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Kriti Advani

IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Kola Murali Krishna Sai

SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Abhishek Raj

IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Rahul Jha

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

February
MockDrill
PDF No. 7
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 16th March 2022

[Attempt Test No. 7 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।

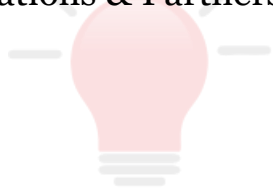
आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

301. On February 11, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated 14.5 km long Rail-cum-Road-bridge over Ganga River approach project on 'NH-333B' in Munger, Bihar at a cost of Rs.696 Cr. There will be a saving of 3 hours in traveling from Munger to Khagaria - Saharsa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated 14.5 km long Rail-cum-Road-bridge over Ganga River in Munger, Bihar (cost - Rs.696 Cr)
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

302. On February 15, The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people give up the use of tobacco in all forms - including smokeless and other newer products during its 'Commit to quit' campaign. Tobacco is the world's leading cause of preventable death and kills nearly 8 million persons every year. As per the "WHO Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000-2025" (4th edition, 2021) WHO South-East Asia Region recorded the fastest decline in tobacco use but continued to have the highest 432 million tobacco users, or 29% of its population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched the "Quit Tobacco App" under its 'Commit to quit' campaign
- "Global Report on Trends in Prevalence of Tobacco Use 2000-2025" (4th edition, 2021) – launched by WHO
- South-East Asia Region – has the highest 432 million tobacco users (29% of its population)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

303. On February 11, Indian Railways announced to build a world class wrestling academy at Delhi's Kishanganj at a cost of Rs 30.76 Cr. This will be the India's biggest academy equipped with advance training facilities. Indian Railway is contributing in promotion of sports through Railway Sports Promotion Board in India. In Tokyo Olympic 2020, out of 7 medals won by India, 3 Individual medals by Mirabai Chanu, Ravi Kumar & Bajrang Punia were from Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – to build a 'World Class Wrestling Academy' at Delhi's Kishanganj (cost - Rs 30.76 Cr)
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

304. On February 15, the UNDP launched the "Digital Strategy 2022-2025" to accelerate work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As one of the three enablers of its new Strategic Plan, digitalization will help UNDP meet its ambitious goals. It includes supporting 100 million people to escape poverty and assisting 500 million people to gain access to clean energy. Moreover, artificial intelligence and digital technology could bring a 10-20% reduction in global carbon dioxide emissions by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP – launched the "Digital Strategy 2022-2025" to accelerate work towards achieving the SDGs
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965



305. On February 16, Central government approved the “New India Literacy Programme (NILP)” for financial years 2022-27. The NILP will cover all aspects of Adult Education to align with ‘National Education Policy (NEP) 2020’. As a major transformation, the Ministry of Education announced to rename the term “Adult Education” as “Education for All”. An estimated budget for NILP is Rs 1037.90 Cr for 5 years. This program envisions educating non-literates who are 15 years old or above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government approved the “New India Literacy Programme (NILP)” for FY 2022-27 (Outlay - Rs 1037.90 Cr)
- Ministry of Education announced to rename the term “Adult Education” as “Education for All”

306. On February 16, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)”. The De-notified Tribes (DNTs), Nomadic Tribes (NTs) & Semi Nomadic Tribes (SNTs) are among the most deprived and economically weaker communities in India. The scheme will ensure expenditure of Rs 200 Cr to be spent over 5 years beginning 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Virendra Kumar (MoSJE) – launched the “Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)”
- Outlay of the scheme – Rs 200 Cr | Period – 5 years (2021-22 to 2025-26)
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

307. On February 12, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution reduced the Agri-cess on crude palm oil (CPO) from 7.5% to 5%. The average retail prices of commonly used edible oils are higher in the range of 10.05% to 31.97% when compared to the prices a year ago. This will benefit the domestic edible oil refiners and also check prices of cooking oils. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution reduced the Agri-cess on crude palm oil – from 7.5% to 5%
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Ashwini Kumar Choubey & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

308. On February 15, the SIDBI launched the “Waste to Wealth Creation” programme in which women will make ornaments and showpieces from fish scale in the Sundarbans in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district. Under this programme, SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women in directly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods. Later, each of them is expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI – launched the “Waste to Wealth Creation” programme for the women in Sundarbans, West Bengal
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

309. Kerala’s first Caravan Park was opened in Idukki to offer house-on-wheels experience as a part of the state government’s new ‘Caravan Tourism’ policy. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Kerala's first Caravan Park – opened in Idukki
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

310. On February 14, Central Jail of Indore started its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77' to keep jail inmates informed about ongoing in the outside world. The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health issues. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Jail of Indore – started its own radio channel 'Jail Vaani-FM 18.77' for jail inmates
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

311. On February 16, on the 75th raising day of Delhi Police, Union home minister Amit Shah launched the techno-friendly digital service for citizens. He also launched the Smartcard arms licence & Shastra mobile application. The licence & app is developed in coordination with the National e-Governance Division and has been integrated with the e-Beat book through Shastra mobile application for effective policing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Police – introduced "Smartcard Arms Licence" & "Shastra mobile app" (launched by Amit Shah)
- Developed in coordination with – National e-Governance Division (NeGD)
- Delhi Police Commissioner – Rakesh Asthana
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

312. On February 14, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) announced to set up a postgraduate medical school along with a multi-speciality hospital in its Bengaluru campus with the help of a ₹425 Cr donation from the co-founders of Mindtree. The hospital will be named the 'Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital'. Both Subroto Bagchi and Parthasarathy are co-founders of Mindtree, an IT services and consulting company which is now part of the L&T Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IISc – to set up a postgraduate medical school along with a multi-speciality hospital in its Bengaluru campus
- Mindtree – provided ₹425 Cr donation to IISc for the same
- HQs of Mindtree – Bengaluru | MD & CEO – Debashis Chatterjee
- Director of IISc – Govindan Rangarajan

International Affairs

313. On February 15, Canadian government invoked the "Emergencies Act" for the first time to address the impact of continued protests across the country over Covid-19 health measures. The government used the 'Emergencies Act' also to go after those who financially support illegal protests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canada – invoked "Emergencies Act" for the first time to address the impact of continued protests across the country
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

314. On February 15, Aditya Birla Group invested an undisclosed amount in 'Zand' which is an upcoming digital bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Zand will be the first digital bank to provide both retail and corporate services. Olivier Crespin, who has an experience of over two decades, will be the Co-founder and Chief Executive of Zand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditya Birla Group – invested an undisclosed amount in 'Zand' which is an upcoming digital bank in UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- HQs of Aditya Birla Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Kumar Mangalam Birla | CEO – Ajay Srinivasan

315. On February 15, Bank of Baroda signed an MoU with Assam Rifles to provide 'Central Forces Salary Package' to all personnel of the Assam Rifles, both serving and retired. Assam Rifles is India's oldest paramilitary force. The Bank will also provide special benefits, including Personal Accident Insurance, free unlimited transactions, free remittance services, free debit card and a co-branded credit card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda + Assam Rifles = to provide 'Central Forces Salary Package' to all personnel of the Assam Rifles
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – "India's International Bank"
- HQs of Assam Rifles – Shillong, Meghalaya | DG – Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair
- Assam Rifles – popularly known as "Sentinels of the Northeast" (India's oldest Paramilitary Force)

316. On February 15, Edelweiss Asset Management launched mutual fund investing mobile application "EInvest". The app will provide easy access to SIP investments, fund information for investors to weigh, understand and ascertain a good option of investment available to them. The app comes with Insta Money feature that is a mutual fund savings account with an instant withdrawal facility to the registered bank account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss Asset Management – launched mutual fund investing mobile application "EInvest"
- HQs of Edelweiss Asset Management – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Radhika Gupta

317. On February 15, Standard Chartered Bank, India launched 'Interest-Only Home Loan' facility for completed residential properties. Borrowers can pay only the interest amount via Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) for an initial period of up to 1 to 3 years. After this, the facility will be treated like a normal loan account where the EMIs comprise of both the principal and interest till the maturity of the loan. The facility is available for a loan amount ranging from Rs 35 lakh to Rs 3.5 Cr. The maximum tenure set for the loan is 30 years for salaried individuals and 25 years for self-employed individuals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Standard Chartered Bank – launched 'Interest-Only Home Loan' facility for completed residential properties
- Borrowers can pay only the interest amount via EMIs for an initial period of up to 1 to 3 years
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters | Chairman – Dr Jose Vinals | CEO, Asia – Benjamin Hung



318. On February 16, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to comply with new asset classification norms issued on November 12, 2021. Non-bank lenders will now be allowed to move to the new rules for recognising bad loans by September 30, 2022, as against March 31, 2022. Unlike banks, NBFCs follow the Ind-AS guidelines, under which delinquent loans are classified as gross stage-1 (loans overdue by up to 30 days), gross stage-2 (loans overdue between 31 and 89 days) and gross stage-3 (loans overdue for over 90 days). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – extended the deadline for NBFCs to comply with new asset classification norms till September 30, 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

319. On February 16, Fisdom, a wealth-tech company, partnered with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank. This will enable customers of the bank to invest into mutual funds through bank's 'Maha mobile app'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fisdom + BoM = partnership to offer wealth management products & services
- HQs of Fisdom – Mumbai | Co-founder & CEO – Subramanya SV
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”

320. On February 15, IndusInd Bank was empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for the transactions between farmers and traders across India. Under this arrangement, the bank will offer an array of transaction services through digital modes including multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS and UPI to the buyer and seller of the agriculture produce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank – empanelled by the SFAC to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on 'e-NAM' portal
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

321. On February 16, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance launched its new insurance plan “Flexi Edge”, a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings. The plan offers customers the flexibility to choose from three options depending on their individualistic requirements - Flexi Savings, Flexi Income & Flexi Care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance – launched a new life insurance plan “Flexi Edge”
- 3 categories of “Flexi Edge” plan: Flexi Savings, Flexi Income & Flexi Care
- HQs of Canara HSBC OBC Life Ins. – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & EO – Anuj Mathur

322. On February 17, NITI Aayog partnered with PhonePe to host the first-ever “Open-to-all Hackathon” event for ideating and coming up with creative solutions for the FinTech space. The hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + PhonePe = to host the first-ever “Open-to-all Hackathon” event
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

323. On February 17, Softbank-backed digital payments infrastructure provider JusPay launched a software stack called “OpenPPI” that helps Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs), such as digital wallets, implement and comply with RBI’s PPI interoperability rules. The rules are aimed at accelerating the migration of small and convenience payments from cash to PPI instruments and wallets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JusPay – launched a software stack “OpenPPI” that helps PPIs implement & comply with RBI’s PPI interoperability rules
- HQs of Juspay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Vimal Kumar

324. On February 16, the RBI cancelled the licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank and consequently as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank (Jalna, Maharashtra)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

325. On February 13, LIC filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for India’s largest IPO to sell its 5% shares (31.6 Cr). Up to 10% of shares on offer will be reserved for policy holders and 5% for LIC employees. The conclusion of the LIC’s share sale through an initial public offer (IPO) by March 31, is critical for the government to achieve its disinvestment target for this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI to sell its 5% shares (31.6 Cr)
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

326. On February 16, South Indian Bank secured ‘Best Technology Bank of the Year’ award and 5 other awards (total 6 out of 7) at the 17th annual IBA Banking Technology Awards. The bank was also named as winner in ‘Best IT Risk Management and Cyber Security Initiatives’ (Small Banks), winner in ‘Best Fintech Collaboration’ (Small Banks), joint winner in ‘Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics’ (Small Banks), Runner Up in ‘Best Cloud Adoption’ (Small Banks) and Joint Runner Up in ‘Best Payments Initiatives’ (among all private banks). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Indian Bank – secured ‘Best Technology Bank of the Year’ award at 17th annual IBA Banking Technology Awards
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan
- HQs of IBA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Atul Kumar Goel | Established in – 1946



327. On February 16, BSE collaborated with four regional associations from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu to promote Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR). The four associations are Thirunelveli Gold Silver Diamond Jewellery Traders Association, Nanded Sarafa Association, Saraf Suvarnkar Sangthna Pusad, and Ghadchiroli Zila Sarafa Association. These MoUs will help standardise EGRs for Indian markets at the regional level and enhance transparency in pricing. BSE had earlier received in-principle approval from SEBI to launch Electronic Gold Receipts (EGR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – collaborated with 4 regional associations from Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu to promote Electronic Gold Receipts
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE – Asia’s 1st Stock Exchange Company

328. On February 14, Sandeep Bakhshi, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, won the “Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21”. The decision was taken by a high-profile jury of 5 members, chaired by former RBI deputy governor S. S. Mundra. The criteria used for selecting the contenders were the following: i) banks with an asset size of Rs 50,000 Cr and above as of March 2021 and ii) 10% or more growth in profits prior to provisioning in the past one, two and three-year periods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandeep Bakhshi (MD & CEO of ICICI Bank) – won the “Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21”
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”



Sports & Games

329. Kanpur hosted the MPL 58th National Chess Championship at the Ganges Club from February 25 to March 3. The Women’s National Championship will be at Bhubaneswar from February 25 to March 2. The events were held by the All India Chess Federation (AICF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 58th MPL National Chess Championship – hosted by Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Women’s National Chess Championship – hosted by Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Science & Technology

330. On February 13, Meta’s oversight board suggested Facebook and Instagram to make strict doxxing rules and urged Meta to consider doxxing as an offence which should prompt temporary account suspension. Doxxing is publishing and analysing others’ personal information on the internet with a malicious intent that can reveal the person’s real identity making them victims of harassments and cyber-attacks. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Meta's oversight board – suggested Facebook & Instagram to make strict 'doxing rules'
- Doxing – publishing others' personal information on internet with a malicious intent
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

Appointments & Resignations

331. On February 13, Bihar appointed Bhojpuri singer and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari as the brand ambassador for Khadi and other handicrafts of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – appointed Manoj Tiwari as the brand ambassador for Khadi & other Handicrafts of the state
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

332. On February 16, Gaming app A23 signed Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador. This app is owned by online skill gaming company 'Head Digital Works'. He will feature in its 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign along with a first-of-its-kind responsible gaming campaign. According to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) gaming committee, India emerged as the largest fantasy sports market in the world with over 13 Cr users playing fantasy sports. According to a report by consulting firm RedSeer, India's gaming market will grow to a \$7 billion valuation in FY2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shah Rukh Khan – appointed as brand ambassador of gaming app "A23" to feature in its 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign
- A23 – owned by online skill gaming company 'Head Digital Works'
- According to RedSeer report: India's gaming market will grow to a \$7 billion valuation in FY2026
- HQs of Head Digital Works – Hyderabad | CEO – Deepak Gullapalli

333. On February 13, Delhi High Court appointed former J&K High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal as the chairperson of the Committee of Administrators to discharge the functions of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI). Senior Advocate Chetan Mittal and a renowned athlete S. D. Mudgil were appointed as a member of the committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Justice Gita Mittal – appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee of Administrators to oversee TTFI
- HQs of TTFI – New Delhi | President – Dushyant Chautala | Secretary Gen – Arun K Banerjee | Established – 1926

334. On February 11, Former Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar was appointed as India's 1st National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) to strengthen the India's maritime security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack 14 years ago. The NMSC works in coordination with the National Security Council Secretariat headed by NSA Ajit Doval. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Former Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar – appointed as India's 1st National Maritime Security Coordinator
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950



335. On February 15, Haryana-cadre IPS officer Kala Ramachandran was appointed as Gurugram's first woman police commissioner. He succeeded K. K. Rao. Besides, traffic management and road safety, she will also focus on the security and safety of citizens from street crimes like hooliganism, eve-teasing, and drunken driving. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPS officer Kala Ramachandran – appointed as Gurugram's first woman police commissioner (succeeding - KK Rao)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

336. On February 15, Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh launched a new scheme "Kunsnnyoms" for differently-abled persons in the district. Kunsnnyoms, meant Equal for All, Fair for All, aims inclusive and accessible Ladakh. Under the new scheme, Leh Hill council is providing assistive devices, technologies to needy people at 90% subsidy. Kunsnnyoms means 'Equal for All, Fair for All'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh – launched "Kunsnnyoms" scheme for differently-abled persons
- [Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R. K. Mathur](#)

337. On February 16, Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced a slew of welfare schemes for Dalits, including one related to self-employment, on the occasion of birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas. To provide self-employment opportunities, the CM announced the launch of "Sant Ravidas Swarozgar Yojana", under which loans up to Rs 25 lakh will be made available. The state government also started the "Chief Minister's Scheduled Caste Special Project", under which a grant of up to Rs 2 Cr will be given to SC youths for self-employment, skill up-gradation & innovation. Moreover, the MP government also launched the "Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Economic Welfare Scheme", under which loans up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided for purchasing low-cost equipment. Further, the Madhya Pradesh government will expand the reach of the "Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana" to ensure that no one goes hungry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh announced a slew of welfare schemes for Dalits on the occasion of birth anniversary of 'Guru Ravidas':
 - "Sant Ravidas Swarozgar Yojana"
 - "Chief Minister's Scheduled Caste Special Project"
 - "Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Economic Welfare Scheme"
 - "Deendayal Antyodaya Rasoi Yojana" (expanded the reach)
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

338. On February 11, Rajasthan has the maximum solar electrified households under the Saubhagya scheme. As many as 1,23,682 households were electrified under this scheme in Rajasthan, followed by Chhattisgarh & Uttar Pradesh. 'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' or 'Saubhagya' scheme was launched in October 2017 with the aim to achieve universal household electrification by providing last mile grid connectivity and electricity connections to all households in urban areas across India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Rajasthan – topped with maximum electrified households under “Saubhagya” scheme
- “Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana” or “Saubhagya” scheme – launched in October, 2017
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

Books & Authors

339. On February 18, the book, “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction”, is written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta. It is published under Niyogi Book’s ‘Paper Missile’ imprint. A new book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction” – authored by Uma Das Gupta
- Published under Niyogi Book’s ‘Paper Missile’ imprint

340. Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates has written a book “How To Prevent The Next Pandemic”. The book is published by Knopf in US & by Penguin Random House internationally. His last book, “How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need”, was released in February 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “How To Prevent The Next Pandemic” book – authored by Bill Gates
- Publisher – Knopf (in US) & Penguin Random House (internationally)

Obituaries

341. On February 15, Legendary Bengali singer Sandhya Mukhopadhyay passed away. She was 90. In 1971, she bagged the ‘National award for Best Female Playback Singer’ for songs in the films Jai Jayanti (1970) and Nishi Padma (1970). In 2022, she declined the Padma Shri award. She was awarded ‘Banga Bibhushan’, the highest honour in West Bengal, by the State government in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandhya Mukhopadhyay – Legendary Bengali singer – Passed away
- Awards: ‘Banga Bibhushan’ (highest honour in West Bengal) + ‘Padma Shri 2022’ (declined)

342. On February 15, Singer-composer Bappi Lahiri passed away due to suffering from OSA (Obstructive Sleep Apnea). He was 69. was fondly known as ‘Bappi da’. He earned the title ‘Disco King’ because of his work on films such as Disco Dancer, Namak Halaal, Dance Dance, Commando. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bappi Lahiri – Singer & composer – passed away



343. On February 16, Kannada litterateur Dr. Chennaveera Kanavi passed away. He was 94. He won Sahitya Akademi award for his book “Jeevadhvani”. He also received the Rajyotsava Award, Pampa Award, Nadoja title, Nrupathunga award, Sahitya Bangara Award and several other awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Chennaveera Kanavi – a Kannada litterateur – passed away
- He had won ‘Sahitya Akademi’ award for his book “Jeevadhvani”
- Other Awards: Rajyotsava Award, Pampa Award, Nadoja title, Nrupathunga Award & Sahitya Bangara Award

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

344. On February 11, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar participated in the 4th Quad Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Melbourne. On February 12, EAM and Australian Foreign Minister co-chaired the 12th Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue. He also co-chaired the inaugural Foreign Ministers’ Cyber Framework Dialogue (FMCFD) with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar (EAM) – participated in the 4th “Quad Foreign Ministers’ Meeting” in Melbourne, Australia
- S. Jaishankar + Marise Payne ([Australia](#)) = co-chaired the 12th “Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue”
- S. Jaishankar + Marise Payne = co-chaired the 1st “Foreign Ministers’ Cyber Framework Dialogue (FMCFD)”

345. On February 17, During the virtually held 8th annual meeting of the “Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure”, India and Germany signed a ‘Work Plan 2022’ for cooperation to strengthen quality infrastructure & reduce technical barriers to trade. Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh co-chaired the meeting. A publication “United in Quality and Safety” was released providing information about the quality infrastructure in Germany and the European Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rohit Kumar Singh – co-chaired the 8th annual meeting of “Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure”
- India + Germany = signed a ‘Work Plan 2022’ for cooperation to strengthen quality infrastructure
- [Germany – Berlin – Euro](#) | [President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier](#)

346. On February 16, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated The Energy and Resources Institute’s (TERI) 21st edition of the “World Sustainable Development Summit” (WSDS) on February 16, 2022. The experts curated on the theme “Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future”. The Summit would also see participation delegates from 126 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated TERI’s 21st edition of the “World Sustainable Development Summit” (hosted by India)
- Theme – “Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future”
- [HQs of TERI – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Dr. Vibha Dhawan](#) | [Established in – 1974](#)



Ranks, Report & Surveys

347. On February 17, India's estimated foodgrains production (consisting of rice, wheat, pulses and coarse cereals, production) is 316.06 million tonne (mt) for the 2021-22 crop year (July-June), as per the Second Advance Estimate released by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW). The projected output exceeds the target of 310.74 mt set by the Agriculture Ministry at the beginning of the season. According to the Economic Survey, the agriculture and allied sectors are expected to register a growth rate of 3.9% in 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Second Advance Estimate of major crops production for the year 2021-22 – released by MoAFW
- India's estimated foodgrains production is 316.06 mt for 2021-22 Crop Year (July-June)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

348. On February 16, Brio Hydroponics, an Ahmedabad-based agritech firm, entered into a joint venture with an Israeli firm Pic-Plast Limited for a rain protection technique that will help grow plants hydroponically throughout the year. The technique will give a better quality of the crop, higher yield and also help harvest rainwater. This technique will be used to set up India's 1st Rain Technology Nethouse with Solarig Net House kit in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Brio Hydroponics (Ahmedabad, Gujarat) + Pic-Plast Ltd (Israel) = joint venture for a Rain Protection Technique
- This technique will be used to set up India's 1st Rain Technology Nethouse with Solarig Net House kit in Ahmedabad
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

349. On February 16, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed 2 MoUs with the Industries Department of Government of Bihar and the Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA) to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. Bihar is the 14th state in India with which SIDBI has tied up for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + Bihar = 2 MoUs to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state (14th state)
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

350. On February 21, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) in order to increase biofuel production in India for reducing carbon emissions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NAFED + IOCL = an MoU to increase biofuel production in India
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Rajbir Singh Panwar | Chairman – Bijender Singh
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959





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