehicles
- HQ Western Air Command – lead agency in the implementation and execution of "Fuel on Move"
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

23. On March 29, Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 316, the Indian Navy's second P-8I aircraft squadron, was commissioned into the service at INS Hansa Naval air base in Goa in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar. INAS 316 has been christened 'Condors'. INAS 316 will operate the 'Boeing P-8I', a multi-role Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMR ASW) aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'INAS 316' (christened 'Condors') – commissioned into the service at INS Hansa Naval air base in Goa
- INAS 316 will operate the 'Boeing P-8I'

24. On March 30, Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed two contracts worth ₹3,102 Cr with the Bengaluru and Hyderabad units of the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). The MoD signed the contract with the BEL-Bengaluru for supply of Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for Fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The MoD signed the contract with the BEL-Hyderabad for Instrumented Electronic Warfare Range (IEWR) for the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoD + BEL-Bengaluru = for supply of Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for Fighter aircraft of the IAF
- MoD + BEL-Hyderabad = for supply of Instrumented Electronic Warfare Range (IEWR) for the IAF
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh



25. On March 28, Indian Army inducted the “Sako .338 TRG-42” sniper rifles from Finland for soldiers deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. The Sako rifles have replaced the .338 Lapua Magnum Scorpio TGT by Beretta, and the .50 Calibre M95 by Barrett, which were inducted in the Indian army in 2019 and 2020. These rifles were made in Italy and America. While the Sako TRG-42 sniper rifle is a bolt-action sniper rifle designed and developed by the Finnish gun maker SAKO. It has an effective range of 1,500 metres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army inducted the “Sako .338 TRG-42” sniper rifles from Finland for soldiers deployed along LoC in J&K
- Range of the rifle – 1,500 metres (1.5 km) | developed by – SAKO
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

26. On March 28, Philippines & US Kicked Off Large-Scale Balikatan Military Exercise marking a positive turn in the U.S. Philippines alliance in the twilight of President Rodrigo Duterte’s disruptive six-year term in office. This exercise is one of the largest military exercises in years, scheduled to run until April 8. Balikatan is a Tagalog word meaning “shoulder to shoulder”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Balikatan” military exercise – conducted between Philippines & US from March 28 to April 8
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

27. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held its maiden Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) at Goa and in Arabian Sea from 26 to 30 March 22. The exercise witnessed participation of 16 out of the 25 member nations of IONS which included Iran. IMEX - 22 was conducted in two phases with Harbour Phase at Mormugao Port, Goa from 26 to 27 March 2022 followed by a Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28 to 30 March 2022. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was established in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IONS – held its maiden “Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22)” at Goa & in Arabian Sea
- Harbour Phase at Mormugao Port, Goa from 26-27 March | Sea Phase in the Arabian Sea from 28-30 March
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

28. On March 31, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), United Arab Emirates exchanged an MoU to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence. The duo will also explore the export possibility of the products to reach out the global demands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BDL + TEC (UAE) = an MoU to explore new business opportunities in the field of defence
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra | Founded in – 1970

29. The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Indian and French Navies - “VARUNA” was conducted in the Arabian Sea from 30 Mar to 3 April, 2022. The Bilateral Naval Exercise between the two Navies was initiated in 1993. The exercise was christened as ‘VARUNA’ in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th edition of Bilateral Naval Exercise “VARUNA” between India & France – conducted in the Arabian Sea
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

Schemes & Initiatives

1. On March 1, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on his 69th birthday launched “Naan Mudhalvan” (I am first), a skill-enhancing programme that aims to hone the education, knowledge, talent, and efficiency of 10 lakh TN youth every year. A web portal and logo for the scheme were also launched on the day. The portal will have information on higher education and career opportunities for students of Classes 9-12. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched a skill-enhancing programme called “Naan Mudhalvan” (I am first) for youth
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

2. On March 2, Government of India approved the proposal for continuation of the 7 existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme “Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates” for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs 1,452 Cr. The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme continues to reach beneficiaries through the Ministry of Home Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI approved the continuation of 7 sub schemes under “Relief & Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates” scheme
- Extended for the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26 | Outlay – Rs 1,452 Cr | Launched by – Ministry of Home Affairs

3. On March 3, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the ‘Special Jury Award’ at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and 9th edition of FICCI Water Awards, held from 2nd to 3rd March, 2022. Dr. Mihir Shah, who is a distinguished Professor at Shiv Nadar University was the Chair of the Jury. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG – awarded the ‘Special Jury Award’ at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave & 9th FICCI Water Awards
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – ArunChawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927

4. On March 4, Jharkhand government launched “Guruji Credit Card System” (GCCS) in the financial year 2023 for helping students coming from a humble background pursue higher education. A loan of up to Rs 10 lakh will be provided at a simple interest of 4%. The total allocation for education sector is 13.54% of the total budget outlay. The government will also establish mathematics and science laboratories and distribute 42,000 tabs among the teachers. The scheme would be similar to the “Students Credit Card System” introduced by the West Bengal government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – to launch “Guruji Credit Card System” in FY 2023 to help poor students pursuing higher education
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

5. On March 5, Sikkim will implement the ‘Aama Yojna’ for non-working mothers and ‘Bahini scheme’ for girl students. Under the ‘Aama Yojna’ scheme all non-working mothers in the state will receive Rs 20,000 each annually in their bank accounts. In the ‘Bahini’ scheme the state government will provide free sanitary napkins to girl students studying in class 9 and above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sikkim – to implement the ‘Aama Yojna’ for non-working mothers & ‘Bahini scheme’ for girl students
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad



6. On March 4, the Government approved the scheme titled Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in continuation of “Modernisation Plan-III for CAPFs. The modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs from 01.02.2022 to 31.03.2026 with a total financial outlay of Rs 1,523 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved “Modernisation Plan-IV for CAPFs” to be implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs
- Financial outlay – Rs 1,523 Cr
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

7. On March 3, Union Labour and Employment Minister, Bhupender Yadav launched the “Donate-a-Pension” program under ‘Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM)’. This move is to make the process of creating and contributing to a pension fund for support staff easier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav (Labour Ministry) – launched the “Donate-a-Pension” program under ‘PM-SYM’
- ‘PM-SYM’ is a 50:50 voluntary & contributory pension scheme

8. Union Minister of State for MSME Narayan Rane inaugurated a “Mega International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management” organized by Ministry of MSME in association with the All-India Plastics Manufacturers’ Association (AIPMA) from March 4-5, 2022 at New Delhi. Ministry of MSME also launched two special initiatives - ‘Sambhav’ and ‘Svavlamban’ to promote entrepreneurship amongst youth & to address the issue of Plastic Waste. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mega International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management” in Delhi – organized by MoMSME + AIPMA
- Ministry of MSME – launched two special initiatives - ‘Sambhav’ & ‘Svavlamban’
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

9. On March 7, the Centre has approved the continuation of “Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)” till 2025-26 with a total financial outlay of Rs 3,274.87 Cr. Under the SSSY, freedom fighters and their eligible dependents are given pension and other financial benefits. The proposal for the continuation of the SSSY was received from Ministry of Home Affairs as the scheme functions under the same ministry. In 1972, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Independence, a regular scheme for grant of freedom fighters’ pension was introduced. While the ‘Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme’ has been implemented since 1980. The nomenclature of the Scheme was changed as ‘Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana’ in FY 2017-18. The amount of pension has been revised from time to time and Dearness Relief is also given since August 15, 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Centre Govt approved the continuation of “Swatantrata Sainik Samman Yojana (SSSY)” till 2025-26
- Financial outlay – Rs 3,274.87 Cr | SSSY functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

16. 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

17. 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 Upgradation 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

18. 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

19. On March 14, the MSME Ministry extended the Rs 20,000-Cr Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) till March 31, 2023. The scheme was launched in June 2020 and initially it was valid till March 31, 2021, but was later extended till March 31, 2022. The scheme provides credit facility via banks to the promoters of stressed MSMEs including special mention accounts (SMA)-2 and non-perform asset (NPA) accounts that are eligible for restructuring as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. SMAs indicate incipient stress in the business that can result in defaults in debt servicing by the promoter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of MSMEs – extended the Rs 20,000-Cr Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) till March 31, 2023
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

20. On March 21, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Control Programme (NACP), a Central Sector Scheme fully funded by the Government of India for a period of 5 years from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026, with an outlay of Rs 15471.94 Cr by approving phase-V of the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the continuation of the National AIDS & STDs Control Programme (NACP) for 5 years up to 2026
- Outlay of 'NACP phase-V' – Rs 15471.94 Cr

21. In March 2022, Chhattisgarh's CM Bhupesh Baghel presented the budget worth Rs 1,12,603 Cr for the financial year 2022-23. He also announced to hike annual assistance for beneficiaries under the "Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Workers Nyay Yojana" to Rs 7000 per year. The first installment of Rs 71.08 Cr has already been disbursed to more than 3.54 lakh landless beneficiaries. The CM also announced implementation of Old Pension Scheme (OPS) replacing the National Pension System (NPS) from next year for all employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh's CM Bhupesh Baghel presented the state budget worth Rs 1,12,603 Cr for FY2022-23
- Annual assistance for beneficiaries under "Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Workers Nyay Yojana" hiked to Rs 7000
- Chhattisgarh – also replaced the National Pension System (NPS) with Old Pension Scheme (OPS)
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

22. Nai Roshni scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs aims to empower and enhance confidence in Minority women by providing knowledge, tool and techniques for Leadership Development of Women. It is a training programme conducted for the women belonging to minority community between the age group of 18 years to 65 years. Funds to the tune of Rs 94 Cr have been allocated and Rs 85.83 Cr have been sanctioned for Nai Roshni scheme for leadership development of minority women for the years from 2014-15 to 2020-21. The scheme is being implemented through Programme Implementing Agencies/Non-Governmental Organizations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Minority Affairs – launched Nai Roshni scheme for providing knowledge, tool & techniques for Leadership Development of Women
- Ministry of Minority Affairs: Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi | Constituency – Jharkhand
- MoS in Ministry of Minority Affairs: John Barla



23. On March 24, Polar Science & Cryosphere Research (PACER) scheme comprising the Antarctic program, Indian Arctic program, Southern Ocean program and Cryosphere and Climate program is implemented successfully through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). The Polar Science and Cryosphere (PACER) scheme was approved for continuation during 2021-2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Polar Science & Cryosphere (PACER) scheme – approved for continuation during 2021-2026
- PACER scheme is implemented through – NCPOR ([Vasco da Gama, Goa](#)) | PACER Scheme functions under MoES

24. Around 95.21% of total beneficiaries under the Rs 5-lakh-Cr Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) have been micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), according to the government. National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), which operates the ECLGS and announced the extension of the scheme till March 2023 from March 2022. ECLGS was launched in May 2020 with an initial limit of Rs 3 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Around 95.21% of total beneficiaries under ECLGS have been MSMEs
- NCGTC extended the ECLGS till March 2023 (from March 2022)
- HQs of NCGTC – [Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)

25. On March 30, Karnataka government launched “Vinaya Samarasya Yojana”, an awareness programme meant to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state. The scheme has been named after a three-year-old Dalit Vinay, whose family, residents of Miyapur village in Koppal district, was slapped a fine of Rs 25,000 by the village leaders in September last year for the boy’s “offence” of straying into a local temple. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched “Vinaya Samarasya Yojana” to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats
- Karnataka: Capital – [Bangalore](#) | CM – [Basavaraj Bommai](#) | Governor – [Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

26. On March 28, Haryana Agriculture Minister J. P. Dalal launched the portal of “Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana”. Under this scheme, farmers will be compensated for the damage caused to their crops due to adverse weather and natural calamities. Total 21 crops are covered under this scheme. Under the scheme, the sum assured will be Rs 30,000 per acre for vegetables and spices and Rs 40,000 per acre for fruits. The farmer's contribution/share will be only 2.5% of the assured amount. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Mukhya Mantri Bagwani Bima Yojana” portal
- Sum assured for vegetables – Rs 30,000 per acre | Sum assured for spices – Rs 40,000 per acre
- Haryana: Capital – [Chandigarh](#) | CM – [Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | Governor – [Bandaru Dattatraya](#)



Sports & Games

1. On March 1, the 31st Southeast Asian Games, the region's biggest sporting event, is set to be held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi from May 12 to 23, 2022. The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events. Vietnam will host the event for the second time since 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 31st Southeast Asian Games is set to be held in – Hanoi, Vietnam
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

2. Dabang Delhi KC overcame 3-time champions Patna Pirates to clinch the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 trophy in the final. Joginder Singh Narwal is the Captain of Dabang Delhi team. While Krishan Kumar Hooda is the Head Coach. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dabang Delhi KC – won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 trophy (defeating - Patna Pirates)
- Captain of Dabang Delhi – Joginder Singh Narwal | Head Coach – Krishan Kumar Hooda

3. The Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Indian Premier League (IPL) Governing Council announced NPCI's RuPay as an official partner for 'Tata IPL 2022' beginning March 26. This will be a multi-year partnership. The 15th edition of Tata IPL 2022 will be co-presented by Dream11 and co-powered by Tata & CRED. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI's IPL Governing Council announced: NPCI's "RuPay" as an official partner for 15th edition of "Tata IPL 2022"
- RuPay: Launched by NPCI – in 2012 | Tagline – "One Life. One RuPay."
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

4. On March 2, Indian shooting ace Saurabh Chaudhary won this year's first Gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event at the "ISSF World Cup 2022" held at Cairo, Egypt. Esha Singh bagged the second medal for the country after she won a silver in the women's 10m air pistol event. The 19-year Chaudhary also has a Youth Olympic gold medal to his name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saurabh Chaudhary – won Gold medal in men's 10m air pistol event at the "ISSF World Cup 2022" held at Cairo, Egypt
- Esha Singh – won Silver medal in women's 10m air pistol event at the "ISSF World Cup 2022"

5. Indian boxers Nikhat Zareen (Telangana) and Nitu (Haryana) clinched gold medals at the 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Indian contingent finished the campaign with three medals including one bronze. Nandini finished in the 81 Kg category with a bronze medal. This tournament was the first from the Golden Belt Series and a testing event for International Boxing Association's World Boxing Tour format. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament – held in Sofia, Bulgaria | Strandzha Cup – Boxing
- India won 3 Medals – Nikhat Zareen (Gold) | Nitu (Gold) | Nandini (Bronze)
- HQs of IBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlyov
- Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev | PM – Kiril Petkov



6. The International Cricket Council's Women's Cricket World Cup began on March 04, 2022, which was hosted by New Zealand. The 2022 edition of the Women's World Cup also called the Women's ODI World Cup was contested between eight teams all of whom will play each other once in a league format which will be Round-Robin. The top four teams on the Points Table moved into the semi-finals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – hosted the ICC Women's ODI Cricket World Cup 2022 in Round-Robin format
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

- S. L. Narayanan – emerged as winner in the “Grandisacchi Cattolica International Open Chess Tournament”

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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 (24th 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

16. On March 15, All India Chess Federation (AICF) announced that India will host the 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai. This will be the 2nd major world event to be held in India after the World Championship match in 2013 between Viswanathan Anand and Magnus Carlsen. The Chess Olympiad is a biennial team event, in which teams from 190 countries compete for honours over a two-week period. The ‘Chess Olympiad 2022’ was supposed to take place in Moscow from July 26 July to August 8. However, FIDE decided to move the Chess Olympiad and all other official competitions planned from Russia in the wake of the Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The other events that are moved away from Russia are the first chess Olympiad for people with disabilities and the 93rd FIDE Congress. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – to host the 44th World Chess Olympiad 2022 at Chennai (FIDE moved the event from Moscow, Russia)
- FIDE also moved first Chess Olympiad for PwDs & 93rd FIDE Congress from Russia
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President/Chairman – Arkady Dvorkovich | Founded on – July 20, 1924

17. On March 13, Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand defeated Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen in the Men's Singles finals of German Open 2022. Women's singles was won by China's He Bingjiao. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand) – won men's singles at "German Open 2022" (defeating - Lakshya Sen)
- He Bingjiao (China) – won women's singles at "German Open 2022"
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

18. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Shreyas Iyer and Amelia Kerr as ICC Men's and Women's Players of the Month respectively for February 2022. Amelia Kerr is 21-year-old all-rounder from New Zealand. Shreyas Iyer is India's star all-format batter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shreyas Iyer (India) – named as ICC Men's Players of the Month for February 2022
- Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) – named as ICC Women's Players of the Month for February 2022
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

19. Under the captaincy of Himachal's Priyanka Thakur, India defeated Thailand and won Gold medal at the 16th 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 16th Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship – held in Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Indian Women Handball Team's Captain – Priyanka Thakur (Handball Player - Himachal Pradesh)

20. 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"

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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

24. 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

25. 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



26. Manasi Joshi and Nithya Sre claimed a Gold medal each, while Pramod Bhagat secured two silver and a bronze as India bagged as many as 21 medals (6 Gold, 7 Silver & 8 Bronze) at the Level 1 Spanish Para Badminton International in Cartagena, Spain. Later, India claimed 34 medals (11 Gold, 7 Silver & 16 Bronze) from the Level 2 Spanish Para Badminton International event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India bagged 21 medals (6 Gold, 7 Silver & 8 Bronze) at the “Level 1 Spanish Para Badminton International”
- India bagged 34 medals (11 Gold, 7 Silver & 16 Bronze) at the “Level 2 Spanish Para Badminton International”
- Manasi Joshi (Gold) + Nithya Sre (Gold) + Pramod Bhagat (2 Silver & 1 Bronze) = Para-Badminton Players

27. On March 23, World No. 1 Tennis Player from Australia, Ashleigh Barty announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 25. Barty retired weeks after becoming the first home Australian Open champion in 44 years as she won women’s single title at the “Australian Open 2022”. Iga Swiatek is new world number one after replacing the retired Ashleigh Barty, who asked for her name to be withdrawn from the rankings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty (Australia - Tennis) – announced her retirement from Tennis
- Iga Swiatek is new World No. 1 after replacing the retired Ashleigh Barty

28. In March 2022, Sprinter Pranav Prashant Desai and high jumper Ramsingbhai Govind Padhiyar clinched Gold medals on the final day of the “World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2022” and 13th “Fazza International Para Athletics Championships”. The Championships was held in Dubai, UAE. Overall India won a total of 14 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver & 3 Bronze) to claim 8th place in the medal tally. Colombia finished on top with 25 medals including 12 Gold. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2022” & 13th “Fazza International Para Athletics Championships” held in Dubai
- India claimed 8th place in the medal tally with 14 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver & 3 Bronze) | Top – Colombia

29. On March 20, Hyderabad FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title as it bagged the ‘Hero ISL 2021-22’ trophy by defeating Kerala Blasters FC. Hero ISL 2021-22 was the 8th season of the Indian Super League since its formation in 2013 and the 26th season of the top division of Indian football league system. The season started on 19 November 2021 and concluded with the final on 20 March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hyderabad FC – clinched its maiden Indian Super League title winning the ‘Hero ISL 2021-22’ trophy
- Hyderabad FC beat Kerala Blasters FC

30. On March 20, Charles Leclerc of Ferrari won the Formula One (F1) season-opening Bahrain Grand Prix after reigning champion Max Verstappen was forced out with engine trouble with just two laps remaining. Carlos Sainz made it a Ferrari one-two while Lewis Hamilton snatched third place for Mercedes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) – won “F1 Bahrain Grand Prix 2022”
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa



31. On March 24, the Sports Ministry, in partnership with Youth Services and Sports department of Himachal Pradesh, is set to build India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking and Bicycle Motocross in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. The centre is being set up to provide world-class training facilities to Indian cyclists so that they can compete for 18 Olympic medals on offer in the disciplines of MTB and BMX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sports Ministry – sets up India's first-ever SAI National Centre of Excellence for Mountain Terrain Biking & Bicycle Motocross in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan

32. On March 20, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen defeated Lakshya Sen at the finals of All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham. Pullela Gopichand was the last Indian to win the title in 2001. On March 19, Indian women's doubles pair of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly lost to Shu Xiang Zhang and You Zheng of China in the semifinals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2022 All England Badminton Championships": Venue – Birmingham | Gold – Viktor Axelsen | Silver – Lakshya Sen
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

33. Edtech giant BYJU'S became the official sponsor of the "FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022". This would make BYJU'S the first EdTech brand to sponsor this prestigious event globally. With corporate headquarters in Bengaluru, India, and offices in 21 countries, Byju's products are present in over 120 countries. The FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will take place from 21 November to 18 December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BYJU'S – became the official sponsor of the "FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022"
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011

34. On March 20, Jiya Rai, autistic teenager from Mumbai, became the youngest and fastest female swimmer in the world to cover 29km at a stretch in 13 hours and 10 minutes from Palk Strait (Talaimannar in Sri Lanka) to Dhanushkodi in Tamil Nadu. Palk Strait (Gulf of Mannar) is one of the toughest sea routes in the world. In January 2022, Jiya Rai won the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar. she also broke the previous record that was held by Bula Chowdhary, who had covered the distance in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004 when she was 34 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jiya Rai – became the youngest & fastest female swimmer in the world to cover stretch from Palk Strait to Dhanushkodi in 13 hours & 10 minutes
- Palk Strait (Talaimannar in Sri Lanka) | Dhanushkodi (in Tamil Nadu)

35. On March 24, in a big move just two days ahead of the IPL 2022, MS Dhoni stepped down as captain of Chennai Super Kings and handed over the leadership to Ravindra Jadeja. Jadeja has been an integral part of Chennai Super Kings since 2012. Dhoni had led CSK since the first season of the IPL way back in 2008. Jadeja will become only the third player to captain CSK after Dhoni and Suresh Raina. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ravindra Jadeja – became the new Captain of Chennai Super Kings (succeeding - MS Dhoni)
- Ravindra Jadeja – became the 3rd player to captain CSK (after Dhoni & Suresh Raina)

36. On March 24, Indian paddlers finished the “World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022” held in Doha with two medals, including a singles Bronze won by Achanta Sharath Kamal and a doubles Silver won by G. Sathiyam and Manika Batra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India won 2 medals at the “World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender 2022” held in Doha, Qatar
- Silver – G. Sathiyam & Manika Batra (doubles) | Bronze – Achanta Sharath Kamal (singles)

37. On March 27, Indian badminton star PV Sindhu won “YONEX Swiss Open 2022” women’s singles title with a win over Thailand’s Busanan Ongnamrunghan at the St. Jakobshalle arena in Basel, Switzerland. Meanwhile, India's Prannoy H. S. lost the men’s singles final to Indonesia's Jonatan Christie. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Swiss Open 2022” held in – Basel, Switzerland
- P. V. Sindhu – won women’s singles title (defeating - Busanan Ongnamrunghan)
- Jonatan Christie – won men’s singles title (defeating - Prannoy H. S.)

38. India emerged as Champion of the 3rd edition of “2022 SAFF U-18 Women’s Championships” defeating Bangladesh. The valuable player of the tournament and the highest goal scorer was Lynda Kom who scored five goals in total. Indian Women’s Team Head Coach is Thomas Dennerby. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won the 3rd edition of “2022 SAFF U-18 Women’s Championships” (defeating - Bangladesh)
- Indian Women’s Team Head Coach – Thomas Dennerby

39. In March 2022, the 20-year-old Iga Swiatek became Poland’s first World No. 1 in tennis history. Swiatek became the 28th woman to reach the WTA summit and secured the WTA Tour’s No. 1 ranking. She’s the youngest player to make her No.1 debut since Caroline Wozniacki, who was 216 days younger, in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iga Swiatek (Poland - Tennis) – secured the WTA Tour’s No. 1 ranking in 2022 (first from Poland)
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda

40. On March 28, Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands won the “Formula One Saudi Arabian Grand Prix” for his first win of the season and the 21st of his career. Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco got second place and Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain got third place. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) – won “F1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix” (21st win of his career)
- 2nd – Charles Leclerc (Ferrari – Monaco) | 3rd – Carlos Sainz (Ferrari - Spain)
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte



41. On March 2, Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram, world number 13, announced retirement from international badminton. He had won the Dutch Open twice besides finishing runner-up at the Korea Open Super Series in 2015. He last played at the Odisha Open Super 100 tournament in January, 2022. Ajay Jayaram was also a member of the 2016 Indian men's team that claimed a bronze medal in Asia Team Championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Jayaram – retired from International Badminton
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
- HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma



Important Days & Dates

1. World Civil Defence Day is observed on March 1 each year to create awareness about the importance of civil protection and preparedness. The day is celebrated by the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO). In 2022, the theme is “Civil Defence and Management of Displaced Populations in Face of Disasters and Crises; Role of Volunteers and the Fight Against Pandemics”. It commemorates the anniversary of the day when the ICDO was recognised as an intergovernmental organisation by the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – World Civil Defence Day – by ICDO
- 2022’s Theme – “Civil Defence and Management of Displaced Populations in Face of Disasters and Crises; Role of Volunteers and the Fight Against Pandemics”
- HQs of ICDO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Mrs. Njoupou YAP Mariatou

2. Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated on March 1 every year by United Nations and various other international organisations to promote equality and fairness, both before the law and in practice. The day was launched and first celebrated on March 1, 2014 by UNAIDS to fight the systemic and cultural discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. In 2022, the theme is “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower,” under which UNAIDS aims to address the urgent need for action against discriminatory laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day (since 2014)
- 2022’s Theme – “Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower”
- HQs of UNAIDS – Geneva, Switzerland | Executive Director – Winnie Byanyima
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

3. On March 1, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) celebrated its 17th Foundation Day. On the occasion, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the new motto of NCPCR, ‘भ वष्यो रक्षति र क्षतः’. She also complemented the collaboration between NCPCR & Border Security Force for the special initiative called ‘SAHARA’, to provide psycho-social counselling & support to children of BSF jawans who made the supreme sacrifice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 1 – 17th Foundation Day of NCPCR
- New motto of NCPCR – ‘भ वष्यो रक्षति र क्षतः’
- NCPCR + BSF = collaboration for ‘SAHARA’ initiative to provide psycho-social counselling
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”
- HQs of NCPCR – New Delhi | Chairman – Priyank Kanongoo

4. On March 2, the 46th “Civil Accounts Day” was celebrated in New Delhi. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was the Chief Guest. On this event, she launched the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system. At Budget 2022-23, it was announced that the e-Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments as a further step to enhance transparency, efficiency and faceless-paperless payment system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 2 – 46th Civil Accounts Day



5. Every year, World Birth Defects Day is observed across the world on March 3. There may be 5,00,000 or more babies born each year with birth defects in India. The Birth Defects and Childhood Disability Research Centre has published an edited volume, "Birth defects in India: Epidemiology and Public Health Implication". The year 2022 marked the 7th edition of World Birth Defects Day with the theme of "Many Birth Defects, One Voice". The day was first observed in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – 7th edition of World Birth Defects Day (since 2015)
- 2022's Theme – "Many Birth Defects, One Voice"

6. World Hearing Day was observed on March 3 to raise awareness on hearing loss and widely disseminate the WHO Global standard for safe listening. The WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing throughout the life. In 2022, the theme is "To hear for Life, Listen with Care". On this occasion, the WHO released "mSafeListening handbook". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – World Hearing Day
- 2022's Theme – "To hear for Life, Listen with Care"
- WHO released "mSafeListening handbook"

7. The National Safety Day (NSD) or National Security Day (NSD) is marked every year on March 4 by the National Safety Council of India. It is a day to raise awareness and commitment to the safety protocols that need to be followed to prevent accidents and mishaps at workplaces. The day is also marked to appreciate our security forces which are military, para-military, commandos, police officials, security guards and India's security forces. National Safety Day marks the foundation day of the National Safety Council. This year, the National Safety Council marked the 51st observance of National Safety Day. In 2022, the theme is "Nurture Young Minds - Develop Safety Culture". While 'National Safety Week' was observed from March 4 to March 10, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 4 – 51st National Safety Day or National Security Day or Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas
- 2022's Theme – "Nurture Young Minds - Develop Safety Culture"
- March 4 to March 10 – National Safety Week
- HQs of National Safety Council – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – S. N. Subrahmanyam

8. March 7 is observed as Jan Aushadhi Divas or Generic Medicine Day to create awareness about the use of generic medicines among the people. The day was first celebrated in the year 2019. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers kicked off the Janaushadhi Diwas Week from 1st March to 7th March 2022. In 2022, the theme is "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi". The Government set a target to boost the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 7 – 4th Jan Aushadhi Divas or Generic Medicine Day (since 2019)
- 2022's Theme – "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"
- March 1 to 7 – Janaushadhi Diwas Week – by Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers



9. Every year on March 3, World Wildlife Day is observed to raise awareness about the conservation of wildlife. In 2022, the theme is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”. The day is crucial as climate change and several other factors have posed serious dangers to the wildlife, endangering several species. This day was first observed in 2014 by UNGA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 3 – World Wildlife Day by – UNGA (since 2014)
- 2022’s Theme – “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”

10. World Obesity Day is observed every year on March 4. In 2022, the theme is “Everybody Needs to Act”. The day was celebrated for the first time in 2015. According to the World Health Organisation, obesity rates have nearly tripled since 1975. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 4 – World Obesity Day (since 2015)
- 2022’s Theme – “Everybody Needs to Act”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

11. Every year, March 8 is celebrated as International Women’s Day around the globe. For 2022, the UN given theme is “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow”. While IWD campaign theme is “#BreakTheBais”. The IWD was adopted by the United Nations in 1977. On the eve of International Women’s Day, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and UNICEF, launched “Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav”, a landmark campaign to reintegrate out-of-school adolescent girls in India into the formal education and skilling system. On this occasion, Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatyra Rane, launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - “SAMARTH” at New Delhi. Moreover, a special ceremony was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on this occasion where President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the “Nari Shakti Puraskar” - 2020 and 2021 on 29 outstanding and exceptional women achievers in recognition of their exceptional work towards empowerment of women. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 8 – International Women’s Day
- UN given Theme – “Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow” | Campaign Theme – “#BreakTheBais”
- On the occasion of International Women’s Day:
 - MoWCD + MoE + UNICEF = launched “Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav”
 - MoMSME launched a Special Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive for Women - “SAMARTH”
 - President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the “Nari Shakti Puraskar - 2020 & 2021” on 29 outstanding women

12. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is one of the Central Armed Police Forces in India and CISF Raising Day is observed every year on March 10. India celebrated its 53rd CISF Raising Day this year. CISF is governed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. While on March 6, Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of the CISF at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The CISF was created in 1969 with a strength of 2,800 personnel to provide security cover to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 10 – 53rd CISF Raising Day (set up in - 1969)
- Amit Shah – addressed the 53rd Raising Day ceremony of the CISF – at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of CISF – New Delhi | DG – Sheel Vardhan Singh | Motto – ‘Protection & Security’ | Founded in – 1969

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

Key Points:

- March 10 – 1st International Day of Women Judges – by UN

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

- March 12 – World Glaucoma Day
- 2022’s Theme – “The World is Bright, Save Your Sight”

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

Key Points:

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

18. The UNESCO's General Conference proclaimed 4 March as World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development during its 40th 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”

19. The International Day of Mathematics or Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th 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 125th birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

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

20. 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 25th 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 – 25th “International Day of Action for Rivers”
- 2022’s Theme – “To highlight the importance of Rivers to Biodiversity”

21. 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 7th to 13th 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”

22. 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

23. National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day is celebrated on 16 March every year to raise awareness about vaccination and its importance. In 2022, the theme is “Vaccines Work for All”. It was on March 16 that the first dose of oral polio vaccine was given in India in the year 1995. So, the national immunisation day or Vaccination Day celebrates the Pulse Polio Programme of the government. The last case of polio was recorded in Bengal in the year 2011. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 16 – National Vaccination Day or National Immunisation Day (since 1995)
- 2022's theme – “Vaccines Work for All”
- First dose of oral polio vaccine given in India – in 1995 | Last case of polio recorded in India – in 2011 (in Bengal)

24. “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

25. 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”

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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”



29. 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”

30. “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

31. 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”

32. 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)



33. 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”

34. 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”

35. 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”

36. 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”

37. On March 19, Home Minister Amit Shah attended the 83rd Raising Day parade of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Maulana Azad Stadium in Jammu. For the first time, the CRPF celebrated its Raising Day outside the national capital. CRPF Raising Day is celebrated to mark the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then home minister, presented colours to the CRPF in 1950 after the CRPF Act was enacted and the force rechristened to its present name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah attended the 83rd Raising Day parade of CRPF – observed on March 19
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldip Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – “Service & Loyalty”

38. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been commemorating World Meteorological Day since 1961 on March 23. In 2022, the theme is “Early Warning and Early Action”. On this day in 1951, the WMO was founded. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – World Meteorological Day – by WMO
- Theme – “Early Warning and Early Action”
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | SG – Petteri Taalas | President – Gerhard Adrian | Established in – 1950



39. Each year, on 24 March, the “International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims” is observed by the United Nations. The day was first observed in 2011. The date was chosen because on 24 March 1980, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador was assassinated, after denouncing violations of human rights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – “Int. Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations & for the Dignity of Victims”

40. March 21 is observed as the International Day of Forests every year to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. This day has been observed since 2013. On November 28, 2012, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approved a resolution to observe this day. The theme for 2022 is “Forests and Sustainable production and consumption”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 21 – International Day of Forests by – UNGA (since 2013)
- 2022’s theme – “Forests and Sustainable production and consumption”

41. World Sparrow Day is observed on March 20 every year. The first such event was held in 2010. In 2022, the theme is “Monitor the Sparrows & other common birds”. Sparrows or common House Sparrows are found in every continent of the world. However, house sparrows are becoming extinct everywhere. World Sparrow Day is an initiative of the Nature Forever Society, which is a non-government organisation (NGO) run by Mohammed Dilawar, an internationally acclaimed conservationist. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – World Sparrow Day by – NGO Nature Forever Society (since 2010)
- 2022’s Theme – “Monitor the Sparrows & other Common Birds”
- Nature Forever Society NGO run by – Mohammed Dilawar

42. The International Adolescent Health Week was celebrated from 20th to 26th March to inspire health care providers, policy makers, administrators, media and adolescents and their communities to advocate for a successful transition into adulthood. In 2022, the theme is “Transitions”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 to 26 – International Adolescent Health Week
- 2022’s theme – “Transitions”

43. March 20 was observed as ‘Pakhala Dibas’ to promote the cuisine in the modern era. The initiative was started in 2015 by Odias to celebrate their traditional food worldwide. Pakhala (rice water) is the Odia term for an Indian dish consisting of cooked rice that is lightly fermented in water. Pakhala dish has its origin from Lord Jagannath Temple as the deities are offered different types of Pakhala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 20 – “Pakhala Dibas” by Odias to promote the ‘cuisine’ in the modern era
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



44. International Day for Achievers is celebrated every year on March 24. It is a day to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of the genius minds who thought out of the box and did great work for the development of society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – International Day for Achievers

45. The “International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery” is celebrated every year on March 25. Observed first in 2008 after a December 2007 resolution, this day honours and remembers the more than 15 million men, women and children who were brutalized under a slavery system that endured for more than 400 years. In 2022, the theme is “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery – by UN (since 2008)
- 2022’s theme – “Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism”

46. The Bihar Diwas is celebrated every year on March 22 as it was on this day that the British carved out Bihar from Bengal Presidency in 1912. In 2022, it was the 110th foundation day. It was CM Nitish Kumar who first declared Bihar Diwas a state programme. People from Bihar, living in different parts of the country or abroad, also celebrated the day. On the occasion of Bihar Day, HarperCollins India announced that “The Book of Bihari Literature”, edited by poet-diplomat Abhay K, will be published in October, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 22 – Bihar Diwas or 110th Foundation Day of Bihar
- HarperCollins India announced to publish “The Book of Bihari Literature” in Oct 2022 (edited by Abhay K)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

47. World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23 each year. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) launched an e-book, “Climate Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas of India - State: Tamil Nadu” as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations. The e-atlas would help disaster management agencies take preventive steps. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 23 – World Meteorological Day
- IMD – launched an e-book “Climate Hazards & Vulnerability Atlas of India - State: Tamil Nadu”
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

48. “International Day of Solidarity with Detained & Missing Staff Members” was observed across the globe on March 25. The day marks the anniversary of the abduction of Alec Collett, a former British journalist. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – “International Day of Solidarity with Detained & Missing Staff Members”

49. On March 25, Union Environment Ministry designated October 5 as National Dolphin Day, to be observed annually starting 2022. The decision to designate a National Dolphin Day was taken by the standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL). The Gangetic dolphin is an indicator species, whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem and of other species in that ecosystem, for the Ganga ecosystem and is extremely vulnerable to changes in water quality and flow. It is categorised as ‘endangered’ on the IUCN Red List. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- October 5 – National Dolphin Day (since 2022) – designated by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
- Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav | Constituency – Rajasthan
- MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey

50. Every year on March 26, people around the planet take an hour off electricity by switching off their lights at homes and offices as a show of support for conservation of energy during the World Earth Hour. The theme of Earth Hour 2022 is “Shape Our Future”. This celebration was started by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and its partners in Sydney in 2007. The day is annually observed across the globe on the last Saturday of March by turning off the lights between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm (Local Time). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 26 – World Earth Hour or Earth Hour 2022 – by WWF (between 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm)
- 2022’s Theme – “Shape Our Future”
- 1st Earth Hour was observed in Sydney – in 2007
- HQs of WWF – Gland, Switzerland | Director General – Marco Lambertini | Established in – 1961

51. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai addressed the 187th Raising Day celebrations of the Assam Rifles in Shillong as Chief Guest on March 24. Assam Rifles was established in 1835 as the “Cachar Levy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 24 – 187th Raising Day of Assam Rifles – addressed by Nityanand Rai (MoS for Home Affairs)
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | DG – Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair
- Assam Rifles – popularly known as “Sentinels of the Northeast” (India’s oldest Paramilitary Force)

52. March 27 is observed as World Theatre Day across the globe. It was the 60th anniversary in 2022. This day preserves dramas and their essential role in the theatrical arts. The day promotes positivity amongst people by bringing about issues that need to be known to people. The day has been celebrated since 1962 at the International Theatre Institute (ITI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 27 – 60th ‘World Theatre Day’ – by International Theatre Institute (since 1962)

53. World Piano Day is usually celebrated on the 88th day of the year (which falls on 29th or 28th March), and interestingly these 88 days are related to the number of keys on the piano. This year, the day was observed on March 29. The first Piano Day was observed in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 29 (88th day of the year) – World Piano Day (since 2015)

54. The International Day of the Unborn Child is observed every year on March 25. It aims to take a moment in the view to celebrate the value of human life, dignity, and the developing child yet to be born. The day was first observed in 1993 in El Salvador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 25 – International Day of the Unborn Child
- The day was first observed in 1993 in El Salvador



55. Every year on March 30, Rajasthan Day or Rajasthan's Foundation Day is celebrated across the state to mark the formation of the state of Rajasthan. On March 30, 1949, Rajasthan, previously known as Rajputana, came into existence. On this day, the kingdoms of Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer were accessed together to form a state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 30 – Rajasthan Day or Rajasthan's Foundation Day
- Rajasthan (previously known as Rajputana) – came into existence on March 30, 1949

56. "International Transgender Day of Visibility" is celebrated every year on March 31 as an annual event dedicated to celebrating transgenders and raising awareness faced by them in every sphere of life. The day was founded in 2009 by Rachel Crandall, a US-based transgender activist, to raise awareness. The day was first observed on March 31, 2009. [{Read more}](#)

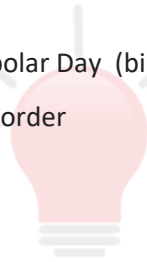
Key Points:

- March 31 – International Transgender Day of Visibility (since - 2009)
- The day was started by – Rachel Crandall

57. Every year, World Bipolar Day is observed on 30th of March on the birth anniversary of Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh. He was considered as one of the most influential artists in the history of western arts. This day is celebrated to raise awareness and educate masses on Bipolar disorder globally and end the social stigma attached to this mental disorder. Bipolar disorder can be defined as a mental health issue that affects a person's mood. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- March 30 – World Bipolar Day (birth anniversary of Dutch painter Vincent Van Gogh)
- Bipolar – a mental disorder



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The Question Bank



Meetings, Conferences & Summits

1. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member's 35-nation Board of Governors held an Emergency Meeting to discuss the current situation in Ukraine after Russia's invasion. Russian forces took over the decommissioned Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant after a fierce battle with the Ukrainian battalion guarding the facility, where nuclear radiation is still leaking from the world's worst nuclear disaster in 1986. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAEA member's 35-nation Board of Governors held an Emergency Meeting to discuss the current situation in Ukraine
- HQs of IAEA – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi | Founded in – 1957 | Members – 173

2. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is organizing a National conclave on 'Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities: Encouraging Women Entrepreneurs in Waste management' in Raipur, in collaboration with the Government of Chhattisgarh. Over the past 7 years, the SBM-U has harnessed the commitment of citizens towards building a 'Clean India' through the largest urban sanitation revolution in the world. In this journey of swachhata, Chhattisgarh has been adjudged the Cleanest State in India for 3 years in succession under Swachh Survekshan, as well as the Best State in the SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge run by MoHUA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBM-U 2.0 + Chhattisgarh = organizing a National conclave on 'Social Enterprises for Garbage Free Cities' in Raipur
- Chhattisgarh – adjudged the Cleanest State in India for 3 years in succession under 'Swachh Survekshan'
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

3. "Mobile World Congress 2022" event was organized by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA) in Barcelona, Spain. According to the GSMA, 5G connections will surpass 1 billion in 2022 and 2 billion by 2025. By the end of 2025, 5G will account for over a fifth of total mobile connections, and more than two in five people globally will live within reach of a 5G network, according to "The Mobile Economy Report 2022" from the GSMA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Mobile World Congress 2022" – organized by the GSMA in Barcelona, Spain
- GSMA's "The Mobile Economy Report 2022": 5G connections will surpass 1 billion in 2022 & 2 billion by 2025

4. The 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) took place online and in Nairobi from 28 February - 2 March 2022. Hosted by the UN Environment Programme, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) brings together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges. The overall theme for UNEA-5 was "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". During the session, 175 nations signed a mandate to end the use of plastic by developing a legally binding agreement by 2024. Immediately after UNEA-5.2, the Assembly convened a Special Session of the Assembly from March 3-4, 2022, devoted to the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the creation of UN Environment Programme in 1972 (UNEP@50). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th session of the United Nations Environment Assembly – took place in Nairobi, Kenya (hosted by UNEP)
- Theme of the session – "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals"
- 175 Nations signed a mandate to end the use of plastic by developing a legally binding agreement by 2024
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972



5. On March 3, Communications and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the 3rd edition of “NIC Tech Conclave 2022” in New Delhi. The two-day event was organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). The Theme for Tech Conclave this year is “Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government”. During the conclave, an ebook titled “75 Digital Solutions from NIC” was released. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the 3rd edition of “NIC Tech Conclave 2022” in New Delhi (organized by NIC)
- Theme – “Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government”
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma

6. On March 5, Delhi government held a “Business Blasters Investment Summit & Expo” at the Thyagraj Stadium in order to provide a bigger platform to budding young entrepreneurs. During the mega event, more than 100 selected business ideas of student entrepreneurs will be showcased, and will serve as an opportunity for investors to directly invest in the projects of their choice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi government – held a “Business Blasters Investment Summit & Expo” at the Thyagraj Stadium
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

7. On March 2, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated the 2nd edition of the ‘Roorkee Water Conclave’ at IIT Roorkee. The Conclave was being jointly organised from March 2 to 4, 2022 by IIT Roorkee and National Institute of Hydrology. The theme of the conclave was, “Water Security for Sustainable Development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Roorkee + National Institute of Hydrology – organised 2nd ‘Roorkee Water Conclave’
- Theme of the conclave – “Water Security for Sustainable Development”
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel
- Director of IIT Roorkee – Ajit K. Chaturvedi

8. The 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting was held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh on March 1-2, 2022. The meeting was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal B. R. Krishna from the Indian side. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th edition of India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting – held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh
- The meeting was co-chaired by – Air Marshal B. R. Krishna

9. On March 3, the leaders of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad, held a Virtual Summit against the backdrop of the crisis in Ukraine and China’s continuing assertive actions across the Indo-Pacific. PM Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Australian PM Scott Morrison, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida participated in the Quad Leaders’ virtual meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – represented India at the “Quad Leaders’ Virtual Meeting” on March 3
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia



10. On March 4, the 2-day long “Study in India (SII) 2022 Meet” was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The event, organised by the High Commission of India, was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh Dipu Moni and High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami. Bangladeshi students are the 3rd largest foreign student community in India. The “Study In India (SII)” programme is a flagship project launched by the Ministry of Education in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Study in India (SII) 2022 Meet” was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh (organised by - High Commission of India)
- Bangladeshi students – the 3rd largest foreign student community in India
- “Study In India (SII)” programme – launched by Ministry of Education (in 2018)

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

13. 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”

14. 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

15. On March 11, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) organised third edition of ‘Gender Samvaad’ under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to generate greater awareness on the mission’s interventions across India. The Gender Samvaad is organized in collaboration with the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE). The theme for this edition was “Promotion of Food & Nutrition Security through Women’s Collectives”. The event was organized as a part of Ministry’s Iconic Week celebration theme “Naye Bharat ki Naari” under Amrit Mahotsava. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRD + IWWAGE = organized 3rd edition of ‘Gender Samvaad’ under the ‘DAY-NRLM’
- Theme – “Promotion of Food & Nutrition Security through Women’s Collectives”
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Fagga Singh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

16. The 36th International Geological Congress (IGC), themed “Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future” was held in New Delhi during 20-22 March, 2022. The 36th 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 22nd session of the IGC which was the first IGC on the Asian soil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

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

17. 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

18. 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

19. Delegates representing 33 companies from the UAE, Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia arrived in Srinagar, J & K to turn ₹3,000 Cr MoUs, signed earlier in January, into a reality. Delegates attended the “Gulf Business Summit” on March 22 and discussed exploring investment opportunities in J&K in different sectors. The J&K government had already signed the MoUs in January with the UAE-based companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delegates representing 33 companies from UAE, Hong Kong & Saudi Arabia arrived in Srinagar, J & K to attend the “Gulf Business Summit”

20. 5th edition of Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation, “Wings India 2022” was held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad from March 24 to 27. Led by the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India (MoCA) and the FICCI jointly, the theme of the event this year was “India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry”. In terms of domestic air passenger traffic, India is the 3rd largest aviation market which stood at 274.05 million in FY20. It grew at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.91% during FY16-FY20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation, “Wings India 2022” – held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad
- Organised by = MoCA + FICCI
- Theme of the event – “India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry”
- India – 3rd largest aviation market in terms of domestic air passenger traffic

21. On March 24, the 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) was organised in Visakhapatnam from March 24 to 26. The three-day conference was held at Vizag Conventions at Madhurawada. The conference was inaugurated by Justice P. Laxmana Reddy, Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh. The theme of the conference was “Bridging minds... Connecting generations”. The focus areas of the conference were drug and alcohol abuse in society, stress among students and growing incidence of suicides, depression and anxiety, old-age problems and dementia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 73rd Annual National Conference of Indian Psychiatric Society (ANCIPS) – organised in Visakhapatnam
- Theme – “Bridging minds... Connecting generations”
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

22. On March 26, Union Cabinet approved extension of ‘Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)’ by six months till September 2022. The phase-5 of PMGKAY scheme was to end in March 2022. The government has spent approximately Rs 2.60 lakh Cr so far on the scheme and another Rs 80,000 Cr will be spent over the next 6 months till September 2022, taking the total expenditure under PMGKAY to nearly Rs 3.40 lakh Cr. PMGKAY is a welfare scheme announced by the government in March 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the extended PMGKAY, each beneficiary will get additional 5 kg free ration per person per month in addition to the normal quota of foodgrains under the NFSA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) – got extension of 6 months till Sep 2022
- PMGKAY – launched in March 2020 & fully funded by the Union government
- Nodal ministry – Ministry of Finance



23. On March 28, Piyush Goyal, during his visit to the United Arab Emirates, announced the unveiling of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He visited UAE to participate in 'Investopia Summit' and 'World Government Summit' held in Dubai on 28th March 2022 and 29th March 2022 respectively. India-UAE CEPA was signed on 18 February 2022 in New Delhi during the India-UAE Virtual Summit. The India-UAE CEPA is the first deep and full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country in the past decade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – participated in “Investopia Summit” & “World Government Summit” held in Dubai, UAE
- Piyush Goyal – announced the unveiling of the CEPA between India & UAE
- ‘India-UAE CEPA’ – the first deep & full free trade Agreement to be signed by India with any country
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

24. On March 26, CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore (CSIR-NAL) participated in “Wings India 2022” and showcased its indigenous initiatives of civil aircrafts for flying training & commuter air connectivity. HANSA-NG Aircraft, designed and developed by CSIR-NAL, was displayed in the event. HANSA-NG is one of the most advanced two seat flying trainer aircraft powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine. Moreover, Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru won two major awards at the Wings India Awards 2022 - ‘Best Airport’ in the General Category and ‘Aviation Innovation’ Award. Cochin International Airport won the ‘Covid champion’ award while Mumbai’s Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport won the ‘Aviation Sustainability & Environment’ award at Wings India 2022. The 5th edition of Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation, “Wings India 2022” was held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad from March 24 to 27. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th edition of Asia’s largest event on Civil Aviation, “Wings India 2022” – held at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad
- “HANSA-NG Aircraft” designed & developed by CSIR-NAL – displayed in “Wings India 2022”
- Kempegowda International Airport – won ‘Best Airport’ Award & ‘Aviation Innovation’ Award
- Cochin International Airport – won ‘Covid Champion’ Award
- Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport – won ‘Aviation Sustainability & Environment’ Award

25. On March 30, PM Narendra Modi participated in the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit that was virtually hosted by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC. The Summit’s theme was “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the 5th BIMSTEC Summit – virtually hosted by Sri Lanka
- Theme – “Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People”
- HQs of BIMSTEC – Dhaka, Bangladesh | Secretary General – H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell | Established in – 1997
- BIMSTEC members: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand | Current Chair – Sri Lanka

26. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, organized a 2-day “Mega International Summit on MSMEs” on March 29 and 30, 2022, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Tatu Rane inaugurated the Summit as Chief Guest and Union Minister of State for MSME, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma was the Guest of Honour. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mega International Summit on MSMEs” was organised in New Delhi – by MoMSME & EDII, Ahmedabad
- Summit was inaugurated by – Narayan Tatu Rane | Guest of Honour of the Summit – Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. On March 3, Hyderabad-based DataCenter Company, CtrlS won the “Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management” by the ASSOCHAM. CtrlS claims to have undertaken 200 innovations and 25 green initiatives to reduce carbon footprint and dependency on fossil fuels. It also engineered 80 innovations in energy efficiency and sustainability space. In December 2020, CtrlS, Asia’s Largest Rated-4 Hyperscale Datacenter provider, was awarded the prestigious “Golden Peacock Award for Eco-Innovation” and had become the World’s first datacenter to be awarded in the datacenter category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CtrlS – won the “Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management” by the ASSOCHAM
- HQs of CtrlS – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Sridhar Pinnapureddy

2. On March 4, Ministry of Tourism constituted “Swadesh Darshan Awards” in different categories in order to acknowledge the efforts undertaken by the State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and various implementation agencies. Ministry of Tourism under its flagship scheme of ‘Swadesh Darshan’ sanctioned 76 projects in 31 States/Union Territories of India for more than Rs 5500 Cr. The categories of awards are - Best Tourist Interpretation Centre, Best Log Hut Facility, Best MICE Facility, Best Cafeteria, Best Craft Haat/Souvenir Shop facility, Best Sound and Light Show & Best Waterfront Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – constituted “Swadesh Darshan Awards” in different categories
- Swadesh Darshan scheme – a scheme of Ministry of Tourism (launched in 2015)

3. On March 3, National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC) received 1st prize in the “Ispat Rajbhasha Award” for 2018-19 and 2020-21 and the Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award for 2019-20 in the meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Committee of the Ministry of Steel. NMDC is India’s largest Iron Ore producer and a CPSE under Ministry of Steel. NMDC presented a short film on the status of Hindi language implementation in the company. Moreover, MOIL Ltd received Ispat Rajbhasha Samman 2018-19 & 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMDC received “Ispat Rajbhasha Award” for 2018-19 & 2020-21 and “Ispat Rajbhasha Prerna Award” for 2019-20
- MOIL Ltd – received “Ispat Rajbhasha Samman” 2018-19 & 2019-20
- Ministry of Steel: Ramchandra Prasad Singh | Constituency – Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Steel: Faggansingh Kulaste
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb | Founded on – November 15, 1958

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

7. 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 – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



8. On March 13, the “British Academy of Film and Television Awards (BAFTA) 2022” were declared in London at the Royal Albert Hall and was live streamed in India on the streamer SonyLIV. “Dune” film won the maximum number of awards at the ‘BAFTA 2022’. The Power of the Dog scooped the top prizes for best film and best director for Jane Campion. The other awards were as given below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BAFTA Awards:
 - Best Actor – USA’s Will Smith (King Richard)
 - Best Actress – UK’s Joanna Scanlan (After Love)
 - Best Film – The Power of the Dog
 - Best Documentary – Summer of Soul
 - Best Animated Film – Encanto
 - Best Director – Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)

9. On March 19, Architect Diebedo Francis Kere from Burkina Faso, West Africa has won the 51st 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 51st Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2022

10. On March 17, Karolina Bielawska from Poland has been crowned “Miss World 2021” at the 70th 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 70th edition of the pageant at San Juan, Puerto Rico
- First runner-up – Shree Saini ([USA](#)) | Second runner-up – Olivia Yace ([Cote D’Ivoire](#))

11. 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)

12. 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



13. The legendary Devendra Jhajharia became the first para athlete to receive the Padma Bhushan in 2022, the country's third highest civilian award. Jhajharia is a multiple-time Paralympics medal winner. While shooter Avani Lekhara, javelin thrower Sumit Antil & gold medallist in badminton Pramod Bhagat are the other Paralympic medallists who received Padma Shri in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Devendra Jhajharia ([Javelin Thrower](#)) – received 'Padma Bhushan' in 2022 (first Para-athlete to receive Padma Bhushan)
- Other Paralympic medallists to receive Padma Shri 2022: Avani Lekhara, Sumit Antil & Pramod Bhagat

14. On March 19, Sportstar and The Hindu group released a coffee-table book, "Road to 1000" at the "2022 Sportstar Aces Awards" at The Taj Mahal Palace hotel. The book is a 520-page, special collection with 1000 pictures to commemorate Indian cricket's journey. The book is powered by IDFC First Bank. Moreover, Neeraj Chopra received Sportstar of the Year (Male) Award and Mirabai Chanu received Sportstar of the Year (Female) Award. While former Indian hockey team captain Ajit Pal Singh was conferred the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'. Lovlina Borgohain received Sportswoman of the Year award in Individual Sports category. And Savita received Sportswoman of the Year in Team Sports category. Besides, Avani Lekhara received Parathlete of the Year (Female) Award and Sumit Antil received Parathlete of the Year (Male) Award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sportstar & The Hindu group – released a coffee-table book, "Road to 1000" at the "2022 Sportstar Aces Awards"
- The book is powered by IDFC First Bank
- 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards:
 - Neeraj Chopra – Sportstar of the Year (Male) Award
 - Mirabai Chanu – Sportstar of the Year (Female) Award
 - Avani Lekhara – Parathlete of the Year (Female) Award
 - Sumit Antil – Parathlete of the Year (Male) Award
 - Ajit Pal Singh – Lifetime Achievement Award
 - Lovlina Borgohain – Sportswoman of the Year Award (Individual Sports)
 - Savita – Sportswoman of the Year Award (Team Sports)

15. On March 20, Former India cricketer Suresh Raina was felicitated with prestigious "Sports Icon" award at "Maldives Sports Awards 2022" by Maldives government. He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh Raina – felicitated with prestigious "Sports Icon" award at "Maldives Sports Awards 2022" by Maldives Govt
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

16. The Norwegian Academy of Science & Letters awarded the "Abel Prize for 2022" to American Mathematician Dennis Parnell Sullivan. Topology is a field of mathematics which was born in the 19th century. Dennis Parnell Sullivan's key breakthrough is in developing a new way of understanding rational homotopy theory, a subfield of algebraic topology. Abel Prize is also known as the International Prize of Mathematics and it is named after Norway's mathematician, Niels Henrik Abel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norwegian Academy of Science & Letters awarded “Abel Prize for 2022” to – Dennis Parnell Sullivan (a Mathematician)
- He was awarded for his groundbreaking contributions to ‘Topology’

17. On World Water Day, the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) awarded the “2022 Stockholm Water Prize”, also known as the “Nobel Prize of Water”, to Wilfried Brutsaert, also known as Mr. Evaporation, for his groundbreaking work in quantifying environmental evaporation. Brutsaert will receive a glass statue and 1 million Swedish krona, about \$104,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wilfried Brutsaert (Mr. Evaporation) – received “2022 Stockholm Water Prize” or “Nobel Prize of Water”
- He was awarded for his groundbreaking work in quantifying environmental evaporation

18. On March 27, the 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022) ceremony was held at California, US. Will Smith won the Oscar for “Best Actor in a Leading Role” for his performance in “King Richard”. Jessica Chastain won the Oscar for “Best Actress in a Leading Role” for her performance in “The Eyes of Tammy Faye”. “Dune” film, directed by Denis Villeneuve, won total 6 awards in different categories at the Oscars 2022. “The Windshield Wiper” film won the award for Best Animated Short Film. While “CODA” film won Best Picture award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 94th Academy Awards (Oscars 2022) ceremony – held at California, US
 - Oscar for Best Actor in a Leading Role – Will Smith
 - Oscar for Best Actress in a Leading Role – Jessica Chastain
 - Oscar for Best Animated Short Film – “The Windshield Wiper”
 - Oscar for Best Picture – “CODA”
- “Dune” film – won total 6 awards at the ‘Oscars 2022’ (directed by - Denis Villeneuve)

19. On March 22, Mohamad Reza Masoumi from Iran won the 13th edition of the prestigious Greenstorm Global Photography Award, which is organised in association with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Greenstorm Global Photography Award is organised by Greenstorm Foundation every year and the theme for this year’s festival was “Restore Green Lineage” based on the UNEP theme for 2021 World Environment Day - “Ecosystem Restoration”. The first runner-up for the award is Jophel Botero Ybiososa from the Philippines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohamad Reza Masoumi (Iran) – won the 13th edition of the “Greenstorm Global Photography Award”
- 2022’s Theme – “Restore Green Lineage”
- “Greenstorm Global Photography Award” – organised by Greenstorm Foundation + UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

20. On March 28, Olympic silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu won the “BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year” award. In 2021, Chanu created history becoming the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Summer Olympics. Young India opener Shafali Verma was awarded the “BBC Emerging Player” award. India’s former weightlifter Karnam Malleswari was presented the “BBC Lifetime Achievement” award. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year” award – Mirabai Chanu
- “BBC Emerging Player” award – Shafali Verma
- “BBC Lifetime Achievement” award – Karnam Malleswari

21. On March 25, Costa Rican film ‘Clara Sola’, directed by Nathalie Alvarez Mesen, became winner at the 26th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), bagging the Golden Crow Pheasant (Suvarna Chakoram) for the ‘Best Film’ and the Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajata Chakoram) for the ‘Best Debut Director’. Tamil film ‘Pebbles’ (Koozhangal), directed by P. S. Vinothraj, won the Audience Poll award for the Best Film at the festival. Argentinian film ‘Camila Comes Out Tonight’, directed by Ines Barrionuevo, won the Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajata Chakoram) for the Best Director. ‘Pebbles’ also won the Network for Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) award for the Best Asian Film. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 26th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK):
 - ‘Clara Sola’ film – Golden Crow Pheasant for the ‘Best Film’ & Silver Crow Pheasant for the ‘Best Debut Director’
 - ‘Pebbles’ (Koozhangal) film – Audience Poll award for the ‘Best Film’
 - ‘Camila Comes Out Tonight’ film – Silver Crow Pheasant for the ‘Best Director’
 - ‘Pebbles’ – NETPAC award for the ‘Best Asian Film’

22. On March 28, President Ram Nath Kovind felicitated the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The President also launched the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022” during the event. ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign will continue to be implemented this year till 30th November 2022. The first National Water Award was launched by the Jal Shakti Ministry in 2018. The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti is giving 57 awards to States, Organizations, Individuals etc. in 11 different categories. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have got the first, second and third prizes respectively in the Best State category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind – felicitated the winners of the 3rd National Water Awards in New Delhi
- The President also launched “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign 2022”
- ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign will continue to be implemented – till 30th Nov 2022
- “3rd National Water Awards” under ‘Best State’ category: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan & Tamil Nadu (respectively)

23. On March 24, Army Chief Gen MM Naravane presented the ‘President’s Colours’ to two battalions of the Dogra Regiment at a ceremony in Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh. The battalions that received the prestigious ‘President’s Colours’ are 20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MM Naravane presented the ‘President’s Colours’ to two battalions (20 DOGRA and 21 DOGRA) of the Dogra Regiment
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande



24. Former Karnataka chief minister M. Veerappa Moily and former Tamil Nadu health minister H. V. Hande were conferred with Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award at the 12th edition of “Sansad Ratna Awards 2022”. NCP’s Supriya Sule and BJD’s Amar Patnaik are among 11 MPs who were honoured at the Sansad Ratna Awards 2022 under various categories. All the awardees were presented the awards by Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra at the Maharashtra Sadan. Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) MP N. K. Premachandran and Shiv Sena MP Shrirang Appa Barne were awarded the ‘Sansad Vishisht Ratna’ award. ‘Sansad Ratna Awards’ were instituted on the suggestion of former president late APJ Abdul Kalam, to honour the top-performing parliamentarians. The first award function was held in 2010 in Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

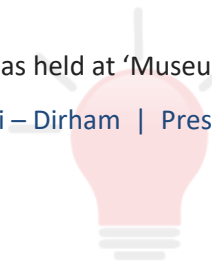
Key Points:

- 12th edition of “Sansad Ratna Awards” in 2022:
- Lifetime Achievement APJ Abdul Kalam Award – M. Veerappa Moily & H. V. Hande
- Sansad Vishisht Ratna Award – N. K. Premachandran & Shrirang Appa Barne
- ‘Sansad Ratna Awards’ were instituted on the suggestion of – APJ Abdul Kalam

25. On March 2, Deepika Padukone was honoured at the “TIME100 Impact Awards” for the second time in her career at the ceremony held at the Museum of the Future in Dubai. She was lauded for her outstanding commitment to mental health advocacy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – honoured at TIME100 Impact Awards for her outstanding commitment to mental health advocacy
- The ceremony was held at ‘Museum of the Future’ in Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



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The Question Bank



Appointments & Resignations

1. In March 2022, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government appointed Manukumar Srivastava as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra. He took over from Debashish Chakrabarty. He is likely to get a tenure of over a year before retiring in April 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manukumar Srivastava – appointed as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra (succeeding – Debashish Chakrabarty)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

2. On March 1, LIC Mutual Fund appointed T. S. Ramakrishnan as its Managing Director & CEO, effective March 1, 2022. He will succeed Dinesh Pangtey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T. S. Ramakrishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund (succeeding - Dinesh Pangtey)
- HQs of LIC Mutual Fund – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – T S Ramakrishnan

3. On March 2, BharatPe removed co-founder and managing director (MD) Ashneer Grover from all positions in the company. The firm accused Grover's family and relatives of engaging in extensive misappropriation of company funds. The move comes a day after Grover resigned as MD and from the company's board. Moreover, BharatPe appointed Suhail Sameer as the CEO of BharatPe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BharatPe – removed co-founder and MD Ashneer Grover from all positions in the company
- Suhail Sameer – appointed as the CEO of BharatPe
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | CEO – Suhail Sameer

4. On March 1, Bharti AXA Life Insurance has announced that it has roped in actress Vidya Balan as its brand ambassador. She will help deepen the narrative of #DoTheSmartThing championed by the brand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vidya Balan – roped in as brand ambassador of Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Parag Raja

5. On March 5, Jet Airways appointed Sanjiv Kapoor as its chief executive officer. He is currently the President of Oberoi Hotels and Resorts. He also led SpiceJet as its COO in 2014-15. Jet Airways also appointed former Sri Lankan Airlines Chief Executive Officer Vipul Gunatilleka as its chief financial officer (CFO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjiv Kapoor – appointed as the CEO of Jet Airways
- Vipul Gunatilleka – appointed as the CFO of Jet Airways
- HQs of Jet Airways – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjiv Kapoor

6. On March 5, the central government appointed Delhi High Court Chief Justice D. N. Patel (Dhirubhai Naranbhai Patel) as the Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT). Justice Patel retired as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on March 12, 2022. The Cabinet Appointments Committee approved the appointment of Justice Patel for 4 years. Justice Patel, who hails from Gujarat, was appointed as a judge in March 2004. He was made Chief Justice of Delhi High Court in June 2019. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- D. N. Patel – appointed as the Chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal for 4 years
- HQs of TDSAT – New Delhi | Chairperson – D. N. Patel

7. On March 4, Senior advocate Aman Lekhi resigned from the post of Additional Solicitor General of India. He has not given any specific reason for his resignation. Lekhi was appointed to the post in March, 2018 and was re-appointed on July 1, 2020 for a period of three years till June 30, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aman Lekhi – resigned from the post of Additional Solicitor General of India
- Solicitor General of India – Tushar Mehta

8. On March 3, Abey Kuruvilla was appointed as General Manager of Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). Former India pacer, Abey Kuruvilla has played 10 Tests for India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abey Kuruvilla – appointed as General Manager of BCCI
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

9. On March 2, Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran assumed charge as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command. He commanded the prestigious Suryakiran Aerobatic Team for three years. The team was awarded the Chief of Air Staff's "Unit Citation". He was also the Commandant of Air Force Academy, Hyderabad. He was awarded the 'Vayu Sena Medal' in Oct 2005 and 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Air Marshal Sreekumar Prabhakaran – appointed as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

10. On March 8, State Bank of India (SBI) appointed Nitin Chugh as deputy managing director (DMD) & head of digital banking. Chugh has earlier served as MD & CEO at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and at HDFC Bank as head of digital banking. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Chugh – appointed as Deputy Managing Director (DMD) & Head of Digital Banking in SBI
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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



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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

19. On March 14, Mumbai-based online gaming company, Games24x7 appointed cricketers Shubman Gill and Rituraj 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 & Rituraj Gaikwad – appointed as new brand ambassadors of 'My11Circle' cricket platform of Games24x7

20. 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

21. 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

22. 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

23. 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)

24. 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. Chnadraseskaran 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

25. On March 14, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) selected Ranjit Rath to be appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Ltd, India's second largest state oil and gas producer. He is currently Chairman and Managing Director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL). Oil India's current Chairman and Managing Director Sushil Chandra Mishra will superannuate on June 30, 2022. Rath is a recipient of the prestigious National Geosciences Award 2016 from the President of India. He has co-authored a book titled 'Underground Storage Technologies'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranjit Rath – selected as CMD of Oil India Ltd by PESB (replacing - Sushil Chandra Mishra)
- HQs of OIL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra (till June 30, 2022 | Later - Ranjit Rath)

26. On March 11, Gabriel Boric sworn in as Chile's youngest ever President. He is 36. He is associated with Social Convergence party. Boric was the president of the University of Chile Student Federation from 2011 to 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gabriel Boric – sworn in as the youngest ever President of Chile
- Chile – Santiago – Peso | President – Gabriel Boric

27. On March 16, Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann was sworn in as Chief Minister of Punjab at the ancestral village of freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagwant Mann (AAP) – sworn in as Chief Minister of Punjab
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



28. On March 17, Suchitra K. Ella (Co-Founder & Joint MD of Bharat Biotech International Ltd) was elected as Chairperson of Confederation of Indian Industry-Southern Region for 2022-23. Kamal Bali (President & MD of Volvo Group India) was elected as Deputy Chairman of CII Southern Region for 2022-23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suchitra K. Ella – elected as Chairperson of CII-Southern Region for 2022-23
- Kamal Bali – elected as Deputy Chairman of CII-Southern Region for 2022-23

29. On March 1, Commodore P. R. Hari, Director (Personnel), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. R. Hari – appointed as the Chairman & MD of the GRSE
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – P. R. Hari | Founded in – 1884

30. 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

31. 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

32. 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

33. 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



34. 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

35. 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

36. 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

37. On March 17, IT major Tata Consultancy Services re-appointed Rajesh Gopinathan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for 5 years, from February 21, 2022 to February 20, 2027. The company has also re-appointed N. Ganapathy Subramaniam as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director from February 21, 2022, to May 19, 2024. Rajesh Gopinathan has been the CEO and MD of TCS since 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajesh Gopinathan – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Tata Consultancy Services for 5 years till 2027
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968

38. On March 19, Serdar Berdimuhamedow was sworn in as the President of Turkmenistan. Berdimuhamedow won the presidential election with nearly 73% of the votes on March 12. He is the son of the former president Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. Presidential elections in Turkmenistan are held every 7 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Serdar Berdimuhamedow – sworn in as the President of Turkmenistan
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Serdar Berdimuhamedow

39. On March 21, S. Phangnon Konyak was elected unopposed as the Rajya Sabha member from Nagaland, making her the first woman from Nagaland to get a berth in Parliament’s Upper House (Rajya Sabha). Konyak, who is the state BJP women’s wing chief, has become the second woman Member of Parliament from Nagaland in 45 years. Rano M Shaiza was the first. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- S. Phangnon Konyak – first woman from Nagaland to be elected as the Rajya Sabha member
- With this, she became the second woman Member of Parliament from Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

40. On March 17, Amidst the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the government decided to extend the tenure of India's envoy to the United Nations T.S. Tirumurti for three months. Mr. Tirumurti was due to retire on March 31. He will now remain in the position at the rank of Secretary to the government from April 1 to June 30, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T. S. Tirumurti – received 3 months extension for his tenure as India's envoy to the United Nations
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

41. On March 19, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) decided to extend the tenure of Jay Shah as its President until 2024. Tenure of the executive board, along with its committees, will also continue till 2024. ACC is responsible for organising the Asia Cup tournaments. Pankaj Khimji was appointed as the Vice President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Mahinda Vallipuram was appointed as Chairman of Development Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Shah – got extension of his tenure as ACC President until 2024
- Pankaj Khimji – appointed as the Vice President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
- Mahinda Vallipuram – appointed as Chairman of Development Committee of ACC
- HQs of ACC – Colombo, Sri Lanka | President – Jay Shah

42. On March 16, Japanese automaker Nissan appointed Frank Torres as Regional Divisional Vice-President for Business Transformation in the AMIEO region (Africa, Middle East, India, Europe and Oceania) and the new President of Nissan India. He replaced Sinan Ozkok. Atsushi Najima, Managing Director, Nissan Philippines, will be Nissan India's Chief Financial Officer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Frank Torres – appointed as President of Nissan India (succeeding - Sinan Ozkok)
- Hqs Nissan India – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Frank Torres

43. On March 21, Nongthombam Biren Singh was sworn in for the 2nd consecutive term at Raj Bhavan in Imphal. He was elected from Heingang constituency for the record 5th time. Governor La Ganesan administered the oath of office and secrecy. Before entering into Politics, Singh began his career as a footballer and got recruited in the Border Security Force (BSF) playing for its team. He quit the Congress in 2016 and joined the BJP. He was elected in 2017 elections and became the first BJP chief minister of Manipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Biren Singh – sworn in as the CM of Manipur for the 2nd consecutive term (constituency – Heingang)
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan

44. World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on March 24 to raise awareness about the infectious disease. The term tuberculosis was coined by Johann Schonlein in 1834. It was on March 24, 1882 that the bacteria causing TB was discovered by Dr. Robert Koch. A century later, the World TB Day observance began on the same day. In 2022, the theme is "Invest to End TB. Save Lives". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- March 24 – World Tuberculosis Day (since 1982)
- 2022's theme – “Invest to End TB. Save Lives”
- TB causing Bacteria – discovered by Dr. Robert Kochin March 24, 1882
- Term tuberculosis coined by – Johann Schonlein in 1834

45. On March 23, Pushkar Singh Dhami took oath as the Uttarakhand chief minister for second term. Bharatiya Janata Party returned to power in the state bagging 47 of the 70 seats in the results declared on March 10. Dhami failed to win from his own Khatima constituency. He now needs to be elected as an MLA within six months to continue as chief minister. Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (retd) Gurmit Singh administered the oath to the minister. Dhami is the state's 12th CM and, at 46, the youngest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pushkar Singh Dhami – took oath as the Uttarakhand chief minister for second term
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

46. On March 23, the Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal, Deputy Managing Director, CSB Bank as interim Managing Director and CEO, for three months from April 1, 2022. C. V. Rajendran, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, announced in January 2022 to take early retirement due to health reasons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – appointed Pralay Mondal as interim MD & CEO of CSB Bank (succeeding - C. V. Rajendran)
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Pralay Mondal

47. On March 21, Two-time Aam Aadmi Party MLA Kultar Singh Sandhwan was unanimously elected as Speaker of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha. Mr. Sandhwan won from the Kotkapura seat in the recent State polls. He defeated Congress candidate Ajaipal Singh Sandhu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kultar Singh Sandhwan – elected as Speaker of the 16th Punjab Vidhan Sabha or Punjab Legislative Assembly
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Bhagwant Mann | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

48. On March 25, Yogi Adityanath scripted history as he took oath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for a second term in office after completing a full 5-year term, a feat none of his predecessors has been able to achieve. He has become the first such BJP leader to become the CM of UP for the second consecutive term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yogi Adityanath – scripted history as he took oath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for a second term
- Yogi Adityanath – the first such BJP leader to become the CM of UP for the second consecutive term
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

49. On March 25, Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) appointed Hisashi Takeuchi as the MD and Chief Executive Officer of the company with effect from 1st April 2022, consequent to the completion of the term of Kenichi Ayukawa on 31st March 2022. Takeuchi joined has been on the Board of Maruti Suzuki since July 2019 and as Joint Managing Director (Commercial) since April 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Hisashi Takeuchi – appointed as MD & CEO of Maruti Suzuki India from 1st April 2022 (succeeding - Kenichi Ayukawa)
- HQs of Maruti Suzuki India – New Delhi | Chairman – R C Bhargava | MD & CEO – Hisashi Takeuchi

50. On March 28, Pramod Sawant took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa for a second consecutive term at a ceremony held at the Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee stadium in Taleigao. He was administered the oath of office with 8 other MLAs by Goa Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai. The BJP had won 20 of the 40 seats in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pramod Sawant – took oath as the Chief Minister of Goa for a second consecutive term
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

51. On March 25, Former Prime Minister of Togo, Gilbert Houngbo was elected as the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO). He will be the 11th head of the agency and the first African to hold the post. His five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022. He will replace the current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, who has held the office since 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gilbert Houngbo (Former PM of Togo) – elected as 11th DG of ILO from October 1, 2022 (succeeding - Guy Ryder)
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | DG – Gilbert Houngbo (from Oct 1, 2022) | Founded in – 1919

52. On March 25, Incumbent Himanta Biswa Sarma was re-elected unopposed as the President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for a second term of 4 years from 2022 to 2026. Sarma was elected as BAI chief for the first time in 2017. He is also a Badminton Asia vice president and a member of the Badminton World Federation Executive Council. Former junior national coach Sanjay Mishra will be the new General Secretary of BAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma – re-elected unopposed as the President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) for 2nd term
- HQs of BAI – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma | General Secretary – Sanjay Mishra

53. In March 2022, the board of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India has elected Shashi Sinha as the new Chairman. He will take over from Punit Goenka. A representative and board member of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI), Sinha has played a key role in the formation of BARC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashi Sinha – elected as the new Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India
- HQs of BARC India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Shashi Sinha | CEO – Nakul Chopra

54. On March 27, Malta's Prime Minister Robert Abela from Malta's governing Labour party has won the country's General Election. This was the first general election in Malta in which 16 and 17-year-olds were allowed to vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robert Abela – elected as the Prime Minister of Malta
- Malta – Valletta – Euro | PM – Robert Abela



55. On March 24, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) extended the term of Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg by a year until September 30, 2023. Stoltenberg, former Norwegian prime minister, was named NATO Secretary-General in October 2014. His term was due to expire in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jens Stoltenberg (former PM of Norway) – got extension as Secretary-General of NATO until September 30, 2023
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store

56. On March 26, Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, BJP MLA from Uttarakhand's Kotdwar assembly, became the first woman speaker of the state assembly. She became the speaker of the 5th Uttarakhand legislative assembly. Ritu is the daughter of former Uttarakhand chief minister and Union minister Major General (Retd) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ritu Khanduri Bhushan – became the first woman speaker of Uttarakhand's state assembly (constituency – Kotdwar)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

57. On March 25, Payments Council of India (PCI) re-elected Vishwas Patel as the chairman for another term. PCI is a payments ecosystem industry body and a part of the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). Praveena Rai and MN Srinivasu have been appointed as co-chairs of PCI's seven committees. Srinivasu founded BillDesk twenty years ago along with Ajay Kaushal and Karthik Ganapathy. BillDesk recently got acquired by PayU. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishwas Patel – re-elected as the chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI) for another term

58. On March 31, Indian American Raj Subramaniam is appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of delivery major FedEx, replacing Frederick W. Smith, who is set to step down from the position on June 1. Smith, who founded FedEx in 1971, will now serve as the company's Executive Chairman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raj Subramaniam – appointed as the new CEO of FedEx (replacing - Frederick W. Smith)
- HQs of FedEx – Tennessee, US | CEO – Frederick W. Smith (From June - Raj Subramaniam)

59. Uday Kotak stepped down as the Chairman of the board of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) after his term ended on April 2. C. S. Rajan, Managing Director, IL&FS has been appointed as Chairman and MD for 6 months with effect from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Rs 55,000 Cr debt of IL&FS is resolved so far during Uday Kotak's term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. S. Rajan – appointed as Chairman & MD of IL&FS for 6 months
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – C. S. Rajan

Amount & Agreements

1. 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

2. 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

3. On March 21, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) sanctioned a financial assistance of Rs 4,013 Cr to Odisha under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during the FY22, the highest allocation in India. The allotment was made on the basis of the priority accorded by the state government for developing of infrastructure regarding drinking water supply, irrigation and rural connectivity. The total sanction has crossed Rs 32,100 Cr for Odisha since the inception of the RIDF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 4,013 Cr to Odisha under RIDF for FY22 (highest allocation in India)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982

4. On March 27, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) sanctioned Rs 837-Cr under its cluster development fund scheme to Odisha to help develop 18 MSME infrastructure projects. The projects include development of five new MSME parks, construction of 11 workers hostels and two projects to support MSME infrastructure. The funding will be given to the Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation, which is the implementing agency. SIDBI also run “EU Switch Asia Bamboo” project in the five districts of Odisha to generate an alternative source of livelihood as well as to promote an alternative for timber. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI – sanctioned Rs 837 Cr under its cluster development fund scheme to Odisha for 18 MSME infrastructure projects
- SIDBI – run “EU Switch Asia Bamboo” project in 5 districts of Odisha
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

5. On March 30, the Union Cabinet approved \$808 million (₹6,062.45 Cr) for a new scheme “Raising & Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)” which is expected to commence in the FY2022-23. Out of the total amount, ₹3,750 Cr (\$500 million) would be a loan from the World Bank, and rest ₹2,312.45 Cr (\$308 million) will be funded by the government of India. This program is set to complement the PM Modi’s ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ mission and will provide necessary technological inputs to the MSMEs to make them competitive and self-reliant. The RAMP is set to directly or indirectly benefit all 63 million enterprises that qualify as MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved \$808 million for a ‘RAMP’ scheme which is expected to commence in the FY2022-23
- World Bank – will provide \$500 million loan for this scheme
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

6. On March 31, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of 312.258 billion yen for the 7 projects - Dedicated Freight Corridor Project, Chennai Metro Project, Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project, North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project, Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project, Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation & Greening Project for Climate Change Response and Assam Health System Strengthening Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JICA + GoI = loan agreement to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to 312.258 billion yen for 7 projects



Ranks, Report & Surveys

1. The number of Ultra-High-Net-Worth-Individuals (UHNWIs) globally increased by 9.3% in 2021. In India, the number of UHNWIs (net assets with US\$ 30 million or more) grew by 11% YoY in 2021, the highest percentage growth in APAC, according to Knight Frank's latest edition of "The Wealth Report 2022". India ranked 3rd in terms of billionaires' population in 2021, following the US and China. India ranked 6th in percentage growth of the UHNWI population that is self-made and under the age of 40 years. Asia continues to be the forerunner in the billionaires' club contributing to 36% of the total billionaires in the world in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Wealth Report 2022" – released by Knight Frank (London, UK)
- Globally, UHNWIs increased by 9.3% in 2021 | In India, UHNWIs increased by 11% in 2021
- India ranked 3rd in terms of billionaires' population in 2021 | 1st – US, 2nd – China

2. On March 2, as per the latest data, from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI), the Telangana ranked the Highest in India among states with a population over 1 Cr in terms of growth rate in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices. Telangana surpassed Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become Top performing states in India. Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) in Telangana increased from 3,59,434 Cr in 2011-12 to 11,54,860 Cr in 2021-22 with the growth of 31.12%, one of the highest jumps for any state in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – topped in terms of growth in Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices
- Growth in Telangana's GSDP – 31.12% (from 3,59,434 Cr in 2011-12 to 11,54,860 Cr in 2021-22)
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

3. According to the Centre for Science and Environment's 9th edition of "State of India's Environment Report, 2022", released by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, India's rank dropped three spots from last year's 117 to rank 120 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as a part of the 2030 agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015. The report is the annual publication of the Centre for Science and Environment and Down To Earth (magazine). India's overall SDG score was 66 out of 100. Kerala ranked first among states, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the second position. Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was ranked first, followed by Delhi, Lakshadweep and Puducherry in the second place. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – released the 9th edition of "State of India's Environment Report, 2022" – of CSE & Down To Earth
- India's rank – 120th
- States: 1st – Kerala, 2nd – TN & Himachal Pradesh | UTs: 1st – Chandigarh, 2nd – Delhi, Lakshadweep & Puducherry

4. On March 2, the field assessment for the 7th edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS) - world's largest urban cleanliness survey, was launched on March 1, 2022 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) with around 3,000 assessors of the Assessment Agency - Ipsos Research Pvt Ltd. Designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers. Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years. This year another new indicator 'Swachh Technology Challenge' (launched by MoHUA in December 2021) has been added in SS 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched the field assessment for the 7th edition of ‘Swachh Survekshan 2022’
- Driving philosophy of ‘SS 2022’ – ‘People First’ | A new indicator added in ‘SS 2022’ – Swachh Technology Challenge
- Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA – in 2016
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched – in 2014

5. The Agriculture Sector has been growing steadily at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11% since 2015, according to a report from Bain & Company and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) titled “Innovation in India’s Rural Economy”. India’s Rural Economy contributed nearly half of the nation’s overall GDP in 2019-2020. Agriculture sector had the highest share of output, contributing approximately 37% of the total rural GDP in 2019-2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Innovation in India’s Rural Economy” report – released by CII + Bain & Company
- Agriculture Sector grew steadily at a CAGR of 11% since 2015
- Agriculture sector registered the highest share of the total Rural GDP in 2019-2020 – 37%

6. On March 1, NITI Aayog is in the process of developing a “National Gender Index” to measure the progress and identify the persisting gaps in gender equality to make informed policy decisions. The index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and UTs on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals. NITI Aayog has also developed a draft State Energy and Climate Index to assess the performance of states on different indicators. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog is developing a “National Gender Index” for India
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

7. On March 2, a report titled “How Indians View Gender Roles in Families and Society” is released by the Pew Research Center, a Washington DC-based non-profit organisation. The report is based on a survey of 29,999 Indian adults conducted from November 2019 to March 2020. According to the report, 9 in 10 Indians agree with the notion that a wife must always obey her husband, while 55% of Indians believe that men and women make equally good political leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “How Indians View Gender Roles in Families and Society” – released by Pew Research Center (US)
- According to the report: 9 in 10 Indians agree with the notion that a wife must always obey her husband

8. India installed a record 10 gigawatt (GW) of solar capacity during calendar year 2021, registering a year-on-year rise of 212%, according to the Mercom India Research report titled “Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update”. The country had made 3.2 GW of solar capacity installations during 2020. Cumulative solar installed capacity in India was approximately 49 GW at the end of December 2021. Rajasthan, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh were the top three states for cumulative large-scale solar capacity accounting for 50% of the installations in the country as of December 2021. Rajasthan led the capacity addition with 4.5 GW of solar capacity installation in 2021. Rooftop installations registered a y-o-y increase of 138% in 2021 and recorded 1.7 GW of rooftop solar capacity in 2021. Gujarat (with 27% share) led the states for cumulative rooftop solar installations, followed by Maharashtra (14%) and Rajasthan (10%). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Annual 2021 India Solar Market Update” – by Mercom India Research
- India installed 10 GW of solar capacity during 2021 (y-o-y increase of 212%)
- Cumulative solar installed capacity in India – 49 GW (by Dec 2021)
- Top 3 states for cumulative large-scale Solar Capacity: Rajasthan, Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh
- Rooftop installations registered a y-o-y increase of 138% in 2021
- India recorded 1.7 GW of rooftop solar capacity during 2021 (y-o-y increase of 138%)
- Top 3 states for cumulative rooftop solar installations: Gujarat, Maharashtra & Rajasthan

9. According to the latest report titled “Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?” from V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute at Sweden’s University of Gothenburg, the level of democracy enjoyed by the average global citizen in 2021 is down to 1989 levels. India is one of the top ten ‘Autocratisers’ in the world. The report classifies India as an ‘Autocracy’ (Electoral Autocracy) rather than a ‘Democracy’, ranking it 93rd on the “Liberal Democracy Index”, out of 179 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Democracy Report 2022: Autocratisation Changing Nature?” – released by V-Dem Institute
- India ranked 93rd on the “Liberal Democracy Index” of V-Dem Institute

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – got first rank in the “SKOCH State of Governance Rankings” for the 2nd consecutive year
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

16. 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



17. 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 5th 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 10th. 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 5th in terms of market capitalisation with total m-cap of \$3.21 trillion, surpassing the UK (\$3.19 trillion)
- 1st – US (\$47.32 trillion) | 2nd – China (\$11.52 trillion) | 3rd – Japan (\$6 trillion)

18. 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

19. According to "Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2021" report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India remains the largest importer of arms globally. However, according to the report, India's total volume of imports fell by 21% from 2012-16. It is because of India's push to manufacture arms and weapons systems indigenously under Atmanirbhar Bharat. As per the report, most of India's defence imports come from Russia. The five largest arms importers in the 2017-21 period were India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia and China, while the five biggest exporters of arms in the same period were the United States, Russia, France, China, and Germany. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Trends In International Arms Transfers, 2021" report – released by SIPRI
- India remains the largest importer of arms globally however India's total volume of imports fell by 21% from 2012-16
- The five largest arms importers during 2017-21: India, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia & China
- The five biggest arms exporters during 2017-21: US, Russia, France, China & Germany
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Chair – Jan Eliasson

20. India's maternal mortality ratio (MMR) improved to 103 in 2017-19, from 113 in 2016-18, according to the special bulletin on maternal mortality ratio (MMR) released by the Registrar General of India on March 14, 2022. Seven Indian states (Rajasthan, UP, MP, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha & Assam) have 'Very high' MMR. 'Very high' MMR means 130 or more maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Three states (Punjab, Uttarakhand & WB) have 'High' MMR. 'High' MMR means 100-130 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. While Two states (Haryana & Karnataka) have 'Low' MMR. 'Low' MMR means 71-100 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Overall, Assam has the highest MMR which 205, followed by Uttar Pradesh (167) & Chhattisgarh (160). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bulletin on Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India (2017-19)" – released by Registrar General of India
- 'Very high' MMR – 7 states | 'High' MMR – 3 states | 'Low' MMR – 2 states
- Overall, Assam has the highest MMR (205) | 2nd Highest – UP (167) | 3rd Highest – Chhattisgarh (160)

21. On March 16, Research and luxury publishing group Hurun India released 2022's Global Rich List, in association with realty firm M3M. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani achieved the 'Richest Man in India and Asia' title, with a jump of whopping 24% in his wealth. Ambani became the only Indian to feature in the Top 10 "2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List", with a \$103 billion net worth at 9th rank globally. He also earned the 'Richest Telecom Entrepreneur' title. While, with \$26 billion, Serum Institute of India founder Cyrus S. Poonawalla was named the 'Richest Healthcare Billionaire' in the world at the 55th rank. At the 60th position with \$25 billion net worth, ArcelorMittal Executive Chairman Lakshmi N. Mittal became the second 'Richest Metals & Mining Entrepreneur' in the world. Tesla's Elon Musk topped the list for the 2nd consecutive year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2022 M3M Hurun Global Rich List" – published on March 16 | Top – Elon Musk (2nd consecutive year)
- Mukesh Ambani (9th globally) – achieved the 'Richest Man in India and Asia' title
- Cyrus S. Poonawalla (55th globally) – named the 'Richest Healthcare Billionaire' in the world
- Lakshmi N. Mittal (60th globally) – named the second 'Richest Metals & Mining Entrepreneur' in the world

22. 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

23. 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 56th on the top 250 list based on the retail revenue growth for FY2020. Walmart leads the list, while Amazon is at the 2nd 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 2nd position. 35 of the Fastest 50 were hypermarkets/supermarkets, specialty stores. Reliance Retail was able to secure the position in the list for the 5th year in a row. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

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

24. India ranked 136th out of 146 countries in the 10th 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 16th spot. Afghanistan held the last position of 146th in the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's rank according to "World Happiness Report 2021" – 136th | Top – Finland | Last – Afghanistan



25. 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

26. 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

27. In terms of annual average PM2.5 levels in 2021, Delhi ranked as the most polluted out of 107 capital cities in the world, according to the "2021 World Air Quality Report" released by the Swiss organization IQAir. Delhi topped the list for the 4th consecutive year, followed by Dhaka. While N'Djamena, the capital of Chad, was third on the list. India was home to 11 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia in 2021. Bhiwadi in Rajasthan topped the list of the 'world's most polluted cities' in 2021 among 50 cities ranked in terms of PM2.5 levels. Bhiwadi was followed by Ghaziabad, and Hotan in China. Among countries, India ranked 5th among the Most Polluted countries in the world. Bangladesh topped the list, followed by Chad and Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2021 World Air Quality Report" – released by IQAir (Goldach, Switzerland)
- Most Polluted Capital Cities in the World: 1st - Delhi, 2nd - Dhaka, 3rd - N'Djamena
- Most Polluted Cities in the World: 1st - Bhiwadi, 2nd - Ghaziabad, 3rd - Hotan
- Most Polluted Countries in the World: 1st - Bangladesh, 2nd - Chad, 3rd - Pakistan | India - 5th

28. On March 22, Unemployment rate for persons of age 15 years and above in urban areas dipped to 9.8% in July-September 2021 from 13.2% in the same quarter of the previous year, according to the 12th "Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)" released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Joblessness or unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force. The unemployment rate in April-June 2021 was 12.6% in urban areas. In urban areas, unemployment rate declined to 11.6% among females & 9.3% among males in July-September. NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th “Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)” – released by NSO
- India’s urban unemployment rate declined to 9.8% in July-Sep 2021 (compared to 12.6% in April-June)
- Unemployment rate declined to 11.6% among females & 9.3% among in July-Sep 2021
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

29. On March 23, India climbed up five spots in the “Knight Frank Global House Price Index” to the 51st rank in the fourth quarter of 2021 against 56th rank in Q4 2020. The price increase of 2.1% YoY in the fourth quarter makes it the quarter in the year 2021 for India. Turkey led the index with the highest annual price growth rate by 59.6% in the year to Q4 2021 in nominal terms while Australia recorded the highest rate of annual price growth in the year by 17.5% to Q4 2021 in real terms. Turkey is followed by New Zealand with 22.6% growth rate and Czech Republic with 22.1%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranked 51st in the “Knight Frank Global House Price Index” for Q4 2021 with 2.1% growth rate
- 1st – Turkey (59.6% growth rate) | 2nd – New Zealand (22.6%) | 3rd – Czech Republic (22.1%)

30. On March 25, Gujarat retained the top position at the NITI Aayog’s 2nd edition of the “Export Preparedness Index 2021” followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka. Among union territories, Delhi has topped the index, followed by Goa and Jammu & Kashmir. While Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Tripura topped among Himalayan states. The index, prepared by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness (IFC), is a comprehensive analysis of India’s export achievements. IFC is a research institute in Gurgaon, Haryana. The EPI ranks states & UTs on 4 main pillars - policy, business ecosystem, export ecosystem and export performance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Export Preparedness Index 2021” (2nd edition) – by NITI Aayog + Institute of Competitiveness
- Top performing states: Gujarat, Maharashtra & Karnataka
- Top performing UTs: Delhi, Goa & J&K
- Top performing Himalayan states: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh & Tripura

31. Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh, famous for its brass work, is the second-most noise polluted city globally, according to a report titled “Noise, Blazes and Mismatches” released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Moradabad has recorded noise pollution of a maximum of 114 decibels (db). The Frontier 2022 report mentions a total of 61 cities. Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh has recorded the highest noise pollution of 119 db, followed by Pakistan’s Islamabad where the noise pollution level has been recorded at 105 db. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Frontier 2022 report titled “Noise, Blazes and Mismatches” – released by the UNEP
- Most noise polluted cities globally: 1st - Dhaka (Bangladesh), 2nd - Moradabad (UP), 3rd - Islamabad (Pakistan)
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

32. On March 25, According to the “Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22”, Delhi’s Per Capita Income during 2021-22 at current prices, was ₹4,01,982 as against ₹3,44,136 during 2020-21, showing a growth of 16.81%. Per Capita Income of Delhi is ranked at 3rd place among States/UTs in terms of Per Capita Income while Goa stood at 1st place and Sikkim at 2nd place. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Economic Survey of Delhi 2021-22”:
 - States/UTs in terms of Per Capita Income during 2021-22: 1st - Goa, 2nd - Sikkim, 3rd - Delhi
- Delhi’s Per Capita Income during 2021-22 at current prices – Rs 4,01,982 (Growth - 16.81%)

33. On March 29, the 7th edition of its Celebrity Brand Valuation Study 2021 titled, “Digital Acceleration 2.0” was released by Duff & Phelps. The study provides a ranking of India’s most powerful celebrity brands based on brand values derived from their brand endorsement portfolios and relative social media presence. Virat Kohli retains the top position for the fifth consecutive year with a brand value of \$185.7 million. Ranveer Singh is at second position with a brand value of \$158.3 million. Akshay Kumar landed the third position this year with a brand value of \$139.6 million. Alia Bhatt was ranked 4th and MS Dhoni was ranked 5th on the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Celebrity Brand Valuation Study 2021 titled, “Digital Acceleration 2.0,” – was released by Duff & Phelps
- 1st – Virat Kohli (\$185.7 million) | 2nd – Ranveer Singh (\$158.3 million) | 3rd – Akshay Kumar (\$139.6 million)

34. India reported a sharp 19% rise in tuberculosis cases in 2021 over the previous year, according to the “India TB Report 2022” released by the Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya. At the same time, there has been an increase in the mortality rate due to all forms of TB between 2019 and 2020 by 11% in India. As per “National TB Prevalence Survey in India 2019-2021”, the prevalence of all forms of TB for all ages in India was 312 per lakh population for the year 2021 and the highest prevalence for all forms of TB was 747 per lakh in Delhi and the lowest was 137 per lakh population in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – released “India TB Report 2022”
- India reported a sharp 19% rise in tuberculosis cases in 2021
- highest prevalence for all forms of TB – Delhi (747 per lakh) | lowest – Gujarat (137 per lakh)

35. In March 2022, India has crossed a milestone of 50,000 open defecation-free (ODF) Plus villages. Among the top performing States are Telangana with 13,960 ODF Plus villages followed by Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Phase-II was launched in February 2020 with the aim to ensure that all villages in India can declare themselves as ODF Plus by the end of 2024. ODF Plus villages have been divided into three categories, Aspiring, Rising, and Model, to showcase their progress. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India crossed a milestone of 50,000 open defecation-free (ODF) Plus villages as on March 2022
- Top performing States: Telangana, Tamil Nadu & Madhya Pradesh (respectively)

36. Unsafe abortions are the 3rd leading cause of maternal mortality in India, and each day, around 8 women die from causes related to unsafe abortions, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)’s “State of the World Population Report 2022”. Between 2007-2011, 67% of abortions in India were classified as unsafe. The report, titled “Seeing the Unseen: The Case for Action in the Neglected Crisis of Unintended Pregnancy”, has found that 121 million (nearly 50%) unintended pregnancies occur every year globally, out of all pregnancies Worldwide. One in seven unintended pregnancies in the world takes place in India. For adolescent fertility in India, women in the 15-19 age group have 43 births per 1,000 women (NFHS-5, 2019-21), which declined from 51 during NFHS-4 (2015-16). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “State of the World Population Report 2022” – released by UNFPA
- 121 million (nearly 50%) unintended pregnancies occur every year globally
- ‘Unsafe abortions’ are the 3rd leading cause of maternal mortality in India

37. India’s Space Economy has evolved considerably and now accounts, on an average, for about 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21), according to a research paper titled “The Space Economy of India: Its Size and Structure” by researchers at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) and the Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST). The estimated size of India’s space economy as a percentage of the GDP has slipped from 0.26% in 2011-12 to 0.19% (₹36,794 Cr or approx \$5 billion) in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Space Economy of India: Its Size and Structure” research paper – by CDS & IIST
- India’s Space Economy evolved considerably & accounts on an average for 0.23% of the GDP (over 2011-12 to 2020-21)
- India’s Space Economy as a percentage of the GDP: 0.19% (₹36,794 Cr or approx \$5 billion) in 2020-21



Arts & Cultural Affairs

1. On March 3, Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) partnered with UNESCO to help preserve and promote the cultural heritage of India, as part of an initiative in the post-pandemic world. It is industry-first collaboration to work towards preserving India's cultural heritage. IHCL and UNESCO together will offer experiential tours for travellers at various IHCL hotels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IHCL + UNESCO = partnership to help preserve & promote the cultural heritage of India (industry-first collaboration)
- HQs of IHCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Puneet Chhatwal
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

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

Key Points:

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

3. The 3-day "Ishan Manthan" cultural festival was organised in New Delhi by the central government. The festival was aimed at showcasing and promoting the cultural heritage of the Northeast Indian states to the world. Union Culture Minister G. Kishen Reddy inaugurated the festival. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day "Ishan Manthan" cultural festival – organised in New Delhi to promote cultural heritage of North-Eastern India

4. On March 27, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized "Yamunotsav" in association with a group of NGOs at ITO Bridge in Delhi, to celebrate the glory of Yamuna with a pledge to keep it clean. The ITO Bridge, also known as Indraprastha barrage and ITO barrage, is a 552 meter bridge over Yamuna River. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG organized "Yamunotsav" at ITO Bridge in Delhi
- 552-meter ITO Bridge (Indraprastha barrage or ITO barrage) – located over Yamuna River
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar



Acquisitions & Mergers

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

3. On March 16, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of Micro Life Sciences Private Limited by South Elm Investments B.V (SEI). SEI is an investment holding company incorporated under the laws of Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of Micro Life Sciences Private Limited – by South Elm Investments B.V (Netherlands)
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

4. On March 16, Torrent Power signed a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) and Shareholders Agreement (SHA) to acquire 51% equity of Dadra-Nagar Haveli and Daman-Diu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. This acquisition will significantly strengthen Torrent's position as the leading Power Distribution Company in the country with a presence in 12 cities spread across 3 states and 1 Union Territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Torrent Power – to acquire 51% equity of Dadra-Nagar Haveli & Daman-Diu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd
- HQs of Torrent Power – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Samir Mehta

5. On March 23, State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank acquired 7.84% stake each in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). All the three banks invested Rs 10 Cr each in the entity. The ONDC is an open-source e-commerce platform engaged in creating an open public digital infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SBI + Axis Bank + Kotak Mahindra Bank = acquired 7.84% stake each in Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

6. On March 30, the central government announced to sell 1.5% stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to raise over ₹3,000 Cr through an offer for sale (OFS) of 94,352,094 equity shares, including an equal number of shares in a Green Shoe Option. The floor price for the offer shall be Rs 159. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government announced to sell 1.5% stake in ONGC to raise over ₹3,000 Cr through OFS
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Alka Mittal (addi. charge)



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. On March 2, MeitY Startup Hub, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and Google announced to form a group of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups to help build high-quality global apps and games as part of Google's Appscale Academy. The goal of the Appscale Academy is to identify, and support promising Indian startups and help them grow into successful global businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY Startup Hub + Google = to form a group of 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups as part of 'Appscale Academy'
- 'Appscale Academy' – belongs to Google
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

2. India and Nepal signed an MoU for a long-term supply of Urea and DAP fertilizers from India to Nepal under a G2G arrangement. The MoU was signed by Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary (Chemical and Fertilizers), Government of India. The signing of this MoU is expected to help address the recurring fertilizer shortages in Nepal and enable improve agricultural productivity for the direct benefit of Nepali farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = signed an MoU for a long-term supply of Urea & DAP fertilizers from India to Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

3. On March 3, Paytm announced further expansion of its partnership with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across India. This is the first time Indian Railways is providing an option to pay digitally for ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs to promote cashless commuting among railway passengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm + IRCTC = partnership for digital ticketing services to consumers through ATVM at railway stations
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)

4. On March 4, Ministry of Science & Technology has decided to promote a unique start-up in the latest daylight harvesting technology in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building's energy efficiency. For this purpose, Hyderabad-based Skyshade Daylights Private Limited (the only start-up company in India for daylight harvesting technologies) signed an MoU with Technology Development Board (a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Technology Development Board + Skyshade Daylights = an MoU for Daylight Harvesting Technologies
- Location of of Skyshade Daylights – Hyderabad, Telangana | Location of TDB – New Delhi (a body of Dept. of S&T)

5. On March 3, India signed a Host Country Agreement (HCA) with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for establishment of Area Office & Innovation Centre at New Delhi. The agreement was signed during the "World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20)" held in Geneva, Switzerland. WTSA is a 4-yearly global conference of ITU. India has proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024. ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for information and communication technologies - ICTs. ITU currently has a membership of 193 countries and over 900 private-sector entities and academic institutions. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “World Telecommunications Standardisation Assembly-20 (WTSA-20)” – held in Geneva, Switzerland
- India proposed to host the next WTSA to be held in 2024
- India + ITU = signed a Host Country Agreement to establish Area Office & Innovation Centre at New Delhi
- HQs of ITU – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary General – Houlin Zhao

6. On March 3, India’s Reliance Industries would invest Rs 1670 Cr to form a joint venture (JV) with US-listed Sanmina Corp for making electronic products in Chennai. The JV aims to make hardware for 5G communications, cloud infrastructure, healthcare systems, and defense and aerospace. Reliance will hold a 50.1% stake in the JV after the investment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries + Sanmina Corp (US) = partnership to form a JV for making electronic products in Chennai
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

7. On March 3, National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE), signed an MoU with Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) to develop a sustainable model for promoting entrepreneurship at the grass roots by initiating the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP). SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIESBUD (MoSDE) + MoRD = an MoU for implementing the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)
- SVEP – a sub-component of DAY-NRLM (of Ministry of Rural Development)
- HQs of NIESBUD – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | DG – Anuradha Vemuri

8. On March 9, Google Cloud and e-commerce firm Flipkart, entered into a multi-year strategic partnership to help fast-track Flipkart’s innovation and cloud strategy. The partnership will propel Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India’s next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers. In 2017, Flipkart and Microsoft forged cloud partnership to expand e-commerce in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google Cloud + Flipkart = a multi-year strategic partnership to fast-track Flipkart’s Innovation & Cloud Strategy
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

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

Key Points:

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



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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

18. 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

19. 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

20. On March 11, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based company SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optic interconnections in the aerospace domain. HAL's subsidiary Naini Aerospace Limited (NAEL) was also a signatory to the MoU. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + SASMOS = MoU to work on advanced electronics, electrical & fibre optic interconnections in aerospace domain
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

21. On March 10, Infosys and the International Tennis Hall of Fame announced a multi-year transformational collaboration making Infosys the ITHF's Official Digital Innovation Partner and title sponsor of the organization's annual ATP Tour tournament, the "Infosys Hall of Fame Open". The collaboration will help the ITHF amplify its efforts in preserving and celebrating tennis history through digital advances while also identifying and acting on opportunities to enhance fan experience. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITHF – made Infosys as its Official Digital Innovation Partner & title sponsor of the its annual ATP Tour tournament
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981
- HQs of ITHF – Rhode Island, United States | CEO – Todd Martin



22. On March 15, Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP) signed an MoU with the Haryana government for building Grade A warehousing facilities. It will develop around 5 million sq ft over 3-4 years which will help generate more than 4500 jobs. It will invest around ₹1500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WOLP + Haryana = an MoU for building Grade A warehousing facilities
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

23. On March 15, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd signed an MoU for fabrication, supply, erection and launching of 27 carriageway double lane galvanised modular bridges of 7.5 meters with Indian Road Congress (IRC) Load Class 70. The double-lane Modular Steel Bridge developed by the GRSE is the only one-of-its-kind bridge available in India and is 100% indigenous. The bridge was constructed on “Flag Hill-Dokala” Road in Sikkim at an altitude of 11,000 feet by Karamyogis of Project Swastik in February 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BRO + GRSE = an MoU for 27 carriageway double lane galvanised modular bridges of 7.5 meters **with IRC load class**

70

- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary | Founded on – May 7, 1960
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | Chairman & MD – Commodore P R Hari | Founded in – 1884

24. On March 16, JSW Cement signed an MoU with Punjab Renewable Energy Systems Pvt Ltd (PRESPL) to use agricultural waste as biomass energy in its cement-manufacturing operations. The company is also planning to reduce its carbon emissions intensity by almost half in 11 years (from FY'15 to FY'26). The biomass-based fuel model will help JSW Cement address 3 key aspects of Sustainability i.e. Environment, Social and Economic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JSW Cement + Punjab Renewable Energy Systems = an MoU to use agricultural waste as Biomass Energy
- HQs of JSW Cement – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Kumar Jain | MD – Parth Jindal

25. On March 16, Mumbai-based Tata Communications and Formula 1 (F1) announced a multi-year strategic collaboration. With the collaboration, Tata Communications returned to the sport of racing as the Official Broadcast Connectivity Provider of Formula 1 (F1). Tata Communications will deliver and enhance fan experience globally and provide global end-to-end managed network services for video contribution. The company will facilitate the transfer of over 100 video feeds and over 250 audio channels, which will be transmitted between the Grand Prix venue and F1's Media and Technology Centre in the UK every race weekend in under 200 milliseconds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Communications – announced multi-year strategic collaboration as Official Broadcast Connectivity Provider for F1
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan

26. 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

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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

30. 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



31. On March 21, India's main potash manufacturer and importer Indian Potash Ltd (IPL) signed an MoU with Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL Group) to import 6-6.5 lakh tonnes muriate of potash (MoP) per annum for next 5 years until 2027, to boost domestic availability of this key fertilizer mainly used in horticulture and plantation crops. Israel Chemicals is also working with the IPL in operating a project titled "Potash for Life focused on achieving higher fertilizer use efficiency" with an aim to increase the income of farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Potash Ltd + Israel Chemicals = an MoU to import 6-6.5 lakh tonnes muriate of potash per annum till 2027
- HQs of Indian Potash Ltd – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & MD – Sundeep Kumar Nayak
- HQs of Israel Chemicals Ltd – Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel | CEO – Raviv Zoller

32. In March 2022, An MoU was signed between Khanij Bidesh India (KABIL) and Australian government's Critical Minerals Facilitation Office (CMFO) to carry out joint due diligence for greenfield and brownfield projects to identify lithium and cobalt mineral assets in Australia. KABIL is mandated to identify and acquire overseas mineral assets of critical and strategic nature such as lithium and cobalt, among others. Both countries have committed to invest \$6 million jointly to explore Lithium and Cobalt mines in Australia in the next 6 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KABIL (India) + CMFO (Australia) = an MoU to identify critical mineral assets in Australia
- India + Australia = committed to invest \$6 million to explore Lithium & Cobalt mines in Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

33. On March 29, Tata-owned satellite communications company Nelco signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Omnispace. The aim of this strategic agreement with Omnispace is to enable and distribute world's first global 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services. With this agreement, Omnispace becomes the fifth player in the LEO/MEO space to eye the Indian market to provide satellite-based connectivity. Other 4 players include Elon Musk's Star Link, Canadian Telesat, Bharti-backed OneWeb and Jio's partnership with SES. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nelco + Omnispace = to enable & distribute 5G non-terrestrial network (NTN), direct-to-device satellite services
- Nelco – a satellite communications company owned by Tata Group

34. On March 24, the partnership has been established between bilateral Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) through the MoU with Tata Steel Ltd will institute a joint collaborative Research & Innovation (R&I) framework to facilitate new technologies development, conduct thought leadership workshops, and support human capital development. IGSTC has been established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), GoI and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). A Letter of Intent (LoI) was also signed with BASF Chemicals India Pvt Ltd (BASF) for Scientific cooperation partnerships to foster Science and Technology led innovations and research partnerships in PPP mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IGSTC + Tata Steel + BASF = a Letter of Intent to facilitate new technologies development
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran

35. In March 2022, Microsoft partnered with Fortum, a Finnish energy company, to heat homes, services and businesses in Finland with sustainable waste heat from a new datacentre region that Microsoft has planned to build in the Helsinki metropolitan area in Finland. A datacentre is a physical facility that organisations use to store their critical applications and data, process data and disseminate them to users. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Microsoft + Fortum = partnered to use sustainable waste heat to heat homes, services & businesses in Finland
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

36. On March 23, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the Surketham Dairy Cooperative Limited (SDCL) and the Nepal Dairy Private Limited (NDPL) signed a tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise in Nepal. The Kangchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDI) under the ICIMOD took initiative for the project to save yaks and yak farming culture from extinction and showcase their economic viability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICIMOD + SDCL + NDPL = signed a tripartite agreement to promote yak dairy enterprise in Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

37. On March 24, Himachal Pradesh signed an MoU with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali as the knowledge partner for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh area of Solan district. The State Planning Department has sanctioned Rs 74.95 Cr for the development of the park to the State Implementation Agency. An Investment Outreach Program has also been initiated with investors across India and countries such as Israel, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Germany that have cutting-edge technology in the Medical Devices sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh + NIPER = an MoU for the upcoming Medical Devices Park in Nalagarh, Solan
- NIPER – will be the knowledge partner for the park
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath

Arlekar

38. On March 21, India's public broadcaster Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with Australia's public service broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting. This will expand the reach of DD News, DD India and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasar Bharati + SBS (Australia) = an MoU to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

39. On March 25, in a significant development of India's bilateral ties with Sri Lanka, Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) signed an agreement with the government of Sri Lanka to build a floating dock valued at approximately \$20 million. The floating dock will be established at the Trincomalee Naval Dockyard within the next 30 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard + Sri Lanka = an agreement to build a floating dock worth approx \$20 million
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



40. On March 25, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), to promote entrepreneurship at a local level amongst the rural youth and to enhance the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the sub scheme of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIE + MoRD = an MoU to enhance the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme
- SVEP – the sub scheme of ‘NRLM’
- [Location of IIE – Guwahati, Assam](#)

41. On March 22, IIT Madras (IIT-M) partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to launch a user-oriented programme on Industrial AI that is targeted at upskilling employees in corporates in the applications of AI to industrial problems. The 18-month course, designed in consultation with TCS, will be offered by IIT-Madras in a completely online live teaching mode through virtual classrooms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras + TCS = launched a programme on Industrial AI for upskilling corporates employees AI applications
- [HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan](#) | [Founded in – 1968](#)
- [Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti](#)

42. On March 25, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, collaborated with the Indo-German Development Cooperation Project ‘Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Start-ups by Women (Her&Now)’ commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and jointly implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to end the gender-based barriers that pose significant obstacles to women entrepreneurs across India. The partnership between AIM and Her&Now will impart the ‘WINcubate Training Programme’ to the AIM Incubators and Innovation Centres and equip them in adopting a gender-focused approach. The WINcubate Training Programme has been developed by Her&Now together with the Indian NGO ‘Dhriiti - the Courage Within’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM + Her&Now = to impart ‘WINcubate Training Programme’ to end gender-based barriers for women entrepreneurs
- Her&Now + ‘Dhriiti - the Courage Within’ = developed ‘WINcubate Training Programme’
- [AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog](#) ([HQs of AIM – New Delhi](#) | [Director – Chintan Vaishnav](#))

43. In March 2022, in a major boost to the Government’s “Make in India” Initiative, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) signed an agreement with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to jointly develop an indigenous civil Air Traffic Management System (ATMS). Under this Agreement, BEL and AAI will jointly develop ATMS with Advanced-Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AAI + BEL = to jointly develop an indigenous civil Air Traffic Management System (ATMS)
- [HQs of AAI – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Sanjeev Kumar](#)
- [HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#) | [CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava](#)



44. On March 25, Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth Rs 887 Cr with Larsen & Toubro Ltd for the acquisition of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) under the “Buy-Indian” category for Indian Navy. These MPVs have the capability to perform multi-role support functions which include maritime surveillance & patrol, surface and underwater targets for Gunnery/ ASW firing exercises, launching/recovery of torpedoes and operation of various types of aerial. These vessels will also act as a trial platform for naval weapons and sensors which are under development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + L&T = a contract worth Rs 887 Cr for the acquisition of two MPVs for Indian Navy
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CEO & MD – S. N. Subrahmanyam

45. On March 25, Airport operators Groupe ADP and GMR Airports together with Airbus, Axens and Safran signed an MoU to conduct a joint study on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and their potential in India. The objective of the study is to understand and evaluate the demand, the challenges and opportunities of supply, infrastructure and fuelling, as well as to prepare a business case for SAF production and use for all kind of aviation purposes. SAF is a clean substitute for fossil jet fuels. Rather than being refined from petroleum, SAF is produced from sustainable resources such as waste oils from a biological origin, agri-residues, municipal solid wastes or algae. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Groupe ADP + GMR Airports + Airbus + Axens + Safran = MoU to conduct a joint study on SAF & their potential in India
- SAF – Sustainable Aviation Fuels

46. On March 28, Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for construction of eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard at a total project cost of Rs 473 Cr. These surface platforms will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by GSL under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) Category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + GSL = signed Rs 473 Cr contract for construction of 8 Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

47. On March 27, Abu Dhabi-based LuLu Group International announced it will set up two shopping malls and a 100% export-oriented food processing unit in Tamil Nadu with the investment of Rs 3,500 Cr. Five other companies also signed MoUs with Tamil Nadu government with an investment of Rs 2,600 Cr, which could result in total investment of Rs 6,100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LuLu Group International (UAE) + Tamil Nadu = an MoU to implement 3 projects worth Rs 3,500 Cr in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

48. SpiceJet, Boeing and CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) are working together to explore opportunities for the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in the Indian aviation industry. The coordination is part of their commitment to helping reduce carbon emissions to achieve environmental goals. SAF can reduce CO2 emissions by as much as 65% over the life-cycle of fuel. The CSIR-IIP is a research institute in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- SpiceJet + Boeing + CSIR-IIP = to explore opportunities for the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel in Indian aviation industry
- HQs of SpiceJet – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairman & MD – Ajay Singh
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, US | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916

49. On March 29, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Meghalaya counterpart Conrad K. Sangma, in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, signed an agreement to resolve the five-decade-old border dispute between the two northeastern states. It will settle the dispute in 6 of the 12 locations along the 884.9 km border. The dispute emerged in 1972 when Meghalaya was carved out of Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himanta Biswa Sarma + Conrad K. Sangma = signed an agreement to resolve 50-year old pending border dispute
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



Books & Authors

1. Journalist Barkha Dutt's new book, "To Hell and Back" (published by Juggernaut Books), tells the story of the Covid-19 pandemic in India and draws from her own reporting on the subject. This excerpt is taken from the chapter Asphyxiated, which deals with the second wave in 2021 and the oxygen-shortage crisis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "To Hell and Back" book – authored by Barkha Dutt
- Publisher – Juggernaut Books

2. A book titled "The Kashmir That Was" is authored by Avanti Sopory. The book is a collection of those flashback moments. It is a point where the unseen, unheard and unimagined sides of Kashmir converge; to let the people in the world know that Kashmir was far more than what they know of her now.

Key Points:

- "The Kashmir That Was" book – authored by Avanti Sopory

3. A book titled "The Queen of Indian Pop" is the English translation of the biography of Usha Uthup, and it was published by Penguin Random House India. In this vivid biography, which was originally written in Hindi, Vikas Kumar Jha captures the entire arc of Uthup's career in music. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Queen of Indian Pop" - English translation of biography of 'Usha Uthup' – authored by Vikas Kumar Jha

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

Key Points:

- "The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal" book – authored by Amitava Kumar
- Publisher – HarperCollins

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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



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

Key Points:

- March 9 – 92nd birth anniversary of Soli Sorabjee (former Attorney General of India)
- “Soli Sorabjee: Life and Times” biography – authored by Abhinav Chandrachud

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

Key Points:

- “Unfilled Barrels: India’s Oil Story” book – authored by Richa Mishra

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

Key Points:

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

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

Key Points:

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

11. 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

12. 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

13. Penguin Random House announced to launch the first authorised biography of the late iconic industrialist and former chairman of Bajaj group Rahul Bajaj on March 21. The biography titled “Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life” is written by noted business historian Gita Piramal. Rahul Bajaj was a Padma Bhushan recipient and he died on February 12 at the age of 83. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life” first authorised biography of Rahul Bajaj – authored by Gita Piramal
- Publisher – Penguin Random House

14. Rupa Publications will launch a book titled “Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery”. The book is a compilation of chapters authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts. Union home Minister Amit Shah, minister of external affairs S. Jaishankar, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, actor Anupam Kher, Olympic athlete P.V Sindhu and singer Lata Mangeshkar are among the many who have contributed to this special book to commemorate the 20 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in public life. On October 7, 2021, BJP marked 20 years since PM Modi took public office as the chief minister of Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery” book – launched to commemorate the 20 years of Narendra Modi in public life
- Publisher – Rupa Publications

15. On March 12, Sahitya Akademi published a book-length poem “Monsoon” by Indian poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar on the occasion of its 68th anniversary. His poem “Earth Anthem” has been translated into over 150 languages. He received ‘SAARC Literary Award 2013’. His translations of Kalidasa’s & Ritusamhara from Sanskrit, have won ‘KLF Poetry Book of the Year Award 2020-21’. Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954. Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was its first President. The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Monsoon” a book-length poem – authored by Abhay Kumar
- Published by – Sahitya Akademi (on its 68th anniversary)
- Sahitya Akademi – established on March 12, 1954 | Logo designed by – Satyajit Ray | 1st President – Jawaharlal

Nehru



16. “More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T.” book is authored by Padma Awardee Dr. Tehemton Erach Udwadia. Laparoscopic surgery forms an important part of this book, which has been written for a general readership. Dr. Tehemton Erach Udwadia is an Indian surgeon and gastroenterologist, considered by many as the ‘Father of Laparoscopic Surgery’ in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “More Than Just Surgery: Life lessons beyond the O.T.” book – authored by Tehemton Erach Udwadia

17. On March 17, Indian-origin UK-based author, actress, playwright and screenwriter, Manjeet Mann was shortlisted for her children's book “The Crossing” for the UK's prestigious “Yoto Carnegie Medal”. “The Crossing” is a tale of a little girl's friendship with an Eritrean refugee. “The Crossing” is her second novel and recently won the “2021 Costa Children's Book Award” also. Her debut (first) children's novel was “Run, Rebel”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Crossing” novel (authored by Manjeet Mann) – shortlisted for the UK's “Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022”
- “The Crossing” novel – also won the “2021 Costa Children's Book Award”
- Manjeet Mann's debut novel – “Run, Rebel”

18. 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)

19. 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

20. A picture-book edition titled “The Little Book of Joy” co-authored by the Nobel Peace Prize winners the Dalai Lama (14th) and Archbishop Desmond Tutu will be published in September 2022. It will be published by Random House Children's Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Little Book of Joy” book – authored by Dalai Lama + Desmond Tutu
- The book will be published in Sep 2022 by – Random House Children's Books

21. On March 26, Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled “Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya”. The book is about the life story of late Shri Somepalli Somaiah, a noted social worker from Andhra Pradesh. The book was authored by K. Syam Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Spoorthi Pradatha Sri Somayya” book authored by – K. Syam Prasad (released by M. Venkaiah Naidu)
- The book is about the life story of – late Shri Somepalli Somaiah

22. Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar released a book titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems", at an event organized by NITI Aayog and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Ramesh Chand, Pramod Joshi and Shyam Khadka are the editors of this book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – released a book titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems"
- Editors of the book – Ramesh Chand, Pramod Joshi & Shyam Khadka



Obituaries

1. On March 4, Former Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General (retd) Sunith Francis Rodrigues, who headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993, and served as the Governor of Punjab between 2004 and 2010, passed away. He was 88. He also served as the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gen Sunith Francis Rodrigues – Former Chief of Army Staff – passed away
- COAS between 1990 & 1993 | Governor of Punjab between 2004 & 2010

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

Key Points:

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

3. 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 Sebastian Duda

4. On March 15, former Andhra Pradesh Governor and former Union Minister Kumudben Joshi passed away. She was known for her contribution in the field of women empowerment and public service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kumudben Joshi – former Andhra Pradesh Governor and former Union Minister – passed away
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

5. On March 15, Eugene Parker, a physicist who theorized the existence of solar wind and became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft bearing his name, has died at the age of 94. Eugene Newman Parker was an American solar physicist and plasma physicist. In the 1950s he proposed the existence of the solar wind. Initially, Eugene Parker was mocked for his findings on gigantic eruptions from the sun. And today, NASA's Parker Probe will pass through the sun's outer atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eugene Parker (US) – an American Solar Physicist & Plasma Physicist – passed away



6. 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

7. 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

8. 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

9. On March 23, Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ramesh Chandra Lahoti passed away in New Delhi. He was 81. Justice Lahoti was appointed the 35th CJI on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Chandra Lahoti – 35th Chief Justice of India – passed away
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

10. In March 2022, an American computer scientist Steve Wilhite, whose Graphics Interchange Format (GIF) helped personalize the internet, passed away. He was 74. He invented GIF in 1987. He was awarded a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Steve Wilhite (US) – Inventor of GIF (1987) – passed away



Persons in News

1. President Joe Biden nominated federal appeals court Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman selected to serve on a court. She would be only the sixth woman to serve on the court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ketanji Brown Jackson – first Black woman selected to serve as the U.S. Supreme Court Judge
- Present Chief Justice of the US – John Glover Roberts Jr.
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

2. On March 7, Aarushie Verma, a national level shooter in Pistol & trap shooting and an active Environmentalist, was selected to represent India at the “2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition” held in March 2022. The expedition aims to raise awareness and work for the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability solutions to combat the effects of climate change. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aarushie Verma ([Shooter](#)) – selected to represent India at the “2041 Climate Force Antarctica Expedition”

3. On March 23, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Executive Chairperson of Biocon and Biocon Biologics, and one of leading woman entrepreneurs from India who has made her mark in India and abroad in the biopharmaceutical arena, is elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE). The RSE is Scotland’s National Academy established in 1783, for the advancement of learning and useful knowledge. Kiran is among the 80 luminaries to be appointed to the RSE’s Fellowship this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw – elected as the Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK)
- RSE – Scotland’s National Academy established in 1783



Science & Technology

1. On March 2, NASA successfully launched Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, 'GOES-T', the third in a series of next-generation weather satellites for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It was launched on a United Launch Alliance's 'Atlas V' rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. Once 'GOES-T' is positioned in a geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above earth, it will be renamed 'GOES-18'. GOES satellites bring advanced new capabilities to help forecasters better monitor and predict dangerous environmental conditions like hurricanes, thunderstorms, floods, and fires. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched 'GOES-T' - a weather satellite for National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

2. On March 4, the Indian Navy successfully test-fired an advanced version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from a stealth destroyer INS Chennai in the Indian Ocean. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. The range of the advanced version of the missile is learnt to have been extended to around 350 km from the original 290 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy successfully test-fired an advanced version of 'Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile' from INS Chennai
- Range of the advanced version of the missile – 350 km

3. On March 2, "Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators", a program by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), in partnership with Intel India, was launched on the occasion of National Science Day on February 28 by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C). The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's 'INSPIRE-Awards MANAK' scheme. The program will be launched in three different phases across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – launched "Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators" program (developed by DST + Intel India)
- The program aims to build digital readiness among students from Classes 6-10 under 'INSPIRE-Awards MANAK' scheme

4. On March 8, A new species of gin berry was discovered from the Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu. The findings are published in the Nordic Journal of Botany. Gin berry is an obscure member of the orange family bearing small, juicy fruit. This species is named "Glycosmis albicarpa". Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight biodiversity hotspots in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Glycosmis albicarpa" - a new species of Gin Berry – discovered from Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

5. DRDO developed Monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs) were used in the radar imaging modules of the EOS04 satellite which was launched on February 14 by the Indian Space Research Organisation. The satellite is designed to provide high-quality images for applications such as forestry, agriculture, hydrology, soil moisture and flood mapping. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- DRDO – developed MMICs which were used in the EOS04 satellite which was launched on February 14 by ISRO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

6. On March 8, NASA has started building the Europa Clipper spacecraft that will be launched in 2024. The Europa Clipper mission will conduct detailed reconnaissance of icy moon of Jupiter to find if Jupiter's moon Europa has conditions to support life. The mission will enter Jupiter's orbit in 2030, according to NASA. Europa is named after a woman who, in Greek mythology, was abducted by the god Zeus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA started building 'Europa Clipper spacecraft' – to be launched in 2024 to find life on Europa (Jupiter's Moon)
- Europa Clipper mission is expected to enter Jupiter's orbit in 2030
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

7. In March 2022, Experts and forest officials have installed GPS transmitters on Northern River Terrapin, a freshwater turtle, in Indian Sundarbans, West Bengal. In just six weeks after the release, at least 3 of the 10 individuals of the critically endangered Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska) have travelled hundreds of kilometers and are now in Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Forest officials installed GPS transmitters on 'Northern River Terrapin' - a freshwater turtle in Indian Sundarbans, WB

8. On March 6, India's first indigenous Flying Trainer 'HANSA-NG' designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore successfully completed the sea level trials at Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March, 2022. 'HANSA-NG' is one of the most advanced flying trainer powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine. It is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'HANSA-NG' – India's 1st indigenous Flying Trainer, completed the sea level trials at Puducherry
- HANSA-NG – designed & developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942

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

Key Points:

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

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



Key Points:

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

11. In March 2022, 325-million-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-million-year-old fossil of a cephalopod unearthed in Montana, US – named after Joe Biden
- It represents the oldest-known relative of today's Octopus

12. 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

13. On March 14, An Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) with seed money of Rs 230 Cr was launched at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru. Of the Rs 230 Cr, Rs 170 Cr would be borne by the Centre and the rest by the Karnataka government. The ARTPARK has the objective of channelising innovations to create a societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode R&D projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber-security aiming to solve problems unique to India. AI is expected to touch \$15.7 trillion by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARTPARK – was launched at the IISc, Bengaluru with seed money of Rs 230 Cr (170 Cr by Centre & 60 Cr by Karnataka)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

14. 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

15. 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

16. On March 22, Bharti Enterprises-led OneWeb, the low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications company, signed an agreement with SpaceX to resume satellite launches. The first launch with SpaceX is anticipated in 2022 and will add to OneWeb's total in-orbit constellation that is currently at 428 satellites, or 66% of the fleet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OneWeb + SpaceX = an agreement to resume its low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite launches
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | Founder & CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- OneWeb – co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK

17. On March 22, Astronomers at Jet Propulsion Laboratory of NASA added the 5,000th exoplanet to the NASA Exoplanet Archive. NASA hit this milestone following the discovery of 65 new exoplanets. The 65 new exoplanets will be studied for compositions that might support the presence of microbes, water, and gases or even life. More than 5,000 planets are now confirmed to exist beyond our solar system. Any planet that exists beyond our solar system is an exoplanet. NASA's Kepler Space Telescope suggests that the galaxy contains more planets than stars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jet Propulsion Laboratory (NASA) – discovered 65 new exoplanets & added 5,000th exoplanet to its Exoplanet Archive
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

18. On March 24, a Marine Mammals Research (MMR) team of the Department of Environment and Forest in Lakshadweep reported the first-ever live sighting of rough-toothed dolphins (*Steno bredanensis*) in Indian waters. Rough-toothed dolphins are found in tropical and warmer temperate waters all over the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rough-toothed dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) was sighted for the first time in India – in Lakshadweep
- Lakshadweep: Capital – Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel

19. On March 27, Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal inaugurated "PARAM Shakti", a Petascale Supercomputer, at IIT Kharagpur. This Supercomputer has been dedicated to the nation under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). NSM is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST). An MoU was signed between IIT Kharagpur and Centre for Development in Advanced Computing (CDAC) in March 2019 to establish this state-of-the-art Supercomputing Facility with 17680 CPU cores along with 44 GPUs. IIT Kharagpur has also established the Centre for Computational and Data Science with a mandate to train the researchers in Supercomputer accelerated R&D. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Jagdeep Dhankhar – inaugurated a Petascale Supercomputer namely “PARAM Shakti” at IIT Kharagpur
- ‘PARAM Shakti’ – established by IIT Kharagpur + CDAC
- Director of IIT Kharagpur – Virendra Kumar Tewari
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni (functions under MeitY)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

20. In March 2022, Scientists have discovered microplastics in human blood for the first time. A study by researchers from Netherlands, published in the Environment International journal, examined blood samples from 22 anonymous, healthy volunteers and found microplastics in nearly 80% of them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists from Netherlands discovered microplastics in human blood for the first time
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

21. In March 2022, An IIT Hyderabad developed portable, cost-effective, and IoT-enabled ventilator powered by lithium-ion batteries is now available for commercial use. The smart ventilator named “Jeevan Lite” was launched by Telangana and Puducherry Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Hyderabad – developed portable, cost-effective, and IoT-enabled ventilator named “Jeevan Lite”
- Director of IIT Hyderabad – B. S. Murthy

22. India’s third moon mission ‘Chandrayaan-3’ and ‘Aditya-L1’ satellite will be tracked by the antennas of European Space Agency (ESA). According to ESA, the ISRO will launch two pioneering scientific spacecraft in 2022, one to study the Sun, and one to land on the Moon. Aditya-L1 satellite’s mission is to study the Sun. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s 3rd moon mission ‘Chandrayaan-3’ & ISRO’s ‘Aditya-L1’ satellite – will be tracked by the antennas of ESA
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | DG – Josef Aschbacher

23. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is building up its orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars and optical telescopes under the Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) project. A space debris tracking radar has a range of 1,500 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO is building up orbital debris tracking capability by deploying new radars & optical telescopes under ‘NETRA’ project
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969



Ordinance, Bills & Acts

1. On March 3, Chandigarh Municipal Corporation approved a proposal to amend 'Article 80' of the Constitution so that its councillors could send a representative to the Rajya Sabha. 'Article 80' of the Constitution of India deals with the composition of the council of states also called the Upper House and Rajya Sabha (Upper House). The Private Member Bill was introduced by Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib, Punjab, Manish Tewari. The Private Member Bill is a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister. MPs sitting in the Opposition mostly bring Private Member Bills in the house. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandigarh MC – approved a proposal to amend 'Article 80' of the Constitution of India
- Private Member Bill – a bill introduced by a Member of Parliament (MP), who is not a minister

2. The Assam government extended the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the entire state for 6 months more with effect from February 28. The act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without any prior warrant. The AFSPA was imposed in Assam in November 1990 and has been extended every six months since then after a review by the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – extended "Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)" for 6 months more with effect from February 28
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi





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