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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

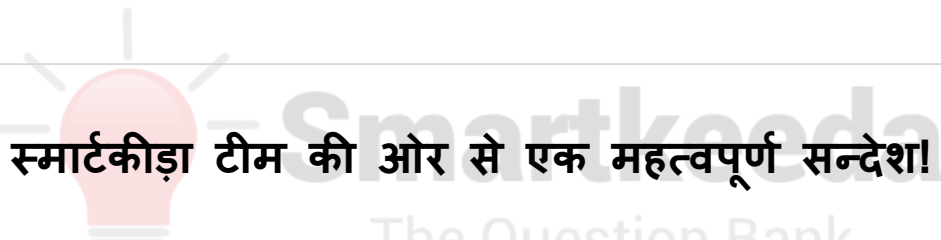
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

**501.** On February 19, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated POWERGRID's 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur-Thrissur High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project at Madakkathara, Kerala. The cost of Pugalur(TN)-Thrissur(Kerala) HVDC system is ₹5,070 Cr. The state-of-the-art Voltage Source Converter (VSC) technology has been brought to India for the first time by POWERGRID through this project. Narendra Modi has also inaugurated Kasaragod Solar Power Project & Water Treatment Plant. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Modi – inaugurated POWERGRID's 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur-Thrissur High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project
- It was inaugurated – at Madakkathara, Kerala | Cost – ₹5,070 Cr
- Technology used in this project – “VSC” - Voltage Source Converter
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**502.** On February 19, Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, has launched the “Go Electric” Campaign to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India. To implement the ‘Go Electric’ campaign at National and State level, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will extend technical support to the State Designated Agencies (SDAs). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched the “Go Electric” Campaign to spread awareness about EVs & Electric cooking
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**503.** Tata Technologies and Bihar government have decided to jointly spend Rs 2,188 Cr in the next one year to upgrade 60 government-owned industrial training institutes (ITIs) into the Centre of Excellence (CoE) to impart advance training to the state youths. The work of upgrading 60 ITIs under Industry 4.0 will begin from April 1 this year and will be completed latest by March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bihar + Tata Technologies = to jointly spend Rs 2,188 Cr to upgrade 60 ITIs into the Centre of Excellence (CoE)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan
- HQs of Tata Technologies – Singapore | CEO – Warren Harris

**504.** After staying low during Indian Premier League (IPL 2020) season, Chinese phone brand Vivo is back as the title sponsor for the IPL 2021 which is the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of IPL scheduled to be held between April 11 and June 6, 2021. Fantasy sports platform Dream11 became the title sponsor for IPL2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Title sponsor of the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of “IPL 2021” – Vivo (Title sponsor for IPL2020 - Dream11)
- HQs of Vivo – Dongguan, China | CEO – Shen Wei
- Chairman of IPL – Brijesh Patel | Founded in – 2008



**505.** The State-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has created a record of sorts by going into production of iron ore from two mines which were allocated recently by the Ministry of Mines. The two mines, Jiling-Langalota and Guali iron ore blocks are in Keonjhar district of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha MC – created a record of sorts by going into production of iron ore from two mines
- Jiling-Langalota & Guali iron ore blocks – located in Keonjhar, Odisha
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**506.** On February 17, Kings XI Punjab has been renamed as Punjab Kings ahead of the 2021 IPL auction in Chennai. A new logo was also unveiled. They finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 2020 edition, held in the UAE. The next IPL is expected to start in April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Kings XI Punjab” – renamed as “Punjab Kings” ahead of the 2021 IPL auction in Chennai
- [Chairman of IPL – Brijesh Patel | Founded in – 2008](#)

**507.** On February 17, Odisha has announced a Rs 200-Cr package for the development of the 16<sup>th</sup> century shrine of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of western Odisha. The SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives) project will be implemented during the 2021-22 fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha announced Rs 200-Cr package to develop the 16<sup>th</sup> century’s Maa Samaleswari Temple
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**508.** On February 20, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the “Atal Paryavaran Bhavan” at Lakshadweep. It is Lakshadweep forest department's headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar – inaugurated the “Atal Paryavaran Bhavan” at Lakshadweep
- [Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma](#)

**509.** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram and a proposal to that effect would be sent to the Centre. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Hoshangabad’ city in Madhya Pradesh – would be renamed as ‘Narmadapuram’
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**510.** Ministry of Culture & Tourism has organised a 3-day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop in Darjeeling from February 22 to 24, 2021 to enrich the hospitality skills of the Homestay owners of the region and to ensure a better experience for the tourists. Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the workshop. Total 725 Homestay Owners from Darjeeling, Kalimpong and foothills of Dooars participated in this workshop. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- A 3-day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop – held in Darjeeling, West Bengal
- It was inaugurated by – Prahlad Singh Patel

**511.** On February 19, The Punjab Cabinet has approved implementation of mission 'Lal Laker' aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state under the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab Cabinet – approved implementation of mission 'Lal Laker'
- "SVAMITVA" scheme – of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**512.** On February 23, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan called "Bima Jyoti". The plan offers a combination of protection and savings. The minimum sum assured is Rs 1 lakh, with no upper limit. The minimum entry age for Bima Jyoti is 90 days, while the maximum is 60 years. The policy guaranteed addition at the rate of Rs 50 per 1,000 basic sum assured (or 5%) at the end of each policy year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC – launched "Bima Jyoti" a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 1 lakh (no upper limit) | Age criteria – 90 days to 60 years
- Guaranteed addition – 5% at the end of each policy year
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M R Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956

**513.** On February 23, Following SEBI's directions on changes in multicap schemes, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (KAMAC) has renamed its "Kotak Standard Multicap Fund" as "Kotak Flexicap Fund". Multicap funds are required to invest at least 25% of their corpus in large, mid and small cap stocks each. Flexicap funds are required to have a minimum of 65% of their assets in equity and equity-related investments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Kotak Standard Multicap Fund" renamed as "Kotak Flexicap Fund"
- Multicap funds are required to invest at least 25% | Flexicap funds are required to have at least 65%
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

**514.** On February 23, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 with a focus on children aged less than 2 years and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic. IMI 3.0 will have 2 rounds starting from February 22 and March 22. Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched “Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0”
- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**515.** On February 20, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala), the 15<sup>th</sup> university in the State & India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Digital University, has formally come into being at Technocity in Mangalapuram on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has inaugurated the university. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Digital University Kerala – the 15<sup>th</sup> university in the State & India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Digital University – in Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**516.** On February 22, Indian government has approved 8 Toy Manufacturing Clusters at a cost of Rs 2,300 Cr to boost India’s traditional toys industry. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of MSME will jointly develop toy clusters under existing schemes such as the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian government – approved 8 Toy Manufacturing Clusters at a cost of Rs 2,300 Cr
- DPIIT + Ministry of MSME – to jointly develop toy clusters under “SFURTI” scheme
- SFURTI – Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

**517.** Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has launched e-sanjeevani telemedicine facility, Ashwin portal, the Wonder App and referral transport tracking system under ‘Atmanirbhar’ (self-reliant) Bihar’s 7 resolutions ‘Satnischay Part 2’. An MoU was also signed between self-help group ‘Jeevika’ and Bihar state health department for setting up ‘Jeevika Didi ke Rasoi’ in sub-divisional hospitals. ‘Wonder App’ will benefit pregnant women while the ‘Ashwin portal’ will ensure timely payment to Asha workers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bihar launched ‘e-sanjeevani’ Telemedicine Facility, Ashwin portal, Wonder App & Referral Transport Tracking System
- ‘Jeevika’ SHG + Bihar = an MoU to set up ‘Jeevika Didi ke Rasoi’ in sub-divisional hospitals
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**518.** Uttarakhand government has passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to daughters and wives of male landowners by amending the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttarakhand – passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to daughters and wives of male landowners
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya





**519.** Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detail study. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chandigarh – became the 1<sup>st</sup> state or UT in India to launch “Carbon Watch” - a mobile application

**520.** On February 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of “Hunar Haat” that will bring together indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across India at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has organised the ‘Hunar Haat’ on the theme of “Vocal for Local” from February 20 to March 1 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> edition of “Hunar Haat” – in New Delhi
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs | Theme – “Vocal for Local”

**521.** On February 22, Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari has presented the budget in the Assembly for 2021-22 with an outlay of ₹1,70,000 Cr which is about 26% higher than that of 2020-21 (revised estimate). The Budget was presented through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). A substantial ₹29,063 Cr is allocated under the tribal and the SC sub-components. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – presented the budget in the Assembly for 2021-22 with an outlay of ₹1,70,000 Cr
- The Budget was presented through – National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**522.** On February 22, Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, in the presence of the chief minister Yogi Adityanath has presented a Rs 5,50,270.78 Cr budget for 2021-22 in the state Assembly. The budget includes new schemes of Rs 27,598.40 Cr. This is the Adityanath government’s first paperless budget. The state government has announced “Mukhyamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojana” with an outlay of Rs 100 Cr to provide self-employment to migrant workers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – presented a Rs 5,50,270.78 Cr budget for 2021-22 in the state Assembly
- Uttar Pradesh – announced “Mukhyamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojana” | Outlay – Rs 100 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**523.** On February 22, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of DRDO at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh. The facility is created by Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) - a DRDO laboratory. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of DRDO – at Pilkhuwa, UP
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



**524.** On February 19, Odisha chapter of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) has organised the 17<sup>th</sup> India International Mega Trade Fair at Janata Maidan, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The 11-day long home and Decor exhibition will offer a wide range of homes, finance and allied requirements. This year the partner country for the fair is Bangladesh and focus countries are Afghanistan and Iran. Bihar is the partner state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CREDAI – organised the 17<sup>th</sup> India International Mega Trade Fair – in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Partner country – Bangladesh | Partner state – Bihar | Focus countries – Afghanistan & Iran
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**525.** On February 22, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched the operational guidelines for Integration of “NAFLD” (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease) with NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke). Researchers have found NAFLD in 40 to 80% of people who have type 2 diabetes and in 30 to 90% of people who are obese. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Health Ministry – launched the operational guidelines for Integration of “NAFLD” (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**526.** On February 22, PM Narendra Modi has visited Assam and West Bengal on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021. He has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Dhemaji Engineering College and Sualkuchi Engineering College in Assam. He has dedicated to the nation and inaugurated several railway projects in Hooghly, West Bengal. He has dedicated to the nation the INDMAX Unit at Indian Oil’s Bongaigaon Refinery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for Dhemaji Engineering College & Sualkuchi Engineering College – in Assam
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation the “INDMAX Unit” of Indian Oil – at Bongaigaon, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**527.** A group of 6 ‘Black Storks’ (Ciconia nigra), most likely to be passage migrants, were photographed recently in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The presence of the migratory birds has been very rarely recorded in the Nilgiris. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A group of 6 ‘Black Storks’ (Ciconia nigra) – captured in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**528.** Uttar Pradesh will export 20 tonnes of “Buddha Rice”, popularly known as “Kala Namak” Rice to Singapore by the end of March, 2021. It is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice in India. It is also known as “Buddha ka Mahaprasad” (an offering to Lord Buddha). The Uttar Pradesh Government has declared it as the One District One Product (ODOP) of Siddharth Nagar. Meanwhile, a “Kala Namak Rice festival” will be held in the state in near future. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh will export 20 tonnes of “Buddha Rice” or “Kala Namak” Rice to Singapore
- ODOF of Siddharth Nagar (UP) – Kala Namak
- “Kala Namak Rice festival” – to be held in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**529.** February 23, The Horticulture Department (Government of Karnataka), in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB), is setting up a ‘Flower Processing Centre’ to convert unsold flowers into various useful products. Karnataka, which has 18,000 hectares of land under flower cultivation, accounts for 14% of India’s total area under flower production. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka + IFAB = setting up a ‘Flower Processing Centre’ to convert unsold flowers into various useful products
- Karnataka – accounts for 14% of India’s total area under flower production
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**530.** February 23, India’s biggest Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)-Mavala is building Mumbai Coastal Road project worth Rs 12,721 Cr. India’s first Undersea Tunnel will be built in Mumbai by 2023. The length of the tunnel is 2.07 Km from Priyadarshi Park to Chhoti Chowpatty at Marine Drive. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India’s biggest Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) – Mavala
- India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Undersea Tunnel – to be built in Mumbai by 2023 | Length – 2.07 Km
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**531.** Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Skill University of Eastern India in Darrang district, aimed at imparting training to over 10,000 students in 12 disciplines. The varsity would be built with a financial outlay of ₹1,000 Cr. It is expected to be completed by 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sarbananda Sonowal – laid the foundation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Skill University of Eastern India in Darrang, Assam
- Financial outlay – ₹1,000 Cr | It is expected to be completed – by 2026
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**532.** On February 23, Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister O Panneerselvam presented the ‘State Interim Budget’ for the year 2021-22 at Chennai’s Kalaivanar Arangam. This was the 11<sup>th</sup> budget speech for OPS under the AIADMK government. The state’s fiscal deficit is expected to be 4.99%. The revenue has been projected at Rs 1,80,700.62 Cr. Tamil Nadu is expected to register a positive GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) growth of 2.02% in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – presented the ‘State Interim Budget’ for the year 2021-22 at Chennai’s Kalaivanar Arangam
- The state’s expected fiscal deficit – 4.99% | Expected GSDP – 2.02% | Expected revenue – Rs 1,80,700.62 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**533.** On February 20, A state-of-the-art Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy will be set up in Port Blair. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) will build this ship simulator. It has already built 6 simulators of various types for the defence forces. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa Shipyard – to set up Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy – in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

## **International Affairs**

**534.** Bangladesh Supreme Court has inaugurated 'Amar Vasha' software to translate court orders and judgments from English into Bangla. The software, developed by Ek Step Foundation of India, is being used by India's Supreme Court and 18 high courts, to translate judgments into Indic languages. 'Ekushey' this year has been special for Bangladesh and India. 'Ekushey' is celebrated on February 21 as international mother language day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh Supreme Court – inaugurated 'Amar Vasha' software to translate court orders
- The software is developed by – Ek Step Foundation of India
- February 21 – 'Ekushey' or 'Amor Ekushey' – celebrated in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**535.** India and Maldives have signed agreements on a wide range of domains including fish processing, public broadcasting, sustainable urban development, road infrastructure and housing. The MoU intends to facilitate collaboration and capacity building in the field of public broadcasting. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Maldives = an MoU on a wide range of domains including fish processing & public broadcasting
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**536.** Russia has registered the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named "H5N8" being passed to humans from birds and has reported the matter to the World Health Organization (WHO). Outbreaks of the H5N8 strain have been reported in Russia, Europe, China, the Middle East and North Africa in recent months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – registered the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named "H5N8" human infection
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



**537.** On 19 February, the US has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement. The USA had withdrawn from the agreement in 2020. Under the Paris agreement, countries are expected to enhance their commitments to curb Greenhouse Gas Emissions every 5 years. The goals of the global pact are to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The USA has been the biggest historical polluter lying at 2nd place now after China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – officially rejoined the Paris Agreement (withdrew in 2020)
- Goal: To limit global warming to well below 2°C
- Top Climate Polluters: 1st China | 2nd – US | 3rd – EU nations | 4th – India
- Paris Climate Agreement was signed in – 2015 | Aim – to reduce pollution by 2030
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

**538.** India is likely to file an appeal against the \$1.4 billion ‘International Arbitration Award’ won by Cairn Energy in a tax dispute. Cairn has indicated it could seize overseas assets such as aircraft and ships if New Delhi fails to comply with the arbitration award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to file an appeal against the \$1.4 billion ‘International Arbitration Award’ won by Cairn Energy
- HQs of Cairn Energy – Edinburgh, UK | CEO – Simon Thomson

**539.** Women in Saudi Arabia can now take up arms and enter the military, the latest profession in the kingdom to open up to female recruits. The plan to allow women into the military was first announced in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saudi Arabia – opened up the Armed Forces for Women
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

**540.** February 23, Bangladesh has become the first country to ban ketoprofen a painkiller used widely to treat cattle or any of the drugs now known to be toxic to vulture. Ornithologists said this is a landmark initiative to save the small remaining population of Asia's globally threatened vultures. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh became the 1<sup>st</sup> country to ban ‘Ketoprofen’ - a painkiller used widely to treat cattle
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**541.** Israel has launched the “Green pass” scheme for people with vaccination certificate as it reopened its economy. Nearly half of Israelis have received the first of two required doses. The passes are valid for 6 months from the time of full vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Israel – launched the “Green pass” scheme for people with vaccination certificate
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



**542.** On February 20, Exim Bank has extended a line of credit (LOC) worth \$50 million to the Republic of Maldives for financing of defence projects. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has handed over 1,00,000 additional doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the Foreign Minister and Health Minister of Maldives, Kerafa Naseem. India had also provided 1,00,000 doses of Covishield vaccine in January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – handed over 1,00,000 additional doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Maldives
- Exim Bank – extended an LOC worth \$50 million to Maldives to finance defence projects
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**543.** As on February 21, In the Union Budget 2020, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the revised Income Tax slabs for FY 2020-21 according to which employees with annual income less than 2.5 lakhs are exempted from paying Tax. Those whose income is above 2.5 lakh will have to pay Tax as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Income Tax Slab 2020-21:

Income Tax Slabs	New Tax rate (2020-21)	Earlier tax rate
0-Rs 2.5 lakh	Exempt	Exempt
Rs 2.5 lakh - Rs 5 lakh	5%	5%
Rs. 5 lakh - Rs 7.5 lakh	10%	20%
Rs 7.5 lakh - Rs 10 lakh	15%	20%
Rs 10 lakh - Rs 12.5 lakh	20%	30%
Rs 12.5 lakh - Rs 15 lakh	25%	30%
Rs 15 lakh and above	30% (No change)	30%

**544.** On February 18, Jammu and Kashmir has formally launched “e-Kuber” payments system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All types of government payments including employee’s salaries and pensioner’s pensions will be done through RBI’s “e-Kuber”. J&K is the first Union Territory to implement version 2.9 of “e-Kuber” payments system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J&K – launched “e-Kuber” payments system of RBI
- J & K – the 1<sup>st</sup> UT to implement version 2.9 of “e-Kuber” payments system
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935



**545.** On February 23, The RBI has brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview. The bank, established 5 years before Sikkim acceded to India in 1973, provides treasury operations for the state government. It only operates within Sikkim and is wholly-owned by the state government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of State Bank of Sikkim – Gangtok | Chairman – Dal Bahadur Gurung

**546.** India government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have signed a loan agreement for a \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in Assam. The total estimated cost of the project is \$365 million, of which \$304 million will be financed by the AIIB & it has a 5-year grace period and a maturity of 24 years. While the rest of will be financed by Assam state government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Gov + AIIB = a loan agreement for a \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project
- Total estimated cost of the project = \$365 million (\$304 million by AIIB + \$61 million by state gov)
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



## Defence Affairs

**547.** India has sent INS Pralaya to Abu Dhabi to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21) and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21) from February 20 to 25. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Pralaya – participated in the “NAVDEX 21” & “IDEX 21” being held in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## Schemes & Initiatives

**548.** On 19 February, The Department of Women and Child Development (DoWCD) has given permission for 48 anganwadis in Kerala to construct buildings under the Smart Anganwadi scheme. Rs 9 Cr has been granted for this purpose. The government decided to build ‘Smart Anganwadis’ in a phased manner. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DoWCD – gave permission to construct 48 anganwadis in Kerala under ‘Smart Anganwadi scheme’
- Rs 9 Cr has been granted for this purpose
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan





**549.** On February 23, Andhra Pradesh has launched a new welfare scheme, “Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) Nestam”. The scheme has been allocated Rs 670 Cr and for the next 3 years and beneficiaries will be provided Rs 15,000 as financial assistance per annum. It will be implemented in November and is expected to benefit 6 lakh women. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – launched a new welfare scheme, “EBCs Nestam”
- Financial assistance to be provided under this scheme – Rs 15,000 / year | Total allocation – Rs 670 Cr
- Other schemes in Andhra Pradesh:
  - Matsyakara Bharosa, Jaganna Vidya Kanuka, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Vahana Mitra
  - Kapu Nestham, YSR Aasara, Jaganna Chedodu, Nethanna Nestham, Amma Vodi
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

## **Sports & Games**

**550.** Manika Batra has won women’s singles title in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Senior National Table Tennis Championships after beating Reeth Rishya at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manika Batra – won women’s singles title in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Senior National Table Tennis Championships

**551.** South-African all-rounder Chris Morris has become the costliest player in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) auction when Rajasthan Royals snapped him up for Rs 16.25 Cr. Earlier, Yuvraj Singh was the costliest-ever buy in auction history as he was bought for Rs 16 Cr by Delhi Daredevils in IPL 2015. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chris Morris (South Africa) – became the costliest player in the history of IPL auction
- He was brought by – Rajasthan Royals – for Rs 16.25 Cr

**552.** On February 21, Novak Djokovic has won men’s single title of “Australian Open 2021” by beating Daniil Medvedev. It was his 9<sup>th</sup> title in Melbourne, taking his Grand Slam tally to 18. In women's singles final, Naomi Osaka won her second “Australian Open” title, beating Jennifer Brady. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Novak Djokovic (Serbia - Tennis) – won men’s single title of “Australian Open 2021” | Total Grand Slams – 18
- Naomi Osaka (Japan - Tennis) – won women’s single title of “Australian Open 2021” | Total Grand Slams – 18
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar



**553.** Russian qualifier Aslan Karatsev has become the first man in the Open era (since 2000) to reach a Grand Slam semi-final on debut. The 27-year-old's dream run continued with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win against the Bulgarian on Rod Laver Arena. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aslan Karatsev ([Russia-Tennis](#)) – became the 1<sup>st</sup> man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam semi-final on debut
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

**554.** Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju have announced that Karnataka will be the host state for the 2<sup>nd</sup> “Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021”, scheduled later this year. KIUG is the largest University Games in India. The games will be hosted by Bengaluru's JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> “Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021” – will be hosted by Bangalore, Karnataka
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – BS Yediyurappa](#) | [Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

**555.** On February 22, Indian women boxers have secured at an overall 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 12 medals in the 30<sup>th</sup> “Adriatic Pearl - Youth International Boxing Tournament” in Budva, Montenegro. Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) have fetched 2 more Gold medals taking the total to 5 (Other 3 - Alfiya Pathan, Thokchom Sanamacha Chanu, Vinka). Vinka has received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament award. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 30<sup>th</sup> “Adriatic Pearl - Youth International Boxing Tournament” in Budva, Montenegro
- Vinka – received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament award
- India – overall 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 12 medals (5 Gold medals)

**556.** Ankita Raina, partnering with Russia’s Kamilla Rakhimova, has captured her maiden “WTA 250 Doubles Title”, beating Anna Blinkova and Anastasia Potapova of Russia. Ankita will become only the second player to crack the doubles top-100 since Sania Mirza. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ankita Raina ([India-Tennis](#)) + Kamilla Rakhimova ([Russia -Tennis](#)) = won the “WTA 250 Doubles Title”
- The final of Phillip Island Trophy Tennis Tournament was held – at Melbourne, Australia

**557.** Veteran Sri Lanka opener Upul Tharanga has announced his retirement from international cricket after a career spanning 15 years. He last represented the national team during its tour of South Africa in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Upul Tharanga ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retirement – from International Cricket



## Important Days & Dates

**558.** On February 20, PM Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on their statehood days and heaped praise on their culture and traditions. Both states were created on this day in 1987 following the 53<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of the Indian Constitution in 1986. Arunachal Pradesh was formerly known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) and was part of Assam until it was made a union territory in 1972 and a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 20 – 35<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram (created in 1987)
- Arunachal Pradesh – was formerly known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) – a part of Assam
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**559.** Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Kingdom, was born on February 19, 1630, a day which is celebrated as “Shivaji Jayanti” in India, particularly in Maharashtra. This year marks his 391<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary. The Maharashtra government has declared “Shivaji Jayanti” to be a public holiday in the state. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 19 – “Shivaji Jayanti” in India (391<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**560.** The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of February, (February 20 this year) for raising awareness on their importance and plight. It's high time to create awareness on saving pangolins from extinction. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 20 – “World Pangolin Day” (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of February)

**561.** On February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries celebrate “World Thinking Day”. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), along with Girl Scouts of the USA and the other WAGGGS member organizations, have celebrated World Thinking Day since 1926. This year, the theme is “Peacebuilding”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 22 – “World Thinking Day” – celebrated by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries
- Theme – “Peacebuilding”

**562.** International Mother Language Day is observed on 21 February to spread awareness about the importance of linguistic, cultural diversity and multilingualism since 2000. The Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the UNESCO in November 1999. This year, the theme is “Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 21 – “International Mother Language Day” – by the UNESCO (since 2000)
- Theme – “Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society”



## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**563.** On February 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog via video conferencing. In his address, PM stated that the foundation of India's development is that Centre & States work together and head towards a certain direction & make cooperative federalism even more meaningful. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**564.** “Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021” were held in Mumbai on February 20. The Awards honoured the best in film, television, music and the new addition, OTT. Sushmita Sen, Kiara Advani, Akshay Kumar, Nora Fatehi and Bobby Deol were among the recipients. The winners are mentioned category-wise as below. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021:

Award	Winner	Movie
Best Actor	Akshay Kumar	Laxmii
Best Actress	Deepika Padukone	Chhapaak
Critic's Best Actor	Sushant Singh Rajput	-
Critic's Best Actress	Kiara Advani	Guilty
Best Film	The Unsung Warrior	-
Best International Feature Film	Parasite	-
Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry	Dharemendra	-
Outstanding Contribution to Literature in Indian Cinema	Chetan Bhagat	-

## Appointments & Resignations

**565.** On February 17, Redcliffe Lifesciences has roped in Kareena Kapoor Khan as the brand ambassador for their fertility and pregnancy care brand, Crysta for a period of one year. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Kareena Kapoor Khan – brand ambassador of 'Crysta' - a fertility & pregnancy care brand of Redcliffe Lifesciences

**566.** On February 24, Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has picked up stake in edtech major Unacademy and signed up a strategic partnership with the company as its brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sachin Tendulkar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of “Unacademy”
- HQs of Unacademy – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-Founder and CEO – Gaurav Munjal

**567.** On February 22, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Woonchong Um as its Managing Director General. He will assume office immediately and report to ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. Um joined ADB in 1993. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Woonchong Um – appointed as Managing Director General of “ADB”
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**568.** President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy and his council of Ministers with effect from February 22. President’s Rule can be imposed on any state or Union Territory of India under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V. Narayanasamy – resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Puducherry
- President’s Rule can be imposed on any state or UT – under Article 356 of the IC
- Puducherry: CM – (Vacant) | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

**569.** On February 23, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected A. Sakthivel as its new President. He is currently chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council. He has replaced S K Saraf. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A. Sakthivel – appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)
- HQs of FIEO – New Delhi | President – A. Sakthivel

**570.** On February 24, Irakli Garibashvili is elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia. Former PM Giorgi Gakharia has announced his resignation because of disagreements within his own team over the decision to arrest Nika Melia. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Irakli Garibashvili – elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Georgian lari | President – Salome Zourabichvili | PM – Irakli Garibashvili



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**571.** Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have for the first time prepared a report on the two-way mass migration of the blue earthworms in Meghalaya. The blue earthworms migrate twice annually - uphill in spring and downhill in autumn on inclines of up to 80-85 degrees. The study co-authored with Ms. Kharkongor was published in the latest issue of the journal, "Records of the Zoological Survey of India. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ZSI – prepared a report on the two-way mass migration of the blue earthworms in Meghalaya
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**572.** On February 22, According to EY (Ernst & Young) India report titled "Impact of IBOR transition on NBFCs in India", NBFCs in India need to plan for an effective Inter Bank Offered Rate (IBOR) transition, as majority of London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) are likely to be phased out by December 2021. LIBOR is the benchmark interest rate used by global banks to lend to one another. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "Impact of IBOR transition on NBFCs in India" report – released by EY India
- IBOR – Inter Bank Offered Rate | LIBOR – London Interbank Offered Rate
- HQs of EY India – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajiv Memani

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**573.** On February 22, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of shares of Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) by Panatone Finvest Ltd. The Government of India looks to divest its 26.12% equity stake in TCL. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 30 December 2020 approved sale of stake in TCL. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CCI – approved acquisition of 26.12% shares of TCL – by Panatone Finvest Ltd
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan
- HQs of Panatone Finvest Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra

**574.** On February 23, NTPC Ltd has executed share purchase agreements with GAIL (India) Ltd for purchase of GAIL's share (25.51%) in Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt Ltd (RGPPL) and sale of NTPC's share (14.82%) in Konkan LNG Ltd (KLL). RGPPL was incorporated on July 8, 2005, and is promoted by NTPC Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NTPC – to purchase 25.51% share of GAIL (India) Ltd – in Ratnagiri Gas & Power (Maharashtra)
- NTPC – to sell its 14.82% share – in Konkan LNG Ltd (Maharashtra)
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**575.** On February 19, Amazon India has signed an MoU with the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across its growing operations network in India. Amazon's global vision is to hire 25,000 military veterans by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Amazon India + DGR = an MoU to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across India
- Amazon's Global Vision: To hire 25,000 military veterans by 2025
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

**576.** On February 20, The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has signed 2 MoUs with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) to make Jammu plastic-free. Both have the fundamental basis of door-to-door garbage collection. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Jammu MC + UNDP + IPCA = 2 MoUs to make Jammu plastic-free
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of IPCA – New Delhi | Director – Ashish Jain | Founded in – 2001

**577.** Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India, from February 16. India and Ethiopia have signed 2 agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India + Ethiopia = signed 2 agreements related to visa facilitation & leather technology
- Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde

**578.** On February 22, Indian government, Government of Nagaland and the World Bank have signed a \$68 million project to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools with the help of "Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- World Bank + India + Nagaland = signed \$68 million 'Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching & Resources Project'
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant





**579.** On February 22, The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have signed an MoU to synergise their various programmes in the interest of export-oriented capture and culture of fisheries and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders. The MoU was signed by KS Srinivas, Chairman, MPEDA and Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director, NCDC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MPEDA + NCDC = an MoU for promotion of marine exports
- HQs of MPEDA – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – K S Srinivas
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | Managing Director – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

**580.** On February 22, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has signed an MoU with Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) to encourage research in the domestic power sector. They will further enhance the modeling capability backed with rich data-sets which can address the challenges of the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TERI + POSOCO = an MoU to encourage research in the domestic power sector
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur
- HQs of POSOCO – New Delhi | CMD – K. V. S. Baba

**581.** On February 22, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has entered into an agreement with Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) for faster and customised automated access to data, through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS). The contract period of the MoU is 1 year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIL + CRIS = an agreement for faster and customised automated access to data through 'FOIS'
- FOIS – Freight Operations Information System
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal
- HQs of CRIS – New Delhi | GM – Rajesh Gupta

**582.** On February 23, Dairytech startup Stellapps has signed a pact with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to digitise milk procurement. Through this tie-up with IPPB, Stellapps aims to bring to the financial mainstream dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Bihar and Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Stellapps + IPPB = a tie-up to digitise milk procurement
- Stellapps – IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup | HQs of Stellapps – Bangalore, Karnataka
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1<sup>st</sup> Sep, 2018



## Books & Authors

**583.** “They Found What/They Made What”, published by Hachette, is written by fantasy and science-fiction author Shweta Taneja. The book will educate children about the daring discoveries and ingenious inventions of India's brightest scientists. The book will be released on February 28. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “They Found What/They Made What” book – written by Shweta Taneja
- The book is published by – Hachette

**584.** On February 21, Noted educationist and leader of skilling India Dr Darlie O Koshy's new book titled “Runway to Skilled India” was unveiled at the India Craft Week being held at Bikaner House, New Delhi. The book was unveiled by Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Runway to Skilled India” book – written by Dr Darlie O Koshy
- The book was unveiled by – Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe (President of ICCR)

**585.** On February 20, Corporate leader Srikanth Ram has amalgamated his 2 passions - Business and Cricket - in his book “Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards” on how to build high performance teams and a winning culture. The book is published by Becomesakespeare.com. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards” book – written by Srikanth Ram

**586.** On February 20, Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani has released a book “Agriculture Acts 2020” written by Justice A. K. Rajan, former judge of the Madras High Court. The book is about the 3 controversial Central farm laws, which triggered massive protests by farmers in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Agriculture Acts 2020” book – written by Justice A. K. Rajan (Former judge of Madras HC)
- The book is released by – K. Veeramani

**587.** On February 22, Veteran actor Kabir Bedi will tell the story of his life in his memoir “Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor” which will be published this April. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor” (memoir) – authored by Kabir Bedi

**588.** On February 22, The latest book “The Lost Soul” by Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk to be translated into English is a departure for the celebrated Polish author. It is a poetic story of a man who loses his soul in the daily rush and can only regain it in a very special way. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “The Lost Soul” book – authored by Olga Tokarczuk



**589.** On February 22, BJP leader Ram Madhav has launched his new book “Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture” in Kolkata at the event hosted by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture” book – authored by Ram Madhav

**590.** Penguin Random House India has announced the acquisition of a new book titled “India: A Scamster Born Every Minute” by award-winning journalist and author Snigdha Poonam. It will be released under Penguin's Viking imprint in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India: A Scamster Born Every Minute” book – authored by Snigdha Poonam
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**591.** “Bare Necessities: How to Live a Zero Waste Life”, published by Penguin, is written by environmentalist Sahar Mansoor and sustainability consultant Tim De Ridder. This book is a "one-stop guide" on how to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Bare Necessities: How to Live a Zero Waste Life” book – authored by Sahar Mansoor + Tim De Ridder
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

**592.** Considered one of the best contemporary fiction writers in Nagaland, Avinuo Kire is back with another collection of short stories titled “The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland”. The book is published by Delhi-based publishing house, Speaking Tiger Books. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland” book – authored by Avinuo Kire
- Publisher – Speaking Tiger Books

**593.** Bestselling Indian author, columnist and influencer Karan Puri launches his second book “#Me Too”. There are 6 stories in the book and each story is an eye-opener shedding light on a very pertinent issue which is ‘Me Too’ and sexual abuse. The book is published by Invincible publishers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “#Me Too” book – authored by Karan Puri



## Person in News

**594.** In just 8 hours and 40 minutes, 12-year-old Jiya Rai has created history by swimming from Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India by covering a distance of 36 km to spread awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Jiya Rai – created history by swimming 36 km in just 8 hours & 40 minutes to spread awareness about 'Autism'
- Route: From Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India

**595.** On February 20, The RBI has roped in Punjabi singer-rapper Viruss in its public awareness campaign on cyber fraud. The campaign also includes Viruss' popular 2017 Indie hit 'Bam Bhole'. This campaign is a part of RBI's campaign "RBI Kehta Hai" that RBI has been running on social media accounts since 2016. The Campaign was launched in 14 languages. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- RBI – roped in 'Viruss' - a Punjabi singer-rapper – for its public awareness campaign on cyber fraud
- It was under RBI's "RBI Kehta Hai" campaign (launched in - 2016)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**596.** An Indian-American named Dr Swati Mohan has first confirmed that the NASA's rover had survived a particularly tricky plunge into the Martian atmosphere. She is behind NASA's rover landing on Mars. The Cornell graduate has been associated with the 'Perseverance' Mars Mission since its inception and has been part of a number of other NASA missions over the years. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Dr Swati Mohan (Indian-American) – associated with NASA's 'Perseverance' Mars Mission
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

## Science & Technology

**597.** On February 20, A Space Station Supply Ship, Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule, named after the Black NASA mathematician S. S. Katherine Johnson, is launched to the International Space Station (ISS) by the NASA. Johnson had featured in the movie 'Hidden Figures'. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NASA launched – Northrop Grumman's Cygnus capsule - "Space Station Supply Ship"
- It is named after – S. S. Katherine Johnson (the Black NASA mathematician)

**598.** February 23, The DRDO has developed & conducted 2 successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-To-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) off the Odisha coast in Balasore. The launches were carried out from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- DRDO – conducted 2 successful launches of “VL-SRSAM” – off the Odisha coast in Balasore – from ITR, Chandipur
- VL-SRSAM – Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-To-Air Missile
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

**599.** On February 24, A new species of alpine plant named as “Cremanthodium Indicum” has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh’s Tawang district by a group of scientists of 3 institutes of India, according to a paper published in ‘Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A new species of Alpine Plant named as “Cremanthodium Indicum” – discovered in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Category – Critically Endangered Species
- The discovery is published in – ‘Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity’
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

**600.** On February 24, The UAE’s “Hope” probe has published its first image of Mars after the spacecraft successfully entered the Red Planet's orbit. The picture captured the largest volcano in the solar system - ‘Olympus Mons’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UAE’s “Hope” probe – published its first image of Mars
- ‘Olympus Mons’ – the largest volcano in the solar system (Mars)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan





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