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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

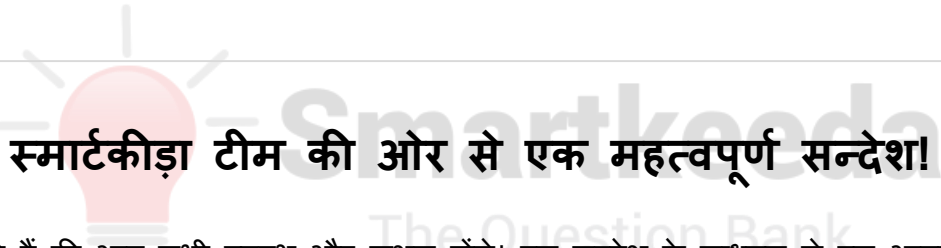
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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

**101.** On February 4, Union Environment Ministry has approved the “Lakhwar Electricity Project” on Yamuna river. The total cost of the Lakhwar power project is Rs 5747.17 Cr. Apart from electricity generation, 6 states (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan & Delhi) will also get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project. Its construction will provide 330 metric cusec meters of additional water. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Environment Ministry approved the “Lakhwar Electricity Project” on Yamuna river (Cost: Rs 5747.17 Cr)
- 6 states – will also get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment (Constituency – Maharashtra)

**102.** On February 4, Agriculture Ministry has got approval from aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) for flying drones to capture images of rice and wheat fields in 100 districts to assess crop yields at gram panchayat level under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)’. This Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) is the first remote sensing technology based largest pilot study conducted so far in India for crop yield estimation. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- DGCA approved for flying drones to capture images of Rice & Wheat fields in 100 districts to assess crop yields
- This UAV is the first remote sensing technology based largest pilot study – to be done under PMFBY
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General in the DGCA – Arun Kumar

**103.** On February 4, PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the historic “Chauri Chaura incident”, a landmark event in the country's fight for Independence. Mr. Modi also released a postage stamp to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – released a postage stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of “Chauri Chaura incident”
- Chauri Chaura Shaheed Sthal – in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

**104.** On February 4, Billionaire Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of ‘Carbon-Neutral Oil’ from the US as it looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035. Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV), a division of US oil major Occidental, delivered 2 million barrels of consignment Permian basin to Reliance. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Reliance Industries – sourced the world's first consignment of ‘Carbon-Neutral Oil’ from the US
- Reliance Industries – likely to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- World's largest single location Oil Refining Complex (Reliance) – at Jamnagar, Gujarat



**105.** On February 6, The government in the Budget 2021 has announced that 1,000 more mandis will be integrated with electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in 2021-22, further strengthening the wholesale markets. Currently, 1,000 mandis have been integrated with e-NAM in 21 states and Union Territories so far with 1.69 Cr farmers registered on it. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 1,000 more mandis will be integrated with “e-NAM” in 2021-22 (1,000 mandis have been integrated so far)
- e-NAM – electronic National Agriculture Market

**106.** On February 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed an event marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Gujarat High Court. He has also released a Commemorative Postage Stamp marking the completion of 60 years of the establishment of the High Court. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – addressed an event marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Gujarat High Court
- Narendra Modi – released a Commemorative Postage Stamp marking the completion of 60 years
- Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court – Vikram Nath

**107.** On February 6, The Himachal Pradesh cabinet has gone completely paperless after the government launched the 1<sup>st</sup> “E-cabinet” at Shimla. Earlier in 2014, the Himachal Pradesh state Assembly also went completely digital. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh cabinet – launched the 1<sup>st</sup> “E-cabinet” at Shimla to go paperless
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**108.** On February 6, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has launched data analytics-driven “MCA21 Version 3.0” during fiscal 2021-22. This system is the first Mission Mode e-Governance project of the Government of India. The key components of MCA21 are e-Scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-Consultation, Compliance Management System (CMS) and MCA Lab. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – launched data analytics-driven “MCA21 Version 3.0” during fiscal 2021-22
- Key components: e-Scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-Consultation, Compliance Management System (CMS) & MCA Lab
- [Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka](#)

**109.** California-based PayPal Holdings Inc will wind down its domestic payments business in India from April 1. PayPal will instead focus on its cross-border payments business. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PayPal – to wind down its domestic payments business in India from April 1
- [HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman](#)



**110.** The 45<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair, which was postponed due to the pandemic, will be held in July at Central Park in Salt Lake. This year's focal theme country will be Bangladesh as 2021 marks the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It will be 12-day book fair. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 45<sup>th</sup> International Kolkata Book Fair – to be held in July, 2021
- This year's focal theme country – Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**111.** On February 5, India Meteorological Department (IMD) will establish India's 1<sup>st</sup> thunderstorm research testbed in Odisha's Balasore. The objective of setting up the thunderstorm testbed is to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes. More than 350 people are killed on an average in lightning strikes in Odisha every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IMD will establish India's 1<sup>st</sup> thunderstorm research testbed – in Balasore, Odisha
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

**112.** On February 5, The Gujarat state Labour and Employment department in collaboration with the Tata Group is setting up an Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Nasmed village in Gandhinagar district on a not-for-profit PPP model. Apart from Gujarat, the Union government has also approved IISs in Mumbai and Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat + Tata Group = setting up an Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Nasmed village in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran

**113.** NITI Aayog has released the "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island - Vision Document" to leverage the strategic location and natural features of the island. The proposal is pivoted along 3 development anchors and zones. The proposal is pivoted along three development anchors and zones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NITI Aayog – released the "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island - Vision Document"
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**114.** On February 8, The 5-day "National Horticulture Fair - 2021" being organized by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has begun at the Institute's Hessarghatta campus on the outskirts of Bengaluru city. The fair is held under the theme "For start-up and stand-up India" aims to increase farmers' incomes by turning horticulture into a business enterprise. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 5-day "National Horticulture Fair - 2021" – held in Bengaluru
- Theme – "Horticulture for start-up and stand-up India"
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala



**115.** On February 8, Tamil Nadu government has declared the creation of “Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve” which is the 5<sup>th</sup> tiger reserve in the state. An area of 1,01,657.13 hectares or 1016.5713 sq.km in Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary and Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary have been combined to create the tiger reserve. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – declared the creation of “Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (5<sup>th</sup> in the state)
- Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary + Megamalai WC = Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

**116.** On February 8, Manipur has launched a new range of ‘Packaged Organic Products’ and ‘Loumi Connect’ App apart from distributing Bolero Camper vehicles and nurseries to 7 Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs). The chief minister also released Illustrative guide booklets on organic farming and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched a new range of ‘Packaged Organic Products’ and ‘Loumi Connect’ App
- Manipur – also released booklets on ‘Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region’
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla](#)

**117.** On February 5, The Delhi cabinet has approved “Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha” in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to Rs 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship. The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level. Under this scheme, the students studying in Delhi schools who have secured more than 60% in Class 8 are eligible for the examination. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – approved “Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha”
- Rs 5,000 will be provided to Rs 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship
- Students with more than 60% in Class 8 are eligible for the examination
- [Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev](#)

**118.** On February 7, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of 2 hospitals and launched ‘Asom Mala’ Programme at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur district in Assam. ‘Asom Mala’ is aimed to improve state highways and major district roads network in the state. PM Modi also dedicated an ‘LPG Import Terminal’ in Haldia, West Bengal built by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and 348 km ‘Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline’ section to the nation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 2 hospitals & launched “Asom Mala” Programme – in Sonitpur, Assam
- Aim of ‘Asom Mala’ Programme – to improve state highways & major district roads network





- PM Modi also dedicated – an ‘LPG Import Terminal’ to the nation – in Haldia, West Bengal (built by BPCL)
- PM Modi also dedicated – a 348 km ‘Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline’ section
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**119.** On February 8, Ladakh Administration has signed a tripartite agreement with Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Energy Centre & Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh to establish India's first-ever Geothermal Field Development Project in Puga, taking a step further for carbon-neutral Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ladakh + ONGC + LAHDC (Leh) = to establish India's 1<sup>st</sup> Geothermal Field Development Project in Puga, Ladakh
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker

**120.** On February 7, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has announced that the prestigious “Akashvani Music Festival” has been renamed after Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. He made this announcement at a Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Centenary Commemorative function organised in Pune. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Akashvani Music Festival” has been renamed after – Pandit Bhimsen Joshi (Bharat Ratna in 2009)
- Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Centenary Commemorative function organised – in Pune, Maharashtra

**121.** On February 5, The Ministry of Education has decided to name the residential schools and hostels funded under the ‘Samagra Shiksha’ Scheme after Subhas Chandra Bose as “Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools”. A total of 1,063 residential facilities (383 residential schools and 680 hostels) have been sanctioned to States and UTs so far. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Education Ministry – to name 1,063 residential schools & hostels under ‘Samagra Shiksha’ Scheme after S. C. Bose
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

**122.** On February 5, The Finance Ministry has granted permission to 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to borrow an additional Rs 5,034 Cr through Open Market Borrowings for undertaking ease of doing business reforms. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finance Ministry granted permission to 4 states to borrow additional Rs 5,034 Cr through Open Market Borrowings
- 4 states – Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Punjab
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka



**123.** On February 8, Karnataka has got its 31<sup>st</sup> district with the state government issuing an official gazette notification carving out a new Vijayanagara district from Ballari. The new district will have 6 taluks and Hosapete will be its headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka has got its 31<sup>st</sup> district 'Vijayanagara' carving out of Ballari
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**124.** On February 5, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has presented the state budget of ₹2,99,688 Cr (net) for the year 2021-22. Free ration would continue for all post-June 2021, while the subsidised health insurance scheme was opened up for enrollment throughout the year. A proposal of Rs 62,000 Cr investment for Jangalmahal Industrial Town at Raghunathpur in Purulia has come forward. The state also announced a 100-acre pharmaceutical park at Falta. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- West Bengal presented the state budget of ₹2,99,688 Cr (net) for the year 2021-22
- A proposal of Rs 62,000 Cr investment for Jangalmahal Industrial Town – at Raghunathpur in Purulia
- 100-acre Pharmaceutical Park – at Falta
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**125.** On February 8, According to the Chemical and Fertiliser Ministry, the total market size of the Indian Pharma Industry is expected to reach \$130 billion by 2030. The Medical Devices Industry in India has the potential to grow at 28% per annum to reach \$50 billion by 2025. India has been serving more than 200 countries with its pharma products. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Pharma Industry is expected to reach \$130 billion – by 2030
- Medical Devices Industry in India has the potential to grow at 28% per annum to reach \$50 billion – by 2025
- Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers – D. V. Sadananda Gowda (Constituency – Bangalore, Karnataka)

**126.** On February 8, Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh handed over a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to Peh (Paoyi) village under Ukhrul district in appreciation for steps taken to destroy poppy plantation. Peh would be promoted as a role model for other villages in 'War on Drugs' campaign. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- N Biren Singh handed over a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to Peh (Paoyi) village, Ukhrul, Manipur
- 'War on Drugs' campaign – of Manipur
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla



# International Affairs

**127.** On February 5, A \$43 billion (48 trillion won) deal was signed to build the world's biggest Offshore Wind Farm in South Korea. South Korea plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. With a maximum capacity of 8.2 GW, it will be 7 times bigger than the world's current largest offshore wind farm. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- \$43 billion(48 trillion won) deal was signed to build the world's biggest Offshore Wind Farm – in South Korea
- Maximum capacity this Wind Farm – 8.2 GW | South Korea plans to achieve carbon neutrality – by 2050
- [South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in](#)

**128.** On February 4, Denmark has approved a plan to build the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Energy Island in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy. The energy island will cost around 210 billion Danish crowns (\$33.9 billion). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Denmark approved a plan to build the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Energy Island in the North Sea (Cost: \$33.9 billion)
- [Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen](#)

**129.** Google has launched a new initiative 'Startup School' for start-up founders and their teams across the Asia Pacific. Startup School is a virtual programme which includes a series of free, hands-on virtual courses for start-up founders and their teams. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Google launched a new initiative 'Startup School' for start-up founders and their teams across the Asia Pacific
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

**130.** On February 4, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope located in Africa and Australia. SKAO is a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK. The completion is expected to take nearly a decade at a cost of over £1.8 billion. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SKAO Council approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope – located in Africa & Australia
- [HQs of SKAO – UK](#)

**131.** On February 6, Nepal and India have jointly inaugurated a newly-constructed 108-km road that connects the Indian border with several areas of the Himalayan nation. Built with Indian grant assistance of Rs 44.48 million, the blacktopped road from the Indian border Laxmipur-Balara to Gadhaiya in Sarlahi district, Nepal was jointly inaugurated by Nitesh Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Nepal + India = jointly inaugurated a newly-constructed 108-km road (Laxmipur-Balara to Sarlahi)
- Indian grant assistance for this road – Rs 44.48 million



- Consul General of the Consulate General of India – Nitesh Kumar
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**132.** On February 5, ICICI Bank has signed an MoU with MUFG Bank (Japan) for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank + MUFG Bank (Japan) = an MoU for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

**133.** On February 5, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that, keeping in view the performance under GLC flow during 2013-14 to 2020-21, a target of Rs. 16.50 lakh Cr for Ground Level Credit (GLC) has been fixed for 2021-22. It is 10% higher compared to the target for the year 2020-21 which was fixed at Rs.15.00 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- A target of Rs. 16.50 lakh Cr for Ground Level Credit (GLC) has been fixed for 2021-22

**134.** On February 5, In a major structural reform, The Reserve Bank of India has allowed Retail Investors to open “Gilt” or “G-Sec” accounts with the central bank, a move that will help deepen bond markets in India. The platform will be called “Retail Direct”. With this, India became the 1<sup>st</sup> country to allow retail investors to directly access the ‘G-Secs’ market both primary and secondary. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- RBI – allowed Retail Investors to open “Gilt” or “G-Sec” accounts with it on “Retail Direct” platform
- India – became the 1<sup>st</sup> country to allow retail investors to directly access the ‘G-Secs’ market
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**135.** On February 5, The RBI has extended the deadline for meeting the last tranche of Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) by another 6 months till October, 2021 due to continuing stress on account of COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of the last tranche of the CCB of 0.625%, which was scheduled to take effect from April 1, 2020, was deferred till April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- RBI – extended the deadline for meeting the last tranche of CCB by another 6 months (till October, 2021)
- The implementation of the last tranche of the CCB of 0.625% is deferred – till April 1, 2021
- CCB – Capital Conservation Buffer
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935



**136.** On February 5, RBI in its recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has kept rates steady at record low levels. The repo rate or RBI's key lending rate was held at 4% while the reverse repo rate or its borrowing rate was left unchanged at 3.35%. The RBI projected GDP growth to be at 10.5% for 2021-22. The RBI has decided to constitute an Expert Committee for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI has decided to constitute an Expert Committee for UCBs
- Repo rate – 4% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate or MSF – 4.25% | CLR – 3% | SLR – 18%
- Total members in the RBI's MPC = 6 (3 of RBI + 3 of GoI)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**137.** On February 5, Digital payments platform PhonePe has partnered with Axis Bank on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's "@axl" handle. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PhonePe + Axis Bank = partnership on a multi-bank model | Axis Bank's handle – "@axl"
- HQs of PhonePE – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

**138.** On February 8, The RBI has released the Annual Report of the "Ombudsman Schemes of the Reserve Bank for the year 2019-20" covering the period of July, 2019 to June, 2020. The Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS) was first notified by the RBI in 1995 under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The ombudsman disposed of 48,333 complaints against the SBI, followed by 15,004 against HDFC Bank & 11,844 against ICICI Bank. In NBFCs, the highest number of complaints was against Bajaj Finance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI released the Annual Report of the "Ombudsman Schemes of the Reserve Bank for the year 2019-20"
- Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS) was first notified by the RBI in 1995 under Section 35 A of the BRA, 1949
- The highest number of complaints were received against – SBI | 2<sup>nd</sup> – HDFC Bank & 3<sup>rd</sup> – ICICI Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**139.** On February 8, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered into a co-lending agreement with Pune-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) LoanTap Credit Products for co-lending to MSME loans. LoanTap offers a range of business, vehicle and personal loans to the underserved segment. To start with, the ticket size would be at around Rs 3 lakh and will be enhanced depending on performance. Under this agreement, 80% of the loan will be lent by the bank and the remaining 20% by the LoanTap. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bank of Maharashtra + LoanTap = for co-lending to MSMEs
- Under the agreement = 80% of the loan to be lent by BoM & 20% by LoanTap
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – One Family One Bank



# Defence Affairs

**140.** On February 4, Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed a contract to deliver a fast patrol vessel (FPV) namely “Zoroaster” to Seychelles. The FPV will be delivered to the Seychelles Coast Guard. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- GRSE + Seychelles = to deliver a fast patrol vessel (FPV) namely “Zoroaster”
- Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee | President – Wavel Ramkalawan
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

**141.** On February 6, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has handed over 3 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk III to the Indian Navy and 2 to the Indian Coast Guard as part of a 16-ALH contract. HAL has been recognised by Rolls Royce as authorised maintenance centre for ‘Adour Mk871’ engines for its global customers. The Indian Aero Components Sector is set to double from ₹30,000 Cr to ₹60,000 Cr by 2024, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Besides, the government’s endeavour is to bring down defence imports by at least \$2 billion by 2022. Total 138 proposals worth over \$37 billion for domestic manufacturing had been approved between 2016 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HAL handed over 3 ‘ALH Mk III’ to the Indian Navy & 2 to the Indian Coast Guard
- Indian Aero Components Sector is set to double from ₹30,000 Cr to ₹60,000 Cr – by 2024
- Government’s target to bring down Defence Imports by at least \$2 billion – by 2022
- HAL – recognised by Rolls Royce as authorised maintenance centre for ‘Adour Mk871’ engines
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

**142.** On February 6, A maiden contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force “CoBRA” (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action). It will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country. The CoBRA force was raised under the CRPF in 2009 for undertaking intelligence-based jungle warfare operations. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force “CoBRA”
- CoBRA – Commando Battalion for Resolute Action | It was raised under the CRPF in 2009
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

**143.** On February 6, Israel based Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) have teamed up for joint induction of an anti-torpedo defence system called “SHADE” for the Indian Navy. “SHADE” will be the first system in the world to employ a combination of soft kill and hard kill decoys. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems + BDL = to jointly induct Anti-Torpedo Defence System - "SHADE" for Indian Navy
- HQs of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems – Haifa, Israel | CEO – Yoav Har-Even
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra

**144.** At the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Aero India in Bengaluru, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been handed the contract to manufacture 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at an estimated cost of ₹48,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HAL – received the contract to manufacture 83 LCA Tejas for the IAF at an estimated cost of ₹48,000 Cr
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**145.** The Ministry of Power will launch a scheme titled 'Manufacturing Zones under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package' for critical power and renewable energy equipment with an outlay of Rs 1,500 Cr in FY22. The scheme in the Budget would entail setting up 3 manufacturing zones in a year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Power – to launch 'Manufacturing Zones under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package' scheme
- Outlay of the Scheme – Rs 1,500 | The scheme would entail setting up 3 manufacturing zones in a year
- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

**146.** On February 7, Nearly 7.5 lakh tea plantation families of Assam have received financial benefits from the government as Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in Guwahati to launch the third phase of "Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela" scheme. An amount of Rs 3,000 was transferred directly to 7,46,667 bank account holders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman launched the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of "Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela" scheme – in Guwahati, Assam
- An amount of Rs 3,000 was transferred directly to each tea plantation family
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



## Sports & Games

**147.** On February 6, England skipper Joe Root has become the first cricketer to score a double century in his 100<sup>th</sup> Test, touching the milestone on the second day of the first Test against India, in Chennai. Former Pakistan skipper Inzamam ul Haq, who hit 184 against India in Bengaluru in 2005, held the previous best score in the 100<sup>th</sup> Test. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Joe Root ([England - Cricket](#)) – became the first cricketer to score a double century in his 100<sup>th</sup> Test
- Previous best score in the 100<sup>th</sup> Test was held by – Inzamam ul Haq ([Pakistan - Cricket](#))

## Important Days & Dates

**148.** On February 3, In December, the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to declare 4 February as “International Day of Human Fraternity”. The resolution was the outcome of Christian-Muslim cooperation to promote peace and intercultural dialogue in the world. This year, the theme is “A Pathway to the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 4 – International Day of Human Fraternity – by UNGA
- Theme – “A Pathway to the Future”
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

**149.** International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on February 6, to spread awareness and educate people about the problems females faced due to genital mutilation. This year, the theme is “No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 6 – International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – by UN
- Theme – “No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”

## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**150.** On February 5, the First India-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) was held. It was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) – held between India & EU
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27





**151.** The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain was virtually held on February 4. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. An MoU between India and Bahrain was signed in July 2018 for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy – held between India & Bahrain
- Indian delegation – Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale (Joint Secretary of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy)
- Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain – Piyush Srivastava (also participated)

**152.** The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel co-chaired the 8<sup>th</sup> “ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting” through video conferencing on February 5. The Meeting was in conjunction with the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM). Besides, the minister also highlighted some initiatives to revive tourism activities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers – co-chaired by Prahlad Singh Patel
- Initiatives highlighted to revive tourism activities:
  - SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry)
  - Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme
  - A series of webinars under the theme ‘Dekho Apna Desh’

**153.** The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers’ Conclave began with a keynote address from Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 4<sup>th</sup> February on the sidelines of ‘Aero India 2021’ in Bengaluru. 26 out of 28 countries from the IOR region attended the conclave either physically or in virtual mode. Below are some of the highlights made by Rajnath Singh during the Conclave. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh addressed – IOR Defence Ministers’ Conclave on 4<sup>th</sup> February
- Highlights:
  - SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region is the theme of Indian Ocean Policy as outlined by PM Narendra Modi in 2015
  - PM Narendra Modi’s dynamic – 5 ‘S’ vision - Samman (Respect), Samvaad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samridhhi (Prosperity)
- Motive behind 5 ‘S’ Vision – “International Peace & Security”

**154.** The 20<sup>th</sup> edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) flagship event, the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021, was held online from February 10 to February 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the Summit. The theme of the Summit is “Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated – 20<sup>th</sup> World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 of TERI
- Theme – “Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all”
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**155.** On February 3, Indian documentary “Writing with Fire” has won the Audience Award in the ‘World Cinema Documentary’ category at the Sundance Film Festival 2021. “Writing with Fire” is an Indian film chronicling the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women. This documentary is directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indian documentary “Writing with Fire” – won the ‘Audience Award’ at the Sundance Film Festival 2021
- Directed by – Rintu Thomas & Sushmit Ghosh | Award Category – ‘World Cinema Documentary’

**156.** The “Zayed Award for Human Fraternity” has officially revealed that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Moroccan-French activist, Latifa Ibn Ziaten, are the two honorees of its 2021 award. The Pope and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar has jointly presented awards via virtual ceremony on International Day of Human Fraternity on February 4. The Zayed Award for Human Fraternity seeks to honor the legacy of the founder of the UAE & it includes a financial prize of 1 million dollars. It was created in February, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Antonio Guterres + Latifa Ibn Ziaten = jointly received “Zayed Award for Human Fraternity-2021”
- The Award honors the legacy of the founder of the UAE | Financial Prize – \$1 million
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**157.** On February 6, Former Australia captain Steve Smith claimed his third Allan Border Medal while Beth Mooney bagged her maiden Belinda Clarke Award, the top two honours of the Australian Cricket Awards. Smith was honoured for his performances in all three formats of the game, while Mooney bagged recognition in the Australian women’s game for the first time. The rest of the awards were given as below. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Full List of Winners From The Australian Cricket Awards:

Awards	Name
Allan Border Medal	Steve Smith
Belinda Clark Award	Beth Mooney
Men’s Test Player of the Year	Pat Cummins
Women’s ODI Player of the Year	Rachel Haynes
Men's ODI Player of the Year	Steve Smith
Female International T20 Player of the Year	Beth Mooney
Male International T20 Player of the Year	Ashton Agar
Female Domestic Player of the Year	Elyse Villani
Male Domestic Player of the Year	Shaun Marsh
Betty Wilson Young Cricketer of the Year	Hannah Darlington
Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year	Will Sutherland
Community Impact Award	Joshua Lalor



## Appointments & Resignations

**158.** On February 3, A 1988 batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer Praveen Sinha is appointed as the Interim Chief of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by replacing current chief R.K Shukla. Mr. Sinha is currently Additional Director of the CBI. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Praveen Sinha – appointed as the Interim Chief of CBI
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Praveen Sinha | Motto of CBI – Industry, Impartiality, Integrity

**159.** Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu has been appointed to the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) led by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Vembu is one of the Padma Shri awardees announced by the government of India in 2021. He is currently based in Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sridhar Vembu – appointed to the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
- NSAB is led by – Ajit Doval (National Security Advisor)

**160.** Shri S. Gopalakrishnan (IFS:2005), presently Counsellor in the Embassy of India, Washington, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- S. Gopalakrishnan – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malawi
- Malawi – Lilongwe – Malawian kwacha | President – Lazarus Chakwera

**161.** On February 4, Google Cloud has announced the appointment of Bikram Singh Bedi as the Managing Director for its India business. He succeeds Karan Bajwa, who was elevated as Vice President for Asia Pacific region recently. Google Cloud is likely to launch its 2<sup>nd</sup> Cloud Region in India in 2021 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bikram Singh Bedi – appointed as Managing Director for Google Cloud India
- Google Cloud's 2<sup>nd</sup> Cloud Region in India in 2021 – in New Delhi | 1<sup>st</sup> – in Mumbai (2017)
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

## Amount & Agreements

**162.** On February 6, While addressing the Valedictory Function of 'Aero India 2021' in Bengaluru, Defence minister Rajnath Singh has announced that India has decided to invest around \$130 billion for military modernisation over the next 7 to 8 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India has decided to invest around \$130 billion for military modernisation over the next 7 to 8 years
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)



**163.** On February 5, Union government has allocated ₹16,000 Cr for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the fiscal year 2021-22 to boost the safety of farmers' crops and to ensure that maximum benefit of crop insurance reaches farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Government has allocated ₹16,000 Cr for PMFBY for FY 2021-22
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in – 2016

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**164.** According to data compiled by the Tea Board, Indian tea production in 2020 fell 9.7% in 2020 due to heavy flooding and coronavirus movement restrictions. In 2020, India produced 1255.60 million Kg of tea. Lower output lifted average tea prices in 2020 by 31% from a year ago to a record Rs 184.69 (\$2.53) a kg. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian tea production in 2020 fell 9.7% in 2020 | Production – 1255.60 million Kg of tea
- Average tea prices in 2020 – Rs 184.69 / kg (31% increase from 2019)
- HQs of Tea Board of India – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman – Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah

**165.** On February 4, The number of new cancer cases in the Northeast Region is expected to increase to 57,131 by 2025, as per the report titled “Profile of Cancer & related Health Indicators in the Northeast Region of India”, released by ICMR & National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR). The highest incidence rate in males (269.4 per 1,00,000 population) was recorded in Aizawl district in Mizoram and among females (219.8 per 1,00,000) in Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Profile of Cancer & related Health Indicators in the Northeast Region of India” report – released by ICMR & NCDIR
- The number of new Cancer Cases in the Northeast Region is expected to increase to 57,131 – by 2025
- Highest Cancer rate: in Male – Aizawl, Mizoram | in Female – Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911
- HQs of NCDIR – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Prashant Mathur

**166.** According to NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, 2.3 billion transactions worth Rs 4.2 trillion were recorded through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in the month of January this year. On a YOY basis, UPIs transaction value jumped 76.5 % while transaction value jumped nearly 100%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to NITI Aayog: 2.3 billion transactions worth Rs 4.2 trillion were recorded through UPI in January, 2021
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar



**167.** The average dropout rate of girls was 17.3% at the secondary education level and 4.74% at the elementary level in 2018-19, according to the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights registered 111 complaints of child marriage during 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The average dropout rate of girls in 2018-19: 17.3% at secondary education | 4.74% at elementary level
- [Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles \(Constituency – Amethi, UP\)](#)

**168.** On February 6, The Business Confidence Index (BCI) released by the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) rose 29.6% between Q2 and Q3 of the current financial year (FY2020-21). The 115<sup>th</sup> round of Business Expectations Survey (BES) was carried out in December 2020, during a period of both hope and despair. The BES has been carried out on a quarterly basis since 1991 by NCAER. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Business Confidence Index” released by NCAER – rose 29.6% between Q2 and Q3 of FY2020-21
- Business Expectations Survey (BES) has been carried out on a quarterly basis – by NCAER (since 1991)
- [HQs of NCAER – New Delhi | DG – Shekhar Shah](#)

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**169.** On February 4, Israel-based SpearUAV has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based Paras Aerospace Solutions to introduce the unique “Ninox 40” Micro-tactical UAV System to the Indian market. It will be used by military forces, paramilitary, internal security, and law enforcement agencies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SpearUAV + Paras Aerospace Solutions = an MoU to introduce the unique “Ninox 40” system in India
- [HQs of SpearUAV – Tel Aviv, Israel | HQs of Paras Aerospace Solutions – Bengaluru, Karnataka](#)

**170.** On February 5, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has entered into offset contract with joint stock company, Rosoboronexport (Russia) to set up industrial facilities for the manufacturing wide range of aviation hoses at BEL Optronics Devices, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BEL + Rosoboronexport (Russia) = an offset contract to manufacture high quality aviation hoses
- [HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava](#)

**171.** On February 4, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) have signed an MoU for development and production of composite raw materials during the Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru on February 04, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HAL + MIDHANI = an MoU for development and production of composite raw materials
- [HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt](#)
- [HQs of MIDHANI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Kumar Jha](#)



**172.** To address the challenge of unemployability and the skill gap among Goan youth, Goa has inked an agreement with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to operate the Model Career Centre on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa + CII = an agreement to operate the 'Model Career Centre' on PPP basis
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

**173.** On February 5, Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in the fields of skill training, tourism and dairy sector. Besides, they also agreed to explore the possibilities of signing MoUs for the teacher-student and cultural exchange programmes so as to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Switzerland and India particularly with Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Haryana + Switzerland = agreed to share their expertise in the fields of skill Training, Tourism and Dairy
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin (New)

**174.** On February 8, Triton Electric Vehicle has signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for developing Electric Vehicles and Energy Storage Systems. For requirements of Energy Storage System (ESS) in India, BEL will address the requirements as a prime contractor and Triton will provide the support as technology partner as per Make in India requirements. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Triton Electric Vehicle + BEL = an MoU for developing Electric Vehicles & Energy Storage Systems
- HQs of Triton Electric Vehicle – New Jersey, USA
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

**175.** On February 4, Aviatech Enterprises Pvt Ltd (AEPL), a company of Crown group has entered into a strategic partnership or a framework agreement with Russian aircraft corporation MiG for providing post-warranty support to the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter jets. The Indian Navy currently has around 40 MiG-29K (single seat) and MiG-29KUB (double seat) aircraft in its fleet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aviatech Enterprises + RAC MiG = a framework agreement to provide post-warranty support to the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter jets
- HQs of AEPL – Quelossim, Goa | CEO – Srinivas Kanugo
- HQs of RAC MiG – Moscow, Russia

**176.** Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has collaborated with Wipro3D to manufacture metal 3D printed aircraft engine component, Nozzle Guide Vane (also called the Inner Ring), 3D Printed in a high temperature resilient steel A286. Nozzle Guide Vane has also received Airworthiness certification by Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC). Wipro 3D is the metal Additive Manufacturing (AM) business of Wipro Infrastructure Engineering (WIN). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- HAL + Wipro3D = collaboration to manufacture metal 3D printed Aircraft Engine Component
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- HQs of Wipro3D – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Vice President & Business Head – Ajay Parikh

**177.** On February 8, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru for creation of Joint Advanced Technology Program-Center of Excellence (JATP-CoE) in the premises of IISc, Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO + IISc (Bengaluru) = an MoU to create Joint Advanced Technology Program-Center of Excellence (JATP-CoE)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**178.** On February 9, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have signed a contract for procurement of Software Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac) worth over ₹1,000 Cr. The SDR-Tac is designed and developed by Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Defence Ministry + BEL = a contract for procurement of Software Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac) worth ₹1,000 Cr
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

**179.** On February 8, Siemens Limited has signed 2 separate MoUs with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) respectively to establish Digital Transformation Labs. The MoUs will focus on developing the Industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and Industry 4.0-enabled products and technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Siemens Limited signed 2 separate MoUs with = IISc + CMTI – to establish Digital Transformation Labs
- HQs of Siemens Limited – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch + Joe Kaeser
- HQs of CMTI – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Dr. Nagahanumaiah

## **Books & Authors**

**180.** On February 5, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled “Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan” authored by K. N. Bhandari. The book focuses on the health and education initiatives undertaken through the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in Rajasthan from 2006 to 2018. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan” book – authored by K. N. Bhandari
- The book is released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu



**181.** Hunter Biden’s memoir “Beautiful Things” will be out on April 6, 2021, according to Gallery Books. Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, is a lawyer and former lobbyist whose work helped lead to the first impeachment of Trump. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Beautiful Things” book authored by (a memoir of) – Hunter Biden

**182.** On February 6, Entrepreneur-author Sangeet Paul Choudary talks about the importance of platform business models in post-COVID world in his new book titled “Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World”. The book explains the inner workings of platform business models and their ability to scale rapidly. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World” book – authored by Sangeet Paul Choudary

## Obituaries

**183.** On February 3, A famous American sports champion Marion Anthony Trabert (Tony Trabert) has passed away. He was 90. He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1970. He was 5-time Grand Slam singles champion and former No. 1 player. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tony Trabert (USA) – a Tennis player – passed away
- 5-time Grand Slam singles champion | International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1970

**184.** On February 5, Renowned Canadian actor Christopher Plummer has passed away at the age of 91. He was the oldest actor to win an Oscar for his supporting role in “Beginners”. He won 2 Emmy awards. He was the star of “The Sound of Music”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Christopher Plummer (Canada) – an Actor – passed away
- He was the oldest actor to win an Oscar for his supporting role in ‘Beginners’

**185.** On February 7, Tennis legend Akhtar Ali has passed away. He had been a father figure in Indian tennis. He was 81. He became the National junior champion in 1955. He represented India in 8 Davis Cup. He also coached the national teams of Malaysia (1968-70 and 1991-93) and Belgium (1980-84). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Akhtar Ali – a Tennis Player & Coach – passed away (former Davis Cup Coach)

**186.** On February 6, Former New Zealand all-rounder Bruce Taylor, the only player to score a century and take a 5-wicket haul on Test debut, has passed away at the age of 77. He achieved the feat against India at Kolkata in 1965. Taylor played 30 Tests for New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bruce Taylor (New Zealand) – a Cricketer – passed away
- He was the only player to score a century and take a 5-wicket haul on Test debut
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern





**187.** On February 6, Former West Indies fast bowler Ezra Moseley has passed away. He was 63. He had played 2 Tests and 1 one-day international. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ezra Moseley ([Barbados](#)) – a Cricketer – passed away (Team – West Indies)
- [Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar](#)

**188.** On February 5, Former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks has passed away. He was 67. He won Olympic Gold and then shocked the boxing world by beating Muhammad Ali to win the heavyweight title in only his eighth pro fight. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Leon Spinks – a Boxer – passed away (Former heavyweight champion & Olympic Gold medalist)

## **Person in News**

**189.** On February 3, Ayesha Aziz, the 25-year-old from Kashmir, has become the Youngest Female Pilot in India. In the year 2011, Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15. She later graduated in aviation from the Bombay Flying Club (BFC) and obtained a commercial license in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ayesha Aziz (Kashmir) – became the Youngest Female Pilot in India (age: 25)
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

**190.** On February 5, The government has appointed an expert panel to review industry's objections to the proposed ban on 27 widely used pesticides. The committee, led by Chairman T P Rajendran (former Assistant Director General of ICAR) is likely to submit its report in 3 months. This committee will examine those 27 pesticides which the government wants to ban. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- An Expert Committee to review proposal to ban 27 widely used pesticides – led by T P Rajendran
- [HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar](#)

## **Science & Technology**

**191.** On February 4, The students of KLE Technological University (KLETU) have developed a first-of-its-kind humanoid robot named “Maya”. It is specifically aimed at extending a helping hand to banking customers. It was developed under a sponsored project at a total cost of ₹ 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- KLETU students developed “Maya” humanoid robot for banking customers
- [Location of KLE Technological University – Hubli, Karnataka](#)



**192.** In its first mission in 2021, ISRO has planned to launch Brazilian satellite “Amazonia-1” and 3 Indian payloads on February 28. ‘Anand’, ‘Satish Dhawan’ satellite and ‘UNITYsat’ will be the co-passengers. The satellites are slated to be launched onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-51 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ISRO – to launch Brazilian satellite “Amazonia-1” and 3 Indian payloads – using PSLV C-51
- 3 Indian co-passengers – ‘Anand’, ‘Satish Dhawan’ satellite and ‘UNITYsat’
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

**193.** Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes (inferred category) in Mandya district, Karnataka. Lithium is a key element for new technologies and finds its use in ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AMD found the 1,600 tonnes presence of Lithium – in Mandya, Karnataka
- HQs of AMD – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – D K Sinha
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**194.** On February 4, A team of researchers from 5 institutes across India have discovered a new Gecko species in Arunachal Pradesh. Their discovery was published in the international peer-reviewed journal Evolutionary Systematics. The researchers have named the species “Cyrtodactylus Arunachalensis” after the state in which it was discovered. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Cyrtodactylus Arunachalensis” a new species of Gecko – discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

**195.** On February 5, The NASA has selected the Elon Musk-founded Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) for the launch of its “SPHEREx” Mission. The mission is targeted to launch as early as in June 2024 on a SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex-4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The cost for the space agency to launch ‘SPHEREx’ is estimated around \$98.8 million. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NASA – selected ‘SpaceX’ for the launch of its “SPHEREx” Mission – to be launched in June 2024
- SPHEREx – Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

**196.** On February 9, Space technology startup Bellatrix Aerospace has partnered with its peer Skyroot Aerospace to ferry small satellites into multiple orbits. Bellatrix Aerospace is creating a vehicle that will work as “Taxi in Space” and will be launched on the Vikram rocket of Skyroot Aerospace. Bellatrix's space vehicle is expected to launch to the lower orbit of the earth in 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Bellatrix Aerospace + Skyroot Aerospace = partnership to ferry small satellites into multiple orbits
- Bellatrix Aerospace is creating a vehicle that will work as “Taxi in Space” for small satellites
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana

**197.** On February 6, “Brookesia nana” - a newly discovered species of chameleon in Madagascar is a contender for the title of world’s smallest reptile. It appeared to be just 13.5-millimeters-long. The team’s research was recently published in the journal Scientific Reports. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Brookesia nana” world’s smallest reptile (species of chameleon) – discovered in Madagascar
- Length of the reptile – 13.5 mm
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary

**198.** On February 5, Elon Musk’s SpaceX has announced the launch of its 1<sup>st</sup> all civilian mission to space namely “Inspiration4” on ‘Falcon 9’ launch vehicle. It is the world’s 1<sup>st</sup> all-commercial astronaut mission. It will be launched from the Launch Complex 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SpaceX – announced the launch of “Inspiration4” - the world’s 1<sup>st</sup> all civilian space mission
- Launching vehicle to be used – ‘Falcon 9’ rocket
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**199.** On February 4, An amendment to the “Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961” has been notified to bring Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions under the ambit of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Earlier this area was not assigned to any particular ministry. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- An amendment made to the “Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961”
- Ropeways & Alternate Mobility Solutions – will now be developed by ‘Ministry of Road Transport and Highways’

**200.** On February 5, The “SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996” has been amended. The new norms “SEBI (Mutual Funds) Amendment) Regulations, 2021” will come into force on the 30<sup>th</sup> day from the notification issued by the regulator SEBI. Now, the fund house needs to send dividend payments to the unit-holders within 15 days from the record date from the earlier requirement of 30 days. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996” amended with “SEBI (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021”
- Now, the dividend payments need to be sent to the unit-holders within 15 days
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi





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