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

February
MockDrill
PDF No. 6

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 14th March 2022

[Attempt Test No. 6 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 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

251. On February 14, Dabur became the 1st Indian consumer goods company to be 100% Plastic Waste Neutral Company. It has collected, processed and recycled around 27,000 MT of post-consumer plastic waste from all over India in the 2021-22 financial year. Dabur's plastic waste management initiative was rolled out in the year 2017-18. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dabur – became the 1st Indian consumer goods company to be a 100% 'Plastic Waste Neutral Company'
- [HQs of Dabur – New Delhi](#) | [CEO – Mohit Malhotra](#) | [Chairman – Amit Burman](#)

252. On February 16, Ministry of Home Affairs recommended a ban on 54 Chinese mobile applications, including the popular game 'Garena Free Fire', also known as 'Free Fire'. Interestingly Garena Free Fire is Singapore-based and the developer is not from China. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) formally issued a notification banning the operations of these apps in India. MeitY had banned the apps under 'Section 69A' of the 'Information Technology Act, 2000'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – recommended a ban on 54 Chinese mobile applications (including 'Garena Free Fire')
- The ban was issued by MeitY under 'Section 69A' of 'Information Technology Act, 2000'

253. On February 15, the Central government constituted a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called 'Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)' and a 20-member National Steering Committee for interlinking the two rivers. The committee will be chaired by the Secretary of Jal Shakti Ministry, Pankaj Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Govt – constituted SPV called 'Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)'
- Central Govt – also constituted a 20-member National Steering Committee for interlinking Ken-Betwa rivers
- The committee will be chaired by – Pankaj Kumar

254. On February 12, Maharashtra's Health Minister Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent Cancer. He was speaking at the launch of a state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur. This is the first such machine in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Hope Express" will be launched in Maharashtra to prevent Cancer
- A state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine – launched in Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

255. On February 15, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) directed GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare to discontinue advertisements for Sensodyne products depicting foreign dentists endorsing the product. Dentists practising in India are not permitted to endorse any drug or product of the industry publically under the 'Revised Dentists (Code Of Ethics) Regulations, 2014'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCPA directed GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare to discontinue advertisements for 'Sensodyne'
- [HQs of CCPA – New Delhi](#) | [HQs of GlaxoSmithKline \(GSK\) Consumer Healthcare – Brentford, UK](#)



256. On February 9, Maharashtra DGP issued a circular discontinuing the practice of wearing a 'tunic uniform' for officers from Police Sub Inspector (PSI) to Deputy Superintendent (DySP) rank. A tunic uniform is a British Era overcoat worn over the regular uniform by the police personnel. The DGP issued the circular after taking into consideration complaints against the dress. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – discontinued wearing a 'tunic uniform' for Police officers (from PSI to DySP rank)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

257. On February 12, President Ram Nath Kovind visited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ancestral village Ambadawe in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra and paid floral tributes to Lord Buddha, Dr. Ambedkar, Smt. Ramabai Ambedkar and Ramji Ambedkar. 7th November is celebrated as Student's Day in schools of Maharashtra because Babasaheb had enrolled in the school in 1900 in this day. Ambadawe village has been given the name of 'Sphurti-Bhoomi'. Also, Governor Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari announced to donate Rs. 30 lakhs from Governor's Discretionary Fund to build a library for students in the Ambadawe village. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – visited Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ancestral village Ambadawe in Ratnagiri district, Maharashtra
- November 7 – celebrated as "Student's Day" in schools of Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

258. On February 12, Andhra Pradesh police destroyed more than 2 lakh kilograms of cannabis at the Koduru village near Anakapalli in the Visakhapatnam district under "Operation Parivartana". The operation was launched on October 31, 2021 to curb the supply of the ganja menace in the state. The operation included revenue, tribal welfare, agricultural, and ITDA personnel to rehabilitate persons involved in the cannabis trade by giving alternative livelihood opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh police – destroyed more than 2 lakh Kgs of cannabis under "Operation Parivartana"
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

259. On February 16, In a breakthrough development, the main tunnel of the Katra-Banihal section "T-49" was successfully connected between Sumber and Arpinchala stations in Jammu & Kashmir. Once completed, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) mega project will be the longest tunnel of the Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways connected the longest tunnel "T-49" between Sumber & Arpinchala stations in J & K
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

260. On February 15, the Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi, approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures, as India will hold the G20 Presidency from 1 December, 2022 to 30 November, 2023. The Secretariat will be functional till February 2024. The Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat & its reporting structures
- India – will hold the G20 Presidency from 1 December, 2022 to 30 November, 2023
- G20 Presidency: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

International Affairs

261. On February 15, One of the three persons diagnosed with Lassa fever in the UK has died on February 11. The cases were linked to travel to West African countries. The Lassa virus is named after a town in Nigeria where the first case was discovered in 1969. The death rate associated with this disease is low, at around 1%. Lassa virus is typically transmitted by the urine or feces of Mastomys rats to humans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- One of the three persons diagnosed with 'Lassa fever' in the UK has died ('Lassa virus' named after a town in Nigeria)
- First case of 'Lassa virus' was discovered in 1969 – in Lassa, Nigeria | 'Lassa virus' is spread by – Rats
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

262. On February 14, Yes Bank launched an annual startup enabler program "Yes Bank Agri Infinity" to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the sector. As a part of this program, early as well as growth-stage startups interested in exploring tech-enabled financial innovations in the Agri space are invited to apply. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank – launched "Yes Bank Agri Infinity" to co-develop digital financial solutions for food & agriculture ecosystem
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

263. On February 14, National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the "All India Consumer Price Index (CPI)". The inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose to 6.01% in January on an annual basis, the highest in seven months, from a revised 5.66% in December and 4.06% in January 2021. As per the data, the inflation in the food basket was 5.43% in January 2022 as against 4.05% in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "All India Consumer Price Index (CPI)" – released by the NSO (MoSPI)
- The inflation on an annual basis in January 2022 rose to – 6.01% (the highest in 7 months)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)



264. On February 15, PayU announced its integration with BigCommerce, an Open SaaS e-commerce platform for fast-growing and established brands. As a result of this integration, PayU can now provide payment infrastructure & solutions to BigCommerce's small-to-medium-sized merchants in India. PayU is regulated under the RBI and developed LazyPay in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayU + BigCommerce (US) = integration to boost Small & Medium Business digitalization
- HQs of PayU Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Prashanth Ranganathan

265. On February 15, LKP Securities Ltd entered into an agreement with HDFC Bank to offer a special 3-in-1 online account. Under this facility, customers of LKP Securities Ltd can complete their bank account opening formalities and gain added benefits of broking and demat account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LKP Securities Ltd + HDFC Bank = an agreement to offer a special 3-in-1 online account
- HQs of LKP Securities Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD – Pratik Doshi
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

266. On February 14, Delhi-based DMI Finance Private Limited (DMI) announced the launch of a digital personal loan product on Google Pay to make reliable credit accessible for pre-qualified users of Google Pay. The program will disburse up to Rs 1 lakh per loan, which would be repayable over 36 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DMI Finance – announced the launch of a digital personal loan product up to Rs 1 lakh on Google Pay
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

267. On February 15, Karur Vysya Bank partnered with Chennai-based UNANU Technologies for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors using the end-to-end logistics technology platform. Using the module “U-Turbo - a marketplace”, one can on-board logistics companies and shippers to Freight Financing programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karur Vysya Bank + UNANU Technologies = partnership for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors
- HQs of KVB – Karur, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – B. Ramesh Babu
- HQs of UNANU Technologies – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Srinu Sundar

268. In February 2022, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the paperless Union Budget in the Parliament for the financial year 2022-23. In this fiscal's Budget, capital investment of Rs 1,37,000 Cr has been allocated to the Ministry of Railways. She also announced that during the next 3 years, as many as 400 new generation semi-high speed 'Vande Bharat Express Trains' with better energy efficiency as well as better passenger riding experience will be developed and manufactured. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rs 1,37,000 Cr – allocated to the Ministry of Railways in the 'Union Budget 2022-23'
- 400 new generation semi-high speed 'Vande Bharat Express Trains' will be manufactured in the next 3 years

269. On February 11, the RBI announced a hike in the cap on e-Rupi vouchers from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh. The move, aimed at enhancing the delivery of government schemes, will also help companies offer a larger range of benefits to their employees through the vouchers. The e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was launched in August 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI announced a hike in the cap on e-Rupi vouchers from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 lakh
- e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher – developed by the NPCI (launched in Aug 2021)

270. On February 14, The CBI booked ABG Shipyard Ltd and its former CMD Rishi Kamlesh Agarwal along with others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India for over Rs 22,842 Cr. The company was sanctioned credit facilities from 28 banks and financial institutions led by ICICI Bank with the SBI having exposure of Rs 2,468.51 Cr. It is the biggest bank fraud case registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The company has been referred to NCLT, Ahmedabad, by ICICI Bank for Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBI – booked ABG Shipyard Ltd & its former CMD for cheating a consortium of banks led by SBI for over Rs 22,842 Cr
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal | Motto – “Industry, Impartiality, Integrity”

Defence Affairs

271. On February 14, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) received an order from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to supply Compact Heat Exchanger sets for 83 LCA Tejas MK1A aircrafts. The order envisages manufacturing, assembly, testing and supply of compact heat exchangers to be fitted in the light combat aircraft, Tejas, being manufactured by HAL. The BHEL's Heavy Plates and Vessels Plant (HPVP), Visakhapatnam is the sole supplier of heat exchangers for LCA Tejas to HAL since 1996. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL – received an order from HAL to supply Compact Heat Exchanger sets for 83 'LCA Tejas MK1A' aircrafts
- BHEL's Heavy Plates & Vessels Plant (HPVP) – located in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

272. Indian Army conducted its first-ever hackathon named “Sainya Ranakshetram” over three months. Over 15,000 civilians, including college students, took part in the hackathon conducted online by the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering at Mhow (officially Dr. Ambedkar Nagar in Madhya Pradesh), under the aegis of the Shimla-based Army Training Command (ATC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – conducted its first-ever hackathon named “Sainya Ranakshetram” over 3 months
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

Arts & Cultural Affairs

273. The 17th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) of documentaries, short fiction, and animation films will be held from May 29 to June 5 at Mumbai's Films Division Complex, the Union Information & Broadcasting ministry announced.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th Mumbai International Film Festival – to be held from May 29 to June 5
- Organized by – Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Science & Technology

274. On February 14, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 successfully injected Earth Observation Satellite 'EOS-04' into the polar orbit of 529 km altitude. It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR, Sriharikota. This was the 80th launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota, 54th flight of PSLV, and the 23rd flight of PSLV in XL configuration. The vehicle also placed two small satellites - a student satellite (INSPIRESat-1) and a technology demonstrator satellite (INS-2TD) with it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – launched Earth Observation Satellite "EOS-04" from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota using 'PSLV-C52'
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

275. On February 11, Australia's government upgraded the conservation status of koalas from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'. Koalas were classified as "vulnerable" only in 2012. During the catastrophic 2019 bushfires in Australia, now known as the 'Black Summer', an estimated 60,000 koalas were impacted. The Bushfire destroyed much of their eucalyptus-rich habitat.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – upgraded the conservation status of koalas (bear) from 'Vulnerable' to 'Endangered'
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

Appointments & Resignations

276. On February 13, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was re-elected for a second term of 5 years. Germany's president has little executive power but is considered an important moral authority. Before first becoming president in 2017, he has served as Chancellor Angela Merkel's foreign minister. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Frank-Walter Steinmeier – re-elected as the President of Germany for a second term
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier
- Indian Ambassador in Germany – P. Harish



277. On February 14, IAS Vineet Joshi, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, was appointed as the new Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). Joshi replaced Manoj Ahuja. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vineet Joshi – appointed as the Chairman of CBSE (replacing - Manoj Ahuja)
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Vineet Joshi | Formed in – 1962

278. On February 15, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) appointed Debashis Mitra as its President for the 2022-23 term. Aniket Sunil Talati was elected as Vice President of the ICAI which is the world's 2nd largest accounting body. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Debashis Mitra – appointed as the President of ICAI
- Aniket Sunil Talati – appointed as the Vice President of ICAI
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | President – Debashis Mitra | Vice President – Aniket Sunil Talati | Established in – 1949

Schemes & Initiatives

279. On February 13, Ministry of Home Affairs approved the continuation of Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) scheme for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a financial outlay of ₹26,275 Cr. This scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the modernisation and improvement of Police Forces. ₹4,846 Cr will be given for the modernisation of State police forces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – approved MPF scheme for 5 years up to 2025-26 with outlay of ₹26,275 Cr
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

Important Days & Dates

280. International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is observed annually on February 15 to create awareness and extend support to children and adolescents with cancer. The ICCD theme for 2022 is “Better Survival is achievable #throughyourhands”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 15 – International Childhood Cancer Day
- Theme – “Better Survival is achievable #throughyourhands”

281. To highlight the problems faced by people with epilepsy and raise awareness about treatment, International Epilepsy Day has been celebrated on the second Monday of February since 2015. In 2022, the theme is “50 Million Steps For Epilepsy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 14 (2nd Monday of Feb) – International Epilepsy Day
- 2022's Theme – “50 Million Steps For Epilepsy”

282. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FICCI) Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) marked the 'Anti-Smuggling Day' on February 11 beginning from 2022. This day will represent a major step in the fight against the global menace of smuggling. As per World Economic Forum, illicit trade resulted in an annual drain of US\$2.2 trillion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – Anti-Smuggling Day – marked by FICCI's CASCADE committee (since - 2022)
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927

Books & Authors

283. A book on the digital age titled “Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us” is authored by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna. Congressman Ro Khanna offers a revolutionary roadmap to facing America's digital divide, offering greater economic prosperity to all. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us” – authored by Ro Khanna

284. A new book titled “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War” is authored by American author Samuel Aaron Moyn. The book argues about the endless wars that the US had created in the past. His other books are “Not Enough: Human Rights in an Unequal World” & “The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War” – authored by Samuel Moyn

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

285. In February 2022, the African Union held the 35th African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The theme of 2022's AU summit was “Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent”. Participants of the 35th extra ordinary summit of the African Union named Senegalese leader Macky Sall as the new President of the African Union (AU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 35th African Union Summit – held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Theme of 2022's AU summit – “Building Resilience in Nutrition on the African Continent”
- Macky Sall ([Senegal](#)) – named as the new President of the African Union (AU)



286. On February 15, India's Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar visited Maldives on February 13-14 and co-chaired the 3rd "India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue 2022". The first such Defence Cooperation Dialogue was held in July 2016. During the visit, Ajay Kumar handed over the refitted ship 'CGS Huravee' to Maldives. A made in India Trinkat-class patrol vessel was gifted to the Maldivian Coast Guard in 2006. He also handed over 2.8 tons (2800 Kgs) of medical equipment to Maldives for use by Maldives National Defence Force's Senahiya Military Hospital. The Defence Secretary also inaugurated the Phase -I extension of the Composite Training Centre (CTC) of the MNDF located in Maafilaafushi, which was built using \$1.07 million in grant assistance provided by India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar – co-chaired the 3rd "India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue 2022"
- Ajay Kumar – handed over the refitted ship 'CGS Huravee' to Maldives
- Ajay Kumar – handed over 2.8 tons (2800 Kgs) of medical equipment to Maldives
- Ajay Kumar – inaugurated the Phase -I extension of the Composite Training Centre (CTC) of the MNDF
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa](#) | [President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

287. During the 4th "India - Australia Energy Dialogue", India and Australia signed a letter of intent (LoI) on New and Renewable Energy technology aimed at scaling up manufacturing and deployment of ultra-low-cost solar and clean hydrogen. The dialogue was co-chaired by Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R. K. Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh – co-chaired the 4th "India - Australia Energy Dialogue"
- India + Australia = a letter of intent (LoI) on New & Renewable Energy technology to reduce its cost
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Scott Morrison](#)

Ranks, Report & Surveys

288. On February 14, American cybersecurity firm SentinelOne released a report on "ModifiedElephant" - a hacking group that allegedly planted incriminating evidence on the personal devices of Indian journalists, human rights activists, human rights defenders, academics and lawyers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A report on "ModifiedElephant" - a Hacking Group – released by SentinelOne (American cybersecurity firm)

289. Indian businesses ranked 5th based on their concern for Climate Change and Indian companies are more likely to be implementing tougher climate actions compared with their global counterpart, according to the Deloitte Global's "2022 CxO Sustainability Report". The Deloitte survey was done across 21 countries during September-October 2021. 2,083 C-level executives participated in the survey, including 163 CXO from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2022 CxO Sustainability Report" – released by Deloitte Global ([London, UK](#))
- Indian businesses ranked 5th based on their concern for Climate Change

Amount & Agreements

290. On February 13, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways sanctioned Rs 24.53 Cr for dredging works in Gomati river and setting up of 10 floating jetties in Tripura from Udaipur in Gomati district to Sonamura. Of the total 93-km proposed waterway from Sonamura in Tripura's Sepahijala district to Daudkandi in Bangladesh, around 15.5-km stretch needs dredging to operationalise the route. Gomati is a transboundary river between India and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways – sanctioned Rs 24.53 Cr for dredging works in Gomati river in Tripura
- 10 floating jetties will be set up in Tripura
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

291. On February 13, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Common Service Centres (CSC) signed an MoU for the delivery of services to accelerate India's skill development. Under the partnership, the CSCs will act as a skill desk, creating awareness about the various available skill development programmes at the village level. NSDC works under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSDC + CSC = an MoU to accelerate India's skill development
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | CEO – Ved Mani Tiwar | Chairman – A. M. Naik (works under MoSDE)
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi (set up by MeitY)

292. On February 14, Reliance's Jio Platforms Ltd (JPL) has formed Joint Venture (JV) with SES S. A., a global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider, for providing satellite-based broadband services. Jio Platforms will own 51% & SES 49% equity stake in the joint venture which is named as "Jio Space Technology Limited". The joint venture will develop extensive gateway infrastructure in India and will have availability of up to 100 Gbps capacity. In January 2022, Airtel had also announced JV with Hughes Communications India to provide satellite broadband services in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jio + SES (Luxembourg) = formed a JV "Jio Space Technology Ltd" to provide satellite-based broadband services
- Share in Joint Venture – Jio Platforms (51%) + SES (49%)
- HQs of Jio Platforms – Mumbai, MH | President – Anish Shah

293. On February 14, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF) Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd. partnered with Hyderabad-based Greenko Group to store 6-gigawatt hour (GWh) of power in hydro pump storage plants. Greenko is building these hydro pump storage plants at Pinnapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The arrangement will help provide round-the-clock green energy to user industries and electricity distribution companies (discoms). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ayana Renewable Power (NIIF) + Greenko Group = partnership to store 6 GWh power in Hydro Pump Storage Plants
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | CEO – Sadashiv S. Rao | Founded in – 2015

294. On February 14, Vedanta, one of India's leading multinational groups, and Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn), world's largest electronics manufacturing company, signed an MoU to form a joint venture company to manufacture semiconductors in India. According to the MoU, Vedanta will hold majority stake in the JV. Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal will Chair the JV Company. This first-of-its-kind joint venture between the two companies will support Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to create an ecosystem for semiconductor manufacturing in India. With this, Vedanta became the first company to announce investment in semiconductor manufacturing in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vedanta + Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) = an MoU to form a JV to manufacture semiconductors in India
- HQs of Vedanta Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sunil Duggal
- HQs of Foxconn – Taipei, Taiwan | Chairman & CEO – Young Liu

295. On February 16, Automaker Renault India partnered with CSC e-Governance Services (Common Service Centres) to support the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA), the country's flagship programme that aims to provide digital literacy to the masses. The Renault cars will participate in distributing information on learning courses and support the CSC teams in conducting training to impart financial and digital skills in the rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Renault India + CSC = partnership to support "Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA)"
- HQs of Renault India – New Delhi | MD – Venkatram Mamillapalle
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi (set up by MeitY)

296. In February 2022, THDC India Limited (THDCIL) signed the letter of intent (LoI) to build 10,000MW solar power projects in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of ₹40,000 Cr. This will also contribute towards the RE capacity addition target of 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- THDCIL – signed an LoI to set up 10,000MW solar power projects in Rajasthan (Investment of ₹40,000 Cr)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of THDCIL – Rishikesh, Uttarakhand | Chairman & MD – R. K. Vishnoi

297. On February 11, A meeting was held between Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and his Australian counterpart Dan Tehan. India and Australia are expected to sign the interim trade Agreement in March 2022. The India-Australia Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is expected to be concluded in 12 months thereafter. The areas covered under the interim agreement will include goods, services, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, Customs procedure, and Legal and Institutional issues. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Australia = likely to sign 'Interim Trade Agreement' & 'India-Australia CECA'
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Commerce & Industry: Anupriya Singh Patel & Som Parkash

298. On February 12, after a meeting was held between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his counterpart Marise Payne, Australia announced a series of initiatives to boost education and cultural ties with India under the "Maitri (friendship) programme" for 4 years. Under the 'Maitri Scholars Programme', Australia will provide over 11 million dollars to support Indian students to study at Australia's world-leading universities. The 'Maitri Fellowships Programme' will provide 3.5 million dollars to build links between future leaders and to support mid-career Australian and Indian professionals to collaborate on strategic research initiatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – announced a series of initiatives under "Maitri" programme to boost education & cultural ties with India
- Australia – to provide over 11 million dollars to support Indian students to study at Australia's world-leading universities
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison
- Ministry of External Affairs: S. Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of External Affairs: Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, V. Muraleedharan & Meenakshi Lekhi

299. On February 12, India signed an agreement with the United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance. According to the MoU, the wheat will be taken through Pakistan to the Afghan border crossing and handed over to WFP officials in Kandahar. Pakistan had shut down all trade with India to protest the government's changes in Jammu and Kashmir and Article 370 in August 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + WFP = agreement for distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

300. On February 15, Gujarat signed an MoU with QX Global Group Limited for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the State. QX Global Group Ltd is a global business process management company. Under the MoU around 2,000 jobs will be generated in the IT sector. QX Global Group has over 2,300 trained IT manpower, of whom around 1,700 are in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat + QX Global Group Limited = an MoU for the development of IT & ITeS sector in the State
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat





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