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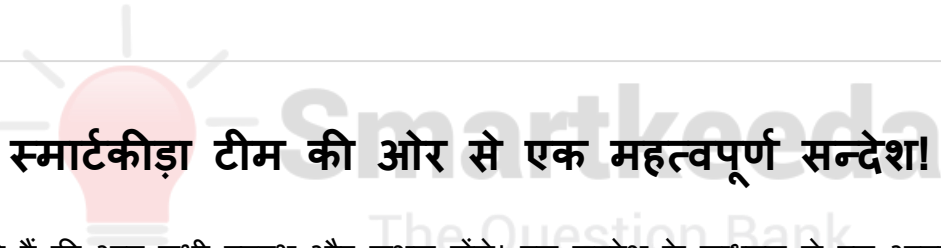
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF फरवरी 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

1. Union minister Smriti Irani has inaugurated the 8th edition of India International Silk Fair, considered to be the country's biggest silk fair, to be held between 31 January to February 4. The event is being held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic. India has long history of silk production and is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world. It is also the only country globally which produces all 4 major varieties of silk i.e. Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Irani – inaugurated the 8th edition of India International Silk Fair
- India – 2nd largest producer of silk in the world | 1st – China
- India – the only country that produces all 4 major varieties of silk (Mulberry, Eri, Tassar & Muga)

2. The Inter Modal Station (IMS) will be constructed by the National Highways Authority (NHA) near Ajni railway station in Nagpur. It will be ecological and environment friendly. The Ministry of Road Transport has allocated Rs 1200 Cr for this project. The project will provide employment to about 10,000 youths & it would take 2 to 3 years to complete. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA – to construct ecological & environment friendly “IMS” near Ajni railway station in Nagpur, MH
- IMS – Inter Modal Station | Outlay of the project – Rs 1200 Cr
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu | Founded in – 1988
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

3. Kerala is all set to get India's first ‘Gender Park’ which will likely become functional from February. A total of Rs 300 Cr has been spent on it. The Gender Park campus at Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode is in preparation for the 2nd International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II), which will be held from February 11 to 13. The Gender Park was founded in 2013 as an autonomous body under the Kerala government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first ‘Gender Park’ to be opened – in Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode, Kerala
- 2nd International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) – to be held from February 11 to 13 – in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

4. The 25th World Wetlands Day was observed on February 2. This day also marks the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention which was adapted on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This year's theme for World Wetlands Day is “Wetlands and Water”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 2 – 25th World Wetlands Day & 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention
- Theme – “Wetlands and Water”
- Ramsar Convention was adapted/signed – on February 2, 1971



5. On February 1, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India has inaugurated the tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The festival is being held from February 1-15, 2021. The theme of the festival is “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”. The Aadi Mahotsav is an annual event that was started in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated the tribal festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ at Dilli Haat, New Delhi
- Theme – “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”

6. The Maritime Union of India (MUI) has urged the Indian shipping ministry to take cognisance of ‘Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change’ in the formulation of Maritime India Vision 2030. The Neptune declaration primarily focuses on recognising seafarers as key workers by all governments worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MUI – urged government to take cognisance of ‘Neptune Declaration’ in formulation of Maritime India Vision 2030
- Key Focus of ‘Neptune Declaration’: Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change
- HQs of MUI – Mumbai, MH

7. The Union Health Ministry has decided to depute 2 multi-disciplinary teams to Kerala and Maharashtra, which are contributing to almost 70% of total COVID-19 active cases, to collaborate with state health authorities in instituting public health measures for virus management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Health Ministry – to depute 2 multi-disciplinary teams to Kerala & Maharashtra – for Covid management support
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

8. The Central government has launched “Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav” to mark India’s 75th year of independence. The Modi government has decided to celebrate 75 years of Indian independence 75 weeks before August 15 2022. The idea is to ‘create a vision’ for India@2047. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government – launched “Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav” to mark India’s 75th year of independence
- Idea – ‘create a vision’ for India@2047

9. ‘Aatmanirbharta’ (Self-reliance) has been named by Oxford Languages as its “Hindi word of the year 2020”. The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay and Imogen Foxell. Previous Hindi words of the year are Aadhaar (2017), Nari Shakti (2018) and Samvidhaan (2019). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Aatmanirbharta’ (Self-reliance) – named by Oxford Languages as its “Hindi word of the year 2020”
- 2017 – Aadhaar | 2018 – Nari Shakti | 2019 – Samvidhaan



10. A first of its kind arboretum conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Nainital district. The arboretum was inaugurated by Ajay Singh Rawat & it has over 210 tree and shrub species, making it one of the biggest arboretum in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand set up 1st arboretum for Shivalik range with 210 species of trees – in Nainital
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- Sivalik Hills – Mountain range in Nepal

11. On February 5, Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Salute to Caregivers - Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign” to Support Cancer Survivors. The implicit essence is best captured by the tagline ‘Iss Jung Mein Hum Sang Hai’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA – launched “Salute to Caregivers - Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign” to Support Cancer Survivors
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan

12. On February 2, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has raised \$500 million through issuance of dollar-denominated bonds under ‘Reg S route’ with a fixed maturity of May 16, 2031. This is the longest tenure bond issuance from India since the start of 2021. The bonds have a fixed coupon of 3.35% per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFC – raised \$500 million in India's longest-tenure issue of USD bonds under ‘Reg S route’
- It is issued with a fixed maturity of – May 16, 2031
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

13. On February 2, SEBI has released guidelines for setting up of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by asset management companies (AMCs). The LPCC is an entity established to undertake the activity of clearing and settlement of repo transactions. It has been decided that AMCs shall contribute Rs 150 Cr towards share capital of LPCC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – released guidelines for setting up of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by AMCs
- AMC has to contribute Rs 150 Cr towards share capital of LPCC
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg

14. On February 2, the SEBI has revised the objective and eligibility criteria of its Innovation Sandbox with graded entry norms. Under the first stage, applicant must be an Indian citizen or entities registered in India. An applicant would be eligible for stage-two after completing minimum 60 days in stage-one of testing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – revised the objective and eligibility criteria of its Innovation Sandbox with graded entry norms
- An applicant would be eligible for stage-2 after completing minimum 60 days in stage-1 of testing
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg



15. On February 3, Punjab's first 'Central Water Treatment Plant' has started supply of clean drinking water in 85 villages of Moga district. It was set up with the assistance of the World Bank for Rs 232 Cr. Punjab has set up this plant at village Daudhar of Moga. The project has been developed by the company Larsen & Toubro (L&T). The company is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project for the next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab's 1st 'Central Water Treatment Plant' started supply of clean drinking water – in 85 villages of Moga district
- L&T is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project for the next 10 years
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

16. On February 2, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) has launched its 'PGI Amputee Clinic', the first in India. The clinic, a collective effort of various experts and departments of the institute, strives to provide social, mental and physical support to its patients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PGIMER launched India's 1st 'PGI Amputee Clinic'
- HQs of PGIMER – Chandigarh, India | Director – Prof. Jagat Ram

17. On February 2, Minister of State for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Babul Supriyo has announced that India has set up its 1st dedicated 'Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management' (CWCM) at Chennai on the occasion of Wetland Conservation Day. Wetlands occupy around 4.6% of the country's landmass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has set up its 1st dedicated 'Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management' (CWCM) at Chennai, TN
- Wetlands occupy around 4.6% of India's landmass

18. On February 2, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe the January 29 explosion near the Israel Embassy in Delhi. An Improvised Explosion Device (IED) was set off at a pavement near the embassy, damaging few cars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – ordered the NIA to probe the January 29 explosion near the Israel Embassy in Delhi
- Israel Embassy to India – Ron Malka
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Y. C. Modi

19. On February 2, The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) has called for the withdrawal of sedition cases file against journalists in India and called for the repealing of sedition and criminal defamation laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CHRI – called for the withdrawal of sedition cases file against journalists in India
- HQs of CHRI – New Delhi | Executive Director – Maja Daruwala

20. On February 2, In Union Budget 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to set up a new Central university in Leh, Ladakh. The Centre plans to introduce legislation to establish a new regulatory body, the Higher Education Commission of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – proposed to set up a new Central university in Leh, Ladakh
- [Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman \(Karnataka\) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur](#)

21. On February 2, The Union Budget announcement to set up a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu has come in for praise from agar industries in southern districts of the State. The industries are dependent on the seaweed harvested from the Gulf of Mannar region in Rameswaram. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Budget announced to set up a ‘Multipurpose Seaweed Park’ – in Tamil Nadu
- Gulf of Mannar – in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

22. On February 1, As per the Union Budget-2021 announcement, Broad Gauge Route Kilometers (RKM) electrified is expected to reach 46,000 RKM. 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed by December, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Broad Gauge Route Kilometers (RKM) electrified is expected to reach 46,000 RKM
- 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed – by December, 2023

23. On February 1, India will set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (MITRA) parks over 3 years under the scheme of ‘Mega Investment Textile Parks’ which was announced in Budget FY22. A scheme of mega investment textile parks will be launched in addition to the Rs 10,683 Cr production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. India has already sanctioned 59 textile parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), of which 22 have been completed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will set up 7 MITRA parks over 3 years under the ‘Mega Investment Textile Parks’ scheme
- MITRA – Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel
- Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) Scheme was launched in – 2005

24. On February 3, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands has become the first state or Union territory in India to be officially rid of the Covid-19 infection, at least for now, with active cases falling to zero in the islands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands – became the 1st state or UT in India to be officially Free of the Covid-19 infection
- [Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi](#)

25. On February 5, Kerala's first Human Milk Bank called 'Nectar of Life', was opened at Ernakulam General Hospital. Health Minister K. K. Shylaja had inaugurated it. The human milk bank was set up at a cost of ₹35 lakh. The facility will ensure breast milk for newborns who cannot be breastfed by their own mothers. It was set up by the Rotary Club of Cochin Global in collaboration with the State Health Department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala's 1st Human Milk Bank called 'Nectar of Life' opened at Ernakulam General Hospital
- Set up by – Rotary Club of Cochin Global | Cost – ₹35 lakh
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

26. On February 4, Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar has launched "e-Watch" app to check electoral malpractices. Mr. Ramesh Kumar urged people to make use of the app available on Google Play Store to lodge complaints of enticements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched "e-Watch" app to check electoral malpractices
- Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner – N. Ramesh Kumar
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

27. On February 3, Insurance regulator IRDAI has issued guidelines on Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy, an insurance cover for diseases such as dengue and malaria. All general and health insurers can offer this product by 1st April, 2021. The nomenclature of the product should be in the name of the insurance company followed by "Mashak Rakshak". The standard product will offer policy tenure of 1 year. The minimum sum insured will be ₹10,000 & maximum ₹2 lakh (in multiples of ₹10,000). It will be a single premium policy and have a 15 days waiting period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI issued guidelines on 'Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy' (for diseases such as dengue & malaria)
- All general and health insurers can offer this product – by 1st April, 2021
- Policy tenure – 1 year | Sum insured: minimum – ₹10,000 & maximum – ₹2 lakh
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

28. On February 4, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has launched the "Switch Delhi" campaign to promote Electric Vehicles and appealed to people to buy such vehicles to combat pollution in the city. The government has fixed an ambitious target of 25% Electric Vehicles among total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024. The government has also issued tenders for setting up 100 charging stations across the city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi launched the "Switch Delhi" campaign – to promote Electric Vehicles
- Target: 25% Electric Vehicles among total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



29. On February 3, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has organised “Udyog Manthan” under which a series of webinars are being conducted on about 45 sectors including Pharma and Electronics. The exercise is focused on quality and productivity in all major sectors of manufacturing and services. It started on January 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry conducted a series of webinars on 45 sectors under “Udyog Manthan”
- DPIIT + QCI + NPC = organising “Udyog Manthan” – between January 4 and March 2
- [DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry \(Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra\)](#)

30. The Company Law Committee (CLC), headed by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma, has recommended that 12 offences under the LLP Act be decriminalised and that LLPs be allowed to issue non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to raise funds with the aim of improving ease of doing business for Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) firms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Company Law Committee – recommended decriminalization of 12 Compound Offences under ‘LLP Act, 2008’
- LLP – Limited Liability Partnership
- The Company Law Committee is headed by – Rajesh Verma (Corporate Affairs Secretary)

31. On February 2, Close relatives, friends and family of Bharat Ratna ‘Pandit Bhimsen Joshi’ held an informal interaction at the ‘Sawai Gandharva Memorial’ in Shivajinagar (Mumbai), as part of his birth centenary celebrations, organised by the Arya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal organised – Birth Centenary celebrations of ‘Pandit Bhimsen Joshi’ – in Mumbai
- [Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi – hails from Karnataka](#)

32. On February 4, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has raised \$750 million in 10-year dollar bond sale to international investors at a fixed interest rate of 2.80% per annum. The IRFC had the biggest IPO of the fiscal in January collecting Rs 4,633 Cr through a public issue. It was subscribed 3.49 times during January 18-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRFC – raised \$750 million in 10-year dollar bond sale to international investors at a fixed interest rate of 2.80%
- [HQs of IRFC – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Amitabh Banerjee](#)

33. On February 4, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the 2nd unit of 1600 MW Gadawara Thermal Power Project in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The project is being developed by NTPC Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL commissioned the 2nd unit of 1600 MW Gadawara Thermal Power Project – in Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh
- The project is being developed by – NTPC Ltd
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)



34. On February 5, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 1st Heliport of Assam at Kerelagaon in Majuli district. The heliport having facility for simultaneous landing of three helicopters was constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – inaugurated the 1st Heliport of Assam at Kerelagaon, Majuli
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

International Affairs

35. A new visa route that offers Hong Kong residents the option to apply to come to the UK and become citizens through a fast-track system is officially opened. Around 3,00,000 Hong Kong nationals are expected to apply for the visa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – opened a special visa route for the residents of Hong Kong
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- Hong Kong – City of Victoria – Hong Kong dollar

36. On February 1, Myanmar's military has seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratically elected leaders. The power had been handed over to commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing. Troops are patrolling the streets and a night-time curfew is in force, with a one-year State of Emergency declared. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Myanmar's military has seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi
- Power is handed over to commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing & State of Emergency is declared
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

Banking & Economic Affairs

37. State-owned Union Bank of India has raised Rs 1,000 Cr by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds on a private placement basis. The bank has issued Basel III-compliant Perpetual Debt Instruments in the nature of debentures. The coupon rate on the bonds is 8.64% per annum, payable annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Bank of India – raised Rs 1,000 Cr by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”



38. To protect the esteemed customers from fraudulent ATM activities, Punjab National Bank has taken a giant step and won't allow transactions (financial and non-financial) or its customers to withdraw money from Non-EMV ATM machines from February 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – won't allow its customers to withdraw money from Non-EMV ATM machines from 1st Feb
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

39. On February 4, Federal Bank has launched 'FedFirst', a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age. The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to save, spend and earn. The account holder is provided with a 'FedFirst contactless Debit Card' with a daily cash withdrawal limit of ₹2,500 and POS/e-com limit of ₹10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank – launched 'FedFirst' - a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years
- Daily cash withdrawal limit of 'FedFirst contactless Debit Card' – ₹2,500
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – "Your Perfect Banking Partner"

40. On February 2, RBI has appointed an external professional IT firm for carrying out a special audit of the entire IT infrastructure of the HDFC bank under Section 30 (1-B) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in the aftermath of repeated service outages at the country's largest private sector lender over the past two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – appointed external firm to audit HDFC Bank's IT infrastructure
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

41. The Indian economy grew by 4% in the FY 2019-2020, at a slower pace than projected earlier, according to the First Revised Estimates (FRE) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Provisional Estimates (PE), released in May 2020, pegged FY20 growth at 4.2%. As per the First Advanced Estimates (FAE) of national income released earlier this month, the Indian economy is expected to contract by 7.7% in the FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Different Estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) at the End of January, 2021
- FRE – 4% | PE – 4.2% | FAE – 7.7%
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

42. On February 3, The RBI has imposed a Rs 55 lakh penalty on Pune-based Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions in the 'Master Circular - Management of Advances – UCBs' and 'Master Circular - Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters – UCBs'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed Rs 55 lakh penalty on “Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank” for non-compliance with certain directions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank Ltd – Pune, MH | CEO – A. M. Basi

43. On February 4, The RBI has issued guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for select NBFCs and Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCBs). The entities have to implement the RBIA framework by March 31, 2022. The new framework will be for all non-deposit taking NBFCs (including core investment companies) with an asset size of 5,000 Cr and also for all UCBs, having an asset size of 500 Cr and above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for select NBFCs & UCBs
- The entities have to implement the RBIA framework – by March 31, 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

44. On February 2, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) 2nd Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) production plant at Doddanekundi, Bangalore & has attended the “Aero India 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated HAL’s 2nd Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) production plant – at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the “Aero India 2021” at Yelahanka Air Force Station
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

45. The Indian Navy's Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft “Ilyushin 38SD” has successfully fired ‘Combat Kh35E’ anti-ship missiles during the ongoing Theatre level Readiness and Operational Exercise 2021 (TROPEX-21). Indian Navy's capability to carry out long range maritime strikes in the Indian Ocean Region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy’s Ilyushin 38SD test fired ‘Combat Kh35E’ anti-ship missile during TROPEX-21 – in Indian Ocean
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

46. The 16th edition of Indo-U.S. joint military exercise “Yudh Abhyas” will be held in Rajasthan between February 8 and 21. The exercise near the India-Pakistan border aims at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between the two armies and will focus on counter-terrorism operations. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The 16th edition of “Yudh Abhyas” between India & USA will be held in Rajasthan
- Military Exercises of India with USA: Yudh Abhyas, Tiger Triumph, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Indo-USCG
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Schemes & Initiatives

47. On February 1, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched two schemes - ‘Pragyan Bharati’ & ‘Bhasha Gourab’ to provide monetary assistance to college students and literary bodies of the state. Under Pragyan Bharati scheme, 3,26,046 college students were given ₹1,500 each for purchasing text books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – launched two schemes - ‘Pragyan Bharati’ & ‘Bhasha Gourab’
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

48. Punjab has virtually launched the ‘Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai’ mission as part of the government’s campaign to accomplish the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March, 2021. The scheme is being funded by the World Bank, Jal Jeewan Mission of Gol, NABARD and State Budget. The Chief Minister also formally launched 10 new large multi-village surface water supply schemes at a cost of ₹1,020 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – launched the ‘Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai’ mission
- Aim – to accomplish the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March, 2021
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

49. The Startup India Seed Fund (SISF) Scheme, which has a target corpus of Rs 945 Cr to be disbursed over 5 years in early-stage startups, is looking to support around 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators, according to its implementing body Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The selected startups will be offered up to Rs 20 lakhs as a grant for proof of concept and up to Rs 50 lakhs through convertible debentures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A target corpus of Rs 945 Cr to be disbursed over 5 years – under Startup India Seed Fund (SISF) Scheme
- The implementing body of SISF scheme – DPIIT
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

50. The government has decided to include 14 new Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items under the mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through a Minimum Support Price scheme to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces. After the inclusion of the 14 products, the total number of MFP has reached to 63. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The government has decided to include 14 new MFP items under Minimum Support Price scheme
- MFP – Minor Forest Produce

51. On February 2, In a bid to boost the startup ecosystem in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has launched two schemes namely “Intellectual Property Rights Scheme” and “Quality Testing & Certification Scheme” aimed at providing financial assistance to innovative startups to file for IT patents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched 2 schemes to provide financial assistance to innovative startups to file for IT patents
- Schemes: “Intellectual Property Rights” & “Quality Testing & Certification”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

52. On February 3, the Jal Shakti Ministry has launched a unified portal on the “Gobardhan” scheme, an initiative aimed at managing cattle and biodegradable waste and also help enhance farmers’ income. The Gobardhan scheme is being pursued as a priority programme under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry – launched a unified portal on the “Gobardhan” scheme
- Aim: managing cattle, managing biodegradable waste & enhance farmers’ income
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

53. On February 5, Maharashtra has approved the “Chief Minister’s Water Conservation Programme” on the lines of previous BJP government’s flagship scheme. The new water conservation scheme, which aims at restoring the irrigation capacity by repairing the water sources, will be implemented from April 2020 to March 2023. The programme will require a fund of Rs 1,340.75 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – approved the “Chief Minister’s Water Conservation Programme”
- The scheme will be implemented – from April 2020 to March 2023
- “Jalayukt Shivar Scheme” was discontinued by – Maha Vikas Aghadi government (Maharashtra)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Sports & Games

54. Denmark will go to the Tokyo Olympics as world men’s handball champion after beating Sweden 26-24 in the final at the 2021 Men’s Handball World Championships held in Egypt. The Tokyo Games, postponed at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, are set to open July 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark – won the “Men’s Handball World Championships-2021” – held in Egypt | 2nd – Sweden
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen



55. India's 24-member shooting contingent has topped medals tally at 1st Asian Online Shooting Championship. The squad won 4 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and 5 Bronze medals for a total of 11 podium finishes. The 2-day competition was organised by the Kuwait Shooting Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped medals tally at 1st Asian Online Shooting Championship
- India won total 11 medals = 4 Gold + 2 Silver + 5 Bronze

56. On February 2, Fast bowler Ashok Dinda has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He retires as one of India's biggest veteran domestic fast bowlers having picked up over 400 First-Class wickets. He played 13 ODIs and nine T20I matches for India between 2010 and 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Dinda (West Bengal) – retirement from all forms of Cricket
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Important Days & Dates

57. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has felicitated 'Women COVID-19 Warriors' at the 29th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW) on January 31. The commission was established in January 31, 1992. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 31 – 29th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW)
- Prakash Javadekar – felicitated 'Women COVID-19 Warriors'
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma

58. Indian Coast Guard has celebrated its 45th Raising Day on 1st February 2021. From a modest beginning with just 7 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025. ICG is the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world. Its motto is "Vayam Rakshamah" meaning "We Protect". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 1 – 45th Raising Day of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (156 ships & 62 aircraft in its inventory)
- ICG – the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world | Motto – "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect)
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan | Founded in – 1977

59. Annually, February 4 is observed as "World Cancer Day" since 2000 in order to raise awareness about cancer and reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease. Cancer is the second leading cause of deaths globally. This international day is a 'global uniting initiative' led by the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC). In 2019, the theme "I Am and I Will" was introduced and was to be carried on till 2021. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- February 4 – “World Cancer Day” (since 2000)
- Theme – “I Am and I Will” (since 2019)
- HQs of Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) – Geneva, Switzerland

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

60. On February 1, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has addressed the inaugural ceremony of the “ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021” being organized online from February 1 to 3, 2021. This Hackathon will provide a unique opportunity to India and ASEAN countries to solve their common identified challenges under two broad themes of “Blue Economy” and “Education”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – addressed the inaugural ceremony of the “ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021”
- Themes – “Blue Economy” & “Education”
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

61. On February 1, the 4th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Qatar were held virtually. The Indian side was led by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and OIA), Ministry of External Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Foreign Office Consultations – held between India & Qatar
- Indian delegation – led by Sanjay Bhattacharyya
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

62. On February 3, the inaugural function of the 2nd “CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21” of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was held in New Delhi to enhance analysis and deepen understanding of police personnel. The mobile app “Locate Nearest Police Station” was also launched at the function. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd “CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21” of the NCRB – held in New Delhi
- “Locate Nearest Police Station” mobile app was launched during the function
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Ram Phal Pawar

63. On February 4, India has hosted Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave on the margins of Aero India 2021, Asia's largest Aero show being held at Bengaluru from February 3 to 5. The broad theme of the conclave is “Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted “IOR Defence Ministers' Conclave – 2021”
- Theme – “Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean”



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

64. Oscar Award-winning music director A. R. Rahman was chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT. The Alert Being Icon Award for an organisation was presented to the Biocon Foundation founded by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. Alert Being Awards 2020 received 156 nominations from 15 States and 35 districts across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. R. Rahman – chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT
- Biocon Foundation – chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT
- ‘Alert Being Awards 2020’ received – total 156 nominations

Appointments & Resignations

65. Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services has announced the appointment of Anish Shah as the Chairman of the board, effective from April 2, 2021. Shah is already a Director of the company. He is the deputy managing director and group CFO of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. He will replace Dhananjay Mungale. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anish Shah – appointed as Chairman of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services (effective from April 2, 2021)
- HQs of Mahindra Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & VC – Ramesh Iyer | Chairman – Dhananjay Mungale

66. Facebook has appointed Henry Moniz as its first Chief Compliance Officer, as Facebook faces scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers. Moniz held senior compliance roles at Viacom starting in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Henry Moniz – appointed as the first Chief Compliance Officer of Facebook
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

67. Vietnam's ruling Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, 76, has been re-elected for a rare third 5-year term. Mr Trong emerged on top in a power struggle at the last congress in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nguyen Phu Trong – re-elected as the President of Vietnam for 5 years (3rd term)
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc | President – Nguyen Phu Trong

68. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos will transition from CEO to executive chair and pass the reins to Andy Jassy in October 2021. Jassy started at Amazon (AMZN) in 1997, just about 3 years after Bezos launched the company. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Jeff Bezos – will step down from the post of CEO of Amazon
- Andy Jassy – will be the next CEO of Amazon (in October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos

69. On February 2, Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur (IFS:1987), presently Ambassador of India to Belarus, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to – Malta
- Malta – Valletta – Euro | President – George Vella

70. On February 2, Shri Raghu Gururaj (YOA:2006), presently Consul General of India to Medan, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raghu Gururaj – appointed as the Ambassador of India to – Sao Tome and Principe
- Sao Tome & Principe – Sao Tome – Sao Tome & Principe dobra

71. On February 2, Bhavya Lal, the Indian-American scientist who oversaw NASA's transition under President Joe Biden's administration, has been appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of the U.S. space agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhavya Lal (Indian-American scientist) – appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of the U.S. space agency
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

72. Incumbent Ajay Singh has been re-elected as the Boxing Federation of India's President, comprehensively defeating challenger Ashish Shelar in the polls. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Singh – re-elected as the President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI)
- HQs of BFI – Gurugram, Haryana | President – Ajay Singh

73. On February 4, S. N. Subrahmanyam, CEO and Managing Director of L&T Ltd, has been appointed as Chairman of the National Safety Council (NSC). The National Safety Council has a major role to play to ensure safety in workplaces under new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code, 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. N. Subrahmanyam – appointed as Chairman of the National Safety Council
- HQs of NSC – Navi Mumbai
- OSH & WC – Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions – released by Ministry of Labour



Amount & Agreements

74. During her speech on Union Budget 2021-22, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that in order to preserve marine biodiversity, a Deep Ocean Mission would be carried out. For this, a budget outlay of over Rs 4,000 Cr would be allocated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rs 4,000 Cr has been allocated to the 'Deep Ocean Mission' in the Union Budget 2021-22

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

75. India has slipped two places to 53rd position with a score of 6.61 in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Norway topped The Economist Intelligence Unit's latest Democracy Index report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health?" followed by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada making up the top five. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2020 Democracy Index's report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health?" – released by the EIU
- India – 53rd (score – 6.61) | Topped by – Norway | 2nd – Iceland & 3rd – Sweden
- HQs of EIU – London, UK | MD & CEO – Robin Bew

76. On February 2, Shrawasti in Uttar Pradesh has topped in the ranking of Aspirational Districts by government think tank Niti Aayog in December 2020. Dhalai (Tripura) and Garhwa (Jharkhand) have been placed at the second and the third positions, respectively. The ranking of aspirational districts is done every month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ranking of Aspirational Districts in December 2020 – by NITI Aayog
- 1st – Shrawasti (Uttar Pradesh) | 2nd – Dhalai (Tripura) | 3rd – Garhwa (Jharkhand)
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

77. On February 3, The report titled "COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom" released by UNICEF has found that 1.6 billion learners in 199 countries worldwide were affected by school closures. The largest number of beneficiaries of school-feeding programmes are in India (~100 mn), Brazil (48 mn), China (44 mn), South Africa (9 mn) and Nigeria (9 mn). About 24 million schoolchildren are at a risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic. More than 39 billion in-school meals were missed globally due to school closures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom" report – released by UNICEF
- 24 million schoolchildren are at a risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic
- 1.6 billion learners in 199 countries worldwide were affected by school closures
- 39 billion in-school meals were missed globally due to school closures
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946



Acquisitions & Mergers

78. On February 3, The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) has given in-principle approval for 100% strategic disinvestment of the GoI (government of India) shareholding in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) along with management control by way of privatisation. The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh Cr from disinvestment in 2021-22 fiscal beginning April 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA gave in-principle approval for 100% strategic disinvestment of the GoI's share in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd
- HQs of RINL – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | Chairman & MD – Pradosh Kumar Rath

79. Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd (KPTL) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 51% stake in Fasttel Engenharia Ltd in the South American country, for \$8.80 million (over Rs 64 Cr). The transaction is likely to close by the end of Q1FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd – acquired 51% stake in Fasttel Engenharia Ltd for \$8.80 million (over Rs 64 Cr)
- HQs of KPTL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Manish Mohnot

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

80. India and France have signed 2 agreements on Renewable Energy and Urban Mobility during a 5-day visit to India by Barbara Pompili, French Minister for Ecological Transition to bolster bilateral cooperation on sustainable development. A letter of intent was signed between the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and the French Development Agency (AFD) for developing a floating solar plant of up to 150 MW. AFD also signed a credit facility agreement with the finance ministry to provide 250 million euros as funding for the Surat metro rail project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India and France – signed 2 agreements on Renewable Energy & Urban Mobility
- SECI (India) + AFD (France) = a letter of intent to develop a floating solar plant of up to 150 MW
- Finance ministry (India) + AFD (France) = to provide 250 million euros as funding for the Surat metro rail project
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Praveen Kumar
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

81. On February 1, Sri Lanka has decided to scrap a 2019 agreement with India and Japan for operating the Colombo Port's East Coast Terminal (ECT). Japan, India and Sri Lanka signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for the development of ECT in May 2019. Nearly 70% of the transshipment business through ECT is linked to India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sri Lanka decided to scrap East Coast Terminal (ECT) agreement with India & Japan
- East Coast Terminal (ECT) agreement was signed in 2019 between = India + Sri Lanka + Japan
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

82. On February 2, Ford Motor Co will tap into software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing offered by Alphabet Inc's Google to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operation. Ford will incorporate the Google's Android operating system into its Ford and Lincoln vehicles starting in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ford Motor + Google = 6 years partnership to offer cloud-based data services (starting in 2023)
- HQs of Ford Motor – Dearborn, Michigan, US | CEO – Jim Farley

83. On February 4, An MoU has been signed between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in a bid to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-BHU + MoRTH = an MoU to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

84. On February 4, The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has tied up a statement of intent (SOI) with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - NITI Aayog to boost a start-up ecosystem for the mobility sector. Under the initiative, ARAI will use its TechNovuus platform and shall lend experience, expertise and equipment to nurture the start-ups working in the mobility segment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARAI + AIM (NITI Aayog) = a Sol to boost a start-up ecosystem for the mobility sector
- HQs of ARAI – Pune, MH | Director – N. V. Marathe

85. On February 5, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with Zomato for empowering street food vendors with new digital technology and to provide greater income-earning opportunities on the food delivery platform as part of PM SVANidhi Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + Zomato = an MoU to empower street food vendors with new digital technology
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Deepinder Goyal



86. On February 3, IIT Kharagpur has inked an MoU with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for 'Building Accessible Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIIC)'. The collaboration is aimed towards developing a framework for universal city planning which would be more accessible and inclusive for various sections of the community with age-friendly disabled-friendly measures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur + NIUA = an MoU for "Building Accessible Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIIC)"
- [HQs of NIUA – New Delhi | Director – Hitesh Vaidya](#)

87. On February 4, BEML has signed an MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for joint development in the areas of advanced composites and autoclaves, mini-unmanned aerial vehicles, design & analysis of aircraft structure and systems. BEML also teamed with NAL for joint development of 2-seater trainer aircraft through transfer of technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEML + CSIR-NAL = an MoU for joint development in the areas of advanced composites and autoclaves
- BEML + CSIR-NAL = an MoU for joint development of 2-seater Trainer Aircraft
- [HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota](#)

Books & Authors

88. Edited by Renuka Singh and published by Penguin Random House, Dalai Lama's "The Little Book of Encouragement" has 130 quotes with words of wisdom amid pandemic, promotes human values, spills the beans on key to happiness and comments on Sino-India ties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Little Book of Encouragement" book – authored by Dalai Lama
- Edited by – Renuka Singh | Published by – Penguin Random House
- [His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama – Tenzin Gyatso \(Tibet\)](#)
- [Second autobiography of the 14th Dalai Lama – "Freedom in Exile"](#)

89. "This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad" will be released on the director's 83rd birth anniversary on May 19 by Fourth Estate, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Girish Karnad's memoir was to be translated from Kannada into English by the actor-playwright himself but could only finish a part of it before his death in 2019, will now be out in May after final touches by award-winning translator Srinath Perur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad" book – translated from Kannada into English by Srinath Perur

90. "By Many a Happy Accident" is an autobiography of Mohammad Hamid Ansari. The book is an account of a life of unplanned happenings that took M. Hamid Ansari away from his preferred fancy for academia to professional diplomacy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "By Many a Happy Accident" – an autobiography of M. Hamid Ansari (Vice President of India (2007–2017))



91. The first “Playbook”, published jointly by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, says the aim is to keep participants and the people of Japan safe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Playbook” – published jointly by IOC + International Paralympic Committee + Tokyo 2020 organising committee

92. On February 5, Delhi-based publishing house, TreeShade Books, today announced the release of their latest book “1857 - The Sword of Mastaan”. This is author Vineet Bajpai’s fifth fiction novel and eighth book overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1857 - The Sword of Mastaan” – authored by Vineet Bajpai
- Published by – TreeShade Books

93. After almost a decade, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri is coming up with new book this year. The new novel is titled “Whereabouts” and will be published under the Hamish Hamilton imprint of Penguin Random House. This is the English translation of her first Italian novel and will come out in April 2021. Her last novel was The Lowland (2013). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Whereabouts” novel – authored by Jhumpa Lahiri (to come out in April 2021)
- Publisher – Penguin Random House
- Other books by Jhumpa Lahiri: “The Lowland” + “The Namesake” + “Interpreter of Maladies”

Obituaries

94. The Animals guitarist Hilton Valentine, who created one of the most famous opening riffs in 1960s pop music, has passed away at the age of 77. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hilton Valentine – English skiffle / Musician – passed away (Guitarist in The Animals)

Science & Technology

95. Aevum's “Ravn X” drone which is the world’s biggest drone, is now capable of sending low-Earth orbit satellites into space and it will cost less than it takes companies like Elon Musk’s SpaceX to do so. The drone will be driven by Aevum’s proprietary software. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aevum's “Ravn X” the world’s biggest drone – is now capable of sending low-Earth orbit satellites into space
- HQs of Aevum – Alabama, US



96. “Stardust 1.0” was recently launched from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, US, becoming the first Commercial Rocket Launch powered by biofuel, which is non-toxic for the environment as opposed to traditionally used rocket fuels. The rocket is manufactured & launched by bluShift, an aerospace company based in Maine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- bluShift Aerospace – launched “Stardust 1.0” - the World’s 1st Commercial Rocket powered by Biofuel
- HQs of bluShift aerospace – Maine, US | CEO – Sascha Deri

97. India's space agency ISRO has signed a Non-disclosure agreement with Hyderabad-startup Skyroot Aerospace to build its solid propulsion rocket to launch satellites in lower orbit, as part of its efforts to build a private space ecosystem in the country. The agreement will allow Skyroot to access ISRO's facilities and technical expertise to build its rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skyroot Aerospace + ISRO = Non-disclosure agreement to build its solid propulsion rocket
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

98. On February 3, Pakistan has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely “Ghaznavi” which can strike targets up to 290 Kms. On January 20, Pakistan had test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile “Shaheen-III” which can strike targets up to 2,750 Kms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely “Ghaznavi”
- Strike range of this missile – 290 Kms
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

99. On February 2, “Starship SN9” - the latest prototype rocket of SpaceX's Starship vehicle, exploded on a test flight from the company's South Texas site, on the Gulf Coast near the small community of Boca Chica Village. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Starship SN9” - the latest prototype rocket of SpaceX's Starship vehicle exploded on a test flight
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

100. On February 1, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the ‘Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014’. These rules may be called the “Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021”. They shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 2021. The amendment has reduced the residency limit for an Indian citizen to set up One Person Companies (OPCs) from 182 days to 120 days and also allow Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs in India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – amended the ‘Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014’
- It will be called the “Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021” (effective from 1st April)
- The residency period for being considered as a Resident in India – 120 days (from 182 days)





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