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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

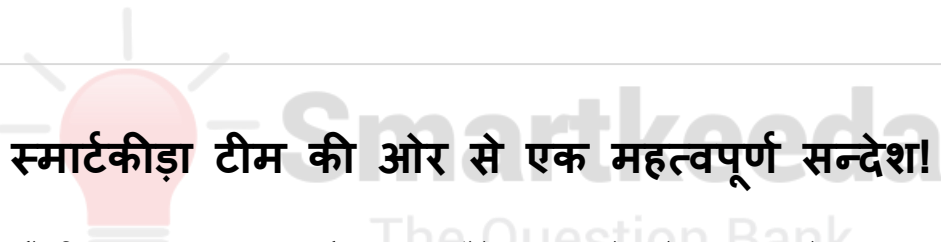
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

201. The Health Department has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) campaign with the aim of reducing mortality in kids due to pneumonia in Madhya Pradesh. The protocol IMPACT training modules were also unveiled which have been developed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in partnership with PGIMER, Chandigarh, and UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – launched the ‘SAANS’ campaign to reduce infant mortality due to Pneumonia
- SAANS – Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

202. On February 7, The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state. The Unicode number of the land will be 16 digits with the first 6 digits based on the population of the land, the next 4 digits determining the unique identity of the land, 11 to 14 will be the number of the division of the land & the last 2 digits will have the details of the category - the agricultural, residential and commercial land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

203. On February 6, President Ram Nath Kovind, who inaugurated “Gen. Thimayya Memorial Museum” at Madikeri in Kodagu district of Karnataka commemorating the services and valour of one of the greatest soldiers of India. General K.S. Thimayya served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1957 to 1961 and his ancestral house ‘Sunny Side’ has been renovated and converted into a museum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated “Gen. Thimayya Memorial Museum” – in Kodagu, Karnataka
- General K.S. Thimayya served as the Chief of Army Staff – from 1957 to 1961
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

204. On February 10, The Odisha Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has approved 27 proposals including a proposal for amendment of the “Biju Patnaik University of Technology Act, 2002”. The Cabinet also approved a proposal to implement “REWARD” project envisaging an expenditure of Rs 500 Cr on science based management for 6 years starting from April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha Cabinet – approved 27 proposals recently
- A proposal for amendment of the “Biju Patnaik University of Technology Act, 2002”
- A proposal to implement “REWARD” project envisaging an expenditure of Rs 500 Cr on Science based management
- REWARD – Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)



205. On February 10, The Kerala government has launched “Kerala Knowledge Mission” which aims to transform the state to a knowledge economy. Kerala also launched a web portal on ‘Digital Workforce Management System’ (DWMS) under its Knowledge Mission. The mission will promote innovative ideas, coordinate knowledge initiatives and equip young people with updated skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched “Kerala Knowledge Mission” to transform the state to a knowledge economy
- Kerala – also launched a web portal on ‘Digital Workforce Management System’ under its Knowledge Mission
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

206. On February 9, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the “Investment Corner” under the Project Development Cell (PDC) on the revamped website of the Ministry to enhance its investment friendly ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Petroleum Ministry – launched the “Investment Corner” under the Project Development Cell (PDC)
- [Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel \(Madhya Pradesh\)](#)

207. On February 9, Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Health AdvantEDGE”, a health insurance policy that provides protection against expenses related to medical exigencies and other healthcare services. The policy comes with 60 days pre and 90 days post-hospitalization cover as well as a wide range of sum insured from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 Cr with the cashless facility and seamless claim procedure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Health AdvantEDGE” insurance policy
- 60 days pre & 90 days post-hospitalization cover | Range of sum insured – from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 Cr
- [HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan](#)

208. On February 9, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a Global level Hackathon - “NPCI PayAuth Challenge”, to find solution for alternatives for authorising UPI transaction through options like Biometrics. This challenge is supported by the world's first cross-border, open architecture API marketplace and sandbox platform – APIX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched a Global level Hackathon - “NPCI PayAuth Challenge” (supported by – APIX)
- [HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008](#)

209. On February 9, A Working Group Committee (WGC) set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recommended the introduction of Index-Linked Insurance Products (ILIP). ILIP is an insurance product where the returns are linked to benchmark indices. The lock-in period for an Index-Linked Insurance Plan is 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Working Group Committee of IRDAI – recommended the introduction of Index-Linked Insurance Products (ILIP)



- The lock-in period for an ILIP is 5 years
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

210. On February 10, The Supreme Court has stayed the dismantling of decommissioned aircraft carrier “INS Viraat”. Shri Ram Ship Breakers had purchased the ship for ₹38.54 Cr in an auction conducted by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd in September, 2020. During the hearing on Feb 10, the petitioner firm agreed to purchase the decommissioned ship from Shree Ram Ship Breakers at ₹100 Cr. The aircraft carrier INS Viraat was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 and decommissioned in 2017. The warship is at the ship-breaking yard at Alang on Gujarat coast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court stayed the dismantling of decommissioned aircraft carrier “INS Viraat”
- Shri Ram Ship Breakers had purchased the ship for ₹38.54 Cr in an auction in September, 2020
- ‘INS Viraat’ is India’s 1st Aircraft carrier & also the world’s longest serving warship (30 years)
- ‘INS Viraat’ was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 & decommissioned in 2017

211. On February 11, The SIDBI along with the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE), has launched the ‘Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign’, which is a 20 webinar series to give a fillip to ‘Stand Up India’ scheme. Under the scheme, the bank provides loan between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 Cr to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield Enterprise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + COWE = launched ‘Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign’ to boost ‘Stand Up India’ scheme
- Under the scheme, the bank provides loan between ₹10 lakh & ₹1 Cr to SC or ST or woman borrower
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990
- HQs of COWE – Hyderabad, Telangana | Founder & President – Soudhamini Prodduturi

212. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has unveiled 2 new initiatives of Technology on the Occasion of its 34th Foundation Day on February 10, 2021. “SAKSHAM” (Shramik Shakti Manch), a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-a-vis requirements of MSMEs and a “Seaweed Mission” for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TIFAC (New Delhi) – unveiled 2 new initiatives of Technology “SAKSHAM” & “Seaweed Mission”
- SAKSHAM – Shramik Shakti Manch
- February 10 – 34th Foundation Day of TIFAC

213. The government has set up a Nodal Authority to frame Approved Standardised Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFV) Design and Specifications (ASDDS) to help state fisheries departments in expediting implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The PMMSY is a flagship scheme with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 Cr during a 5-year period beginning April 1, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government set up a Nodal Authority to frame approved standardised DSFV Design and Specifications – in expediting implementation of PMMSY
- DSFV – Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels
- An estimated investment in PMMSY – ₹20,050 Cr

214. On February 10, the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) was inaugurated & it has the objective of increasing digital economy contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to 30%. The “Beyond Bengaluru” report which facilitates to achieve this target was also launched. The KDEM aims to attract investments for the IT/ITeS sector in the state and to create 10 lakh jobs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Karnataka Digital Economy Mission” has the objective of increasing Digital Economy Contribution to GDP to 30%
- KDEM aims to attract investments for the IT/ITeS sector in the state and to create 10 lakh jobs – by 2025
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

215. Nitin Gadkari has called for all-round efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that deaths due to road accidents are reduced by 50% by 2025. India stands at number one position in road accidents in the world, ahead of US and China. He inaugurated the Webinar series being launched by the International Road Federation on the theme of “Road Safety Challenges in India & Preparation of an Action Plan”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Road Transport ministry is planning to reduce deaths due to road accidents by 50% – by 2025
- Road accidents in the world: 1st – India | 2nd – US | 3rd – China
- Theme of Webinar series launched by the International Road Federation – “Road Safety Challenges in India & Preparation of an Action Plan”

216. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new goal-based savings product - “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow” (GIFT), which provides a guaranteed income to policy holders to help them achieve their long-term financial goals. Another unique aspect of ‘ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow’ is the “Save The Date” feature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – launched a new goal-based savings product - “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow” (GIFT)
- [HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan](#)

217. The Indian Army has laid the foundation stone of the tallest Indian National Flag in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir. The flag will be on a 100 feet-high pole. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army laid the foundation stone of the tallest Indian National Flag in Gulmarg, J & K (Height - 100 ft)
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

218. Twitter has suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India after the Indian government's request to curb spread of misinformation and inflammatory content around farmers' protests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Twitter has suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India
- [HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey](#)

219. On February 12, Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has virtually inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures costing over Rs 2000 Cr constructed in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign & under 'Mahatma Gandhi NREGA' and 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Irrigation Scheme' from New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated over 57,000 water structures costing over Rs 2000 Cr constructed in Madhya Pradesh
- They were inaugurated under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign + 'MGNREGS' + 'PM Krishi Irrigation Scheme'
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

220. An MoU was signed between Central government and Uttarakhand government for setting up of ₹173 Cr Science City in Dehradun. The MoU was signed between Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST) and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government + Uttarakhand = an MoU to set up ₹173 Cr Science City in Dehradun
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

221. India's flagship digital platform to monitor and manage the Covid-19 vaccination programme "Co-Win" has been integrated into the government's coronavirus contact tracing app "Aarogya Setu". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government integrated = "Co-Win" platform + "Aarogya Setu" app

222. On February 11, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal have jointly launched a website "www.theindiatoyfair.in" for the first India Toy Fair to be organised from February 27 to March 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "1st India Toy Fair" – to be organised from February 27 to March 2
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' + Smriti Irani + Piyush Goyal = jointly launched "www.theindiatoyfair.in" website
- [India's 1st toy manufacturing cluster to come up in – Koppal, Karnataka \(in Aug news\)](#)

223. Madhya Pradesh has decided to set up a Police Museum showcasing traces of Phoolan Devi, Nirbhay Gujar & other dacoits in the Chambal river neighbouring Bhind district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Police Museum on Dacoit" – to be set up in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

International Affairs

224. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its first-ever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, pressed for stronger action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The declaration was a part of the 34th session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI34), which ended its week-long meeting on February 8, 2021. Rs 25.5 Cr was allocated for Wildlife Institute of India in Budget 2021-22. FAO will celebrate the role of small-scale fishers & Women during the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" in 2022. Russia has become a party to the Agreement on Port State Measure (PSMA), joining another 68 FAO members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 34th session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI34) ended on February 8
- Rs 25.5 Cr was allocated for Wildlife Institute of India in Budget 2021-22
- 2022 – "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" – by the FAO
- Russia became a party to the Agreement on Port State Measure (PSMA)
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

225. On February 9, Indian Government has laid the foundation of 2nd dam namely "Lalandar" Dam (popularly known as 'Shatoot') in Kabul, Afghanistan. It is a part of India's new development assistance for Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India laid the foundation "Lalandar" (Shatoot) Dam – in Kabul, Afghanistan
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

226. On February 9, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced that the government has suspended all high-level political and military contact with Myanmar. New Zealand will also impose a travel ban on Myanmar's military leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand suspended all high-level political and military ties with "Myanmar"
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

227. United States has decided to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The decision is likely to draw criticism from conservative lawmakers and many in the pro-Israel community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – decided to rejoin UNHRC
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



228. On February 10, US President Joe Biden has announced the formation of a Special Defense Department Task Force on China and ordered an immediate review of the military's strategic approach to the challenge from Beijing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US President – announced to form a Special Defense Department Pentagon Task Force – on China
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

229. On February 10, Myanmar-based armed insurgent group Chin National Army (CNA) has sought asylum for their families in India in the wake of the military coup in the neighbouring country. The CNA, the armed wing of the Chin National Front (CNF), has asked for asylum for 40 families. Mizoram shares a 404 km porous international border with Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CNA ([Myanmar](#)) – seeks asylum for their 40 families in India
- Mizoram shares a 404 km porous international border with Myanmar
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

230. On February 9, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program for his country that includes 2023 moon mission, sending Turkish astronauts into space and developing internationally viable satellite systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turkey – unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program (including '2023 moon mission')
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Banking & Economic Affairs

231. On February 9, India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank is inviting applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its "SmartUp Grants" under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) brand - "Parivartan". The window for applying closed on February 16, 2021. 'SmartUp Grants' are a part of the bank's umbrella CSR brand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank is inviting applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its "SmartUp Grants"
- 'SmartUp Grants' are a part of HDFC's CSR brand - "Parivartan"
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

232. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February, 2020. However, both countries clarified that the developments were not linked. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of Sri Lanka settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of CBSL – Colombo | Governor – W. D. Lakshman

233. On February 10, Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with India Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to cater to the financing needs of the IndianOil dealer by providing up to Rs 2 Cr. The MoU would benefit dealers with credit facilities at lower interest rates, nil margins, and with minimum or zero collateral requirements through the PNB e-Dealer scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB + IOCL = an MoU to provide up to Rs 2 Cr loan to dealers
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

234. On February 10, The RBI has put restrictions on withdrawals from Independence Co-operative Bank Limited because of the lender's present liquidity position. However, 99.89% of the depositors are fully covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance scheme. The restrictions will remain in force for a period of 6 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI put restrictions on withdrawals from Independence Co-operative Bank for 6 months
- 99.89% of the depositors in this bank are fully covered by DICGC insurance scheme
- HQs of Independence Co-operative Bank – Nashik, Maharashtra
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

235. On February 9, the RBI has announced to purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 Cr through open market operations (OMOs) in a bid to cap yields of treasury bonds and support an expanded government borrowing programme. OMO is a part of RBI's "Operation Twist" to ease pressure evolving liquidity. The central bank will purchase long-term security maturing in 2024, 2028, 2030 and 2034. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 Cr through open market operations (OMOs)
- The central bank will purchase long-term security maturing in – 2024, 2028, 2030 & 2034
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



Defence Affairs

236. Indian Navy's largest war game, the biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX-21), with the participation of all its operational units as well as those of the Army, Air Force and the Coast Guard has completed the 3rd phase called Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX". It took place at the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). TROPEX 21 was conducted in 3 phases - Coastal Defence Exercise "Sea Vigil", Tri-Service joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21" and Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy's "TROPEX-21" completed the 3rd phase
- 1st phase – Coastal Defence Exercise "Sea Vigil"
- 2nd phase – Tri-Service joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21"
- 3rd phase – Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX"
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

237. On February 11, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged an order from the Indian Navy for supplying 2 Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM), main guns standardised for all warships of the Indian Navy. BHEL has indigenised these guns and has established dedicated, intricate manufacturing and inspection facilities at its Heavy Electrical Equipment Plant, Haridwar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL bagged an order from the Indian Navy for supplying 2 Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM)
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

Schemes & Initiatives

238. On February 9, Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs India with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 Cr. FPOs will be provided financial assistance up-to Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of 3 years. The goal is to achieve doubling of agriculture export by 2022. However, more than 86% of farmers in India are small and marginal. In addition to this, provision has been made for matching equity grant up-to Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs 15 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee facility up-to Rs. 2 Cr of project loan per FPO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs"
- Budgetary provision for this Scheme – Rs 6865 Cr
- FPOs will be provided financial assistance up-to "Rs 18 lakh" per FPO for a period of 3 years
- Matching equity grant up-to "Rs. 2,000" per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs 15 lakh per FPO
- Credit Guarantee Facility up-to "Rs. 2 Cr" of project loan per FPO



Sports & Games

239. On February 9, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced BYJU'S, India's largest EdTech company as their global partner from 2021 to 2023. The 3-year agreement will see BYJU'S partner all ICC events over the period, including the forthcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India, and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC + BYJU'S = partnership for 3 years (from 2021 to 2023)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Byju Raveendran

240. On February 9, The Haryana government has decided to grant preparation money of Rs 5 lakh to encourage the sportspersons of Haryana who have qualified for Olympic Games. Meanwhile, the cabinet also moved a proposal for the replacement of the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2018 with the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Group A, B & C) Service Rules-2021. The upper age limit is also reduced from 50 years to 42 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to grant preparation money of Rs 5 lakh to sportspersons qualified for Olympic Games from Haryana
- The upper age limit for Sportspersons & coaches is also reduced – to 42 years (from 50 years)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

Important Days & Dates

241. Every year February 10 and August 10 are observed as the National Deworming Day (NDD). The day aims at eradicating intestinal worms also referred to as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), among children within the age bracket of 1-19 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 10 & August 10 – National Deworming Day
- Aim: To eradicate intestinal worms (Soil-Transmitted Helminths) among children within the age of 1-19 years

242. The “World Pulses Day” falls on February 10 every year and recognised Pulses as a global food. The UN General Assembly in 2019 decided to dedicate a day to Pulses to increase awareness and access to pulses globally. World Pulses Day 2021 is under theme “#LovePulses for a healthy diet and planet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 10 – World Pulses Day – by UNGA (since 2019)
- Theme – “#LovePulses for a healthy diet and planet” or “Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”
- 2016 is observed as ‘International Year of Pulses’



243. On February 9, The RBI has observed the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 8-12 on the theme of “Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions”. The RBI has been conducting Financial Literacy Week every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8-12 – “Financial Literacy Week (FLW)” – observed by the RBI (since - 2016)
- Theme – “Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

244. February 8 is the birth anniversary of Zakir Husain Khan. He became President in 1967. He was the 3rd President of India & was born in Hyderabad State in Central India. He was an Indian economist and politician whose tenure of presidentship was from 13 May 1967 until his death on 3 May 1969. Moreover, he was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1963. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8 – Birth anniversary of Zakir Husain Khan (3rd President of India)
- He was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1963

245. On February 11, the “World Unani Day” is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of visionary scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan, who has contributed in the development of the Unani system of Medicine. This year marks the 5th World Unani Day. The National Conference on Unani Medicine was held at New Delhi with the theme of “Unani Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges in times of COVID19”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – 5th World Unani Day (since - 2017) (Birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan)
- National Conference on Unani Medicine – held at New Delhi
- Theme of the conference – “Unani Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges in times of COVID19”
- HQs of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine – Hyderabad | DG – Asim Ali Khan

246. On February 11, the “International Day of Women and Girls in Science” is observed annually by the United Nations to encourage the involvement of girls and women into the field of Science and laud the efforts put in by women associated with STEM subjects. This year, the theme is “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- Theme – “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19”

247. “Safer Internet Day” is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with an aim to provide safer and better internet. This year marks the 18th edition of Safer Internet Day which falls on February 9. This year, the theme is “Together for a better internet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 9 – 18th edition of Safer Internet Day | Theme – “Together for a better internet”
- It is observed on – 2nd day of the 2nd week of February

248. World Epilepsy Day is observed on the 8th of February, every year. Epilepsy is a central nervous system disorder that leads to seizures or periods of unusual behaviour, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness. This year, the theme is “Epilepsy is more than seizures”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8 – World Epilepsy Day | Theme – “Epilepsy is more than seizures”

249. On the occasion of ‘National Productivity Day’ which was observed on February 12 & created by the National Productivity Council to kick-start ‘National Productivity Week’, Tally Solutions has organised an insightful panel event in association with CIMSME and MSME Forum. The theme of the event is “Enhancing Productivity through Digital Transformation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 12 – National Productivity Day – created by National Productivity Council
- Tally Solutions organised an insightful panel event themed “Enhancing Productivity through Digital Transformation”
- HQs of National Productivity Council – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar Jha

250. On February 11, PM Narendra Modi and BJP President JP Nadda have paid a floral tribute to former Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) leader Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary which is observed as ‘Samarpan Diwas’ in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – ‘Samarpan Diwas’ in India (death anniversary of former BJS leader Deendayal Upadhyaya)

251. India celebrates Sarojini Naidu’s birthday as “National Women’s Day” every year on February 13. She was born on February 13, 1879. She was famous for her nickname ‘Nightingale of India’ or ‘Bharat Kokila’ because of her poems. This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. She also became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – National Women’s Day (142nd birth anniversary of - Sarojini Naidu)
- Her nicknames: ‘Nightingale of India’ & ‘Bharat Kokila’

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

252. On February 10, The 18th edition of BioAsia, scheduled to be held during February 22-23, 2021, will focus on Covid-19, global health, pharma and medtech. The theme of the event will be “Move the Needle”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18th edition of BioAsia – to be held during February 22-23
- Theme – “Move the Needle”

253. With the goal to enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions, Atal Innovation Mission (Niti Aayog) and Australia's national science agency (CSIRO) kick started the "India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon-2021" on February 11. Students and startups of both the nations will work together on Innovative ways of boosting Circular Economy in 4 themes of "I-ACE Hackathon" mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM-Niti Aayog + CSIRO = organized "India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)-2021"
- 4 themes of "I-ACE Hackathon":
- Innovation in packaging reducing packaging waste
- Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste
- Creating opportunities for plastics waste reduction
- Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste
- [Atal Innovation Mission](#) – under "NITI Aayog" (HQs – New Delhi)
- [CEO – Amitabh Kant](#) | [Chairperson – Narendra Modi](#) | [Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar](#)
- [HQs of CSIRO – Canberra, Australia](#) | [Head – David Thodey](#)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

254. On February 8, Indian drama Tamil film "Pebbles", directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, has won the top honour, the "Tiger Award for Best Film", at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). The Tiger Award is accompanied by a Euro 40,000 cash prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Pebbles" (Tamil film) – won "Tiger Award for Best Film" at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam
- The film is directed by – Vinothraj P. S.

255. On February 8, India's young wicketkeeper & batsman Rishabh Pant has won the "ICC Men's Player of the Month" for January 2021. While, South Africa's Shabnim Ismail was named the "ICC Women's Player of the Month" for January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rishabh Pant – won the "ICC Men's Player of the Month" for January 2021
- Shabnim Ismail (South Africa) – won the "ICC Women's Player of the Month" for January 2021

256. Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana is emerged as the winner of "VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020". While Haryana's Manika Sheokand was declared "VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020", Uttar Pradesh's Manya Singh was crowned "VLCC Femina Miss India 2020" - runner-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manasa Varanasi ([Telangana](#)) – winner of "VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020" | Runner-up – Manya Singh ([UP](#))
- Manika Sheokand ([Haryana](#)) – winner of "VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020"



257. The Bangalore (Kempegowda) International Airport Limited's (BIAL) has bagged global recognition from the Airports Council International World's "Voice of the Customer" award. Under the "#WeAreHereForYou" umbrella of BIAL, various campaigns were launched to spread the message and rebuild passenger confidence in air travel following the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangalore (Kempegowda) International Airport – received "Voice of the Customer" Award by ACI World
- "#WeAreHereForYou" is an umbrella of – Kempegowda International Airport
- HQs of ACI World – Montreal, Canada | Director-General – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

258. Famous wildlife Australian zookeeper and wildlife expert Steve Irwin's son, Robert Irwin has won the first prize in the "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" People's Choice Award Contest. Robert clicked the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire and was nominated for the same in 2020. The image was titled 'Bushfire'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robert Irwin ([Australia](#)) – won the 1st prize in the "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" People's Choice Award
- His image was titled 'Bushfire'
- [Australia](#) – [Canberra](#) – [Australian Dollar](#) | [PM](#) – [Scott Morrison](#)



Appointments & Resignations

259. On February 10, Senior IAS officer of the 1987 batch from Kerala cadre V. P. Joy will take charge as the new State Chief Secretary. He is now Officer on Special Duty in the rank of Additional Chief Secretary. Dr. Joy will assume charge on March 1, 2021 by replacing Vishwas Mehta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. P. Joy – to take charge as new Chief Secretary of Kerala – on March 1, 2021
- [Kerala](#): [Capital](#) – [Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM](#) – [Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor](#) – [Arif Mohammad Kha](#)

260. Sushant Dash has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the Tata Starbucks. The appointment would be effective May 1. He will follow Navin Gurnaney. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushant Dash – appointed as new CEO of Tata Starbucks (effective from May 1)
- [HQs of Tata Starbucks](#) – [Mumbai, MH](#) | [CEO](#) – [Avani Davda](#)

261. On February 11, Assam government has appointed Hima Das as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Nicknamed 'Dhing Express', Hima Das is a 20-year-old Indian sprinter from Assam. The Assam cabinet also decided to amend the integrated sports policy of the state by appointing sportspersons as Class-I and Class-II officers in different department of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hima Das – appointed as DSP of Assam
- Hima Das ([Assam](#)) – 20-year-old Indian sprinter | Nick name – ‘Dhing Express’
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

262. On February 12, As per the notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court. Kumar is presently the Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He was also appointed as an additional judge of Bombay High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind appointed “Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar” as the Chief Justice of – Manipur High Court
- He was also appointed as an Additional Judge of – Bombay High Court
- [Chief Justice of any state is appointed by the President of India](#)
- [Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla](#)

Amount & Agreements

263. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has received ₹24,430 Cr for the FY 2021-22, which was 0.7% of the Union Budget. In last year’s announcement, it received ₹30,007 Cr (0.98%). Several schemes under the Ministry have been re-grouped and renamed, such as Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN 2.0, Mission SHAKTI and Mission Vatsalya. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has now been clubbed with other schemes under ‘Samarthya’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has received ₹24,430 Cr for the FY 2021-22 (0.7% of Budget)
- MoWCD: Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN 2.0, Mission SHAKTI, Mission Vatsalya, PM Matru Vandana Yojana

264. On February 7, Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh has announced an investment of Rs 400 Cr in Goa to make the coastal state a fisheries hub in India. The Union government has already sanctioned Rs 41.47 Cr to the state. The plan includes creation of 30 fish landing jetties. The central government will also appoint 'Sagar Mitra' for each of the 70 fishing villages in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fisheries Ministry – announced an investment of Rs 400 Cr in Goa to make the coastal state a fisheries hub in India
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)
- [Shri Giriraj Singh – Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying \(Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar\)](#)



265. On February 11, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has announced that New Development Bank has committed to invest \$100 million (around Rs 728 Cr) in NIIF's Fund of Funds (FoF). NDB joins the Government of India (GoI), AIIB and ADB as an investor in the FoF. The NIIF currently manages 3 funds with distinct strategies - Master Fund, Fund of Funds & Strategic Opportunities Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB committed to invest \$100 million (around Rs 728 Cr) in NIIF's Fund of Funds (FoF)
- NIIF currently manages 3 funds = Master Fund + Fund of Funds + Strategic Opportunities Fund
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose | Founded in – 2015

266. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Cr to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup (Assam) to sustain operations of its Urea manufacturing units. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet Committee approved Grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Cr to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd
- HQs of BVFCL – Namrup, Assam

267. On February 12, Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide \$400 million to Maldives to fund 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). The terminal utilisation period is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – to provide \$400 million to Maldives to fund 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – TC Venkat Subramanian
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

268. As on February 9, India will overtake the European Union as the world's third-largest energy consumer by 2030, the International Energy Agency (IEA) state in its "India Energy Outlook 2021". IEA forecast India accounting for the biggest share (maximum at 25%) of energy demand growth over the next two decades. India's net dependence on oil import is expected to rise to 90% by 2030 and 92% by 2040. India is world's second-biggest net oil importer after China. India currently accounts for 16% of the global coal trade. Natural gas import dependency has increased to almost 50% in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "India Energy Outlook 2021" – released by International Energy Agency (IEA)
- India will overtake the EU as the world's 3rd largest energy consumer – by 2030
- India's net dependence on oil import is expected to rise to 90% by 2030 and 92% by 2040



- India is world's second-biggest net oil importer after China
- India currently accounts for 16% of the Global Coal Trade
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

269. On February 10, The IRDAI, in its latest annual report, has given details of claim settlements of all life insurance companies for the year 2019-20. Max Life Insurance has the highest claim settlement ratio in terms of number of claims with 99.22%. This is followed by HDFC Life Insurance and Tata AIA Life Insurance with 99.07% and 99.06%, respectively. LIC has a claim settlement ratio of 96.69% for the year 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI gave details of claim settlements of all life insurance companies for the year 2019-20
- 1st – Max Life (99.22%) | 2nd – HDFC Life (99.07%) | 3rd – Tata AIA Life (99.06%)
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

Acquisitions & Mergers

270. On February 9, GAIL (India) Ltd has acquired 5% stake of the Indian Energy Exchange in its arm Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). On January 22, 2021, Adani Total Gas and Torrent Gas had acquired 5% stake each in the IGX. GAIL is the third strategic investor in IGX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GAIL – acquired 5% stake of the Indian Energy Exchange in its arm Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
- GAIL is the 3rd strategic investor in IGX
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Head – Deepak Mehta
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Interim MD & CEO – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain

271. On February 11, the government has planned to sell 20% of its stake in National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) through an offer for sale (OFS). The government holds 74.71% stake in NFL, which is the second-largest producer of urea in India. The sale could fetch the government around Rs 408 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government plans to sell 20% of its stake in National Fertilizers Ltd through an OFS – for Rs 408 Cr
- HQs of NFL – Noida, UP | MD & Chairman – Virendra Nath Datt

272. On February 11, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will buyout 36.62% stake of Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd's shares in Bina refinery project for about Rs 2,400 Cr. BPCL currently holds a 63.68% stake in BORL. BORL was incorporated in February 1994 to build a refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BPCL – to buyout 36.62% stake of Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd's shares in Bina refinery project – for Rs 2,400 Cr
- BPCL currently holds a 63.68% stake in BORL
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of BORL – Bina, Madhya Pradesh | Chairman – D. Rajkumar | MD – M.B. Pimpale

273. On February 10, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Bank of India's acquisition of 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers Pvt Ltd (BAIM) and BOI AXA Trustee Services Pvt Ltd (BATS). Pursuant to this transaction, Bank of India will hold 100% equity in BAIM and BATS. Meanwhile, the CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% shares and sole control of Varian Medical Systems by Siemens Healthineers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved BOI's acquisition of 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers & BOI AXA Trustee Services
- Later, BOI will hold 100% equity in BAIM and BATS
- CCI also approved the acquisition of 100% shares of Varian Medical Systems – by Siemens Healthineers
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of BOI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Shri Atanu Kumar Das

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

274. On February 9, AGS Transact Technologies (AGSTTL) has partnered with Mastercard to provide a PAN-India 'contactless' QR code-based cash withdrawal at ATMs. Mastercard cardholders will be able to withdraw cash by scanning a QR code displayed on the ATM screen of all participating banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AGSTTL + Mastercard = partnership to provide a PAN-India 'contactless' QR code-based cash withdrawal at ATMs
- HQs of AGSTTL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Ravi B Goyal
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

275. As on February 9, The Investor Education and Protection fund Authority (IEPFA) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have signed an MoU for collaboration in utilising the tele-lecturing facility of "Gyan Darshan Channel" (EMPC – Electronic Media Production Centre) for telecast of Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) through distance learning mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEPFA + IGNOU – signed an MoU for telecast of Investor Awareness Programmes
- “Gyan Darshan Channel” was used for telecasting
- EMPC – Electronic Media Production Centre

276. The Meghalaya police has signed an MoU with State Bank of India in connection with the implementation of “e-Challan” within the jurisdiction of Shillong Traffic Police (STP). It is a digital traffic enforcement solution whereby, imposing of penalties on violators of traffic rules and generating of challan will be done digitally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya police + SBI = an MoU for the implementation of “e-Challan”
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

277. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has inked 5 agreements with various industry partners to expand its capacity for indigenous shipbuilding. GSL will collaborate with Singapore-based firm SeaTech to explore engineering design work. GSL is also exploring export of patrol craft and offshore patrol vessels to Bangladesh. It has signed MoUs with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) also. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard – inked 5 agreements with various industry partners to expand its capacity (ie. SeaTech & HSL)
- GSL is exploring export of patrol craft and offshore patrol vessels to – Bangladesh
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal

278. On February 11, An MoU has been signed furthering the relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems. The research carried out at IIT Delhi has played an important role in the technological advances made by the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + IIT Delhi = an MoU on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

279. On February 9, Jammu and Kashmir has joined hands with a UK-based Space Agency for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting. The National Space Innovation Programme (NSIP), undertaken by HR Wallingford in collaboration with Oxford University, Sayers & Partners (SPL) and D-Orbit, is an initiative that supports collaborative projects between UK-based organisations and international partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + UK-based Space Agency = partnership for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



280. On February 11, Haryana's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department has signed MoUs with 3 e-commerce companies - eBay, Power2SME and Tradeindia.com to bring products manufactured by MSME of Haryana to the global market. These MoUs will also create unprecedented opportunities for new entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana's MSME department + eBay, Power2SME & Tradeindia.com = to promote online sales of MSME produces
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

281. On February 11, Flipkart has signed an MoU with Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (MSSIDC) and Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board (MSKVIB) to boost the online sales of handmade artifacts & Small industrial produce of Maharashtra. Flipkart Samarth programme was launched in 2019 to build a sustainable and inclusive platform for under-served, domestic communities and businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Maharashtra = an MoU to help bring local artisans, weavers, craftsmen and SMBs
- [HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy](#)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

282. On February 11, The 4 French companies A. Raymond Fasteners, Cryolor, Precia Molen and Timac Agro have signed Letter of Intents (Lols) with the Tamil Nadu government, with intent to invest Rs 200 Cr in the State during the 'IFCCI Indo-French Investment Conclave 2021'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4 French companies + Tamil Nadu = Lols to invest Rs 200 Cr in the State
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex](#)

283. On February 10, Star Health Insurance has partnered with PhonePe to offer "Arogya Sanjeevani policy" a Digital Health Insurance through PhonePe's digital platform. The policy covers anyone up to 65 years with a sum insured options up to Rs 10 lakh with an annual premium of only Rs 2985, excluding GST. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Star Health + PhonePe = to offer "Arogya Sanjeevani policy" a Digital Health Insurance
- Age criteria – up-to 65 years | Sum insured – up-to Rs 10 lakh
- [HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, TN | Chairman & CEO – V. Jagannathan](#)
- [Star Health & Allied Insurance – India's 1st Health Insurance provider](#)

284. On February 12, ICICI Lombard has launched a "Corporate India Risk Index-2020", an indicator of a company's risk exposure and preparedness. It spans across 15 sectors of the economy and has 150 companies under it. According to the index, India's Corporate India Risk Index score is 57, which implies that firms are handling risks effectively. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard – launched a “Corporate India Risk Index-2020”
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

285. On February 11, Hewlett Packard (HP) India and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have inked a partnership to provide worksheets and content to facilitate home learning and early skill development of students across India. Under the partnership, NSDC will host content from HP's Print Learn Center on its digital skilling platform - 'eSkill India'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HP India + NSDC = partnership to impart skills to students through 'eSkill India' platform
- 'eSkill India' platform – belongs to NSDC
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

286. On February 12, The Bihar government has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Development Strategy Formulation. UNEP will provide technical assistance to Bihar to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar + UNEP = an MoU for Climate Resilience & Low Carbon Development Strategy Formulation
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

Books & Authors

287. On February 8, Penguin Random House India is proud to announce the acquisition of a new novel titled “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News” by award-winning writer, journalist and speaker Meghna Pant. The book will be released in April 2021, and soon be seen as a major motion picture under the title 'Badnam Ladoo'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News” – authored by Meghna Pant
- The book will be released in April 2021 & to be seen as a major motion picture under the title 'Badnam Ladoo'

288. “Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy” - a book on creating economic awareness among masses authored by R. P. Gupta was launched on February 10 by Mr. Jual Oram, Hon'ble M.P. & Chairperson Standing Committee on Defence, Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy” book – authored by R. P. Gupta

289. Susan Choi novel “Trust Exercise” has won the “National Book Award-2019” for fiction. Sarah M. Broom's memoir “The Yellow House” had won in non-fiction and Martin W. Sandler’s “1919 The Year That Changed America” won for young people literature.

Key Points:

- Susan Choi’s novel “Trust Exercise” – won “National Book Award-2019” for Fiction
- Sarah M. Broom's memoir “The Yellow House” – won “National Book Award-2019” for Non-Fiction
- Martin W. Sandler’s “1919 The Year That Changed America” – won for Young People Literature

290. “Kamala’s Way”, a new biography of Kamala Harris is authored by California Journalist Dan Morain. The book is a deep reading of Kamala Harris and her politics, including the views on gun control and education, sheds light on what she is likely to do in the White House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kamala’s Way” – authored by Dan Morain (California Journalist)

Obituaries

291. On February 9, Actor-producer Rajiv Kapoor has passed away at the age of 58. He was the youngest son of veteran filmmaker Raj Kapoor, and the sibling of Rishi and Randhir Kapoor. He was affectionately known as Chimpu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Kapoor – an Actor-producer – passed away (affectionately known as ‘Chimpu’)

292. Bansi Kaul has passed away on February 6 after a battle with cancer. He was a master of stagecraft and painting and one of the designers of the opening ceremony of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. In 1986, he founded the ‘Rang Vidushak’ Repertory in Bhopal. He received the Padma Shri in 2014 for Art & the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bansi Kaul – Indian theatre Director – passed away
- He founded the ‘Rang Vidushak’ Repertory in Bhopal in 1986
- Padma Shri in 2014 for Art | Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995

293. George Shultz, the U. S. Secretary of state has passed away at the age of 100. Shultz achieved success in statesmanship, business and academia. His efforts as America's top diplomat from 1982 to 1989 under the Republican Reagan helped lead to the conclusion of the four-decade-long Cold War. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- George Shultz – the former U. S. Secretary of state – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Person in News

294. On February 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has heaped praise on Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad whose tenure in the Upper House ended on February 15, 2021. In 2005, for the first time Ghulam Nabi Azad became the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ghulam Nabi Azad's tenure in the Upper House ended on February 15, 2021 (RS member from J & K)
- Ghulam Nabi Azad became the CM of Jammu and Kashmir for the 1st time in 2005
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

Science & Technology

295. Russia has planned to put into orbit around 40 satellites from 18 different countries using the Soyuz-2 carrier rocket in March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – planned to launch around 40 satellites from 18 different countries using the 'Soyuz-2' carrier rocket
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

296. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing world's 1st futuristic high altitude 'Pseudo Satellite' by using Combined Air Teaming System (CATS) technology. The pseudo-satellite will be solar energised and become a big asset flying unmanned around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months and taking information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – is developing world's 1st futuristic high altitude 'Pseudo Satellite' by using CATS technology
- CATS – Combined Air Teaming System
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt

297. On February 9, UAE's spacecraft namely "Al-Amal" or "Hope Probe" has entered the orbit around the Mars in historic flight. The Emirati-built 'Hope Probe' was launched from Tanegashima in Japan 7 month ago. It will gather data on Mars' atmosphere. It was Arab world's first interplanetary mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE's spacecraft namely "Al-Amal" or "Hope Probe" has entered the orbit around the Mars
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

298. On February 9, Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed energy-efficient pest controlling devices for smaller agricultural tracts owned by marginal farmers. The research team has developed a self-propelled boom-type sprayer that can be operated using solar energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur developed 'Solar-Powered Pest Control System' for smaller farm fields

299. The new variety of marigold called “Arka Shubha” is recently developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR-ICAR). It has 2.8% carotene content which is double that of other marigolds. It has value even if it gets spoilt after full bloom as they can be used for extraction of crude carotene. Arka Shubha variety is used in the poultry sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Arka Shubha” a new variety of marigold – developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)
- HQs of IIHR-ICAR – Hessarghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Dr. M. R. Dinesh

300. On February 11, Pakistan has successfully test-fired “Babur” - a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of hitting land and sea targets with high precision up to 490 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired “Babur” - a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile
- Range of the missile – 490 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- Other missiles of Pakistan: Shaheen-III | Ghaznavi | Fatah-1





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