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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

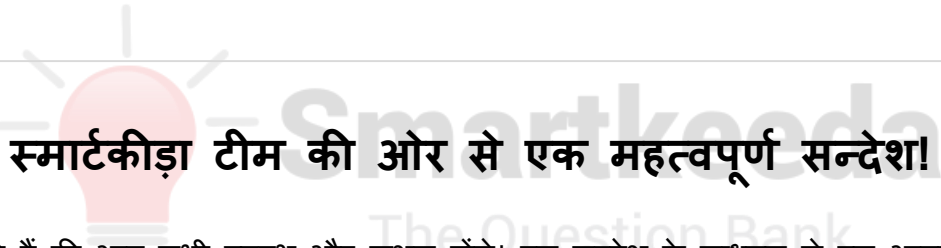
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

301. On February 13, Recykal, a digital 'waste-commerce' solutions provider, has been selected as the first member from India for the "Circulars Accelerator Program 2021" led by Accenture, in partnership with Anglo American, Ecolab and Schneider Electric, and in collaboration with UpLink and the World Economic Forum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Recykal – selected as the 1st member from India for the "Circulars Accelerator Program 2021" led by Accenture
- HQs of Recykal – Hyderabad, Telangana | Co-Founder & Chief Customer Officer – Abhishek Deshpande
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD (in India) – Rekha Menon
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

302. On February 12, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has launched India's first-ever diesel tractor converted to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). The conversion, carried out jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India, will help farmers increase their income, by lowering the costs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched India's first-ever CNG tractor
- The conversion was carried out jointly by – Rawmatt Techno Solutions & Tomasetto Achille India
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

303. Aizawl will be linked to India's railway grid by March 2023, making Mizoram the fourth of the 8th north-eastern States to get railway connectivity. 1,000 Cr has been allocated for the 2021-22 fiscal to be spent on the Bairabi-Sairang railway project. The Bairabi-Sairang project was sanctioned in 2008-09. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram's Aizawl will be linked to India's railway grid by March 2023
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

304. Goa has become the 6th State in India to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Thus, the State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs. 223 Cr through Open Market Borrowings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – became the 6th State in India to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

305. On February 12, Union minister Jitendra Singh has raised family pensions of the upper ceiling from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month. The move will bring 'ease of living' for the family members of the deceased employees and would provide adequate financial security to them. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh raised family pensions of the upper ceiling from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month
- Jitendra Singh – MoS of DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space

306. On February 10, The NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers. In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 which is commonly known as OSH Code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

307. Odisha is set to inaugurate the 'Covid Warrior Memorial' in Bhubaneswar on 15th August, 2021. The memorial will be established at the Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to inaugurate the 'Covid Warrior Memorial' in Bhubaneswar on 15th August, 2021
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

308. On February 13, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) in partnership with 9 IIMs across India, has launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme to strengthen skills training at district level. The programme has been launched under the World Bank loan assisted programme 'SANKALP' (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSDE + 9 IIMs = launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme
- It is launched under – World Bank loan assisted 'SANKALP' programme
- SANKALP – Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
- MoSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)

309. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has decided to set up 'Abhyudaya' Coaching Centres for aspiring candidates preparing to qualify the NEET, JEE (Mains and Advanced), CDS, NDA, UPSC and all other competitive exams. The free-of-cost coaching institutes will start functioning from the auspicious day of 'Basant Panchami' on February 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up 'Abhyudaya' Coaching Centres for aspiring candidates for competitive exams from Feb 16
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



310. On February 14, Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Council has approved the establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project Kot Bhalwal by the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). It will be set up at the estimated project cost of Rs. 74.41 Cr and project timeline of 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K approved the establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project by NAFED
- Estimated project cost – Rs. 74.41 Cr | Project timeline – 2 years
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

311. On February 14, PM Narendra Modi has visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala and inaugurated a slew of projects including the extension of Chennai Metro Rail Phase 1 and a Discovery Campus for IIT Madras. In Kochi, Kerala (Cochin Port), he dedicated the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project of Bharat Petroleum Corp to the Nation and launched the Ro-Ro vessels at Willingdon Island and inaugurated the Sagarika International Cruise Terminal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala on February 14
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of “Discovery Campus” – at IIT Madras
- Narendra Modi – dedicated the “Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project” of BPCL – in Kochi, Kerala
- Narendra Modi – launched the “Ro-Ro vessels” at Willingdon Island, Kerala
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated “Sagarika International Cruise Terminal” – at Willingdon Island, Kerala (Cochin Port)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar

312. The second phase of “Vigyan Jyoti” programme was commenced on the occasion of ‘International Day of Women and Girls in Science’ on February 11, 2021. The programme will spread the programme for encouraging girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM. It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019 and has now been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd phase of “Vigyan Jyoti” programme was commenced on February 11, 2021
- Aim: To encourage girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM
- STEM – Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics



313. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway will be India's first such highway where there will be a 12 km long elevated corridor for the protection of wildlife. The ministry has decided to execute the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project under Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode. It will be India's 1st and Asia's largest Wildlife corridor. It will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 km to 210 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi-Dehradun Expressway – India's first 12 km long elevated corridor for the protection of wildlife

314. PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of a "Maharaja Suheldev Memorial" and development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh. Medieval Bhar chieftain Suheldev is projected as a Hindutva icon by the RSS-BJP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of a Maharaja Suheldev Memorial – in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh
- Chittaura Lake (also known as Ashtwarka jheel) – in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

315. At a time when the Centre is embroiled in a kerfuffle with microblogging site Twitter over blocking of certain accounts, several ministers and departments of the Union government have started flocking on "Koo App" - a homemade version of the social networking platform which is seen as an alternative to Twitter. The microblogging site was co-founded by entrepreneurs Aprameya Radhakrishna and Mayank Bidwatka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Koo App" – a homemade version of the social networking platform is seen as an alternative to Twitter
- HQs of Koo App – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-founders – Aprameya Radhakrishna + Mayank Bidwatka

316. The Rajasthan government has decided to provide 200 days of employment (additional 100 days of work) under MGNREGA, to the families of Sahariya and Khairua tribes of Baran district and Kathaudi tribe of Udaipur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – to provide 200 days of employment (additional 100 days of work) under MGNREGA
- Additional 100 days will be provided to 3 tribes of Rajasthan: Sahariya, Khairua & Kathaudi
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

317. The Union Culture Ministry's flagship festival, the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM), was held in West Bengal. The 11th edition of the festival was kicked off with the inauguration by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar. The 10th edition of the festival was held in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th edition of "Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav" – held in West Bengal (Culture Ministry's flagship)
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, MP)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



318. On February 14, The 3-day 'Mandu Festival' has begun at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 'Mandu Utsav' 2021 is "Khojne mein kho jao". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day 'Mandu Festival' began at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh | Theme – "Khojne mein kho jao"
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

319. On February 16, In New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched an "e-Chhawani" portal & app that will provide municipal services online to residents of 62 cantonment boards across India. Around 20 lakh people reside in 62 cantonment boards across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh has launched an "e-Chhawani" portal – in New Delhi
- [Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh \(Constituency – Lucknow, UP\)](#)

320. On February 15, The Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) has announced to introduce its own Debit Card that can be used in ATMs, PoS machines and for online transactions. Customers will soon be issued 5-year Rupay Platinum cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Financial Corporation – to introduce its own Debit Card
- It will be 5-year Rupay Platinum cards
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

321. On February 16, A high-level meeting chaired by communications minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has decided to set up "Digital Intelligence Unit" (DIU) & Consumer protection mechanism called "Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection" (TAF COP) to tackle pesky calls and financial frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has decided to set up "DIU" & "TAF COP" to tackle pesky calls and financial frauds
- DIU – Digital Intelligence Unit | TAF COP – Telecom Analytics for Fraud management and Consumer Protection

322. On February 16, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has virtually inaugurated the Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Plan and Jute Farmers Awareness Workshop, organised at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal. "ICARE" Initiative which started in 2015 with only about 60 MT Certified Jute Seeds and 20,000 Farmers got a remarkable leap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated – Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Plan & Jute Farmers Awareness Workshop
- It was inaugurated – at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal
- "ICARE" Initiative was started in – 2015
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)



323. On February 16, Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) has requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman to rename the institute as the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMAI) as its professionals all over the world had come to be known as cost and management accountants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAI requested the Finance Minister to rename the institute as “Institute of Cost and Management Accountants”
- HQs of ICMAI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – Biswarup Basu

324. On February 14, The Transport Area in Chandigarh’s Sector 26 has been selected for the installation of India’s tallest air purifier filter. The 23-m air purifier will be installed for free on a trial basis. The purifier unit will clean the air of at least 1 km radius. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s tallest Air Purifier Filter to be installed in – Chandigarh | Height – 23 meter
- The purifier unit will clean the air of at least 1 km radius

325. On February 14, Puducherry has launched “Zero Covid by Feb28” campaign to ensure Covid-free Puducherry by Feb 28 as the daily count has fallen to single digits in the union territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puducherry – launched “Zero Covid by Feb28” campaign
- Puducherry: CM – Velu Narayanasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)



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International Affairs

326. The 1st ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition meant to end hunger and malnutrition were endorsed by members of the 47th Session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that was held virtually February 8-11, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems & Nutrition endorsed by members of the 47th Session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

327. Linxon has successfully commissioned the first 400-kV gas insulated substation (GIS) at Dhalkebar, Nepal, on behalf of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). The substation has facilitated the 400-kV Muzaffarpur (India)-Dhalkebar (Nepal) line. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Linxon – commissioned the first 400-kV gas insulated substation (GIS) at Dhalkebar, Nepal
- HQs of Linxon – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD – Dinesh Chadha
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari



328. On February 11, Mastercard has announced the launch of its flagship Priceless program in India. The program is known as “Priceless India” & it will enable domestic and global travellers who are Mastercard cardholders. The program will roll out in two phases. In the first phase, Mastercard will launch 16 short films that will introduce several unique aspects of India's most iconic cities and destinations for tourists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – launched “Priceless India” program
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

329. Mastercard Inc is planning to offer support for some cryptocurrencies on its network in 2021. The credit-card giant's announcement comes days after Elon Musk's Tesla Inc revealed it had purchased \$1.5 billion of bitcoin and would soon accept it as a form of payment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – to offer support for some cryptocurrencies on its network in 2021
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

Banking & Economic Affairs

330. On February 13, India's retail inflation, as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), in January 2021, has eased to a 16-month low of 4.06% as compared to 4.59% in December 2020 and 7.6% in January 2020, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per NSO's CPI – India's retail inflation in January 2021 = 4.06% (4.59% in December 2020)
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

331. On February 12, The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has entered into an MoU with Indian Payments and Postal Bank (IPPB) to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CREDAI + IPPB = an MoU to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers
- HQs of CREDAI – New Delhi
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

332. On February 12, Equitas Small Finance Bank (Equitas SFB) has partnered with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) and Ocean Highway Facilities and Solutions Pvt Ltd for launching India's 1st FASTag powered truck terminal at Khalapur, Maharashtra on the Yashwantrao Chavan Mumbai - Pune Expressway. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Equitas SFB + Maharashtra = partnership to launch India's 1st FASTag Powered Truck Terminal at Khalapur, MH
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

333. On February 15, Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of its outward Forex Remittance Service - "Kotak Remit" on mobile that will allow users to send money abroad directly from their mobile phones. Bank customers will not have to furnish any physical documents for transactions up to \$25,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – launched "Kotak Remit" Forex Remittance Service on mobile
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak

334. On February 12, The RBI has asked investors from non 'Financial Action Task Force' complaint jurisdictions to hold less than 20% of the voting power in India-based NBFCs. Non-FATF area investors shouldn't have 'significant influence' in NBFCs in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked investors from non 'Financial Action Task Force' complaint jurisdictions to hold less than 20%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

335. On February 15, As per RBI's data, Bank credit grew 5.93% to ₹107.05 lakh Cr, while deposits rose 11.06% to ₹147.98 lakh Cr in the fortnight ended January 29, 2021. The bank credit growth in FY21 up to January 29, 2021 has reached about 90% of the same period of F20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per RBI's data: Bank credit grew – 5.93% to ₹107.05 lakh Cr | Bank deposits rose – 11.06% to ₹147.98 lakh Cr
- Bank credit growth in FY21 up to January 29, 2021 has reached about 90% of the same period of F20
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

336. On February 16, The RBI has set up of an Expert Committee on regulation of primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs). The 8-member committee will be chaired by former RBI deputy governor N S Vishwanathan. The committee will be expected to suggest effective measures for faster rehabilitation and resolution of UCBs and assess potential for consolidation of the sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up of an 8-member Expert Committee on regulation of primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs)
- The Expert Committee will be chaired by – N S Vishwanathan (Former RBI deputy governor)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- Total Deputy Governors = 4 – Mukesh Kumar Jain | B P Kanungo | Michael D Patra | M Rajeshwar Rao



Defence Affairs

337. On February 12, Indian Navy has signed a contract for the construction of 5 Diving Support Crafts (DSCs) with Titagarh Wagons Limited, Kolkata. DSC will meet the mission needs of Command Clearance Diving Teams (CCDTs) which are involved in providing diving assistance to all ships inside and close to the harbour for underwater repair, maintenance, and salvage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Titagarh Wagons (Kolkata) = a contract for the construction of 5 Diving Support Crafts (DSCs)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

338. PM Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenous main battle tank 'Arjun Mk-1A' to the Army in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. It is designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the DRDO. The indent for 118 of these tanks would be placed shortly with the Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) at Avadi near Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – handed over 118 indigenous main battle tanks 'Arjun Mk-1A' to the Army – in Chennai
- It is designed and developed by – CVRDE (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium – Chennai
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

339. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced a new CAPF battalion that will be named after 'Narayani Sena', the warriors of the erstwhile princely state of Cooch Behar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – announced a new CAPF battalion – to be named after 'Narayani Sena'
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

340. On February 16, The Indian Navy has got its 3rd Scorpene submarine, which will be commissioned as "INS Karanj", of Project P-75 in Mumbai. It is based on 'Scorpene Class' and delivered by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to the Indian Navy. Total 6 submarines are being constructed under Project 75. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy got its 3rd Scorpene submarine commissioned as "INS Karanj" under 'Project P-75' in Mumbai
- It is based on – 'Scorpene Class' & delivered by – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of MDL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – Narayan Prasad



Schemes & Initiatives

341. On February 12, A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture” (NeGPA) that was initially launched in 2010-11 in 7 pilot States, has been extended up to 31st March, 2021. It aims to achieve rapid development in India through use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for timely access to agriculture related information to the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture” (NeGPA) – extended up to 31st March, 2021
- It is centrally sponsored Scheme & was initially launched in 7 pilot States – in 2010-11

342. On February 15, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised meals to the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5 a plate. The state government will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people will have to pay ₹5. The Budget tabled by the Chief Minister earlier in Feb had allotted ₹100 Cr for the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised meals to the poor at ₹5 per plate
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

343. On February 17, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a new project “Pey Jal Survekshan” to install water connections to every urban household. The ministry has selected 10 pilot cities to survey for the Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban by March 2021. The proposed outlay for the scheme is Rs 2.87 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched a new project “Pey Jal Survekshan” to install water connections to every urban household
- Outlay for the scheme – Rs 2.87 lakh Cr
- MoHUA – selected 10 pilot cities to survey for the Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban by March 2021
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

Sports & Games

344. The Civil Aviation ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the deployment of drones for live aerial cinematography of the India Cricket Season in 2021. In the past, DGCA has allowed drones to be used for IPL matches too. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Civil Aviation ministry & DGCA – granted conditional exemption to the BCCI to use drones to film matches
- Civil Aviation Ministry MoS – Hardeep Singh Puri
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General in the DGCA – Arun Kumar
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain



345. On February 15, Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in Ranji Trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naman Ojha ([Madhya Pradesh](#)) – retirement – from all forms of Cricket
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

346. On February 17, Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has announced his retirement from Test cricket to focus on his career in the shorter formats with T20 being the priority. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faf du Plessis ([South Africa](#)) – retirement from Test Cricket (to focus in T20)
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

Important Days & Dates

347. “World Radio Day” is observed on February 13 every year to celebrate one of the oldest and most widely consumed mediums of communication. This year the theme is “New World, New Radio”. It was first proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011 and later adopted internationally by the UN General Assembly in 2012. This year, UNESCO is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the global event and more than 110 years of radio. The 2021 edition of WRD is divided into 3 main sub-themes - Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves, Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates & Connection: The world changes, radio connects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – 10th “World Radio Day” | Theme of 2021 – “New World, New Radio”
- 3 sub-themes of WRD 2021:
 - Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves
 - Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates
 - Connection: The world changes, radio connects
- Guglielmo Marconi (Italy) – invented Radio in 1895

348. On February 12, “Darwin Day” is celebrated internationally on the birthday of Charles Darwin to commemorate his contributions to science. Born in Shropshire, the English naturalist propounded the theory of evolution by natural selection. He fully expressed his theory in his 1859 book ‘On the Origin of Species’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 12 – “Darwin Day” (Birthday of Charles Darwin)



349. February 15, 2021 marks the 20th International Childhood Cancer Day, which marks the day to raise awareness regarding cancer among children. Census 2011 had revealed that the prevalence of childhood cancer was the highest in India, likely due to the fact that 30% of the Indian population was younger than 14 years of age. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 15 – 20th International Childhood Cancer Day
- The highest prevalence of childhood cancer is in India

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

350. The India Tunisia Economic Forum that was held recently in February has given impetus to the growing possibilities between India and Tunisia to boost the bilateral trade relation. An MOU was signed between Tunisia Africa Business Council and Indian Economic Trade Organization. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Tunisia = Business Council to boost the bilateral trade relation
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Hichem Mechichi

351. On February 11, Indian Army's National Seminar-cum-Webinar, named as "Divya-Drishti 2021" on Multi-Domain Operations: Future of Conflicts was organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army's National Seminar-cum-Webinar named "Divya-Drishti 2021" organised by CLAWS
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of CLAWS – New Delhi | Director – Vijay Kumar Ahluwalia | Inception – 2005

352. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 2nd edition of the "Maritime India Summit 2021" (MIS 2021) on March 2. It will be held virtually and is scheduled to be participated by 24 nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – to inaugurate the 2nd edition of the "Maritime India Summit 2021" (MIS 2021) on March 2

353. On February 14, CM of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 2nd edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGEII) that was held from 11-13 February, 2021 in Kozhikode, Kerala. The 3-day conference was themed "Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinarayi Vijayan – inaugurated the 2nd edition of "International Conference on Gender Equality" – in Kozhikode
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



354. National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), under Ministry of Science & Technology, has organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 in Kolkata. Governor of West Bengal Sri Jagdeep Dhankar has inaugurated the congress. The focal theme of the Congress is “Digital Mapping Innovations in Make India Initiatives”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NATMO organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 – in Kolkata
- Theme – “Digital Mapping Innovations in Make India Initiatives”
- HQs of NATMO – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – Tapati Banerjee

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

355. On February 13, Four young women fellows of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) have been awarded the Science and Engineering Research Board’s (SERB) “Women Excellence Award 2021” in the national capital for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls. All 4 women- Shobhna Kapoor, Antara Banerjee, Sonu Gandhi & Ritu Gupta received a grant of ₹15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SERB awarded “Women Excellence Award 2021” to 4 young women fellows of Indian National Science Academy
- SERB – A statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST)
- HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma
- Location of INSA – New Delhi | President – Chandrima Shaha

356. On February 10, Indian short film “Bittu” is shortlisted in top 10 films for 93rd Oscar Awards under ‘Live Action Short film’ category. The short film is directed by Karishma Dev Dube. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian short film “Bittu” shortlisted in top 10 films for 93rd Oscar Awards
- Category: ‘Live Action Short film’ | Director – Karishma Dev Dube

357. Marathi writer Rangnath Pathare will be conferred with “Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award” instituted by the Maharashtra government’s Marathi language department. Pathare has penned several novels, including Tamrapat which won the prestigious Sahitya Academy award in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rangnath Pathare – to receive “Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award” – instituted by Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

358. On February 13, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received the prestigious Award of Appreciation in the 'Project' Category-Central Government Entity – in the 18th Computer Society of India (CSI) Special Interest Group on eGovernance (SIGe-Gov) Awards 2020 for their 'Performance Dashboard Empowering Tribals Transforming India through various ICT initiatives'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – received 18th "CSI SIG eGov Awards 2020" – in 'Project' Category
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

359. Pune-based agriculture Startup Bioprime Agrisolutions Pvt Limited has bagged the "Best Agri Startup (Industry Partnership) Award" presented by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi. It was incubated at the Venture Centre, under CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bioprime Agrisolutions – received "Best Agri Startup (Industry Partnership) Award" – presented by FICCI
- HQs of Bioprime Agrisolutions – Pune, MH | CEO – Renuka Diwan
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

360. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has handed over "Tamil Semmal Award" to Muthalankurichi Kamarasu during a function held at the secretariat in Chennai on February 1. A native of Muthalankurichi village, Kamarasu has penned 53 books including two novels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muthalankurichi Kamarasu – received "Tamil Semmal Award" – by Edappadi K Palaniswami
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Appointments & Resignations

361. On February 12, Tata Motors Limited has announced Marc Llistosella as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company effective July 1, 2021. He will take over from the current incumbent Guenter Butschek. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marc Llistosella – appointed as MD & CEO of Tata Motors Limited (by replacing - Guenter Butschek)
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Marc Llistosella | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

362. On February 13, The 73-year-old known as 'Super Mario' & former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has formally sworn in as Italy's new Prime Minister. Draghi was parachuted in by the Italy's President Sergio Mattarella after the previous centre-left coalition under premier Giuseppe Conte collapsed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mario Draghi – sworn in as new Prime Minister of Italy
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi



363. On February 12, Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge is all set to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, as incumbent Ghulam Nabi Azad's term ends on February 15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mallikarjun Kharge ([Congress](#)) – to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

364. On February 10, The U. S. Chamber of Commerce has appointed Suzanne Clark as its next CEO, the first woman to hold the position. Clark, who is currently President of the U.S. Chamber, will succeed Thomas J. Donohue. The position is effective on March 11. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suzanne Clark – appointed as the CEO of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce (1st woman)
- [HQs of U. S. Chamber of Commerce – Washington, D.C., US](#) | CEO – Suzanne Clark (from March 11)

365. On February 12, Parties to the 123-member & Hague-based International Criminal Court has elected Britain's Karim Khan as the new prosecutor for a 9-year term starting on June 16. He will replace lead prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karim Khan ([Britain](#)) – elected as the New Prosecutor of International Criminal Court – for 9 years
- [HQs of International Criminal Court – Hague, Netherlands](#) | President – Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji

366. Aegon Life Insurance has elevated Satishwar Balakrishnan to the position of managing director and chief executive officer. Balakrishnan had joined the company in July 2019 as the chief financial officer. He has replaced K S Gopalakrishnan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satishwar Balakrishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of Aegon Life Insurance
- [HQs of Aegon Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | MD & CEO – Satishwar Balakrishnan

367. India's Ajay Mathur is elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). He succeeds Upendra Tripathy, who has served as director general since 2017. ISA, co-founded by India and France, has become a significant public policy tool for India and is considered a counter to China's ambitious One Belt One Road initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Mathur – elected as the next Director General of ISA (by replacing - Upendra Tripathy)
- ISA – co-founded by India & France | 'One Belt One Road' initiative – belongs to China
- [HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana](#) | DG – Ajay Mathur | [Member Countries – 121](#)

368. On February 16, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has roped in Sandalwood actor 'Darshan' as the Agriculture Ambassador of the State Agriculture Department. Darshan, known as 'Challenging Star' in the film industry, has agreed to take up the role without any remuneration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Darshan" roped in as the Agriculture Ambassador of the Karnataka Agriculture Department
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | CM – BS Yediyurappa | [Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)



369. On February 15, President Felix Tshisekedi has appointed the 43-year-old Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge to be the new Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of the Congo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge – appointed as new Prime Minister of Congo
- [Congo – Kinshasa – Franc | President – Felix Tshisekedi | New PM – Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge](#)

370. On February 16, The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary, whose focus will be on providing micro-finance assistance to women, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises in under-served communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Preeti Sinha – appointed as Executive Secretary of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- [HQs of UNCDF – New York, USA | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha](#)

371. On February 16, Tyre maker CEAT has roped in actor Rana Daggubati as its brand ambassador for promoting the 'Puncture Safe' range of bike tyres. The company has launched the tyres for motorcycles in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rana Daggubati – appointed as brand ambassador of "CEAT" – to promote the 'Puncture Safe' range
- [HQs of CEAT Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anant Vardhan Goenka](#)

372. On February 16, Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is appointed as the 7th Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by representatives of the 164 member countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) – appointed as the 7th Director General of the World Trade Organisation
- [HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala \(Nigeria\) | Countries – 164](#)

Amount & Agreements

373. On February 12, India has decided to provide Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 142 million to Nepal for the restoration and conservation of 3 cultural heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley. Seto Machhindranath temple, Kumari Chhen and Kumari Niwas will be conserved as per Nepal's Ancient Monument Preservation Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to provide NRs 142 million to Nepal for the restoration and conservation of 3 cultural heritage sites
- [Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari](#)



374. On February 11, Government has approved the allocation of Rs. 500 Cr for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for 3 years. The mission was announced as part of the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' scheme. 'Sweet Revolution' is being implemented through National Bee Board (NBB). 11 projects of Rs. 2560 lakhs have been sanctioned under NBHM for Awareness & Capacity building in scientific beekeeping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved the allocation of Rs. 500 Cr for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for 3 years
- National Bee Board (NBB) – is implementing 'Sweet Revolution'
- HQs of National Bee Board (NBB) – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjay Agarwal

375. On February 15, As per the agreement signed, The Gurugram-based Medanta, or Global Health Private Limited, would get ₹100 Cr (\$13.7 million) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in debt financing to provide essential healthcare services during the Covid-19 pandemic. This debt financing is part of a \$20-billion assistance package that ADB announced in April 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + Medanta = an agreement to get ₹100 Cr (\$13.7 million) debt financing
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of Medanta – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Naresh Trehan



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

376. On February 14, With only 1% of the world's vehicles, India accounts for 11% of the global death in road accidents, the highest in the world, according to a report titled "Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society" by the World Bank. India accounts for about 4.5 lakh road crashes per annum, in which 1.5 lakh people die. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Traffic Crash Injuries & Disabilities: The Burden on India Society" report – released by World Bank
- India accounts for 11% of the global death in road accidents (highest in the world)
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

377. According to the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, as many as 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across India. The highest number of manual scavengers has been identified in Uttar Pradesh at 37,379. 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across India | Highest in Uttar Pradesh – 37,379
- 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last 5 years
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



378. On February 16, India will need to deploy \$500 billion in investments to reach its 450 gigawatts (GW) capacity target by 2030, according to a recent report titled 'Capital Flows Underpinning India's Energy Transformation' released by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). The report added that India has received more than \$42 billion in investment since 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Capital Flows Underpinning India's Energy Transformation' report – released by IEEFA
- India will need to deploy \$500 billion in investments to reach its 450 GW capacity target – by 2030
- HQs of IEEFA – Ohio, USA

Acquisitions & Mergers

379. The government will sell its entire 26.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL), erstwhile VSNL, through an offer for sale and strategic sale route by March 20, 2021. As many as 11 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs, JM Financial and Axis Capital, are in race for managing the sale of the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will sell its entire 26.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) – by March 20, 2021
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan

380. On February 16, ICICI Bank has announced to buy stakes in 2 fintech companies - 5.40% stake in CityCash for Rs 4.93 Cr and 9.65% in Thillais Analytical Solutions Pvt Ltd for Rs 1.1 Cr & thus, for a total cash consideration of Rs 6.03 Cr. Both the deals are expected to be completed by the end of March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank will buy stakes in 2 fintech companies – 5.40% stake in CityCash & 9.65% in Thillais Analytical Solutions
- Total cash consideration of – Rs 6.03 Cr
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of CityCash – Mumbai, MH | Founder & CEO – Vineet Toshniwal

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

381. On February 12, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Department of Space (DoS) and MapmyIndia have partnered to offer India's best and fully indigenous, mapping portal and geospatial services. It combines the power of MapmyIndia's digital maps and technologies with ISRO's catalogue of satellite imagery and earth observation data. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ISRO + MapmyIndia = partnership to offer India's best and fully indigenous, mapping portal & geospatial services
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CMD – Rakesh Verma | CEO – Rohan Verma

382. On February 14, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has joined hands with the National Health Authority (NHA) to leverage the medical infrastructure available under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in Maharashtra. The tie-up with PM-JAY was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Maharashtra in the district of Ahmednagar and now has been extended to the entire state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESIC + NHA = to upgrade the medical infrastructure available under 'AB PM-JAY' – in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ESIC – New Delhi | Director General – Ms. Anuradha Prasad
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma

383. An MoU was signed between the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) and the Government of Karnataka for working closely to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the state. The Chief Guest, Ms Shalini Rajneesh (IAS) and Guest of Honor, talked about the importance of addressing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of Karnataka government for 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IETO + Karnataka = an MoU to work closely to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the state
- HQs of IETO – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman – S. Krishnakumar | President – Asif Iqbal
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

384. On February 16, Mastercard and Razorpay have launched a strategic partnership that combines Razorpay's payment processing capabilities with Mastercard's digital banking solutions and card services. The partnership will empower the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in digitizing their operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Razorpay = partnership to make digital payments more accessible for MSMEs
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur

385. On February 16, The AYUSH Ministry and the World Health Organization's South East Asia Regional Office have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) for the deputation of an AYUSH expert to WHO's regional traditional medicine programme in New Delhi. AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region Poonam Khetrpal Singh signed the agreement. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- AYUSH Ministry + WHO South East Asia Region = an LoE to bolster traditional medicine in South-East Asia region
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik (Constituency – North Goa) | AYUSH Secretary – Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha
- Director of WHO South-East Asia Region – Poonam Khetrpal Singh

Books & Authors

386. Filmmaker Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari has turned author with her debut fiction novel, titled “Mapping Love”. The 41-year-old director’s book will be published by Rupa Publications in May, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mapping Love” debut novel – authored by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
- It will be published by Rupa Publications in May, 2021

387. On February 14, Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has released a book, titled “Tipane Kashmirchi (notes on Kashmir), untold stories”, authored by Arun Karmarkar, in Mumbai. Manoj Sinha has stated thatt Union Territory has a development deficit of 73 years. Sinha also noted that a new industrial development scheme of Rs 28,400 Cr has been unveiled for attracting investments in the UT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tipane Kashmirchi (notes on Kashmir), untold stories” – authored by Arun Karmarkar
- The book is released by – Manoj Sinha
- A new Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of J&K – unveiled with an Outlay of Rs 28,400 Cr
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

388. On February 14, Author Irwin Allan Sealy will come out with “ASOCA: A Sutra” - an imagined memoir of ‘Ashoka The Great’. It will be released under Penguin Random House’s Viking imprint in July. Earlier, Penguin had published the 30th anniversary edition of his debut novel “The Trotter-Nama”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ASOCA: A Sutra” - an imagined memoir of ‘Ashoka The Great’ – authored by Irwin Allan Sealy

389. On February 14, Peter Mukerjea has come out with his memoir “Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive” which is the story of the Indian television industry. The book, published by Westland, also talks in detail how Amitabh Bachchan was hired as a host for “Kaun Banega Crorepati”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive” memoir – authored by Peter Mukerjea
- The book is published by – Westland

390. February 16, Dr Vishakha Shivdasani has launched e-book titled “COVID and Post-COVID Recovery: Dr Vee’s six point plan” on re-engineering Health and Immunity in context of COVID. The book provides an effective and a practical guide not only to achieve the above but also tips on how to prepare your body for ensuring the greater effectiveness of the vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID and Post-COVID Recovery: Dr Vee’s six point plan” – launched & authored by Dr Vishakha Shivdasani

391. Sabarna Roy, author of 6 critically acclaimed books has unveiled his 7th book, “Fractured Mosaic”. Fractured Mosaic is, in essence, a sequel to his 5th literary work, titled “Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 - 2018”. Fractured Mosaic is published by Leadstart of Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

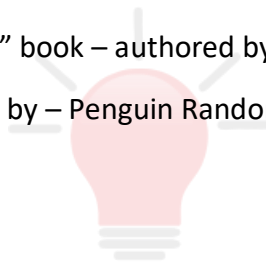
Key Points:

- “Fractured Mosaic” book – authored by Sabarna Roy (his 7th book)
- “Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 - 2018” book – authored by Sabarna Roy

392. Penguin Random House India has announced the acquisition and publication of a brilliant new novel, titled “Sarasvati’s Gift”, by bestselling writer and former journalist Kavita Kane. This book will be released under Penguin’s Ebury Press imprint by mid-2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sarasvati’s Gift” book – authored by Kavita Kane
- To be published by – Penguin Random House India



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Obituaries

393. Former Argentine President, Carlos Menem, has passed away recently on February 14 at the age of 90. He served his two-terms from 1989-1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carlos Menem ([Argentina](#)) – a Politician – passed away (President of Argentina)
- [Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez](#)

394. On February 16, Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand M Rama Jois has passed away after prolonged illness in Bengaluru, Karnataka. A former Rajya Sabha MP, the 88-year-old legal luminary had also served as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Rama Jois – Governor of Bihar & Jharkhand + Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana HC – passed away



Person in News

395. On February 13, An Indian-origin employee, Akanksha Arora, has announced her candidacy for the election to appoint the United Nations' next Secretary-General. The post is currently held by Antonio Guterres. Currently, Akanksha is an audit coordinator for the UN Development Programme (UNDP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akanksha Arora – announced her candidacy for the election of the UN’s next Secretary-General
- [HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres](#)

Science & Technology

396. On February 10, Chinese spacecraft “Tianwen-1” has entered Mars' orbit, joining UAE's “Hope probe” that arrived into the Mars Orbit on February 9. The arrival of ‘Tianwen-1’ after a journey of 7 months and nearly 300 million miles (475 million kms) is part of an unusual burst of activity at Mars. NASA's rover called “Perseverance” is aiming for a Feb. 18 landing on Mars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE's “Hope probe” – entered Mars’ Orbit on February 9
- China’s “Tianwen-1” – entered Mars’ Orbit on February 10
- USA’s (NASA) “Perseverance” – is aimed for landing on February 18

397. On February 12, Two satellites by Indian startups - SpaceKidz India & Pixxel were tested for the first time at the ‘UR Rao Satellite Centre’ of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru. ISRO helped these two companies fix problems with the solar panels on their respective satellites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO tested 2 satellites of private startups - SpaceKidz India & Pixxel at ‘UR Rao Satellite Centre’ for the 1st time
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969](#)
- [HQs of SpaceKidz – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr Srimathy Kesan](#)
- [HQs of Pixxel – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Awais Ahmed](#)

398. On February 15, HCL Technologies (HCL) has signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity. As part of the MoU, HCL will work with ‘C3iHub’, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IIT Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HCL + IIT Kanpur = an MoU to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity
- ‘C3iHub’ – a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IIT Kanpur
- [HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | CEO – C Vijayakumar | Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra](#)



399. On February 14, Researchers have discovered 3 fossils of the earliest known living animal - the 550-million-year-old “Dickinsonia”, on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, about 40 km from Bhopal. The new discovery was published in Gondwana Research journal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

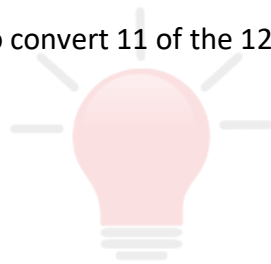
- Researchers discovered 3 fossils of the 550-million-year-old “Dickinsonia” – at Bhimbetka Rock Shelters
- Discovery was published – in “Gondwana Research” journal
- Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – located in Bhojpur Raisen, Madhya Pradesh (Only Paleolithic site in India)

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

400. On February 10, The Rajya Sabha has passed “Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020” by replacing “Major Port Trusts Act, 1963”. It seeks to convert 11 of the 12 ‘Ports’ run by the Centre into ‘Authorities’ from the current trustee set-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed “Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020” by replacing “Major Port Trusts Act, 1963”
- The bill seeks to convert 11 of the 12 ‘Ports’ into ‘Authorities’



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