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निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



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

**February**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 8**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 8 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

**351.** On February 18, the Centre approved the implementation of Phase II of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) project by the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of Rs 3,375 Cr during the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The project will be implemented as a central sector scheme. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with National Informatics Centre (NIC). Under Phase-II, the system is built on the principle of 'One Data One Entry'. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- The Centre approved the implementation of 'Phase II' of 'ICJS project' by the Ministry of Home Affairs
- ICJS – Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System | Cost – Rs 3,375 Cr | Period – from 2022-23 to 2025-26
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Vivek Gogia | Established in – 1986
- Ministry of Home Affairs: Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Home Affairs: Nityanand Rai, Ajay Kumar & Nisith Pramanik

**352.** On February 17, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Union minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal, inaugurated India's first water taxi in Mumbai. A Belapur jetty was also inaugurated in this event. The Mumbai water taxi services will provide faster connectivity between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai. The Sagarmala programme is promoting rapid economic development. As many as 131 projects worth Rs 1.05 lakh Cr have been earmarked for Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched India's first water taxi in Mumbai
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**353.** On February 15, SEBI board decided to make provision for separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO as 'voluntary' against 'mandatory' earlier. In June 2017, SEBI had set up a committee on corporate governance under Uday Kotak to seek recommendations to further enhance corporate governance norms for listed companies. One of the recommendations was the separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO. The provision for mandating separation of the role of chairperson and MD/CEO of listed companies will be applicable from April 01, 2022, for top 500 listed companies. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- SEBI – made provision for separation of the roles of chairperson and MD/CEO as 'voluntary' against 'mandatory'
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**354.** On February 15, The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) organised a "Darkathon-2022" to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet. NCB Director-General S. N. Pradhan inaugurated the event which will be held in three phases till April 22. In 2021, there is an increase of 300% in the seizure of heroin, 172% increase in the seizure of opium, and 191% increase in the seizure of cannabis from 2017. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- NCB – organised "Darkathon-2022" to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet
- HQs of NCB – New Delhi | DG – Satya Narayan Pradhan



**355.** On February 18, NHPC Limited set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company “NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)” for development of Renewable Energy, Small Hydro and Green Hydrogen based business of NHPC Ltd. The Subsidiary has been incorporated with the Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana. Currently, NHPC’s total installed generation capacity stands at 7071 MW which includes 100 MW of Solar/Wind energy-based plants. Also, NHPC recently signed a Letter of Intent with Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL) for Development of 10,000 MW Renewable Energy Projects/Parks. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NHPC – set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company “NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)” in Haryana
- NHPC + RRECL = a Letter of Intent for Development of 10,000 MW Renewable Energy Projects/Parks
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**356.** On February 18, India’s & South Asia’s first Biosafety level-3 (BSL-3) containment mobile laboratory was set up in Nashik, Maharashtra. This mobile laboratory has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings. The laboratory has been designed and built by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with Mumbai based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaid. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India’s & South Asia’s first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was set up in – Nashik, Maharashtra
- Designed & Built by – ICMR + Klenzaid
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911

**357.** On February 19, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia’s biggest Bio-CNG plant - the Gobar-Dhan plant in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The municipal solid waste based Gobar-Dhan plant, built at the cost of Rs 150 Cr, is in line with PM Modi’s vision of creating “garbage-free cities” under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. The Gobar-Dhan plant will have the capacity to treat 550 tonnes of segregated wet organic waste and produce around 17,000 kg CNG and 100 tonnes of organic compost per day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asia’s biggest Bio-CNG plant - the Gobar-Dhan plant – in Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**358.** On February 16, Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the career counselling workshop “Pramarsh 2022” for the students of Bikaner district of Rajasthan. Workshop conducted with the support of The National Institute of Career Services (NICS), which comes under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, and educational start-up Edumilestones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Ram Meghwal – launched the career counselling workshop “Pramarsh 2022” for students of Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Launched by MoC & MoPA | Conducted with the support from: NICS & Edumilestones
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



**359.** In February 2022, Thousands of ‘Crimson Rose’ butterflies swarmed all available flowering plants along the pristine beach of Dhanushkodi at the southern-most tip of the Rameswaram island in the Indian peninsula to migrate to Sri Lanka. They chose to cross the sea from Dhanushkodi, which is one of the closest Indian beaches from Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Crimson Rose’ butterflies – gathered at Dhanushkodibeach in Rameswaram island to migrate to Sri Lanka
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**360.** On February 15, the SEBI reconstituted its Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry. The committee has now 20 members and it is chaired by Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayana Murthy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – reconstituted its Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee – chaired by N. R. Narayana Murthy
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**361.** On February 22, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal addressed the inaugural ceremony of “India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) Signature 2022” which was organised by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). The minister stated that India’s gems and jewellery exports are expected to reach \$40 billion with the growth of 6.5% in the current financial 2021-2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – addressed the inaugural ceremony of “India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) Signature 2022”
- India’s gems & jewellery exports are expected to reach \$40 billion with the growth of 6.5% in FY2021-22
- HQs of GJEPC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Colin Sha

**362.** On February 20, Commerce Department was revamped to achieve the \$2 trillion exports target by 2027. Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal chaired a meeting on the issue. The ‘Trade Remedies Review Committee’ would be setup including Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance and line ministries for transparency in investigations outcomes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Commerce Department was revamped to achieve the \$2 trillion exports target by 2027
- Piyush Goyal – chaired a Meeting on Revamping Department of Commerce

**363.** Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal inaugurated 12,430 new smart classrooms in 240 government schools of the national capital at Rajkiya Kanya Vidyalaya in Rajokri. With this, the tally of new classrooms built by the Kejriwal government reached 20,000. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arvind Kejriwal – inaugurated 12,430 new smart classrooms in 240 government schools of New Delhi
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**364.** A “Samajik Adhikarita Shivar” for distribution of aids and assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ under the ‘ADIP Scheme’ of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) will be organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD) in association with ALIMCO at Niwari in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivar’ program distributes aids & assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ under MoSJE
- DEPWD + ALIMCO = organized “Samajik Adhikarita Shivar” at Niwari, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

## International Affairs

**365.** A 44-member contingent of Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in the “Singapore Air Show 2022” at Changi International Airport, Singapore from February 15 to 18, 2022. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event which provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase their products. ‘Tejas MK-I’ aircraft represented India at the Airshow. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 44-member contingent of IAF – participated in the “Singapore Air Show 2022” at Changi International Airport
- ‘Tejas MK-I’ represented India at the Airshow

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**366.** On February 18, Nepal became the 1<sup>st</sup> country outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform. The international arm of NPCI, NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the services in Nepal. Gateway Payments Service is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal and Manam Infotech will deploy UPI in Nepal. This step will help modernize Nepal’s digital payment infrastructure and bring the convenience of digital payments to citizens of Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nepal – became the first country outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform
- NIPL + Gateway Payments Service + Manam Infotech = to provide the UPI payment services in Nepal
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

**367.** On February 18, State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) announced subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL). A National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) and an Asset Management Company (IDRCL) were set up to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt in the banking/financial system. PSBs and public Financial Institutions (FIs) will hold a maximum of 49% stake in IDRCL and the rest will be with private sector lenders. PSBs will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL and the rest will be with private sector lenders. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- SBI + BoB + PNB + UBI + Canara Bank + BoM = announced subscription to the shares of IDRCL
- PSBs & public FIs will maintain 51% ownership in NARCL & 49% in IDRCL
- MD of NARCL – Padmakumar M. Nair | Chairman – Pradip Shah | Lead Sponsor – Canara Bank (12% equity)
- CEO of IDRCL – Sanjay Jain | Chairman – Diwakar Gupta

**368.** On February 17, the largest bank of the US, JP Morgan became the first bank to launch itself in the metaverse. The bank named the lounge as 'Onyx', which is the bank's suite of permissioned Ethereum-based services. Onyx features a digital image of the bank's CEO Jamie Dimon. Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- JP Morgan – became the first bank to launch itself in the metaverse & named the lounge as 'Onyx'
- HQs of JP Morgan Chase – New York, US | CEO – Jamie Dimon

**369.** On February 20, Bank of Baroda's (BoB) subsidiary BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) partnered to launch the "IRCTC BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card". The card offers a 1% transaction fee waiver for the customers on all their train ticket bookings. The card will also offer a 1% fuel surcharge waiver across all petrol pumps in the country. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BOB Financial Solutions + IRCTC = partnership to launch the "IRCTC BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card"
- 1% transaction fee waiver on train ticket bookings | 1% fuel surcharge waiver across all petrol pumps
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Rajni Hasija (addi. Charge)

## Defence Affairs

**370.** On February 18, India successfully test-fired a naval variant of the advanced "BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile" from Indian Navy's warship INS Visakhapatnam which is the latest warship of the Indian Navy inducted recently. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound. BrahMos missiles are designed & developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by the DRDO & Mashinostroyeniya of Russia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – successfully test-fired a naval variant of "BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile" from INS Visakhapatnam
- BrahMos missiles – developed by BrahMos Aerospace - a JV between DRDO (India) & Mashinostroyeniya (Russia)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



**371.** On February 15, Telangana Governor flagged off the first-ever all-women Army officers' offshore sailing expedition, under the aegis of the Army Adventure Wing Southern Command Sailing Node and the EME Sailing Association, in Chennai. The expedition route is from Chennai to Visakhapatnam and back. Major Mukta S. Gautam from the Corps of EME is leading the momentous expedition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – flagged off the first-ever all-women Army officers' offshore sailing expedition in Chennai
- Expedition headed by – Major Mukta S. Gautam | Route – Chennai to Visakhapatnam
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

**372.** The Air Forces of Bangladesh and the US conducted a 6-day bilateral tactical airlift exercise “Cope South 22” between Feb 20-25 at Dhaka. The aim of the exercise is to improve interoperability with the Bangladesh air force and to support the armed forces of Bangladesh's long-term modernization efforts in order to maintain regional stability. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh + US = conducted a 6-day bilateral tactical airlift exercise “Cope South 22”
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris



## **Sports & Games**

**373.** The Badminton Asia Team Championships 2022 was organised by Badminton Asia & Badminton Association of Malaysia from 15 to 20 February 2022. In the men's final, Malaysia defeated Indonesia while Indonesia won the women's title after beating South Korea. The tournament serves as the Asian qualifiers for the '2022 Thomas and Uber Cup'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Malaysia – hosted the “Badminton Asia Team Championships 2022”
- Men's final won by – Malaysia (defeated - Indonesia) | Women's final won by – Indonesia (defeated - South Korea)
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
- HQs of Badminton Association of India – New Delhi | President – Himanta Biswa Sarma

**374.** Chelsea Football Club was crowned as the World Champion in the “FIFA Club World Cup 2021/22” final by defeating Brazilian Palmeiras Football Club. The tournament was held from 3 to 12 February 2022 in Abu Dhabi, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chelsea FC – won the “FIFA Club World Cup 2021/22” final – held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (defeating - Palmeiras FC)

**375.** On February 13, Kerala women defeated Railways to clinch the “National Senior Volleyball Championships” title in Bhubaneswar for the 4<sup>th</sup> successive edition. The Kerala team mainly consisted of KSEB and Kerala Police spikers. The team was led by K. P. Anusree. In the men's final, Haryana won the title by defeating Railways. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “National Senior Volleyball Championships” – held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Women’s title won by – Kerala (defeating - Railways)
- Men’s title won by – Haryana (defeating - Railways)
- HQs of VFI – Chennai | President – Prof. Achyuta Samanta | Secretary General – Anil Choudhary
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – PinarayiVijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – ManoharLalKhattar | Governor – BandaruDattatraya

## Science & Technology

**376.** On February 18, A team of herpetologists recorded a new species of bent-toed gecko from a wooded part of the Umroi Military Station in Meghalaya. Its scientific name is “Crytodactylus exercitus” and English name is Indian Army’s bent-toed gecko. Exercitus in Latin means army. The name was given to honour the Army for its services to the country. The finding of the study was published in the latest issue of the European Journal of Taxonomy. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ‘Crytodactylus exercitus’ - a species of ‘bent-toed gecko’ – discovered from Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya
- Published in – European Journal of Taxonomy
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

**377.** On February 15, A U.S. patient with leukemia became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman and the 3<sup>rd</sup> person to be cured of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant from a donor who was naturally resistant to the virus that causes AIDS. Stem cells are more frequently used in bone marrow transplants. This case is part of a larger U.S. backed study led by Dr. Yvonne Bryson of the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and Dr. Deborah Persaud of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- A U.S. patient with ‘leukemia’ became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman & the 3<sup>rd</sup> person to be cured of “HIV” after a stem cell transplant
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**378.** On February 15, Hyderabad-based space startup “NavarsEdutech” partnered with “Skyroot Aerospace” to launch 100 student-developed satellites constellation in the next 5 years. This partnership enables Navars Edutech to become India’s first Space Education startup for K12 students to design and launch satellites to space, using an indigenously developed private launch vehicle of Skyroot Aerospace. Navars will lead this EdTech transformation for the first time in the country at the school level. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Navars Edutech + Skyroot Aerospace = to launch 100 student-developed satellites constellation in the next 5 years
- Navars Edutech – India’s first Space Education startup for K12 students to design & launch satellites to space
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana
- HQs of NavarsEdutech – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Sravan Varma



## Appointments & Resignations

**379.** On February 17, Sportswear company Adidas roped in table tennis player, Manika Batra as the brand ambassador. She joined Adidas' roster of women athletes, consisting of names such as Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Hima Das, Nikhat Zareen, among others. Adidas is driving the campaign, "Impossible Is Nothing" through its athletes to celebrate the women in the world of sports. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Manika Batra – roped in as the brand ambassador of Adidas
- HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Kasper Rorsted

**380.** On February 18, International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission (IOC AC) re-elected Emma Terho (Finland, Ice Hockey) as its Chair, Seung Min Ryu (Republic of Korea, Table Tennis) as first Vice-Chair, and Sarah Walker (New Zealand, Cycling) as second Vice-Chair of the Commission. In December 2021, the IOC Executive Board (EB) accepted the proposal by the IOC AC to create a second Vice-Chair position. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Emma Terho (Finland, Ice Hockey) – re-elected as Chair of the International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission
- Seung Min Ryu (Republic of Korea, Table Tennis) – elected as the first Vice-Chair of the IOC AC
- Sarah Walker (New Zealand, Cycling) – elected as the second Vice-Chair of the IOC AC
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach | Established in – 1894

**381.** The Delhi-based Institute of Economic Growth appointed Chetan Ghate as the new Director succeeding Ajit Mishra. He is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Chetan Ghate – appointed as the new Director of 'Institute of Economic Growth' (succeeding - Ajit Mishra)

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**382.** On February 17, Bill Gates was conferred with "Hilal-e-Pakistan", the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest civilian honour of Pakistan, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has been a major contributor in worldwide polio eradication through Gavi. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bill Gates – conferred with "Hilal-e-Pakistan" (2<sup>nd</sup> highest civilian honour of Pakistan)
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – ArifAlvi



**383.** On February 21, Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and Kriti Sanon received the “Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award 2022” in the Best Actor and Best Actress category for their performances in '83' and 'Mimi', respectively. Telugu film 'Pushpa: The Rise' bagged the 'Film Of The Year' award. While Shershaah received the 'Best Film' award. Ken Ghosh bagged 'Best Director' award for 'State of Siege: Temple Attack'. 'Candy' received 'Best Web Series' award and 'Pauli' received 'Best Short Film' award. Moreover, Veteran star Asha Parekh won the award for Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Award 2022”:
  - Best Actor: Ranveer Singh (for '83')
  - Best Actress: Kriti Sanon (for 'Mimi')
  - Best Director: Ken Ghosh
  - Best Film: 'Shershaah'
  - Film of The Year: 'Pushpa: The Rise' (Telugu film)
  - Best Short Film: 'Pauli'
  - Best Web Series: 'Candy'
  - Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry: Asha Parekh

**384.** On February 18, Coal India Limited, a Maharatna company, was awarded the “India's Most Trusted/Dependable Public Sector Company” award at the “Energy Meet and Excellence Award” function organized by Industry Chamber ASSOCHAM in Kolkata. CIL Chairman Pramod Agarwal was included in the list of “Top 40 CEOs of India” released in January 2022 by the well-known organization Start-up Lens. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIL – awarded the “India’s Most Trusted/Dependable Public Sector Company” award by ASSOCHAM
- Pramod Agarwal – was included in the list of “Top 40 CEOs of India” released by Start-up Lens (in Jan 2022)
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, West Bengal | CMD – Pramod Agrawal
- HQs of ASSOCHAM – New Delhi | President – Vineet Agarwal

## **Schemes & Initiatives**

**385.** On February 16, the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the capacity development (CD) scheme till March 2026 or further review, whichever is earlier. The capacity development scheme is an ongoing central sector scheme of MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation). The outlay approved for the continuation of the scheme during 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle is ₹3,179 Cr. The scheme comprises capacity development (Main) scheme and two sub schemes viz. Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS) and Economic Census (EC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved to continue “Capacity Development (CD) scheme” till March 2026 with outlay of ₹3,179 Cr
- ‘CD scheme’ – belongs to Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation



**386.** On February 16, At the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) approved project proposals for over 60,000 houses across 5 states - Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan under the “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)”. The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) now stand at 114.04 lakh. The total investment under the mission stands at Rs 7.52 lakh Cr, with central assistance of Rs 1.87 lakh Cr. Under the PMAY(U), the target is to build 2 Cr affordable houses by 31 March 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA approved project proposals for over 60,000 houses across 5 states under ‘PMAY(U)’
- Total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) – 114.04 lakh (as on Feb 16, 2022)
- Target: To build 2 Cr affordable houses under ‘PMAY(U)’ by 31 March, 2022 | Launch year – 2015

**387.** The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of February (February 19, 2022) for raising awareness on their importance and plight. It’s high time to create awareness on saving pangolins from extinction. All eight species of pangolin are listed on the IUCN’s red list of threatened species as Endangered Species.

**Key Points:**

- February 19 – “World Pangolin Day” (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of February)

**388.** On February 17, Secretary in MoHUA, Manoj Joshi chaired the “Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo”, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA). ‘Labarthiyon Se Rubaroo’ was planned as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The initiative was launched by the MoHUA in September 2021. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of the programme hosted by the Ministry with beneficiaries of different States/UTs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Joshi – chaired the “Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo” - an initiative of MoHUA (launched in Sep 2021)

**389.** On February 19, PM Narendra Modi launched ‘Kisan Drone Yatra’, an initiative of Garuda Aerospace. He flagged off 100 “Kisan drones” in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India. The campaign was launched for several states including poll-bound Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Goa. Garuda Aerospace has set a target of manufacturing 1 lakh Made in India drones in the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Modi – launched ‘Kisan Drone Yatra’ (an initiative of Garuda Aerospace)
- PM Modi – flagged off 100 “Kisan drones” in different cities & towns of India to spray pesticides in farms

**390.** On February 18, Pradhan Mantri FasalBeema Yojana (PMFBY) launched a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to the farmers under ‘Meri Policy Mere Hath’ in all the implementing states. PMFBY entered its 7<sup>th</sup> year in February 2022. The scheme was announced on February 18, 2016 and revamped in 2020, enabling voluntary participation of the farmers. It also made it convenient for the farmer to report crop loss within 72 hours of the occurrence of any event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PMFBY – launched a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance to the farmers under ‘Meri Policy Mere Hath’
- PMFBY – launched on February 18, 2016 & revamped in 2020
- PMFBY launched in – 2016 | CEO of PMFBY – Ritesh Chauhan



**391.** On February 18, the Government extended the scheme of “Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)” till March 31, 2026. It has been envisaged to support around 1600 projects under the new phase of the scheme. The new phase of the scheme has been designed to implement some of the recommendations and aims of the New Education Policy. Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) is an overarching scheme, operating in mission mode for funding the state government universities and colleges to achieve the aims of equity, access and excellence. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Rashtriya Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)” – extended till March 31, 2026

## **Important Days & Dates**

**392.** Every year, India observes the “Soil Health Card Day” on 19 February to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2022 marks the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the launch of the SHC Scheme. The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

**Key Points:**

- February 19 – Soil Health Card Day” (7<sup>th</sup> year of the launch of the SHC Scheme)
- SHC Scheme – launched by Narendra Modi on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at Suratgarh, Rajasthan



## **Books & Authors**

**393.** Jimmy Soni authored a book titled “The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley”. This book talks about paths of the two dramatically different startups, one led by Elon Musk and the other by Peter Thiel, that came together to form PayPal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley” book – authored by Jimmy Soni

## **Meetings, Conferences & Summits**

**394.** 12<sup>th</sup> edition of biennial defence exhibition “Defexpo 2022” was scheduled from March 10 to 13 with the theme “India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. In the event, defence manufacturers will exhibit their wares at the Helipad Exhibition Centre at Gandhinagar. Foreign defence manufacturers, including Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Airbus, among others will also participate for their respective exhibits. Various Indian players in defence sector will display their products at the exhibition that will have a “India pavilion” and a “Gujarat pavilion.” The Def-Expo 2022 will also feature a “Bandhan ceremony”. At the event, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the ‘India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave’ will also take place. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- “Defexpo 2022” – scheduled from March 10 to 13 in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar
- Theme – “India-The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the ‘India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave’ also scheduled to take place at the Defexpo
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – AcharyaDevVrat

## Amount & Agreements

**395.** On February 18, the Government of India (GoI), the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank signed a loan agreement of \$115 million (Rs 869 Cr) for implementation of “Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development” (REWARD) Project to adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers’ resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will support Karnataka with \$60 million, Odisha with \$49 million, and the remaining \$6 million will be for the central government’s Department of Land Resources. The \$115 million (Rs 869 Cr) loan has a maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- GoI + Karnataka + Odisha + World Bank = a loan agreement of \$115 mn for implementation of ‘REWARD’ Project
- Loan (\$115 million) – \$60 million to Karnataka, \$49 million to Odisha, \$6 million to Department of Land Resources
- Maturity period - 15 years | Grace period - 4.5 years
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**396.** On February 18, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL) to augment the tourism industry in India. The Ministry aims to position India as a preferred destination in the tourism-generating markets. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism + Alliance Air Aviation Limited = an MoU to augment the tourism industry in India
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt
- HQs of AAAL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vineet Sood





**397.** On February 18, India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) that will benefit almost 90% bilateral trade (both exports and imports) in various sectors such as gems and jewellery, leather, plastic products, agriculture products, medical devices, pharmaceutical products, and automobiles. The CEPA will lead to an increase in bilateral trade from the current \$60 billion to \$100 billion in the next 5 years. The trade deal will safeguard exporters and businesses from both countries from any unwarranted surge in volumes of any particular product. The UAE is currently India's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest trading partner and the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest export destination, after the US. A Joint Commemorative Stamp was also released on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence and the 50<sup>th</sup> year of UAE's foundation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + UAE = signed a 'Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement' in Feb 2022
- A Joint Commemorative Stamp was released on the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence & 50<sup>th</sup> year of UAE's foundation
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**398.** On February 16, Brio Hydroponics, an Ahmedabad based agritech startup, 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. India's first Rain Technology Nethouse with Solarig Net House kit will be up and running by March-end in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Brio Hydroponics (Ahmedabad, Guj) + Pic-Plast Ltd (Israel) = a pact for a rain protection technique
- India's first Rain Technology Nethouse – to come up in Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

**399.** On February 18, TransUnion CIBIL partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) to launch an MSME consumer education program. The objective of the program is to empower MSMEs with knowledge on how to build a good credit history and Cibil Rank to avail easier and faster access to finance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TransUnion CIBIL + FICCI = partnered to launch an 'MSME Consumer Education Program'
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – ArunChawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927

**400.** On February 22, Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited, a 100% subsidiary of Tata Power, signed an MoU with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India. India's target is to achieve 30 GW of offshore wind installations by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Power RE + RWE Renewable GmbH (Germany) = an MoU to develop offshore wind projects in India
- India's target is to achieve 30 GW of offshore wind installations – by 2030
- HQs of Tata Power RE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Ashish Khanna
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established in – 1915





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