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Govt Exams ? Crack with Us...

CURRENT AFFAIRS
Weekly Capsule PDF
22nd to 28th March 2021

CUSTOMIZED STUDY MATERIAL

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...? What Rotunda?
In case you don't know or have not heard about it the
Shaw Boulevard Rotunda that used to be a major land-
mark between the old provincial capitol, Paeng's motel
row and Barrio Kapitolyo has been sneakily removed
piece by piece in order to avoid a finstorm from pos-
sible oppositionists. They did it so well and so slowly
that many motorists and pedestrians are now asking
how much longer is this hide and seek going to take.
For starters, locals and motorists have decided on
what the national or local authorities have decided on
in terms of traffic management. Will there be a traffic
light intersections between Shaw Boulevard, Capitol
Commons and Barrio Kapitolyo? Or will it be one of
those organic intersections maintained by humans or
organic personnel of the Paeng TPMO?
People are also asking about the huge diggings around
concrete points at various points "around
vendors in the area claim they
the project for

...a speed limit
These half-humps may seem
ideas but in truth they are an engineer
accidents. A year or two ago these kids
in a car accident inside Alabang Villa
one of the residents, the kids were doing
the half-hump crosses were done by the
kids drive one side of tires by the
side over the humps. Whatever the
St. Paul road half humps are too m
and a risk and should be comple
road. The same should be done
in Metro Manila



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Weekly Current Affairs

(22nd March 2021 to 28th March 2021)

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Forests is celebrated on March 22

International Day of Forests is celebrated on 22 March. The day was founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization and United Nations in 2012. It is aimed at raising public awareness among diverse communities about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance the life cycle. Government networks and private organisations work together on this day every year to enlighten people about the importance of forests and the role they play in our ecology as well as the economy.

World Water Day is observed on March 22

World Water Day is observed on 22 March. The day focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocates for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The objective of the day is to raise awareness of the global water crisis, and a core focus of the observance is to support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which is to ensure water and sanitation for all by 2030.

World Meteorological Day is celebrated on March 23

The World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on 23 March to commemorate the date of the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization on 23 March 1950. The day also highlights the contribution that the National Meteorological and Hydro-logical Services make to the safety and well-being of society. The theme for 2021 World Meteorological Day is 'The ocean, our climate and weather'.

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on March 24

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24th March every year to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of Tuberculosis, TB, and to step up efforts to end the global epidemic. The day is observed to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacteria in 1882. **The theme of World TB Day 2021 - 'The Clock is Ticking'.**



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World Theatre Day is celebrated on 27 March

The World Theatre Day is celebrated all over the world on the 27 March since 1962 to promote the art form “theatre” accross the world. The day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). Every year the Executive Council of ITI choses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day. The author of the Message of World Theatre Day 2021 is: Helen MIRREN, United Kingdom.

Earth Hour 2021 is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of the March (27 March)

Every year, the Earth Hour is celebrated worldwide on the last Saturday of the March month to show support for the fight against climate change and commitment towards a better planet. Earth Hour 2021 is being marked on March 27, 2021. It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 to raise awareness for energy consumption and effects on the environment. The Earth Hour 2021 theme will focus on “Climate Change to Save Earth.”

STATE NEWS

Maharashtra, Odisha paired under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme aims to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between people of different states and Union Territories through the concept of state and UT pairing. The states carry out activities to promote a sustained and structured cultural connect in the areas of language learning, culture, traditions & music, tourism & cuisine, sports and sharing of best practices, etc.

Bihar becomes first state to have Ethanol Promotion Policy

Bihar has become the first state of the country to have its own ethanol policy called Ethanol Production Promotion Policy, 2021. The Policy was approved by the Central government in December 2020 in consonance with National Policy of Biofuels, 2018 and subsequently by National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

Nagaland Health Minister launches 'i-Learn' for Community Health Officers

Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Minister S Pangnyu Phom launched i-Learn, a capacity building and performance tracking application for Community Health Officers, CHOs in the state at his office chamber in Kohima. The state government launched an i-Learn application in partnership with USAID-NISHTHA/Jgpiego which will cater across the 189 Health & Wellness centers in the state. i-Learn is a learning management system for CHOs with self facilitated learning for improving and learning new skills in clinical and non clinical areas.



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Ladakh LG inaugurates first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of KREDA at Lato Village

Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has inaugurated the first Solar Lift Irrigation Scheme of Kargil Renewable Energy Development Agency (KREDA) at Lato Village. This is the last Village on the LOC. The project is inspired by the Vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for solarising Ladakh as a model region by making it fully solarised and Carbon Neutral.

GRAM UJALA programme launched in Varanasi

The Union Minister of State (I/C) for Power & New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, launched the GRAM UJALA programme in Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh. Under this program Convergence Energy Services Limited, CESL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited -EESL, will distribute high quality LED bulbs, at an affordable cost in rural areas. Under the scheme One crore 50 lakh LED bulbs will be distributed in phase 1 resulting in energy savings of 2025 million KWh/year and CO2 reductions of 1.65 million T CO2/year.

Andhra Pradesh CM unveiled Kurnool Airport

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has inaugurated the Kurnool Airport located at Orvakal and named it after the first ever freedom fighter of the country, Uyyalavada Narasimha Reddy, as a tribute to him.

NATIONAL NEWS

Centre launches 'Gram Ujala Scheme' to offer LED bulbs at Rs 10/piece in rural areas

The Government of India has launched an ambitious scheme called "Gram Ujala" under which high quality energy efficient LED bulbs will be given for just Rs 10 per piece in rural areas. This scheme is in line with the government's climate change strategy and further strengthening its self-reliance credentials.

Cabinet okays signing of MoU between UPSC, Afghanistan's IARCSC

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), India and Independent Administrative Reforms and Civil Services Commission (IARCSC), Afghanistan. The MoU will strengthen the relationship between IARCSC and UPSC. It will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the institutions in the area of recruitment.



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Meeting of Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan underway in New Delhi

Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan is underway in New Delhi. The Commission deals with water rights on the Indus river. The Permanent Indus Commission was set up under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960. The Indian side is being led by the Indian Commissioner for Indus Waters Pradeep Kumar Saxena. The Pakistan side is being led by Syed Muhammad Meher Ali Shah.

Lok Sabha passes Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021 to replace old lighthouses law

Lok Sabha has passed the Marine Aids to Navigation Bill, 2021, to replace an old lighthouses law. The Bill seeks to provide a framework for the development, maintenance and management of aids to navigation in the country. It aims at repealing the Lighthouse Act, 1927, and provides for empowering the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships with additional power and functions. As per the Bill, the centre will also provide training and certification in navigation.

No postal Ballot facility for overseas electors in upcoming assembly elections

Government has said it will not be possible to extend postal ballot facilities to overseas electors in the upcoming assembly elections. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the matter is still under discussions with the External Affairs Ministry to iron out the logistical challenges involved in the implementation of the proposal. The Election Commission has taken up the proposal to amend the Conduct of Election Rules to facilitate Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System for overseas electors.

Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal inaugurates Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in New Delhi

The Union Minister of Education , Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', virtually inaugurated the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Smarak in New Delhi. The inauguration took place on the occasion of a programme organised by the University of Delhi on 'Shaheed Diwas' to pay homage and commemorate 90 years of martyrdom of our national icons of the Indian National Movement -Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru.

POWERGRID Launches Certified E-Tendering Portal "PRANIT"

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) has launched an "e-Tendering Portal" called 'PRANIT' to make the tendering process more transparent. The portal "PRANIT" will involve less paperwork and allow ease of operation, which in turn will make the tendering process more transparent. POWERGRID is the only organization in India to have an e-procurement solution on SAP Supplier Relationship Management (SRM), complying with all applicable requirements relating to security and transparency as stipulated by STQC.



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Rajnath Singh, South Korean Defence Minister inaugurate Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park in Delhi Cantt

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and South Korean Defence Minister Suh Wook inaugurated the Indo-Korean Bilateral Friendship Park in Delhi Cantt. This Friendship Park has been built to commemorate the contribution of Indian peacekeepers during the Korean War from 1950 to 53.

Jal Shakti Minister approves Rs. 465 crore as Performance Incentive fund for seven states under JJM

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Sekhawat has approved Rs. 465 crore as Performance Incentive fund for seven states under Jal Jeevan Mission. These states are Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launches 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat

Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan launched the 'Tribal TB Initiative' in pursuit of TB Mukht Bharat. He said that the government accords top priority to ensuring Universal Access to free treatment and care for TB across the country. Dr Harsh Vardhan said, the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and district of Badgam in Jammu and Kashmir have been declared TB Free on World TB Day this year.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India participates in Nowruz celebrations at SCO in Beijing

India participated in the Nowruz festivities at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing on Friday. As SCO is celebrating 2021 as 'Year of Culture', India showcased performances of Kathak, Yoga, Indian cuisine, artefacts to an audience of more than 500. Eighteen countries including all the member countries, dialogue partners and observer countries presented their cultural diversities including their cuisine.

World's first Ship Tunnel to be built in Norway

The Norwegian Coastal Administration has received the green signal to start working on the construction of the world's first tunnel, being built exclusively for ships. The tunnel is dubbed as "Stad Ship Tunnel" and would be built under the mountainous Stadhavet peninsula in northwestern Norway. The 1.7 km tunnel will be able to handle ships of up to 16,000 tonnes and give ships a safer passage through the treacherous Stadhavet Sea.



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India, Bangladesh making film titled 'Bangabandhu' on occasion of 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

India- Bangladesh ties have a civilisational, cultural, social and economic linkage. Two nations have much in common- a shared history and common heritage, linguistic and cultural ties, passion for music, literature and the arts. On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, India and Bangladesh are together making a film titled Bangabandhu by the renowned film director Shyam Benegal.

India, Bangladesh sign five MoUs in various fields

India and Bangladesh signed 5 MoUs in the fields of trade, IT and setting up of sports facilities on the concluding day of the 2-day long official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both the leaders discussed the progress achieved in areas of health, trade, connectivity, energy, developmental cooperation and many more. Both leaders agreed that a direct passenger train named 'Mitali Express' will run between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri. India gifted 109 ambulances to Bangladesh and also 1.2 million doses of the Covishield vaccine. India released a silver coin to commemorate 50 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. Bangladesh also released a gold coin to commemorate the Mujib Borsho.

BANKING & FINANCE

RBI Constitutes 5 member Standing External Advisory Committee under Shyamla Gopinath for evaluating applications for Universal Banks and SFBs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a five members standing external advisory committee (SEAC) to evaluate applications for "on-tap" licensing of universal banks and small finance banks (SFBs). The committee will be chaired by the former RBI deputy governor Shyamala Gopinath. The panel will have a tenure of three years.

◆ Members of committee:

- ➔ **Revathy Iyer** – Director, central board, RBI
- ➔ **B Mahapatra** – Former executive director, National Payments Corporation of India
- ➔ **T N Manoharan** – Former chairman, Canara Bank
- ➔ **Hemant G Contractor** – Former MD, State Bank of India, and former Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.



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Provident fund contribution limit raised to Rs 5 lakh per annum for tax-free interest

Government has raised the limit for tax exemption on interest earned on provident fund contributions by employees to 5 lakh per annum in specified cases as against 2.5 lakh rupees proposed in the Budget.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman conferred Gandhi Peace Prize 2020

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The jury for the prize Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising the Chief Justice of India and the leader of the single largest opposition party in Lok Sabha unanimously selected the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the award.

Gandhi Peace Prize for year 2019 being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019 is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman. The award carries an amount of one crore rupees, a citation, a plaque and an exquisite traditional handicraft item. Gandhi Peace Prize is an annual award instituted by the Government since 1995, the 125th Birth Anniversary commemoration year of Mahatma Gandhi. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

67th National Film Awards Announced

The winner of 67th National Film Awards was announced on 22 March 2021 in New Delhi to honour the best of Indian cinema in 2019.

Most Film Friendly State Award – Sikkim

Award for Best Book on Cinema – A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema, by Sanjay Suri

Best Feature Film: Marakkar: Lion of the Arabian Sea (Malayalam)

Best Actor (shared): Manoj Bajpayee for Bhonsle (Hindi), and Dhanush for Asuran (Tamil)

Best Actress: Kangana Ranaut for Panga (Hindi) and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi (Hindi)

Best Director: Sanjay Puri for Singh Chauhan for Bahattar Hoorain (Hindi)

Best Non-Feature Film: An Engineered Dream (Hindi)



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Best Hindi Film: Chhichhore

Best book on cinema: A Gandhian Affair: India's Curious Portrayal of Love in Cinema written by Sanjay Suri.

Esaf Small Finance Bank bags 'Great Place to Work' Award

Esaf Small Finance Bank has been awarded 'Great Place to Work' certification by the Great Place to Work Institute. ESAF started its operations as an NGO in 1992 as an Evangelical Social Action Forum. Before becoming a bank, ESAF was a non-banking finance company and microfinance institution (NBFC-MFI), licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and headquartered in Thrissur city of Kerala. Paul Thomas the Founder of ESAF.

Hindi Writer Prof. Sharad Pagare to be conferred with Vyas Samman - 2020

Well known Hindi writer Prof. Sharad Pagare will be conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman - 2020 for his novel 'Patliputru Ki Samragi.' The Vyas Samman, started in 1991, is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of four lakh rupees along with a citation and plaque.

Harsh Mariwala honoured as 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020'

HarshC. Mariwala, chairman of Marico, was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2020. He will now represent India at the EYWorld Entrepreneur of the Year Award on June 10.

Veteran singer Asha Bhosle selected for Maharashtra Bhushan award, state's highest honour

The Maharashtra Government has named legendary singer Asha Bhosle for the Maharashtra Bhushan Award, the highest honour presented by the government of Maharashtra. Bhosle has been chosen for the award for the year 2020, by a committee chaired by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

President appoints Rajendra Badamikar and Sushree Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin as Additional Judges to Karnataka High Court

President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Rajendra Badamikar and Sushree Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin as Additional Judges of Karnataka High Court for a period of two years. The Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice has issued a notification in this regard.



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Chitra Nayak appointed as Independent Director of Infosys

IT services major Infosys announced the appointment of former Salesforce executive Chitra Nayak as an independent director. Nayak has over 25 years of professional experience in go-to-market, general management, and operations leadership roles at various organisations.

SPORTS

India Legends beat Sri Lanka Legends in Road Safety World Series T-20

In Cricket, India Legends defeated Sri Lanka Legends by 14 runs in the final of Road Safety World Series to clinch the title at Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Yusuf Pathan who smashed an unbeaten 62 and picked up two wickets in his four-over spell was adjudged player of the match for his all-round performance in the summit clash. Sachin Tendulkar, captain of the India Legends, finished the tournament as the third-highest run-getter in the tournament.

Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia wins All England Badminton Championships Men's title; Nozomi Okuhara clinches Women's title

Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia has won the All England Badminton Championships men's title as he defeated Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the summit clash. Japan's Nozomi Okuhara won the women's title as she defeated Pornpawee Chochuwong 21-12, 21-16 in the finals.

OBITUARY

Noted writer & filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi passes away

Noted writer and filmmaker Sagar Sarhadi, known for films like "Kabhi Kabhie", "Silsila", and "Bazaar", passed away. He was 88. Sarhadi began his career writing Urdu short stories and entered Bollywood via Yash Chopra's 1976 "Kabhi Kabhie", starring Amitabh Bachchan and Raakhee.

Former RBI deputy governor K C Chakrabarty passes away

Former Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank K C Chakrabarty passed away. He was 68.

Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker passes away

Noted journalist and author Anil Dharker passed away. He was 74. He was undergoing treatment for a heart ailment. Anil Dharker was the founder and director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival.



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