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निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



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

**February**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 10**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 10 Here!](#)



## 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 2022 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 फ़रवरी 2022 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

**451.** In February 2022, the High Power Committee set up by the Central government has approved the proposal to declare the “Upper Bhadra Project” as a National Project. This would enable the State to get Rs 12,500 Cr grant from the Centre to implement the project. Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa had laid the foundation stone for the Upper Bhadra project in 2008. This project is Karnataka's first project to get National Status. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Centre’s High Power Committee gave Karnataka’s “Upper Bhadra Project” the status of a National Project
- Rs 12,500 Cr grant from the Centre for this project | Project was launched by BS Yediyurappa in 2008
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)

**452.** In February 2022, Mandi’s Bhulah valley will now make its contribution towards the conservation of endangered Himalayan herbs as Himachal Pradesh’s first biodiversity park has been set up there at a cost of ₹1 Cr. Set up under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) by HP’s forest department, the park was one of the dream projects of chief minister Jai Ram Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh’s first biodiversity park is set up in Mandi district at a cost of ₹1 Cr
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala](#) | [CM – Jai Ram Thakur](#) | [Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)

**453.** In February 2022, Asia’s fastest-growing higher education institution, Chandigarh University received accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) for all its Engineering and MBA programs, making it the only university in the entire country & India’s first private university to have both NAAC A+ and NBA accreditation. It is also the only university in entire North India to have all of its engineering courses. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Chandigarh Uni. – received accreditation from National Board of Accreditation for all its Engineering & MBA programs
- Chandigarh Uni. – became the only university in India to have both ‘NAAC A+’ & ‘NBA accreditation’

**454.** In Jammu & Kashmir, Kishtwar’s Rattle Hydropower Project has been revived after over 8 years. The project is built on Chenab river. Kishtwar is expected to become the hub of hydroelectricity with 1000 MW Pakal Dul Hydropower project, 624 MW Kiru Hydropower project and revived Rattle Hydropower Project. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rattle Hydropower Project – located in Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir (built on Chenab river)
- Other projects in Kishtwar: 1000 MW Pakal Dul Hydropower Project, 624 MW Kiru Hydropower Project
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

**455.** The indigenously developed manned underwater submersible vehicle capable of taking three humans to a depth of 6,000 m, ‘Matsya 6000’, will be ready in 2024 for India’s first manned ocean mission “Samudrayaan”. This manned submersible is being developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission. ‘Matsya 6000’ will be ready for trials by second quarter of 2024. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- 'Matsya 6000' – underwater submersible vehicle for India's 1<sup>st</sup> manned ocean Mission "Samudrayan"
- The 'Samudrayan' project is undertaken by – National Institute of Ocean Technology (Chennai, Tamil Nadu)
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Earth Sciences: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

**456.** On February 20, the Supreme Court scrapped the 'gender cap' on performers in orchestra bars in Maharashtra. Earlier, the number of women and male performers were set to four each, however now the overall limit of performers in any given performance cannot exceed eight and the composition can be of any combination i.e. all-women, majority women or male, or vice versa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Supreme Court – scrapped the 'gender cap' on performers in orchestra bars in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48<sup>th</sup>)

**457.** On February 21, Vedanta group firm 'Cairn Oil & Gas' announced an oil discovery in Gudamalani and Chohtan Tehsil of Barmer district in Rajasthan. The discovery is named 'Durga'. Durga-1 (earlier WM-Basal DD Fan-1) is the second well drilled in the Block RJ-ONHP-2017/1 to a depth of 2615 meters. This is the third hydrocarbon discovery notified by the company under the OALP portfolio. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cairn Oil & Gas (Vedanta Ltd) – announced an oil discovery named 'Durga' in Barmer district of Rajasthan
- HQs of Cairn Oil & Gas – Gurugram | Dy. CEO – Prachur Sah
- HQs of Vedanta Resources – London, United Kingdom | Founder and chairman – Anil Agarwal

**458.** On February 23, Rajasthan became the first State to go back to Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for its government employees to cut down the cost of pension payout. Except West Bengal, all States and Union Territories and the Centre have New Pension Scheme, also known as National Pension System (NPS). NPS is known as 'contributory mechanism' while OPS is called 'defined mechanism'. Under OPS, employees get pension which is half of last drawn salary. However, the new mechanism is based on contributions where an employee deposits 10% of the basic pay plus dearness allowance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – became the first State to go back to Old Pension Scheme
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**459.** India's first-ever cable-stayed rail bridge is being constructed by Indian Railways over Anji river (Anji Khad Bridge) in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. The 'Anji Khad bridge' is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, which will connect Katra and Reasi areas of J&K through the rail link. The bridge, once ready, will stand tall at a height of 331 meters above the river bed. The total length of the bridge is 473.25 meters and it is supported by 96 cables. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1<sup>st</sup> ever cable-stayed rail bridge is being constructed by Indian Railways – over Anji river in Reasi, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha





**460.** On February 24, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) successfully commissioned a 1.7 MW solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways. The use of solar power will accelerate the mission to achieve conversion of Indian Railways to 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Railway. This is the first of its kind project in the world commissioned by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). It can produce approximately 25 lakh units of energy annually and will save around Rs 1.37 Cr for Railway every year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BHEL – commissioned a 1.7 MW solar photovoltaic plant at Bina in Madhya Pradesh for the Indian Railways
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**461.** On February 25, the Delhi cabinet approved the “Delhi Film Policy 2022”, which provides a subsidy of up to ₹3 Cr for film production in the city and incentivises hiring of local talents. The aim is to promote the national capital as a hub for modern filmmaking and to promote tourism. It was also announced that Delhi will have a “Delhi Film Excellence Awards” to recognize the efforts of not just actors but even the lower rung crew members. The latest policy also includes an “e-Film Clearance Portal” - a single-window system for getting approvals from all agencies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi cabinet – approved “Delhi Film Policy 2022” which provides a subsidy of up to ₹3 Cr for film production in the city
- Delhi also plans to launch: “Delhi Film Excellence Awards” & “e-Film Clearance Portal”
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**462.** On February 25, ‘Ombudsperson App’ was launched which is developed by Ministry of Rural Development for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources viz. physical, digital and mass media, related to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Scheme in the States/UTs. This will strengthen Ombudsperson in the discharge of her/his duty in a hassle-free manner. Ombudsperson can also easily upload the quarterly and annual reports on the website through the app. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Rural Development – launched ‘Ombudsperson App’ for grievances under ‘MGNREGA Scheme’
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggan Singh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

## International Affairs

**463.** On February 22, India and France agreed on a Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance with the aim to contribute to scientific knowledge and ocean conservation. This agreement came during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar’s 3-day visit to France. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + France = agreed on a Roadmap on Blue Economy & Ocean Governance
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**464.** On February 23, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot presented a separate Agriculture budget for the first time in State while presenting the budget for 2022-23. Budget of 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Sathi Yojana' will increase from Rs 2000 Cr to Rs 5000 Cr. Rs 600 Cr announced for organic farming mission and Rs 200 Cr for micro-irrigation mission. Moreover, Cooperative crop loans of Rs 20,000 Cr will be distributed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Rajasthan CM – presented a separate Agriculture budget for the first time in State
- Budget of 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Sathi Yojana' of Rajasthan – increased to Rs 5000 Cr (from Rs 2000 Cr)
- Organic Farming Mission – Rs 600 Cr | Micro-Irrigation Mission – Rs 200 Cr | Cooperative Crop Loans – Rs 20,000 Cr
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**465.** On February 24, Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) in partnership with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) launched "IATA Pay" in India. IATA Pay will be a new payment option that enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan & Pay and UPI Collect (Request to Pay). IATA Pay in India is powered by Standard Chartered's 'Straight2Bank Pay' platform. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SCB + IATA = partnership to launch "IATA Pay" in India to enable instant airline payment
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters | Chairman – Dr Jose Vinals | CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung
- HQs of IATA – Montreal, Canada | DG – Willie Walsh

**466.** On February 24, the RBI asked certain class of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' by September 30, 2025 in order to provide seamless customer interface as well as have a centralised data base. NBFCs - Middle Layer and NBFCs - Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 1, 2022 shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS. However, NBFC - Upper Layer shall ensure that the CFSS is implemented at least in 70% of 'Fixed point service delivery units' on or before September 30, 2024. Implementation of CFSS is not mandatory in the case of NBFC - Base Layer and NBFC - Middle and Upper Layers with fewer than 10 'Fixed point service delivery units'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI asked certain class of NBFC to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' by Sep 30, 2025
- NBFCs - Middle Layer & NBFCs - Upper Layer with 10 & more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on Oct 1, 2022 shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS
- NBFC - Upper Layer shall ensure that the CFSS is implemented at least in 70% of 'fixed point service delivery units' on or before Sep 30, 2024
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**467.** On February 23, EaseMyTrip, an online travel platform, partnered with Toffee Insurance, an insurtech company, to provide innovative and tailored travel insurance solutions to its customers. Toffee Insurance will manage all travel insurance products for added value and provide extra protection to customers of EaseMyTrip cancelling flight bookings due to medical emergencies. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- EaseMyTrip + Toffee Insurance = partnership to provide innovative & tailored travel insurance solutions
- HQs of EaseMyTrip – New Delhi | CEO – Nishant Pitti
- HQs of Toffee Insurance – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO & Co-Founder – Rohan Kumar

**468.** For the period of one year, the State Bank of India (SBI), Hyderabad circle adopted 15 tigers at Nehru Zoological Park. SBI is playing a vital role in wildlife conservation and as part of this, 15 tigers are being adopted by SBI every year since 2011 at Nehru Zoological Park. The bank presented a cheque of Rs 15 lakh towards the adoption charges to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI (Hyderabad circle) – adopted 15 tigers at Nehru Zoological Park (Hyderabad, Telangana)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**469.** On February 23, South Indian Bank introduced two new services to enhance both “remittances to” and “remittances from” abroad. The bank enabled online outward remittances through Net Banking and inward remittances through NPCI’s UPI mode. Under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), RBI permits resident individuals to remit up to \$2,50,000 or equivalent in other currencies in a financial year for permissible purposes. Resident Indian customers can now initiate Online Foreign Outward Remittances through ‘SiberNet’ in more than 100 currencies across the globe. The bank has further rolled out a new service feature in its ‘SIB Express’ Inward Remittance service. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- South Indian Bank – introduced ‘SiberNet’ to initiate Online Foreign Outward Remittances using Net Banking
- South Indian Bank – introduced ‘SIB Express’ to initiate Inward Remittance using NPCI’s UPI mode
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

**470.** On February 23, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip, TripMoney joined hands with SBM Bank India to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card, TripMoney Global Card. Unlike other credit cards which require credit history, this secured credit card requires customers to load money in INR as security and also track balances in INR. The TripMoney Global card, powered by Visa, can be used across 150+ countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TripMoney+ SBM Bank India = launched “TripMoney Global Card” - a rupee-denominated credit card powered by Visa
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1<sup>st</sup> foreign bank in India to obtain a banking license from the RBI

**471.** HDFC Bank partnered with Indore Clean Energy Private Limited (ICEPL) for the development of 550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant. This is the largest waste to energy project funded by HDFC Bank under its ESG commitments. This plant will be the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia and it will treat 50% of municipal waste generated in Indore City and convert to 100% green products. Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd (ICEPL) is promoted by Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), which is the largest climate impact fund in India with anchor investors like NIIF & Government of UK. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + ICEPL = to fund the development of the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

**472.** On February 25, the RBI cancelled the certificate of registration issued to Delhi-based PC Financial Services Private Limited, which carries out lending operations through an app called ‘Cashbean’. This is the first instance of regulatory action against an entity in the wake of a surge in complaints against usurious and unfair recovery practices being followed by several digital lenders. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the certificate of registration issued to PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd (Gurgaon, Haryana)
- PC Financial Services carries out lending operations through an app called ‘Cashbean’
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**473.** In February 2022, South Indian Bank (SIB) partnered with Star Health and Allied Insurance as a corporate agent to provide a slew of innovative health insurance products for the Bank’s more than 6.5 million customers. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SIB + Star Health & Allied Insurance = partnership to provide a slew of innovative Health Insurance products
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman & CEO – Venkatasamy Jagannathan
- Star Health & Allied Insurance – India’s 1<sup>st</sup> Health Insurance provider

**474.** On February 23, Ideal Finance, a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services announced the rebranding of its company name to Mahindra Ideal Finance Limited (MIFL). This company is a joint venture of Mahindra Finance and Ideal Group. Ideal Finance provides financial services products to the Sri Lankan customers. The vision of this company is to make Mahindra Ideal Finance one of the leading licensed finance companies (LFC) in Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ideal Finance – announced the rebranding of its company name to Mahindra Ideal Finance Limited (MIFL)
- Ideal Finance – joint venture of Mahindra Finance and Ideal Group, Serves Sri Lankan customers
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

## Defence Affairs

**475.** On February 24, Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of Ministry of Defence signed an MoU with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd to onboard pension services under the ‘SPARSH’ (System for Pension Administration (Raksha)) initiative across more than 4 lakh Common Service Centres (CSCs) across India. SPARSH is an initiative of Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Defence Accounts Dept + CSC = an MoU onboard pension services under the 'SPARSH'
- 'SPARSH' – an initiative of Ministry of Defence
- Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA) Pensions – Sham Dev
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi (set up by MeitY)

**476.** On February 24, the US-based Boeing delivered the 12<sup>th</sup> 'P-8I' maritime patrol aircraft to the Indian Navy. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> of four additional aircraft delivered under the options contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in 2016. The P-8I aircraft is a variant of the 'P-8A Poseidon' aircraft that Boeing developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet. Indian Navy became the first international customer for the P-8 aircraft. The first aircraft arrived in India on May 15, 2013. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Boeing (Chicago, US) – delivered the 12<sup>th</sup> 'P-8I' maritime patrol aircraft to Indian Navy (a variant of 'P-8A Poseidon')
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**477.** On February 22, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane presented the "President's Colours" to four units of the Parachute Regiment. The four battalions are - 11 and 21 Para (Special Forces) battalions along with the 23 and 29 Para units. The Parachute Regiment is an elite regiment of the Indian Army that holds an enviable record in pre and post-independence operations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- General Manoj Mukund Naravane – presented the "President's Colours" to four units of the Parachute Regiment
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

**478.** On February 28, Ministry of Defence signed a Rs 1,075 Cr contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T90 for the Indian Army. The retro-modification will be carried out in 957 tanks. The successful indigenous development of Thermal Imager-based Commander Sight, jointly by IRDE, DRDO and BEL, provides a further boost to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- MoD + BEL = Rs 1,075 Cr contract for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks 'T90' for Indian Army
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

## Sports & Games

**479.** On February 20, IPL Franchise cricket team Gujarat Titans became the first sports team in India to launch its team logo named "The Titans Dugout" in the metaverse. The team will debut in the 15<sup>th</sup> season of the IPL and its entry in the virtual universe will be marked with the unveiling of the team logo 'The Titans Dugout'. The event will witness its head coach Ashish Nehra and captain Hardik Pandya. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Gujarat Titans – became the first sports team in India to launch its team logo named "The Titans Dugout" in metaverse
- Coach of Gujarat Titans – Ashish Nehra | Captain – Hardik Pandya

**480.** On February 20, Former Women's PGA Championship winner Hannah Green became the first woman to win a mixed-gender professional golf tournament at 'The Players Series tournaments' (TPS) Murray River event in Australia. The Players Series tournaments were introduced in 2021 and are part of the PGA Tour of Australasia, and have men and women competing in the same field. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Hannah Green ([Golf - Australia](#)) – 1<sup>st</sup> woman to win a mixed-gender professional tournament at TPS Murray River event

**481.** On February 21, Spain's Carlos Alcaraz Garfia defeated Argentina's Diego Schwartzman and won the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Rio Open tennis tournament. The tournament was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He became the youngest ATP 500 winner. Fabio Fognini (Italy) & Simone Bolelli (Italy) won the doubles title. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Carlos Alcaraz Garfia ([Spain](#)) – won the 8<sup>th</sup> Rio Open tennis tournament (defeating - Diego Schwartzman)
- Carlos Alcaraz Garfia – became youngest ATP 500 winner
- Doubles title – Fabio Fognini ([Italy](#)) & Simone Bolelli ([Italy](#))
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real](#) | [President – Jair Bolsonaro](#)

## Persons in News

**482.** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) on a 5-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) beginning from 21 to 25 February. This will be the first-ever visit under bilateral exchange of parliamentary delegations from either side. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Om Prakash Birla – led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation (IPD) on a 5-day visit to the UAE
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

## Science & Technology

**483.** In February 2022, European Astronomers discovered the largest galaxy ever discovered namely "Alcyoneus". At 16.3 million light-years wide, the Alcyoneus galaxy has a diameter 160 times wider than the Milky Way. Alcyoneus is roughly 3 billion light-years from Earth and it is named after one of the mythical giants who fought Hercules and whose name means 'mighty ass' in Greek. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- European Astronomers discovered the largest galaxy ever discovered namely "Alcyoneus"
- 3 billion light-years from Earth | 160 times wider than the Milky Way | 16.3 million light-years wide



**484.** On February 23, A joint team of scientists from the DRDO and IIT Delhi, for the first time in India, successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 km. It is developed by the Bengaluru-based Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (CAIR) and Mumbai-based DRDO Young Scientists' Laboratory (DYSL-QT). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Scientists from DRDO & IIT Delhi – demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj & Vindhyachal in UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

**485.** On February 19, Astronomers of National Centre of Radio Astrophysics (NCRA-TIFR) in Pune and the University of California in the U.S. mapped the distribution of atomic hydrogen gas from the host galaxy of a fast radio burst (FRB) for the first time. They used the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) of NCRA-TIFR. Not much is known about fast radio bursts, which can produce so much energy in so little time. Fast radio bursts are extremely bright radio pulses from distant galaxies that last for only a few milliseconds. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NCRA-TIFR (Pune) & University of California – mapped the distribution of atomic hydrogen gas from the host galaxy of a fast radio burst
- They used Maharashtra-based 'Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)' of NCRA-TIFR



## **Appointments & Resignations**

**486.** On February 24, Takuya Tsumura was appointed as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from April 1, 2022. Tsumura will take over from Gaku Nakanishi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Takuya Tsumura – appointed as the new President & CEO of Honda Cars India (effect from April 1, 2022)
- HQs of Honda Cars India – Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh | President & CEO – Takuya Tsumura

**487.** On February 23, Finance Ministry's principal economic advisor Sanjeev Sanyal is inducted as a full-time member in the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM). The appointment is for a tenure of two years. The EAC-PM is chaired by Bibek Debroy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjeev Sanyal – inducted as a full-time member in the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)
- The EAC-PM is chaired by – Bibek Debroy

**488.** In February 2022, Andhra Pradesh government appointed former DGP Gautam Sawang as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission. Sawang is due for superannuation in July 2023. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Gautam Sawang – appointed as the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**489.** On February 24, IDBI Bank approved the reappointment of Rakesh Sharma as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for a period of 3 years, effective March 19, 2022. Currently, the government of India and LIC hold 94.71% shareholding in the bank in which the LIC holds 49.24%. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rakesh Sharma – reappointed as the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank for a period of 3 years
- HQs of IDBI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD CEO – Rakesh Sharma | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Established in – 1964

**490.** On February 25, K. S. Mani was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI). NCDFI is the apex body of dairy and edible oil cooperatives in India. K.S. Mani is the Chairman of the Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, known popularly by brand name Milma. Established 1970 as a subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board, NCDFI primarily works for the promotion of dairy, oil seeds, edible oil and the vanaspathy industries, oil seed growers' cooperatives and affiliated organisations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- K. S. Mani – elected to the Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI)
- K. S. Mani – Chairman of the Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation or Milma
- HQs of NCDFI – Anand, Gujarat | Chairman – Shri Mangal Jit Rai

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**491.** In February 2022, Mr. Yohan Poonawalla received 'Business Leader of the Year award' from Mrs. Amruta Fadnavis at the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Gravittus Foundation's "URJA Award 2022". URJA Awards 2022 is considered as a brainchild of Usha Kakade's Gravittus Foundation. Mr. Yohan is the Chairman and Director of various Poonawalla Group of companies such as Intervale Poonawalla, Poonawalla Stud Farms, and Poonawalla Financials. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Yohan Poonawalla – received 'Business Leader of the Year award' at the Gravittus Foundation's "URJA Award 2022"

## Schemes & Initiatives

**492.** On February 24, the Ministry of Education (MoE) approved the continuation of the "National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)" till 2025-26 with minor changes in eligibility criteria such as increasing income ceiling from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum. 1 lakh fresh scholarships of Rs 12,000 per annum (Rs 1,000 per month) per student are awarded to selected students of class 9 every year and their continuation and renewal in classes 10 to 12 under the scheme. It is proposed to disburse scholarships to 14.76 lakh students with the financial outlay of Rs 1827 Cr approved for the scheme. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Ministry of Education approved the continuation of “National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme” till 2025-26
- Income ceiling under the scheme – increased to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum (from Rs 1.5 lakh)
- Financial outlay of the scheme – Rs 1827 Cr | Scholarships of Rs 12,000 per annum to selected students of class 9

**493.** On February 21, the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was observed. PM Modi launched the Mission in 2016 to develop 300 clusters in India holistically by providing economic, social and physical infrastructure facilities. So far, Rural Development Ministry has approved 296 clusters under the Mission. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- February 21 – 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ‘Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission’
- Launched in 2016 to develop 300 clusters by Rural Development Ministry
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: FaggansinghKulaste& Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

**494.** On February 24, 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of PM-Kisan Scheme was observed. PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme launched on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers. Under this scheme, financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year in three equal installments, is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers’ families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. As on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2022, benefits under PM Kisan scheme have been provided to about 11.78 Cr farmers and funds amounting to Rs 1.82 lakh Cr in various installments have been released to the eligible beneficiaries of this scheme across India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- February 24 – 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of ‘PM-Kisan’ Scheme
- PM-KISAN – a central sector scheme, launched on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

## Important Days & Dates

**495.** The 392<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of the great Maratha king Shivaji was celebrated as Shivaji Jayanti or Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti on February 19, 2022. Born in Pune’s Shivneri Fort in 1630, the warrior king was the founder of the Maratha Kingdom and one of the progressive, bravest and wise monarchs of India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- February 19 – 392<sup>nd</sup> Shivaji Jayanti or Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti (birth anniversary)
- Shivaji was born in 1630 – in Shivneri Fort, Pune, Maharashtra

**496.** Central Excise Day is observed on February 24 every year to mark the ‘Central Excise and Salt Act’ which was enacted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1944. The day remembers and honours the contribution of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) to our nation and the people associated with it as well as their services. This day is organized & celebrated by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) which is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- February 24 – “Central Excise Day” – by CBIC
- ‘Central Excise and Salt Act’ – enacted on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1944

## **Ranks, Report & Surveys**

**497.** On February 23, Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya released two reports of the Institute for Competitiveness titled “COVID-19 - India's Vaccine Development Story” and “India's COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Journey”. The reports highlight the crucial aspects that have contributed to the success of India's COVID-19 vaccine development and administration efforts. The reports acknowledge the significant challenges faced by the Indian government, of delivering and administering vaccines to a majority of 1.3 billion people of India who were eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya released two reports of the Institute for Competitiveness titled:
  - “COVID-19 – India’s Vaccine Development Story”
  - “India’s COVID-19 Vaccination Administration Journey”

**498.** India has improved its overall IP score from 38.40% to 38.64% (19.32 out of 50), and ranked 43 out of 55 countries on the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of International Intellectual Property Index, “Compete for Tomorrow”, according to an annual report compiled by Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. The Index is topped by the US, followed by the UK & Germany. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> edition of International IP Index, “Compete for Tomorrow” – released by GIPC of the US Chambers of Commerce
- India’s rank – 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 55 | Top 3: US, UK & Germany

## **Ordinance, Bills & Acts**

**499.** In February 2022, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging, with an aim to eliminate single-use plastics and promote alternatives. The EPR target will be increased to 70% in 2022-23 and 100% from 2023-24 onwards. Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the notification of the new “Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022”. According to the new rules, plastics have been classified into four categories - rigid plastic packaging, flexible plastic packaging of single layer, multi-layered plastic packaging & plastic sheet. Producers of plastic packaging will have to manage 35% of the ‘Q1’ waste in metric tonnes in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoEFCC notified guidelines on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic packaging
- EPR target will be increased to: 70% in 2022-23 & 100% from 2023-24
- Plastics are classified into 4 categories according to new “Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022”:
  - Rigid plastic packaging
  - Flexible plastic packaging of single layer
  - Multi-layered plastic packaging
  - Plastic sheet
- Producers of plastic packaging will have to manage 35% of the ‘Q1’ waste in metric tonnes in 2021-22

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**500.** On February 22, Digital Insurer Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) joined hands with Ashv Finance, a tech-led NBFC, to offer financial protection to business loan borrowers of Ashv Finance. As part of the deal, EGI will offer health insurance cover to all the customers of Ashv Finance. The policy will provide security against the business loan taken in case the borrower has an unfortunate incident of accident or critical illness. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Edelweiss General Insurance + Ashv Finance = to offer financial protection to business loan borrowers of Ashv Finance
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh



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