



**Bipin Nambiar**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Shiraz Khan**  
(SBI Clerk 2018)



**Kuldeep Yadav**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Rajat Saxena**  
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



**Anupam Tyagi**  
(IBPS PO 2018)

FRIENDS!  
WE USED **TESTZONE**  
AND CRACKED BANK EXAMS  
बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए निश्चित  
रूप से सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक  
टेस्ट सीरीज

IT'S YOUR TURN NOW  
TAKE A **FREE** MOCK TEST



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank



**Testzone presents**  
**Full-Length Current Affairs Mock**  
**Test Series Month-wise**

**February**  
**MockDrill100**  
**PDF No. 7**

**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2021**

[Attempt Test No 7 Now!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

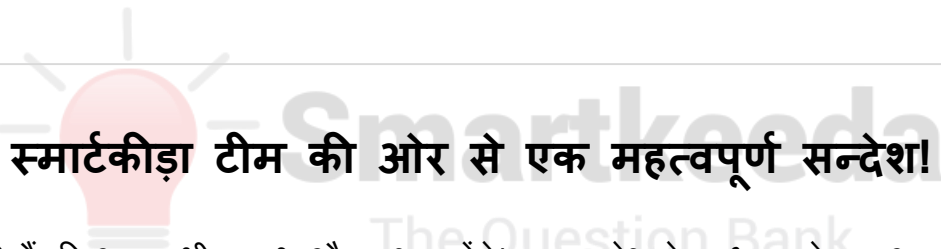
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of February 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

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

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



### स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

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

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

# **INDEX**

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	12
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	13
Defence Affairs.....	15
Schemes & Initiatives.....	15
Sports & Games.....	17
Important Days & Dates.....	18
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	19
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	20
Appointments & Resignations.....	22
Amount & Agreements.....	24
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	25
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	25
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	26
Books & Authors.....	28
Obituaries.....	29
Persons in News .....	30
Science & Technology.....	30



## **National & States Affairs**

**601.** On February 24, The Central government has launched “National Urban Digital Mission” (NUDM) to create a digital infrastructure for cities across India by 2024. Other initiatives - India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched at the event. India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX) has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Government – launched “NUDM” to create a digital infrastructure for cities across India by 2024
- NUDM – National Urban Digital Mission
- Other initiatives: IUDX, SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website & GMIS (Geospatial Management Information System)
- IISc + Smart Cities Mission = jointly developed “India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)”
- [National Smart Cities Mission – initiated in 2015](#)

**602.** On February 22, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has inaugurated the Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS), the Asia’s largest Cattle Park, in Salem, Tamil Nadu. The facility was constructed at Rs 1,023 Cr and spans 1,100 acres. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock & Animal Science (Asia’s largest Cattle Park) – in Salem, TN
- Area – 1,100 acres | Cost – Rs 1,023 Cr
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

**603.** On February 24, The Odisha Government has enhanced the amount of incentive for marrying a divyang person from ₹50,000 to ₹2,50,000 per eligible couple. A cash incentive award can be given to either of the spouses with benchmark disability if the other person marries a person with benchmark disability. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Odisha – enhanced the amount of incentive for marrying a divyang person – to ₹2,50,000 (from ₹50,000 earlier)
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**604.** The Bihar government has presented a Rs 2.18 lakh Cr budget with no new tax and a thrust on infrastructure and social sectors. The state has also proposed to create a separate department for skill development and entrepreneurship for running ITIs and polytechnic colleges. Women entrepreneurs will be given special incentives in the form of interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh. Rajgir, one of the state's most popular tourist destinations, has been chosen to set up an International Sports Stadium and Sports University. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bihar – presented a Rs 2.18 lakh Cr budget
- Bihar – proposed to create a separate department for skill development and entrepreneurship
- International Sports Stadium and Sports University – to be set up in Rajgir, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

**605.** The IRDAI has formed a committee to review its Information & Cyber security Guidelines due to exponential increase in cyber-attacks across the globe in the wake of Covid-19. The IRDAI had issued guidelines on cyber security in April 2017. The 14 member committee is to be headed by Janakiram (Chairman of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI – formed a committee to review its Information & Cyber security Guidelines (issued earlier in April 2017)
- The 14 member committee is to be headed by – Janakiram (Chairman of IDRBT)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**606.** On February 23, The SEBI has asked Stock Exchanges to impose pre-expiry margins to check near zero or negative prices of commodities. These margins will have to be levied 5 days ahead of the expiry date and they will increase by 5% every day. Alternate Risk Management Framework (ARMF) would be applicable in case of near zero or negative prices for any underlying commodities or futures. The new margin norms will be effective from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – asked Stock Exchanges to impose pre-expiry margins to check near zero or negative prices of commodities
- The new margin norms will be effective from – April 1, 2021
- A tool applicable by SEBI for this is: ARMF - Alternate Risk Management Framework
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**607.** PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the extension of Kolkata Metro's North-South Line from Noapara to Dakshineswar from a programme in the Hooghly district of Kolkata. The inauguration will help connect thousands of people in the 4.1 km stretch. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the extension of Kolkata Metro's North-South Line – from Noapara to Dakshineswar
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**608.** On February 25, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually addressed the inaugural session of 'National Consultation on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India'. The 2-day long Manthan on Bamboo sector is jointly organized by National Bamboo Mission (NBM), NITI Aayog and Invest India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – addressed the 'National Consultation on Opportunities & Challenges for Bamboo in India'
- It was organized by = NBM + NITI Aayog + Invest India
- [National Bamboo Mission \(NBM\) was launched in – 2006](#)

**609.** On February 26, The City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform was launched by Durga Shanker Mishra (Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) to foster innovation in Urban Ecosystem. The platform is designed on the philosophy of 'Everyone is an innovator'. The Smart Cities Mission will partner and effectively collaborate with Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission, AGNii and other initiatives in the Indian innovation ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Durga Shanker Mishra (MoHUA) – launched "City Innovation Exchange (CiX)" platform
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri \(Constituency – Uttar Pradesh\) | MoHUA Secretary – Durga Shanker Mishra](#)

**610.** On February 23, Kushinagar Airport has received the International Airport license from Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and become 3<sup>rd</sup> licensed international airport of Uttar Pradesh. It will boost tourism in the region & facilitate travel on Buddhist circuit by providing direct aviation connectivity to the city. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kushinagar Airport (3<sup>rd</sup> Int. airport in UP) – received the International Airport license from DGCA
- [UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

**611.** On February 26, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 5 online services which aimed at empowering women and providing better childcare facilities. The online services include Mo Chhatua, e-Kalika, Mo Sishu portal, MAMATA App & MIS and e-Manadeya portal. All the 5 services are under the Child Development and Mission Shakti Department. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – launched 5 online services under "Department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti"
- 5 services: Mo Chhatua, e-Kalika, Mo Sishu portal, MAMATA App & MIS, e-Manadeya portal
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

**612.** On February 26, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated general and health insurers to offer Standard Personal Accident Insurance product from April 1. The minimum sum insured under the standard policy will be ₹2.5 lakh and maximum ₹1 Cr. It is for those aged between 18-70 years. The cover will be known as "Saral Suraksha Bima". [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- IRDAI – mandated general & health insurers to offer Standard Personal Accident Insurance product from April 1
- The product will be known as – “Saraal Suraksha Bima”
- Sum insured: minimum – ₹2.5 lakh & maximum – ₹1 Cr | Age criteria – 18-70 years
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**613.** On February 25, Taking forward the vision of PM Narendra Modi for transforming iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in India as ‘Swachh Tourist Destinations’ under Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has announced the selection of the following 12 iconic sites under Phase IV of SIP. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 12 iconic sites select as ‘Swachh Tourist Destinations’ under the Phase-IV of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative
  - Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra)
  - Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh)
  - Kumbhalgarh Fort (Rajasthan)
  - Jaisalmer Fort (Rajasthan)
  - Ramdevra (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)
  - Golconda Fort (Hyderabad, Telangana)
  - Sun Temple (Konark, Odisha)
  - Rock Garden (Chandigarh)
  - Dal Lake (Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir)
  - Banke Bihari Temple (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh)
  - Agra Fort (Agra, Uttar Pradesh)
  - Kalighat Temple (West Bengal)
- [Swachh Iconic Places \(SIP\) initiative was launched in – 2016](#)

**614.** On February 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation, the 1000 MW lignite based Neyveli new thermal power station (NNTPS) at Neyveli and 709 MW Solar Power Projects of NLC India, located at 4 districts of Tamil Nadu. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the 4 lane “NH 45-A” road connecting Villupuram to Nagapattinam of Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 1000 MW lignite based Neyveli New Thermal Power Station (NNTPS) at Neyveli, TN
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 709 MW Solar Power Projects of NLC India – in TN
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone for 4 lane “NH 45-A” road connecting Villupuram to Nagapattinam – in TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**615.** On February 27, The world’s highest railway bridge is being constructed over Jammu & Kashmir’s Chenab river in Kouri and its construction is to be completed by the end of 2021. Once completed, the approximately 1,178-feet bridge will be 53 feet taller than the 1,125-feet Millau Viaduct in France. The bridge is being built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL). This Chenab Bridge will link Katra and Banihal and it will be 1.315-km-long. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The world’s highest railway bridge – being constructed over ‘Chenab river’ in J&K (to be completed by March, 2021)
- The height of Chenab Bridge – 1,178 ft | Length – 1.315 km | being built by – Konkan Railway Corporation
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**616.** On February 27, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated the 39<sup>th</sup> Agartala International Book Fair with the theme “Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura” at Agartala. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated – the 39<sup>th</sup> Agartala International Book Fair – at Agartala, Tripura
- Theme of the fair – “Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura”
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**617.** On February 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Khelo India Winter Games” in Gulmarg, J & K. This event will make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sports activity. Around 840 athletes will compete in these sporting events. The Winter Games were organised by the Winter Games Association of J&K. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Khelo India Winter Games” – in Gulmarg, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**618.** On February 26, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has virtually inaugurated the Competition Commission of India’s (CCI) Regional Office (South) in Chennai in the presence of Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Nirmala Sitharaman – inaugurated the CCI's Regional Office (South) – in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Karnataka) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**619.** On February 24, The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal by the Home Ministry to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union Territory. President rule is imposed under Article 356 of constitution of India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet – approved President's Rule in Puducherry (Proposal made by - Home Ministry)
- President rule is imposed under "Article 356" of constitution of India

**620.** On February 24, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has laid the foundation stone of Mon Medical College in Nagaland. This medical college is approved at a cost ₹325 Cr. At present there are 562 medical colleges in India out of which 286 are in the government sector while 276 are in the private sector. Another 175 medical colleges are also in the process of development. Around 1,50,000 health and wellness centres have been set up in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – laid the foundation stone of Mon Medical College in Nagaland
- This medical college is approved at a cost ₹325 Cr
- Total Medical Colleges in India = 562 (286 government + 276 private) | 175 medical colleges are in process
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

**621.** On February 25, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha' of the state transport department to provide online services to the people of the state regarding Driving Licence/Registration Certificates/ Permits etc. PM Narendra Modi had given a vision of Digital India in 2014. The state government first started e-Vidhan Sabha, then e-Budget, e-cabinet and now it has started e-Parivahan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – launched 'e-Parivahan Vyavstha' of the state transport department
- PM Narendra Modi gave a vision of Digital India – in 2014
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**622.** 'E-filing' or 'E-Daakhil' was launched by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) on September 7, 2020. Delhi was the first state/UT to implement it on September 8, 2020. The 'E-Daakhil' portal for consumer grievance redressal is now operational in 15 states and UTs. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has a provision for e-filing of consumer complaints. A web application for e-filing of consumer complaints named 'edaakhil.nic.in' has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 'E-Daakhil' portal for consumer grievance redressal – now operational in 15 states & UTs
- Delhi – the 1<sup>st</sup> state/UT to implement 'E-filing' or 'E-Daakhil' in September, 2020
- NIC developed – a web application for 'e-filing' of consumer complaints
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma

**623.** Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated “Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021” at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He also stated that SHGs has played a vital role in increasing family income and improving quality of life. The Mela will remain open from 26<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> March at Noida Haat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated “Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021” at Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**624.** As on February 27, A protocol has been developed for exporting the “Nendran” variety of bananas to European countries. The public sector Nadukkara Pack House at Muvattupuzha aims to export at least 2,000 tonnes of nendran bananas each year. The success of the project will integrate Kerala in the global value chain and thereby ensuring farmers better and consistent prices. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Nendran” a variety of Banana – to be exported to European countries
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**625.** As on February 26, Indian Railways has reactivated the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on mobile app for its passengers to book unreserved tickets. The facility of UTS on mobile app was discontinued by Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways due to lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Railways reactivated the “UTS” on mobile app for its passengers – to book unreserved tickets
- UTS – Unreserved Ticketing System
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

**626.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for a 100-day “Catch the rain” campaign to clean up all water bodies and prepare them for rain water harvesting before the monsoon season starts. The campaign is launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 100-day “Catch the rain” campaign – launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

**627.** Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced that the retirement age of Tamil Nadu state government employees has been increased from 59 to 60 years. Last year, the government had increased the retirement age from 58 to 59 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – increased the retirement age of the state government employees – to 60 years (from 59)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

## **International Affairs**

**628.** On February 23, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has inaugurated a new and environment-friendly building of the Indian High Commission in Mauritius. He also reviewed over 950 housing units built with Indian support. Mauritius occupies a special place in the Prime Minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated a new and environment-friendly building of the Indian High Commission – in Mauritius
- SAGAR Vision – unveiled in 2015 | SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravin Kumar Jugnauth

**629.** In a first, Japan has appointed Minister of Loneliness to deal with the growing suicide rate in the country amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The suicide rate in Japan has increased first time in 11 years owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Tetsushi Sakamoto is appointed for the new portfolio. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Japan – appointed Minister of Loneliness (Tetsushi Sakamoto) to deal with the growing suicide rate
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**630.** Ghana has received the world's first delivery of coronavirus vaccines from the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative. The arrival of 6,00,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the West African country marks the beginning of the largest vaccine procurement. Total 92 countries including Ghana will receive vaccines for free through the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ghana – received the world's first delivery of coronavirus vaccines from UN's "COVAX initiative"
- Ghana received 6,00,000 doses of the 'AstraZeneca vaccine'
- Total 92 countries will receive vaccines for free through 'COVAX initiative'
- Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo



**631.** On February 27, Omega Seiki Pvt Ltd, the Electric vehicles manufacturing company of Anglian Omega Group is setting up an Electric vehicle manufacturing facility near Dhaka in Bangladesh, with an investment of ₹100 Cr. This will be the first project of any Indian EV company in international markets. The company will be known as “OSM-Bangladesh”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Omega Seiki Pvt Ltd ([Delhi](#)) – to set up an Electric vehicle manufacturing facility near Dhaka in Bangladesh
- Investment – ₹100 Cr | It will be the 1<sup>st</sup> project of any Indian EV company in international markets
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka](#) | [PM – Sheikh Hasina](#) | [President – Abdul Hamid](#)

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**632.** On February 22, as per the announcement made by the RBI, Fino Payments Bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Fino Payments Bank is now a Scheduled Commercial Bank. The scheduled commercial bank status allows Fino Payments Bank to enhance its banking position in the treasury and participation in LAF (Liquidity Facility) window. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Fino Payments Bank – has received the status of ‘Scheduled Commercial Bank’
- It is now included in the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934
- [HQs of FPBL – Maharashtra](#) | [MD and CEO – Rishi Gupta](#)

**633.** On February 23, ICICI Bank partnered with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for the launch of the “Namma Chennai Smart Card”. Namma Chennai Smart Card is a Ru-Pay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card that facilitates various digital payments like tax and utility bill payments Greater Chennai Corporation centers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank + Greater Chennai Corp + Chennai Smart City Ltd = to launch “Namma Chennai Smart Card”
- Namma Chennai Smart Card – RuPay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card
- [HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | [Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”](#)

**634.** On February 26, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government has presented its first paperless budget in the state assembly for 2021-22. It is the third budget of the Ashok Gehlot led government in the state. Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme, Jeevan Rakshak Yojana, Development of Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur and Ghar Ghar Aushadi Yojana were the part of the budget announcement. ‘Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme’ provides Interest free loan of up to Rs 50,000 to Street Vendors. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Rajasthan – presented its 1<sup>st</sup> Paperless Budget in the state assembly for 2021-22
- Rajasthan's Schemes: Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme, Jeevan Rakshak Yojana, Ghar Ghar Aushadi Yojana
- Keoladeo National Park – located in Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**635.** On February 25, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has enabled 'UPI AutoPay' on Gaana. Its integration with UPI AutoPay has made Gaana the first player in the Media and Entertainment industry to rollout the innovative e-mandate feature on UPI. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NPCI – enabled 'UPI AutoPay' on Gaana
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Gaana – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Prashan Agarwal

**636.** State Bank of India has tied up with JPMorgan to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions. The tie up is expected to reduce SBI customers' transaction costs and time taken for payments. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SBI + JPMorgan = tie up to use JPMorgan's blockchain technology
- HQs of JPMorgan – New York, US | CEO – Jamie Dimon
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**637.** On February 27, The RBI has granted a further 3-month extension of its banking licence to the Rupee Cooperative Bank (RCB), Pune, till May 31, 2021. Till January 2021, the bank made total recovery of Rs 258.11 Cr and aggregate operating profit of Rs 53.19 Cr in the last 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI granted a further 3-month extension of its licence to – Rupee Cooperative Bank (till May 31, 2021)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of Rupee Cooperative Bank – Pune, MH | Administrator – Sudhir Pandit

**638.** On February 26, Indian Overseas Bank has signed a corporate agency agreement with SBI General Insurance to retail its insurance products to bank customers. It is a bancassurance agreement for distribution of non-life offerings and to offer a range of general insurance solutions and innovative products to the customers of the bank. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Indian Overseas Bank + SBI General Insurance = corporate agency agreement to retail its insurance products
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta
- Tagline – “Good People to Grow With”
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal
- Tagline – ‘Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono’

## **Defence Affairs**

**639.** On February 23, Cochin Shipyard has emerged as L1 (the lowest bidder) for a Rs 10,000-Cr contract by the Indian Navy, to build 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV). Incorporated in 1972, CSL can build ships up to 1,10,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) and repair ships up to 1,25,000 DWT. Currently, it is building India’s First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier ‘INS Vikrant’. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard – received Rs 10,000-Cr contract by the Indian Navy to build 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair

**640.** On February 23, The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted 3 important Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals worth Rs 13,700 Cr for defence procurement to the Indian Army, Indian Navy & Indian Air Force. Out of the AoN worth Rs 13,700 Cr, Rs 8350 Cr is allocated for the procurement of 118 Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Mark 1A. The tank has been designed and developed at the Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DAC granted 3 important Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals worth Rs 13,700 Cr for defence procurement
- Rs 8350 Cr is allocated for the procurement of 118 Main Battle Tank (MBT) “Arjun Mark 1A”

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**641.** On February 24, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has awarded 5 states for effectively implementing the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)” scheme on its 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary. On this day, 2 years ago in 2019, the PM-Kisan scheme was launched with an aim to ensure a life of dignity as well as prosperity for our hardworking farmers. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs 6000 will be annually transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers in 3 installments. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- February 24 – 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)” scheme
- The scheme was launched in – 2019 | Rs 6000 / year to each farmer (in 3 installments)
- Narendra Singh Tomar has awarded 5 states for effectively implementing “PM KISAN scheme”:
  - Karnataka – Highest number of beneficiaries authenticated
  - Maharashtra – Effective physical verification and prompt grievance redressal
  - Uttar Pradesh – Fastest implementation of the Scheme
  - Arunachal Pradesh – Highest number of Aadhar verifications for the northeast and hilly areas
  - Himachal Pradesh – Stellar performance in physical verification of beneficiaries and grievance redressal

**642.** The Union Cabinet has approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical sector, entailing an outlay of Rs 15,000 Cr. The duration of the scheme would be from 2020-21 to 2028-29. The total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 Cr and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 Cr are estimated during 6 years from 2022-23 to 2027-28. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world by volume and is worth \$40 billion. PLI Scheme is government's initiative that provides incentive to companies in 15 key sectors. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet – approved a PLI scheme for the pharmaceutical sector | Outlay of the scheme – Rs 15,000 Cr
- Duration of the scheme – from 2020-21 to 2028-29
- Indian pharmaceutical industry – 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world | worth – \$40 billion

**643.** Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has launched the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme. The PM FME Scheme aims to provide financial, technical and business support to micro food processing units, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – launched the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

## Sports & Games

**644.** On February 24, President Ramnath Kovind has inaugurated the “Narendra Modi Stadium”, the world’s largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad’s Motera. Known earlier as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, the rebuilt stadium can house 1,32,000 people, 10,000 more than Melbourne Cricket Ground, which was the largest earlier. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Motera Cricket Stadium” – renamed after Narendra Modi | Location – Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Ramnath Kovind – inaugurated “Narendra Modi Stadium” - world’s largest cricket stadium
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**645.** On February 26, Yusuf Pathan has announced his retirement from all formats of Cricket. He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India between 2007 and 2012. Pathan played for Baroda in domestic cricket throughout his career. He has played 174 matches in the IPL. He was the first cricketer to win 3 IPL trophies. He is from Gujarat and holds the record for the fastest century by any Indian cricketer in IPL. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Yusuf Pathan ([Gujarat](#)) – retirement – from all formats of Cricket
- Yusuf Pathan – the 1<sup>st</sup> cricketer to win 3 IPL trophies | Fastest Century by an Indian in IPL
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**646.** Former India cricketer and Karnataka captain R. Vinay Kumar has announced his retirement from International and First Class cricket. He has scalped 504 wickets in 139 First Class matches. Vinay came from a humble background, as a promising junior cricketer in his hometown Davanagere and was affectionately called as ‘The Davanagere Express’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- R. Vinay Kumar ([Karnataka](#)) – retirement from International & First Class Cricket
- His Nickname – ‘The Davanagere Express’

**647.** On February 28, Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won the Gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at “XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial” in Kyiv, Ukraine. She defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus. She is the only Indian Woman Wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Vinesh Phogat ([Wrestler](#)) – won the Gold medal in “XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial”
- Vanesa Kaladzinskaya ([Belarus](#)) – a [Wrestler](#)

## Important Days & Dates

**648.** “Central Excise Day” is celebrated every year on February 24 across India to encourage the employees of excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 24 – “Central Excise Day”

**649.** The 6<sup>th</sup> year of the launch of Soil Health Card is being observed across India to create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. PM Narendra Modi had launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

### **Key Points:**

- February 19 – 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of “Soil Health Card” scheme (launched in 2015 in Rajasthan)
- **Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra**

**650.** Every year, on February 27, World NGO Day is observed in several parts of the globe. This day commemorates the social workers who have gone out of their way to make the world a better place. In India, NGOs are established under the provisions of “Article 19” of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 27 – “World NGO Day” (since – 2014)
- **NGOs are established under “Article 19” of the Indian Constitution**

**651.** “Marathi Language Day” is celebrated annually on February 27 to honour the birth anniversary of renowned Marathi poet Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar (popularly known as 'Kusumagraj'). Kusumagraj was the recipient of the 1974 Sahitya Akademi Award in Marathi, Padma Bhushan in 1991 and the Jnanpith Award in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Vaman Shirwadkar (popularly known as 'Kusumagraj'). Kusumagraj was the recipient of the 1974 Sahitya Akademi Award in Marathi, Padma

**652.** The ‘Right To Protein’ initiative has introduced the 1<sup>st</sup> Protein Day on February 27, 2020. This year (2021), the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “National Protein Day” was observed with the theme of “Powering with Plant Protein”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- February 27 – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of National Protein Day (since 2020)
- Theme – “Powering with Plant Protein”

**653.** “Rare Disease Day” is observed annually on the last day of February. This year, the day falls on February 28. Any disease that affects a small percentage of the population is a rare disease. In many parts of the world, they also go by the term “Orphan Disease”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- February 28 – “Rare Disease Day” | Rare Disease is also termed ‘Orphan Disease’

**654.** National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28. This day recalls the notable invention “Raman Effect” by India's greatest scientist C V Raman. This year, the theme is “Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- February 28 – National Science Day
- Theme – “Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work”

## **Meetings, Conferences and Summits**

**655.** From February 22, the 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of 2-day “BioAsia 2021” was conducted virtually from Hyderabad. With the theme of “Move the Needle”, BioAsia 2021 is expected to have a participation of about 30,000 life sciences professionals from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 18<sup>th</sup> Edition of 2-day “BioAsia 2021” – conducted virtually from Hyderabad, Telangana
- Theme – “Move the Needle”

**656.** On February 24, India has hosted a “Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies” virtually and was co-Chaired by Tarun Bajaj (Economic Affairs Secretary). Other participants included BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa. This was the first meeting on the “BRICS Financial Cooperation” under India’s Chairmanship in 2021. India has assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary under the theme “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – hosted a “Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies - 2021”
- India – also hosted “2021’s first Meeting of BRICS Sherpas”
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India

**657.** On February 26, Speaking at the “India Aircraft Leasing Summit” at New Delhi’s Vigyan Bhawan, Aviation Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has highlighted that India is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest domestic civil aviation market and within a very short period of time, India will be the world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest civil aviation market in overall terms. The theme of the summit was “Rupee Raftaar”. Jewar International Airport is expected to become functional by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “India Aircraft Leasing Summit” – held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | Theme – “Rupee Raftaar”
- India – 3<sup>rd</sup> largest domestic civil aviation market at present
- India – to be world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest civil aviation market – by 2024
- Jewar International Airport ([Greater Noida, UP](#)) – to be functional by 2024
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)

**658.** India-France-Australia Trilateral Senior Officials’ Meeting was held on February 24. The Indian side was led by Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West). They discussed the next steps to be taken for furthering trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Trilateral Senior Officials’ Meeting” held between = India + France + Australia
- [France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

**659.** On February 25, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has delivered the inaugural address at the 16<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021. The summit was virtually organised by FICCI in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The theme of the summit is “Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Enterprise.” [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – addressed the 16<sup>th</sup> FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021
- The summit was organised by = FICCI + Ministry of Education + Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Theme – “Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Enterprise.”
- [HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy](#)

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**660.** On February 22, Right to Information (RTI) activist Anjali Bhardwaj has been chosen as one of the 12 recipients for the inaugural edition of the “International Anti-Corruption Champions Award” by the United States. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Anjali Bhardwaj – chosen for the “International Anti-Corruption Champions Award” by the US
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris](#)



**661.** Five Indian-origin personalities have featured in TIME magazine's annual list of 100 emerging leaders "2021 TIME100 Next". They are Twitter's top lawyer Vijaya Gadde, U.K.'s Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, Instacart founder and CEO Apoorva Mehta, Doctor and Executive Director of nonprofit Get Us PPE Shikha Gupta & India's Bhim Army Chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 5 Indian-origin personalities – featured in "2021 TIME100 Next" - annual list of 100 emerging leaders

<b>Chandra Shekhar Aazad</b>	Chief of Bhim Army
<b>Vijaya Gadde</b>	Top lawyer of Twitter
<b>Rishi Sunak</b>	Finance Minister of UK
<b>Apoorva Mehta</b>	Founder & CEO of Instacart
<b>Shikha Gupta</b>	Doctor & Executive Director of nonprofit 'Get Us PPE'

**662.** On February 23, The minister of chemicals and fertilizers, Sadananda Gowda has presented the 10<sup>th</sup> National Awards for technology innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry. In the current edition of the national awards, 273 nominations were received, out of which 4 were selected as winners and 9 as runners-up. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sadananda Gowda – presented the 10<sup>th</sup> "National Awards for Technology Innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry"
- Total nominations received – 273 | Winners – 4 | Runners-up – 9

**663.** An Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) team led by Dr Kanak Saha has received the "Astronomical Society of India (ASI) New Discovery Award 2021", for the discovery of Lyman continuum emission from a galaxy at  $z=1.42$ . [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IUCAA team led by Dr Kanak Saha – received "Astronomical Society of India (ASI) New Discovery Award 2021"
- Location of IUCAA – Pune, Maharashtra | Director – Somak Raychaudhury

**664.** In a first for India, a female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lenka has been felicitated with "United Nation's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award". She has received the award under the 'Gender Leadership and Impact' category for her work in busting pangolin smuggling rackets in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sasmita Lenka ([Odisha](#)) – felicitated with "UN's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award"
- She received the award under 'Gender Leadership and Impact' category
- [Odisha](#): Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**665.** In Gujarat, Professor Uttama Lahiri (Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the IIT Gandhinagar) has been selected for the “TATA Innovation Fellowship for 2020-21”. She will receive the award from Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttama Lahiri (IIT Gandhinagar) – selected for the “TATA Innovation Fellowship for 2020-21”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**666.** A former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment and ex-BJP MP, Vijay Sampla, has taken charge as Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). He was the former MP from Hoshiarpur in Punjab and MoS from 2014-2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vijay Sampla – took charge as Chairman of the 6th National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
- HQs of NCSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vijay Sampla (‘Article 338’ of the Indian Constitution deals with NCSC)

**667.** Haryana’s Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala is unanimously re-elected as the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for another 4-year term at Panchkula. He is also the youngest president of any National sports federations in India. Mr. Dhanraj Choudhary was named the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dushyant Chautala – re-elected as the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)
- Mr. Dhanraj Choudhary – appointed as the CEO of TTFI
- HQs of TTFI – New Delhi | President – Dushyant Chautala | CEO – Dhanraj Choudhary

**668.** On February 26, Levi’s has announced a strategic partnership with internationally acclaimed actor and global fashion and youth icon, Deepika Padukone as its Global Brand Ambassador. The move highlights the brand’s increasing focus on women’s category (Brand Connect Initiative). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Deepika Padukone – appointed as Global Brand Ambassador of – Levi’s
- HQs of Levi Strauss & Co. – San Francisco, California, US | CEO – Charles V. Bergh

**669.** On February 24, Russian supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova became a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador pledging to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies. She will be a campaigner for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), which now calls itself the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- UNFPA (UN's Sexual & Reproductive Health Agency) – appointed “Natalia Vodianova” as its Goodwill Ambassador
- Natalia Vodianova (Russia) – Supermodel & Philanthropist
- HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**670.** On February 24, On February 23, Ruling party candidate Mohamed Bazoum was declared the winner of Niger’s Presidential election. Bazoum, a 61-year-old former interior minister, won 55.75% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohamed Bazoum – elected as the President of Niger
- Niger – Niamey – West African CFA franc | President – Mohamed Bazoum

**671.** On February 26, OLX Group has appointed former Star Sports president and chief executive Gautam Thakar as the global CEO of its pre-owned car marketplace OLX Autos. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gautam Thakar – appointed as CEO of ‘OLX Autos’
- HQs of OLX Group – Amsterdam, Netherlands | CEO – Martin Scheepbouwer

**672.** The Centre has appointed Matam Venkata Rao as Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India for a period of 3 years. He is currently an Executive Director of Canara Bank. He will replace Pallav Mahapatra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Matam Venkata Rao – appointed as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India (for 3 years)
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Matam Venkata Rao

**673.** AU Small Finance Bank has appointed Sharad Goklani as President & CTO. Previously, he was EVP & CTO at Equitas Small Finance Bank. Founded in Jaipur in 1996 as Au Financiers, a non-deposit taking NBFC, the company transformed into AU Small Finance Bank in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sharad Goklani – appointed as President & CTO of AU Small Finance Bank
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani



**674.** UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian Economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Noronha will succeed fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ligia Noronha (Indian Economist) – appointed as Assistant Secretary-General & Head of New York Office of UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

**675.** Fullerton India Credit Company has appointed Shantanu Mitra as the new CEO and Managing Director. The appointment is with effect from April 2. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shantanu Mitra – appointed as MD & CEO of Fullerton India Credit Company
- HQs of Fullerton India Credit Company – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Shantanu Mitra

## **Amount & Agreements**

**676.** On February 25, Exim Bank will support the construction of social housing units in the Maldives through its \$130 million loan to Fahi Dhiriulhan Corporation Ltd. The project is proposed to be executed by NBCC (India) Ltd. The project is expected to improve the socio-economic well-being of Maldivian citizens and is in line with the Government of India policy of 'Neighbourhood First'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Exim Bank – \$130 million loan to Fahi Dhiriulhan Corporation Ltd ([Maldives](#))
- [Maldives](#) – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

**677.** The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$7.35 million (approx 54 Cr) to Nicaragua for replacement and supply of equipment of the High Technology Centre of Hospital Antonio Lenin Fonseca in its capital Managua. Exim Bank, till date, has extended 5 Lines of Credit to Nicaragua taking the total value of LOCs extended to \$94.98 million. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Exim Bank extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$7.35 million to Nicaragua
- [Nicaragua](#) – Managua – Nicaraguan cordoba | President – Daniel Ortega
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**678.** On February 23, China has again emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020 despite a conflict along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the rising anti-China sentiment. In 2020, the 2-way trade between the countries stood at \$77.7 billion. China replaced the US as India's biggest trading partner. The 2-way trade between India and the US stood at \$75.9 billion. In terms of exports, India's shipments to China grew 11% to \$19 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India's biggest trade partners in 2020: 1<sup>st</sup> – China (\$77.7 billion) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – US (\$75.9 billion) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – UAE
- India's shipments to China in 2020 – grew 11% to \$19 billion

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**679.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the acquisition of up to 12% stake in Max Life Insurance by Axis Bank and its subsidiary Axis Entities. As per the proposed transaction, Axis Entities have the right to acquire up to 19% stake in Max Life, of which Axis Bank proposes to acquire up to 9%, and Axis Capital Ltd and Axis Securities Ltd together propose to acquire up to 3%. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IRDAI – approved the acquisition of up to 12% stake in Max Life Insurance – by Axis Bank & its subsidiary Axis Entities
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**680.** On February 26, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) have acquired 9.99% stake each in Ferbine Private Ltd, a Tata Sons promoted company to operate a PanIndia Umbrella Entity (PUE) for retail payment systems. The last date from applying to the RBI for license to operate is February 26, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- HDFC Bank & Kotak Mahindra Bank = acquired 9.99% stake each in Ferbine Private Ltd ([Mumbai](#))
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak

**681.** On February 25, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a combination involving the merger of NAM Estates Private Ltd (NAM Estate) and Embassy One Commercial Property Developments Private Ltd (EOCPDPL) into Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd (IBREL). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NAM Estate (Bangalore) + Embassy One (Bangalore) = merger into Indiabulls Real Estate (approved by CCI)
- HQs of Indiabulls Real Estate – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sameer Gehlaut

**682.** Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland has signed an agreement with Nissan International Holding BV to acquire 38% stake in Hinduja Tech for Rs 70.20 Cr. In November 2014, Ashok Leyland had sold 38% stake in Hinduja Tech (HTL) to Nissan International Holdings BV. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ashok Leyland – to acquire 38% stake of Nissan International Holding BV – in Hinduja Tech (for Rs 70.20 Cr)
- Ashok Leyland – owned by Hinduja Group
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Vipin Sondhi
- HQs of Hinduja Group – London, UK | Chairman – Srichand P Hinduja

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**683.** On February 23, Social Alpha and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have partnered up to set up the Swavalamban Divyangjan Assistive Tech Market Access (ATMA) fund. Each startup working in this space will have access to implementation support of up to ₹20 lakh. The fund will finance up to 50% of the product price for the initial users. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Social Alpha + SIDBI = partnership to set up the Swavalamban Divyangjan Assistive Tech Market Access (ATMA) fund
- HQs of Social Alpha – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-founder & CEO – Manoj Kumar
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990

**684.** On February 26, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for exchanging data such as import-export transactions and financial statements of companies registered in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs + CBIC = an MoU for data exchange to boost regulatory enforcement
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar



**685.** On February 26, Andhra Pradesh and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed an MoU for the establishment of a Project Management Unit (PMU) to cater to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in the State. The proposed development initiatives were aligned with the vision of RBI-appointed U. K. Sinha Committee on MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh + SIDBI = an MoU to establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) to cater to the MSMEs
- The proposed development initiatives were aligned with the vision of RBI's – U. K. Sinha Committee
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990

**686.** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed an MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) to provide PVC based 'Ayushman cards' under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). Ayushman cards are replacement of paper-based cards and will be issued completely free. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MeitY + NHA = an MoU to provide PVC based 'Ayushman cards' under PM-JAY
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma

**687.** On February 26, AbhiBus Services, an online e-ticketing platform, has partnered with Railways' e-ticket booking platform, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to offer Bus Ticket Booking Facility. IRCTC enables over 9 lakh train tickets every day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AbhiBus Services + IRCTC = partnership to offer Bus Ticket Booking Facility
- HQs of AbhiBus Services – Hyderabad, Telangana | Founder & CEO – Sudhakar Reddy
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall

**688.** Liberty Steel Group has signed an MoU with Paul Wurth and Stahl-Holding-Saar to set up an industrial-sized hydrogen-based steel-making plant at Dunkerque in France. It will be 2-million-tonne Direct Reduced Iron plant with an integrated 1 GW capacity hydrogen electrolysis production unit. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Liberty Steel Group + Paul Wurth + Stahl-Holding-Saar = an MoU to set up a Steel making Plant – in France
- HQs of Liberty Steel Group – London, UK
- HQs of Paul Wurth – Luxembourg
- HQs of Stahl-Holding-Saar – Saarland, Germany
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



**689.** On February 25, An MoU is signed between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte Ltd for transportation of LPG (Liquefied Natural Gas) through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2. MOL Group is the world's largest gas carrier company. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IWAI + MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte Ltd = an MoU for transportation of LPG through barges on NW-1 & NW-2
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, UP | Chairperson – Jalaj Shrivastava

**690.** On February 25, India has signed 4 MoU with Nepal for the reconstruction of 25 health posts in the Himalayan country. Twelve health posts are located in Dhading district and 13 are located in Sindhupalchowk district and these health posts, damaged during the 2015 earthquake will be reconstructed at a cost of NR 530 million. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Nepal = 4 MoU for the reconstruction of 25 health posts in Nepal at a cost of NR 530 million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

## **Books & Authors**

**691.** Madhavi S Mahadevan's latest novel "Bride of the Forest: the Untold Story of Yayati's Daughter" provides a kind of cultural glue between the past and the present, a reflection of how much things have, and have not, changed. The book is published by Speaking Tiger Books. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Bride of the Forest: the Untold Story of Yayati's Daughter" book – authored by Madhavi S Mahadevan
- Publisher – Speaking Tiger Book

**692.** Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's latest book, "The Last Queen", tells the tale of one of the most fearless women of the 19th century - Rani Jindan Kaur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Last Queen" book – authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

**693.** Pranab Mukherjee was the President from July 25, 2012 to July 25, 2017. Since becoming president he wrote "The Indira Gandhi Years", "The Turbulent Years" and "The Coalition Years". "The Presidential Years" has been published recently in January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The books by Late Pranab Mukherjee: –"The Indira Gandhi Years" | "The Turbulent Years" | "The Coalition Years" | "The Presidential Years"



**694.** Former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her long-time friend Louise Penny will come out with a novel “State of Terror” which will be published on October 12 by Pan Macmillan India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State of Terror” is a novel written by = Hillary Rodham Clinton + Louise Penny

**695.** Banker-turned-author Anindya Dutta has chronicled the history of Indian tennis through his latest book, “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis”. The book revolves around pre-Independence tennis and early players like Ramanathan Krishnan and Vijay Amritraj. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis” book – authored by Anindya Dutta

## **Obituaries**

**696.** On February 23, Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Rahul Khullar has passed away in New Delhi owing to a prolonged illness. He was a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and was appointed as TRAI chief in May 2012. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rahul Khullar – Former chairman of the TRAI – passed away
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela

**697.** On February 26, Sir Michael Somare, the first and former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea & popularly known as ‘Father of Nation’ has passed away. He was 84. Mr. Somare was Papua New Guinea’s longest-serving leader. His last term as Prime Minister ended controversially in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Michael Somare – 1<sup>st</sup> & former PM of Papua New Guinea – passed away (known as ‘Father of Nation’)
- Papua New Guinea – Port Moresby – Kina | PM – James Marape

**698.** On February 25, Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri, the eminent poet and academic, has passed away. He was 81. He represented the finest traditions of contemporary Malayalam poetry. The nation honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2014. He received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 for ‘Bhoomigeethangal’ and the Central Sahitya Akademi Award in 1994 ‘Ujjayiniyile Raappakaluka’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri – Eminent Malayalam Poet & Academic – passed away (Padma Shri in 2014)



## **Person in News**

**699.** Briton Jasmine Harrison has become the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean after completing a 3,000-mile (4,800-kilometer) journey from Spain to Antigua, according to organizer Atlantic Campaigns. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Jasmine Harrison ([Britain](#)) – became the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean

## **Science & Technology**

**700.** Two variants/strains of SARS-CoV-2 named “N440K” and “E484K” have been detected in Maharashtra and Kerala. One of the two variants has also been detected in Telangana. Also, 3 other mutated strains - one each from UK, South Africa and Brazil are already present in India. The SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) was established in December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Two variants of SARS-CoV-2 named “N440K” and “E484K” – detected in Maharashtra, Kerala & Telangana



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank





# SmartKeeda

The Question Bank

Presents

## TestZone

India's least priced Test Series platform



### ALL BANK EXAMS

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

# ₹ 599/-

300+ Full Length Tests

- ☒ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ☒ Excellent Content
- ☒ Unmatched Explanations

JOIN NOW

