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

February
MockDrill
PDF No. 5

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 11th March 2022

[Attempt Test No. 5 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 सद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि क MockDrill में शा मल कए 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

201. On February 8, Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) invited applications under “ABHYAAS”, a program of ‘Accelerate Vigyan’ scheme, for summer season. ‘ABHYAAS’, a program of AV scheme, is an attempt to boost research & development in India by enabling and grooming potential PG/Ph.D. level students by developing dedicated research skills in selected areas/disciplines/fields through its two components- High-End Workshops (“KAARYASHALA”) and Training and Skill Internship (“VRITIKA”). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SERB – invited applications under “ABHYAAS”, a program of ‘Accelerate Vigyan’ scheme, for summer season
- ‘ABHYAAS’ program – an attempt to boost research & development in India

202. On February 12, during a meeting with the officials of the power ministry, Union Power Minister R. K. Singh announced that India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy – by 2024

203. On February 12, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the first colour souvenir coin on “Panchtantra” on the occasion of 17th foundation day of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL). The finance minister in her address stressed on upskilling and acquiring new skills, and upgradation to meet the technology driven economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – launched the first colour souvenir coin on “Panchtantra” on the 17th foundation day of SPMCIL
- Currency Notes printing places – Nasik, Dewas, Mysore, Salboni
- Coins minting places – Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida
- HQs of SPMCIL – New Delhi | CMD – Tripti Patra Ghosh

204. On February 8, Gujarat announced a new IT/ITeS policy for the next 5 years providing financial incentives of up to ₹200 Cr to the entities willing to incur capital expenditures. The policy will focus on creating an IT talent pool for the high-skilled industries and provide modern IT infrastructure to build a complete ecosystem. This policy aims to generate employment for about 1 lakh people. It also seeks to increase Gujarat’s IT-ITeS exports from current ₹3,000 Cr annually to ₹25,000 Cr. The government also introduced ‘Employment Generation Incentive’ with one-time support to those units hiring local employees for a minimum 1 year period. For each employee, one-time assistance of 50% of the CTC maximum up to ₹50,000 in case of male employee and ₹60,000 for female employees will be provided. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – announced a new IT/ITeS policy for the next 5 years providing financial incentives of up to ₹200 Cr
- Gujarat – to increase IT-ITeS exports from ₹3,000 Cr annually to ₹25,000 Cr
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

205. Instagram announced to launch ‘Take a Break’, to help people make informed decisions about the way they are spending their time. This feature will be promoted in India through a campaign called ‘Break Zaroori Hai’, in partnership with ‘We The Young’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Instagram – announced to launch ‘Take a Break’ to inform people about the time they are spending on the app
- The feature will be promoted through a campaign called ‘Break Zaroori Hai’, in partnership with ‘We The Young’
- [HQs of Instagram – California, USA](#) | [CEO – Kevin Systrom](#)

206. On February 9, Karnataka HC constituted a 3-judge Bench to hear the petitions questioning the ban on wearing of hijabs by students in colleges. The bench is headed by Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi. Other 2 members of the bench are Justice Dixit and Justice Jaibunnisa M. Khazi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka HC – constituted a 3-judge Bench to hear the petitions on ban on wearing of hijabs by students in colleges
- The bench is headed by – Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore](#) | [CM – Basavaraj Bommai](#) | [Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot](#)
- [Chief Justice of Karnataka HC – Satish Chandra Sharma](#)

207. On February 11, the National Health Authority (NHA) integrated its flagship Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with the Aarogya Setu app, allowing users to create the 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers from the app. People can use their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number to link their existing and new medical records, including doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital records and also share those with health professionals and health service providers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA integrated = Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission + Aarogya Setu app
- [CEO of the National Health Authority \(NHA\) – Dr R S Sharma](#)
- [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya](#) | [Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar](#)

208. On February 9, the government banned the import of drones other than for defence, security and research purposes. Even the import of drones for these purposes will require government clearances. The ban will not apply to the import of drone parts. The aim is to boost manufacturing of ‘Made in India’ drones and drone components including Rs 120 Cr Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Also, the Civil Aviation Ministry launched an ‘Airspace Map of India’ which shows areas where drones can be used without permission and areas in which drones cannot be operated without obtaining prior permission from authorities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government – banned the import of drones other than for Defence, Security & Research purposes
- Ministry of Civil Aviation – launched an Airspace Map of India
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia](#) | [Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)

209. In February 2022, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal flagged off an inland waterway vessel “MV Lal Bahadur Shastri” from Patna to Guwahati. The vessel which started its journey from Patna is carrying 200 metric tonnes of foodgrains headed for Pandu in Guwahati & will travel via Bangladesh to reach the destination by early March, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – flagged off an inland waterway vessel “MV Lal Bahadur Shastri” from Patna to Guwahati

International Affairs

210. On February 10, Israel became the first country to allow drones or unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) to operate in civilian airspace. The first certification was issued by the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to the Hermes Starliner unmanned system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – became the first country to allow Unmanned Aircraft Vehicles (UAVs) to operate in Civilian Airspace
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

211. On February 14, Bank of Baroda will acquire Union Bank of India’s 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company, which is a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Carmel Point Investments. On conclusion of this stake sale process, the revised shareholding in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company will be Bank of Baroda-65%, Carmel Point Investments India-26% and Union Bank of India-9%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB – to acquire UBI’s 21% stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. (a JV between BoB, UBI & Carmel Point Investments)
- Present shareholding in IndiaFirst Life Ins. Co. = BoB (65%) + Carmel Point Investments (26%) + UBI (9%)
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

212. On February 11, HDFC ERGO General Insurance announced its partnership with Visa to offer first-of-its-kind insurance cover for Visa’s Platinum cardholders for select Public Sector banks. RBI has mandated banks to offer Zero Liability to cardholders for frauds reported. Through this association with Visa, HDFC ERGO aims to insure the risk of fraudulent transactions and enable the issuing banks to offer Zero Liability to their cardholders. The policy will offer all Visa Platinum Credit & Debit Cards of participating issuers with fraud insurance cover for an amount up to Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance + Visa = partnership to offer first-of-its-kind cover for Visa’s Platinum cardholders
- The policy will offer fraud insurance cover – up to Rs 1 lakh
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

Defence Affairs

213. On February 9, Goa Shipyard Ltd delivered the 5th and final vessel of the 5 Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle under Make in India Initiative. The vessel has been named ICGS 'Saksham'. These Indian Coast Guard vessels will be equipped with modern and advanced machinery and computerised controls systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard Ltd – delivered the 5th and final Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle named ICGS 'Saksham'
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal

Sports & Games

214. BCCI is likely to start a women's Indian Premier League (WIPL) in 2023. Also, BCCI organizes the Women's T20 Challenge whereas Cricket Australia organises a Women's Big Bash League. Moreover, England and Wales Cricket Board organised the Women's Hundred. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BCCI – likely to start women's Indian Premier League (WIPL) in 2023
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928



Arts & Cultural Affairs

215. On February 28, the 45th International Kolkata Book Fair was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. To celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh Independence, the focal theme country of Kolkata Book Fair was Bangladesh. Bangladesh Day was celebrated on March 3 and 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mamata Banerjee – inaugurated 45th International Kolkata Book Fair | Focal theme country – Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

Science & Technology

216. On February 12, the Ministry of Defence signed a design and development contract with a Bengaluru-based NewSpace Research & Technologies to develop a High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) which will be able to conduct surveillance operations and support communications by staying airborne for months at a stretch. Mentored under the ministry's Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, the programme has been supported by the Armed Forces and will see Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as the lead prototype development partner. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence + NewSpace Research & Technologies = a contract to develop High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS)
- Lead prototype development partner of the programme – Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
- HQs of NewSpace Research & Technologies – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Sameer Joshi

217. On February 9, Scientists recorded presence of White-Cheeked Macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*) from central Arunachal Pradesh in India. The species was discovered in 2015. The significance of the discovery is that it marks a new addition to mammals of India. The number of mammals reported from India stands at 434. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists recorded presence of White-Cheeked Macaque (*Macaca leucogenys*) – in Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – Dhriti Banerjee | Founded on – July 1, 1916

218. On February 9, Iran unveiled a new missile called “Khaibar-buster” that would allow it to reach both U.S. bases in the region as well as targets inside its archfoe Israel. The missile has solid fuel and a range of 1,450 kilometers or 900 miles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – unveiled a new missile called “Khaibar-buster” | missile range – 1,450 km or 900 miles
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ebrahim Raisi | Supreme Leader – Ali Khamenei



Appointments & Resignations

219. On February 9, Senior bureaucrat Sanjay Malhotra was appointed as the Secretary of Department of Financial Services, as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected by the Central government. Alkesh Kumar Sharma was named as the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat. S Kishore is appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC) replacing Deepti Umashankar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Malhotra – appointed as the Secretary of Department of Financial Services
- Alkesh Kumar Sharma – appointed as the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat
- S. Kishore – appointed as the Chairman of Staff Selection Commission (SSC)
- HQs of SSC – New Delhi | Chairman – S. Kishore

220. In February 2022, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba was elected as Burkina Faso’s President. Damiba succeeded Roch Marc Christian Kabore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba – elected as the President of Burkina Faso
- Burkina Faso – Ouagadougou – West African CFA franc | President – Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

221. On February 10, 18 Indian Airports were chosen for “Voice of Customer Recognition” award for 2021 by the Airports Council International (ACI). It includes 7 AAI airports namely Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Patna, Bhubaneswar and Chandigarh that participated in ‘ACI-ASQ (Airport Service Quality) Survey in 2021’. ASQ Awards recognize those airports around the world that deliver the best customer experience in the opinion of their own passengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18 Indian Airports were chosen for “Voice of Customer Recognition” award for 2021 by the ACI
- HQs of ACI – Montreal, Canada | DG – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

222. On February 10, RailTel Corporation of India Ltd bagged the “ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2020-21” in ‘Public Sector Entities (PSE)’ Category. The award was given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RailTel – bagged the “ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 2020-21” in PSE Category
- HQs of RailTel – New Delhi | CMD of RailTel – Puneet Chawla
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | President – Nihar N. Jambusaria | Established in – 1949

223. On February 8, Filmmakers Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh’s documentary ‘Writing with Fire’ nominated to compete for the 94th Academy Award in the Best Documentary Feature category. This is the first time an Indian documentary has been nominated for an Academy Award. It won the Special Jury (Impact for Change) and Audience awards at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Writing with Fire’ – nominated for the 94th Academy Award in the ‘Best Documentary Feature’ category
- Directors of ‘Writing with Fire’ – Rintu Thomas & Sushmit Ghosh

Schemes & Initiatives

224. On February 12, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the Central Sector scheme “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”. This umbrella scheme will provide welfare and rehabilitation to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging. There are two sub-schemes of SMILE - ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons’ and ‘Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of engaged in the act of Begging’. The Ministry allocated Rs 365 Cr for the scheme from 2021-22 to 2025-26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment – launched the scheme “SMILE” & its 2 sub-schemes
- SMILE — Support for **M**arginalised **I**ndividuals for **L**ivelihood and **E**nterprise | Allocation – Rs 365 Cr
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

Important Days & Dates

225. On February 6, Army's White Knight Corps celebrated "Naushera Day" to commemorate the victory in '1947-48 Indo-Pak war' in Naushera sector of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 6 – "Naushera Day" – celebrated by Army's White Knight Corps
- The day commemorates the victory in '1947-48 Indo-Pak war' – in Naushera sector, Rajouri, J & K

226. "Darwin Day" is celebrated annually to honor the contribution of the great English naturalist, biologist, and geologist Charles Robert Darwin, popularly known as Charles Darwin who was born on February 12, 1809. He was best known for his contribution to evolutionary biology and gave the theory of Evolution. Darwin was the first person who brought the idea of Natural Selection into the limelight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 12 – "Darwin Day" (Birthday of Charles Darwin)

227. Every year, India observes National Productivity Day on 12 February. The day is part of the National Productivity Week, which is observed from 12 to 18 February by the National Productivity Council (NPC). In 2022, the theme of National Productivity Week is "Self Reliance Through Productivity". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 12 – National Productivity Day – by NPC
- February 12 to 18 – National Productivity Week | 2022's Theme – "Self Reliance Through Productivity"
- HQs of National Productivity Council – New Delhi | Director General – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

228. Every year February 13th is celebrated as World Radio Day. In 2022, the theme is "Radio and Trust" as it continues to be one of the most trustworthy news resources. The day is also divided into three subthemes - Trust in radio journalism, Trust and Accessibility & Trust and viability of radio stations. This year, UNESCO is celebrating the 11th anniversary of the global event and more than 111 years of radio. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – 11th edition of World Radio Day | 2022's Theme – "Radio and Trust"
- 3 sub-themes of WRD 2021:
 - Trust in Radio Journalism
 - Trust & Accessibility
 - Trust & Viability of Radio Stations
- Guglielmo Marconi (Italy) – invented Radio in 1895

229. Indian National Women's Day was observed on February 13 to commemorate the 143rd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. To commemorate the National Women's Day, a programme was organised on the theme "Violence against Women and its Prevention" at Indira Gandhi Panchayat Raj Sansthan in Jaipur, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – National Women's Day (143rd birth anniversary of - Sarojini Naidu)
- A programme was organised on the theme "Violence against Women and its Prevention" in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Sarojini Naidu's nicknames: 'Nightingale of India' & 'Bharat Kokila'

230. Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), celebrated its 36th Foundation Day on February 13, 2022. APEDA actively supported the Government in taking the export of agricultural products to \$20.67 billion in 2020-21 from \$0.6 billion in 1986 when it was founded. The share of APEDA exports (\$20.67 billion) constituted 49% of overall Agri-product exports in 2020-21. The target given to APEDA in the current financial year (2021-22) is \$23.7 billion, out of which more than 70% (\$17.20 billion) has been achieved till January 2022.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – 36th Foundation Day APEDA
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – M. Angamuthu | Established in – 1986 (functions under Ministry of C&I)

Books & Authors

231. Sagarika Ghose authored an biography of Atal Bihari Vajpayee titled as "Atal Bihari Vajpayee - India's Most Loved Prime Minister". This book gives an in depth look into the life and times of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, along with some of his poems. This book is 2nd part of her trilogy of books on Prime Ministers of India. The first one in the series was on Indira Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Atal Bihari Vajpayee - India's Most Loved Prime Minister" biography – authored by Sagarika Ghose

232. On February 8, HarperCollins Publishers released 'Bruised Passports: Travelling the World as Digital Nomads' which is a book filled with stories of travel and people. This book is authored by Savi Munjal and Vidit Taneja (Savi and Vid). In this book, the authors have shared their insights on how to become a digital nomad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bruised Passport: Traveling the World as Digital Nomads" book – authored by Savi Munjal & Vidit Taneja (Savi & Vid)
- Publisher – HarperCollins

Obituaries

233. On February 13, Veteran industrialist and the Chairman of the Bajaj group, Rahul Bajaj, passed away at the age of 83. Rahul Bajaj joined the Bajaj group in 1965. He served as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for two terms - 1979-80 and 1999-2000. Bajaj was a member of the Rajya Sabha for the 2006-2010 period. He had received 'Padma Bhushan' in 2001 for Trade & Industries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rahul Bajaj – a Veteran Industrialist & Chairman of Bajaj group – passed away (served as the President of CII)
- Awards: 'Padma Bhushan' in 2001 for Trade & Industries

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

234. On February 10, the first One Ocean Summit (OOS) was organized by France along with the United Nations and the World Bank from 9-11 February in Brest. During the summit, UNESCO announced that at least 80% of the seabed will be mapped by 2030, compared to 20% currently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France + UN + World Bank – organised the 1st One Ocean Summit (OOS) – in Brest, France
- UNESCO announced that at least 80% of the seabed will be mapped by 2030
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

235. On February 10, the 4th India-U.K. Home Affairs Dialogue held in virtual mode which covered a wide range of issues, including homeland security, cyber security, extradition cases, and migration and mobility. The Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla. Both sides agreed to deepen security-related bilateral engagement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Home Affairs Dialogue – held between India & U.K. (Indian delegation led by – Ajay Kumar Bhalla)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

236. On February 11, 4th Quad ministerial meeting was held in Melbourne. This meeting was held between Foreign Ministers of the Quad countries to increase focus on Indo-Pacific cooperation. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs participated in the Meeting from India. For the first time since the group was formed, countries talked about justice for various terrorist attacks in India and agreed for cooperating on sharing intelligence on threats in the Indo-Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Quad Ministerial meeting – held in Melbourne, Australia
- QUAD countries – 4: India, US, Japan & Australia

Ranks, Report & Surveys

237. Women hold 17.1% of the board seats in India, according to the 7th edition of Deloitte Global's "Women in the Boardroom" report. Moreover, only 3.6% of the board chairs are women. Globally, 19.7% of the board seats are held by women. The countries with the highest stretch factor for women are Australia (1.43), the US (1.33), and New Zealand (1.32). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th “Women in the Boardroom” report – released by Deloitte Global
- Women hold 17.1% of the board seats in India (Globally - 19.7%)

238. India is among the top five easiest places to start a new business, according to the “Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022” report which was unveiled at the Dubai Expo. The report gathered data via a survey of at least 2,000 respondents across each of 47 high, medium and low-income economies. The survey of Indian respondents found that 82% think it is easy to start a business, placing India at 4th place globally. Saudi Arabia topped the list, followed by Netherlands & Sweden. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022” report/survey – unveiled at the Dubai Expo
- India – 4th place globally in ‘Easy to start a Business’ category | Top – Saudi Arabia

239. On February 10, Mumbai and Bengaluru were ranked 5th and 10th in the 11th “TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021”. While Delhi and Pune occupied the 11th and 21st spots among 404 cities across 58 countries. However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively. Istanbul topped the list, followed by Moscow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th “TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021”: Topped by – Istanbul (Turkey)
- 5th – Mumbai, 10th – Bengaluru, 11th – Delhi, 21st – Pune

240. On February 10, According to Comscore report, Paytm lead digital payments with over 45% penetration in Fintech. Paytm is closely followed by Google Pay at 43% penetration (reach as percentage of total digital population). Also, the report says that ‘financial services’ is among the top online content categories, accounting for 80% of the total internet audience in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Comscore report: Paytm lead digital payments with over 45% penetration in Fintech (followed by Google Pay at 43%)
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

241. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju asked to calculate the judge-population ratio for per million population. On February 10, the Department of Justice in the Ministry informed the Rajya Sabha that India has about 21 judges per million people as on December 31, 2021. The sanctioned strength of the apex court is 34 while it is 1,098 for the 25 high courts. Also, 14th Finance Commission recommended the setting up of 1800 fast track courts (FTCs) during 2015-2020 and up to December 2021, total 898 FTCs were functional in 22 States and UTs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Data provided by Ministry of Law to Rajya Sabha: India has 21 judges per million people
- Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel

242. As per the World Gold Council, in 2021, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought 77.5 metric tonnes and became the 2nd largest buyer of gold among the world's Central Banks after the Central Bank of Thailand (90 metric tonnes). Total gold reserve of RBI reached 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021 which is 6.22% of India's forex reserves. India's total reserves at the end of December 31, 2021 stood at \$633.61 billion. India's official gold reserve is 9th largest in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to World Gold Council: RBI became the 2nd largest buyer of gold in 2021 after the Central Bank of Thailand
- Total gold reserve of RBI at the end of December 2021 – 754.1 tonnes (6.22% of India's forex reserves)
- India's official gold reserve is 9th largest in the world
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht | PM – Prayut Chan-o-cha
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of WGC – London | CEO – David Tait | MD (India) – Somasundaram PR

243. On February 10, Norway topped the Democracy Index 2021 with the highest score of 9.75. India scored 6.91 to rank 46th on the list and has been placed under 'flawed democracy'. New Zealand replaced Iceland from the 2nd slot this year. Finland came in at number three on the Democracy Index 2021 with an overall score of 9.27. Since 2006, the Economist Intelligence Unit has been releasing its democracy index. Pakistan got a rank of 104. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Democracy Index 2021 – by Economist Intelligence Unit
- India – 46th | 1st – Norway | 2nd – New Zealand | 3rd – Finland
- HQs of EIU – London, UK | MD & CEO – Robin Bew

Amount & Agreements

244. On February 9, India announced to provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework' similar to Aadhaar card. Under this Framework, it is expected to introduce a personal identity verification device based on biometric data. Also, in the beginning of 2022, India announced to help Sri Lanka with \$1.4 billion economic assistance to import food, medicines and fuel amid frequent shortages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – will provide a grant to Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework' similar to Aadhaar card
- HQs of UIDAI – New Delhi | CEO – Saurabh Garg | Founded on – January 28, 2009
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Acquisitions & Mergers

245. On February 11, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of certain stake in Sajjan India Ltd by Sona Company. Sona Company Pte Ltd is an investment company incorporated under laws of Singapore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of certain stake in Sajjan India Ltd by Sona Company
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

246. On February 8, Razorpay acquired a majority stake in fintech firm Curlec which is based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and it builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses. This marks Razorpay's 4th acquisition overall and its 1st in the international markets. Prior to this, Razorpay acquired TERA Finlabs, Opfin and Thirdwatch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Razorpay – acquired a majority stake in Malaysia based fintech firm “Curlec”
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

247. On February 10, French glass and building material maker Saint-Gobain and IIT Madras Research Park signed an MoU to collaborate on technologies to promote maximum use of clean energy as part of Net-zero Carbon Emission objectives. Saint-Gobain India will be supporting IIT Madras Research Park with a funding of ₹1 Cr over the next 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saint-Gobain (France) + IIT Madras Research Park = an MoU to promote maximum use of clean energy
- Saint-Gobain India will be supporting IIT Madras Research Park with a funding of ₹1 Cr over the next 3 years

248. On February 7, Sonata Software launched ‘Microsoft Cloud for Retail’ in partnership with Microsoft to strengthen its offerings to the retail industry. The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. Sonata Connected Retail provides personalised, intelligent, and adaptive solutions for retailers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonata Software + Microsoft = launched ‘Microsoft Cloud for Retail’ to strengthen its offerings to the retail industry
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975

249. On February 11, India & Australia signed an MoU on Tourism cooperation. Presently, Ministry of Tourism has MoUs with 45 countries. This MoU will enhance cooperation and encourage Expansion of bilateral relations in tourism and give a fillip to tourism promotion post pandemic between two countries. Australia was ranked 4th in terms of Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India in 2019 and contributing 3.4% in total tourism share of foreign tourists in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Australia = MoU on Tourism cooperation
- Presently, Ministry of Tourism has MoUs with 45 countries (as on Feb 11, 2022)
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

250. On February 11, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with UNDP India launched the Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF) to mark the “International Day of Women & Girls in Science”. This one-year-long intensive fellowship program is developed as a pre-incubation model to provide youth with an opportunity to establish their social enterprise focusing on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) based solutions. During this fellowship, each fellow will be hosted at one of the AIM’s Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) and shall acquire SDG awareness, entrepreneurial skills and life skills. Currently, there are 12 ACICs across 9 states in India and the target is to establish 50 such centres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + UNDP India = launched Community Innovator Fellowship
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- UNDP India’s Resident Representative – Shoko Noda





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