

## Daily Current Affairs 18/03/2021

### 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2021

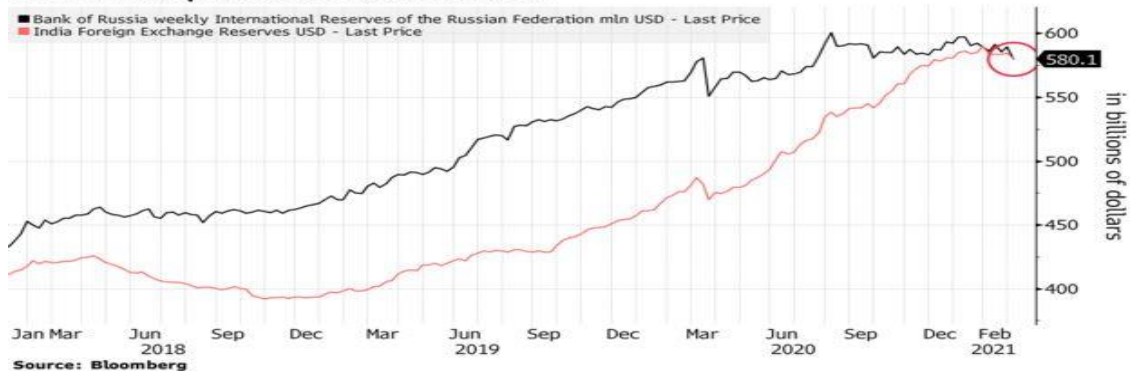
The poster for ICDRI 2021 features a red background with a white geometric pattern of interconnected lines. The text is white and red. The CDRI logo is in the top right corner. The main text reads: 'ICDRI 2021 International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'. Below this, it says 'The International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure'. To the right, it says 'SAVE THE DATE' in large red letters, followed by '17-19 March 2021 Virtual, Interactive'. At the bottom, it lists partner information: 'Partner with us: icdri@cdri.world | www.cdri.world #ICDRI2021 #Resilientinfra' and social media handles: '@coalition-for-disaster-resilient-infrastructure' and '@cdri\_world'.

- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), in partnership with member countries, organisations and institutions, is hosting the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2021, a three-day virtual Conference scheduled to be held from March 17 to March 19, 2021.
- **Facts about Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):**  
**Formation:** September 23, 2019  
**Headquarters:** New Delhi, India  
**Director General:** Sandeep Poundrik

### 2. India's Foreign-exchange reserves (Forex reserves) have become the fourth largest in the world, surpassing Russia

#### Fourth Biggest

India's forex pile has overtaken Russia's



- As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign currency holdings, which dropped \$4.3 billion to \$580.3 billion on March 5, 2021, surpassed Russia's \$580.1 billion.
- As of March 2021, International Monetary Fund (IMF) table, **China has the largest Forex reserves followed by Japan and Switzerland.**
- **Foreign-exchange reserves:** Foreign exchange reserves are cash and other reserve assets such as gold held by a central bank or other monetary authority that are primarily available to balance payments of the country, influence the foreign exchange rate of its currency, and to maintain confidence in financial markets.

### 3. SIPRI Report: India's import of arms decreases by 33 percent



- According to the report by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, Arms imports by India decreased by 33 percent between 2011-15 and 2016-20.
- **India's top three arms suppliers** during 2016-20 were Russia (49% import), France (18%) and Israel (13%).
- **Globally**, the five largest arms exporters in 2016-20 were the US, Russia, France, Germany and China, while the top importers were Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and China.
- **Note: India's Export Level:** India accounted for 0.2% of the share of global arms exports during 2016-20, making the country the world's 24th largest exporter of major arms.

### 4. RBI asks banks to implement image-based Cheque Truncation System in all branches



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to implement the image-based Cheque Truncation System (CTS) in all branches by September 30, 2021.

- The move is aimed at faster settlement of cheques resulting in better customer service.
- Last month, the RBI had announced pan-India coverage of CTS by bringing all bank branches under the image-based clearing mechanism.

- **Note:** There are about 18,000 bank branches that are still outside any formal clearing arrangement. The CTS is in use since 2010 and presently covers around 1,50,000 branches.

### 5. Centre appoints high-level team to review Medical Care & Public Health arrangements for Kumbh Mela at Haridwar



- Centre has deployed a three-member high-level central team to review Medical Care and Public Health arrangements for Kumbh Mela at Haridwar in Uttarakhand.
- The team is being led by **Dr SK Singh**, Director, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). **Dr SK Jain**, Additional Director and **Dr Meera Dhuria**, Deputy Director, both from NCDC are the team members.
- **Note:** The Kumbh Mela at Haridwar is held every 12 years at Haridwar, India.

### 6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Advisor PK Sinha resigns



Sinha, a retired IAS officer of 1977 batch, was appointed as Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister September 2019, after a brief stint as an officer on special duty (OSD).

- Sinha was made OSD to the Prime Minister in August 2019, after he had served four years as

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Cabinet Secretary.

### 7. ISL (Indian Super League) 2020-21: Mumbai City FC wins title



- Mumbai City lifted their first-ever Hero Indian Super League (ISL) trophy after beating last season's winners ATK Mohun Bagan 2-1 in the final at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao.
- **Note:** In February 2021, Mumbai City FC won the **ISL League Winners Shield**.

### 8. India to host Asian Boxing Championships 2021

The **International Boxing Association** announced that Asian Boxing Championships 2021 will be hosted by New Delhi, India from May 21-31.



- It will be the first boxing tournament in Asia to be held in 2021.

- **Facts about the International Boxing Association (AIBA):**

**Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland

**President:** Umar Kremlev

**Founded:** 1946

### 9. Former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi's memoir titled "My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future"



"My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future" will be published by Portfolio Books on September 28, 2021.

- Indra Nooyi was honoured with Padam Bhushan in 2007.
- She worked at PepsiCo for 24 years.

## 10. Renowned artist, Padma Bhushan awardee Laxman Pai passes away



- Artist and painter from Goa Laxman Pai passed away at 95.
- The former principal of the Goa College of Art had several laurels under his name including Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, Nehru Award, and Lalit Kala Akademi Award.

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