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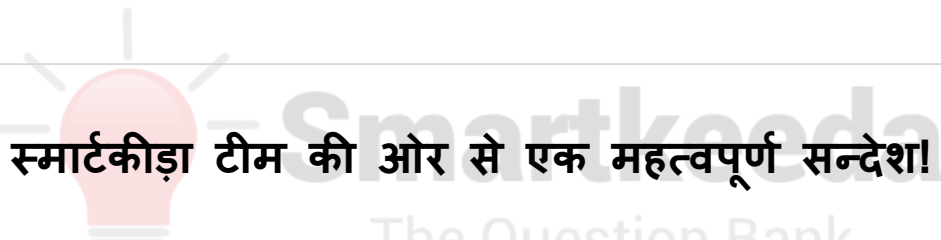
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

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

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

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

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

401. On February 16, Tamil Nadu government has unveiled a new “Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021-2025” with a view to provide further fillip to industrial growth and attracting more investments into the State. It aims to achieve 4 key objectives. The state also unveiled a new “MSME Policy” to offer a vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs/Start-ups with a target to attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh Cr by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – unveiled a new “Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021-2025” & a new “MSME Policy”
- Target of MSME Policy: To attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh Cr by 2025
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

402. On February 17, Amazon has partnered with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, to set up its first device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks at its Chennai plant later in 2021. It reiterated its commitment to invest \$1 billion into the country to digitise 10 million small and medium businesses by 2025 and create 1 million additional jobs by then. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon + Cloud Network Technology = to set up its 1st Device Manufacturing Line to make Fire TV sticks – in Chennai
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)

403. On February 15, XECH, India's emerging innovator brand, has launched “XECH SteroStet” - one-of-its-kind and India's first stethoscope sterilizer. It uses a special ‘UV-C GI Technology’ to effectively sterilize stethoscopes diaphragms of all sizes up to 99.9999%. Xech had begun its research to develop the SteroStet around 2 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- XECH – launched “XECH SteroStet” - India's first stethoscope sterilizer
- ‘SteroStet’ uses a special ‘UV-C GI Technology’
- HQs of XECH – Andheri, Maharastra | Founder & CEO – Pranay Punjabi

404. On the occasion of Sushma Swaraj’s birth anniversary on February 14, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that a statue of former Union minister Sushma Swaraj will be installed in Vidisha which was the Lok Sabha constituency represented by her. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A statue of Sushma Swaraj (Former Minister of External Affairs) – to be installed in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



405. “Snakepedia” mobile app is launched in Kerala to help people, doctors treat snake bites. Snakepedia is a comprehensive android mobile application that documents information on snakes with the help of pictures, infographics and podcasts and analyses its first aid, treatment, myths and superstitions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched “Snakepedia” mobile app to help people, doctors treat snake bites
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

406. On February 17, Punjab's water supply and sanitation department has set up first-of-its-kind Solar-based Water Supply Project at Jagrawan-Muradpur and Talwara villages of the Jalandhar district. The solar-based pilot projects were commissioned at a cost of Rs 67.71 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First-of-its-kind Solar-based Water Supply Project – set up in Jalandhar, Punjab | Cost – Rs 67.71 lakh
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

407. On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched ‘Smart Connectivity Projects’ worth Rs 15,000 Cr in Assam. He has also launched 2 e-portals namely “Car-D” (Cargo Data) & “PANI” (Portal for Asset and Navigation Information) to further Ease of Doing Business. He also laid the foundation stone of Rs 350 Cr ‘North East Data Centre’ at Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi launched ‘Smart Connectivity Projects’ worth Rs 15,000 Cr in Assam
- Narendra Modi launched – “Car-D” (Cargo Data) & “PANI” (Portal for Asset and Navigation Information)
- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Rs 350 Cr ‘North East Data Centre’ – at Guwahati, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

408. On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched ‘Mahabahu-Brahmaputra’, laid the foundation stone of two bridges - ‘Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge’ and ‘Majuli bridge’. A permanent Inland Water Transport Terminal will also be built at Jogighopa, Assam under the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched ‘Mahabahu-Brahmaputra’ – in Assam
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of ‘Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge’ – connecting Assam & Meghalaya
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of ‘Majuli bridge’ – in Assam
- A permanent Inland Water Transport Terminal – to be built at Jogighopa, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



409. CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow has celebrated its 70th Annual Day Celebrations on February 17. Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a series of lectures 'Atal National Colloquium on Healthcare and Innovation' and 'Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) in CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 17 – 70th Annual Day Celebrations of CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated a series of lectures 'Atal National Colloquium on Healthcare and Innovation'
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated 'Common Research & Technology Development Hub – in CSIR-CDRI (Lucknow)
- [HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande](#)

410. On February 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the "Cauvery Basin Refinery" at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. The refinery, with 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity is being set up jointly by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd at an estimated cost of ₹31,500 Cr. Narendra Modi has also laid the foundation stone of the 143 km long 'Ramanathapuram - Thoothukudi' natural gas pipeline in Tamil Nadu at the cost of around ₹700 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for the "Cauvery Basin Refinery" at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu
- The refinery is being set up jointly by IOCL & Chennai Petroleum Corporation – at cost of ₹31,500 Cr
- Narendra Modi – dedicated 143 km 'Ramanathapuram - Thoothukudi' natural gas pipeline – in Tamil Nadu
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

411. On February 17, the 3rd edition of the 'Digital Indian Sign Language Dictionary' launched including 10,000 terms across 6 categories. The dictionary is prepared by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre under the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry. The first edition was launched in March 2018 with 3,000 terms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of 'Digital Indian Sign Language Dictionary' launched including 10,000 terms across 6 categories
- The 1st edition was launched in March 2018 with 3,000 terms

412. On February 18, The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called "Sandes". Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Informatics Centre – launched an instant messaging platform called "Sandes"
- [HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma](#)



413. The society for the long-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) is likely to be formed within a month in Patna, Bihar. Bihar accounts for 50% of the world's river dolphin population. The dolphin is a highly endangered species under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and was declared the National Aquatic Animal in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) – is being set up in Patna, Bihar
- Dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal – in 2009
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

414. On February 15, With an aim to provide a suitable atmosphere to the aspirants of various competitive exams in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched "Path Pradarshak" free coaching facility across the state under the 'Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched "Path Pradarshak" free coaching facility – under 'Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

415. On February 18, The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (MoHUA) in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India, has announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' under the Smart Cities Mission. The Challenge is a 3-year initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – selected 5 cities selected for the 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge' under the Smart Cities Mission
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

416. On February 17, In a boost to tourism in the state, the Maharashtra government has cleared the "Caravan Policy", which will allow private players to get the vehicles for tourism and setting up of caravan parks in public and private places. Maharashtra is the third state after Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka to get such a policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – 3rd state to get "Caravan Policy" to boost tourism | 1st – Madhya Pradesh & 2nd – Karnataka
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

417. On February 19, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has launched India's BRICS 2021 website "www.brics2021.gov.in" at the BRICS Secretariat at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan. India has assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary under the theme "BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – launched India’s BRICS 2021 website “www.brics2021.gov.in” – at the BRICS Secretariat
- Theme of 15th anniversary of BRICS 2021 – “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation”
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India

418. On February 21, The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was conducted in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition. The festival was organized by Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal. Khajuraho is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was held on the temple premises after 44 years following the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) permission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival – conducted in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- The festival was organized by – Ustad Alauddin Khan Music & Arts Academy
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

419. PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have felicitated the participants of the “India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) 2021” at a virtual award ceremony. The finals were held between February 9 and 11, 2021. I-ACE Hackathon was launched on October 16, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Scott Morrison = awarded the winners of “India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon 2021”
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

International Affairs

420. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa. The CECPA between India and Mauritius covers 310 export items for India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved signing of the CECPA between India & Mauritius
- India-Mauritius CECPA – the 1st trade Agreement to be signed by India with an African country
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravin Kumar Jugnauth



421. As on February 18, The International Solar Alliance (ISA) plans to launch Green Grid Initiative (GGI), a Sun Charter and the World Solar Bank (WSB) at COP-26 or the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. The ISA was co-founded by India at the 2015 climate change conference in Paris. The proposed World Solar Bank is expected to be headquartered in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISA plans to launch Green Grid Initiative (GGI), Sun Charter & World Solar Bank (WSB) – at COP-26 in Glasgow, Scotland
- [HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 121](#)

422. On February 18, Facebook has blocked Australians from viewing and sharing news on the platform because of proposed laws in the country to make digital giants pay for journalism. Australian publishers can continue to publish news content on Facebook, but links and posts can't be viewed or shared by Australian audiences. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook blocked Australians from viewing and sharing news on the platform due to proposed laws in Australia
- [HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

423. On February 17-19, Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia was on a visit to India. During the visit, the two sides signed an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic Passports and an MoU between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – CSIR, India and Wollo University, Ethiopia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Ethiopia = signed an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic Passports
- [Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde](#)

Banking & Economic Affairs

424. On February 16, RBI has released guidelines on Credit Default Swaps (CDS). It has come up with 'Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2021 - Draft' in exercise of the powers conferred under section 45W of the 'RBI Act 1934'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released guidelines on Credit Default Swaps (CDS) – under section 45W of the 'RBI Act 1934'
- RBI came up with – 'Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2021 - Draft'
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\) | Established in – 1st April 1935](#)



425. On February 16, Under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005, the RBI has permitted resident individuals to make remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India. Besides, resident individuals may also open a non-interest bearing Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs, for making the permissible investments under LRS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – permitted ‘Resident Individuals’ to make remittances under the LRS to IFSCs in India
- LRS – Liberalised Remittance Scheme | Under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

426. On February 18, The RBI has approved the resolution plan for Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd submitted by Piramal Capital and Housing Finance. The claims of lenders that have been admitted in NCLT in the case of DHFL aggregate to about ₹81,000 Cr. According to the resolution plan, Piramal will merge its existing financial services business with DHFL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI approved the resolution plan for DHFL – submitted by Piramal Capital and Housing Finance
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of DHFL – Mumbai | CEO – Kapil Wadhawan
- HQs of PCHF – Mumbai | Chairman – Ajay Piramal

427. On February 17, The RBI has issued a “Master Direction-Non-Banking Financial Company-Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021” under sections 45L and 45MA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. All non-deposit taking HFCs with an asset size of ₹10,000 Cr and above, and all deposit taking HFCs irrespective of their asset size will have to achieve a minimum LCR of 50% by December 1, 2021 and 100% by December 1, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued “Master Direction NBFC-HFC (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021” under sections 45L & 45MA of RBI Act-1934
- Target to achieve a minimum LCR of 50% by December 1, 2021 & 100% by December 1, 2025
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

428. On February 17, Google has partnered with the European Investment Fund (EIF) and two other organisations in Latin America and Asia to provide \$75 million in funding to small- and medium-sized companies suffering from the impact of Covid-19. The two other organisations are Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Kiva. Indian companies will get \$15 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + EIF + IDB + Kiva = partnership to provide \$75 million in funding to small- and medium-sized companies
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of IDB – Washington, D.C., US | President – Mauricio Claver-Carone
- HQs of Kiva – California, US | CEO – Neville Crawley



429. On February 17, Indian Bank has entered into an MoU with Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of IISc, Bengaluru, for extending exclusive credit facility to start-ups and MSMEs. SID will identify the start-ups and MSMEs and will refer them to the bank. The bank will extend loans of up to ₹50 Cr to these start-ups. Indian Bank had also recently launched “MSME Prerana” programme to empower MSME entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + SID = an MoU for extending exclusive credit facility to start-ups & MSMEs
- Indian Bank will extend loans of up to ₹50 Cr to the start-ups & MSMEs
- “MSME Prerana” programme – was started by Indian Bank (in October)
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chunduru

430. On February 17, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered into a strategic partnership with Vayana Network to offer financial support to the MSME sector via “Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme” launched by the bank. Under the partnership, Vayana Network will provide its Supply Chain Financing solutions (SCF) to the bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra + Vayana Network = to launch “Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme”
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Founder – R. N. Iyer

431. As on February 18, 3.08 lakh complaints against banks were received by the RBI’s Banking Ombudsman in FY20, a 57.5% increase over FY19. While the share of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in the total complaints reduced in FY20, that of Private Banks (PVBs) increased. About 45% of complaints in FY20 were related to digital services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3.08 lakh complaints against banks were received by RBI’s Banking Ombudsman in FY20 (57.5% increase over FY19)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

432. On February 21, State Bank of India has decided to launch “YONO merchants app” to enable 20 million merchants from tier 2, 3 cities to adopt digital payments. SBI plans to deploy low-cost acceptance infrastructure across India over the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – to launch “YONO merchants app” to enable 20 million merchants from tier 2, 3 cities to adopt digital payments
- YONO – You Only Need One
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



433. On February 21, The RBI has issued directions to Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank (Vijayapur, Karnataka), whereby, as from the close of business on February 19, 2021, deposit withdrawals have been capped at ₹1,000 per depositor. 99.58% of depositors are fully covered by DICGC insurance scheme. Since April 1, 2015, 52 UCBS have been placed under All Inclusive Directions by the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – issued directions to Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank by putting deposit withdrawals cap at ₹1,000 / depositor
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank – Vijayapur, Karnataka

Defence Affairs

434. The naval exercise of Iran and Russia known as “Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021” started on February 16 in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy did not participate in this 2-day maritime exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021” started on February 16 in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

435. The DRDO is likely to conduct the first developmental trial test of India’s latest Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile “Astra Mk II”. The indigenously developed missile will be flight tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast. The previous version of Astra missile had a strike range of about 110 km and now, its advanced variant can strike targets 160 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO is likely to conduct first developmental trial test of “Astra Mk II” – off Odisha coast
- Strike range of this missile – 160 Km | BVR – Beyond Visual Range
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

436. On February 19, Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has flagged off the 100th ‘K9 Vajra’ tracked self-propelled howitzer built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat. The 155mm, 52 calibre ‘K9 Vajra’ is built by L&T which is based on ‘K9 Thunder’ of South Korea. ‘K-9 Vajra’ has a range of 38 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Army Chief – flagged off the 100th ‘K9 Vajra’ self-propelled howitzer built by L&T – at Hazira in Gujarat
- ‘K9 Vajra’ is based on ‘K9 Thunder’ of South Korea
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



437. On February 18, The Indian and Indonesian navies have carried out a military exercise “Passage Exercise” (PASSEX) in the Arabian sea to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation. Indian naval ship INS Talwar participated in this exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy & Indonesian Navy – carried out a military exercise “Passage Exercise” (PASSEX) in the Arabian sea
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo](#)

438. On February 19, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICG) C-453 was commissioned in Chennai. It is the 17th of the 18 Interceptor Boats being indigenously built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. ICGS C-453 is the 27.80-m-long interceptor boat with a displacement of 105 tonnes and a maximum speed of 45 knots (85 kmph). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS C-453 – commissioned in Chennai, TN (It is 17th of the 18 Interceptor Boats & indigenously built by L&T)
- [HQs L&T – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam](#)

439. On February 18, The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad and Ordnance Factory (Medak) have signed an Academic and Technical Linkage Agreement for designing an indigenous Armoured Tracked Repair Vehicle (ATRV). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCEME ([Secunderabad](#)) + Ordnance Factory ([Medak](#)) = an Academic and Technical Linkage Agreement
- ATRV – Armoured Tracked Repair Vehicle

Schemes & Initiatives

440. On February 17, The Union Cabinet has approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the telecom sector with an outlay of ₹12,195 Cr over 5 years. The scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment. The implementation of PLI scheme in telecom manufacturing will start from April 1, 2021. For inclusion of MSMEs in the scheme, the minimum investment threshold has been kept at ₹10 Cr, while for others it is ₹100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the PLI scheme for the telecom sector with an outlay of ₹12,195 Cr over 5 years (from April 1, 2021)
- PLI – Production-Linked Incentive



441. On February 18, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) worth Rs. 19 Cr 84 lakhs at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport. The CPC has been built by Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC). He inaugurated 24 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) at Assam Administrative Staff College (ASSC) and also launched the “Uberization scheme” at AASC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – inaugurated the Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport
- CPC was constructed by AIDC at a cost of – Rs 19 Cr 84 lakhs
- Assam – also launched the “Uberization scheme”
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

Sports & Games

442. On February 15, Babar Azam-led Pakistan has created history by defeating South Africa in the final T20I of the 3-match series by 4 wickets to register 100th win in the shortest format of the game. They became the first men’s team to reach a century of T20I victories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – became the first men’s cricket team to win 100 T20I matches
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi](#)

443. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen. Ashwin has picked 391 wickets in his career so far. The second most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen is Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravichandran Ashwin – 1st bowler in 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen
- Muttiah Muralitharan ([Sri Lanka-Cricket](#)) – 2nd most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen

444. On February 15, Pahadi Billas has lifted the trophy at the “KKFI 2021 Super League Kho Kho Tournament” held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Maharashtra’s Pratik Waikar continued his spectacular show at the Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pahadi Billas – won the “KKFI 2021 Super League Kho Kho Tournament” – held in New Delhi
- [Pratik Waikar \(Maharashtra\)](#) – a Kho Kho player
- [Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium](#) – located in New Delhi



445. On February 19, Sri Lanka fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. He represented Sri Lanka in 25 Tests and 24 ODIs, bagging 75 and 32 wickets respectively. He also played a lone T20 International against Australia in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhammika Prasad ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retirement from International Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Important Days & Dates

446. Union minister G. Kishan Reddy has praised the commitment of Delhi Police officers on the occasion of its 74th Foundation Day on 16th February 2021. Delhi Police was part of the Punjab Police until 1947. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 16 – 74th Foundation Day of Delhi Police
- Present Commissioner of Delhi Police – Sachidanand Shrivastava

447. “World Day of Social Justice” is observed on February 20 every year to raise voice against social injustice and to remove barriers regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. This year, the theme is “A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 20 – “World Day of Social Justice”
- Theme – “A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

448. On February 17, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)'s Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF). The 29th edition of NTLF is being organised from February 17-19. The theme of this year's event is “Shaping the future towards a better normal”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed 29th edition of NASSCOM's Technology & Leadership Forum (NTLF) – from Feb 17-19
- Theme – “Shaping the future towards a better normal”



449. On February 17, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs has participated in the 3rd “Quad Ministerial Meeting” comprising India-Australia-Japan-USA held on 18 February 2021 under the US Administration. Myanmar was the key focus during the meeting. Besides, the Ministers exchanged views on responding to climate change and furthering cooperation in areas such as maritime security, HADR, supply chain resilience and counter-terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – participated in the 3rd “Quad Ministerial Meeting” on 18th February – under the US Administration
- Key focus during the meeting – Myanmar
- QUAD countries – 4 – India, USA, Japan & Australia

450. On February 18, India Union Minister Piyush Goyal has delivered the keynote address at “India-Singapore CEO Forum” and invited businesses from both sides to bring in sparkle into India and Singapore's partnership. S Iswaran from Singapore had highlighted 3D's: Development, Diversification and Digital Economy. This forum was organised by the DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) & FICCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – delivered the keynote address at “India-Singapore CEO Forum” – organised by DPIIT & FICCI
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

451. On February 18, A virtual workshop on the theme “Covid-19 Management: Experience, good practices and way forward” was organised by India for health officials and experts from the 8 members of the SAARC and Mauritius and Seychelles. The workshop was chaired by India's health secretary Rajesh Bhushan. PM Narendra Modi suggested the 10 regional countries should consider creating a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses so that medical personnel can travel quickly within the region during health emergencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virtual workshop on theme “Covid-19 Management: Experience, good practices & way forward” – organised by India
- It was organised for health officials & experts from – 8 members of the SAARC, Mauritius & Seychelles
- The workshop was chaired by – Rajesh Bhushan (Health Secretary of India)
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

452. On February 16, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has addressed Joint Conference of 11th “World PetroCoal Congress” and “World Future Fuel Summit” in New Delhi. The theme of the 11th congress was “Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer”. The Minister highlighted the increase in LPG coverage to nearly 99.5% from 56% in less than 7 years. The Solar Capacity of India has also increased by 13 times in the last 6 years. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – addressed the 11th “World PetroCoal Congress” & “World Future Fuel Summit” – in New Delhi
- Theme of the congress – “Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer”
- LPG coverage in India has increased to 99.5% in less than 7 years | Solar Capacity increased by 13 times 6 years
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

453. The 11th “India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue” was virtually held on February 19. Shri Tarun Bajaj, Secretary, Economic Affairs, led the Indian delegation. India-EU relationship has evolved into a multifaceted partnership. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 11th “India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue” held on February 19 – Indian delegation was led by Tarun Bajaj
- Secretary of Economic Affairs in India – Tarun Bajaj
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

454. On February 15, Writer, historian, naturalist, and activist, S Theodore Baskaran has been honoured with “Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020” by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation for his role in wildlife conservation and his continuing legacy of writings in Tamil and English to the conservation discourse. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Theodore Baskaran – honoured with “Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020” – by Sanctuary Nature Foundation

455. On February 17, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the “Skoch Chief Minister of the Year” award. The award was presented to him by the chairman, Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar. The award selection was based on study of project-level outcomes in various States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy ([Andhra Pradesh](#)) – conferred the “Skoch Chief Minister of the Year” award
- YSR Rythu Bharosa & YSR Cheyutha schemes – belong to Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Skoch group – Gurgaon, Haryana | Chairman – Sameer Kochhar
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



456. On February 16, The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has conferred 14 Prani Mitra awards and JeevDaya awards 2021 to the individuals, organizations and corporates for their outstanding performance in the field of animal welfare. Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has distributed the awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The following individuals / organizations have been awarded with ‘Prani Mitra’ & ‘JeevDaya’ Awards in their respective fields:

Awards	Winners
Prani Mitra Award Individual	- Yogender Kumar (New Delhi) - Manish Saxena (Rajasthan) - Shyam Lal Chaubisa (Rajasthan)
Prani Mitra Award Shaurya	- Anil Gandas (Haryana) - Kalpana Vasudevan (Tamilnadu)
Prani Mitra Award (Life Time Animal Service)	- Dr. R. M. Kharb (Haryana) - S. Chinny Krishna (Tamilnadu) - Dr. S .R. Sundaram (Tamilnadu)
Prani Mitra Award (Animal Welfare Organization)	- World Sankirtan Tour Trust (Haryana) - Karuna Foundation Trust (Gujarat) - People for Animals (Gujarat)
Prani Mitra Award (Corporate)	- Tata Trust Foundation (Maharashtra)
Jeev Daya Award (Animal Welfare Organization)	- Dhyan Foundation (New Delhi) - Animal Aid Charitable Trust (Rajasthan)

457. 35 books for children and young adults across fiction, non-fiction and poetry genres in English and Hindi feature were included in the “Parag Honour List 2021”. Currently in its 2nd edition, this annual list by the Parag Initiative of Tata Trusts features best of children’s books published in the past one year. The list was launched by actor Soha Ali Khan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 35 Children’s books were included in the 2nd edition of “Parag Honour List for 2021” – launched by Soha Ali Khan
- It is an initiative of – Tata Trusts

458. On February 18, The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the “Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020” awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). WCCB getting the award twice in 3 years is a testimony of India's commitment towards ending wildlife crime. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WCCB – received the “Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020” – by UNEP
- HQs of WCCB – New Delhi | Additional Director – Tilotama Varma
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen



459. Bharat Biotech has been presented the “Genome Valley Excellence Award for 2021” for its breakthrough, pioneering research, development and commercialisation of vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin. A prestigious award is an integral part of 18th edition of ‘BioAsia 2021’ virtually held on February 22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharat Biotech – selected for the “Genome Valley Excellence Award for 2021”
- 18th edition of ‘BioAsia 2021’ virtually held on February 22
- [HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella](#)

460. On February 17, TRIFED has won a collective award of Excellence in PSU under ‘Organisational Award Category’ in the 19th Global edition and the 4th India Edition of World Leadership Congress and Awards 2021. Pravir Krishna (MD of TRIFED) has won 4 awards one in Individual Category for his exemplary and 3 for his inspirational leadership – CEO of the year, Brand Builder of the Year & Entrepreneur of the Year. He was also named as one of the ‘50 Most Influential Indian 2020’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th Global edition & 4th India edition of “World Leadership Congress and Awards” – held on Feb 17
- TRIFED – won a collective award of Excellence in PSU under ‘Organisational Award Category’
- Pravir Krishna won 3 Awards: “CEO of the year” + “Brand Builder of the Year” + “Entrepreneur of the Year”
- Pravir Krishna – also named as one of the ‘50 Most Influential Indian 2020’
- [TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs \(Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand\)](#)
- [HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna](#)

461. On February 17, Hyderabad is the only city from India to have been recognised as a “2020 Tree City of the World” by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests. Most of the cities were from the US, UK, Canada, Australia among other countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hyderabad – the only city from India to have been recognised as a “2020 Tree City of the World”
- [HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945](#)
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

462. On February 18, The International Press Institute’s Indian National Committee has named Ritika Chopra, Senior Assistant Editor, as the recipient of “IPI’s India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2020”. This is the 5th IPI India award for The Indian Express or its journalists since it was launched in 2003. The selection for the award was made by a jury of editors headed by Soli Sorabjee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ritika Chopra – recipient of the 5th edition of “IPI’s India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2020”
- Ritika Chopra – a Senior Assistant Editor at The Indian Express



Appointments & Resignations

463. On February 16, Kiran Bedi has been removed as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry by President Ram Nath Kovind. Telangana Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan has been given additional charge of the Union Territory until regular arrangements are made. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Bedi – removed as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry
- Tamilsai Soundararajan – given additional charge of Puducherry
- Puducherry: CM – Velu Narayanasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

464. On February 17, India's Usha Rao-Monari, a leading investment professional, has been appointed by UN chief Antonio Guterres as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She succeeds Mourad Wahba of Egypt. Rao-Monari joins a growing list of women hailing from India who have been appointed to head key UN agencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Usha Rao-Monari – appointed as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

465. On February 15, Ajai Malhotra has become the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is the first Indian to receive this honour and privilege. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajai Malhotra – elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council (1st Indian)

466. Mohammad Younes Menfi has been selected as interim President of the 3-member Presidential Council of Libya and Abdul Hamid Dbeibah selected as interim Prime Minister of Libya. India's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti is chair of the U.N. Security Council's Libya Sanctions Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Younes Menfi – selected as interim President of the 3-member Presidential Council of Libya
- Abdul Hamid Dbeibah – selected as interim Prime Minister of Libya
- Libya – Tripoli – Libyan dinar



467. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has welcomed the decision of the Tokyo 2020 Executive Board to appoint seven-time Olympian Hashimoto Seiko as the new president of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hashimoto Seiko – appointed as the new President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach
- Mascots: Summer Olympics 2020 – Miraitowa | Summer Paralympics 2020 – Someity

468. On February 18, Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia has announced his resignation because of disagreements within his own team over the decision to arrest Nika Melia, chairman of the United National Movement opposition party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giorgi Gakharia – Prime Minister of Georgia – resigned from his post
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Georgian lari | President – Salome Zourabichvili

469. As on February 18, Senior officer of Indian Information Service N. Venudhar Reddy has taken over as Principal Director General of All India Radio News (AIRN). He belongs to the 1988 batch of IIS. Mr. Reddy has replaced Jaideep Bhatnagar who is now posted as Principal Director General of PIB from 1st March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Venudhar Reddy – took over as Principal Director General of All India Radio News (by replacing - Jaideep Bhatnagar)
- Jaideep Bhatnagar – posted as Principal Director General of PIB (from 1st March)
- HQs of AIRN – New Delhi | HQs of PIB – New Delhi

470. On February 18, Actor Darshan Toogudeepa has been appointed as the ambassador of Agriculture Department of Karnataka to popularise programmes meant for farmers' welfare. Darshan has agreed to work for the department without remuneration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Darshan Toogudeepa – appointed as the ambassador of Agriculture Department of Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala



Amount & Agreements

471. On February 16, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed an agreement with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to facilitate providing of various credit and other schemes of SIDBI to micro, small and medium enterprises in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + PHD Chamber of C&I = an agreement to facilitate credit schemes for MSMEs
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990
- HQs of PHD Chamber of C&I – New Delhi | Chairperson – Dr. Jayshree Periwal

472. On February 17, The government has decided to infuse Rs 1,500 Cr capital into state-owned Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) in FY 2021-22. The government doubled the authorised capital of the bank from Rs 10,000 Cr to Rs 20,000 Cr in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government decided to infuse Rs 1,500 Cr capital into Exim Bank
- Authorised capital of Exim Bank – Rs 20,000 Cr
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – TC Venkat Subramanian | CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

473. On February 17, Exim Bank has extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$15 million to the Republic of Sierra Leone for the purpose of expansion of the ongoing projects for rehabilitation of existing potable water facilities in 4 communities of Sierra Leone. With 5 other Lines of Credit, It reaches upto USD 168 million in Sierra Leone. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$15 million to Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leone – Freetown – Sierra Leonean leone | President – Julius Maada Bio
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – TC Venkat Subramanian | CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

474. On February 18, Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar has launched software applications for 5 All India Surveys which will be conducted by the Labour Bureau. The five all India surveys being undertaken by Labour Bureau are mentioned below. And the results of these surveys will be declared within 7-8 months. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Santosh Kumar Gangwar – launched software applications for 5 All India Surveys – conducted by Labour Bureau
- The 5 All India Surveys:
 - All India Survey on Migrant workers
 - All India Survey on Domestic Workers (DW)
 - All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals
 - All India Survey on Employment Generated in Transport Sector
 - All-India Quarterly Establishment- based Employment Survey
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

475. On February 17, A new “Britain Meets India” report prepared by Grant Thornton Bharat and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has found that the annual foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow from the UK to India has increased from \$898 million in 2015-16 to \$1,422 million in 2019-20. The report has identified 572 UK companies in India. In India, Maharashtra was the leading investment destination for UK companies followed by Haryana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Britain Meets India” report – by Grant Thornton Bharat + CII
- FDI inflow from the UK to India has increased – to \$1,422 million in 2019-20 (from \$898 million in 2015-16)
- Leading investment destination for UK companies – Maharashtra
- HQs of Grant Thornton Bharat – New Delhi | CEO – Vishesh C Chandiok
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

476. On February 18, Global warming is likely to increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040 or earlier and to 3 degrees Celsius by 2100, according to the latest report “Making Peace With Nature” by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Roughly two-thirds of global warming caused by greenhouse gases is due to carbon dioxide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Making Peace With Nature” report – by the UNEP
- Global warming: To increase to 1.5° C by 2040 or earlier & 3° C by 2100
- Paris Agreement target of limiting warming below – 2° C
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen



Acquisitions & Mergers

477. On February 17, The Tata group has signed an agreement to acquire 68% stake in online grocery platform BigBasket for about ₹9,500 Cr. Founded in 2011, BigBasket operates in 25 Indian cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata group – to acquire 68% stake (₹9,500 Cr) in online grocery platform “BigBasket”
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

478. On February 16, E-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer ‘Hospicash’ benefit by providing ‘Group SafeGuard’ insurance, a group insurance policy to its consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + ICICI Lombard = partnership to offer ‘Hospicash’ benefit or ‘Group SafeGuard’ insurance
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

479. On February 16, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed an MoU with GE Power Conversion to collaborate on Propulsion System Design. The GRSE is building and repairing wide range of commercial and naval vessels for the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE + GE Power Conversion = to collaborate on Propulsion System Design – for the Indian Navy
- GE Power Conversion’s Engineering Design Centre – Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- HQs of GE Power Conversion – Boston, Massachusetts, US | President and CEO – Azeez Mohammed

480. On February 16, Tata Communications has partnered with Google Cloud to drive cloud adoption in India. The partnership will enable organisations deploy and access Google Cloud services through Tata Communications’ IZO Managed Cloud platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Communications + Google Cloud = partnership to drive cloud adoption in India
- IZO Managed Cloud platform – belongs to Tata Communications
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai



481. On February 18, Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEPL) has signed an MoU with IIT Dhanbad (Indian School of Mines) to jointly carry out research and development on Coal Bed Methane (CBM) technologies. IIT (ISM) located at Dhanbad, Jharkhand, was founded in 1926. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EOGEPL (Mumbai) + IIT Dhanbad (Jharkhand) = an MoU for R&D in CBM Gas Exploration

482. On February 18, India and Nepal have signed an MoU for the reconstruction of 6 Secondary schools in Nepal at a total cost of NRs 518 million. The signing of the MoU took place at a ceremony for the reconstruction of Shree Kanti Bhairab Secondary School at Kageshwari Municipality, Kathmandu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = an MoU for the reconstruction of 6 Secondary schools in Nepal at a total cost of NRs 518 million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

483. On February 18, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed a pact with Greenstat Norway for setting up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H) including CCUS and Fuel Cells in cooperation with Indo-Norwegian Hydrogen Cluster companies / organizations. In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the government pledged to focus on generating hydrogen from green power sources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC + Greenstat Norway = signed a pact for setting up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

484. On February 18, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Higher Education Department (HED) have signed an MoU to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. JKEDI also signed an MoU with “WE HUB” to promote women entrepreneurship and startup culture. “WE HUB” is India's first and only state-led incubator of Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JKEDI + WE HUB = an MoU to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation – in Telangana and J&K
- ‘WE HUB’ – India's first and only state-led incubator of Telangana government
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

485. On February 18, The Uttar Pradesh government has signed an MoU with Swedish company IKEA, sealing an investment deal of Rs 5,500 Cr in the state to generate employment for thousands of people. IKEA will shell out Rs 850 Cr for the land purchase, which will accrue Rs 56 Cr revenue in the form of stamp duty, in Noida. IKEA started its first center in Hyderabad at a cost of Rs 700 Cr in 2016. IKEA plans to open a total of 25 centers in India by 2025 by investing Rs 10,500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + IKEA = an MoU for Rs 5,500 Cr investment to generate employment in the state
- IKEA plans to open a total of 25 centers in India by 2025 by investing Rs 10,500 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of IKEA – Delft, Netherlands | CEO – Jesper Brodin

486. On February 19, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India have signed an MoU to support the development, conduct and promotion of health research in India. These will focus on developing and testing new preventions, therapies and interventions that can help to solve major health concerns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation + CSIR = an MoU to promote health research in India
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- HQs of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Washington, US | CEO – Mark Suzman



Books & Authors

487. On February 18, The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria has launched a book “The Epic Battle of Longewala” authored by Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar at the IAF Museum at Palam. India is celebrating the 50th anniversary year of the country’s victory over Pakistan in 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Epic Battle of Longewala” book – authored by Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar
- The book was launched by – R K S Bhadauria

488. Rupa Publications has recently released Musician Louiz Banks's biography, “Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love” written by Ashis Ghatak. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love” book – authored by Ashis Ghatak

489. “Indian Economy’s Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead” is a book authored by Arun Kumar. A comprehensive and lucid book focuses on the crisis our economy is facing and the turmoil it is to pass through in the near future. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indian Economy’s Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead” book – authored by Arun Kumar



490. On February 15, The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has paid tributed to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, late Shri N. T. Rama Rao releasing a book, “Maverick Messiah”, a political biography of N T Rama Rao authored by senior journalist, Ramesh Kandula. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu – released a book “Maverick Messiah” – authored by Ramesh Kandula
- “Maverick Messiah” is a political biography of – N. T. Rama Rao (former CM of Andhra Pradesh)

491. Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book chronicling the history of CRPF since its raising in 1939. The book is titled “Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha (Nation First - The Golden Story of 82 Years)”. CRPF celebrated its first-ever Veterans Day on February 19 (3rd Friday of February). The book was compiled by historian Dr. Bhuwan Kumar Jha of Delhi University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah released a book titled “Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha” – chronicling CRPF’s history
- The book was compiled by – Dr. Bhuwan Kumar Jha
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari



Obituaries

492. On February 17, Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Captain Satish Sharma has passed away in Goa. He was 73. He was a Union Petroleum Minister (1993-1996) in the P.V. Narasimha Rao government. He had represented the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satish Sharma – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (Petroleum Minister during 1993-1996)

Science & Technology

493. On February 17, The ISRO and the Australian Space Agency have signed an amendment to the MoU for space cooperation which will build on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the 2 countries announced by PM Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO + Australia = signed an amendment to the MoU for space cooperation
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of ASA – Adelaide, South Australia | Agency Executive – Enrico Palermo



494. On February 17, An unmanned Russian “Progress MS-16 cargo ship” (also known as Progress 77) has docked at the International Space Station with a load of supplies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An unmanned Russian “Progress MS-16 cargo ship” (Progress 77) – docked at International Space Station
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

495. IIT Madras-incubated start-up Pi Beam has launched an electric two-wheeler called “PiMo” that can charge faster than a smartphone and comes with a range of 50 km. Priced at ₹30,000, PiMo does not require licence or registration and offers green and easy mobility on Indian roads. It offers the speed of 25 kmph. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pi Beam – launched an electric two-wheeler called “PiMo” that can charge faster than a smartphone
- Range of “PiMo” – 50 km | Speed – 25 kmph | Price – ₹30,000
- Pi Beam – is IIT Madras-incubated start-up

496. On February 15, A SpaceX ‘Falcon 9’ rocket has launched a new batch of 60 Starlink internet satellites into orbit but failed to stick its landing on a floating platform at sea. The two-stage Falcon 9 booster, topped with the 60 broadband spacecraft, lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched a new batch of 60 Starlink internet satellites into orbit – through ‘Falcon 9’ rocket
- [HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002](#)

497. On February 19, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed “Helina” and “Dhruvastra” Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) in the desert. Helina is the Army variant and Dhruvastra is the Air Force variant of the ALH. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed “Helina” and “Dhruvastra” ATGM from ALH
- ATGM – Anti-Tank Guided Missiles | ALH – Advanced Light Helicopter
- Helina – Army variant of ALH | Dhruvastra – Air Force variant of ALH
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

498. On February 18, The Directorate of Cashew Research, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has released a new variety of dwarf cashew named as “Netra Vaman” at Puttur, Karnataka. Its each nut is small in size and is weighed between 5.5 gm to 6 gm. A brochure on “ICAR-DCR Technologies for Commercialisation” was released. A book “Geru-Yettharakke Yeru” written by progressive cashew grower Kadamajalu Subhash Rai was also released on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- A new variety of dwarf cashew named as “Netra Vaman” was released at Puttur, Karnataka
- “Geru-Yettharakke Yeru” book – written by Kadamajalu Subhash Rai
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

499. On February 19, The Israel Missile Defense Organization along with the US, has begun developing a long-range ballistic missile interceptor, named “Arrow-4”. Arrow-4 will be the next generation of Israel's multi-layered defence doctrine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel + US = commenced the development of the “Arrow-4” - a long-range ballistic missile interceptor
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

500. On February 17, The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to introduce measures for strengthening Child Protection set-up to ensure best interest of children. The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the proposal of MoWCD to amend “Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015”
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)





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