



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –MARCH 7, 2021

### STATES

- **The Governor of Haryana, Satyadev Narayan Arya - has approved a bill to reserve 75% jobs in private sector for local people of the state.**
  - ✓ The new “Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Act, 2020” has now come into force in the State from March 2, 2021.
  - ✓ The bill aims to provide quota for local people to the jobs in private sector offering the monthly salary of less than Rs. 50,000.
  - ✓ The bill was tabled by the Deputy Chief Minister of Haryana, Dushyant Chautala
  - ✓ In case the companies cannot find suitable local candidates, they can hire people from other states after informing the Government
  - ✓ Initially, the companies are required to register the details of the employees who are getting Rs. 50,000 monthly salary within a period of three months.
  
- **The Government of Jharkhand - has presented the “Outcome-Based Budget” on March 3, 2021 for the first time.**
  - ✓ In this budget, all the departments were given specific targets and responsibilities that are required to be completed in a specified time.
  - ✓ The results with respect to the targets will be evaluated at the end of financial year 2022.
  - ✓ Finance Minister Rameshwar Oroan tabled the Outcome-based budget of worth Rs 91, 277 crores for the financial year 2021-22.
  - ✓ Under the new initiative of fixing responsibility, 11 departments like Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Cooperative, Health, Women & Child Development and Social Security have been included under the outcome-based budget.
  - ✓ The budget also announced to establish a “cremation ground for cows” in every division of the state
  - ✓ Further, the State has announced a “Universal Pension” scheme for all old age, orphaned and disabled

- ✓ The technique of Outcome-based budget was first recommended in the budget 2007- 08.
- ✓ Under this system, each ministry handling a sector is required to present a preliminary outcome budget to the Ministry of Finance.
- **Madhya Pradesh - has introduced night safaris in three national parks in the state on March 4, 2021 to boost the tourism industry.**
  - ✓ The three parks are - the Bandhavgarh National Park, Kanha National Park and Pench National Park.
  - ✓ Usually, safaris are conducted during the day to ensure the safety of the visitors
  - ✓ The night safaris will, however, provides an opportunity to witness nocturnal animals in their natural habitat.
  - ✓ The state has fixed the time slot between 5:30 pm and 10:30 pm for the night safaris in three national parks
  - ✓ The night safari can be booked on the Wildlife Safari Reservation portal, operated by the state forest department
  - ✓ The Bandhavgarh National Park was declared a national park in the year 1968 and later designated as the Tiger Reserve in 1993
    - ✓ The park is also known for the breeding population of leopards and deer.
  - ✓ The Pench National Park was designated a sanctuary in the year 1965, a national park in 1975 and tiger reserve in 1992
    - ✓ The park derives the name from Pench River
    - ✓ Tourists can spot animals like jackal, wild boar and nocturnal birds in this park.
  - ✓ The largest national park of MP, Kanha National Park is home to Barasingha, which can be witnessed during the night safaris.

## NATIONAL

- **The National Water Mission (NWM) – has launched a campaign called “Catch the Rain” in various states recently.**
  - ✓ The campaign has the tagline “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”



- ✓ It will help in creating appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) which are suitable for various climatic conditions and subsoil strata.
  - ✓ The campaign involves the creation of check dams, rooftop RWHS, water harvesting pits, desilting of tanks to increase its storage capacity and removal of encroachments through community participation
  - ✓ The Centre has requested the state governments to open “Rain Centres” in each district, collectorates or Municipalities or Gram Panchayats in order to facilitate these activities.
  - ✓ These centres, with a dedicated mobile phone number, will be managed by an engineer or a person who is well trained in the RWHS.
  - ✓ They will act as a technical guidance centre in all districts and seeks to raise awareness on the RWHS.
- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi - has approved an agreement between India and Fiji for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors recently.**
- ✓ The agriculture pact was signed between Ministry of Agriculture of India and Agriculture Ministry of the Republic of Fiji.
  - ✓ The agreement between the countries will remain active for five years after coming into force from the date of its signing.
  - ✓ It will facilitate the exchange of scientific experts, technical trainees, research personnel & specialists, technology transfer, development of infrastructure for agriculture, development of human resources with the help of training officers & farmers through various workshops and seminars.
  - ✓ Both the countries will also constitute a Joint Working Group in accordance with the MoU.
  - ✓ The joint working group will work out the plan and procedures of implementation of the agreement and will meet once in every second year.
- **The Western Railway zone of the Indian Railways - has introduced the “Mobile Train Radio Communication (MTRC) system” to prevent train accidents by effective communication.**
- ✓ The MTRC system is a technologically advanced and effective communication system that provides for an instant and constant interaction of train crew with the station master as well as the Control Centre.
  - ✓ This system can connect the calls in 300 milliseconds which is the lowest time used by any other system.
  - ✓ This system has been introduced for the first time in India at an outlay of Rs. 5.98 crore.
  - ✓ The MTRC system will help in tracking, monitoring and establishing the communication between trains and control room by using the train number and cab number code.

- ✓ It will also help in providing the real time information regarding the train operation during monsoon period.
- ✓ The MTRC System is a Terrestrial Trunk Radio (TETRA) based Digital technology.
- **The Office of Principal Scientific Adviser of the Government of India - has launched the “Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship” under the “Waste to Wealth” Mission on March 3, 2021.**
- ✓ The Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship initiative was launched to provide recognition to those engaged in tackling massive challenge of waste management in a scientific and sustainable manner

- ✓ It will be applicable to students, self-help groups, community workers, sanitary workers and municipal workers
- ✓ Under the fellowship programme, the government will be providing awards under three categories – Category A, B and C
- ✓ Under the Category A, school students of standards 9th to 12th engaged in the waste management community work will be eligible for the fellowship.
- ✓ The Category B is open to UG, PG and Research Students, while the Category C is applicable to citizens who are working in the community and through Self Help Groups, municipal workers or sanitary workers who are working beyond the specifications of their job requirements
- ✓ The “waste to wealth mission” was launched with the objective of identifying, developing and deploying technologies to treat the waste to recycle materials, extract worth and generate energy.
- ✓ This mission is one among the nine-national mission of the “Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)” of the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Recently, the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has developed a zero-emission technology that will manage and recycle the e-waste into wealth.
- **The Union Health, Science & Technology Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan – launched the “CSIR Floriculture Mission” on March 4, 2021 across 21 States and Union Territories of India**

- ✓ During the event, the Minister asked the scientists of CSIR laboratories in India to develop land available at each laboratory as a model under the “CSIR Floriculture Mission”



- ✓ Under the CSIR Floriculture mission, the available knowledge base in the CSIR Institutes will be utilized in order to help Indian farmers and industry
  - ✓ The floriculture mission is being implemented in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Directorate of Floriculture, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) etc.
  - ✓ This mission will integrate the floriculture with apiculture to yield benefits to the farmers
  - ✓ The mission will focus on the commercial crops for honey bee rearing such as Gladiolus, Carnation, Canna, Marigold, Rose etc.
  - ✓ Floriculture, or flower farming, is a discipline of horticulture concerned with the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants for gardens
  - ✓ Currently, India only shares 0.6% of the global floriculture market despite having diverse agro-climatic conditions.
  - ✓ During the event, the minister also launched the CSIR’s Societal Portal and an Android App.
  - ✓ This portal was developed by CSIR Team in collaboration with the MyGov Team.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) – has launched the ‘RuPay SoftPoS’ recently in association with the SBI Payments**
- ✓ The new technology will be helpful in transforming the NFC-enabled smartphones into merchant Point of Sale (PoS) terminals for retailers.
  - ✓ Accordingly, with the new system, the merchants will be able to accept contactless payments of up to ₹5000 by simple ‘tap and pay’ mechanism using their smartphones.
  - ✓ Under the mechanism, the merchants will be able to convert their android smartphone devices into payment terminal by downloading the supported app.

- **The Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL) – has signed a deal with the Government e-Market (GeM) portal to sell its products on the e-Market (GeM) portal of the government.**
- ✓ As per the agreement, the Ayurvedic and Unani medicines of the IMPCL will now be featured in the GeM portal for various government sector buyers to use them in healthcare programmes.
- ✓ Under the deal, the GeM has created 31 categories, which covers around 311 medicines.
- ✓ These medicines can now be uploaded by the IMPCL on GeM Portal.
- ✓ The GeM is an online platform for open and transparent public procurement system
- ✓ It was launched on August 9, 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and owned by 100% Government-owned GeM Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **India - commemorated 'Chabahar Day' on March 4 on the sidelines of the Second edition of International Maritime Summit-2021, which was held in Delhi from March 2 to March 4.**
- ✓ The virtual summit witnessed the participation of ministers from Afghanistan, Iran, Armenia, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.



- ✓ The ministerial level opening session was addressed by the external Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar while a keynote address was given by Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- ✓ This was followed by two webinar sessions namely the 'Boosting Business through Trade Promotion and Regional Connectivity' and 'Development of Port Infrastructure: Unleashing Opportunities'.
- ✓ Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar which is located in south-eastern Iran in the Gulf of Oman.
- ✓ The port, which is the only oceanic port of Iran, comprises of two separate ports namely the Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
- ✓ India and Iran first agreed to develop the Shahid Beheshti port in the year 2003, but the plan didn't take off due to the sanctions imposed on Iran

- ✓ Later, as per a bilateral agreement signed in May 2016, India decided to refurbish one berth at Shahid Beheshti port, and also reconstruct a 600-meter-long container handling facility at it.
- ✓ The port also seeks to provide an alternative trade route for India in between India and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

### ➤ **The Mars rover Perseverance - has successfully conducted its first test drive on the Red Planet**

- ✓ This was announced by the US space agency Nasa on March 5
- ✓ The six-wheeled rover travelled about 6.5 metres in 33 minutes on March 4



- ✓ The rover drove four metres forward, turned in place 150 degrees to the left, and then backed up 2.5 metres, leaving tire tracks in the Martian dust.
  - ✓ The rover can cover 200 meters per Martian day, which is slightly longer than a day on Earth.
  - ✓ Moreover, it goes five times faster than Curiosity, its predecessor, which is still functioning eight years after landing on Mars.
  - ✓ Perseverance was launched on July 30, 2020 and landed on the surface of Mars on February 18 on a mission to search for signs of past life on the Red Planet.
  - ✓ During its journey, Perseverance will attempt to collect 30 rock and soil samples in sealed tubes to be sent back to Earth in the 2030s for analysis.
  - ✓ About the size of an SUV, Perseverance weighs a ton, is equipped with a seven-foot-long robotic arm, and has 19 cameras, two microphones alongwith a suite of cutting-edge instruments.
  - ✓ The rover is only the fifth to set its wheels down on Mars, all of them American
- **The Starship Prototype of the SpaceX - has exploded shortly after it made its first-ever successful landing on March 3 after a high-altitude flight test.**

- ✓ SpaceX test launched the prototype Starship rocket Serial Number 10 (SN10) at the height of 10 kilometres or at around 32,800 feet altitude.



- ✓ The rocket was not carrying any passengers on board because it was a development vehicle and it flies autonomously.
- ✓ The last two prototypes namely the SN8 and SN9 reached to the high altitudes in December 2020 and February 2021 but they also fell into ground at Boca Chica in Texas and got exploded.
- ✓ Each of these three test flights lasted for around six minutes.
- ✓ The SpaceX Starship system is a fully reusable, two-stage-to-orbit heavy-lift launch vehicle developed by SpaceX.
- ✓ The second stage of the vehicle is called as Starship, which was designed as a long-duration cargo and a passenger-carrying spacecraft.
- ✓ The testing of the second stage Starship started in 2019.
- **The scientists - have discovered a “space hurricane” for the first time over the North Pole in the upper atmosphere of Earth that swirled for eight hours**
- ✓ These hurricanes usually occur in the lower atmosphere of the Earth.



- ✓ Earlier, the space hurricane was detected in August 2014 during a retrospective analysis which was led by the researchers at Shandong University of China.
- ✓ The team of scientists from USA, Norway, China and United Kingdom observed and produced the image of space hurricane using the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellites and a 3D magnetosphere modelling.

- ✓ The hurricane that was detected over North Pole comprises of plasma with multiple spiral arms and spinning in an anticlockwise direction at speed of upto 2,100 metres per second.
- ✓ The hurricane has the diameter of 1,000 kilometres while in altitude it reached from 110 kilometres to 860 kilometres.
- ✓ The swirling mass of plasma that emits electrons into the ionosphere instead of water is called as “Space Hurricane”.
- ✓ The hurricane provides a huge, cyclone-shaped glowing green aurora that can be observed below it.
- ✓ The astronomers have spotted hurricanes in space on Mars, Saturn and Jupiter.

## DEFENCE

- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - has successfully conducted the successful flight test of the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology on March 5, 2021 from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.**
- ✓ The air-launch scenario was also simulated during the flight test using the booster motor.



- ✓ The performance of missile was monitored using the data which was captured by Electro Optical, Radar and Telemetry instruments.
- ✓ The Solid Fuel based Ducted Ramjet technology is a missile propulsion system developed by the DRDO.
- ✓ It is a missile propulsion system that comprises of the thrust modulated ducted rocket along with the reduced smoke nozzle-less missile booster.

## SPORTS

- **India - have qualified for the inaugural ICC World Test Championship final to be held from June 18 in a yet-to-be-named venue in England**
- ✓ India have reached the final after defeating England by an innings and 25 runs in the fourth and final Test at Motera in Ahmedabad on March 6
- ✓ India needed just a draw to reach the WTC final but a victory means they qualified for the summit clash in top spot with 490 points.

# FINAL TEST: INDIA, NZ TO CLASH FOR WORLD C'SHIP

► Ravichandran Ashwin & Axar Patel bagged 5 wickets each as England were felled by spin again, this time within 3 days, to hand India a comprehensive 3-1 Test series victory in Ahmedabad on Saturday

► India's victory, by an innings and 25 runs, also confirmed their spot in the inaugural World Test Championship final against New Zealand. The WTC final will be played from June 18 to 22 in England

► This was India's 13th consecutive home Test series win,

Ashwin

extending their record. India also lead the table for most Test series wins in a row at home under one captain: 10 and counting under Virat Kohli



► Washington Sundar was left stranded on 96 as India were all out for 365 in their first innings, a lead of 160 runs. England folded for 135 to hand India their fourth-biggest Test win

by an innings margin against England. Only Dan Lawrence resisted with a half-century

► Sundar's 106-run stand with Axar Patel for the 8th wicket followed his 113-run stand with Pant, and was only the 4th instance in Test history of successive 100-plus stands for the seventh and eighth wickets. Sundar's average of 66.3 is the highest by any batsman in the period since his Test debut. Pant is next (63.7)

► Ashwin (5/47), who picked up his 30th 5-wicket haul on Saturday, was named man of the series, his 8th such award. He was the

FULL  
COVERAGE  
P 19

top wicket-taker (32 wickets), picked up 3 fifters, was the fifth highest run-getter and even scored a ton. Rishabh Pant was man of the match for his game-turning hundred on Day 2

► Axar Patel (5/48) picked up 27 wickets from 3 Tests in the series, including four 5-wicket hauls, equaling the Indian record for a debutant. Dilip Doshi had also picked up 27 in his debut series, against Australia in 1979-80, but that was a 6-Test series



Virat Kohli is now the third most successful captain ever in Test history with a 60% win record from 60 Tests, behind Australians Steve Waugh (71.9% from 57 Tests) and Ricky Ponting (62.3% from 77 Tests)



“The first Test in Chennai would have been different if we had a few more days off. The boys were like zombies. They were tired, and the fact that there was no crowd didn't help. Everything was flat... but a kick on the backside to re-ignite the pride in the system can make a lot of difference

RAVI SHASTRI | Team India coach

- ✓ India registered 12 wins from 17 Tests, lost 4 and drew just 1 Test in the competition.
- ✓ New Zealand had already qualified for the WTC final with 420 points from 11 Tests with 7 wins and 4 losses.
- ✓ India won the test series against England 3-1 after losing the first test at Chennai
- ✓ India's Axar Patel bagged 27 wickets in the series, the most by a Indian bowler on his test debut series
- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin was named the Man of the series for the record eighth time
- ✓ He is now ranked at sixth place for the maximum Player of the series awards after Muttiah Muralitharan (11), Jacques Kallis (9), Imran Khan (8), Richard Hadlee (8) and Shane Warne (8)

