

## Current Affairs: 26/27.03.2022

### CORNER-SHOT WEAPON SYSTEM (CSWS)

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.



**About:** The CSWS is a special purpose weapon designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune. It can engage targets located around the corners as the system bends and captures video feed thus saving soldiers from any surprise counter attack and is best suited for urban, close

quarter situations.

### PRADHAN MANTRI GARIB KALYAN ANNA YOJANA (PM-GKAY)

The Union Cabinet extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) by another six months till September 2022.

#### About:

The scheme was originally introduced in April 2020 a month into the first lockdown during the initial onset of the COVID pandemic. This will be the sixth phase of PM-GKAY. The Phase-V of the scheme was to end in March 2022. The government has spent approximately ₹2.6 lakh crore so far and another ₹80,000 crore will be spent over the next six months till September 2022, taking the total expenditure under PM-GKAY to nearly ₹3.4 lakh crore. The ration card portability has also helped in extending the schemes to the migrant workers. The benefit of free ration can be availed through portability by any migrant labourer or beneficiary under One Nation One Ration Card plan from nearly five lakh ration shops across the country. So far, over 61 crore portability transactions have benefitted the beneficiaries away from their homes.”

### EARTH HOUR

Earth Hour was observed on March 26, 2022 (Saturday) from 8:30 to 9:30 PM.



#### About:

It is the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment where people around the globe unite to take a stand against climate change by turning off non-essential lights for one hour. Starting out as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, it has come to be observed every year on the last Saturday of March in more than 180 countries uniting millions of people in the effort to decarbonise the planet both collectively and individually. The “theme for this year’s global event was “Shape our Future”, highlighting our collective responsibility towards the environment.

### SAINIK SCHOOLS

Defence Ministry has approved setting up of 21 new Sainik Schools in partnership with NGOs, private schools and State Governments.

**About:** These schools will be set up in the initial round of the Government’s initiative of setting up of 100 new Sainik schools across the country in partnership mode. They will be distinct from the existing Sainik Schools. These new Sainik Schools, besides their affiliation to respective education boards, will function under the aegis of Sainik Schools Society and will follow the

# Cross & Climb, Rohtak



Rules and Regulations for new Sainik schools in partnership mode prescribed by the Society. The objectives behind setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools is to provide quality education to the students in tune with National Education Policy and give them better career opportunities, including joining the Armed Forces. It also gives an opportunity to the private sector to work hand-in-hand with the Government towards nation building by refining today's youth to become responsible citizens of tomorrow.

## **BHARAT BHAGYA VIDHATA**

**The ten-day mega Red Fort Festival -Bharat Bhagya Vidhata has started at the iconic 17th-century monument Red Fort in Delhi. Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the festival.** About: Irani recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invocation from the Red Fort to join hands for making a New India. The Red Fort mega festival-Bharat Bhagya Vidhata is being organised as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by Ministry of Culture. The festival aims to commemorate the heritage of the country and culture of every part of India. The festival Bharat Bhagya Vidhata will help everyone to appreciate the diversity of India. More than 70 master raftsmen have displayed their craftsmanship at the venue.

## **UNCTAD projects India's GDP growth forecast in 2022 to 4.6%**

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has pegged India's economic growth rate for 2022 to 4.6 percent due to the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict. Earlier this rate was projected at 6.7%. The UNCTAD has further projected the global economic growth for the year 2022 at 2.6 percent. Earlier this rate was projected at 3.6 percent.

## **Shaktikanta Das inaugurates Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in Bengaluru**

Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI has inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) on March 24, 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. RBI has set up the RBIH with an initial capital contribution of Rs. 100 crore. The objective of RBIH is to encourage and nurture financial innovation in a sustainable manner through an institutional set-up. It has been setup as a Section 8 company under Companies Act, 2013. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) is one of the five wholly-owned subsidiaries of the RBI.

## **Yogi Adityanath takes oath as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for historic second 5-year term**

Yogi Adityanath took oath as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for the second consecutive term on March 25, 2022. CM Adityanath was administered the oath by UP Governor Anandiben Patel. The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the ceremony along with many other ministers. CM Adityanath is the first chief minister of Uttar Pradesh to return to power for second term after completing a full tenure of five years. Meanwhile, Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak have been sworn in as the deputy chief ministers of Uttar Pradesh.

## **Union Minister Smriti Irani inaugurates 10-day mega Red Fort Festival 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' of Ministry of Culture**

Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani inaugurated the ten-day mega Red Fort Festival, 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata' at Red Fort in Delhi on March 25, 2022. The Red Fort festival has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The ministry has collaborated with the Dalmia Bharat Group (DBG) to organise the event as DBG has adopted the Red Fort as its Monument Mitra. The festival will commemorate the heritage, culture and diversity of every part of India.

# Cross & Climb, Rohtak



## Gujarat Tops NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021

**Gujarat** has retained the top position in the **second edition** of **NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021**. The first edition was released in 2020. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are the other top 10 states in the 2021 index respectively. Across the **Union Territories, Delhi** has performed the best, followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry. Among the **Himalayan states, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim** and Manipur were at the top respectively. The **Export Preparedness Index (EPI)** is prepared by the **NITI Aayog** in partnership with the **Institute of Competitiveness**. The Index assesses the readiness of the states and union territories, in terms of their export potential and performance.

## Indian Navy's Western Naval Command conducts offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan' off Mumbai.

The **Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy** organised an **offshore security exercise, 'Prasthan'** in the **Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Mumbai** on March 23, 2022. This exercise is conducted after every six months, to ensure offshore security. Apart from the Naval forces, the exercise saw participation from the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department and the Marine Police. The day-long exercise resulted in improving standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response-actions to a number of contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area off Mumbai.

## NATO extends tenure of Jens Stoltenberg as Secretary-General by one year

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has approved an extension in the tenure of its **Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg** by a year until **September 30, 2023**. Stoltenberg was named NATO Secretary-General in October 2014. His term was to expire in September 2022. Stoltenberg is the former Prime Minister of Norway.

## Earth Hour 2022: 26 March

Every year, the **Earth Hour** is celebrated worldwide on the **last Saturday of the March** month to show support for fight against climate change and commitment towards better planet. **Earth Hour 2022 is being marked on March 26, 2022**. The Earth Hour 2022 theme will focus on **'Shape Our Future'**. The Day is a worldwide movement organized by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, encouraging individuals, communities, corporates, and households to turn off their lights for one hour, from **8:30 to 9:30 p.m.** It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 to raise awareness for energy consumption and effects on the environment.

## Centre designates October 5 as National Dolphin Day

The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has designated **5th of October** to be celebrated as **National Dolphin Day** every year, beginning from 2022. The day will aim to create awareness for conservation of Dolphins. This information was given by Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupendra Yadav on March 25, 2022, during the 67th meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wild Life in New Delhi.