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February
CA MockDrill
Combo

(PDF in English)



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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 MockDrill Test of February 2021 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 फरवरी 2021 माह में Testzone पर 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

1. Union minister Smriti Irani has inaugurated the 8th edition of India International Silk Fair, considered to be the country's biggest silk fair, to be held between 31 January to February 4. The event is being held virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic. India has long history of silk production and is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world. It is also the only country globally which produces all 4 major varieties of silk i.e. Mulberry, Eri, Tassar, and Muga. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Irani – inaugurated the 8th edition of India International Silk Fair
- India – 2nd largest producer of silk in the world | 1st – China
- India – the only country that produces all 4 major varieties of silk (Mulberry, Eri, Tassar & Muga)

2. The Inter Modal Station (IMS) will be constructed by the National Highways Authority (NHAI) near Ajni railway station in Nagpur. It will be ecological and environment friendly. The Ministry of Road Transport has allocated Rs 1200 Cr for this project. The project will provide employment to about 10,000 youths & it would take 2 to 3 years to complete. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHAI – to construct ecological & environment friendly “IMS” near Ajni railway station in Nagpur, MH
- IMS – Inter Modal Station | Outlay of the project – Rs 1200 Cr
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu | Founded in – 1988
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

3. Kerala is all set to get India's first ‘Gender Park’ which will likely become functional from February. A total of Rs 300 Cr has been spent on it. The Gender Park campus at Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode is in preparation for the 2nd International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II), which will be held from February 11 to 13. The Gender Park was founded in 2013 as an autonomous body under the Kerala government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first ‘Gender Park’ to be opened – in Vellimadukunnu, Kozhikode, Kerala
- 2nd International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II) – to be held from February 11 to 13 – in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

4. The 25th World Wetlands Day was observed on February 2. This day also marks the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention which was adapted on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. This year's theme for World Wetlands Day is “Wetlands and Water”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 2 – 25th World Wetlands Day & 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention
- Theme – “Wetlands and Water”
- Ramsar Convention was adapted/signed – on February 2, 1971



5. On February 1, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India has inaugurated the tribal festival Aadi Mahotsav at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The festival is being held from February 1-15, 2021. The theme of the festival is “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”. The Aadi Mahotsav is an annual event that was started in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated the tribal festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’ at Dilli Haat, New Delhi
- Theme – “A Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”

6. The Maritime Union of India (MUI) has urged the Indian shipping ministry to take cognisance of ‘Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change’ in the formulation of Maritime India Vision 2030. The Neptune declaration primarily focuses on recognising seafarers as key workers by all governments worldwide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MUI – urged government to take cognisance of ‘Neptune Declaration’ in formulation of Maritime India Vision 2030
- Key Focus of ‘Neptune Declaration’: Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change
- HQs of MUI – Mumbai, MH

7. The Union Health Ministry has decided to depute 2 multi-disciplinary teams to Kerala and Maharashtra, which are contributing to almost 70% of total COVID-19 active cases, to collaborate with state health authorities in instituting public health measures for virus management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Health Ministry – to depute 2 multi-disciplinary teams to Kerala & Maharashtra – for Covid management support
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

8. The Central government has launched “Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav” to mark India’s 75th year of independence. The Modi government has decided to celebrate 75 years of Indian independence 75 weeks before August 15 2022. The idea is to ‘create a vision’ for India@2047. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government – launched “Bharat ka Amrut Mahotsav” to mark India’s 75th year of independence
- Idea – ‘create a vision’ for India@2047

9. ‘Aatmanirbharta’ (Self-reliance) has been named by Oxford Languages as its “Hindi word of the year 2020”. The word was chosen by an advisory panel of language experts Kritika Agrawal, Poonam Nigam Sahay and Imogen Foxell. Previous Hindi words of the year are Aadhaar (2017), Nari Shakti (2018) and Samvidhaan (2019). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Aatmanirbharta’ (Self-reliance) – named by Oxford Languages as its “Hindi word of the year 2020”
- 2017 – Aadhaar | 2018 – Nari Shakti | 2019 – Samvidhaan

10. A first of its kind arboretum conserving over 210 species of trees found in the Shivalik range of Himalayas was inaugurated in Uttarakhand's Nainital district. The arboretum was inaugurated by Ajay Singh Rawat & it has over 210 tree and shrub species, making it one of the biggest arboretum in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand set up 1st arboretum for Shivalik range with 210 species of trees – in Nainital
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- Sivalik Hills – Mountain range in Nepal

11. On February 5, Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Salute to Caregivers - Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign” to Support Cancer Survivors. The implicit essence is best captured by the tagline ‘Iss Jung Mein Hum Sang Hai’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA – launched “Salute to Caregivers - Ek Naya Nazariya Campaign” to Support Cancer Survivors
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan

12. On February 2, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has raised \$500 million through issuance of dollar-denominated bonds under ‘Reg S route’ with a fixed maturity of May 16, 2031. This is the longest tenure bond issuance from India since the start of 2021. The bonds have a fixed coupon of 3.35% per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PFC – raised \$500 million in India's longest-tenure issue of USD bonds under ‘Reg S route’
- It is issued with a fixed maturity of – May 16, 2031
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon

13. On February 2, SEBI has released guidelines for setting up of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by asset management companies (AMCs). The LPCC is an entity established to undertake the activity of clearing and settlement of repo transactions. It has been decided that AMCs shall contribute Rs 150 Cr towards share capital of LPCC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – released guidelines for setting up of Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC) by AMCs
- AMC has to contribute Rs 150 Cr towards share capital of LPCC
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg

14. On February 2, the SEBI has revised the objective and eligibility criteria of its Innovation Sandbox with graded entry norms. Under the first stage, applicant must be an Indian citizen or entities registered in India. An applicant would be eligible for stage-two after completing minimum 60 days in stage-one of testing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – revised the objective and eligibility criteria of its Innovation Sandbox with graded entry norms
- An applicant would be eligible for stage-2 after completing minimum 60 days in stage-1 of testing
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg



15. On February 3, Punjab's first 'Central Water Treatment Plant' has started supply of clean drinking water in 85 villages of Moga district. It was set up with the assistance of the World Bank for Rs 232 Cr. Punjab has set up this plant at village Daudhar of Moga. The project has been developed by the company Larsen & Toubro (L&T). The company is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project for the next 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab's 1st 'Central Water Treatment Plant' started supply of clean drinking water – in 85 villages of Moga district
- L&T is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project for the next 10 years
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

16. On February 2, the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) has launched its 'PGI Amputee Clinic', the first in India. The clinic, a collective effort of various experts and departments of the institute, strives to provide social, mental and physical support to its patients. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PGIMER launched India's 1st 'PGI Amputee Clinic'
- HQs of PGIMER – Chandigarh, India | Director – Prof. Jagat Ram

17. On February 2, Minister of State for Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Babul Supriyo has announced that India has set up its 1st dedicated 'Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management' (CWCM) at Chennai on the occasion of Wetland Conservation Day. Wetlands occupy around 4.6% of the country's landmass. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has set up its 1st dedicated 'Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management' (CWCM) at Chennai, TN
- Wetlands occupy around 4.6% of India's landmass

18. On February 2, The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has ordered the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to probe the January 29 explosion near the Israel Embassy in Delhi. An Improvised Explosion Device (IED) was set off at a pavement near the embassy, damaging few cars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – ordered the NIA to probe the January 29 explosion near the Israel Embassy in Delhi
- Israel Embassy to India – Ron Malka
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- HQs of NIA – New Delhi | Director General – Y. C. Modi

19. On February 2, The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) has called for the withdrawal of sedition cases file against journalists in India and called for the repealing of sedition and criminal defamation laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CHRI – called for the withdrawal of sedition cases file against journalists in India
- HQs of CHRI – New Delhi | Executive Director – Maja Daruwala

20. On February 2, In Union Budget 2021, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to set up a new Central university in Leh, Ladakh. The Centre plans to introduce legislation to establish a new regulatory body, the Higher Education Commission of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – proposed to set up a new Central university in Leh, Ladakh
- [Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman \(Karnataka\) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur](#)

21. On February 2, The Union Budget announcement to set up a Multipurpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu has come in for praise from agar industries in southern districts of the State. The industries are dependent on the seaweed harvested from the Gulf of Mannar region in Rameswaram. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Budget announced to set up a ‘Multipurpose Seaweed Park’ – in Tamil Nadu
- Gulf of Mannar – in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit](#)

22. On February 1, As per the Union Budget-2021 announcement, Broad Gauge Route Kilometers (RKM) electrified is expected to reach 46,000 RKM. 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed by December, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Broad Gauge Route Kilometers (RKM) electrified is expected to reach 46,000 RKM
- 100% electrification of Broad-Gauge routes will be completed – by December, 2023

23. On February 1, India will set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (MITRA) parks over 3 years under the scheme of ‘Mega Investment Textile Parks’ which was announced in Budget FY22. A scheme of mega investment textile parks will be launched in addition to the Rs 10,683 Cr production linked incentive (PLI) scheme. India has already sanctioned 59 textile parks under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), of which 22 have been completed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India will set up 7 MITRA parks over 3 years under the ‘Mega Investment Textile Parks’ scheme
- MITRA – Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel
- Integrated Textile Parks (SITP) Scheme was launched in – 2005

24. On February 3, The Andaman and Nicobar Islands has become the first state or Union territory in India to be officially rid of the Covid-19 infection, at least for now, with active cases falling to zero in the islands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands – became the 1st state or UT in India to be officially Free of the Covid-19 infection
- [Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi](#)



25. On February 5, Kerala's first Human Milk Bank called 'Nectar of Life', was opened at Ernakulam General Hospital. Health Minister K. K. Shylaja had inaugurated it. The human milk bank was set up at a cost of ₹35 lakh. The facility will ensure breast milk for newborns who cannot be breastfed by their own mothers. It was set up by the Rotary Club of Cochin Global in collaboration with the State Health Department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala's 1st Human Milk Bank called 'Nectar of Life' opened at Ernakulam General Hospital
- Set up by – Rotary Club of Cochin Global | Cost – ₹35 lakh
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

26. On February 4, Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar has launched "e-Watch" app to check electoral malpractices. Mr. Ramesh Kumar urged people to make use of the app available on Google Play Store to lodge complaints of enticements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched "e-Watch" app to check electoral malpractices
- Andhra Pradesh State Election Commissioner – N. Ramesh Kumar
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

27. On February 3, Insurance regulator IRDAI has issued guidelines on Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy, an insurance cover for diseases such as dengue and malaria. All general and health insurers can offer this product by 1st April, 2021. The nomenclature of the product should be in the name of the insurance company followed by "Mashak Rakshak". The standard product will offer policy tenure of 1 year. The minimum sum insured will be ₹10,000 & maximum ₹2 lakh (in multiples of ₹10,000). It will be a single premium policy and have a 15 days waiting period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI issued guidelines on 'Standard Vector Borne Disease Health Policy' (for diseases such as dengue & malaria)
- All general and health insurers can offer this product – by 1st April, 2021
- Policy tenure – 1 year | Sum insured: minimum – ₹10,000 & maximum – ₹2 lakh
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

28. On February 4, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has launched the "Switch Delhi" campaign to promote Electric Vehicles and appealed to people to buy such vehicles to combat pollution in the city. The government has fixed an ambitious target of 25% Electric Vehicles among total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024. The government has also issued tenders for setting up 100 charging stations across the city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi launched the "Switch Delhi" campaign – to promote Electric Vehicles
- Target: 25% Electric Vehicles among total vehicle registrations in Delhi by 2024
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



29. On February 3, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has organised “Udyog Manthan” under which a series of webinars are being conducted on about 45 sectors including Pharma and Electronics. The exercise is focused on quality and productivity in all major sectors of manufacturing and services. It started on January 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry conducted a series of webinars on 45 sectors under “Udyog Manthan”
- DPIIT + QCI + NPC = organising “Udyog Manthan” – between January 4 and March 2
- [DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry \(Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra\)](#)

30. The Company Law Committee (CLC), headed by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma, has recommended that 12 offences under the LLP Act be decriminalised and that LLPs be allowed to issue non-convertible debentures (NCDs) to raise funds with the aim of improving ease of doing business for Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) firms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Company Law Committee – recommended decriminalization of 12 Compound Offences under ‘LLP Act, 2008’
- LLP – Limited Liability Partnership
- The Company Law Committee is headed by – Rajesh Verma (Corporate Affairs Secretary)

31. On February 2, Close relatives, friends and family of Bharat Ratna ‘Pandit Bhimsen Joshi’ held an informal interaction at the ‘Sawai Gandharva Memorial’ in Shivajinagar (Mumbai), as part of his birth centenary celebrations, organised by the Arya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya Sangeet Prasarak Mandal organised – Birth Centenary celebrations of ‘Pandit Bhimsen Joshi’ – in Mumbai
- [Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi – hails from Karnataka](#)

32. On February 4, Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) has raised \$750 million in 10-year dollar bond sale to international investors at a fixed interest rate of 2.80% per annum. The IRFC had the biggest IPO of the fiscal in January collecting Rs 4,633 Cr through a public issue. It was subscribed 3.49 times during January 18-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRFC – raised \$750 million in 10-year dollar bond sale to international investors at a fixed interest rate of 2.80%
- [HQs of IRFC – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Amitabh Banerjee](#)

33. On February 4, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully commissioned the 2nd unit of 1600 MW Gadawara Thermal Power Project in Narsinghpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The project is being developed by NTPC Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL commissioned the 2nd unit of 1600 MW Gadawara Thermal Power Project – in Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh
- The project is being developed by – NTPC Ltd
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

34. On February 5, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the 1st Heliport of Assam at Kerelagaon in Majuli district. The heliport having facility for simultaneous landing of three helicopters was constructed with an expenditure of Rs. 50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – inaugurated the 1st Heliport of Assam at Kerelagaon, Majuli
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

35. On February 4, Union Environment Ministry has approved the “Lakhwar Electricity Project” on Yamuna river. The total cost of the Lakhwar power project is Rs 5747.17 Cr. Apart from electricity generation, 6 states (Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan & Delhi) will also get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project. Its construction will provide 330 metric cusec meters of additional water. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Environment Ministry approved the “Lakhwar Electricity Project” on Yamuna river (Cost: Rs 5747.17 Cr)
- 6 states – will also get irrigation and pure drinking water from this project
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment (Constituency – Maharashtra)

36. On February 4, Agriculture Ministry has got approval from aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) for flying drones to capture images of rice and wheat fields in 100 districts to assess crop yields at gram panchayat level under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)’. This Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) is the first remote sensing technology based largest pilot study conducted so far in India for crop yield estimation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGCA approved for flying drones to capture images of Rice & Wheat fields in 100 districts to assess crop yields
- This UAV is the first remote sensing technology based largest pilot study – to be done under PMFBY
- HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General in the DGCA – Arun Kumar

37. On February 4, PM Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the historic “Chauri Chaura incident”, a landmark event in the country's fight for Independence. Mr. Modi also released a postage stamp to mark the beginning of the centenary celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a postage stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of “Chauri Chaura incident”
- Chauri Chaura Shaheed Sthal – in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh

38. On February 4, Billionaire Mukesh Ambani’s Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of ‘Carbon-Neutral Oil’ from the US as it looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035. Oxy Low Carbon Ventures (OLCV), a division of US oil major Occidental, delivered 2 million barrels of consignment Permian basin to Reliance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries – sourced the world's first consignment of 'Carbon-Neutral Oil' from the US
- Reliance Industries – likely to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- World's largest single location Oil Refining Complex (Reliance) – at Jamnagar, Gujarat

39. On February 6, The government in the Budget 2021 has announced that 1,000 more mandis will be integrated with electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) in 2021-22, further strengthening the wholesale markets. Currently, 1,000 mandis have been integrated with e-NAM in 21 states and Union Territories so far with 1.69 Cr farmers registered on it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1,000 more mandis will be integrated with “e-NAM” in 2021-22 (1,000 mandis have been integrated so far)
- e-NAM – electronic National Agriculture Market

40. On February 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed an event marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Gujarat High Court. He has also released a Commemorative Postage Stamp marking the completion of 60 years of the establishment of the High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed an event marking the Diamond Jubilee of the Gujarat High Court
- Narendra Modi – released a Commemorative Postage Stamp marking the completion of 60 years
- Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court – Vikram Nath

41. On February 6, The Himachal Pradesh cabinet has gone completely paperless after the government launched the 1st “E-cabinet” at Shimla. Earlier in 2014, the Himachal Pradesh state Assembly also went completely digital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh cabinet – launched the 1st “E-cabinet” at Shimla to go paperless
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

42. On February 6, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has launched data analytics-driven “MCA21 Version 3.0” during fiscal 2021-22. This system is the first Mission Mode e-Governance project of the Government of India. The key components of MCA21 are e-Scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-Consultation, Compliance Management System (CMS) and MCA Lab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – launched data analytics-driven “MCA21 Version 3.0” during fiscal 2021-22
- Key components: e-Scrutiny, e-adjudication, e-Consultation, Compliance Management System (CMS) & MCA Lab
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

43. California-based PayPal Holdings Inc will wind down its domestic payments business in India from April 1. PayPal will instead focus on its cross-border payments business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPal – to wind down its domestic payments business in India from April 1
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman

44. The 45th International Kolkata Book Fair, which was postponed due to the pandemic, will be held in July at Central Park in Salt Lake. This year's focal theme country will be Bangladesh as 2021 marks the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It will be 12-day book fair. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 45th International Kolkata Book Fair – to be held in July, 2021
- This year's focal theme country – Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

45. On February 5, India Meteorological Department (IMD) will establish India's 1st thunderstorm research testbed in Odisha's Balasore. The objective of setting up the thunderstorm testbed is to minimise human fatalities and loss of property due to lightning strikes. More than 350 people are killed on an average in lightning strikes in Odisha every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMD will establish India's 1st thunderstorm research testbed – in Balasore, Odisha
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

46. On February 5, The Gujarat state Labour and Employment department in collaboration with the Tata Group is setting up an Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Nasmed village in Gandhinagar district on a not-for-profit PPP model. Apart from Gujarat, the Union government has also approved IISs in Mumbai and Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat + Tata Group = setting up an Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) at Nasmed village in Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran

47. NITI Aayog has released the "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island - Vision Document" to leverage the strategic location and natural features of the island. The proposal is pivoted along 3 development anchors and zones. The proposal is pivoted along three development anchors and zones. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released the "Sustainable Development of Little Andaman Island - Vision Document"
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar



48. On February 8, The 5-day “National Horticulture Fair - 2021” being organized by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) has begun at the Institute’s Hessarghatta campus on the outskirts of Bengaluru city. The fair is held under the theme “For start-up and stand-up India” aims to increase farmers’ incomes by turning horticulture into a business enterprise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5-day “National Horticulture Fair - 2021” – held in Bengaluru
- Theme – “Horticulture for start-up and stand-up India”
- **Karnataka:** Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

49. On February 8, Tamil Nadu government has declared the creation of “Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve” which is the 5th tiger reserve in the state. An area of 1,01,657.13 hectares or 1016.5713 sq.km in Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary and Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary have been combined to create the tiger reserve. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – declared the creation of “Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve (5th in the state)
- Srivilliputhur Grizzled Giant Squirrel Sanctuary + Megamalai WC = Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve
- **Tamil Nadu:** Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

50. On February 8, Manipur has launched a new range of ‘Packaged Organic Products’ and ‘Loumi Connect’ App apart from distributing Bolero Camper vehicles and nurseries to 7 Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs). The chief minister also released Illustrative guide booklets on organic farming and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched a new range of ‘Packaged Organic Products’ and ‘Loumi Connect’ App
- Manipur – also released booklets on ‘Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region’
- **Manipur:** Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

51. On February 5, The Delhi cabinet has approved “Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha” in which Rs 5,000 will be provided to Rs 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship. The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level. Under this scheme, the students studying in Delhi schools who have secured more than 60% in Class 8 are eligible for the examination. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – approved “Mukhyamantri Vigyan Pratibha Pariksha”
- Rs 5,000 will be provided to Rs 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship
- Students with more than 60% in Class 8 are eligible for the examination
- **Delhi:** CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



52. On February 7, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of 2 hospitals and launched 'Asom Mala' Programme at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur district in Assam. 'Asom Mala' is aimed to improve state highways and major district roads network in the state. PM Modi also dedicated an 'LPG Import Terminal' in Haldia, West Bengal built by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and 348 km 'Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline' section to the nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of 2 hospitals & launched "Asom Mala" Programme – in Sonitpur, Assam
- Aim of 'Asom Mala' Programme – to improve state highways & major district roads network
- PM Modi also dedicated – an 'LPG Import Terminal' to the nation – in Haldia, West Bengal (built by BPCL)
- PM Modi also dedicated – a 348 km 'Dobhi-Durgapur Natural Gas Pipeline' section
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

53. On February 8, Ladakh Administration has signed a tripartite agreement with Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Energy Centre & Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh to establish India's first-ever Geothermal Field Development Project in Puga, taking a step further for carbon-neutral Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh + ONGC + LAHDC (Leh) = to establish India's 1st Geothermal Field Development Project in Puga, Ladakh
- Ladakh Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker

54. On February 7, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has announced that the prestigious "Akashvani Music Festival" has been renamed after Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. He made this announcement at a Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Centenary Commemorative function organised in Pune. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Akashvani Music Festival" has been renamed after – Pandit Bhimsen Joshi (Bharat Ratna in 2009)
- Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Centenary Commemorative function organised – in Pune, Maharashtra

55. On February 5, The Ministry of Education has decided to name the residential schools and hostels funded under the 'Samagra Shiksha' Scheme after Subhas Chandra Bose as "Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose residential schools". A total of 1,063 residential facilities (383 residential schools and 680 hostels) have been sanctioned to States and UTs so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Education Ministry – to name 1,063 residential schools & hostels under 'Samagra Shiksha' Scheme after S. C. Bose
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)



56. On February 5, The Finance Ministry has granted permission to 4 states - Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab to borrow an additional Rs 5,034 Cr through Open Market Borrowings for undertaking ease of doing business reforms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry granted permission to 4 states to borrow additional Rs 5,034 Cr through Open Market Borrowings
- 4 states – Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh & Punjab
- [Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka](#)

57. On February 8, Karnataka has got its 31st district with the state government issuing an official gazette notification carving out a new Vijayanagara district from Ballari. The new district will have 6 taluks and Hosapete will be its headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka has got its 31st district ‘Vijayanagara’ carving out of Ballari
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

58. On February 5, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has presented the state budget of ₹2,99,688 Cr (net) for the year 2021-22. Free ration would continue for all post-June 2021, while the subsidised health insurance scheme was opened up for enrollment throughout the year. A proposal of Rs 62,000 Cr investment for Jangalmahal Industrial Town at Raghunathpur in Purulia has come forward. The state also announced a 100-acre pharmaceutical park at Falta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal presented the state budget of ₹2,99,688 Cr (net) for the year 2021-22
- A proposal of Rs 62,000 Cr investment for Jangalmahal Industrial Town – at Raghunathpur in Purulia
- 100-acre Pharmaceutical Park – at Falta
- [West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar](#)

59. On February 8, According to the Chemical and Fertiliser Ministry, the total market size of the Indian Pharma Industry is expected to reach \$130 billion by 2030. The Medical Devices Industry in India has the potential to grow at 28% per annum to reach \$50 billion by 2025. India has been serving more than 200 countries with its pharma products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Pharma Industry is expected to reach \$130 billion – by 2030
- Medical Devices Industry in India has the potential to grow at 28% per annum to reach \$50 billion – by 2025
- [Minster of Chemicals and Fertilizers – D. V. Sadananda Gowda \(Constituency – Bangalore, Karnataka\)](#)

60. On February 8, Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh handed over a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to Peh (Paoyi) village under Ukhrul district in appreciation for steps taken to destroy poppy plantation. Peh would be promoted as a role model for other villages in ‘War on Drugs’ campaign. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- N Biren Singh handed over a cash reward of Rs 10 lakh to Peh (Paoyi) village, Ukhrul, Manipur
- ‘War on Drugs’ campaign – of Manipur
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

61. The Health Department has launched the Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS) campaign with the aim of reducing mortality in kids due to pneumonia in Madhya Pradesh. The protocol IMPACT training modules were also unveiled which have been developed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in partnership with PGIMER, Chandigarh, and UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – launched the ‘SAANS’ campaign to reduce infant mortality due to Pneumonia
- SAANS – Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

62. On February 7, The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings in the state. The Unicode number of the land will be 16 digits with the first 6 digits based on the population of the land, the next 4 digits determining the unique identity of the land, 11 to 14 will be the number of the division of the land & the last 2 digits will have the details of the category - the agricultural, residential and commercial land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – introduced a system of issuing a unique 16-digit Unicode to mark all kinds of landholdings
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

63. On February 6, President Ram Nath Kovind, who inaugurated “Gen. Thimayya Memorial Museum” at Madikeri in Kodagu district of Karnataka commemorating the services and valour of one of the greatest soldiers of India. General K.S. Thimayya served as the Chief of Army Staff from 1957 to 1961 and his ancestral house ‘Sunny Side’ has been renovated and converted into a museum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – inaugurated “Gen. Thimayya Memorial Museum” – in Kodagu, Karnataka
- General K.S. Thimayya served as the Chief of Army Staff – from 1957 to 1961
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

64. On February 10, The Odisha Cabinet meeting, presided over by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has approved 27 proposals including a proposal for amendment of the “Biju Patnaik University of Technology Act, 2002”. The Cabinet also approved a proposal to implement “REWARD” project envisaging an expenditure of Rs 500 Cr on science based management for 6 years starting from April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha Cabinet – approved 27 proposals recently
- A proposal for amendment of the “Biju Patnaik University of Technology Act, 2002”

- A proposal to implement “REWARD” project envisaging an expenditure of Rs 500 Cr on Science based management
- REWARD – Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

65. On February 10, The Kerala government has launched “Kerala Knowledge Mission” which aims to transform the state to a knowledge economy. Kerala also launched a web portal on ‘Digital Workforce Management System’ (DWMS) under its Knowledge Mission. The mission will promote innovative ideas, coordinate knowledge initiatives and equip young people with updated skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched “Kerala Knowledge Mission” to transform the state to a knowledge economy
- Kerala – also launched a web portal on ‘Digital Workforce Management System’ under its Knowledge Mission
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

66. On February 9, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Steel Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the “Investment Corner” under the Project Development Cell (PDC) on the revamped website of the Ministry to enhance its investment friendly ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Petroleum Ministry – launched the “Investment Corner” under the Project Development Cell (PDC)
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

67. On February 9, Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Health AdvantEDGE”, a health insurance policy that provides protection against expenses related to medical exigencies and other healthcare services. The policy comes with 60 days pre and 90 days post-hospitalization cover as well as a wide range of sum insured from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 Cr with the cashless facility and seamless claim procedure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA General Insurance has launched “Health AdvantEDGE” insurance policy
- 60 days pre & 90 days post-hospitalization cover | Range of sum insured – from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 3 Cr
- HQs of Bharti AXA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sanjeev Srinivasan

68. On February 9, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a Global level Hackathon - “NPCI PayAuth Challenge”, to find solution for alternatives for authorising UPI transaction through options like Biometrics. This challenge is supported by the world's first cross-border, open architecture API marketplace and sandbox platform – APIX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched a Global level Hackathon - “NPCI PayAuth Challenge” (supported by – APIX)
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008



69. On February 9, A Working Group Committee (WGC) set up by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recommended the introduction of Index-Linked Insurance Products (ILIP). ILIP is an insurance product where the returns are linked to benchmark indices. The lock-in period for an Index-Linked Insurance Plan is 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Working Group Committee of IRDAI – recommended the introduction of Index-Linked Insurance Products (ILIP)
- The lock-in period for an ILIP is 5 years
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

70. On February 10, The Supreme Court has stayed the dismantling of decommissioned aircraft carrier “INS Viraat”. Shri Ram Ship Breakers had purchased the ship for ₹38.54 Cr in an auction conducted by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd in September, 2020. During the hearing on Feb 10, the petitioner firm agreed to purchase the decommissioned ship from Shree Ram Ship Breakers at ₹100 Cr. The aircraft carrier INS Viraat was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 and decommissioned in 2017. The warship is at the ship-breaking yard at Alang on Gujarat coast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court stayed the dismantling of decommissioned aircraft carrier “INS Viraat”
- Shri Ram Ship Breakers had purchased the ship for ₹38.54 Cr in an auction in September, 2020
- ‘INS Viraat’ is India’s 1st Aircraft carrier & also the world’s longest serving warship (30 years)
- ‘INS Viraat’ was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 & decommissioned in 2017

71. On February 11, The SIDBI along with the Confederation of Women Entrepreneurs of India (COWE), has launched the ‘Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign’, which is a 20 webinar series to give a fillip to ‘Stand Up India’ scheme. Under the scheme, the bank provides loan between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 Cr to at least one SC or ST borrower and at least one woman borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield Enterprise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + COWE = launched ‘Swavalamban Sashakt - Mega Campaign’ to boost ‘Stand Up India’ scheme
- Under the scheme, the bank provides loan between ₹10 lakh & ₹1 Cr to SC or ST or woman borrower
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990
- HQs of COWE – Hyderabad, Telangana | Founder & President – Soudhamini Prodduturi

72. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has unveiled 2 new initiatives of Technology on the Occasion of its 34th Foundation Day on February 10, 2021. “SAKSHAM” (Shramik Shakti Manch), a dynamic job portal for mapping the skills of Shramiks vis-a-vis requirements of MSMEs and a “Seaweed Mission” for commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing for value addition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TIFAC (New Delhi) – unveiled 2 new initiatives of Technology “SAKSHAM” & “Seaweed Mission”
- SAKSHAM – Shramik Shakti Manch
- February 10 – 34th Foundation Day of TIFAC

73. The government has set up a Nodal Authority to frame Approved Standardised Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels (DSFV) Design and Specifications (ASDDS) to help state fisheries departments in expediting implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The PMMSY is a flagship scheme with an estimated investment of ₹20,050 Cr during a 5-year period beginning April 1, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government set up a Nodal Authority to frame approved standardised DSFV Design and Specifications – in expediting implementation of PMMSY
- DSFV – Deep-Sea Fishing Vessels
- An estimated investment in PMMSY – ₹20,050 Cr

74. On February 10, the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) was inaugurated & it has the objective of increasing digital economy contribution to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) to 30%. The “Beyond Bengaluru” report which facilitates to achieve this target was also launched. The KDEM aims to attract investments for the IT/ITeS sector in the state and to create 10 lakh jobs by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Karnataka Digital Economy Mission” has the objective of increasing Digital Economy Contribution to GDP to 30%
- KDEM aims to attract investments for the IT/ITeS sector in the state and to create 10 lakh jobs – by 2025
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

75. Nitin Gadkari has called for all-round efforts by all stakeholders to ensure that deaths due to road accidents are reduced by 50% by 2025. India stands at number one position in road accidents in the world, ahead of US and China. He inaugurated the Webinar series being launched by the International Road Federation on the theme of “Road Safety Challenges in India & Preparation of an Action Plan”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Road Transport ministry is planning to reduce deaths due to road accidents by 50% – by 2025
- Road accidents in the world: 1st – India | 2nd – US | 3rd – China
- Theme of Webinar series launched by the International Road Federation – “Road Safety Challenges in India & Preparation of an Action Plan”

76. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new goal-based savings product - “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow” (GIFT), which provides a guaranteed income to policy holders to help them achieve their long-term financial goals. Another unique aspect of ‘ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow’ is the “Save The Date” feature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – launched a new goal-based savings product - “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow” (GIFT)
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan



77. The Indian Army has laid the foundation stone of the tallest Indian National Flag in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir. The flag will be on a 100 feet-high pole. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army laid the foundation stone of the tallest Indian National Flag in Gulmarg, J & K (Height - 100 ft)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

78. Twitter has suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India after the Indian government's request to curb spread of misinformation and inflammatory content around farmers' protests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Twitter has suspended over 500 accounts and blocked access to several others within India
- HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey

79. On February 12, Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has virtually inaugurated more than 57,000 water structures costing over Rs 2000 Cr constructed in Madhya Pradesh under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign & under 'Mahatma Gandhi NREGA' and 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Irrigation Scheme' from New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated over 57,000 water structures costing over Rs 2000 Cr constructed in Madhya Pradesh
- They were inaugurated under 'Jalabhishekam' campaign + 'MGNREGS' + 'PM Krishi Irrigation Scheme'
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

80. An MoU was signed between Central government and Uttarakhand government for setting up of ₹173 Cr Science City in Dehradun. The MoU was signed between Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST) and National Council of Science Museums (NCSM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government + Uttarakhand = an MoU to set up ₹173 Cr Science City in Dehradun
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

81. India's flagship digital platform to monitor and manage the Covid-19 vaccination programme "Co-Win" has been integrated into the government's coronavirus contact tracing app "Aarogya Setu". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government integrated = "Co-Win" platform + "Aarogya Setu" app

82. On February 11, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal have jointly launched a website "www.theindiatoyfair.in" for the first India Toy Fair to be organised from February 27 to March 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “1st India Toy Fair” – to be organised from February 27 to March 2
- Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ + Smriti Irani + Piyush Goyal = jointly launched “www.theindiatoyfair.in” website
- India's 1st toy manufacturing cluster to come up in – Koppal, Karnataka (in Aug news)

83. Madhya Pradesh has decided to set up a Police Museum showcasing traces of Phoolan Devi, Nirbhay Gujjar & other dacoits in the Chambal river neighbouring Bhind district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Police Museum on Dacoit” – to be set up in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

84. On February 13, Recykal, a digital ‘waste-commerce’ solutions provider, has been selected as the first member from India for the “Circulars Accelerator Program 2021” led by Accenture, in partnership with Anglo American, Ecolab and Schneider Electric, and in collaboration with UpLink and the World Economic Forum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Recykal – selected as the 1st member from India for the “Circulars Accelerator Program 2021” led by Accenture
- HQs of Recykal – Hyderabad, Telangana | Co-Founder & Chief Customer Officer – Abhishek Deshpande
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD (in India) – Rekha Menon
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

85. On February 12, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari has launched India's first-ever diesel tractor converted to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). The conversion, carried out jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India, will help farmers increase their income, by lowering the costs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched India's first-ever CNG tractor
- The conversion was carried out jointly by – Rawmatt Techno Solutions & Tomasetto Achille India
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

86. Aizawl will be linked to India’s railway grid by March 2023, making Mizoram the fourth of the 8th north-eastern States to get railway connectivity. 1,000 Cr has been allocated for the 2021-22 fiscal to be spent on the Bairabi-Sairang railway project. The Bairabi-Sairang project was sanctioned in 2008-09. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mizoram’s Aizawl will be linked to India’s railway grid by March 2023
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai



87. Goa has become the 6th State in India to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Thus, the State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs. 223 Cr through Open Market Borrowings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – became the 6th State in India to successfully undertake Urban Local Bodies (ULB) reforms
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

88. On February 12, Union minister Jitendra Singh has raised family pensions of the upper ceiling from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month. The move will bring ‘ease of living’ for the family members of the deceased employees and would provide adequate financial security to them. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh raised family pensions of the upper ceiling from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1,25,000 per month
- Jitendra Singh – MoS of DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space

89. On February 10, The NITI Aayog has constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers. In order to safeguard the interest of the migrant workers, the Central Government had enacted the Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This Act has now been subsumed in the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 which is commonly known as OSH Code. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog constituted a sub-group to prepare a National Action Plan for Migrant Workers
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

90. Odisha is set to inaugurate the ‘Covid Warrior Memorial’ in Bhubaneswar on 15th August, 2021. The memorial will be established at the Biju Patnaik Park in Bhubaneswar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to inaugurate the ‘Covid Warrior Memorial’ in Bhubaneswar on 15th August, 2021
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

91. On February 13, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) in partnership with 9 IIMs across India, has launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme to strengthen skills training at district level. The programme has been launched under the World Bank loan assisted programme ‘SANKALP’ (Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSDE + 9 IIMs = launched the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) programme
- It is launched under – World Bank loan assisted ‘SANKALP’ programme
- SANKALP – Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion
- MoSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)



92. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath has decided to set up 'Abhyudaya' Coaching Centres for aspiring candidates preparing to qualify the NEET, JEE (Mains and Advanced), CDS, NDA, UPSC and all other competitive exams. The free-of-cost coaching institutes will start functioning from the auspicious day of 'Basant Panchami' on February 16. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – to set up 'Abhyudaya' Coaching Centres for aspiring candidates for competitive exams from Feb 16
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

93. On February 14, Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Council has approved the establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project Kot Bhalwal by the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED). It will be set up at the estimated project cost of Rs. 74.41 Cr and project timeline of 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K approved the establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project by NAFED
- Estimated project cost – Rs. 74.41 Cr | Project timeline – 2 years
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

94. On February 14, PM Narendra Modi has visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala and inaugurated a slew of projects including the extension of Chennai Metro Rail Phase 1 and a Discovery Campus for IIT Madras. In Kochi, Kerala (Cochin Port), he dedicated the Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project of Bharat Petroleum Corp to the Nation and launched the Ro-Ro vessels at Willingdon Island and inaugurated the Sagarika International Cruise Terminal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – visited Tamil Nadu and Kerala on February 14
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of "Discovery Campus" – at IIT Madras
- Narendra Modi – dedicated the "Propylene Derivative Petrochemical Project" of BPCL – in Kochi, Kerala
- Narendra Modi – launched the "Ro-Ro vessels" at Willingdon Island, Kerala
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated "Sagarika International Cruise Terminal" – at Willingdon Island, Kerala (Cochin Port)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar

95. The second phase of "Vigyan Jyoti" programme was commenced on the occasion of 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science' on February 11, 2021. The programme will spread the programme for encouraging girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM. It had been running successfully in 50 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) since December 2019 and has now been expanded to 50 more JNVs for the year 2021-22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd phase of “Vigyan Jyoti” programme was commenced on February 11, 2021
- Aim: To encourage girls to take interest in science and build a career in STEM
- STEM – Science Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

96. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway will be India’s first such highway where there will be a 12 km long elevated corridor for the protection of wildlife. The ministry has decided to execute the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project under Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode. It will be India’s 1st and Asia’s largest Wildlife corridor. It will reduce the distance between the two cities from 235 km to 210 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi-Dehradun Expressway – India’s first 12 km long elevated corridor for the protection of wildlife

97. PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of a “Maharaja Suheldev Memorial” and development work of Chittaura Lake in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh. Medieval Bhar chieftain Suheldev is projected as a Hindutva icon by the RSS-BJP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of a Maharaja Suheldev Memorial – in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh
- Chittaura Lake (also known as Ashtwarka jheel) – in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

98. At a time when the Centre is embroiled in a kerfuffle with microblogging site Twitter over blocking of certain accounts, several ministers and departments of the Union government have started flocking on “Koo App” - a homemade version of the social networking platform which is seen as an alternative to Twitter. The microblogging site was co-founded by entrepreneurs Aprameya Radhakrishna and Mayank Bidwatka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Koo App” – a homemade version of the social networking platform is seen as an alternative to Twitter
- HQs of Koo App – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-founders – Aprameya Radhakrishna + Mayank Bidwatka

99. The Rajasthan government has decided to provide 200 days of employment (additional 100 days of work) under MGNREGA, to the families of Sahariya and Khairua tribes of Baran district and Kathaudi tribe of Udaipur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – to provide 200 days of employment (additional 100 days of work) under MGNREGA
- Additional 100 days will be provided to 3 tribes of Rajasthan: Sahariya, Khairua & Kathaudi
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

100. The Union Culture Ministry's flagship festival, the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM), was held in West Bengal. The 11th edition of the festival was kicked off with the inauguration by West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar. The 10th edition of the festival was held in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 11th edition of "Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav" – held in West Bengal (Culture Ministry's flagship)
- Prahlaad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, MP)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

101. On February 14, The 3-day 'Mandu Festival' has begun at Mandu in the historic town of Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the 'Mandu Utsav' 2021 is "Khojne mein kho jao". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day 'Mandu Festival' began at Mandu, Madhya Pradesh | Theme – "Khojne mein kho jao"
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

102. On February 16, In New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched an "e-Chhawani" portal & app that will provide municipal services online to residents of 62 cantonment boards across India. Around 20 lakh people reside in 62 cantonment boards across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh has launched an "e-Chhawani" portal – in New Delhi
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

103. On February 15, The Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) has announced to introduce its own Debit Card that can be used in ATMs, PoS machines and for online transactions. Customers will soon be issued 5-year Rupay Platinum cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala Financial Corporation – to introduce its own Debit Card
- It will be 5-year Rupay Platinum cards
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

104. On February 16, A high-level meeting chaired by communications minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has decided to set up "Digital Intelligence Unit" (DIU) & Consumer protection mechanism called "Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection" (TAF COP) to tackle pesky calls and financial frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government has decided to set up "DIU" & "TAF COP" to tackle pesky calls and financial frauds
- DIU – Digital Intelligence Unit | TAF COP – Telecom Analytics for Fraud management and Consumer Protection



105. On February 16, Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has virtually inaugurated the Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Plan and Jute Farmers Awareness Workshop, organised at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal. “ICARE” Initiative which started in 2015 with only about 60 MT Certified Jute Seeds and 20,000 Farmers got a remarkable leap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated – Certified Jute Seeds Distribution Plan & Jute Farmers Awareness Workshop
- It was inaugurated – at ICAR-CRIJAF Institute at Barrackpore, West Bengal
- “ICARE” Initiative was started in – 2015
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)

106. On February 16, Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) has requested Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman to rename the institute as the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMAI) as its professionals all over the world had come to be known as cost and management accountants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAI requested the Finance Minister to rename the institute as “Institute of Cost and Management Accountants”
- HQs of ICMAI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – Biswarup Basu

107. On February 14, The Transport Area in Chandigarh’s Sector 26 has been selected for the installation of India’s tallest air purifier filter. The 23-m air purifier will be installed for free on a trial basis. The purifier unit will clean the air of at least 1 km radius. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s tallest Air Purifier Filter to be installed in – Chandigarh | Height – 23 meter
- The purifier unit will clean the air of at least 1 km radius

108. On February 14, Puducherry has launched “Zero Covid by Feb28” campaign to ensure Covid-free Puducherry by Feb 28 as the daily count has fallen to single digits in the union territory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puducherry – launched “Zero Covid by Feb28” campaign
- Puducherry: CM – Velu Narayanasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

109. On February 16, Tamil Nadu government has unveiled a new “Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021-2025” with a view to provide further fillip to industrial growth and attracting more investments into the State. It aims to achieve 4 key objectives. The state also unveiled a new “MSME Policy” to offer a vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs/Start-ups with a target to attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh Cr by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – unveiled a new “Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy 2021-2025” & a new “MSME Policy”
- Target of MSME Policy: To attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh Cr by 2025
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



110. On February 17, Amazon has partnered with Cloud Network Technology, a subsidiary of Foxconn, to set up its first device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks at its Chennai plant later in 2021. It reiterated its commitment to invest \$1 billion into the country to digitise 10 million small and medium businesses by 2025 and create 1 million additional jobs by then. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon + Cloud Network Technology = to set up its 1st Device Manufacturing Line to make Fire TV sticks – in Chennai
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)

111. On February 15, XECH, India's emerging innovator brand, has launched “XECH SteroStet” - one-of-its-kind and India's first stethoscope sterilizer. It uses a special ‘UV-C GI Technology’ to effectively sterilize stethoscopes diaphragms of all sizes up to 99.9999%. Xech had begun its research to develop the SteroStet around 2 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- XECH – launched “XECH SteroStet” - India's first stethoscope sterilizer
- ‘SteroStet’ uses a special ‘UV-C GI Technology’
- HQs of XECH – Andheri, Maharastra | Founder & CEO – Pranay Punjabi

112. On the occasion of Sushma Swaraj’s birth anniversary on February 14, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that a statue of former Union minister Sushma Swaraj will be installed in Vidisha which was the Lok Sabha constituency represented by her. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A statue of Sushma Swaraj (Former Minister of External Affairs) – to be installed in Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

113. “Snakepedia” mobile app is launched in Kerala to help people, doctors treat snake bites. Snakepedia is a comprehensive android mobile application that documents information on snakes with the help of pictures, infographics and podcasts and analyses its first aid, treatment, myths and superstitions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched “Snakepedia” mobile app to help people, doctors treat snake bites
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

114. On February 17, Punjab's water supply and sanitation department has set up first-of-its-kind Solar-based Water Supply Project at Jagrawan-Muradpur and Talwara villages of the Jalandhar district. The solar-based pilot projects were commissioned at a cost of Rs 67.71 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First-of-its-kind Solar-based Water Supply Project – set up in Jalandhar, Punjab | Cost – Rs 67.71 lakh
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

115. On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Smart Connectivity Projects' worth Rs 15,000 Cr in Assam. He has also launched 2 e-portals namely "Car-D" (Cargo Data) & "PANI" (Portal for Asset and Navigation Information) to further Ease of Doing Business. He also laid the foundation stone of Rs 350 Cr 'North East Data Centre' at Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi launched 'Smart Connectivity Projects' worth Rs 15,000 Cr in Assam
- Narendra Modi launched – "Car-D" (Cargo Data) & "PANI" (Portal for Asset and Navigation Information)
- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Rs 350 Cr 'North East Data Centre' – at Guwahati, Assam
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

116. On February 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra', laid the foundation stone of two bridges - 'Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge' and 'Majuli bridge'. A permanent Inland Water Transport Terminal will also be built at Jogighopa, Assam under the programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched 'Mahabahu-Brahmaputra' – in Assam
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of 'Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge' – connecting Assam & Meghalaya
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of 'Majuli bridge' – in Assam
- A permanent Inland Water Transport Terminal – to be built at Jogighopa, Assam
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

117. CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow has celebrated its 70th Annual Day Celebrations on February 17. Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a series of lectures 'Atal National Colloquium on Healthcare and Innovation' and 'Common Research and Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) in CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 17 – 70th Annual Day Celebrations of CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated a series of lectures 'Atal National Colloquium on Healthcare and Innovation'
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated 'Common Research & Technology Development Hub – in CSIR-CDRI (Lucknow)
- [HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande](#)

118. On February 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the "Cauvery Basin Refinery" at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu. The refinery, with 9 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) capacity is being set up jointly by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd at an estimated cost of ₹31,500 Cr. Narendra Modi has also laid the foundation stone of the 143 km long 'Ramanathapuram - Thoothukudi' natural gas pipeline in Tamil Nadu at the cost of around ₹700 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for the "Cauvery Basin Refinery" at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu

- The refinery is being set up jointly by IOCL & Chennai Petroleum Corporation – at cost of ₹31,500 Cr
- Narendra Modi – dedicated 143 km ‘Ramanathapuram - Thoothukudi’ natural gas pipeline – in Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

119. On February 17, the 3rd edition of the ‘Digital Indian Sign Language Dictionary’ launched including 10,000 terms across 6 categories. The dictionary is prepared by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre under the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry. The first edition was launched in March 2018 with 3,000 terms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd edition of ‘Digital Indian Sign Language Dictionary’ launched including 10,000 terms across 6 categories
- The 1st edition was launched in March 2018 with 3,000 terms

120. On February 18, The National Informatics Centre has launched an instant messaging platform called “Sandes”. Like WhatsApp, the new NIC platform can be used for all kinds of communications by anyone with a mobile number or email id. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Informatics Centre – launched an instant messaging platform called “Sandes”
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma

121. The society for the long-awaited National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) is likely to be formed within a month in Patna, Bihar. Bihar accounts for 50% of the world’s river dolphin population. The dolphin is a highly endangered species under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and was declared the National Aquatic Animal in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) – is being set up in Patna, Bihar
- Dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal – in 2009
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

122. On February 15, With an aim to provide a suitable atmosphere to the aspirants of various competitive exams in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched “Path Pradarshak” free coaching facility across the state under the ‘Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched “Path Pradarshak” free coaching facility – under ‘Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana’
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

123. On February 18, The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry (MoHUA) in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner WRI India, has announced the names of the 25 cities selected for the ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’ under the Smart Cities Mission. The Challenge is a 3-year initiative. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MoHUA – selected 25 cities selected for the ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge’ under the Smart Cities Mission
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)

124. On February 17, In a boost to tourism in the state, the Maharashtra government has cleared the “Caravan Policy”, which will allow private players to get the vehicles for tourism and setting up of caravan parks in public and private places. Maharashtra is the third state after Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka to get such a policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – 3rd state to get “Caravan Policy” to boost tourism | 1st – Madhya Pradesh & 2nd – Karnataka
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

125. On February 19, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has launched India’s BRICS 2021 website “www.brics2021.gov.in” at the BRICS Secretariat at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan. India has assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary under the theme “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – launched India’s BRICS 2021 website “www.brics2021.gov.in” – at the BRICS Secretariat
- Theme of 15th anniversary of BRICS 2021 – “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation”
- [BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India](#)

126. On February 21, The week-long 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival was conducted in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh which is based on the Indian classical dance tradition. The festival was organized by Ustad Alauddin Khan Music and Arts Academy Bhopal. Khajuraho is a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was held on the temple premises after 44 years following the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) permission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 47th Khajuraho Dance Festival – conducted in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh
- The festival was organized by – Ustad Alauddin Khan Music & Arts Academy
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

127. PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison have felicitated the participants of the “India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) 2021” at a virtual award ceremony. The finals were held between February 9 and 11, 2021. I-ACE Hackathon was launched on October 16, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi + Scott Morrison = awarded the winners of “India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon 2021”
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)



128. On February 19, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated POWERGRID's 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur-Thrissur High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project at Madakkathara, Kerala. The cost of Pugalur(TN)-Thrissur(Kerala) HVDC system is ₹5,070 Cr. The state-of-the-art Voltage Source Converter (VSC) technology has been brought to India for the first time by POWERGRID through this project. Narendra Modi has also inaugurated Kasaragod Solar Power Project & Water Treatment Plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – inaugurated POWERGRID's 320 kV 2000 MW Pugalur-Thrissur High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project
- It was inaugurated – at Madakkathara, Kerala | Cost – ₹5,070 Cr
- Technology used in this project – “VSC” - Voltage Source Converter
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

129. On February 19, Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, has launched the “Go Electric” Campaign to spread awareness on the benefits of e-mobility and EV Charging Infrastructure as well as electric cooking in India. To implement the ‘Go Electric’ campaign at National and State level, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) will extend technical support to the State Designated Agencies (SDAs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched the “Go Electric” Campaign to spread awareness about EVs & Electric cooking
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

130. Tata Technologies and Bihar government have decided to jointly spend Rs 2,188 Cr in the next one year to upgrade 60 government-owned industrial training institutes (ITIs) into the Centre of Excellence (CoE) to impart advance training to the state youths. The work of upgrading 60 ITIs under Industry 4.0 will begin from April 1 this year and will be completed latest by March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar + Tata Technologies = to jointly spend Rs 2,188 Cr to upgrade 60 ITIs into the Centre of Excellence (CoE)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan
- HQs of Tata Technologies – Singapore | CEO – Warren Harris

131. After staying low during Indian Premier League (IPL 2020) season, Chinese phone brand Vivo is back as the title sponsor for the IPL 2021 which is the 14th edition of IPL scheduled to be held between April 11 and June 6, 2021. Fantasy sports platform Dream11 became the title sponsor for IPL2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Title sponsor of the 14th edition of “IPL 2021” – Vivo (Title sponsor for IPL2020 - Dream11)
- HQs of Vivo – Dongguan, China | CEO – Shen Wei
- Chairman of IPL – Brijesh Patel | Founded in – 2008

132. The State-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC) has created a record of sorts by going into production of iron ore from two mines which were allocated recently by the Ministry of Mines. The two mines, Jiling-Langalota and Guali iron ore blocks are in Keonjhar district of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Odisha MC – created a record of sorts by going into production of iron ore from two mines
- Jiling-Langalota & Guali iron ore blocks – located in Keonjhar, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

133. On February 17, Kings XI Punjab has been renamed as Punjab Kings ahead of the 2021 IPL auction in Chennai. A new logo was also unveiled. They finished 6th in the 2020 edition, held in the UAE. The next IPL is expected to start in April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kings XI Punjab” – renamed as “Punjab Kings” ahead of the 2021 IPL auction in Chennai
- Chairman of IPL – Brijesh Patel | Founded in – 2008

134. On February 17, Odisha has announced a Rs 200-Cr package for the development of the 16th century shrine of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of western Odisha. The SAMALEI (Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives) project will be implemented during the 2021-22 fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha announced Rs 200-Cr package to develop the 16th century’s Maa Samaleswari Temple
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

135. On February 20, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the “Atal Paryavaran Bhavan” at Lakshadweep. It is Lakshadweep forest department's headquarters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – inaugurated the “Atal Paryavaran Bhavan” at Lakshadweep
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma

136. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced that Hoshangabad city in the state would be renamed as Narmadapuram and a proposal to that effect would be sent to the Centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Hoshangabad’ city in Madhya Pradesh – would be renamed as ‘Narmadapuram’
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

137. Ministry of Culture & Tourism has organised a 3-day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop in Darjeeling from February 22 to 24, 2021 to enrich the hospitality skills of the Homestay owners of the region and to ensure a better experience for the tourists. Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated the workshop. Total 725 Homestay Owners from Darjeeling, Kalimpong and foothills of Dooars participated in this workshop. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A 3-day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop – held in Darjeeling, West Bengal
- It was inaugurated by – Prahlad Singh Patel



138. On February 19, The Punjab Cabinet has approved implementation of mission 'Lal Lakir' aimed at facilitating villagers to monetise property rights and availing benefits provided by government departments, institutions and banks in all villages across the state under the SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab Cabinet – approved implementation of mission 'Lal Lakir'
- "SVAMITVA" scheme – of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

139. On February 23, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan called "Bima Jyoti". The plan offers a combination of protection and savings. The minimum sum assured is Rs 1 lakh, with no upper limit. The minimum entry age for Bima Jyoti is 90 days, while the maximum is 60 years. The policy guaranteed addition at the rate of Rs 50 per 1,000 basic sum assured (or 5%) at the end of each policy year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – launched "Bima Jyoti" a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings plan
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 1 lakh (no upper limit) | Age criteria – 90 days to 60 years
- Guaranteed addition – 5% at the end of each policy year
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M R Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956

140. On February 23, Following SEBI's directions on changes in multicap schemes, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (KMAMC) has renamed its "Kotak Standard Multicap Fund" as "Kotak Flexicap Fund". Multicap funds are required to invest at least 25% of their corpus in large, mid and small cap stocks each. Flexicap funds are required to have a minimum of 65% of their assets in equity and equity-related investments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Kotak Standard Multicap Fund" renamed as "Kotak Flexicap Fund"
- Multicap funds are required to invest at least 25% | Flexicap funds are required to have at least 65%
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

141. On February 23, Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0 with a focus on children aged less than 2 years and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic. IMI 3.0 will have 2 rounds starting from February 22 and March 22. Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched "Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 3.0"
- Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

142. On February 20, Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala), the 15th university in the State & India's 1st Digital University, has formally come into being at Technocity in Mangalapuram on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has inaugurated the university. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Digital University Kerala – the 15th university in the State & India's 1st Digital University – in Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

143. On February 22, Indian government has approved 8 Toy Manufacturing Clusters at a cost of Rs 2,300 Cr to boost India's traditional toys industry. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of MSME will jointly develop toy clusters under existing schemes such as the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government – approved 8 Toy Manufacturing Clusters at a cost of Rs 2,300 Cr
- DPIIT + Ministry of MSME – to jointly develop toy clusters under “SFURTI” scheme
- SFURTI – Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

144. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has launched e-sanjeevani telemedicine facility, Ashwin portal, the Wonder App and referral transport tracking system under 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant) Bihar's 7 resolutions 'Satnischay Part 2'. An MoU was also signed between self-help group 'Jeevika' and Bihar state health department for setting up 'Jeevika Didi ke Rasoi' in sub-divisional hospitals. 'Wonder App' will benefit pregnant women while the 'Ashwin portal' will ensure timely payment to Asha workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar launched 'e-sanjeevani' Telemedicine Facility, Ashwin portal, Wonder App & Referral Transport Tracking System
- 'Jeevika' SHG + Bihar = an MoU to set up 'Jeevika Didi ke Rasoi' in sub-divisional hospitals
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

145. Uttarakhand government has passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to daughters and wives of male landowners by amending the Uttarakhand Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – passed an ordinance to give land ownership rights to daughters and wives of male landowners
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

146. Chandigarh became the first state or Union Territory in India to launch Carbon Watch, a mobile application to assess the carbon footprint of an individual. Although the app can be accessed by everyone, it has specific options for the residents of Chandigarh to compile a detail study. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Chandigarh – became the 1st state or UT in India to launch “Carbon Watch” - a mobile application

147. On February 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 26th edition of “Hunar Haat” that will bring together indigenous artisans and craftsmen from across India at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. The Union Ministry of Minority Affairs has organised the ‘Hunar Haat’ on the theme of “Vocal for Local” from February 20 to March 1 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated the 26th edition of “Hunar Haat” – in New Delhi
- ‘Hunar Haat’ is organised by – Ministry of Minority Affairs | Theme – “Vocal for Local”

148. On February 22, Odisha Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari has presented the budget in the Assembly for 2021-22 with an outlay of ₹1,70,000 Cr which is about 26% higher than that of 2020-21 (revised estimate). The Budget was presented through the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). A substantial ₹29,063 Cr is allocated under the tribal and the SC sub-components. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – presented the budget in the Assembly for 2021-22 with an outlay of ₹1,70,000 Cr
- The Budget was presented through – National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

149. On February 22, Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, in the presence of the chief minister Yogi Adityanath has presented a Rs 5,50,270.78 Cr budget for 2021-22 in the state Assembly. The budget includes new schemes of Rs 27,598.40 Cr. This is the Adityanath government’s first paperless budget. The state government has announced “Mukhyamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojana” with an outlay of Rs 100 Cr to provide self-employment to migrant workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – presented a Rs 5,50,270.78 Cr budget for 2021-22 in the state Assembly
- Uttar Pradesh – announced “Mukhyamantri Pravasi Shramik Udyamita Vikas Yojana” | Outlay – Rs 100 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

150. On February 22, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of DRDO at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh. The facility is created by Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES) - a DRDO laboratory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training of DRDO – at Pilkhuwa, UP
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



151. On February 19, Odisha chapter of Real Estate Developers Association of India (CREDAI) has organised the 17th India International Mega Trade Fair at Janata Maidan, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The 11-day long home and Decor exhibition will offer a wide range of homes, finance and allied requirements. This year the partner country for the fair is Bangladesh and focus countries are Afghanistan and Iran. Bihar is the partner state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CREDAI – organised the 17th India International Mega Trade Fair – in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- Partner country – Bangladesh | Partner state – Bihar | Focus countries – Afghanistan & Iran
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

152. On February 22, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched the operational guidelines for Integration of “NAFLD” (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease) with NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke). Researchers have found NAFLD in 40 to 80% of people who have type 2 diabetes and in 30 to 90% of people who are obese. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Health Ministry – launched the operational guidelines for Integration of “NAFLD” (Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease)
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

153. On February 22, PM Narendra Modi has visited Assam and West Bengal on 22nd February 2021. He has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Dhemaji Engineering College and Sualkuchi Engineering College in Assam. He has dedicated to the nation and inaugurated several railway projects in Hooghly, West Bengal. He has dedicated to the nation the INDMAX Unit at Indian Oil’s Bongaigaon Refinery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone for Dhemaji Engineering College & Sualkuchi Engineering College – in Assam
- PM Modi dedicated to the nation the “INDMAX Unit” of Indian Oil – at Bongaigaon, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

154. A group of 6 ‘Black Storks’ (Ciconia nigra), most likely to be passage migrants, were photographed recently in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu. The presence of the migratory birds has been very rarely recorded in the Nilgiris. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A group of 6 ‘Black Storks’ (Ciconia nigra) – captured in the Sigur plateau in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

155. Uttar Pradesh will export 20 tonnes of “Buddha Rice”, popularly known as “Kala Namak” Rice to Singapore by the end of March, 2021. It is one of the finest varieties of aromatic rice in India. It is also known as “Buddha ka Mahaprasad” (an offering to Lord Buddha). The Uttar Pradesh Government has declared it as the One District One Product (ODOP) of Siddharth Nagar. Meanwhile, a “Kala Namak Rice festival” will be held in the state in near future. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh will export 20 tonnes of “Buddha Rice” or “Kala Namak” Rice to Singapore
- ODOF of Siddharth Nagar (UP) – Kala Namak
- “Kala Namak Rice festival” – to be held in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

156. February 23, The Horticulture Department (Government of Karnataka), in collaboration with the International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB), is setting up a ‘Flower Processing Centre’ to convert unsold flowers into various useful products. Karnataka, which has 18,000 hectares of land under flower cultivation, accounts for 14% of India’s total area under flower production. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + IFAB = setting up a ‘Flower Processing Centre’ to convert unsold flowers into various useful products
- Karnataka – accounts for 14% of India’s total area under flower production
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

157. February 23, India’s biggest Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM)-Mavala is building Mumbai Coastal Road project worth Rs 12,721 Cr. India’s first Undersea Tunnel will be built in Mumbai by 2023. The length of the tunnel is 2.07 Km from Priyadarshi Park to Chhoti Chowpatty at Marine Drive. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s biggest Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) – Mavala
- India’s 1st Undersea Tunnel – to be built in Mumbai by 2023 | Length – 2.07 Km
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

158. Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid the foundation of the 1st Skill University of Eastern India in Darrang district, aimed at imparting training to over 10,000 students in 12 disciplines. The varsity would be built with a financial outlay of ₹1,000 Cr. It is expected to be completed by 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – laid the foundation of the 1st Skill University of Eastern India in Darrang, Assam
- Financial outlay – ₹1,000 Cr | It is expected to be completed – by 2026
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

159. On February 23, Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister O Panneerselvam presented the ‘State Interim Budget’ for the year 2021-22 at Chennai’s Kalaivanar Arangam. This was the 11th budget speech for OPS under the AIADMK government. The state’s fiscal deficit is expected to be 4.99%. The revenue has been projected at Rs 1,80,700.62 Cr. Tamil Nadu is expected to register a positive GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) growth of 2.02% in 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – presented the ‘State Interim Budget’ for the year 2021-22 at Chennai’s Kalaivanar Arangam
- The state’s expected fiscal deficit – 4.99% | Expected GSDP – 2.02% | Expected revenue – Rs 1,80,700.62 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



160. On February 20, A state-of-the-art Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy will be set up in Port Blair. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) will build this ship simulator. It has already built 6 simulators of various types for the defence forces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard – to set up Damage Control Simulator (DCS) for the Indian Navy – in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor – Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

161. On February 24, The Central government has launched “National Urban Digital Mission” (NUDM) to create a digital infrastructure for cities across India by 2024. Other initiatives - India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX), SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website and Geospatial Management Information System (GMIS) were also launched at the event. India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX) has been developed in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government – launched “NUDM” to create a digital infrastructure for cities across India by 2024
- NUDM – National Urban Digital Mission
- Other initiatives: IUDX, SmartCode, Smart Cities 2.0 website & GMIS (Geospatial Management Information System)
- IISc + Smart Cities Mission = jointly developed “India Urban Data Exchange (IUDX)”
- National Smart Cities Mission – initiated in 2015

162. On February 22, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has inaugurated the Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock and Animal Science (AIIRLAS), the Asia’s largest Cattle Park, in Salem, Tamil Nadu. The facility was constructed at Rs 1,023 Cr and spans 1,100 acres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Advanced Institute of Integrated Research in Livestock & Animal Science (Asia’s largest Cattle Park) – in Salem, TN
- Area – 1,100 acres | Cost – Rs 1,023 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

163. On February 24, The Odisha Government has enhanced the amount of incentive for marrying a divyang person from ₹50,000 to ₹2,50,000 per eligible couple. A cash incentive award can be given to either of the spouses with benchmark disability if the other person marries a person with benchmark disability. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – enhanced the amount of incentive for marrying a divyang person – to ₹2,50,000 (from ₹50,000 earlier)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



164. The Bihar government has presented a Rs 2.18 lakh Cr budget with no new tax and a thrust on infrastructure and social sectors. The state has also proposed to create a separate department for skill development and entrepreneurship for running ITIs and polytechnic colleges. Women entrepreneurs will be given special incentives in the form of interest-free loans of up to Rs 5 lakh. Rajgir, one of the state's most popular tourist destinations, has been chosen to set up an International Sports Stadium and Sports University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar – presented a Rs 2.18 lakh Cr budget
- Bihar – proposed to create a separate department for skill development and entrepreneurship
- International Sports Stadium and Sports University – to be set up in Rajgir, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

165. The IRDAI has formed a committee to review its Information & Cyber security Guidelines due to exponential increase in cyber-attacks across the globe in the wake of Covid-19. The IRDAI had issued guidelines on cyber security in April 2017. The 14 member committee is to be headed by Janakiram (Chairman of Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – formed a committee to review its Information & Cyber security Guidelines (issued earlier in April 2017)
- The 14 member committee is to be headed by – Janakiram (Chairman of IDRBT)
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

166. On February 23, The SEBI has asked Stock Exchanges to impose pre-expiry margins to check near zero or negative prices of commodities. These margins will have to be levied 5 days ahead of the expiry date and they will increase by 5% every day. Alternate Risk Management Framework (ARMF) would be applicable in case of near zero or negative prices for any underlying commodities or futures. The new margin norms will be effective from April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – asked Stock Exchanges to impose pre-expiry margins to check near zero or negative prices of commodities
- The new margin norms will be effective from – April 1, 2021
- A tool applicable by SEBI for this is: ARMF - Alternate Risk Management Framework
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

167. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the extension of Kolkata Metro's North-South Line from Noapara to Dakshineswar from a programme in the Hooghly district of Kolkata. The inauguration will help connect thousands of people in the 4.1 km stretch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the extension of Kolkata Metro's North-South Line – from Noapara to Dakshineswar
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar



168. On February 25, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has virtually addressed the inaugural session of 'National Consultation on Opportunities and Challenges for Bamboo in India'. The 2-day long Manthan on Bamboo sector is jointly organized by National Bamboo Mission (NBM), NITI Aayog and Invest India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – addressed the 'National Consultation on Opportunities & Challenges for Bamboo in India'
- It was organized by = NBM + NITI Aayog + Invest India
- National Bamboo Mission (NBM) was launched in – 2006

169. On February 26, The City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform was launched by Durga Shanker Mishra (Secretary of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) to foster innovation in Urban Ecosystem. The platform is designed on the philosophy of 'Everyone is an innovator'. The Smart Cities Mission will partner and effectively collaborate with Startup India, Atal Innovation Mission, AGNI and other initiatives in the Indian innovation ecosystem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Durga Shanker Mishra (MoHUA) – launched "City Innovation Exchange (CiX)" platform
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri (Constituency – Uttar Pradesh) | MoHUA Secretary – Durga Shanker Mishra

170. On February 23, Kushinagar Airport has received the International Airport license from Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and become 3rd licensed international airport of Uttar Pradesh. It will boost tourism in the region & facilitate travel on Buddhist circuit by providing direct aviation connectivity to the city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kushinagar Airport (3rd Int. airport in UP) – received the International Airport license from DGCA
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

171. On February 26, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched 5 online services which aimed at empowering women and providing better childcare facilities. The online services include Mo Chhatua, e-Kalika, Mo Sishu portal, MAMATA App & MIS and e-Manadeya portal. All the 5 services are under the Child Development and Mission Shakti Department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched 5 online services under "Department of Women & Child Development and Mission Shakti"
- 5 services: Mo Chhatua, e-Kalika, Mo Sishu portal, MAMATA App & MIS, e-Manadeya portal
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

172. On February 26, The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has mandated general and health insurers to offer Standard Personal Accident Insurance product from April 1. The minimum sum insured under the standard policy will be ₹2.5 lakh and maximum ₹1 Cr. It is for those aged between 18-70 years. The cover will be known as "Saral Suraksha Bima". [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- IRDAI – mandated general & health insurers to offer Standard Personal Accident Insurance product from April 1
- The product will be known as – “Sarasuraksha Bima”
- Sum insured: minimum – ₹2.5 lakh & maximum – ₹1 Cr | Age criteria – 18-70 years
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

173. On February 25, Taking forward the vision of PM Narendra Modi for transforming iconic heritage, spiritual and cultural places in India as ‘Swachh Tourist Destinations’ under Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) has announced the selection of the following 12 iconic sites under Phase IV of SIP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12 iconic sites select as ‘Swachh Tourist Destinations’ under the Phase-IV of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative
 - Ajanta Caves (Maharashtra)
 - Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh)
 - Kumbhalgarh Fort (Rajasthan)
 - Jaisalmer Fort (Rajasthan)
 - Ramdevra (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)
 - Golconda Fort (Hyderabad, Telangana)
 - Sun Temple (Konark, Odisha)
 - Rock Garden (Chandigarh)
 - Dal Lake (Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir)
 - Banke Bihari Temple (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh)
 - Agra Fort (Agra, Uttar Pradesh)
 - Kalighat Temple (West Bengal)
- Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative was launched in – 2016

174. On February 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated to the nation, the 1000 MW lignite based Neyveli new thermal power station (NNTPS) at Neyveli and 709 MW Solar Power Projects of NLC India, located at 4 districts of Tamil Nadu. PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for the 4 lane “NH 45-A” road connecting Villupuram to Nagapattinam of Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 1000 MW lignite based Neyveli New Thermal Power Station (NNTPS) at Neyveli, TN
- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 709 MW Solar Power Projects of NLC India – in TN
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone for 4 lane “NH 45-A” road connecting Villupuram to Nagapattinam – in TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



175. On February 27, The world's highest railway bridge is being constructed over Jammu & Kashmir's Chenab river in Kouri and its construction is to be completed by the end of 2021. Once completed, the approximately 1,178-foot bridge will be 53 feet taller than the 1,125-foot Millau Viaduct in France. The bridge is being built by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd (KRCL). This Chenab Bridge will link Katra and Banihal and it will be 1.315-km-long. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The world's highest railway bridge – being constructed over 'Chenab river' in J&K (to be completed by March, 2021)
- The height of Chenab Bridge – 1,178 ft | Length – 1.315 km | being built by – Konkan Railway Corporation
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

176. On February 27, Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated the 39th Agartala International Book Fair with the theme "Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura" at Agartala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biplab Kumar Deb has inaugurated – the 39th Agartala International Book Fair – at Agartala, Tripura
- Theme of the fair – "Ek Tripura, Shrestha Tripura"
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

177. On February 26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 2nd edition of "Khelo India Winter Games" in Gulmarg, J & K. This event will make Jammu and Kashmir a hub of sports activity. Around 840 athletes will compete in these sporting events. The Winter Games were organised by the Winter Games Association of J&K. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 2nd edition of "Khelo India Winter Games" – in Gulmarg, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

178. On February 26, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has virtually inaugurated the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) Regional Office (South) in Chennai in the presence of Union Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Anurag Singh Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – inaugurated the CCI's Regional Office (South) – in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Karnataka) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

179. On February 24, The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal by the Home Ministry to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's rule in the Union Territory. President rule is imposed under Article 356 of constitution of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – approved President's Rule in Puducherry (Proposal made by - Home Ministry)
- President rule is imposed under "Article 356" of constitution of India



180. On February 24, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has laid the foundation stone of Mon Medical College in Nagaland. This medical college is approved at a cost ₹325 Cr. At present there are 562 medical colleges in India out of which 286 are in the government sector while 276 are in the private sector. Another 175 medical colleges are also in the process of development. Around 1,50,000 health and wellness centres have been set up in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – laid the foundation stone of Mon Medical College in Nagaland
- This medical college is approved at a cost ₹325 Cr
- Total Medical Colleges in India = 562 (286 government + 276 private) | 175 medical colleges are in process
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

181. On February 25, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched ‘e-Parivahan Vyavstha’ of the state transport department to provide online services to the people of the state regarding Driving Licence/Registration Certificates/ Permits etc. PM Narendra Modi had given a vision of Digital India in 2014. The state government first started e-Vidhan Sabha, then e-Budget, e-cabinet and now it has started e-Parivahan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched ‘e-Parivahan Vyavstha’ of the state transport department
- PM Narendra Modi gave a vision of Digital India – in 2014
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

182. ‘E-filing’ or ‘E-Daakhil’ was launched by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) on September 7, 2020. Delhi was the first state/UT to implement it on September 8, 2020. The ‘E-Daakhil’ portal for consumer grievance redressal is now operational in 15 states and UTs. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 has a provision for e-filing of consumer complaints. A web application for e-filing of consumer complaints named ‘edaakhil.nic.in’ has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘E-Daakhil’ portal for consumer grievance redressal – now operational in 15 states & UTs
- Delhi – the 1st state/UT to implement ‘E-filing’ or ‘E-Daakhil’ in September, 2020
- NIC developed – a web application for ‘e-filing’ of consumer complaints
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma

183. Union Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated “Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021” at Noida, Uttar Pradesh. He also stated that SHGs has played a vital role in increasing family income and improving quality of life. The Mela will remain open from 26th February to 14th March at Noida Haat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated “Saras Aajeevika Mela 2021” at Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



184. As on February 27, A protocol has been developed for exporting the “Nendran” variety of bananas to European countries. The public sector Nadukkara Pack House at Muvattupuzha aims to export at least 2,000 tonnes of nendran bananas each year. The success of the project will integrate Kerala in the global value chain and thereby ensuring farmers better and consistent prices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Nendran” a variety of Banana – to be exported to European countries
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

185. As on February 26, Indian Railways has reactivated the Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) on mobile app for its passengers to book unreserved tickets. The facility of UTS on mobile app was discontinued by Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways due to lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways reactivated the “UTS” on mobile app for its passengers – to book unreserved tickets
- UTS – Unreserved Ticketing System
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

186. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for a 100-day “Catch the rain” campaign to clean up all water bodies and prepare them for rain water harvesting before the monsoon season starts. The campaign is launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 100-day “Catch the rain” campaign – launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

187. Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has announced that the retirement age of Tamil Nadu state government employees has been increased from 59 to 60 years. Last year, the government had increased the retirement age from 58 to 59 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – increased the retirement age of the state government employees – to 60 years (from 59)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



International Affairs

1. A new visa route that offers Hong Kong residents the option to apply to come to the UK and become citizens through a fast-track system is officially opened. Around 3,00,000 Hong Kong nationals are expected to apply for the visa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – opened a special visa route for the residents of Hong Kong
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson
- Hong Kong – City of Victoria – Hong Kong dollar

2. On February 1, Myanmar's military has seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratically elected leaders. The power had been handed over to commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing. Troops are patrolling the streets and a night-time curfew is in force, with a one-year State of Emergency declared. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Myanmar's military has seized power after detaining Aung San Suu Kyi
- Power is handed over to commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing & State of Emergency is declared
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

3. On February 5, A \$43 billion (48 trillion won) deal was signed to build the world's biggest Offshore Wind Farm in South Korea. South Korea plans to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. With a maximum capacity of 8.2 GW, it will be 7 times bigger than the world's current largest offshore wind farm. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- \$43 billion(48 trillion won) deal was signed to build the world's biggest Offshore Wind Farm – in South Korea
- Maximum capacity this Wind Farm – 8.2 GW | South Korea plans to achieve carbon neutrality – by 2050
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

4. On February 4, Denmark has approved a plan to build the World's 1st Energy Island in the North Sea that will produce and store enough green energy. The energy island will cost around 210 billion Danish crowns (\$33.9 billion). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark approved a plan to build the World's 1st Energy Island in the North Sea (Cost: \$33.9 billion)
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

5. Google has launched a new initiative 'Startup School' for start-up founders and their teams across the Asia Pacific. Startup School is a virtual programme which includes a series of free, hands-on virtual courses for start-up founders and their teams. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google launched a new initiative 'Startup School' for start-up founders and their teams across the Asia Pacific
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

6. On February 4, the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council held its maiden meeting and approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope located in Africa and Australia. SKAO is a new intergovernmental organisation dedicated to radio astronomy and is headquartered in the UK. The completion is expected to take nearly a decade at a cost of over £1.8 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SKAO Council approved the establishment of the world's largest radio telescope – located in Africa & Australia
- HQs of SKAO – UK

7. On February 6, Nepal and India have jointly inaugurated a newly-constructed 108-km road that connects the Indian border with several areas of the Himalayan nation. Built with Indian grant assistance of Rs 44.48 million, the blacktopped road from the Indian border Laxmipur-Balara to Gadhaiya in Sarlahi district, Nepal was jointly inaugurated by Nitesh Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal + India = jointly inaugurated a newly-constructed 108-km road (Laxmipur-Balara to Sarlahi)
- Indian grant assistance for this road – Rs 44.48 million
- Consul General of the Consulate General of India – Nitesh Kumar
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

8. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in its first-ever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, pressed for stronger action to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The declaration was a part of the 34th session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI34), which ended its week-long meeting on February 8, 2021. Rs 25.5 Cr was allocated for Wildlife Institute of India in Budget 2021-22. FAO will celebrate the role of small-scale fishers & Women during the "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" in 2022. Russia has become a party to the Agreement on Port State Measure (PSMA), joining another 68 FAO members. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 34th session of FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI34) ended on February 8
- Rs 25.5 Cr was allocated for Wildlife Institute of India in Budget 2021-22
- 2022 – "International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture" – by the FAO
- Russia became a party to the Agreement on Port State Measure (PSMA)
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945

9. On February 9, Indian Government has laid the foundation of 2nd dam namely "Lalandar" Dam (popularly known as 'Shatoot') in Kabul, Afghanistan. It is a part of India's new development assistance for Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India laid the foundation "Lalandar" (Shatoot) Dam – in Kabul, Afghanistan
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani



10. On February 9, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has announced that the government has suspended all high-level political and military contact with Myanmar. New Zealand will also impose a travel ban on Myanmar's military leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand suspended all high-level political and military ties with “Myanmar”
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\) | Prime Minister – Jacinda Ardern](#)
- [Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint](#)

11. United States has decided to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The decision is likely to draw criticism from conservative lawmakers and many in the pro-Israel community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – decided to rejoin UNHRC
- [HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan](#)
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

12. On February 10, US President Joe Biden has announced the formation of a Special Defense Department Task Force on China and ordered an immediate review of the military's strategic approach to the challenge from Beijing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US President – announced to form a Special Defense Department Task Force – on China
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)
- [China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping](#)

13. On February 10, Myanmar-based armed insurgent group Chin National Army (CNA) has sought asylum for their families in India in the wake of the military coup in the neighbouring country. The CNA, the armed wing of the Chin National Front (CNF), has asked for asylum for 40 families. Mizoram shares a 404 km porous international border with Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- [CNA \(Myanmar\)](#) – seeks asylum for their 40 families in India
- Mizoram shares a 404 km porous international border with Myanmar
- [Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint](#)

14. On February 9, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program for his country that includes 2023 moon mission, sending Turkish astronauts into space and developing internationally viable satellite systems. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turkey – unveiled an ambitious 10-year space program (including ‘2023 moon mission’)
- [Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan](#)



15. The 1st ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition meant to end hunger and malnutrition were endorsed by members of the 47th Session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS) that was held virtually February 8-11, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st ever Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems & Nutrition endorsed by members of the 47th Session of Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

16. Linxon has successfully commissioned the first 400-kV gas insulated substation (GIS) at Dhalkebar, Nepal, on behalf of the Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA). The substation has facilitated the 400-kV Muzaffarpur (India)-Dhalkebar (Nepal) line. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Linxon – commissioned the first 400-kV gas insulated substation (GIS) at Dhalkebar, Nepal
- HQs of Linxon – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD – Dinesh Chadha
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

17. On February 11, Mastercard has announced the launch of its flagship Priceless program in India. The program is known as “Priceless India” & it will enable domestic and global travellers who are Mastercard cardholders. The program will roll out in two phases. In the first phase, Mastercard will launch 16 short films that will introduce several unique aspects of India's most iconic cities and destinations for tourists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – launched “Priceless India” program
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

18. Mastercard Inc is planning to offer support for some cryptocurrencies on its network in 2021. The credit-card giant's announcement comes days after Elon Musk's Tesla Inc revealed it had purchased \$1.5 billion of bitcoin and would soon accept it as a form of payment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard – to offer support for some cryptocurrencies on its network in 2021
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

19. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius. The India-Mauritius CECPA will be the first trade Agreement to be signed by India with a country in Africa. The CECPA between India and Mauritius covers 310 export items for India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved signing of the CECPA between India & Mauritius
- India-Mauritius CECPA – the 1st trade Agreement to be signed by India with an African country
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

20. As on February 18, The International Solar Alliance (ISA) plans to launch Green Grid Initiative (GGI), a Sun Charter and the World Solar Bank (WSB) at COP-26 or the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. The ISA was co-founded by India at the 2015 climate change conference in Paris. The proposed World Solar Bank is expected to be headquartered in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISA plans to launch Green Grid Initiative (GGI), Sun Charter & World Solar Bank (WSB) – at COP-26 in Glasgow, Scotland
- [HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 121](#)

21. On February 18, Facebook has blocked Australians from viewing and sharing news on the platform because of proposed laws in the country to make digital giants pay for journalism. Australian publishers can continue to publish news content on Facebook, but links and posts can't be viewed or shared by Australian audiences. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Facebook blocked Australians from viewing and sharing news on the platform due to proposed laws in Australia
- [HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

22. On February 17-19, Mr. Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia was on a visit to India. During the visit, the two signed an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic Passports and an MoU between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – CSIR, India and Wollo University, Ethiopia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Ethiopia = signed an Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for holders of Diplomatic Passports
- [Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde](#)

23. Bangladesh Supreme Court has inaugurated 'Amar Vasha' software to translate court orders and judgments from English into Bangla. The software, developed by Ek Step Foundation of India, is being used by India's Supreme Court and 18 high courts, to translate judgments into Indic languages. 'Ekushey' this year has been special for Bangladesh and India. 'Ekushey' is celebrated on February 21 as international mother language day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh Supreme Court – inaugurated 'Amar Vasha' software to translate court orders
- The software is developed by – Ek Step Foundation of India
- February 21 – 'Ekushey' or 'Amor Ekushey' – celebrated in Bangladesh
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

24. India and Maldives have signed agreements on a wide range of domains including fish processing, public broadcasting, sustainable urban development, road infrastructure and housing. The MoU intends to facilitate collaboration and capacity building in the field of public broadcasting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Maldives = an MoU on a wide range of domains including fish processing & public broadcasting
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

26. Russia has registered the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named “H5N8” being passed to humans from birds and has reported the matter to the World Health Organization (WHO). Outbreaks of the H5N8 strain have been reported in Russia, Europe, China, the Middle East and North Africa in recent months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – registered the first case of a strain of bird flu virus named “H5N8” human infection
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin](#)

27. On 19 February, the US has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement. The USA had withdrawn from the agreement in 2020. Under the Paris agreement, countries are expected to enhance their commitments to curb Greenhouse Gas Emissions every 5 years. The goals of the global pact are to limit global warming to well below 2°C and pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. The USA has been the biggest historical polluter lying at 2nd place now after China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – officially rejoined the Paris Agreement (withdrew in 2020)
- Goal: To limit global warming to well below 2°C
- Top Climate Polluters: 1st China | 2nd – US | 3rd – EU nations | 4th – India
- [Paris Climate Agreement was signed in – 2015 | Aim – to reduce pollution by 2030](#)
- [US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

28. India is likely to file an appeal against the \$1.4 billion ‘International Arbitration Award’ won by Cairn Energy in a tax dispute. Cairn has indicated it could seize overseas assets such as aircraft and ships if New Delhi fails to comply with the arbitration award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to file an appeal against the \$1.4 billion ‘International Arbitration Award’ won by Cairn Energy
- [HQs of Cairn Energy – Edinburgh, UK | CEO – Simon Thomson](#)

29. Women in Saudi Arabia can now take up arms and enter the military, the latest profession in the kingdom to open up to female recruits. The plan to allow women into the military was first announced in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saudi Arabia – opened up the Armed Forces for Women
- [Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman](#)

30. February 23, Bangladesh has become the first country to ban ketoprofen a painkiller used widely to treat cattle or any of the drugs now known to be toxic to vulture. Ornithologists said this is a landmark initiative to save the small remaining population of Asia's globally threatened vultures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh became the 1st country to ban 'Ketoprofen' - a painkiller used widely to treat cattle
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)

31. Israel has launched the "Green pass" scheme for people with vaccination certificate as it reopened its economy. Nearly half of Israelis have received the first of two required doses. The passes are valid for 6 months from the time of full vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – launched the "Green pass" scheme for people with vaccination certificate
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)

32. On February 20, Exim Bank has extended a line of credit (LOC) worth \$50 million to the Republic of Maldives for financing of defence projects. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has handed over 1,00,000 additional doses of Covid-19 vaccine to the Foreign Minister and Health Minister of Maldives, Kerafa Naseem. India had also provided 1,00,000 doses of Covishield vaccine in January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – handed over 1,00,000 additional doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Maldives
- Exim Bank – extended an LOC worth \$50 million to Maldives to finance defence projects
- [Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih](#)

33. On February 23, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has inaugurated a new and environment-friendly building of the Indian High Commission in Mauritius. He also reviewed over 950 housing units built with Indian support. Mauritius occupies a special place in the Prime Minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – inaugurated a new and environment-friendly building of the Indian High Commission – in Mauritius
- SAGAR Vision – unveiled in 2015 | SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region
- [Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth](#)

34. In a first, Japan has appointed Minister of Loneliness to deal with the growing suicide rate in the country amidst the Covid-19 pandemic. The suicide rate in Japan has increased first time in 11 years owing to the coronavirus pandemic. Tetsushi Sakamoto is appointed for the new portfolio. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – appointed Minister of Loneliness (Tetsushi Sakamoto) to deal with the growing suicide rate
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga](#)



35. Ghana has received the world's first delivery of coronavirus vaccines from the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative. The arrival of 6,00,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the West African country marks the beginning of the largest vaccine procurement. Total 92 countries including Ghana will receive vaccines for free through the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ghana – received the world's first delivery of coronavirus vaccines from UN's "COVAX initiative"
- Ghana received 6,00,000 doses of the 'AstraZeneca vaccine'
- Total 92 countries will receive vaccines for free through 'COVAX initiative'
- [Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo](#)

36. On February 27, Omega Seiki Pvt Ltd, the Electric vehicles manufacturing company of Anglian Omega Group is setting up an Electric vehicle manufacturing facility near Dhaka in Bangladesh, with an investment of ₹100 Cr. This will be the first project of any Indian EV company in international markets. The company will be known as "OSM-Bangladesh". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Omega Seiki Pvt Ltd ([Delhi](#)) – to set up an Electric vehicle manufacturing facility near Dhaka in Bangladesh
- Investment – ₹100 Cr | It will be the 1st project of any Indian EV company in international markets
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)



Banking & Economic Affairs

1. State-owned Union Bank of India has raised Rs 1,000 Cr by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds on a private placement basis. The bank has issued Basel III-compliant Perpetual Debt Instruments in the nature of debentures. The coupon rate on the bonds is 8.64% per annum, payable annually. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Bank of India – raised Rs 1,000 Cr by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

2. To protect the esteemed customers from fraudulent ATM activities, Punjab National Bank has taken a giant step and won't allow transactions (financial and non-financial) or its customers to withdraw money from Non-EMV ATM machines from February 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – won't allow its customers to withdraw money from Non-EMV ATM machines from 1st Feb
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

3. On February 4, Federal Bank has launched ‘FedFirst’, a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age. The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits, thereby giving them the freedom to save, spend and earn. The account holder is provided with a ‘FedFirst contactless Debit Card’ with a daily cash withdrawal limit of ₹2,500 and POS/e-com limit of ₹10,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank – launched ‘FedFirst’ - a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years
- Daily cash withdrawal limit of ‘FedFirst contactless Debit Card’ – ₹2,500
- HQs Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

4. On February 2, RBI has appointed an external professional IT firm for carrying out a special audit of the entire IT infrastructure of the HDFC bank under Section 30 (1-B) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 in the aftermath of repeated service outages at the country's largest private sector lender over the past two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – appointed external firm to audit HDFC Bank's IT infrastructure
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

5. The Indian economy grew by 4% in the FY 2019-2020, at a slower pace than projected earlier, according to the First Revised Estimates (FRE) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The Provisional Estimates (PE), released in May 2020, pegged FY20 growth at 4.2%. As per the First Advanced Estimates (FAE) of national income released earlier this month, the Indian economy is expected to contract by 7.7% in the FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Different Estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) at the End of January, 2021
- FRE – 4% | PE – 4.2% | FAE – 7.7%
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy



6. On February 3, The RBI has imposed a Rs 55 lakh penalty on Pune-based Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank Limited for non-compliance with certain directions in the 'Master Circular - Management of Advances – UCBs' and 'Master Circular - Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters – UCBs'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed Rs 55 lakh penalty on “Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank” for non-compliance with certain directions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Seva Vikas Cooperative Bank Ltd – Pune, MH | CEO – A. M. Basi

7. On February 4, The RBI has issued guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for select NBFCs and Urban Co-Operative Banks (UCBs). The entities have to implement the RBIA framework by March 31, 2022. The new framework will be for all non-deposit taking NBFCs (including core investment companies) with an asset size of 5,000 Cr and also for all UCBs, having an asset size of 500 Cr and above. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued guidelines on Risk-Based Internal Audit (RBIA) system for select NBFCs & UCBs
- The entities have to implement the RBIA framework – by March 31, 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

8. On February 5, ICICI Bank has signed an MoU with MUFG Bank (Japan) for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements of Japanese corporates present in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + MUFG Bank (Japan) = an MoU for collaboration towards catering to the banking requirements
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

9. On February 5, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that, keeping in view the performance under GLC flow during 2013-14 to 2020-21, a target of Rs. 16.50 lakh Cr for Ground Level Credit (GLC) has been fixed for 2021-22. It is 10% higher compared to the target for the year 2020-21 which was fixed at Rs.15.00 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A target of Rs. 16.50 lakh Cr for Ground Level Credit (GLC) has been fixed for 2021-22

10. On February 5, In a major structural reform, The Reserve Bank of India has allowed Retail Investors to open “Gilt” or “G-Sec” accounts with the central bank, a move that will help deepen bond markets in India. The platform will be called “Retail Direct”. With this, India became the 1st country to allow retail investors to directly access the ‘G-Secs’ market both primary and secondary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – allowed Retail Investors to open “Gilt” or “G-Sec” accounts with it on “Retail Direct” platform
- India – became the 1st country to allow retail investors to directly access the ‘G-Secs’ market
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



11. On February 5, The RBI has extended the deadline for meeting the last tranche of Capital Conservation Buffer (CCB) by another 6 months till October, 2021 due to continuing stress on account of COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of the last tranche of the CCB of 0.625%, which was scheduled to take effect from April 1, 2020, was deferred till April 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – extended the deadline for meeting the last tranche of CCB by another 6 months (till October, 2021)
- The implementation of the last tranche of the CCB of 0.625% is deferred – till April 1, 2021
- CCB – Capital Conservation Buffer
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

12. On February 5, RBI in its recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has kept rates steady at record low levels. The repo rate or RBI's key lending rate was held at 4% while the reverse repo rate or its borrowing rate was left unchanged at 3.35%. The RBI projected GDP growth to be at 10.5% for 2021-22. The RBI has decided to constitute an Expert Committee for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI has decided to constitute an Expert Committee for UCBs
- Repo rate – 4% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate or MSF – 4.25% | CLR – 3% | SLR – 18%
- Total members in the RBI's MPC = 6 (3 of RBI + 3 of GoI)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

13. On February 5, Digital payments platform PhonePe has partnered with Axis Bank on a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) multi-bank model. The partnership will provide PhonePe users with the option to create and use multiple UPI IDs with Axis Bank's "@axl" handle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe + Axis Bank = partnership on a multi-bank model | Axis Bank's handle – "@axl"
- HQs of PhonePE – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

14. On February 8, The RBI has released the Annual Report of the "Ombudsman Schemes of the Reserve Bank for the year 2019-20" covering the period of July, 2019 to June, 2020. The Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS) was first notified by the RBI in 1995 under Section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The ombudsman disposed of 48,333 complaints against the SBI, followed by 15,004 against HDFC Bank & 11,844 against ICICI Bank. In NBFCs, the highest number of complaints was against Bajaj Finance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released the Annual Report of the "Ombudsman Schemes of the Reserve Bank for the year 2019-20"
- Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS) was first notified by the RBI in 1995 under Section 35 A of the BRA, 1949
- The highest number of complaints were received against – SBI | 2nd – HDFC Bank & 3rd – ICICI Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



15. On February 8, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered into a co-lending agreement with Pune-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) LoanTap Credit Products for co-lending to MSME loans. LoanTap offers a range of business, vehicle and personal loans to the underserved segment. To start with, the ticket size would be at around Rs 3 lakh and will be enhanced depending on performance. Under this agreement, 80% of the loan will be lent by the bank and the remaining 20% by the LoanTap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra + LoanTap = for co-lending to MSMEs
- Under the agreement = 80% of the loan to be lent by BoM & 20% by LoanTap
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – One Family One Bank

16. On February 9, India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank is inviting applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its “SmartUp Grants” under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) brand - “Parivartan”. The window for applying closed on February 16, 2021. ‘SmartUp Grants’ are a part of the bank’s umbrella CSR brand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank is inviting applications from start-ups and solo entrepreneurs for its “SmartUp Grants”
- ‘SmartUp Grants’ are a part of HDFC’s CSR brand - “Parivartan”
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

17. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka (CBSL) has settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in February, 2020. However, both countries clarified that the developments were not linked. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of Sri Lanka settled a \$400 million currency swap facility from the RBI
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of CBSL – Colombo | Governor – W. D. Lakshman

18. On February 10, Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed an MoU with India Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to cater to the financing needs of the IndianOil dealer by providing up to Rs 2 Cr. The MoU would benefit dealers with credit facilities at lower interest rates, nil margins, and with minimum or zero collateral requirements through the PNB e-Dealer scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB + IOCL = an MoU to provide up to Rs 2 Cr loan to dealers
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

19. On February 10, The RBI has put restrictions on withdrawals from Independence Co-operative Bank Limited because of the lender's present liquidity position. However, 99.89% of the depositors are fully covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance scheme. The restrictions will remain in force for a period of 6 months. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI put restrictions on withdrawals from Independence Co-operative Bank for 6 months
- 99.89% of the depositors in this bank are fully covered by DICGC insurance scheme
- HQs of Independence Co-operative Bank – Nashik, Maharashtra
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

20. On February 9, the RBI has announced to purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 Cr through open market operations (OMOs) in a bid to cap yields of treasury bonds and support an expanded government borrowing programme. OMO is a part of RBI's "Operation Twist" to ease pressure evolving liquidity. The central bank will purchase long-term security maturing in 2024, 2028, 2030 and 2034. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to purchase government securities worth ₹20,000 Cr through open market operations (OMOs)
- The central bank will purchase long-term security maturing in – 2024, 2028, 2030 & 2034
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

21. On February 13, India's retail inflation, as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI), in January 2021, has eased to a 16-month low of 4.06% as compared to 4.59% in December 2020 and 7.6% in January 2020, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per NSO's CPI – India's retail inflation in January 2021 = 4.06% (4.59% in December 2020)
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

22. On February 12, The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) has entered into an MoU with Indian Payments and Postal Bank (IPPB) to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CREDAI + IPPB = an MoU to facilitate opening of bank accounts for construction workers
- HQs of CREDAI – New Delhi
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

23. On February 12, Equitas Small Finance Bank (Equitas SFB) has partnered with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) and Ocean Highway Facilities and Solutions Pvt Ltd for launching India's 1st FASTag powered truck terminal at Khalapur, Maharashtra on the Yashwantrao Chavan Mumbai - Pune Expressway. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB + Maharashtra = partnership to launch India's 1st FASTag Powered Truck Terminal at Khalapur, MH
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



24. On February 15, Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of its outward Forex Remittance Service - "Kotak Remit" on mobile that will allow users to send money abroad directly from their mobile phones. Bank customers will not have to furnish any physical documents for transactions up to \$25,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – launched "Kotak Remit" Forex Remittance Service on mobile
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak

25. On February 12, The RBI has asked investors from non 'Financial Action Task Force' complaint jurisdictions to hold less than 20% of the voting power in India-based NBFCs. Non-FATF area investors shouldn't have 'significant influence' in NBFCs in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI asked investors from non 'Financial Action Task Force' complaint jurisdictions to hold less than 20%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

26. On February 15, As per RBI's data, Bank credit grew 5.93% to ₹107.05 lakh Cr, while deposits rose 11.06% to ₹147.98 lakh Cr in the fortnight ended January 29, 2021. The bank credit growth in FY21 up to January 29, 2021 has reached about 90% of the same period of F20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per RBI's data: Bank credit grew – 5.93% to ₹107.05 lakh Cr | Bank deposits rose – 11.06% to ₹147.98 lakh Cr
- Bank credit growth in FY21 up to January 29, 2021 has reached about 90% of the same period of F20
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

27. On February 16, The RBI has set up of an Expert Committee on regulation of primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs). The 8-member committee will be chaired by former RBI deputy governor N S Vishwanathan. The committee will be expected to suggest effective measures for faster rehabilitation and resolution of UCBs and assess potential for consolidation of the sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up of an 8-member Expert Committee on regulation of primary urban cooperative banks (UCBs)
- The Expert Committee will be chaired by – N S Vishwanathan (Former RBI deputy governor)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- Total Deputy Governors = 4 – Mukesh Kumar Jain | B P Kanungo | Michael D Patra | M Rajeshwar Rao

28. On February 16, RBI has released guidelines on Credit Default Swaps (CDS). It has come up with 'Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2021 - Draft' in exercise of the powers conferred under section 45W of the 'RBI Act 1934'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released guidelines on Credit Default Swaps (CDS) – under section 45W of the 'RBI Act 1934'
- RBI came up with – 'Reserve Bank of India (Credit Derivatives) Directions, 2021 - Draft'
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



29. On February 16, Under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005, the RBI has permitted resident individuals to make remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) to International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India. Besides, resident individuals may also open a non-interest bearing Foreign Currency Account (FCA) in IFSCs, for making the permissible investments under LRS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – permitted ‘Resident Individuals’ to make remittances under the LRS to IFSCs in India
- LRS – Liberalised Remittance Scheme | Under the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

30. On February 18, The RBI has approved the resolution plan for Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd submitted by Piramal Capital and Housing Finance. The claims of lenders that have been admitted in NCLT in the case of DHFL aggregate to about ₹81,000 Cr. According to the resolution plan, Piramal will merge its existing financial services business with DHFL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI approved the resolution plan for DHFL – submitted by Piramal Capital and Housing Finance
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of DHFL – Mumbai | CEO – Kapil Wadhawan
- HQs of PCHF – Mumbai | Chairman – Ajay Piramal

31. On February 17, The RBI has issued a “Master Direction-Non-Banking Financial Company-Housing Finance Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021” under sections 45L and 45MA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. All non-deposit taking HFCs with an asset size of ₹10,000 Cr and above, and all deposit taking HFCs irrespective of their asset size will have to achieve a minimum LCR of 50% by December 1, 2021 and 100% by December 1, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI issued “Master Direction NBFC-HFC (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2021” under sections 45L & 45MA of RBI Act-1934
- Target to achieve a minimum LCR of 50% by December 1, 2021 & 100% by December 1, 2025
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

32. On February 17, Google has partnered with the European Investment Fund (EIF) and two other organisations in Latin America and Asia to provide \$75 million in funding to small- and medium-sized companies suffering from the impact of Covid-19. The two other organisations are Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Kiva. Indian companies will get \$15 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + EIF + IDB + Kiva = partnership to provide \$75 million in funding to small- and medium-sized companies
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai
- HQs of IDB – Washington, D.C., US | President – Mauricio Claver-Carone
- HQs of Kiva – California, US | CEO – Neville Crawley



33. On February 17, Indian Bank has entered into an MoU with Society for Innovation and Development (SID), an initiative of IISc, Bengaluru, for extending exclusive credit facility to start-ups and MSMEs. SID will identify the start-ups and MSMEs and will refer them to the bank. The bank will extend loans of up to ₹50 Cr to these start-ups. Indian Bank had also recently launched “MSME Prerana” programme to empower MSME entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + SID = an MoU for extending exclusive credit facility to start-ups & MSMEs
- Indian Bank will extend loans of up to ₹50 Cr to the start-ups & MSMEs
- “MSME Prerana” programme – was started by Indian Bank (in October)
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Padmaja Chundurur

34. On February 17, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has entered into a strategic partnership with Vayana Network to offer financial support to the MSME sector via “Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme” launched by the bank. Under the partnership, Vayana Network will provide its Supply Chain Financing solutions (SCF) to the bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra + Vayana Network = to launch “Mahabank Channel Financing Scheme”
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Founder – R. N. Iyer

35. As on February 18, 3.08 lakh complaints against banks were received by the RBI’s Banking Ombudsman in FY20, a 57.5% increase over FY19. While the share of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in the total complaints reduced in FY20, that of Private Banks (PVBs) increased. About 45% of complaints in FY20 were related to digital services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3.08 lakh complaints against banks were received by RBI’s Banking Ombudsman in FY20 (57.5% increase over FY19)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

36. On February 21, State Bank of India has decided to launch “YONO merchants app” to enable 20 million merchants from tier 2, 3 cities to adopt digital payments. SBI plans to deploy low-cost acceptance infrastructure across India over the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – to launch “YONO merchants app” to enable 20 million merchants from tier 2, 3 cities to adopt digital payments
- YONO – You Only Need One
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



37. On February 21, The RBI has issued directions to Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank (Vijayapur, Karnataka), whereby, as from the close of business on February 19, 2021, deposit withdrawals have been capped at ₹1,000 per depositor. 99.58% of depositors are fully covered by DICGC insurance scheme. Since April 1, 2015, 52 UCBS have been placed under All Inclusive Directions by the RBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – issued directions to Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank by putting deposit withdrawals cap at ₹1,000 / depositor
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank – Vijayapur, Karnataka

38. As on February 21, In the Union Budget 2020, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has introduced the revised Income Tax slabs for FY 2020-21 according to which employees with annual income less than 2.5 lakhs are exempted from paying Tax. Those whose income is above 2.5 lakh will have to pay Tax as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Income Tax Slab 2020-21:

Income Tax Slabs	New Tax rate (2020-21)	Earlier tax rate
0-Rs 2.5 lakh	Exempt	Exempt
Rs 2.5 lakh - Rs 5 lakh	5%	5%
Rs. 5 lakh - Rs 7.5 lakh	10%	20%
Rs 7.5 lakh - Rs 10 lakh	15%	20%
Rs 10 lakh - Rs 12.5 lakh	20%	30%
Rs 12.5 lakh - Rs 15 lakh	25%	30%
Rs 15 lakh and above	30% (No change)	30%

39. On February 18, Jammu and Kashmir has formally launched “e-Kuber” payments system of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). All types of government payments including employee’s salaries and pensioner’s pensions will be done through RBI’s “e-Kuber”. J&K is the first Union Territory to implement version 2.9 of “e-Kuber” payments system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J&K – launched “e-Kuber” payments system of RBI
- J & K – the 1st UT to implement version 2.9 of “e-Kuber” payments system
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

40. On February 23, The RBI has brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview. The bank, established 5 years before Sikkim acceded to India in 1973, provides treasury operations for the state government. It only operates within Sikkim and is wholly-owned by the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of State Bank of Sikkim – Gangtok | Chairman – Dal Bahadur Gurung

41. India government and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) have signed a loan agreement for a \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in Assam. The total estimated cost of the project is \$365 million, of which \$304 million will be financed by the AIIB & it has a 5-year grace period and a maturity of 24 years. While the rest of will be financed by Assam state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Gov + AIIB = a loan agreement for a \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project
- Total estimated cost of the project = \$365 million (\$304 million by AIIB + \$61 million by state gov)
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

42. On February 22, as per the announcement made by the RBI, Fino Payments Bank has been included in the Second Schedule to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Fino Payments Bank is now a Scheduled Commercial Bank. The scheduled commercial bank status allows Fino Payments Bank to enhance its banking position in the treasury and participation in LAF (Liquidity Facility) window. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fino Payments Bank – has received the status of ‘Scheduled Commercial Bank’
- It is now included in the Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934
- HQs of FPBL – Maharashtra | MD and CEO – Rishi Gupta

43. On February 23, ICICI Bank partnered with the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) and Chennai Smart City Limited (CSCL) for the launch of the “Namma Chennai Smart Card”. Namma Chennai Smart Card is a Ru-Pay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card that facilitates various digital payments like tax and utility bill payments Greater Chennai Corporation centers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Greater Chennai Corp + Chennai Smart City Ltd = to launch “Namma Chennai Smart Card”
- Namma Chennai Smart Card – RuPay powered co-branded, contactless prepaid card
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”



44. On February 26, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government has presented its first paperless budget in the state assembly for 2021-22. It is the third budget of the Ashok Gehlot led government in the state. Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme, Jeevan Rakshak Yojana, Development of Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur and Ghar Ghar Aushadi Yojana were the part of the budget announcement. 'Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme' provides Interest free loan of up to Rs 50,000 to Street Vendors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – presented its 1st Paperless Budget in the state assembly for 2021-22
- Rajasthan's Schemes: Indira Gandhi Urban Credit Card Scheme, Jeevan Rakshak Yojana, Ghar Ghar Aushadi Yojana
- Keoladeo National Park – located in Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

45. On February 25, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has enabled 'UPI AutoPay' on Gaana. Its integration with UPI AutoPay has made Gaana the first player in the Media and Entertainment industry to rollout the innovative e-mandate feature on UPI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – enabled 'UPI AutoPay' on Gaana
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Gaana – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Prashan Agarwal

46. State Bank of India has tied up with JPMorgan to use the US bank's blockchain technology to speed up overseas transactions. The tie up is expected to reduce SBI customers' transaction costs and time taken for payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + JPMorgan = tie up to use JPMorgan's blockchain technology
- HQs of JPMorgan – New York, US | CEO – Jamie Dimon
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

47. On February 27, The RBI has granted a further 3-month extension of its banking licence to the Rupee Cooperative Bank (RCB), Pune, till May 31, 2021. Till January 2021, the bank made total recovery of Rs 258.11 Cr and aggregate operating profit of Rs 53.19 Cr in the last 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI granted a further 3-month extension of its licence to – Rupee Cooperative Bank (till May 31, 2021)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935
- HQs of Rupee Cooperative Bank – Pune, MH | Administrator – Sudhir Pandit

48. On February 26, Indian Overseas Bank has signed a corporate agency agreement with SBI General Insurance to retail its insurance products to bank customers. It is a bancassurance agreement for distribution of non-life offerings and to offer a range of general insurance solutions and innovative products to the customers of the bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Overseas Bank + SBI General Insurance = corporate agency agreement to retail its insurance products
- HQs of IOB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Partha Pratim Sengupta
- Tagline – “Good People to Grow With”
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal
- Tagline – ‘Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono’



Defence Affairs

1. On February 2, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's (HAL) 2nd Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) production plant at Doddanekundi, Bangalore & has attended the "Aero India 2021". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated HAL's 2nd Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) production plant – at Bangalore, Karnataka
- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the "Aero India 2021" at Yelahanka Air Force Station
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

2. The Indian Navy's Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance aircraft "Ilyushin 38SD" has successfully fired 'Combat Kh35E' anti-ship missiles during the ongoing Theatre level Readiness and Operational Exercise 2021 (TROPEX-21). Indian Navy's capability to carry out long range maritime strikes in the Indian Ocean Region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy's Ilyushin 38SD test fired 'Combat Kh35E' anti-ship missile during TROPEX-21 – in Indian Ocean
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

3. The 16th edition of Indo-U.S. joint military exercise "Yudh Abhyas" will be held in Rajasthan between February 8 and 21. The exercise near the India-Pakistan border aims at enhancing cooperation and interoperability between the two armies and will focus on counter-terrorism operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 16th edition of "Yudh Abhyas" between India & USA will be held in Rajasthan
- Military Exercises of India with USA: Yudh Abhyas, Tiger Triumph, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Indo-USCG
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

4. On February 4, Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed a contract to deliver a fast patrol vessel (FPV) namely "Zoroaster" to Seychelles. The FPV will be delivered to the Seychelles Coast Guard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE + Seychelles = to deliver a fast patrol vessel (FPV) namely "Zoroaster"
- Seychelles – Victoria – Seychellois Rupee | President – Wavel Ramkalawan
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

5. On February 6, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has handed over 3 Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) Mk III to the Indian Navy and 2 to the Indian Coast Guard as part of a 16-ALH contract. HAL has been recognised by Rolls Royce as authorised maintenance centre for 'Adour Mk871' engines for its global customers. The Indian



Aero Components Sector is set to double from ₹30,000 Cr to ₹60,000 Cr by 2024, according to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Besides, the government's endeavour is to bring down defence imports by at least \$2 billion by 2022. Total 138 proposals worth over \$37 billion for domestic manufacturing had been approved between 2016 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL handed over 3 'ALH Mk III' to the Indian Navy & 2 to the Indian Coast Guard
- Indian Aero Components Sector is set to double from ₹30,000 Cr to ₹60,000 Cr – by 2024
- Government's target to bring down Defence Imports by at least \$2 billion – by 2022
- HAL – recognised by Rolls Royce as authorised maintenance centre for 'Adour Mk871' engines
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

6. On February 6, A maiden contingent of 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force "CoBRA" (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action). It will soon be deployed in the anti-Naxal operations grid of the country. The CoBRA force was raised under the CRPF in 2009 for undertaking intelligence-based jungle warfare operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 34 CRPF women personnel was inducted into its specialised jungle warfare commando force "CoBRA"
- CoBRA – Commando Battalion for Resolute Action | It was raised under the CRPF in 2009
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

7. On February 6, Israel based Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) have teamed up for joint induction of an anti-torpedo defence system called "SHADE" for the Indian Navy. "SHADE" will be the first system in the world to employ a combination of soft kill and hard kill decoys. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafael Advanced Defense Systems + BDL = to jointly induct Anti-Torpedo Defence System - "SHADE" for Indian Navy
- HQs of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems – Haifa, Israel | CEO – Yoav Har-Even
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra

8. At the 13th edition of Aero India in Bengaluru, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been handed the contract to manufacture 83 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at an estimated cost of ₹48,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – received the contract to manufacture 83 LCA Tejas for the IAF at an estimated cost of ₹48,000 Cr
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt



9. Indian Navy's largest war game, the biennial Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX-21), with the participation of all its operational units as well as those of the Army, Air Force and the Coast Guard has completed the 3rd phase called Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX". It took place at the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). TROPEX 21 was conducted in 3 phases - Coastal Defence Exercise "Sea Vigil", Tri-Service joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21" and Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy's "TROPEX-21" completed the 3rd phase
- 1st phase – Coastal Defence Exercise "Sea Vigil"
- 2nd phase – Tri-Service joint Amphibious Exercise "AMPHEX-21"
- 3rd phase – Weapon Workup Phase of "TROPEX"
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

10. On February 11, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged an order from the Indian Navy for supplying 2 Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM), main guns standardised for all warships of the Indian Navy. BHEL has indigenised these guns and has established dedicated, intricate manufacturing and inspection facilities at its Heavy Electrical Equipment Plant, Haridwar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BHEL bagged an order from the Indian Navy for supplying 2 Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM)
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

11. On February 12, Indian Navy has signed a contract for the construction of 5 Diving Support Crafts (DSCs) with Titagarh Wagons Limited, Kolkata. DSC will meet the mission needs of Command Clearance Diving Teams (CCDTs) which are involved in providing diving assistance to all ships inside and close to the harbour for underwater repair, maintenance, and salvage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + Titagarh Wagons (**Kolkata**) = a contract for the construction of 5 Diving Support Crafts (DSCs)
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

12. PM Narendra Modi has handed over the indigenous main battle tank 'Arjun Mk-1A' to the Army in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai. It is designed and developed by Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), a unit of the DRDO. The indent for 118 of these tanks would be placed shortly with the Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) at Avadi near Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – handed over 118 indigenous main battle tanks 'Arjun Mk-1A' to the Army – in Chennai
- It is designed and developed by – CVRDE (**Chennai, Tamil Nadu**)
- Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium – Chennai
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

13. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced a new CAPF battalion that will be named after 'Narayani Sena', the warriors of the erstwhile princely state of Cooch Behar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – announced a new CAPF battalion – to be named after 'Narayani Sena'
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

14. On February 16, The Indian Navy has got its 3rd Scorpene submarine, which will be commissioned as "INS Karanj", of Project P-75 in Mumbai. It is based on 'Scorpene Class' and delivered by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) to the Indian Navy. Total 6 submarines are being constructed under Project 75. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy got its 3rd Scorpene submarine commissioned as "INS Karanj" under 'Project P-75' in Mumbai
- It is based on – 'Scorpene Class' & delivered by – Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of MDL – Mumbai, MH | MD & Chairman – Narayan Prasad

15. The naval exercise of Iran and Russia known as "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021" started on February 16 in the Indian Ocean Region. Indian Navy did not participate in this 2-day maritime exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021" started on February 16 in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

16. The DRDO is likely to conduct the first developmental trial test of India's latest Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile "Astra Mk II". The indigenously developed missile will be flight tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast. The previous version of Astra missile had a strike range of about 110 km and now, its advanced variant can strike targets 160 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO is likely to conduct first developmental trial test of "Astra Mk II" – off Odisha coast
- Strike range of this missile – 160 Km | BVR – Beyond Visual Range
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

17. On February 19, Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has flagged off the 100th 'K9 Vajra' tracked self-propelled howitzer built by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) at its armoured system complex at Hazira in Gujarat. The 155mm, 52 calibre 'K9 Vajra' is built by L&T which is based on 'K9 Thunder' of South Korea. 'K-9 Vajra' has a range of 38 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Army Chief – flagged off the 100th 'K9 Vajra' self-propelled howitzer built by L&T – at Hazira in Gujarat
- 'K9 Vajra' is based on 'K9 Thunder' of South Korea
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

18. On February 18, The Indian and Indonesian navies have carried out a military exercise “Passage Exercise” (PASSEX) in the Arabian sea to enhance operational interoperability and overall cooperation. Indian naval ship INS Talwar participated in this exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy & Indonesian Navy – carried out a military exercise “Passage Exercise” (PASSEX) in the Arabian sea
- [Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo](#)

19. On February 19, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICG) C-453 was commissioned in Chennai. It is the 17th of the 18 Interceptor Boats being indigenously built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. ICGS C-453 is the 27.80-m-long interceptor boat with a displacement of 105 tonnes and a maximum speed of 45 knots (85 kmph). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS C-453 – commissioned in Chennai, TN (It is 17th of the 18 Interceptor Boats & indigenously built by L&T)
- [HQs L&T – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam](#)

20. On February 18, The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad and Ordnance Factory (Medak) have signed an Academic and Technical Linkage Agreement for designing an indigenous Armoured Tracked Repair Vehicle (ATRV). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCEME ([Secunderabad](#)) + Ordnance Factory ([Medak](#)) = an Academic and Technical Linkage Agreement
- ATRV – Armoured Tracked Repair Vehicle

21. India has sent INS Pralaya to Abu Dhabi to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21) and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21) from February 20 to 25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Pralaya – participated in the “NAVDEX 21” & “IDEX 21” being held in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

22. On February 23, Cochin Shipyard has emerged as L1 (the lowest bidder) for a Rs 10,000-Cr contract by the Indian Navy, to build 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV). Incorporated in 1972, CSL can build ships up to 1,10,000 dead weight tonnage (DWT) and repair ships up to 1,25,000 DWT. Currently, it is building India’s First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier ‘INS Vikrant’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cochin Shipyard – received Rs 10,000-Cr contract by the Indian Navy to build 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels
- [HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Shri Madhu S Nair](#)



23. On February 23, The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has granted 3 important Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals worth Rs 13,700 Cr for defence procurement to the Indian Army, Indian Navy & Indian Air Force. Out of the AoN worth Rs 13,700 Cr, Rs 8350 Cr is allocated for the procurement of 118 Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun Mark 1A. The tank has been designed and developed at the Chennai-based Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DAC granted 3 important Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) approvals worth Rs 13,700 Cr for defence procurement
- Rs 8350 Cr is allocated for the procurement of 118 Main Battle Tank (MBT) “Arjun Mark 1A”



Schemes & Initiatives

1. On February 1, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched two schemes - 'Pragyan Bharati' & 'Bhasha Gourab' to provide monetary assistance to college students and literary bodies of the state. Under Pragyan Bharati scheme, 3,26,046 college students were given ₹1,500 each for purchasing text books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – launched two schemes - 'Pragyan Bharati' & 'Bhasha Gourab'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

2. Punjab has virtually launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission as part of the government's campaign to accomplish the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March, 2021. The scheme is being funded by the World Bank, Jal Jeewan Mission of GoI, NABARD and State Budget. The Chief Minister also formally launched 10 new large multi-village surface water supply schemes at a cost of ₹1,020 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – launched the 'Har Ghar Pani, Har Ghar Safai' mission
- Aim – to accomplish the goal of 100% potable piped water supply in all rural households by March, 2021
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

3. The Startup India Seed Fund (SISF) Scheme, which has a target corpus of Rs 945 Cr to be disbursed over 5 years in early-stage startups, is looking to support around 3,600 entrepreneurs through 300 incubators, according to its implementing body Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The selected startups will be offered up to Rs 20 lakhs as a grant for proof of concept and up to Rs 50 lakhs through convertible debentures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A target corpus of Rs 945 Cr to be disbursed over 5 years – under Startup India Seed Fund (SISF) Scheme
- The implementing body of SISF scheme – DPIIT
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

4. The government has decided to include 14 new Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items under the mechanism for marketing of Minor Forest Produce through a Minimum Support Price scheme to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces. After the inclusion of the 14 products, the total number of MFP has reached to 63. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government has decided to include 14 new MFP items under Minimum Support Price scheme
- MFP – Minor Forest Produce



5. On February 2, In a bid to boost the startup ecosystem in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has launched two schemes namely “Intellectual Property Rights Scheme” and “Quality Testing & Certification Scheme” aimed at providing financial assistance to innovative startups to file for IT patents. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched 2 schemes to provide financial assistance to innovative startups to file for IT patents
- Schemes: “Intellectual Property Rights” & “Quality Testing & Certification”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

6. On February 3, the Jal Shakti Ministry has launched a unified portal on the “Gobardhan” scheme, an initiative aimed at managing cattle and biodegradable waste and also help enhance farmers’ income. The Gobardhan scheme is being pursued as a priority programme under the Swachch Bharat Mission Grameen-Phase 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry – launched a unified portal on the “Gobardhan” scheme
- Aim: managing cattle, managing biodegradable waste & enhance farmers’ income
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

7. On February 5, Maharashtra has approved the “Chief Minister’s Water Conservation Programme” on the lines of previous BJP government’s flagship scheme. The new water conservation scheme, which aims at restoring the irrigation capacity by repairing the water sources, will be implemented from April 2020 to March 2023. The programme will require a fund of Rs 1,340.75 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – approved the “Chief Minister’s Water Conservation Programme”
- The scheme will be implemented – from April 2020 to March 2023
- “Jalayukt Shivar Scheme” was discontinued by – Maha Vikas Aghadi government (Maharashtra)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

8. The Ministry of Power will launch a scheme titled ‘Manufacturing Zones under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package’ for critical power and renewable energy equipment with an outlay of Rs 1,500 Cr in FY22. The scheme in the Budget would entail setting up 3 manufacturing zones in a year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Power – to launch ‘Manufacturing Zones under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package’ scheme
- Outlay of the Scheme – Rs 1,500 | The scheme would entail setting up 3 manufacturing zones in a year
- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

9. On February 7, Nearly 7.5 lakh tea plantation families of Assam have received financial benefits from the government as Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman arrived in Guwahati to launch the third phase of “Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela” scheme. An amount of Rs 3,000 was transferred directly to 7,46,667 bank account holders. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman launched the 3rd phase of “Chah Bagicha Dhan Puraskar Mela” scheme – in Guwahati, Assam
- An amount of Rs 3,000 was transferred directly to each tea plantation family
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

10. On February 9, Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)” with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs India with budgetary provision of Rs 6865 Cr. FPOs will be provided financial assistance up-to Rs 18 lakh per FPO for a period of 3 years. The goal is to achieve doubling of agriculture export by 2022. However, more than 86% of farmers in India are small and marginal. In addition to this, provision has been made for matching equity grant up-to Rs. 2,000 per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs 15 lakh per FPO and a credit guarantee facility up-to Rs. 2 Cr of project loan per FPO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GoI launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs”
- Budgetary provision for this Scheme – Rs 6865 Cr
- FPOs will be provided financial assistance up-to “Rs 18 lakh” per FPO for a period of 3 years
- Matching equity grant up-to “Rs. 2,000” per farmer member of FPO with a limit of Rs 15 lakh per FPO
- Credit Guarantee Facility up-to “Rs. 2 Cr” of project loan per FPO

11. On February 12, A Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely “National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture” (NeGPA) that was initially launched in 2010-11 in 7 pilot States, has been extended up to 31st March, 2021. It aims to achieve rapid development in India through use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for timely access to agriculture related information to the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “National e-Governance Plan in Agriculture” (NeGPA) – extended up to 31st March, 2021
- It is centrally sponsored Scheme & was initially launched in 7 pilot States – in 2010-11

12. On February 15, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised meals to the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5 a plate. The state government will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people will have to pay ₹5. The Budget tabled by the Chief Minister earlier in Feb had allotted ₹100 Cr for the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised meals to the poor at ₹5 per plate
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

13. On February 17, The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched a new project “Pey Jal Survekshan” to install water connections to every urban household. The ministry has selected 10 pilot cities to survey for the Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban by March 2021. The proposed outlay for the scheme is Rs 2.87 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched a new project “Pey Jal Survekshan” to install water connections to every urban household
- Outlay for the scheme – Rs 2.87 lakh Cr
- MoHUA – selected 10 pilot cities to survey for the Jal Jeevan Mission-Urban by March 2021
- [MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)

14. On February 17, The Union Cabinet has approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the telecom sector with an outlay of ₹12,195 Cr over 5 years. The scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment. The implementation of PLI scheme in telecom manufacturing will start from April 1, 2021. For inclusion of MSMEs in the scheme, the minimum investment threshold has been kept at ₹10 Cr, while for others it is ₹100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the PLI scheme for the telecom sector with an outlay of ₹12,195 Cr over 5 years (from April 1, 2021)
- PLI – Production-Linked Incentive

15. On February 18, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) worth Rs. 19 Cr 84 lakhs at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport. The CPC has been built by Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC). He inaugurated 24 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) at Assam Administrative Staff College (ASSC) and also launched the “Uberization scheme” at AASC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – inaugurated the Centre for Perishable Cargo (CPC) at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport
- CPC was constructed by AIDC at a cost of – Rs 19 Cr 84 lakhs
- Assam – also launched the “Uberization scheme”
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

16. On 19 February, The Department of Women and Child Development (DoWCD) has given permission for 48 anganwadis in Kerala to construct buildings under the Smart Anganwadi scheme. Rs 9 Cr has been granted for this purpose. The government decided to build ‘Smart Anganwadis’ in a phased manner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DoWCD – gave permission to construct 48 anganwadis in Kerala under ‘Smart Anganwadi scheme’
- Rs 9 Cr has been granted for this purpose
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)

17. On February 23, Andhra Pradesh has launched a new welfare scheme, “Economically Backward Classes (EBCs) Nestam”. The scheme has been allocated Rs 670 Cr and for the next 3 years and beneficiaries will be provided Rs 15,000 as financial assistance per annum. It will be implemented in November and is expected to benefit 6 lakh women. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched a new welfare scheme, “EBCs Nestam”
- Financial assistance to be provided under this scheme – Rs 15,000 / year | Total allocation – Rs 670 Cr
- Other schemes in Andhra Pradesh:
 - Matsyakara Bharosa, Jagananna Vidya Kanuka, YSR Cheyutha, YSR Vahana Mitra
 - Kapu Nestham, YSR Aasara, Jaganna Chedodu, Nethanna Nestham, Amma Vodi
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

18. On February 24, Union agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar has awarded 5 states for effectively implementing the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)” scheme on its 2nd anniversary. On this day, 2 years ago in 2019, the PM-Kisan scheme was launched with an aim to ensure a life of dignity as well as prosperity for our hardworking farmers. Under the Scheme, an amount of Rs 6000 will be annually transferred directly into the bank accounts of farmers in 3 installments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 24 – 2nd anniversary of the “Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM KISAN)” scheme
- The scheme was launched in – 2019 | Rs 6000 / year to each farmer (in 3 installments)
- Narendra Singh Tomar has awarded 5 states for effectively implementing “PM KISAN scheme”:
 - Karnataka – Highest number of beneficiaries authenticated
 - Maharashtra – Effective physical verification and prompt grievance redressal
 - Uttar Pradesh – Fastest implementation of the Scheme
 - Arunachal Pradesh – Highest number of Aadhar verifications for the northeast and hilly areas
 - Himachal Pradesh – Stellar performance in physical verification of beneficiaries and grievance redressal

19. The Union Cabinet has approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical sector, entailing an outlay of Rs 15,000 Cr. The duration of the scheme would be from 2020-21 to 2028-29. The total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 Cr and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 Cr are estimated during 6 years from 2022-23 to 2027-28. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume and is worth \$40 billion. PLI Scheme is government's initiative that provides incentive to companies in 15 key sectors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet – approved a PLI scheme for the pharmaceutical sector | Outlay of the scheme – Rs 15,000 Cr
- Duration of the scheme – from 2020-21 to 2028-29
- Indian pharmaceutical industry – 3rd largest in the world | worth – \$40 billion

20. Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has launched the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme. The PM FME Scheme aims to provide financial, technical and business support to micro food processing units, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Self Help Groups (SHGs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched the Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla



Sports & Games

1. Denmark will go to the Tokyo Olympics as world men's handball champion after beating Sweden 26-24 in the final at the 2021 Men's Handball World Championships held in Egypt. The Tokyo Games, postponed at the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, are set to open July 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Denmark – won the “Men's Handball World Championships-2021” – held in Egypt | 2nd – Sweden
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

2. India's 24-member shooting contingent has topped medals tally at 1st Asian Online Shooting Championship. The squad won 4 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and 5 Bronze medals for a total of 11 podium finishes. The 2-day competition was organised by the Kuwait Shooting Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – topped medals tally at 1st Asian Online Shooting Championship
- India won total 11 medals = 4 Gold + 2 Silver + 5 Bronze

3. On February 2, Fast bowler Ashok Dinda has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He retires as one of India's biggest veteran domestic fast bowlers having picked up over 400 First-Class wickets. He played 13 ODIs and nine T20I matches for India between 2010 and 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Dinda (West Bengal) – retirement from all forms of Cricket
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

4. On February 6, England skipper Joe Root has become the first cricketer to score a double century in his 100th Test, touching the milestone on the second day of the first Test against India, in Chennai. Former Pakistan skipper Inzamam ul Haq, who hit 184 against India in Bengaluru in 2005, held the previous best score in the 100th Test. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Root ([England - Cricket](#)) – became the first cricketer to score a double century in his 100th Test
- Previous best score in the 100th Test was held by – Inzamam ul Haq ([Pakistan - Cricket](#))

5. On February 9, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced BYJU'S, India's largest EdTech company as their global partner from 2021 to 2023. The 3-year agreement will see BYJU'S partner all ICC events over the period, including the forthcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in India, and the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC + BYJU'S = partnership for 3 years (from 2021 to 2023)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Byju Raveendran



6. On February 9, The Haryana government has decided to grant preparation money of Rs 5 lakh to encourage the sportspersons of Haryana who have qualified for Olympic Games. Meanwhile, the cabinet also moved a proposal for the replacement of the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2018 with the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Group A, B & C) Service Rules-2021. The upper age limit is also reduced from 50 years to 42 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – to grant preparation money of Rs 5 lakh to sportspersons qualified for Olympic Games from Haryana
- The upper age limit for Sportspersons & coaches is also reduced – to 42 years (from 50 years)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

7. The Civil Aviation ministry and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have granted conditional exemption to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the deployment of drones for live aerial cinematography of the India Cricket Season in 2021. In the past, DGCA has allowed drones to be used for IPL matches too. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Civil Aviation ministry & DGCA – granted conditional exemption to the BCCI to use drones to film matches
- [Civil Aviation Ministry MoS – Hardeep Singh Puri](#)
- [HQs of DGCA – New Delhi | Director General in the DGCA – Arun Kumar](#)
- [HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain](#)

8. On February 15, Former India wicketkeeper-batsman Naman Ojha has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. The 37-year-old from Madhya Pradesh holds the record for the most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in Ranji Trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naman Ojha ([Madhya Pradesh](#)) – retirement – from all forms of Cricket
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel](#)

9. On February 17, Former South Africa captain Faf du Plessis has announced his retirement from Test cricket to focus on his career in the shorter formats with T20 being the priority. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faf du Plessis ([South Africa](#)) – retirement from Test Cricket (to focus in T20)
- [South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa](#)

10. On February 15, Babar Azam-led Pakistan has created history by defeating South Africa in the final T20I of the 3-match series by 4 wickets to register 100th win in the shortest format of the game. They became the first men's team to reach a century of T20I victories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – became the first men's cricket team to win 100 T20I matches
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi](#)



11. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen. Ashwin has picked 391 wickets in his career so far. The second most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen is Sri Lankan great Muttiah Muralitharan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravichandran Ashwin – 1st bowler in 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen
- Muttiah Muralitharan ([Sri Lanka-Cricket](#)) – 2nd most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen

12. On February 15, Pahadi Billas has lifted the trophy at the “KKFI 2021 Super League Kho Kho Tournament” held at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Maharashtra’s Pratik Waikar continued his spectacular show at the Tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pahadi Billas – won the “KKFI 2021 Super League Kho Kho Tournament” – held in New Delhi
- Pratik Waikar ([Maharashtra](#)) – a Kho Kho player
- Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium – located in New Delhi

13. On February 19, Sri Lanka fast bowler Dhammika Prasad has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. He represented Sri Lanka in 25 Tests and 24 ODIs, bagging 75 and 32 wickets respectively. He also played a lone T20 International against Australia in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dhammika Prasad ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retirement from International Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

14. Manika Batra has won women’s singles title in the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships after beating Reeth Rishya at the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex in Panchkula. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manika Batra – won women’s singles title in the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championships

15. South-African all-rounder Chris Morris has become the costliest player in the history of Indian Premier League (IPL) auction when Rajasthan Royals snapped him up for Rs 16.25 Cr. Earlier, Yuvraj Singh was the costliest-ever buy in auction history as he was bought for Rs 16 Cr by Delhi Daredevils in IPL 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chris Morris ([South Africa](#)) – became the costliest player in the history of IPL auction
- He was brought by – Rajasthan Royals – for Rs 16.25 Cr

16. On February 21, Novak Djokovic has won men's single title of "Australian Open 2021" by beating Daniil Medvedev. It was his 9th title in Melbourne, taking his Grand Slam tally to 18. In women's singles final, Naomi Osaka won her second "Australian Open" title, beating Jennifer Brady. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Novak Djokovic (Serbia - Tennis) – won men's single title of "Australian Open 2021" | Total Grand Slams – 18
- Naomi Osaka (Japan - Tennis) – won women's single title of "Australian Open 2021" | Total Grand Slams – 18
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Serbia – Belgrade – Serbian Dinar

17. Russian qualifier Aslan Karatsev has become the first man in the Open era (since 2000) to reach a Grand Slam semi-final on debut. The 27-year-old's dream run continued with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win against the Bulgarian on Rod Laver Arena. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aslan Karatsev (Russia-Tennis) – became the 1st man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam semi-final on debut
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

18. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju have announced that Karnataka will be the host state for the 2nd "Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021", scheduled later this year. KIUG is the largest University Games in India. The games will be hosted by Bengaluru's JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd "Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021" – will be hosted by Bangalore, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

19. On February 22, Indian women boxers have secured at an overall 2nd position with 12 medals in the 30th "Adriatic Pearl - Youth International Boxing Tournament" in Budva, Montenegro. Babyrojisana Chanu (51kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (69kg) have fetched 2 more Gold medals taking the total to 5 (Other 3 - Alfiya Pathan, Thokchom Sanamacha Chanu, Vinka). Vinka has received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 30th "Adriatic Pearl - Youth International Boxing Tournament" in Budva, Montenegro
- Vinka – received the Best Woman Boxer of the Tournament award
- India – overall 2nd position with 12 medals (5 Gold medals)

20. Ankita Raina, partnering with Russia's Kamilla Rakhimova, has captured her maiden "WTA 250 Doubles Title", beating Anna Blinkova and Anastasia Potapova of Russia. Ankita will become only the second player to crack the doubles top-100 since Sania Mirza. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ankita Raina (India-Tennis) + Kamilla Rakhimova (Russia -Tennis) = won the "WTA 250 Doubles Title"
- The final of Phillip Island Trophy Tennis Tournament was held – at Melbourne, Australia

21. Veteran Sri Lanka opener Upul Tharanga has announced his retirement from international cricket after a career spanning 15 years. He last represented the national team during its tour of South Africa in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Upul Tharanga ([Sri Lanka](#)) – retirement – from International Cricket

22. On February 24, President Ramnath Kovind has inaugurated the “Narendra Modi Stadium”, the world’s largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad’s Motera. Known earlier as Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium, the rebuilt stadium can house 1,32,000 people, 10,000 more than Melbourne Cricket Ground, which was the largest earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Motera Cricket Stadium” – renamed after Narendra Modi | Location – Motera, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- Ramnath Kovind – inaugurated “Narendra Modi Stadium” - world’s largest cricket stadium
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

23. On February 26, Yusuf Pathan has announced his retirement from all formats of Cricket. He played 57 ODIs and 22 T20Is for India between 2007 and 2012. Pathan played for Baroda in domestic cricket throughout his career. He has played 174 matches in the IPL. He was the first cricketer to win 3 IPL trophies. He is from Gujarat and holds the record for the fastest century by any Indian cricketer in IPL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yusuf Pathan ([Gujarat](#)) – retirement – from all formats of Cricket
- Yusuf Pathan – the 1st cricketer to win 3 IPL trophies | Fastest Century by an Indian in IPL
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

24. Former India cricketer and Karnataka captain R. Vinay Kumar has announced his retirement from International and First Class cricket. He has scalped 504 wickets in 139 First Class matches. Vinay came from a humble background, as a promising junior cricketer in his hometown Davanagere and was affectionately called as ‘The Davanagere Express’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. Vinay Kumar ([Karnataka](#)) – retirement from International & First Class Cricket
- His Nickname – ‘The Davanagere Express’

25. On February 28, Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won the Gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at “XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial” in Kyiv, Ukraine. She defeated world number seven Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus. She is the only Indian Woman Wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinesh Phogat ([Wrestler](#)) – won the Gold medal in “XXIV Outstanding Ukrainian Wrestlers and Coaches Memorial”
- Vanesa Kaladzinskaya ([Belarus](#)) – a [Wrestler](#)



Important Days & Dates

1. Union Minister Prakash Javadekar has felicitated 'Women COVID-19 Warriors' at the 29th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW) on January 31. The commission was established in January 31, 1992. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 31 – 29th Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW)
- Prakash Javadekar – felicitated 'Women COVID-19 Warriors'
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma

2. Indian Coast Guard has celebrated its 45th Raising Day on 1st February 2021. From a modest beginning with just 7 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025. ICG is the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world. Its motto is "Vayam Rakshamah" meaning "We Protect". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 1 – 45th Raising Day of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (156 ships & 62 aircraft in its inventory)
- ICG – the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world | Motto – "Vayam Rakshamah" (We Protect)
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan | Founded in – 1977

3. Annually, February 4 is observed as "World Cancer Day" since 2000 in order to raise awareness about cancer and reduce the stigma that surrounds the disease. Cancer is the second leading cause of deaths globally. This international day is a 'global uniting initiative' led by the Union of International Cancer Control (UICC). In 2019, the theme "I Am and I Will" was introduced and was to be carried on till 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 4 – "World Cancer Day" (since 2000)
- Theme – "I Am and I Will" (since 2019)
- HQs of Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) – Geneva, Switzerland

4. On February 3, In December, the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution to declare 4 February as "International Day of Human Fraternity". The resolution was the outcome of Christian-Muslim cooperation to promote peace and intercultural dialogue in the world. This year, the theme is "A Pathway to the Future". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 4 – International Day of Human Fraternity – by UNGA
- Theme – "A Pathway to the Future"
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

5. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on February 6, to spread awareness and educate people about the problems females faced due to genital mutilation. This year, the theme is “No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 6 – International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation – by UN
- Theme – “No Time for Global Inaction, Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation”

6. Every year February 10 and August 10 are observed as the National Deworming Day (NDD). The day aims at eradicating intestinal worms also referred to as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), among children within the age bracket of 1-19 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 10 & August 10 – National Deworming Day
- Aim: To eradicate intestinal worms (Soil-Transmitted Helminths) among children within the age of 1-19 years

7. The “World Pulses Day” falls on February 10 every year and recognised Pulses as a global food. The UN General Assembly in 2019 decided to dedicate a day to Pulses to increase awareness and access to pulses globally. World Pulses Day 2021 is under theme “#LovePulses for a healthy diet and planet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 10 – World Pulses Day – by UNGA (since 2019)
- Theme – “#LovePulses for a healthy diet and planet” or “Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future”
- 2016 is observed as ‘International Year of Pulses’

8. On February 9, The RBI has observed the Financial Literacy Week (FLW) from February 8-12 on the theme of “Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions”. The RBI has been conducting Financial Literacy Week every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8-12 – “Financial Literacy Week (FLW)” – observed by the RBI (since - 2016)
- Theme – “Credit Discipline and Credit from Formal Institutions”
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

9. February 8 is the birth anniversary of Zakir Husain Khan. He became President in 1967. He was the 3rd President of India & was born in Hyderabad State in Central India. He was an Indian economist and politician whose tenure of presidentship was from 13 May 1967 until his death on 3 May 1969. Moreover, he was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1963. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8 – Birth anniversary of Zakir Husain Khan (3rd President of India)
- He was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ in 1963

10. On February 11, the “World Unani Day” is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of visionary scholar Hakim Ajmal Khan, who has contributed in the development of the Unani system of Medicine. This year marks the 5th World Unani Day. The National Conference on Unani Medicine was held at New Delhi with the theme of “Unani Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges in times of COVID19”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – 5th World Unani Day (since - 2017) (Birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan)
- National Conference on Unani Medicine – held at New Delhi
- Theme of the conference – “Unani Medicine: Opportunities and Challenges in times of COVID19”
- [HQs of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine – Hyderabad | DG – Asim Ali Khan](#)

11. On February 11, the “International Day of Women and Girls in Science” is observed annually by the United Nations to encourage the involvement of girls and women into the field of Science and laud the efforts put in by women associated with STEM subjects. This year, the theme is “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- Theme – “Women Scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19”

12. “Safer Internet Day” is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with an aim to provide safer and better internet. This year marks the 18th edition of Safer Internet Day which falls on February 9. This year, the theme is “Together for a better internet”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 9 – 18th edition of Safer Internet Day | Theme – “Together for a better internet”
- It is observed on – 2nd day of the 2nd week of February

13. World Epilepsy Day is observed on the 8th of February, every year. Epilepsy is a central nervous system disorder that leads to seizures or periods of unusual behaviour, sensations, and sometimes loss of awareness. This year, the theme is “Epilepsy is more than seizures”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 8 – World Epilepsy Day | Theme – “Epilepsy is more than seizures”

14. On the occasion of ‘National Productivity Day’ which was observed on February 12 & created by the National Productivity Council to kick-start ‘National Productivity Week’, Tally Solutions has organised an insightful panel event in association with CIMSME and MSME Forum. The theme of the event is “Enhancing Productivity through Digital Transformation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 12 – National Productivity Day – created by National Productivity Council
- Tally Solutions organised an insightful panel event themed “Enhancing Productivity through Digital Transformation”
- [HQs of National Productivity Council – New Delhi | Director General – Arun Kumar Jha](#)



15. On February 11, PM Narendra Modi and BJP President JP Nadda have paid a floral tribute to former Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) leader Deendayal Upadhyaya on his death anniversary which is observed as 'Samarpan Diwas' in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 11 – 'Samarpan Diwas' in India (death anniversary of former BJS leader Deendayal Upadhyaya)

16. India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birthday as "National Women's Day" every year on February 13. She was born on February 13, 1879. She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems. This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu. She also became the first woman governor of the United Provinces, the present Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – National Women's Day (142nd birth anniversary of - Sarojini Naidu)
- Her nicknames: 'Nightingale of India' & 'Bharat Kokila'

17. "World Radio Day" is observed on February 13 every year to celebrate one of the oldest and most widely consumed mediums of communication. This year the theme is "New World, New Radio". It was first proclaimed by the member states of UNESCO in 2011 and later adopted internationally by the UN General Assembly in 2012. This year, UNESCO is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the global event and more than 110 years of radio. The 2021 edition of WRD is divided into 3 main sub-themes - Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves, Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates & Connection: The world changes, radio connects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 13 – 10th "World Radio Day" | Theme of 2021 – "New World, New Radio"
- 3 sub-themes of WRD 2021:
 - Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves
 - Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates
 - Connection: The world changes, radio connects
- Guglielmo Marconi (Italy) – invented Radio in 1895

18. On February 12, "Darwin Day" is celebrated internationally on the birthday of Charles Darwin to commemorate his contributions to science. Born in Shropshire, the English naturalist propounded the theory of evolution by natural selection. He fully expressed his theory in his 1859 book 'On the Origin of Species'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

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

19. February 15, 2021 marks the 20th International Childhood Cancer Day, which marks the day to raise awareness regarding cancer among children. Census 2011 had revealed that the prevalence of childhood cancer was the highest in India, likely due to the fact that 30% of the Indian population was younger than 14 years of age. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 15 – 20th International Childhood Cancer Day
- The highest prevalence of childhood cancer is in India

20. Union minister G. Kishan Reddy has praised the commitment of Delhi Police officers on the occasion of its 74th Foundation Day on 16th February 2021. Delhi Police was part of the Punjab Police until 1947. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 16 – 74th Foundation Day of Delhi Police
- [Present Commissioner of Delhi Police – Sachidanand Shrivastava](#)

21. “World Day of Social Justice” is observed on February 20 every year to raise voice against social injustice and to remove barriers regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability. This year, the theme is “A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 20 – “World Day of Social Justice”
- Theme – “A Call for Social Justice in the Digital Economy”

22. On February 20, PM Narendra Modi has greeted the people of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram on their statehood days and heaped praise on their culture and traditions. Both states were created on this day in 1987 following the 53rd Amendment of the Indian Constitution in 1986. Arunachal Pradesh was formerly known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) and was part of Assam until it was made a union territory in 1972 and a full-fledged state on February 20, 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 20 – 35th Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh & Mizoram (created in 1987)
- Arunachal Pradesh – was formerly known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA) – a part of Assam
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra](#)
- [Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai](#)

23. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the founder of the Maratha Kingdom, was born on February 19, 1630, a day which is celebrated as “Shivaji Jayanti” in India, particularly in Maharashtra. This year marks his 391st birth anniversary. The Maharashtra government has declared “Shivaji Jayanti” to be a public holiday in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 19 – “Shivaji Jayanti” in India (391st birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj)
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

24. The World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the third Saturday of February, (February 20 this year) for raising awareness on their importance and plight. It’s high time to create awareness on saving pangolins from extinction. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- February 20 – “World Pangolin Day” (3rd Saturday of February)

25. On February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries celebrate “World Thinking Day”. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), along with Girl Scouts of the USA and the other WAGGGS member organizations, have celebrated World Thinking Day since 1926. This year, the theme is “Peacebuilding”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 22 – “World Thinking Day” – celebrated by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 150 countries
- Theme – “Peacebuilding”

26. International Mother Language Day is observed on 21 February to spread awareness about the importance of linguistic, cultural diversity and multilingualism since 2000. The Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the UNESCO in November 1999. This year, the theme is “Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 21 – “International Mother Language Day” – by the UNESCO (since 2000)
- Theme – “Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society”

27. “Central Excise Day” is celebrated every year on February 24 across India to encourage the employees of excise department to carry out the central excise duty in a better way. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 24 – “Central Excise Day”

28. The 6th year of the launch of Soil Health Card is being observed across India to create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. PM Narendra Modi had launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

Key Points:

- February 19 – 6th anniversary of the launch of “Soil Health Card” scheme (launched in 2015 in Rajasthan)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

29. Every year, on February 27, World NGO Day is observed in several parts of the globe. This day commemorates the social workers who have gone out of their way to make the world a better place. In India, NGOs are established under the provisions of “Article 19” of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 27 – “World NGO Day” (since – 2014)
- NGOs are established under “Article 19” of the Indian Constitution



30. “Marathi Language Day” is celebrated annually on February 27 to honour the birth anniversary of renowned Marathi poet Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar (popularly known as 'Kusumagraj'). Kusumagraj was the recipient of the 1974 Sahitya Akademi Award in Marathi, Padma Bhushan in 1991 and the Jnanpith Award in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vaman Shirwadkar (popularly known as 'Kusumagraj'). Kusumagraj was the recipient of the 1974 Sahitya Akademi Award in Marathi, Padma

31. The ‘Right To Protein’ initiative has introduced the 1st Protein Day on February 27, 2020. This year (2021), the 2nd edition of “National Protein Day” was observed with the theme of “Powering with Plant Protein”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 27 – 2nd edition of National Protein Day (since 2020)
- Theme – “Powering with Plant Protein”

32. “Rare Disease Day” is observed annually on the last day of February. This year, the day falls on February 28. Any disease that affects a small percentage of the population is a rare disease. In many parts of the world, they also go by the term “Orphan Disease”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 28 – “Rare Disease Day” | Rare Disease is also termed ‘Orphan Disease’

33. National Science Day is celebrated every year on February 28. This day recalls the notable invention “Raman Effect” by India's greatest scientist C V Raman. This year, the theme is “Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- February 28 – National Science Day
- Theme – “Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work”



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

1. On February 1, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has addressed the inaugural ceremony of the "ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021" being organized online from February 1 to 3, 2021. This Hackathon will provide a unique opportunity to India and ASEAN countries to solve their common identified challenges under two broad themes of "Blue Economy" and "Education". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – addressed the inaugural ceremony of the "ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021"
- Themes – "Blue Economy" & "Education"
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

2. On February 1, the 4th Foreign Office Consultations between India and Qatar were held virtually. The Indian side was led by Sanjay Bhattacharyya, Secretary (Consular, Passport and Visa and OIA), Ministry of External Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Foreign Office Consultations – held between India & Qatar
- Indian delegation – led by Sanjay Bhattacharyya
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

3. On February 3, the inaugural function of the 2nd "CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21" of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was held in New Delhi to enhance analysis and deepen understanding of police personnel. The mobile app "Locate Nearest Police Station" was also launched at the function. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd "CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020-21" of the NCRB – held in New Delhi
- "Locate Nearest Police Station" mobile app was launched during the function
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Ram Phal Pawar

4. On February 4, India has hosted Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers' Conclave on the margins of Aero India 2021, Asia's largest Aero show being held at Bengaluru from February 3 to 5. The broad theme of the conclave is "Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted "IOR Defence Ministers' Conclave – 2021"
- Theme – "Enhanced Peace, Security and Cooperation in the Indian Ocean"

5. On February 5, the First India-EU High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) was held. It was co-chaired by the Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) – held between India & EU
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27



6. The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy between India and the Kingdom of Bahrain was virtually held on February 4. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. An MoU between India and Bahrain was signed in July 2018 for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st meeting of the Joint Working Group in the field of Renewable Energy – held between India & Bahrain
- Indian delegation – Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale (Joint Secretary of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy)
- Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bahrain – Piyush Srivastava (also participated)

7. The Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel co-chaired the 8th “ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers Meeting” through video conferencing on February 5. The Meeting was in conjunction with the 24th Meeting of ASEAN Tourism Ministers (M-ATM). Besides, the minister also highlighted some initiatives to revive tourism activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers – co-chaired by Prahlad Singh Patel
- Initiatives highlighted to revive tourism activities:
- SAATHI (System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for Hospitality Industry)
- Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Programme
- A series of webinars under the theme ‘Dekho Apna Desh’

8. The Indian Ocean Region (IOR) Defence Ministers’ Conclave began with a keynote address from Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 4th February on the sidelines of ‘Aero India 2021’ in Bengaluru. 26 out of 28 countries from the IOR region attended the conclave either physically or in virtual mode. Below are some of the highlights made by Rajnath Singh during the Conclave. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh addressed – IOR Defence Ministers’ Conclave on 4th February
- Highlights:
 - SAGAR – Security and Growth for All in the Region is the theme of Indian Ocean Policy as outlined by PM Narendra Modi in 2015
 - PM Narendra Modi’s dynamic – 5 ‘S’ vision - Samman (Respect), Samvaad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samriddhi (Prosperity)
- Motive behind 5 ‘S’ Vision – “International Peace & Security”

9. The 20th edition of The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) flagship event, the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021, was held online from February 10 to February 12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the Summit. The theme of the Summit is “Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated – 20th World Sustainable Development Summit 2021 of TERI
- Theme – “Redefining our common future: Safe and secure environment for all”
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur

10. On February 10, The 18th edition of BioAsia, scheduled to be held during February 22-23, 2021, will focus on Covid-19, global health, pharma and medtech. The theme of the event will be “Move the Needle”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18th edition of BioAsia – to be held during February 22-23
- Theme – “Move the Needle”

11. With the goal to enable talented innovative students and start-ups from Australia and India to address common national issues through innovative technology solutions, Atal Innovation Mission (Niti Aayog) and Australia’s national science agency (CSIRO) kick started the “India-Australia Circular Economy (I-ACE) Hackathon-2021” on February 11. Students and startups of both the nations will work together on Innovative ways of boosting Circular Economy in 4 themes of “I-ACE Hackathon” mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM-Niti Aayog + CSIRO = organized “India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE)-2021”
- 4 themes of “I-ACE Hackathon”:
 - Innovation in packaging reducing packaging waste
 - Innovation in food supply chains avoiding waste
 - Creating opportunities for plastics waste reduction
 - Recycling critical energy metals and e-waste
- Atal Innovation Mission – under “NITI Aayog” (HQs – New Delhi)
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of CSIRO – Canberra, Australia | Head – David Thodey

12. The India Tunisia Economic Forum that was held recently in February has given impetus to the growing possibilities between India and Tunisia to boost the bilateral trade relation. An MOU was signed between Tunisia Africa Business Council and Indian Economic Trade Organization. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Tunisia = Business Council to boost the bilateral trade relation
- Tunisia – Tunis – Dinar | President – Kais Saied | PM – Hichem Mechichi

13. On February 11, Indian Army’s National Seminar-cum-Webinar, named as “Divya-Drishti 2021” on Multi-Domain Operations: Future of Conflicts was organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army’s National Seminar-cum-Webinar named “Divya-Drishti 2021” organised by CLAWS
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of CLAWS – New Delhi | Director – Vijay Kumar Ahluwalia | Inception – 2005



14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 2nd edition of the “Maritime India Summit 2021” (MIS 2021) on March 2. It will be held virtually and is scheduled to be participated by 24 nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – to inaugurate the 2nd edition of the “Maritime India Summit 2021” (MIS 2021) on March 2

15. On February 14, CM of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the 2nd edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGEII) that was held from 11-13 February, 2021 in Kozhikode, Kerala. The 3-day conference was themed “Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pinarayi Vijayan – inaugurated the 2nd edition of “International Conference on Gender Equality” – in Kozhikode
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

16. National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), under Ministry of Science & Technology, has organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 in Kolkata. Governor of West Bengal Sri Jagdeep Dhankar has inaugurated the congress. The focal theme of the Congress is “Digital Mapping Innovations in Make India Initiatives”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NATMO organised 3 days 40th INCA International Congress from 10th February, 2021 – in Kolkata
- Theme – “Digital Mapping Innovations in Make India Initiatives”
- HQs of NATMO – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – Tapati Banerjee

17. On February 17, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)'s Technology and Leadership Forum (NTLF). The 29th edition of NTLF is being organised from February 17-19. The theme of this year's event is “Shaping the future towards a better normal”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed 29th edition of NASSCOM’s Technology & Leadership Forum (NTLF) – from Feb 17-19
- Theme – “Shaping the future towards a better normal”

18. On February 17, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs has participated in the 3rd “Quad Ministerial Meeting” comprising India-Australia-Japan-USA held on 18 February 2021 under the US Administration. Myanmar was the key focus during the meeting. Besides, the Ministers exchanged views on responding to climate change and furthering cooperation in areas such as maritime security, HADR, supply chain resilience and counter-terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – participated in the 3rd “Quad Ministerial Meeting” on 18th February – under the US Administration
- Key focus during the meeting – Myanmar
- QUAD countries – 4 – India, USA, Japan & Australia



19. On February 18, India Union Minister Piyush Goyal has delivered the keynote address at “India-Singapore CEO Forum” and invited businesses from both sides to bring in sparkle into India and Singapore’s partnership. S Iswaran from Singapore had highlighted 3D’s: Development, Diversification and Digital Economy. This forum was organised by the DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) & FICCI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – delivered the keynote address at “India-Singapore CEO Forum” – organised by DPIIT & FICCI
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

20. On February 18, A virtual workshop on the theme “Covid-19 Management: Experience, good practices and way forward” was organised by India for health officials and experts from the 8 members of the SAARC and Mauritius and Seychelles. The workshop was chaired by India’s health secretary Rajesh Bhushan. PM Narendra Modi suggested the 10 regional countries should consider creating a special visa scheme for doctors and nurses so that medical personnel can travel quickly within the region during health emergencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virtual workshop on theme “Covid-19 Management: Experience, good practices & way forward” – organised by India
- It was organised for health officials & experts from – 8 members of the SAARC, Mauritius & Seychelles
- The workshop was chaired by – Rajesh Bhushan (Health Secretary of India)
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

21. On February 16, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has addressed Joint Conference of 11th “World PetroCoal Congress” and “World Future Fuel Summit” in New Delhi. The theme of the 11th congress was “Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer”. The Minister highlighted the increase in LPG coverage to nearly 99.5% from 56% in less than 7 years. The Solar Capacity of India has also increased by 13 times in the last 6 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – addressed the 11th “World PetroCoal Congress” & “World Future Fuel Summit” – in New Delhi
- Theme of the congress – “Petroleum-Coal-Gas: Towards a Win-Win Strategy for Producer and Consumer”
- LPG coverage in India has increased to 99.5% in less than 7 years | Solar Capacity increased by 13 times 6 years
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

22. The 11th “India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue” was virtually held on February 19. Shri Tarun Bajaj, Secretary, Economic Affairs, led the Indian delegation. India-EU relationship has evolved into a multifaceted partnership. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 11th “India-EU Macroeconomic Dialogue” held on February 19 – Indian delegation was led by Tarun Bajaj
- Secretary of Economic Affairs in India – Tarun Bajaj
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27



23. On February 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the 6th meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog via video conferencing. In his address, PM stated that the foundation of India's development is that Centre & States work together and head towards a certain direction & make cooperative federalism even more meaningful. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chaired the 6th meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

24. From February 22, the 18th Edition of 2-day “BioAsia 2021” was conducted virtually from Hyderabad. With the theme of “Move the Needle”, BioAsia 2021 is expected to have a participation of about 30,000 life sciences professionals from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18th Edition of 2-day “BioAsia 2021” – conducted virtually from Hyderabad, Telangana
- Theme – “Move the Needle”

25. On February 24, India has hosted a “Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies” virtually and was co-Chaired by Tarun Bajaj (Economic Affairs Secretary). Other participants included BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies of Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa. This was the first meeting on the “BRICS Financial Cooperation” under India's Chairmanship in 2021. India has assumed the BRICS Chairmanship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary under the theme “BRICS@15: Intra-BRICS Cooperation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted a “Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies - 2021”
- India – also hosted “2021's first Meeting of BRICS Sherpas”
- BRICS Member Countries = 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | BRICS Chairmanship in 2021 – India

26. On February 26, Speaking at the “India Aircraft Leasing Summit” at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan, Aviation Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri has highlighted that India is the 3rd largest domestic civil aviation market and within a very short period of time, India will be the world's 3rd largest civil aviation market in overall terms. The theme of the summit was “Rupee Raftaar”. Jewar International Airport is expected to become functional by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Aircraft Leasing Summit” – held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi | Theme – “Rupee Raftaar”
- India – 3rd largest domestic civil aviation market at present
- India – to be world's 3rd largest civil aviation market – by 2024
- Jewar International Airport (Greater Noida, UP) – to be functional by 2024
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

27. India-France-Australia Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting was held on February 24. The Indian side was led by Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West). They discussed the next steps to be taken for furthering trilateral cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Trilateral Senior Officials' Meeting" held between = India + France + Australia
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

28. On February 25, Union Education Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has delivered the inaugural address at the 16th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021. The summit was virtually organised by FICCI in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The theme of the summit is "Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Enterprise." [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – addressed the 16th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2021
- The summit was organised by = FICCI + Ministry of Education + Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- Theme – "Higher Education @ 2030: R.I.S.E. - Resilience. Innovation. Sustainability. Enterprise."
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

1. Oscar Award-winning music director A. R. Rahman was chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT. The Alert Being Icon Award for an organisation was presented to the Biocon Foundation founded by Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. Alert Being Awards 2020 received 156 nominations from 15 States and 35 districts across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. R. Rahman – chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT
- Biocon Foundation – chosen for the “Alert Being Icon Award” by ALERT
- ‘Alert Being Awards 2020’ received – total 156 nominations

2. On February 3, Indian documentary “Writing with Fire” has won the Audience Award in the ‘World Cinema Documentary’ category at the Sundance Film Festival 2021. “Writing with Fire” is an Indian film chronicling the rise of Khabar Lahariya, India’s only newspaper run by Dalit women. This documentary is directed by Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian documentary “Writing with Fire” – won the ‘Audience Award’ at the Sundance Film Festival 2021
- Directed by – Rintu Thomas & Sushmit Ghosh | Award Category – ‘World Cinema Documentary’

3. The “Zayed Award for Human Fraternity” has officially revealed that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and Moroccan-French activist, Latifa Ibn Ziaten, are the two honorees of its 2021 award. The Pope and Grand Imam of Al-Azhar has jointly presented awards via virtual ceremony on International Day of Human Fraternity on February 4. The Zayed Award for Human Fraternity seeks to honor the legacy of the founder of the UAE & it includes a financial prize of 1 million dollars. It was created in February, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Antonio Guterres + Latifa Ibn Ziaten = jointly received “Zayed Award for Human Fraternity-2021”
- The Award honors the legacy of the founder of the UAE | Financial Prize – \$1 million
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

4. On February 6, Former Australia captain Steve Smith claimed his third Allan Border Medal while Beth Mooney bagged her maiden Belinda Clarke Award, the top two honours of the Australian Cricket Awards. Smith was honoured for his performances in all three formats of the game, while Mooney bagged recognition in the Australian women’s game for the first time. The rest of the awards were given as below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Full List of Winners From The Australian Cricket Awards:

Awards	Name
Allan Border Medal	Steve Smith
Belinda Clark Award	Beth Mooney
Men’s Test Player of the Year	Pat Cummins

Women's ODI Player of the Year	Rachel Haynes
Men's ODI Player of the Year	Steve Smith
Female International T20 Player of the Year	Beth Mooney
Male International T20 Player of the Year	Ashton Agar
Female Domestic Player of the Year	Elyse Villani
Male Domestic Player of the Year	Shaun Marsh
Betty Wilson Young Cricketer of the Year	Hannah Darlington
Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year	Will Sutherland
Community Impact Award	Joshua Lalor

5. On February 8, Indian drama Tamil film “Pebbles”, directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, has won the top honour, the “Tiger Award for Best Film”, at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). The Tiger Award is accompanied by a Euro 40,000 cash prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Pebbles” (Tamil film) – won “Tiger Award for Best Film” at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam
- The film is directed by – Vinothraj P. S.

6. On February 8, India's young wicketkeeper & batsman Rishabh Pant has won the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month” for January 2021. While, South Africa’s Shabnim Ismail was named the “ICC Women’s Player of the Month” for January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rishabh Pant – won the “ICC Men’s Player of the Month” for January 2021
- Shabnim Ismail (South Africa) – won the “ICC Women’s Player of the Month” for January 2021

7. Manasa Varanasi, an engineer from Telangana is emerged as the winner of “VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020”. While Haryana’s Manika Sheokand was declared “VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020”, Uttar Pradesh’s Manya Singh was crowned “VLCC Femina Miss India 2020” - runner-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manasa Varanasi ([Telangana](#)) – winner of “VLCC Femina Miss India World 2020” | Runner-up – Manya Singh ([UP](#))
- Manika Sheokand ([Haryana](#)) – winner of “VLCC Femina Miss Grand India 2020”

8. The Bangalore (Kempegowda) International Airport Limited’s (BIAL) has bagged global recognition from the Airports Council International World’s “Voice of the Customer” award. Under the “#WeAreHereForYou” umbrella of BIAL, various campaigns were launched to spread the message and rebuild passenger confidence in air travel following the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangalore (Kempegowda) International Airport – received “Voice of the Customer” Award by ACI World
- “#WeAreHereForYou” is an umbrella of – Kempegowda International Airport
- HQs of ACI World – Montreal, Canada | Director-General – Luis Felipe de Oliveira

9. Famous wildlife Australian zookeeper and wildlife expert Steve Irwin's son, Robert Irwin has won the first prize in the "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" People's Choice Award Contest. Robert clicked the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire and was nominated for the same in 2020. The image was titled 'Bushfire'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robert Irwin ([Australia](#)) – won the 1st prize in the "Wildlife Photographer of the Year" People's Choice Award
- His image was titled 'Bushfire'
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison](#)

10. On February 13, Four young women fellows of Indian National Science Academy (INSA) have been awarded the Science and Engineering Research Board's (SERB) "Women Excellence Award 2021" in the national capital for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls. All 4 women- Shobhna Kapoor, Antara Banerjee, Sonu Gandhi & Ritu Gupta received a grant of ₹15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SERB awarded "Women Excellence Award 2021" to 4 young women fellows of Indian National Science Academy
- [SERB – A statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#)
- [HQs of SERB – New Delhi | Secretary – Prof Sandeep Verma](#)
- [Location of INSA – New Delhi | President – Chandrima Shaha](#)

11. On February 10, Indian short film "Bittu" is shortlisted in top 10 films for 93rd Oscar Awards under 'Live Action Short film' category. The short film is directed by Karishma Dev Dube. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian short film "Bittu" shortlisted in top 10 films for 93rd Oscar Awards
- Category: 'Live Action Short film' | Director – Karishma Dev Dube

12. Marathi writer Rangnath Pathare will be conferred with "Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award" instituted by the Maharashtra government's Marathi language department. Pathare has penned several novels, including Tamrapat which won the prestigious Sahitya Academy award in 1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rangnath Pathare – to receive "Vinda Karandikar Lifetime Achievement Award" – instituted by Maharashtra
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

13. On February 13, The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has received the prestigious Award of Appreciation in the 'Project' Category-Central Government Entity – in the 18th Computer Society of India (CSI) Special Interest Group on eGovernance (SIGe-Gov) Awards 2020 for their 'Performance Dashboard Empowering Tribals Transforming India through various ICT initiatives'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – received 18th "CSI SIG eGov Awards 2020" – in 'Project' Category

- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

14. Pune-based agriculture Startup Bioprime Agrisolutions Pvt Limited has bagged the “Best Agri Startup (Industry Partnership) Award” presented by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi. It was incubated at the Venture Centre, under CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bioprime Agrisolutions – received “Best Agri Startup (Industry Partnership) Award” – presented by FICCI
- HQs of Bioprime Agrisolutions – Pune, MH | CEO – Renuka Diwan
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | President – Uday Shankar | Secretary General – Dilip Chenoy

15. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has handed over “Tamil Semmal Award” to Muthalankurichi Kamarasu during a function held at the secretariat in Chennai on February 1. A native of Muthalankurichi village, Kamarasu has penned 53 books including two novels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muthalankurichi Kamarasu – received “Tamil Semmal Award” – by Edappadi K Palaniswami
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

16. On February 15, Writer, historian, naturalist, and activist, S Theodore Baskaran has been honoured with “Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020” by the Sanctuary Nature Foundation for his role in wildlife conservation and his continuing legacy of writings in Tamil and English to the conservation discourse. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Theodore Baskaran – honoured with “Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award 2020” – by Sanctuary Nature Foundation

17. On February 17, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the “Skoch Chief Minister of the Year” award. The award was presented to him by the chairman, Skoch group, Sameer Kochhar. The award selection was based on study of project-level outcomes in various States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (Andhra Pradesh) – conferred the “Skoch Chief Minister of the Year” award
- YSR Rythu Bharosa & YSR Cheyutha schemes – belong to Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Skoch group – Gurgaon, Haryana | Chairman – Sameer Kochhar
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

18. On February 16, The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) has conferred 14 Prani Mitra awards and JeevDaya awards 2021 to the individuals, organizations and corporates for their outstanding performance in



the field of animal welfare. Shri Giriraj Singh, Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has distributed the awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The following individuals / organizations have been awarded with ‘Prani Mitra’ & ‘JeevDaya’ Awards in their respective fields:

Awards	Winners
Prani Mitra Award Individual	- Yogender Kumar (New Delhi) - Manish Saxena (Rajasthan) - Shyam Lal Chaubisa (Rajasthan)
Prani Mitra Award Shaurya	- Anil Gandas (Haryana) - Kalpana Vasudevan (Tamilnadu)
Prani Mitra Award (Life Time Animal Service)	- Dr. R. M. Kharb (Haryana) - S. Chinny Krishna (Tamilnadu) - Dr. S .R. Sundaram (Tamilnadu)
Prani Mitra Award (Animal Welfare Organization)	- World Sankirtan Tour Trust (Haryana) - Karuna Foundation Trust (Gujarat) - People for Animals (Gujarat)
Prani Mitra Award (Corporate)	- Tata Trust Foundation (Maharashtra)
Jeev Daya Award (Animal Welfare Organization)	- Dhyan Foundation (New Delhi) - Animal Aid Charitable Trust (Rajasthan)

19. 35 books for children and young adults across fiction, non-fiction and poetry genres in English and Hindi feature were included in the “Parag Honour List 2021”. Currently in its 2nd edition, this annual list by the Parag Initiative of Tata Trusts features best of children’s books published in the past one year. The list was launched by actor Soha Ali Khan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 35 Children’s books were included in the 2nd edition of “Parag Honour List for 2021” – launched by Soha Ali Khan
- It is an initiative of – Tata Trusts

20. On February 18, The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the “Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020” awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). WCCB getting the award twice in 3 years is a testimony of India's commitment towards ending wildlife crime. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WCCB – received the “Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020” – by UNEP
- HQs of WCCB – New Delhi | Additional Director – Tilotama Varma
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

21. Bharat Biotech has been presented the “Genome Valley Excellence Award for 2021” for its breakthrough, pioneering research, development and commercialisation of vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin. A prestigious award is an integral part of 18th edition of ‘BioAsia 2021’ virtually held on February 22. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bharat Biotech – selected for the “Genome Valley Excellence Award for 2021”
- 18th edition of ‘BioAsia 2021’ virtually held on February 22
- HQs of Bharat Biotech – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Dr. Krishna Ella

22. On February 17, TRIFED has won a collective award of Excellence in PSU under ‘Organisational Award Category’ in the 19th Global edition and the 4th India Edition of World Leadership Congress and Awards 2021. Pravir Krishna (MD of TRIFED) has won 4 awards one in Individual Category for his exemplary and 3 for his inspirational leadership – CEO of the year, Brand Builder of the Year & Entrepreneur of the Year. He was also named as one of the ‘50 Most Influential Indian 2020’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th Global edition & 4th India edition of “World Leadership Congress and Awards” – held on Feb 17
- TRIFED – won a collective award of Excellence in PSU under ‘Organisational Award Category’
- Pravir Krishna won 3 Awards: “CEO of the year” + “Brand Builder of the Year” + “Entrepreneur of the Year”
- Pravir Krishna – also named as one of the ‘50 Most Influential Indian 2020’
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jhrakhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna

23. On February 17, Hyderabad is the only city from India to have been recognised as a “2020 Tree City of the World” by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for its commitment to growing and maintaining urban forests. Most of the cities were from the US, UK, Canada, Australia among other countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hyderabad – the only city from India to have been recognised as a “2020 Tree City of the World”
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

24. On February 18, The International Press Institute’s Indian National Committee has named Ritika Chopra, Senior Assistant Editor, as the recipient of “IPI’s India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2020”. This is the 5th IPI India award for The Indian Express or its journalists since it was launched in 2003. The selection for the award was made by a jury of editors headed by Soli Sorabjee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ritika Chopra – recipient of the 5th edition of “IPI’s India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2020”
- Ritika Chopra – a Senior Assistant Editor at The Indian Express

25. “Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021” were held in Mumbai on February 20. The Awards honoured the best in film, television, music and the new addition, OTT. Sushmita Sen, Kiara Advani, Akshay Kumar, Nora Fatehi and Bobby Deol were among the recipients. The winners are mentioned category-wise as below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2021:

Award	Winner	Movie
Best Actor	Akshay Kumar	Laxmii
Best Actress	Deepika Padukone	Chhapaak
Critic's Best Actor	Sushant Singh Rajput	-
Critic's Best Actress	Kiara Advani	Guilty
Best Film	The Unsung Warrior	-
Best International Feature Film	Parasite	-
Outstanding Contribution to Film Industry	Dharemendra	-
Outstanding Contribution to Literature in Indian Cinema	Chetan Bhagat	-

26. On February 22, Right to Information (RTI) activist Anjali Bhardwaj has been chosen as one of the 12 recipients for the inaugural edition of the “International Anti-Corruption Champions Award” by the United States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anjali Bhardwaj – chosen for the “International Anti-Corruption Champions Award” by the US
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

27. Five Indian-origin personalities have featured in TIME magazine’s annual list of 100 emerging leaders “2021 TIME100 Next”. They are Twitter’s top lawyer Vijaya Gadde, U.K.’s Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, Instacart founder and CEO Apoorva Mehta, Doctor and Executive Director of nonprofit Get Us PPE Shikha Gupta & India's Bhim Army Chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5 Indian-origin personalities – featured in “2021 TIME100 Next” - annual list of 100 emerging leaders

Chandra Shekhar Aazad	Chief of Bhim Army
Vijaya Gadde	Top lawyer of Twitter
Rishi Sunak	Finance Minister of UK
Apoorva Mehta	Founder & CEO of Instacart
Shikha Gupta	Doctor & Executive Director of nonprofit ‘Get Us PPE’

28. On February 23, The minister of chemicals and fertilizers, Sadananda Gowda has presented the 10th National Awards for technology innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry. In the current edition of the national awards, 273 nominations were received, out of which 4 were selected as winners and 9 as runners-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sadananda Gowda – presented the 10th “National Awards for Technology Innovation in petrochemical and downstream plastic processing industry”
- Total nominations received – 273 | Winners – 4 | Runners-up – 9



29. An Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) team led by Dr Kanak Saha has received the “Astronomical Society of India (ASI) New Discovery Award 2021”, for the discovery of Lyman continuum emission from a galaxy at $z=1.42$. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IUCAA team led by Dr Kanak Saha – received “Astronomical Society of India (ASI) New Discovery Award 2021”
- Location of IUCAA – Pune, Maharashtra | Director – Somak Raychaudhury

30. In a first for India, a female forest officer from Odisha, Sasmita Lenka has been felicitated with “United Nation's Asia Environmental Enforcement Award”. She has received the award under the ‘Gender Leadership and Impact’ category for her work in busting pangolin smuggling rackets in the state. [{Read more}](#)

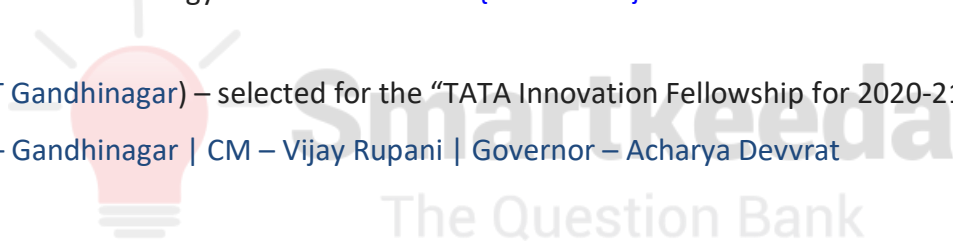
Key Points:

- Sasmita Lenka (Odisha) – felicitated with “UN’s Asia Environmental Enforcement Award”
- She received the award under ‘Gender Leadership and Impact’ category
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

31. In Gujarat, Professor Uttama Lahiri (Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at the IIT Gandhinagar) has been selected for the “TATA Innovation Fellowship for 2020-21”. She will receive the award from Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttama Lahiri (IIT Gandhinagar) – selected for the “TATA Innovation Fellowship for 2020-21”
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



Appointments & Resignations

1. Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services has announced the appointment of Anish Shah as the Chairman of the board, effective from April 2, 2021. Shah is already a Director of the company. He is the deputy managing director and group CFO of Mahindra and Mahindra (M&M) Ltd. He will replace Dhananjay Mungale. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anish Shah – appointed as Chairman of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services (effective from April 2, 2021)
- HQs of Mahindra Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & VC – Ramesh Iyer | Chairman – Dhananjay Mungale

2. Facebook has appointed Henry Moniz as its first Chief Compliance Officer, as Facebook faces scrutiny from regulators and lawmakers. Moniz held senior compliance roles at Viacom starting in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Henry Moniz – appointed as the first Chief Compliance Officer of Facebook
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

3. Vietnam's ruling Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, 76, has been re-elected for a rare third 5-year term. Mr Trong emerged on top in a power struggle at the last congress in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nguyen Phu Trong – re-elected as the President of Vietnam for 5 years (3rd term)
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc | President – Nguyen Phu Trong

4. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos will transition from CEO to executive chair and pass the reins to Andy Jassy in October 2021. Jassy started at Amazon (AMZN) in 1997, just about 3 years after Bezos launched the company. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jeff Bezos – will step down from the post of CEO of Amazon
- Andy Jassy – will be the next CEO of Amazon (in October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos

5. On February 2, Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur (IFS:1987), presently Ambassador of India to Belarus, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to – Malta
- Malta – Valletta – Euro | President – George Vella



6. On February 2, Shri Raghu Gururaj (YOA:2006), presently Consul General of India to Medan, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raghu Gururaj – appointed as the Ambassador of India to – Sao Tome and Principe
- Sao Tome & Principe – Sao Tome – Sao Tome & Principe dobra

7. On February 2, Bhavya Lal, the Indian-American scientist who oversaw NASA's transition under President Joe Biden's administration, has been appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of the U.S. space agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhavya Lal (Indian-American scientist) – appointed as the Acting Chief of Staff of the U.S. space agency
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

8. Incumbent Ajay Singh has been re-elected as the Boxing Federation of India's President, comprehensively defeating challenger Ashish Shelar in the polls. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Singh – re-elected as the President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI)
- HQs of BFI – Gurugram, Haryana | President – Ajay Singh

9. On February 4, S. N. Subrahmanyan, CEO and Managing Director of L&T Ltd, has been appointed as Chairman of the National Safety Council (NSC). The National Safety Council has a major role to play to ensure safety in workplaces under new Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code, 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. N. Subrahmanyan – appointed as Chairman of the National Safety Council
- HQs of NSC – Navi Mumbai
- OSH & WC – Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions – released by Ministry of Labour

10. On February 3, A 1988 batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer Praveen Sinha is appointed as the Interim Chief of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by replacing current chief R.K Shukla. Mr. Sinha is currently Additional Director of the CBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Praveen Sinha – appointed as the Interim Chief of CBI
- HQs of CBI – New Delhi | DG – Praveen Sinha | Motto of CBI – Industry, Impartiality, Integrity

11. Zoho founder Sridhar Vembu has been appointed to the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) led by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. Vembu is one of the Padma Shri awardees announced by the government of India in 2021. He is currently based in Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sridhar Vembu – appointed to the reconstituted National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
- NSAB is led by – Ajit Doval (National Security Advisor)



12. Shri S. Gopalakrishnan (IFS:2005), presently Counsellor in the Embassy of India, Washington, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Gopalakrishnan – appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Malawi
- [Malawi – Lilongwe – Malawian kwacha | President – Lazarus Chakwera](#)

13. On February 4, Google Cloud has announced the appointment of Bikram Singh Bedi as the Managing Director for its India business. He succeeds Karan Bajwa, who was elevated as Vice President for Asia Pacific region recently. Google Cloud is likely to launch its 2nd Cloud Region in India in 2021 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bikram Singh Bedi – appointed as Managing Director for Google Cloud India
- Google Cloud's 2nd Cloud Region in India in 2021 – in New Delhi | 1st – in Mumbai (2017)
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)

14. On February 10, Senior IAS officer of the 1987 batch from Kerala cadre V. P. Joy will take charge as the new State Chief Secretary. He is now Officer on Special Duty in the rank of Additional Chief Secretary. Dr. Joy will assume charge on March 1, 2021 by replacing Vishwas Mehta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. P. Joy – to take charge as new Chief Secretary of Kerala – on March 1, 2021
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Kha](#)

15. Sushant Dash has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of the Tata Starbucks. The appointment would be effective May 1. He will follow Navin Gurnaney. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushant Dash – appointed as new CEO of Tata Starbucks (effective from May 1)
- [HQs of Tata Starbucks – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Avani Davda](#)

16. On February 11, Assam government has appointed Hima Das as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). Nicknamed 'Dhing Express', Hima Das is a 20-year-old Indian sprinter from Assam. The Assam cabinet also decided to amend the integrated sports policy of the state by appointing sportspersons as Class-I and Class-II officers in different department of the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hima Das – appointed as DSP of Assam
- Hima Das ([Assam](#)) – 20-year-old Indian sprinter | Nick name – 'Dhing Express'
- [Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi](#)

17. On February 12, As per the notification issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Justice Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court. Kumar is presently the Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He was also appointed as an additional judge of Bombay High Court. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind appointed “Puligoru Venkata Sanjay Kumar” as the Chief Justice of – Manipur High Court
- He was also appointed as an Additional Judge of – Bombay High Court
- Chief Justice of any state is appointed by the President of India
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

18. On February 12, Tata Motors Limited has announced Marc Llistosella as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company effective July 1, 2021. He will take over from the current incumbent Guenter Butschek. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marc Llistosella – appointed as MD & CEO of Tata Motors Limited (by replacing - Guenter Butschek)
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Marc Llistosella | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

19. On February 13, The 73-year-old known as ‘Super Mario’ & former European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi has formally sworn in as Italy's new Prime Minister. Draghi was parachuted in by the Italy's President Sergio Mattarella after the previous centre-left coalition under premier Giuseppe Conte collapsed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mario Draghi – sworn in as new Prime Minister of Italy
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

20. On February 12, Senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge is all set to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, as incumbent Ghulam Nabi Azad's term ends on February 15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress) – to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha

21. On February 10, The U. S. Chamber of Commerce has appointed Suzanne Clark as its next CEO, the first woman to hold the position. Clark, who is currently President of the U.S. Chamber, will succeed Thomas J. Donohue. The position is effective on March 11. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suzanne Clark – appointed as the CEO of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce (1st woman)
- HQs of U. S. Chamber of Commerce – Washington, D.C., US | CEO – Suzanne Clark (from March 11)

22. On February 12, Parties to the 123-member & Hague-based International Criminal Court has elected Britain's Karim Khan as the new prosecutor for a 9-year term starting on June 16. He will replace lead prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karim Khan (Britain) – elected as the New Prosecutor of International Criminal Court – for 9 years
- HQs of International Criminal Court – Hague, Netherlands | President – Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji



23. Aegon Life Insurance has elevated Satishwar Balakrishnan to the position of managing director and chief executive officer. Balakrishnan had joined the company in July 2019 as the chief financial officer. He has replaced K S Gopalakrishnan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satishwar Balakrishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of Aegon Life Insurance
- HQs of Aegon Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Satishwar Balakrishnan

24. India's Ajay Mathur is elected as the next Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). He succeeds Upendra Tripathy, who has served as director general since 2017. ISA, co-founded by India and France, has become a significant public policy tool for India and is considered a counter to China's ambitious One Belt One Road initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Mathur – elected as the next Director General of ISA (by replacing - Upendra Tripathy)
- ISA – co-founded by India & France | 'One Belt One Road' initiative – belongs to China
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Ajay Mathur | Member Countries – 121

25. On February 16, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa has roped in Sandalwood actor 'Darshan' as the Agriculture Ambassador of the State Agriculture Department. Darshan, known as 'Challenging Star' in the film industry, has agreed to take up the role without any remuneration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Darshan" roped in as the Agriculture Ambassador of the Karnataka Agriculture Department
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

26. On February 15, President Felix Tshisekedi has appointed the 43-year-old Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge to be the new Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of the Congo. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge – appointed as new Prime Minister of Congo
- Congo – Kinshasa – Franc | President – Felix Tshisekedi | New PM – Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde Kyenge

27. On February 16, The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has appointed Indian-origin investment and development banker Preeti Sinha as its Executive Secretary, whose focus will be on providing micro-finance assistance to women, youth, small and medium-sized enterprises in under-served communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Preeti Sinha – appointed as Executive Secretary of UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- HQs of UNCDF – New York, USA | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha

28. On February 16, Tyre maker CEAT has roped in actor Rana Daggubati as its brand ambassador for promoting the 'Puncture Safe' range of bike tyres. The company has launched the tyres for motorcycles in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Rana Daggubati – appointed as brand ambassador of “CEAT” – to promote the ‘Puncture Safe’ range
- HQs of CEAT Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anant Vardhan Goenka

29. On February 16, Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is appointed as the 7th Director General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by representatives of the 164 member countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) – appointed as the 7th Director General of the World Trade Organisation
- HQs of WTO – Geneva, Switzerland | 7th DG – Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria) | Countries – 164

30. On February 16, Kiran Bedi has been removed as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry by President Ram Nath Kovind. Telangana Governor Tamilsai Soundararajan has been given additional charge of the Union Territory until regular arrangements are made. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiran Bedi – removed as Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry
- Tamilsai Soundararajan – given additional charge of Puducherry
- Puducherry: CM – Velu Narayanasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

31. On February 17, India's Usha Rao-Monari, a leading investment professional, has been appointed by UN chief Antonio Guterres as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). She succeeds Mourad Wahba of Egypt. Rao-Monari joins a growing list of women hailing from India who have been appointed to head key UN agencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Usha Rao-Monari – appointed as Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of UNDP
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

32. On February 15, Ajai Malhotra has become the first Indian to be elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council. He is the first Indian to receive this honour and privilege. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajai Malhotra – elected as the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council (1st Indian)

33. Mohammad Younes Menfi has been selected as interim President of the 3-member Presidential Council of Libya and Abdul Hamid Dbeibah selected as interim Prime Minister of Libya. India's Permanent Representative to the U.N. Ambassador T.S. Tirumurti is chair of the U.N. Security Council's Libya Sanctions Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Younes Menfi – selected as interim President of the 3-member Presidential Council of Libya
- Abdul Hamid Dbeibah – selected as interim Prime Minister of Libya
- Libya – Tripoli – Libyan dinar

34. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has welcomed the decision of the Tokyo 2020 Executive Board to appoint seven-time Olympian Hashimoto Seiko as the new president of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hashimoto Seiko – appointed as the new President of the Tokyo 2020 Organising Committee
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach
- Mascots: Summer Olympics 2020 – Miraitowa | Summer Paralympics 2020 – Someity

35. On February 18, Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia has announced his resignation because of disagreements within his own team over the decision to arrest Nika Melia, chairman of the United National Movement opposition party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giorgi Gakharia – Prime Minister of Georgia – resigned from his post
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Georgian lari | President – Salome Zourabichvili

36. As on February 18, Senior officer of Indian Information Service N. Venudhar Reddy has taken over as Principal Director General of All India Radio News (AIRN). He belongs to the 1988 batch of IIS. Mr. Reddy has replaced Jaideep Bhatnagar who is now posted as Principal Director General of PIB from 1st March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- N. Venudhar Reddy – took over as Principal Director General of All India Radio News (by replacing - Jaideep Bhatnagar)
- Jaideep Bhatnagar – posted as Principal Director General of PIB (from 1st March)
- HQs of AIRN – New Delhi | HQs of PIB – New Delhi

37. On February 18, Actor Darshan Toogudeepa has been appointed as the ambassador of Agriculture Department of Karnataka to popularise programmes meant for farmers' welfare. Darshan has agreed to work for the department without remuneration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Darshan Toogudeepa – appointed as the ambassador of Agriculture Department of Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

38. On February 17, Redcliffe Lifesciences has roped in Kareena Kapoor Khan as the brand ambassador for their fertility and pregnancy care brand, Crysta for a period of one year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kareena Kapoor Khan – brand ambassador of 'Crysta' - a fertility & pregnancy care brand of Redcliffe Lifesciences

39. On February 24, Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar has picked up stake in edtech major Unacademy and signed up a strategic partnership with the company as its brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sachin Tendulkar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of “Unacademy”
- HQs of Unacademy – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-Founder and CEO – Gaurav Munjal

40. On February 22, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has appointed Woochong Um as its Managing Director General. He will assume office immediately and report to ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. Um joined ADB in 1993. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Woochong Um – appointed as Managing Director General of “ADB”
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

41. President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy and his council of Ministers with effect from February 22. President’s Rule can be imposed on any state or Union Territory of India under Article 356 of the Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Narayanasamy – resigned from the post of Chief Minister of Puducherry
- President’s Rule can be imposed on any state or UT – under Article 356 of the IC
- Puducherry: CM – (Vacant) | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

42. On February 23, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) has elected A. Sakthivel as its new President. He is currently chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council. He has replaced S K Saraf. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A. Sakthivel – appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO)
- HQs of FIEO – New Delhi | President – A. Sakthivel

43. On February 24, Irakli Garibashvili is elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia. Former PM Giorgi Gakharia has announced his resignation because of disagreements within his own team over the decision to arrest Nika Melia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Irakli Garibashvili – elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia
- Georgia – Tbilisi – Georgian lari | President – Salome Zourabichvili | PM – Irakli Garibashvili

44. A former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment and ex-BJP MP, Vijay Sampla, has taken charge as Chairman of the 6th National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC). He was the former MP from Hoshiarpur in Punjab and MoS from 2014-2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Sampla – took charge as Chairman of the 6th National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC)
- HQs of NCSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Vijay Sampla (‘Article 338’ of the Indian Constitution deals with NCSC)



45. Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala is unanimously re-elected as the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) for another 4-year term at Panchkula. He is also the youngest president of any National sports federations in India. Mr. Dhanraj Choudhary was named the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dushyant Chautala – re-elected as the President of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)
- Mr. Dhanraj Choudhary – appointed as the CEO of TTFI
- HQs of TTFI – New Delhi | President – Dushyant Chautala | CEO – Dhanraj Choudhary

46. On February 26, Levi's has announced a strategic partnership with internationally acclaimed actor and global fashion and youth icon, Deepika Padukone as its Global Brand Ambassador. The move highlights the brand's increasing focus on women's category (Brand Connect Initiative). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deepika Padukone – appointed as Global Brand Ambassador of – Levi's
- HQs of Levi Strauss & Co. – San Francisco, California, US | CEO – Charles V. Bergh

47. On February 24, Russian supermodel and philanthropist Natalia Vodianova became a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador pledging to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls and tackle stigmas surrounding their bodies. She will be a campaigner for the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), which now calls itself the UN's sexual and reproductive health agency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNFPA (UN's Sexual & Reproductive Health Agency) – appointed "Natalia Vodianova" as its Goodwill Ambassador
- Natalia Vodianova (Russia) – Supermodel & Philanthropist
- HQs of UNFPA – New York, US | Executive Director – Natalia Kanem
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

48. On February 24, On February 23, Ruling party candidate Mohamed Bazoum was declared the winner of Niger's Presidential election. Bazoum, a 61-year-old former interior minister, won 55.75% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohamed Bazoum – elected as the President of Niger
- Niger – Niamey – West African CFA franc | President – Mohamed Bazoum

49. On February 26, OLX Group has appointed former Star Sports president and chief executive Gautam Thakar as the global CEO of its pre-owned car marketplace OLX Autos. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Thakar – appointed as CEO of 'OLX Autos'
- HQs of OLX Group – Amsterdam, Netherlands | CEO – Martin Scheepbouwer



50. The Centre has appointed Matam Venkata Rao as Managing Director & CEO of Central Bank of India for a period of 3 years. He is currently an Executive Director of Canara Bank. He will replace Pallav Mahapatra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Matam Venkata Rao – appointed as MD & CEO of Central Bank of India (for 3 years)
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Matam Venkata Rao

51. AU Small Finance Bank has appointed Sharad Goklani as President & CTO. Previously, he was EVP & CTO at Equitas Small Finance Bank. Founded in Jaipur in 1996 as Au Financiers, a non-deposit taking NBFC, the company transformed into AU Small Finance Bank in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sharad Goklani – appointed as President & CTO of AU Small Finance Bank
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani

52. UN chief Antonio Guterres has appointed leading Indian Economist Ligia Noronha as Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Noronha will succeed fellow Indian and development economist Satya Tripathi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ligia Noronha (Indian Economist) – appointed as Assistant Secretary-General & Head of New York Office of UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

53. Fullerton India Credit Company has appointed Shantanu Mitra as the new CEO and Managing Director. The appointment is with effect from April 2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shantanu Mitra – appointed as MD & CEO of Fullerton India Credit Company
- HQs of Fullerton India Credit Company – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Shantanu Mitra

Amount & Agreements

1. During her speech on Union Budget 2021-22, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that in order to preserve marine biodiversity, a Deep Ocean Mission would be carried out. For this, a budget outlay of over Rs 4,000 Cr would be allocated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rs 4,000 Cr has been allocated to the 'Deep Ocean Mission' in the Union Budget 2021-22

2. On February 6, While addressing the Valedictory Function of 'Aero India 2021' in Bengaluru, Defence minister Rajnath Singh has announced that India has decided to invest around \$130 billion for military modernisation over the next 7 to 8 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India has decided to invest around \$130 billion for military modernisation over the next 7 to 8 years
- [Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh \(Constituency – Lucknow, UP\)](#)

3. On February 5, Union government has allocated ₹16,000 Cr for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the fiscal year 2021-22 to boost the safety of farmers' crops and to ensure that maximum benefit of crop insurance reaches farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Government has allocated ₹16,000 Cr for PMFBY for FY 2021-22
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was launched in – 2016

4. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) has received ₹24,430 Cr for the FY 2021-22, which was 0.7% of the Union Budget. In last year's announcement, it received ₹30,007 Cr (0.98%). Several schemes under the Ministry have been re-grouped and renamed, such as Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN 2.0, Mission SHAKTI and Mission Vatsalya. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana has now been clubbed with other schemes under 'Samarthya'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Women and Child Development has received ₹24,430 Cr for the FY 2021-22 (0.7% of Budget)
- MoWCD: Saksham Anganwadi, POSHAN 2.0, Mission SHAKTI, Mission Vatsalya, PM Matru Vandana Yojana

5. On February 7, Union Fisheries Minister Giriraj Singh has announced an investment of Rs 400 Cr in Goa to make the coastal state a fisheries hub in India. The Union government has already sanctioned Rs 41.47 Cr to the state. The plan includes creation of 30 fish landing jetties. The central government will also appoint 'Sagar Mitra' for each of the 70 fishing villages in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fisheries Ministry – announced an investment of Rs 400 Cr in Goa to make the coastal state a fisheries hub in India
- [Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)
- [Shri Giriraj Singh – Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying \(Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar\)](#)

6. On February 11, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has announced that New Development Bank has committed to invest \$100 million (around Rs 728 Cr) in NIIF's Fund of Funds (FoF). NDB joins the Government of India (GoI), AIIB and ADB as an investor in the FoF. The NIIF currently manages 3 funds with distinct strategies - Master Fund, Fund of Funds & Strategic Opportunities Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB committed to invest \$100 million (around Rs 728 Cr) in NIIF's Fund of Funds (FoF)
- NIIF currently manages 3 funds = Master Fund + Fund of Funds + Strategic Opportunities Fund
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo (established by BRICS Countries - in 2014)
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose | Founded in – 2015

7. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for Grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Cr to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup (Assam) to sustain operations of its Urea manufacturing units. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet Committee approved Grant-in-aid of Rs 100 Cr to Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd
- HQs of BVFCL – Namrup, Assam

8. On February 12, Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will provide \$400 million to Maldives to fund 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP). The terminal utilisation period is 60 months after the scheduled completion date of the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – to provide \$400 million to Maldives to fund 6.7 km Greater Male Connectivity Project
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – TC Venkat Subramanian
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

9. On February 12, India has decided to provide Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 142 million to Nepal for the restoration and conservation of 3 cultural heritage sites in the Kathmandu Valley. Seto Machhindranath temple, Kumari Chhen and Kumari Niwas will be conserved as per Nepal's Ancient Monument Preservation Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to provide NRs 142 million to Nepal for the restoration and conservation of 3 cultural heritage sites
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

10. On February 11, Government has approved the allocation of Rs. 500 Cr for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for 3 years. The mission was announced as part of the 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat' scheme. 'Sweet Revolution' is being implemented through National Bee Board (NBB). 11 projects of Rs. 2560 lakhs have been sanctioned under NBHM for Awareness & Capacity building in scientific beekeeping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government approved the allocation of Rs. 500 Cr for National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for 3 years
- National Bee Board (NBB) – is implementing 'Sweet Revolution'
- HQs of National Bee Board (NBB) – New Delhi | Chairman – Sanjay Agarwal

11. On February 15, As per the agreement signed, The Gurugram-based Medanta, or Global Health Private Limited, would get ₹100 Cr (\$13.7 million) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in debt financing to provide essential healthcare services during the Covid-19 pandemic. This debt financing is part of a \$20-billion assistance package that ADB announced in April 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + Medanta = an agreement to get ₹100 Cr (\$13.7 million) debt financing
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of Medanta – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Naresh Trehan

12. On February 16, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has signed an agreement with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to facilitate providing of various credit and other schemes of SIDBI to micro, small and medium enterprises in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + PHD Chamber of C&I = an agreement to facilitate credit schemes for MSMEs
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990
- HQs of PHD Chamber of C&I – New Delhi | Chairperson – Dr. Jayshree Periwal

13. On February 17, The government has decided to infuse Rs 1,500 Cr capital into state-owned Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) in FY 2021-22. The government doubled the authorised capital of the bank from Rs 10,000 Cr to Rs 20,000 Cr in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government decided to infuse Rs 1,500 Cr capital into Exim Bank
- Authorised capital of Exim Bank – Rs 20,000 Cr
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – TC Venkat Subramanian | CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

14. On February 17, Exim Bank has extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$15 million to the Republic of Sierra Leone for the purpose of expansion of the ongoing projects for rehabilitation of existing potable water facilities in 4 communities of Sierra Leone. With 5 other Lines of Credit, It reaches upto USD 168 million in Sierra Leone. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$15 million to Sierra Leone
- Sierra Leone – Freetown – Sierra Leonean leone | President – Julius Maada Bio
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – TC Venkat Subramanian | CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

15. On February 25, Exim Bank will support the construction of social housing units in the Maldives through its \$130 million loan to Fahi Dhiriulhan Corporation Ltd. The project is proposed to be executed by NBCC (India) Ltd. The project is expected to improve the socio-economic well-being of Maldivian citizens and is in line with the Government of India policy of 'Neighbourhood First'. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Exim Bank – \$130 million loan to Fahi Dhiriulhan Corporation Ltd (Maldives)
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982

16. The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$7.35 million (approx 54 Cr) to Nicaragua for replacement and supply of equipment of the High Technology Centre of Hospital Antonio Lenin Fonseca in its capital Managua. Exim Bank, till date, has extended 5 Lines of Credit to Nicaragua taking the total value of LOCs extended to \$94.98 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank extended Line of Credit (LoC) of \$7.35 million to Nicaragua
- Nicaragua – Managua – Nicaraguan cordoba | President – Daniel Ortega
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – David Rasquinha | Founded in – 1982



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

1. India has slipped two places to 53rd position with a score of 6.61 in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Norway topped The Economist Intelligence Unit's latest Democracy Index report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health?" followed by Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Canada making up the top five. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2020 Democracy Index's report titled "Democracy in sickness and in health?" – released by the EIU
- India – 53rd (score – 6.61) | Topped by – Norway | 2nd – Iceland & 3rd – Sweden
- HQs of EIU – London, UK | MD & CEO – Robin Bew

2. On February 2, Shrawasti in Uttar Pradesh has topped in the ranking of Aspirational Districts by government think tank Niti Aayog in December 2020. Dhalai (Tripura) and Garhwa (Jharkhand) have been placed at the second and the third positions, respectively. The ranking of aspirational districts is done every month. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The ranking of Aspirational Districts in December 2020 – by NITI Aayog
- 1st – Shrawasti (Uttar Pradesh) | 2nd – Dhalai (Tripura) | 3rd – Garhwa (Jharkhand)
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

3. On February 3, The report titled "COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom" released by UNICEF has found that 1.6 billion learners in 199 countries worldwide were affected by school closures. The largest number of beneficiaries of school-feeding programmes are in India (~100 mn), Brazil (48 mn), China (44 mn), South Africa (9 mn) and Nigeria (9 mn). About 24 million schoolchildren are at a risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic. More than 39 billion in-school meals were missed globally due to school closures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "COVID-19: Missing More Than a Classroom" report – released by UNICEF
- 24 million schoolchildren are at a risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic
- 1.6 billion learners in 199 countries worldwide were affected by school closures
- 39 billion in-school meals were missed globally due to school closures
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

4. According to data compiled by the Tea Board, Indian tea production in 2020 fell 9.7% in 2020 due to heavy flooding and coronavirus movement restrictions. In 2020, India produced 1255.60 million Kg of tea. Lower output lifted average tea prices in 2020 by 31% from a year ago to a record Rs 184.69 (\$2.53) a kg. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian tea production in 2020 fell 9.7% in 2020 | Production – 1255.60 million Kg of tea
- Average tea prices in 2020 – Rs 184.69 / kg (31% increase from 2019)
- HQs of Tea Board of India – Kolkata, West Bengal | Chairman – Prabhat Kamal Bezboruah



5. On February 4, The number of new cancer cases in the Northeast Region is expected to increase to 57,131 by 2025, as per the report titled “Profile of Cancer & related Health Indicators in the Northeast Region of India”, released by ICMR & National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR). The highest incidence rate in males (269.4 per 1,00,000 population) was recorded in Aizawl district in Mizoram and among females (219.8 per 1,00,000) in Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Profile of Cancer & related Health Indicators in the Northeast Region of India” report – released by ICMR & NCDIR
- The number of new Cancer Cases in the Northeast Region is expected to increase to 57,131 – by 2025
- Highest Cancer rate: in Male – Aizawl, Mizoram | in Female – Papumpare, Arunachal Pradesh
- HQs of ICMR – New Delhi, India | Director General – Balram Bhargava | Established in – 1911
- HQs of NCDIR – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Prashant Mathur

6. According to NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, 2.3 billion transactions worth Rs 4.2 trillion were recorded through Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in the month of January this year. On a YOY basis, UPIs transaction value jumped 76.5 % while transaction value jumped nearly 100%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to NITI Aayog: 2.3 billion transactions worth Rs 4.2 trillion were recorded through UPI in January, 2021
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

7. The average dropout rate of girls was 17.3% at the secondary education level and 4.74% at the elementary level in 2018-19, according to the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights registered 111 complaints of child marriage during 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The average dropout rate of girls in 2018-19: 17.3% at secondary education | 4.74% at elementary level
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)

8. On February 6, The Business Confidence Index (BCI) released by the Delhi-based National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) rose 29.6% between Q2 and Q3 of the current financial year (FY2020-21). The 115th round of Business Expectations Survey (BES) was carried out in December 2020, during a period of both hope and despair. The BES has been carried out on a quarterly basis since 1991 by NCAER. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Business Confidence Index” released by NCAER – rose 29.6% between Q2 and Q3 of FY2020-21
- Business Expectations Survey (BES) has been carried out on a quarterly basis – by NCAER (since 1991)
- HQs of NCAER – New Delhi | DG – Shekhar Shah

9. As on February 9, India will overtake the European Union as the world's third-largest energy consumer by 2030, the International Energy Agency (IEA) state in its “India Energy Outlook 2021”. IEA forecast India accounting for the biggest share (maximum at 25%) of energy demand growth over the next two decades. India's net dependence on oil import is expected to rise to 90% by 2030 and 92% by 2040. India is world’s second-biggest net oil importer after China. India currently accounts for 16% of the global coal trade. Natural gas import dependency has increased to almost 50% in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Energy Outlook 2021” – released by International Energy Agency (IEA)
- India will overtake the EU as the world's 3rd largest energy consumer – by 2030
- India's net dependence on oil import is expected to rise to 90% by 2030 and 92% by 2040
- India is world’s second-biggest net oil importer after China
- India currently accounts for 16% of the Global Coal Trade
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol

10. On February 10, The IRDAI, in its latest annual report, has given details of claim settlements of all life insurance companies for the year 2019-20. Max Life Insurance has the highest claim settlement ratio in terms of number of claims with 99.22%. This is followed by HDFC Life Insurance and Tata AIA Life Insurance with 99.07% and 99.06%, respectively. LIC has a claim settlement ratio of 96.69% for the year 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI gave details of claim settlements of all life insurance companies for the year 2019-20
- 1st – Max Life (99.22%) | 2nd – HDFC Life (99.07%) | 3rd – Tata AIA Life (99.06%)
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

11. On February 14, With only 1% of the world's vehicles, India accounts for 11% of the global death in road accidents, the highest in the world, according to a report titled “Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on India Society” by the World Bank. India accounts for about 4.5 lakh road crashes per annum, in which 1.5 lakh people die. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Traffic Crash Injuries & Disabilities: The Burden on India Society” report – released by World Bank
- India accounts for 11% of the global death in road accidents (highest in the world)
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

12. According to the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry, as many as 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across India. The highest number of manual scavengers has been identified in Uttar Pradesh at 37,379. 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across India | Highest in Uttar Pradesh – 37,379
- 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last 5 years
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

13. On February 16, India will need to deploy \$500 billion in investments to reach its 450 gigawatts (GW) capacity target by 2030, according to a recent report titled ‘Capital Flows Underpinning India’s Energy Transformation’ released by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA). The report added that India has received more than \$42 billion in investment since 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Capital Flows Underpinning India’s Energy Transformation’ report – released by IEEFA
- India will need to deploy \$500 billion in investments to reach its 450 GW capacity target – by 2030
- HQs of IEEFA – Ohio, USA

14. On February 18, Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar has launched software applications for 5 All India Surveys which will be conducted by the Labour Bureau. The five all India surveys being undertaken by Labour Bureau are mentioned below. And the results of these surveys will be declared within 7-8 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Santosh Kumar Gangwar – launched software applications for 5 All India Surveys – conducted by Labour Bureau
- The 5 All India Surveys:
 - All India Survey on Migrant workers
 - All India Survey on Domestic Workers (DW)
 - All India Survey on Employment Generated by Professionals
 - All India Survey on Employment Generated in Transport Sector
 - All-India Quarterly Establishment- based Employment Survey
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Kumar Gangwar | Constituency – Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

15. On February 17, A new “Britain Meets India” report prepared by Grant Thornton Bharat and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has found that the annual foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow from the UK to India has increased from \$898 million in 2015-16 to \$1,422 million in 2019-20. The report has identified 572 UK companies in India. In India, Maharashtra was the leading investment destination for UK companies followed by Haryana, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Britain Meets India” report – by Grant Thornton Bharat + CII
- FDI inflow from the UK to India has increased – to \$1,422 million in 2019-20 (from \$898 million in 2015-16)
- Leading investment destination for UK companies – Maharashtra
- HQs of Grant Thornton Bharat – New Delhi | CEO – Vishesh C Chandiok
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee



16. On February 18, Global warming is likely to increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2040 or earlier and to 3 degrees Celsius by 2100, according to the latest report “Making Peace With Nature” by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Roughly two-thirds of global warming caused by greenhouse gases is due to carbon dioxide. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Making Peace With Nature” report – by the UNEP
- Global warming: To increase to 1.5° C by 2040 or earlier & 3° C by 2100
- Paris Agreement target of limiting warming below – 2° C
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

17. Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have for the first time prepared a report on the two-way mass migration of the blue earthworms in Meghalaya. The blue earthworms migrate twice annually - uphill in spring and downhill in autumn on inclines of up to 80-85 degrees. The study co-authored with Ms. Kharkongor was published in the latest issue of the journal, “Records of the Zoological Survey of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ZSI – prepared a report on the two-way mass migration of the blue earthworms in Meghalaya
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

18. On February 22, According to EY (Ernst & Young) India report titled “Impact of IBOR transition on NBFCs in India”, NBFCs in India need to plan for an effective Inter Bank Offered Rate (IBOR) transition, as majority of London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) are likely to be phased out by December 2021. LIBOR is the benchmark interest rate used by global banks to lend to one another. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Impact of IBOR transition on NBFCs in India” report – released by EY India
- IBOR – Inter Bank Offered Rate | LIBOR – London Interbank Offered Rate
- HQs of EY India – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajiv Memani

19. On February 23, China has again emerged as India's biggest trade partner in 2020 despite a conflict along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the rising anti-China sentiment. In 2020, the 2-way trade between the countries stood at \$77.7 billion. China replaced the US as India’s biggest trading partner. The 2-way trade between India and the US stood at \$75.9 billion. In terms of exports, India's shipments to China grew 11% to \$19 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's biggest trade partners in 2020: 1st – China (\$77.7 billion) | 2nd – US (\$75.9 billion) | 3rd – UAE
- India's shipments to China in 2020 – grew 11% to \$19 billion



Acquisitions & Mergers

1. On February 3, The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) has given in-principle approval for 100% strategic disinvestment of the GoI (government of India) shareholding in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) along with management control by way of privatisation. The government has budgeted Rs 1.75 lakh Cr from disinvestment in 2021-22 fiscal beginning April 1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA gave in-principle approval for 100% strategic disinvestment of the GoI's share in Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd
- HQs of RINL – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | Chairman & MD – Pradosh Kumar Rath

2. Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd (KPTL) has signed a definitive agreement to acquire 51% stake in Fasttel Engenharia Ltd in the South American country, for \$8.80 million (over Rs 64 Cr). The transaction is likely to close by the end of Q1FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd – acquired 51% stake in Fasttel Engenharia Ltd for \$8.80 million (over Rs 64 Cr)
- HQs of KPTL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Manish Mohnot

3. On February 9, GAIL (India) Ltd has acquired 5% stake of the Indian Energy Exchange in its arm Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). On January 22, 2021, Adani Total Gas and Torrent Gas had acquired 5% stake each in the IGX. GAIL is the third strategic investor in IGX. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GAIL – acquired 5% stake of the Indian Energy Exchange in its arm Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
- GAIL is the 3rd strategic investor in IGX
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Head – Deepak Mehta
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Interim MD & CEO – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain

4. On February 11, the government has planned to sell 20% of its stake in National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL) through an offer for sale (OFS). The government holds 74.71% stake in NFL, which is the second-largest producer of urea in India. The sale could fetch the government around Rs 408 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government plans to sell 20% of its stake in National Fertilizers Ltd through an OFS – for Rs 408 Cr
- HQs of NFL – Noida, UP | MD & Chairman – Virendra Nath Datt

5. On February 11, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will buyout 36.62% stake of Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd's shares in Bina refinery project for about Rs 2,400 Cr. BPCL currently holds a 63.68% stake in BORL. BORL was incorporated in February 1994 to build a refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- BPCL – to buyout 36.62% stake of Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd's shares in Bina refinery project – for Rs 2,400 Cr
- BPCL currently holds a 63.68% stake in BORL
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar
- HQs of BORL – Bina, Madhya Pradesh | Chairman – D. Rajkumar | MD – M.B. Pimpale

6. On February 10, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved Bank of India's acquisition of 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers Pvt Ltd (BAIM) and BOI AXA Trustee Services Pvt Ltd (BATS). Pursuant to this transaction, Bank of India will hold 100% equity in BAIM and BATS. Meanwhile, the CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% shares and sole control of Varian Medical Systems by Siemens Healthineers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved BOI's acquisition of 49% stake each in BOI AXA Investment Managers & BOI AXA Trustee Services
- Later, BOI will hold 100% equity in BAIM and BATS
- CCI also approved the acquisition of 100% shares of Varian Medical Systems – by Siemens Healthineers
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of BOI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Shri Atanu Kumar Das

7. The government will sell its entire 26.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL), erstwhile VSNL, through an offer for sale and strategic sale route by March 20, 2021. As many as 11 merchant bankers, including Goldman Sachs, JM Financial and Axis Capital, are in race for managing the sale of the government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government will sell its entire 26.12% stake in Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) – by March 20, 2021
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan

8. On February 16, ICICI Bank has announced to buy stakes in 2 fintech companies - 5.40% stake in CityCash for Rs 4.93 Cr and 9.65% in Thillais Analytical Solutions Pvt Ltd for Rs 1.1 Cr & thus, for a total cash consideration of Rs 6.03 Cr. Both the deals are expected to be completed by the end of March 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank will buy stakes in 2 fintech companies – 5.40% stake in CityCash & 9.65% in Thillais Analytical Solutions
- Total cash consideration of – Rs 6.03 Cr
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of CityCash – Mumbai, MH | Founder & CEO – Vineet Toshniwal

9. On February 17, The Tata group has signed an agreement to acquire 68% stake in online grocery platform BigBasket for about ₹9,500 Cr. Founded in 2011, BigBasket operates in 25 Indian cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata group – to acquire 68% stake (₹9,500 Cr) in online grocery platform “BigBasket”
- HQ of Tata Group – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – N. Chandrasekaran
- HQs of BigBasket – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEOs – Hari Menon & VS Sudhakar

10. On February 22, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of shares of Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) by Panatone Finvest Ltd. The Government of India looks to divest its 26.12% equity stake in TCL. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 30 December 2020 approved sale of stake in TCL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of 26.12% shares of TCL – by Panatone Finvest Ltd
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan
- HQs of Panatone Finvest Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra

11. On February 23, NTPC Ltd has executed share purchase agreements with GAIL (India) Ltd for purchase of GAIL's share (25.51%) in Ratnagiri Gas and Power Pvt Ltd (RGPPL) and sale of NTPC's share (14.82%) in Konkan LNG Ltd (KLL). RGPPL was incorporated on July 8, 2005, and is promoted by NTPC Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – to purchase 25.51% share of GAIL (India) Ltd – in Ratnagiri Gas & Power (Maharashtra)
- NTPC – to sell its 14.82% share – in Konkan LNG Ltd (Maharashtra)
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

12. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the acquisition of up to 12% stake in Max Life Insurance by Axis Bank and its subsidiary Axis Entities. As per the proposed transaction, Axis Entities have the right to acquire up to 19% stake in Max Life, of which Axis Bank proposes to acquire up to 9%, and Axis Capital Ltd and Axis Securities Ltd together propose to acquire up to 3%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – approved the acquisition of up to 12% stake in Max Life Insurance – by Axis Bank & its subsidiary Axis Entities
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”



13. On February 26, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) have acquired 9.99% stake each in Ferbine Private Ltd, a Tata Sons promoted company to operate a PanIndia Umbrella Entity (PUE) for retail payment systems. The last date from applying to the RBI for license to operate is February 26, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank & Kotak Mahindra Bank = acquired 9.99% stake each in Ferbine Private Ltd (**Mumbai**)
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak

14. On February 25, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved a combination involving the merger of NAM Estates Private Ltd (NAM Estate) and Embassy One Commercial Property Developments Private Ltd (EOCPDPL) into Indiabulls Real Estate Ltd (IBREL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NAM Estate (**Bangalore**) + Embassy One (**Bangalore**) = merger into Indiabulls Real Estate (approved by CCI)
- HQs of Indiabulls Real Estate – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sameer Gehlaut

16. Hinduja Group flagship firm Ashok Leyland has signed an agreement with Nissan International Holding BV to acquire 38% stake in Hinduja Tech for Rs 70.20 Cr. In November 2014, Ashok Leyland had sold 38% stake in Hinduja Tech (HTL) to Nissan International Holdings BV. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Leyland – to acquire 38% stake of Nissan International Holding BV – in Hinduja Tech (for Rs 70.20 Cr)
- Ashok Leyland – owned by Hinduja Group
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Vipin Sondhi
- HQs of Hinduja Group – London, UK | Chairman – Srichand P Hinduja



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

1. India and France have signed 2 agreements on Renewable Energy and Urban Mobility during a 5-day visit to India by Barbara Pompili, French Minister for Ecological Transition to bolster bilateral cooperation on sustainable development. A letter of intent was signed between the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and the French Development Agency (AFD) for developing a floating solar plant of up to 150 MW. AFD also signed a credit facility agreement with the finance ministry to provide 250 million euros as funding for the Surat metro rail project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India and France – signed 2 agreements on Renewable Energy & Urban Mobility
- SECI (India) + AFD (France) = a letter of intent to develop a floating solar plant of up to 150 MW
- Finance ministry (India) + AFD (France) = to provide 250 million euros as funding for the Surat metro rail project
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Praveen Kumar
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

2. On February 1, Sri Lanka has decided to scrap a 2019 agreement with India and Japan for operating the Colombo Port's East Coast Terminal (ECT). Japan, India and Sri Lanka signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) for the development of ECT in May 2019. Nearly 70% of the transshipment business through ECT is linked to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka decided to scrap East Coast Terminal (ECT) agreement with India & Japan
- East Coast Terminal (ECT) agreement was signed in 2019 between = India + Sri Lanka + Japan
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

3. On February 2, Ford Motor Co will tap into software, artificial intelligence and cloud computing offered by Alphabet Inc's Google to develop new consumer services and modernize internal operation. Ford will incorporate the Google's Android operating system into its Ford and Lincoln vehicles starting in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ford Motor + Google = 6 years partnership to offer cloud-based data services (starting in 2023)
- HQs of Ford Motor – Dearborn, Michigan, US | CEO – Jim Farley

4. On February 4, An MoU has been signed between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) - Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in a bid to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-BHU + MoRTH = an MoU to increase cooperation with institutes for road-construction
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)



5. On February 4, The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has tied up a statement of intent (SOI) with the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) - NITI Aayog to boost a start-up ecosystem for the mobility sector. Under the initiative, ARAI will use its TechNovuus platform and shall lend experience, expertise and equipment to nurture the start-ups working in the mobility segment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ARAI + AIM (NITI Aayog) = a Sol to boost a start-up ecosystem for the mobility sector
- HQs of ARAI – Pune, MH | Director – N. V. Marathe

6. On February 5, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with Zomato for empowering street food vendors with new digital technology and to provide greater income-earning opportunities on the food delivery platform as part of PM SVANidhi Scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + Zomato = an MoU to empower street food vendors with new digital technology
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri
- HQs of Zomato – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder & CEO – Deepinder Goyal

7. On February 3, IIT Kharagpur has inked an MoU with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for 'Building Accessible Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIIC)'. The collaboration is aimed towards developing a framework for universal city planning which would be more accessible and inclusive for various sections of the community with age-friendly disabled-friendly measures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur + NIUA = an MoU for "Building Accessible Safe and Inclusive Indian Cities (BASIIIC)"
- HQs of NIUA – New Delhi | Director – Hitesh Vaidya

7. On February 4, BEML has signed an MoU with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for joint development in the areas of advanced composites and autoclaves, mini-unmanned aerial vehicles, design & analysis of aircraft structure and systems. BEML also teamed with NAL for joint development of 2-seater trainer aircraft through transfer of technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEML + CSIR-NAL = an MoU for joint development in the areas of advanced composites and autoclaves
- BEML + CSIR-NAL = an MoU for joint development of 2-seater Trainer Aircraft
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

8. On February 4, Israel-based SpearUAV has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based Paras Aerospace Solutions to introduce the unique "Ninox 40" Micro-tactical UAV System to the Indian market. It will be used by military forces, paramilitary, internal security, and law enforcement agencies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpearUAV + Paras Aerospace Solutions = an MoU to introduce the unique "Ninox 40" system in India
- HQs of SpearUAV – Tel Aviv, Israel | HQs of Paras Aerospace Solutions – Bengaluru, Karnataka



9. On February 5, Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has entered into offset contract with joint stock company, Rosoboronexport (Russia) to set up industrial facilities for the manufacturing wide range of aviation hoses at BEL Optronics Devices, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL + Rosoboronexport (Russia) = an offset contract to manufacture high quality aviation hoses
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

10. On February 4, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) have signed an MoU for development and production of composite raw materials during the Aero India 2021 in Bengaluru on February 04, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + MIDHANI = an MoU for development and production of composite raw materials
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- HQs of MIDHANI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Kumar Jha

11. To address the challenge of unemployability and the skill gap among Goan youth, Goa has inked an agreement with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to operate the Model Career Centre on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa + CII = an agreement to operate the 'Model Career Centre' on PPP basis
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

12. On February 5, Haryana and Switzerland have agreed to share their expertise in the fields of skill training, tourism and dairy sector. Besides, they also agreed to explore the possibilities of signing MoUs for the teacher-student and cultural exchange programmes so as to further strengthen the bilateral ties between Switzerland and India particularly with Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana + Switzerland = agreed to share their expertise in the fields of skill Training, Tourism and Dairy
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin (New)

13. On February 8, Triton Electric Vehicle has signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for developing Electric Vehicles and Energy Storage Systems. For requirements of Energy Storage System (ESS) in India, BEL will address the requirements as a prime contractor and Triton will provide the support as technology partner as per Make in India requirements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Triton Electric Vehicle + BEL = an MoU for developing Electric Vehicles & Energy Storage Systems
- HQs of Triton Electric Vehicle – New Jersey, USA
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava



14. On February 4, Aviatech Enterprises Pvt Ltd (AEPL), a company of Crown group has entered into a strategic partnership or a framework agreement with Russian aircraft corporation MiG for providing post-warranty support to the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter jets. The Indian Navy currently has around 40 MiG-29K (single seat) and MiG-29KUB (double seat) aircraft in its fleet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aviatech Enterprises + RAC MiG = a framework agreement to provide post-warranty support to the Indian Navy's MiG-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter jets
- HQs of AEPL – Quelossim, Goa | CEO – Srinivas Kanugo
- HQs of RAC MiG – Moscow, Russia

15. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has collaborated with Wipro3D to manufacture metal 3D printed aircraft engine component, Nozzle Guide Vane (also called the Inner Ring), 3D Printed in a high temperature resilient steel A286. Nozzle Guide Vane has also received Airworthiness certification by Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC). Wipro 3D is the metal Additive Manufacturing (AM) business of Wipro Infrastructure Engineering (WIN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + Wipro3D = collaboration to manufacture metal 3D printed Aircraft Engine Component
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- HQs of Wipro3D – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Vice President & Business Head – Ajay Parikh

16. On February 8, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru for creation of Joint Advanced Technology Program-Center of Excellence (JATP-CoE) in the premises of IISc, Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO + IISc (Bengaluru) = an MoU to create Joint Advanced Technology Program-Center of Excellence (JATP-CoE)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

17. On February 9, Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) have signed a contract for procurement of Software Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac) worth over ₹1,000 Cr. The SDR-Tac is designed and developed by Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory of DRDO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry + BEL = a contract for procurement of Software Defined Radio Tactical (SDR-Tac) worth ₹1,000 Cr
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

18. On February 8, Siemens Limited has signed 2 separate MoUs with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Central Manufacturing Technology Institute (CMTI) respectively to establish Digital Transformation Labs. The MoUs will focus on developing the Industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and Industry 4.0-enabled products and technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siemens Limited signed 2 separate MoUs with = IISc + CMTI – to establish Digital Transformation Labs
- HQs of Siemens Limited – Munich, Germany | CEO – Roland Busch + Joe Kaeser
- HQs of CMTI – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Dr. Nagahanumaiah

19. On February 9, AGS Transact Technologies (AGSTTL) has partnered with Mastercard to provide a PAN-India ‘contactless’ QR code-based cash withdrawal at ATMs. Mastercard cardholders will be able to withdraw cash by scanning a QR code displayed on the ATM screen of all participating banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AGSTTL + Mastercard = partnership to provide a PAN-India ‘contactless’ QR code-based cash withdrawal at ATMs
- HQs of AGSTTL – Mumbai, MH | Chairman & MD – Ravi B Goyal
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach

20. As on February 9, The Investor Education and Protection fund Authority (IEPFA) and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have signed an MoU for collaboration in utilising the tele-lecturing facility of “Gyan Darshan Channel” (EMPC – Electronic Media Production Centre) for telecast of Investor Awareness Programmes (IAPs) through distance learning mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IEPFA + IGNOU – signed an MoU for telecast of Investor Awareness Programmes
- “Gyan Darshan Channel” was used for telecasting
- EMPC – Electronic Media Production Centre

21. The Meghalaya police has signed an MoU with State Bank of India in connection with the implementation of “e-Challan” within the jurisdiction of Shillong Traffic Police (STP). It is a digital traffic enforcement solution whereby, imposing of penalties on violators of traffic rules and generating of challan will be done digitally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya police + SBI = an MoU for the implementation of “e-Challan”
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

22. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has inked 5 agreements with various industry partners to expand its capacity for indigenous shipbuilding. GSL will collaborate with Singapore-based firm SeaTech to explore engineering design work. GSL is also exploring export of patrol craft and offshore patrol vessels to Bangladesh. It has signed MoUs with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL) also. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard – inked 5 agreements with various industry partners to expand its capacity (ie. SeaTech & HSL)
- GSL is exploring export of patrol craft and offshore patrol vessels to – Bangladesh
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal



23. On February 11, An MoU has been signed furthering the relationship between Indian Navy and IIT Delhi on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems. The research carried out at IIT Delhi has played an important role in the technological advances made by the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy + IIT Delhi = an MoU on research in underwater domain of Naval Electronic Systems
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

24. On February 9, Jammu and Kashmir has joined hands with a UK-based Space Agency for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting. The National Space Innovation Programme (NSIP), undertaken by HR Wallingford in collaboration with Oxford University, Sayers & Partners (SPL) and D-Orbit, is an initiative that supports collaborative projects between UK-based organisations and international partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + UK-based Space Agency = partnership for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

25. On February 11, Haryana's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) department has signed MoUs with 3 e-commerce companies - eBay, Power2SME and Tradeindia.com to bring products manufactured by MSME of Haryana to the global market. These MoUs will also create unprecedented opportunities for new entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana's MSME department + eBay, Power2SME & Tradeindia.com = to promote online sales of MSME produces
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

26. On February 11, Flipkart has signed an MoU with Maharashtra Small Scale Industries Development Corporation (MSSIDC) and Maharashtra State Khadi & Village Industries Board (MSKVIB) to boost the online sales of handmade artifacts & Small industrial produce of Maharashtra. Flipkart Samarth programme was launched in 2019 to build a sustainable and inclusive platform for under-served, domestic communities and businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + Maharashtra = an MoU to help bring local artisans, weavers, craftsmen and SMBs
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

27. On February 11, The 4 French companies A. Raymond Fasteners, Cryolor, Precia Molen and Timac Agro have signed Letter of Intent (LoIs) with the Tamil Nadu government, with intent to invest Rs 200 Cr in the State during the 'IFCCI Indo-French Investment Conclave 2021'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4 French companies + Tamil Nadu = LoIs to invest Rs 200 Cr in the State
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

28. On February 10, Star Health Insurance has partnered with PhonePe to offer “Arogya Sanjeevani policy” a Digital Health Insurance through PhonePe’s digital platform. The policy covers anyone up to 65 years with a sum insured options up to Rs 10 lakh with an annual premium of only Rs 2985, excluding GST. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Star Health + PhonePe = to offer “Arogya Sanjeevani policy” a Digital Health Insurance
- Age criteria – up-to 65 years | Sum insured – up-to Rs 10 lakh
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, TN | Chairman & CEO – V. Jagannathan
- Star Health & Allied Insurance – India’s 1st Health Insurance provider

29. On February 12, ICICI Lombard has launched a “Corporate India Risk Index-2020”, an indicator of a company’s risk exposure and preparedness. It spans across 15 sectors of the economy and has 150 companies under it. According to the index, India’s Corporate India Risk Index score is 57, which implies that firms are handling risks effectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard – launched a “Corporate India Risk Index-2020”
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

30. On February 11, Hewlett Packard (HP) India and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have inked a partnership to provide worksheets and content to facilitate home learning and early skill development of students across India. Under the partnership, NSDC will host content from HP’s Print Learn Center on its digital skilling platform - ‘eSkill India’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HP India + NSDC = partnership to impart skills to students through ‘eSkill India’ platform
- ‘eSkill India’ platform – belongs to NSDC
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

31. On February 12, The Bihar government has signed an MoU with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for Climate Resilience and Low Carbon Development Strategy Formulation. UNEP will provide technical assistance to Bihar to prepare its greenhouse gas inventory and carry out climate impact scenario and vulnerability assessments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bihar + UNEP = an MoU for Climate Resilience & Low Carbon Development Strategy Formulation
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

32. On February 12, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Department of Space (DoS) and MapmyIndia have partnered to offer India’s best and fully indigenous, mapping portal and geospatial services. It combines the power of MapmyIndia’s digital maps and technologies with ISRO’s catalogue of satellite imagery and earth observation data. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ISRO + MapmyIndia = partnership to offer India's best and fully indigenous, mapping portal & geospatial services
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CMD – Rakesh Verma | CEO – Rohan Verma

33. On February 14, Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has joined hands with the National Health Authority (NHA) to leverage the medical infrastructure available under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in Maharashtra. The tie-up with PM-JAY was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Maharashtra in the district of Ahmednagar and now has been extended to the entire state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESIC + NHA = to upgrade the medical infrastructure available under 'AB PM-JAY' – in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of ESIC – New Delhi | Director General – Ms. Anuradha Prasad
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma

34. An MoU was signed between the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) and the Government of Karnataka for working closely to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the state. The Chief Guest, Ms Shalini Rajneesh (IAS) and Guest of Honor, talked about the importance of addressing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the vision of Karnataka government for 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IETO + Karnataka = an MoU to work closely to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the state
- HQs of IETO – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairman – S. Krishnakumar | President – Asif Iqbal
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

35. On February 16, Mastercard and Razorpay have launched a strategic partnership that combines Razorpay's payment processing capabilities with Mastercard's digital banking solutions and card services. The partnership will empower the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in digitizing their operations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Razorpay = partnership to make digital payments more accessible for MSMEs
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur

36. On February 16, The AYUSH Ministry and the World Health Organization's South East Asia Regional Office have signed a Letter of Exchange (LoE) for the deputation of an AYUSH expert to WHO's regional traditional medicine programme in New Delhi. AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha and Regional Director of WHO South-East Asia Region Poonam Khetrpal Singh signed the agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AYUSH Ministry + WHO South East Asia Region = an LoE to bolster traditional medicine in South-East Asia region
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik (Constituency – North Goa) | AYUSH Secretary – Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha
- Director of WHO South-East Asia Region – Poonam Khetrpal Singh



37. On February 16, E-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer 'Hospicash' benefit by providing 'Group SafeGuard' insurance, a group insurance policy to its consumers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart + ICICI Lombard = partnership to offer 'Hospicash' benefit or 'Group SafeGuard' insurance
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

38. On February 16, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed an MoU with GE Power Conversion to collaborate on Propulsion System Design. The GRSE is building and repairing wide range of commercial and naval vessels for the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE + GE Power Conversion = to collaborate on Propulsion System Design – for the Indian Navy
- GE Power Conversion's Engineering Design Centre – Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- HQs of GE Power Conversion – Boston, Massachusetts, US | President and CEO – Azeez Mohammed

39. On February 16, Tata Communications has partnered with Google Cloud to drive cloud adoption in India. The partnership will enable organisations deploy and access Google Cloud services through Tata Communications' IZO Managed Cloud platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Communications + Google Cloud = partnership to drive cloud adoption in India
- IZO Managed Cloud platform – belongs to Tata Communications
- HQs of TCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Amur Swaminathan Lakshminarayanan
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

40. On February 18, Essar Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEPL) has signed an MoU with IIT Dhanbad (Indian School of Mines) to jointly carry out research and development on Coal Bed Methane (CBM) technologies. IIT (ISM) located at Dhanbad, Jharkhand, was founded in 1926. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EOGEPL (Mumbai) + IIT Dhanbad (Jharkhand) = an MoU for R&D in CBM Gas Exploration

41. On February 18, India and Nepal have signed an MoU for the reconstruction of 6 Secondary schools in Nepal at a total cost of NRs 518 million. The signing of the MoU took place at a ceremony for the reconstruction of Shree Kanti Bhairab Secondary School at Kageshwari Municipality, Kathmandu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = an MoU for the reconstruction of 6 Secondary schools in Nepal at a total cost of NRs 518 million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari



42. On February 18, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has signed a pact with Greenstat Norway for setting up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H) including CCUS and Fuel Cells in cooperation with Indo-Norwegian Hydrogen Cluster companies / organizations. In the Union Budget for 2021-22, the government pledged to focus on generating hydrogen from green power sources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC + Greenstat Norway = signed a pact for setting up a Centre of Excellence on Hydrogen (CoE-H)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

43. On February 18, Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and Higher Education Department (HED) have signed an MoU to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation. JKEDI also signed an MoU with “WE HUB” to promote women entrepreneurship and startup culture. “WE HUB” is India's first and only state-led incubator of Telangana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JKEDI + WE HUB = an MoU to promote the culture of entrepreneurship and innovation – in Telangana and J&K
- ‘WE HUB’ – India's first and only state-led incubator of Telangana government
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

44. On February 18, The Uttar Pradesh government has signed an MoU with Swedish company IKEA, sealing an investment deal of Rs 5,500 Cr in the state to generate employment for thousands of people. IKEA will shell out Rs 850 Cr for the land purchase, which will accrue Rs 56 Cr revenue in the form of stamp duty, in Noida. IKEA started its first center in Hyderabad at a cost of Rs 700 Cr in 2016. IKEA plans to open a total of 25 centers in India by 2025 by investing Rs 10,500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + IKEA = an MoU for Rs 5,500 Cr investment to generate employment in the state
- IKEA plans to open a total of 25 centers in India by 2025 by investing Rs 10,500 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of IKEA – Delft, Netherlands | CEO – Jesper Brodin

45. On February 19, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India have signed an MoU to support the development, conduct and promotion of health research in India. These will focus on developing and testing new preventions, therapies and interventions that can help to solve major health concerns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation + CSIR = an MoU to promote health research in India
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande
- HQs of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Washington, US | CEO – Mark Suzman



46. On February 19, Amazon India has signed an MoU with the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across its growing operations network in India. Amazon's global vision is to hire 25,000 military veterans by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon India + DGR = an MoU to provide ex-service personnel with work opportunities across India
- Amazon's Global Vision: To hire 25,000 military veterans by 2025
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Present CEO – Jeff Bezos (Andy Jassy from October 2021)
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

47. On February 20, The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has signed 2 MoUs with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Indian Pollution Control Association (IPCA) to make Jammu plastic-free. Both have the fundamental basis of door-to-door garbage collection. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jammu MC + UNDP + IPCA = 2 MoUs to make Jammu plastic-free
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- HQs of IPCA – New Delhi | Director – Ashish Jain | Founded in – 2001

48. Ethiopia Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen Hassen is on a 4-day visit to India, from February 16. India and Ethiopia have signed 2 agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Ethiopia = signed 2 agreements related to visa facilitation & leather technology
- Ethiopia – Addis Ababa – Ethiopian birr | President – Sahle-Work Zewde

49. On February 22, Indian government, Government of Nagaland and the World Bank have signed a \$68 million project to enhance the governance of schools across Nagaland as well as to improve teaching practices and learning environments in select schools with the help of "Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + India + Nagaland = signed \$68 million 'Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching & Resources Project'
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

50. On February 22, The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) have signed an MoU to synergise their various programmes in the interest of export-oriented capture and culture of fisheries and allied sectors for bringing better value to the stakeholders. The MoU was signed by KS Srinivas, Chairman, MPEDA and Sundeep Kumar Nayak, Managing Director, NCDC. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- MPEDA + NCDC = an MoU for promotion of marine exports
- HQs of MPEDA – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman – K S Srinivas
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | Managing Director – Sundeep Kumar Nayak

51. On February 22, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has signed an MoU with Power System Operation Corporation (POSOCO) to encourage research in the domestic power sector. They will further enhance the modeling capability backed with rich data-sets which can address the challenges of the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TERI + POSOCO = an MoU to encourage research in the domestic power sector
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Ajay Mathur
- HQs of POSOCO – New Delhi | CMD – K. V. S. Baba

52. On February 22, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has entered into an agreement with Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) for faster and customised automated access to data, through Freight Operations Information System (FOIS). The contract period of the MoU is 1 year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CIL + CRIS = an agreement for faster and customised automated access to data through 'FOIS'
- FOIS – Freight Operations Information System
- HQs of CIL – Kolkata, WB | Director – Anil Kumar Jha | CMD – Pramod Agrawal
- HQs of CRIS – New Delhi | GM – Rajesh Gupta

53. On February 23, Dairytech startup Stellapps has signed a pact with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to digitise milk procurement. Through this tie-up with IPPB, Stellapps aims to bring to the financial mainstream dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Bihar and Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stellapps + IPPB = a tie-up to digitise milk procurement
- Stellapps – IIT-Madras incubated dairy-tech startup | HQs of Stellapps – Bangalore, Karnataka
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

54. On February 23, Social Alpha and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have partnered up to set up the Swavalamban Divyangjan Assistive Tech Market Access (ATMA) fund. Each startup working in this space will have access to implementation support of up to ₹20 lakh. The fund will finance up to 50% of the product price for the initial users. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Social Alpha + SIDBI = partnership to set up the Swavalamban Divyangjan Assistive Tech Market Access (ATMA) fund
- HQs of Social Alpha – Bangalore, Karnataka | Co-founder & CEO – Manoj Kumar
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990



55. On February 26, The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has signed an MoU with the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for exchanging data such as import-export transactions and financial statements of companies registered in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs + CBIC = an MoU for data exchange to boost regulatory enforcement
- [Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka](#)
- [HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar](#)

56. On February 26, Andhra Pradesh and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) have signed an MoU for the establishment of a Project Management Unit (PMU) to cater to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in the State. The proposed development initiatives were aligned with the vision of RBI-appointed U. K. Sinha Committee on MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + SIDBI = an MoU to establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) to cater to the MSMEs
- The proposed development initiatives were aligned with the vision of RBI's – U. K. Sinha Committee
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)
- [HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | Chairman – Mohammad Mustafa | Established in – 1990](#)

57. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has signed an MoU with National Health Authority (NHA) to provide PVC based 'Ayushman cards' under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). Ayushman cards are replacement of paper-based cards and will be issued completely free. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY + NHA = an MoU to provide PVC based 'Ayushman cards' under PM-JAY
- [Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice \(Patna Sahib, Bihar\)](#)
- [HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma](#)

58. On February 26, AbhiBus Services, an online e-ticketing platform, has partnered with Railways' e-ticket booking platform, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to offer Bus Ticket Booking Facility. IRCTC enables over 9 lakh train tickets every day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AbhiBus Services + IRCTC = partnerhisip to offer Bus Ticket Booking Facility
- [HQs of AbhiBus Services – Hyderabad, Telangana | Founder & CEO – Sudhakar Reddy](#)
- [HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall](#)

59. Liberty Steel Group has signed an MoU with Paul Wurth and Stahl-Holding-Saar to set up an industrial-sized hydrogen-based steel-making plant at Dunkerque in France. It will be 2-million-tonne Direct Reduced Iron plant with an integrated 1 GW capacity hydrogen electrolysis production unit. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Liberty Steel Group + Paul Wurth + Stahl-Holding-Saar = an MoU to set up a Steel making Plant – in France
- HQs of Liberty Steel Group – London, UK
- HQs of Paul Wurth – Luxembourg
- HQs of Stahl-Holding-Saar – Saarland, Germany
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

60. On February 25, An MoU is signed between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte Ltd for transportation of LPG (Liquefied Natural Gas) through barges on National Waterways-1 and National Waterways-2. MOL Group is the world's largest gas carrier company. [{Read more}](#)

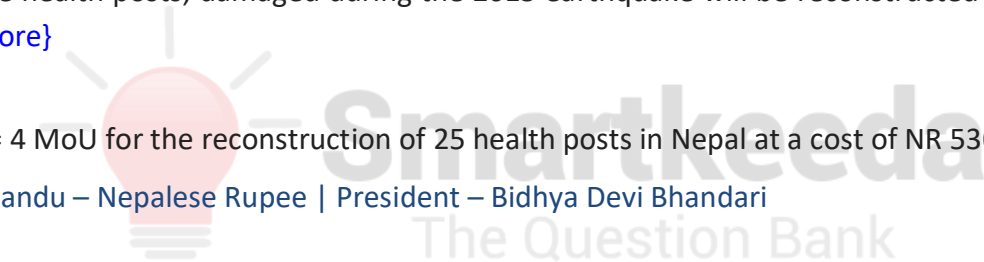
Key Points:

- IWAI + MOL (Asia Oceania) Pte Ltd = an MoU for transportation of LPG through barges on NW-1 & NW-2
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, UP | Chairperson – Jalaj Shrivastava

61. On February 25, India has signed 4 MoU with Nepal for the reconstruction of 25 health posts in the Himalayan country. Twelve health posts are located in Dhading district and 13 are located in Sindhupalchowk district and these health posts, damaged during the 2015 earthquake will be reconstructed at a cost of NR 530 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = 4 MoU for the reconstruction of 25 health posts in Nepal at a cost of NR 530 million
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari



Books & Authors

1. Edited by Renuka Singh and published by Penguin Random House, Dalai Lama's "The Little Book of Encouragement" has 130 quotes with words of wisdom amid pandemic, promotes human values, spills the beans on key to happiness and comments on Sino-India ties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Little Book of Encouragement" book – authored by Dalai Lama
- Edited by – Renuka Singh | Published by – Penguin Random House
- [His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama – Tenzin Gyatso \(Tibet\)](#)
- [Second autobiography of the 14th Dalai Lama – "Freedom in Exile"](#)

2. "This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad" will be released on the director's 83rd birth anniversary on May 19 by Fourth Estate, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. Girish Karnad's memoir was to be translated from Kannada into English by the actor-playwright himself but could only finish a part of it before his death in 2019, will now be out in May after final touches by award-winning translator Srinath Perur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "This Life at Play: A Memoir by Girish Karnad" book – translated from Kannada into English by Srinath Perur

3. "By Many a Happy Accident" is an autobiography of Mohammad Hamid Ansari. The book is an account of a life of unplanned happenings that took M. Hamid Ansari away from his preferred fancy for academia to professional diplomacy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "By Many a Happy Accident" – an autobiography of M. Hamid Ansari (Vice President of India (2007–2017))

4. The first "Playbook", published jointly by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Paralympic Committee and the Tokyo 2020 organising committee, says the aim is to keep participants and the people of Japan safe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Playbook" – published jointly by IOC + International Paralympic Committee + Tokyo 2020 organising committee

5. On February 5, Delhi-based publishing house, TreeShade Books, today announced the release of their latest book "1857 - The Sword of Mastaan". This is author Vineet Bajpai's fifth fiction novel and eighth book overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "1857 - The Sword of Mastaan" – authored by Vineet Bajpai
- Published by – TreeShade Books



6. After almost a decade, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jhumpa Lahiri is coming up with new book this year. The new novel is titled “Whereabouts” and will be published under the Hamish Hamilton imprint of Penguin Random House. This is the English translation of her first Italian novel and will come out in April 2021. Her last novel was The Lowland (2013). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Whereabouts” novel – authored by Jhumpa Lahiri (to come out in April 2021)
- Publisher – Penguin Random House
- Other books by Jhumpa Lahiri: “The Lowland” + “The Namesake” + “Interpreter of Maladies”

7. On February 5, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled “Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan” authored by K. N. Bhandari. The book focuses on the health and education initiatives undertaken through the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) in Rajasthan from 2006 to 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Parliamentary Messenger in Rajasthan” book – authored by K. N. Bhandari
- The book is released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

8. Hunter Biden’s memoir “Beautiful Things” will be out on April 6, 2021, according to Gallery Books. Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, is a lawyer and former lobbyist whose work helped lead to the first impeachment of Trump. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Beautiful Things” book authored by (a memoir of) – Hunter Biden

9. On February 6, Entrepreneur-author Sangeet Paul Choudary talks about the importance of platform business models in post-COVID world in his new book titled “Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World”. The book explains the inner workings of platform business models and their ability to scale rapidly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Platform Scale: For a Post-Pandemic World” book – authored by Sangeet Paul Choudary

10. On February 8, Penguin Random House India is proud to announce the acquisition of a new novel titled “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News” by award-winning writer, journalist and speaker Meghna Pant. The book will be released in April 2021, and soon be seen as a major motion picture under the title ‘Badnam Ladoo’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Terrible, Horrible, Very Bad Good News” – authored by Meghna Pant
- The book will be released in April 2021 & to be seen as a major motion picture under the title ‘Badnam Ladoo’

11. “Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy” - a book on creating economic awareness among masses authored by R. P. Gupta was launched on February 10 by Mr. Jual Oram, Hon’ble M.P. & Chairperson Standing Committee on Defence, Government of India. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Turn Around India: 2020- Surmounting Past Legacy” book – authored by R. P. Gupta

12. Susan Choi novel “Trust Exercise” has won the “National Book Award-2019” for fiction. Sarah M. Broom’s memoir “The Yellow House” had won in non-fiction and Martin W. Sandler’s “1919 The Year That Changed America” won for young people literature.

Key Points:

- Susan Choi’s novel “Trust Exercise” – won “National Book Award-2019” for Fiction
- Sarah M. Broom's memoir “The Yellow House” – won “National Book Award-2019” for Non-Fiction
- Martin W. Sandler’s “1919 The Year That Changed America” – won for Young People Literature

13. “Kamala’s Way”, a new biography of Kamala Harris is authored by California Journalist Dan Morain. The book is a deep reading of Kamala Harris and her politics, including the views on gun control and education, sheds light on what she is likely to do in the White House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kamala’s Way” – authored by Dan Morain (California Journalist)

14. Filmmaker Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari has turned author with her debut fiction novel, titled “Mapping Love”. The 41-year-old director’s book will be published by Rupa Publications in May, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mapping Love” debut novel – authored by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
- It will be published by Rupa Publications in May, 2021

15. On February 14, Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha has released a book, titled “Tipane Kashmirchi (notes on Kashmir), untold stories”, authored by Arun Karmarkar, in Mumbai. Manoj Sinha has stated thatt Union Territory has a development deficit of 73 years. Sinha also noted that a new industrial development scheme of Rs 28,400 Cr has been unveiled for attracting investments in the UT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tipane Kashmirchi (notes on Kashmir), untold stories” – authored by Arun Karmarkar
- The book is released by – Manoj Sinha
- A new Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of J&K – unveiled with an Outlay of Rs 28,400 Cr
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

16. On February 14, Author Irwin Allan Sealy will come out with “ASOCA: A Sutra” - an imagined memoir of ‘Ashoka The Great’. It will be released under Penguin Random House’s Viking imprint in July. Earlier, Penguin had published the 30th anniversary edition of his debut novel “The Trotter-Nama”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “ASOCA: A Sutra” - an imagined memoir of ‘Ashoka The Great’ – authored by Irwin Allan Sealy

17. On February 14, Peter Mukerjea has come out with his memoir “Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive” which is the story of the Indian television industry. The book, published by Westland, also talks in detail how Amitabh Bachchan was hired as a host for “Kaun Banega Crorepati”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Starstruck: Confessions of a TV Executive” memoir – authored by Peter Mukerjea
- The book is published by – Westland

18. February 16, Dr Vishakha Shivdasani has launched e-book titled “COVID and Post-COVID Recovery: Dr Vee’s six point plan” on re-engineering Health and Immunity in context of COVID. The book provides an effective and a practical guide not only to achieve the above but also tips on how to prepare your body for ensuring the greater effectiveness of the vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “COVID and Post-COVID Recovery: Dr Vee’s six point plan” – launched & authored by Dr Vishakha Shivdasani

19. Sabarna Roy, author of 6 critically acclaimed books has unveiled his 7th book, “Fractured Mosaic”. Fractured Mosaic is, in essence, a sequel to his 5th literary work, titled “Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 - 2018”. Fractured Mosaic is published by Leadstart of Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Fractured Mosaic” book – authored by Sabarna Roy (his 7th book)
- “Random Subterranean Mosaic: 2012 - 2018” book – authored by Sabarna Roy

20. Penguin Random House India has announced the acquisition and publication of a brilliant new novel, titled “Sarasvati’s Gift”, by bestselling writer and former journalist Kavita Kane. This book will be released under Penguin’s Ebury Press imprint by mid-2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sarasvati’s Gift” book – authored by Kavita Kane
- To be published by – Penguin Random House India

21. On February 18, The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria has launched a book “The Epic Battle of Longewala” authored by Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar at the IAF Museum at Palam. India is celebrating the 50th anniversary year of the country’s victory over Pakistan in 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Epic Battle of Longewala” book – authored by Air Marshal (retd) Bharat Kumar
- The book was launched by – R K S Bhadauria

22. Rupa Publications has recently released Musician Louiz Banks's biography, “Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love” written by Ashis Ghatak. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Louiz Banks: A Symphony of Love” book – authored by Ashis Ghatak

23. “Indian Economy’s Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead” is a book authored by Arun Kumar. A comprehensive and lucid book focuses on the crisis our economy is facing and the turmoil it is to pass through in the near future. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Indian Economy’s Greatest Crisis: Impact of Coronavirus and the Road Ahead” book – authored by Arun Kumar

24. On February 15, The Vice President, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu has paid tributed to former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, late Shri N. T. Rama Rao releasing a book, “Maverick Messiah”, a political biography of N T Rama Rao authored by senior journalist, Ramesh Kandula. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu – released a book “Maverick Messiah” – authored by Ramesh Kandula
- “Maverick Messiah” is a political biography of – N. T. Rama Rao (former CM of Andhra Pradesh)

25. Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book chronicling the history of CRPF since its raising in 1939. The book is titled “Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha (Nation First - The Golden Story of 82 Years)”. CRPF celebrated its first-ever Veterans Day on February 19 (3rd Friday of February). The book was compiled by historian Dr. Bhuwan Kumar Jha of Delhi University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah released a book titled “Rashtra Pratham - 82 Varshon Ki Swarnim Gatha” – chronicling CRPF’s history
- The book was compiled by – Dr. Bhuwan Kumar Jha
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari

26. “They Found What/They Made What”, published by Hachette, is written by fantasy and science-fiction author Shweta Taneja. The book will educate children about the daring discoveries and ingenious inventions of India's brightest scientists. The book will be released on February 28. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “They Found What/They Made What” book – written by Shweta Taneja
- The book is published by – Hachette

27. On February 21, Noted educationist and leader of skilling India Dr Darlie O Koshy's new book titled “Runway to Skilled India” was unveiled at the India Craft Week being held at Bikaner House, New Delhi. The book was unveiled by Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Runway to Skilled India” book – written by Dr Darlie O Koshy
- The book was unveiled by – Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe (President of ICCR)

28. On February 20, Corporate leader Srikanth Ram has amalgamated his 2 passions - Business and Cricket - in his book “Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards” on how to build high performance teams and a winning culture. The book is published by Becomesakespeare.com. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Leadership Lessons from 22 Yards” book – written by Srikanth Ram

29. On February 20, Dravidar Kazhagam president K. Veeramani has released a book “Agriculture Acts 2020” written by Justice A. K. Rajan, former judge of the Madras High Court. The book is about the 3 controversial Central farm laws, which triggered massive protests by farmers in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Agriculture Acts 2020” book – written by Justice A. K. Rajan (Former judge of Madras HC)
- The book is released by – K. Veeramani

30. On February 22, Veteran actor Kabir Bedi will tell the story of his life in his memoir “Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor” which will be published this April. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Stories I Must Tell: The Emotional Journey of an Actor” (memoir) – authored by Kabir Bedi

31. On February 22, The latest book “The Lost Soul” by Nobel laureate Olga Tokarczuk to be translated into English is a departure for the celebrated Polish author. It is a poetic story of a man who loses his soul in the daily rush and can only regain it in a very special way. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Lost Soul” book – authored by Olga Tokarczuk

32. On February 22, BJP leader Ram Madhav has launched his new book “Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture” in Kolkata at the event hosted by the Prabha Khaitan Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Because India Comes First: Reflections on Nationalism, Identity and Culture” book – authored by Ram Madhav

33. Penguin Random House India has announced the acquisition of a new book titled “India: A Scamster Born Every Minute” by award-winning journalist and author Snigdha Poonam. It will be released under Penguin's Viking imprint in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India: A Scamster Born Every Minute” book – authored by Snigdha Poonam
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

34. “Bare Necessities: How to Live a Zero Waste Life”, published by Penguin, is written by environmentalist Sahar Mansoor and sustainability consultant Tim De Ridder. This book is a "one-stop guide" on how to move towards a more sustainable lifestyle in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bare Necessities: How to Live a Zero Waste Life” book – authored by Sahar Mansoor + Tim De Ridder
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

35. Considered one of the best contemporary fiction writers in Nagaland, Avinuo Kire is back with another collection of short stories titled “The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland”. The book is published by Delhi-based publishing house, Speaking Tiger Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Last Light of Glory Days: Stories from Nagaland” book – authored by Avinuo Kire
- Publisher – Speaking Tiger Books

36. Bestselling Indian author, columnist and influencer Karan Puri launches his second book “#Me Too”. There are 6 stories in the book and each story is an eye-opener shedding light on a very pertinent issue which is ‘Me Too’ and sexual abuse. The book is published by Invincible publishers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “#Me Too” book – authored by Karan Puri

37. Madhavi S Mahadevan’s latest novel “Bride of the Forest: the Untold Story of Yayati’s Daughter” provides a kind of cultural glue between the past and the present, a reflection of how much things have, and have not, changed. The book is published by Speaking Tiger Books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Bride of the Forest: the Untold Story of Yayati’s Daughter” book – authored by Madhavi S Mahadevan
- Publisher – Speaking Tiger Book

38. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s latest book, “The Last Queen”, tells the tale of one of the most fearless women of the 19th century - Rani Jindan Kaur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Last Queen” book – authored by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

39. Pranab Mukherjee was the President from July 25, 2012 to July 25, 2017. Since becoming president he wrote “The Indira Gandhi Years”, “The Turbulent Years” and “The Coalition Years”. “The Presidential Years” has been published recently in January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The books by Late Pranab Mukherjee: –“The Indira Gandhi Years” | “The Turbulent Years” | “The Coalition Years” | “The Presidential Years”

40. Former US First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her long-time friend Louise Penny will come out with a novel “State of Terror” which will be published on October 12 by Pan Macmillan India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of Terror” is a novel written by = Hillary Rodham Clinton + Louise Penny

41. Banker-turned-author Anindya Dutta has chronicled the history of Indian tennis through his latest book, “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis”. The book revolves around pre-Independence tennis and early players like Ramanathan Krishnan and Vijay Amritraj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis” book – authored by Anindya Dutta



Obituaries

1. The Animals guitarist Hilton Valentine, who created one of the most famous opening riffs in 1960s pop music, has passed away at the age of 77. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hilton Valentine – English skiffle / Musician – passed away (Guitarist in The Animals)

2. On February 3, A famous American sports champion Marion Anthony Trabert (Tony Trabert) has passed away. He was 90. He was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1970. He was 5-time Grand Slam singles champion and former No. 1 player. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tony Trabert (USA) – a Tennis player – passed away
- 5-time Grand Slam singles champion | International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1970

3. On February 5, Renowned Canadian actor Christopher Plummer has passed away at the age of 91. He was the oldest actor to win an Oscar for his supporting role in “Beginners”. He won 2 Emmy awards. He was the star of “The Sound of Music”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Christopher Plummer (Canada) – an Actor – passed away
- He was the oldest actor to win an Oscar for his supporting role in ‘Beginners’

4. On February 7, Tennis legend Akhtar Ali has passed away. He had been a father figure in Indian tennis. He was 81. He became the National junior champion in 1955. He represented India in 8 Davis Cup. He also coached the national teams of Malaysia (1968-70 and 1991-93) and Belgium (1980-84). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akhtar Ali – a Tennis Player & Coach – passed away (former Davis Cup Coach)

5. On February 6, Former New Zealand all-rounder Bruce Taylor, the only player to score a century and take a 5-wicket haul on Test debut, has passed away at the age of 77. He achieved the feat against India at Kolkata in 1965. Taylor played 30 Tests for New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bruce Taylor (New Zealand) – a Cricketer – passed away
- He was the only player to score a century and take a 5-wicket haul on Test debut
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

6. On February 6, Former West Indies fast bowler Ezra Moseley has passed away. He was 63. He had played 2 Tests and 1 one-day international. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ezra Moseley (Barbados) – a Cricketer – passed away (Team – West Indies)
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar

7. On February 5, Former heavyweight champion Leon Spinks has passed away. He was 67. He won Olympic Gold and then shocked the boxing world by beating Muhammad Ali to win the heavyweight title in only his eighth pro fight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Leon Spinks – a Boxer – passed away (Former heavyweight champion & Olympic Gold medalist)

8. On February 9, Actor-producer Rajiv Kapoor has passed away at the age of 58. He was the youngest son of veteran filmmaker Raj Kapoor, and the sibling of Rishi and Randhir Kapoor. He was affectionately known as Chimpu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajiv Kapoor – an Actor-producer – passed away (affectionately known as ‘Chimpu’)

9. Bansi Kaul has passed away on February 6 after a battle with cancer. He was a master of stagecraft and painting and one of the designers of the opening ceremony of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. In 1986, he founded the ‘Rang Vidushak’ Repertory in Bhopal. He received the Padma Shri in 2014 for Art & the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bansi Kaul – Indian theatre Director – passed away
- He founded the ‘Rang Vidushak’ Repertory in Bhopal in 1986
- Padma Shri in 2014 for Art | Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1995

10. George Shultz, the U. S. Secretary of state has passed away at the age of 100. Shultz achieved success in statesmanship, business and academia. His efforts as America's top diplomat from 1982 to 1989 under the Republican Reagan helped lead to the conclusion of the four-decade-long Cold War. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- George Shultz – the former U. S. Secretary of state – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

11. Former Argentine President, Carlos Menem, has passed away recently on February 14 at the age of 90. He served his two-terms from 1989-1999. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carlos Menem (Argentina) – a Politician – passed away (President of Argentina)
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez

12. On February 16, Former Governor of Bihar and Jharkhand M Rama Jois has passed away after prolonged illness in Bengaluru, Karnataka. A former Rajya Sabha MP, the 88-year-old legal luminary had also served as the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Rama Jois – Governor of Bihar & Jharkhand + Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana HC – passed away



13. On February 17, Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Captain Satish Sharma has passed away in Goa. He was 73. He was a Union Petroleum Minister (1993-1996) in the P.V. Narasimha Rao government. He had represented the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satish Sharma – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (Petroleum Minister during 1993-1996)

14. On February 23, Former chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Rahul Khullar has passed away in New Delhi owing to a prolonged illness. He was a 1975-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and was appointed as TRAI chief in May 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rahul Khullar – Former chairman of the TRAI – passed away
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela

15. On February 26, Sir Michael Somare, the first and former Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea & popularly known as 'Father of Nation' has passed away. He was 84. Mr. Somare was Papua New Guinea's longest-serving leader. His last term as Prime Minister ended controversially in 2011. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michael Somare – 1st & former PM of Papua New Guinea – passed away (known as 'Father of Nation')
- Papua New Guinea – Port Moresby – Kina | PM – James Marape

16. On February 25, Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri, the eminent poet and academic, has passed away. He was 81. He represented the finest traditions of contemporary Malayalam poetry. The nation honoured him with the Padma Shri in 2014. He received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 for 'Bhoomigeethangal' and the Central Sahitya Akademi Award in 1994 'Ujjayiniyile Raappakalukal'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishnu Narayanan Namboothiri – Eminent Malayalam Poet & Academic – passed away (Padma Shri in 2014)



Person in News

1. On February 3, Ayesha Aziz, the 25-year-old from Kashmir, has become the Youngest Female Pilot in India. In the year 2011, Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15. She later graduated in aviation from the Bombay Flying Club (BFC) and obtained a commercial license in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ayesha Aziz (Kashmir) – became the Youngest Female Pilot in India (age: 25)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

2. On February 5, The government has appointed an expert panel to review industry's objections to the proposed ban on 27 widely used pesticides. The committee, led by Chairman T P Rajendran (former Assistant Director General of ICAR) is likely to submit its report in 3 months. This committee will examine those 27 pesticides which the government wants to ban. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An Expert Committee to review proposal to ban 27 widely used pesticides – led by T P Rajendran
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar

3. On February 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has heaped praise on Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad whose tenure in the Upper House ended on February 15, 2021. In 2005, for the first time Ghulam Nabi Azad became the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ghulam Nabi Azad's tenure in the Upper House ended on February 15, 2021 (RS member from J & K)
- Ghulam Nabi Azad became the CM of Jammu and Kashmir for the 1st time in 2005
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

4. On February 13, An Indian-origin employee, Akanksha Arora, has announced her candidacy for the election to appoint the United Nations' next Secretary-General. The post is currently held by Antonio Guterres. Currently, Akanksha is an audit coordinator for the UN Development Programme (UNDP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akanksha Arora – announced her candidacy for the election of the UN's next Secretary-General
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres

5. In just 8 hours and 40 minutes, 12-year-old Jiya Rai has created history by swimming from Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India by covering a distance of 36 km to spread awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jiya Rai – created history by swimming 36 km in just 8 hours & 40 minutes to spread awareness about 'Autism'
- Route: From Bandra-Worli Sea Link to the Gateway of India



6. On February 20, The RBI has roped in Punjabi singer-rapper Viruss in its public awareness campaign on cyber fraud. The campaign also includes Viruss' popular 2017 Indie hit 'Bam Bhole'. This campaign is a part of RBI's campaign "RBI Kehta Hai" that RBI has been running on social media accounts since 2016. The Campaign was launched in 14 languages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – roped in 'Viruss' - a Punjabi singer-rapper – for its public awareness campaign on cyber fraud
- It was under RBI's "RBI Kehta Hai" campaign (launched in - 2016)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

7. An Indian-American named Dr Swati Mohan has first confirmed that the NASA's rover had survived a particularly tricky plunge into the Martian atmosphere. She is behind NASA's rover landing on Mars. The Cornell graduate has been associated with the 'Perseverance' Mars Mission since its inception and has been part of a number of other NASA missions over the years. [{Read more}](#)

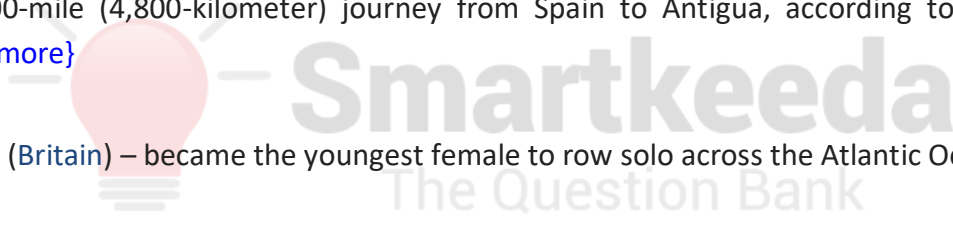
Key Points:

- Dr Swati Mohan (Indian-American) – associated with NASA's 'Perseverance' Mars Mission
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958

8. Briton Jasmine Harrison has become the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean after completing a 3,000-mile (4,800-kilometer) journey from Spain to Antigua, according to organizer Atlantic Campaigns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jasmine Harrison (Britain) – became the youngest female to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean



Science & Technology

1. Aevum's "Ravn X" drone which is the world's biggest drone, is now capable of sending low-Earth orbit satellites into space and it will cost less than it takes companies like Elon Musk's SpaceX to do so. The drone will be driven by Aevum's proprietary software. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aevum's "Ravn X" the world's biggest drone – is now capable of sending low-Earth orbit satellites into space
- HQs of Aevum – Alabama, US

2. "Stardust 1.0" was recently launched from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, US, becoming the first Commercial Rocket Launch powered by biofuel, which is non-toxic for the environment as opposed to traditionally used rocket fuels. The rocket is manufactured & launched by bluShift, an aerospace company based in Maine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- bluShift Aerospace – launched "Stardust 1.0" - the World's 1st Commercial Rocket powered by Biofuel
- HQs of bluShift aerospace – Maine, US | CEO – Sascha Deri

3. India's space agency ISRO has signed a Non-disclosure agreement with Hyderabad-startup Skyroot Aerospace to build its solid propulsion rocket to launch satellites in lower orbit, as part of its efforts to build a private space ecosystem in the country. The agreement will allow Skyroot to access ISRO's facilities and technical expertise to build its rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skyroot Aerospace + ISRO = Non-disclosure agreement to build its solid propulsion rocket
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

4. On February 3, Pakistan has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely "Ghaznavi" which can strike targets up to 290 Kms. On January 20, Pakistan had test-fired nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile "Shaheen-III" which can strike targets up to 2,750 Kms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely "Ghaznavi"
- Strike range of this missile – 290 Kms
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

5. On February 2, "Starship SN9" - the latest prototype rocket of SpaceX's Starship vehicle, exploded on a test flight from the company's South Texas site, on the Gulf Coast near the small community of Boca Chica Village. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Starship SN9" - the latest prototype rocket of SpaceX's Starship vehicle exploded on a test flight
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk



6. On February 4, The students of KLE Technological University (KLETU) have developed a first-of-its-kind humanoid robot named “Maya”. It is specifically aimed at extending a helping hand to banking customers. It was developed under a sponsored project at a total cost of ₹ 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KLETU students developed “Maya” humanoid robot for banking customers
- [Location of KLE Technological University – Hubli, Karnataka](#)

7. In its first mission in 2021, ISRO has planned to launch Brazilian satellite “Amazonia-1” and 3 Indian payloads on February 28. ‘Anand’, ‘Satish Dhawan’ satellite and ‘UNITYsat’ will be the co-passengers. The satellites are slated to be launched onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-51 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – to launch Brazilian satellite “Amazonia-1” and 3 Indian payloads – using PSLV C-51
- 3 Indian co-passengers – ‘Anand’, ‘Satish Dhawan’ satellite and ‘UNITYsat’
- [HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969](#)
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro](#)

8. Preliminary surveys on surface and limited subsurface by Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), have shown presence of Lithium resources of 1,600 tonnes (inferred category) in Mandya district, Karnataka. Lithium is a key element for new technologies and finds its use in ceramics, glass, telecommunication and aerospace industries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AMD found the 1,600 tonnes presence of Lithium – in Mandya, Karnataka
- [HQs of AMD – Hyderabad, Telangana | Director – D K Sinha](#)
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

9. On February 4, A team of researchers from 5 institutes across India have discovered a new Gecko species in Arunachal Pradesh. Their discovery was published in the international peer-reviewed journal Evolutionary Systematics. The researchers have named the species “Cyrtodactylus Arunachalensis” after the state in which it was discovered. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cyrtodactylus Arunachalensis” a new species of Gecko – discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

10. On February 5, The NASA has selected the Elon Musk-founded Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) for the launch of its “SPHEREx” Mission. The mission is targeted to launch as early as in June 2024 on a SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex-4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The cost for the space agency to launch ‘SPHEREx’ is estimated around \$98.8 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – selected ‘SpaceX’ for the launch of its “SPHEREx” Mission – to be launched in June 2024



- SPHEREx – Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine | Founded in – 1958
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

11. On February 9, Space technology startup Bellatrix Aerospace has partnered with its peer Skyroot Aerospace to ferry small satellites into multiple orbits. Bellatrix Aerospace is creating a vehicle that will work as “Taxi in Space” and will be launched on the Vikram rocket of Skyroot Aerospace. Bellatrix's space vehicle is expected to launch to the lower orbit of the earth in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

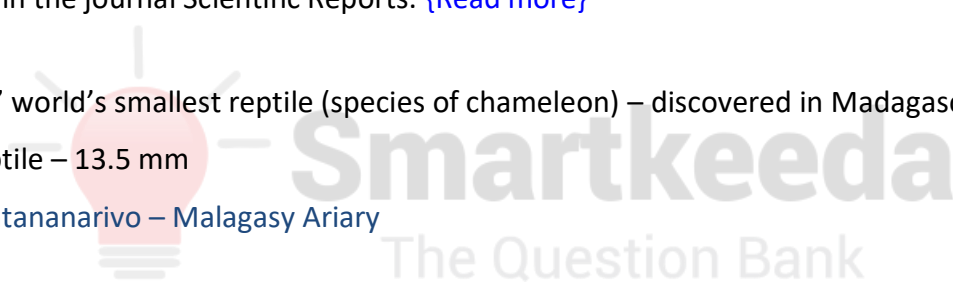
Key Points:

- Bellatrix Aerospace + Skyroot Aerospace = partnership to ferry small satellites into multiple orbits
- Bellatrix Aerospace is creating a vehicle that will work as “Taxi in Space” for small satellites
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy
- HQs of Skyroot Aerospace – Hyderabad, Telangana | CEO – Pawan Kumar Chandana

12. On February 6, “Brookesia nana” - a newly discovered species of chameleon in Madagascar is a contender for the title of world’s smallest reptile. It appeared to be just 13.5-millimeters-long. The team’s research was recently published in the journal Scientific Reports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Brookesia nana” world’s smallest reptile (species of chameleon) – discovered in Madagascar
- Length of the reptile – 13.5 mm
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary



13. On February 5, Elon Musk’s SpaceX has announced the launch of its 1st all civilian mission to space namely “Inspiration4” on ‘Falcon 9’ launch vehicle. It is the world’s 1st all-commercial astronaut mission. It will be launched from the Launch Complex 39A at NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – announced the launch of “Inspiration4” - the world’s 1st all civilian space mission
- Launching vehicle to be used – ‘Falcon 9’ rocket
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

14. Russia has planned to put into orbit around 40 satellites from 18 different countries using the Soyuz-2 carrier rocket in March. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – planned to launch around 40 satellites from 18 different countries using the ‘Soyuz-2’ carrier rocket
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

15. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is developing world's 1st futuristic high altitude 'Pseudo Satellite' by using Combined Air Teaming System (CATS) technology. The pseudo-satellite will be solar energised and become a big asset flying unmanned around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months and taking information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – is developing world's 1st futuristic high altitude 'Pseudo Satellite' by using CATS technology
- CATS – Combined Air Teaming System
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt

16. On February 9, UAE's spacecraft namely "Al-Amal" or "Hope Probe" has entered the orbit around the Mars in historic flight. The Emirati-built 'Hope Probe' was launched from Tanegashima in Japan 7 month ago. It will gather data on Mars' atmosphere. It was Arab world's first interplanetary mission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE's spacecraft namely "Al-Amal" or "Hope Probe" has entered the orbit around the Mars
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

17. On February 9, Researchers at IIT Kharagpur have developed energy-efficient pest controlling devices for smaller agricultural tracts owned by marginal farmers. The research team has developed a self-propelled boom-type sprayer that can be operated using solar energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Kharagpur developed 'Solar-Powered Pest Control System' for smaller farm fields

18. The new variety of marigold called "Arka Shubha" is recently developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR-ICAR). It has 2.8% carotene content which is double that of other marigolds. It has value even if it gets spoilt after full bloom as they can be used for extraction of crude carotene. Arka Shubha variety is used in the poultry sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Arka Shubha" a new variety of marigold – developed by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR)
- HQs of IIHR-ICAR – Hessarghatta, Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Dr. M. R. Dinesh

19. On February 11, Pakistan has successfully test-fired "Babur" - a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile capable of hitting land and sea targets with high precision up to 490 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired "Babur" - a short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile
- Range of the missile – 490 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- Other missiles of Pakistan: Shaheen-III | Ghaznavi | Fatah-1



20. On February 10, Chinese spacecraft “Tianwen-1” has entered Mars' orbit, joining UAE's “Hope probe” that arrived into the Mars Orbit on February 9. The arrival of ‘Tianwen-1’ after a journey of 7 months and nearly 300 million miles (475 million kms) is part of an unusual burst of activity at Mars. NASA's rover called “Perseverance” is aiming for a Feb. 18 landing on Mars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE's “Hope probe” – entered Mars’ Orbit on February 9
- China’s “Tianwen-1” – entered Mars’ Orbit on February 10
- USA’s (NASA) “Perseverance” – is aimed for landing on February 18

21. On February 12, Two satellites by Indian startups - SpaceKidz India & Pixxel were tested for the first time at the ‘UR Rao Satellite Centre’ of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru. ISRO helped these two companies fix problems with the solar panels on their respective satellites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO tested 2 satellites of private startups - SpaceKidz India & Pixxel at ‘UR Rao Satellite Centre’ for the 1st time
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of SpaceKidz – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr Srimathy Kesan
- HQs of Pixxel – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Awais Ahmed

22. On February 15, HCL Technologies (HCL) has signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity. As part of the MoU, HCL will work with ‘C3iHub’, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IIT Kanpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HCL + IIT Kanpur = an MoU to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity
- ‘C3iHub’ – a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IIT Kanpur
- HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | CEO – C Vijayakumar | Chairperson – Roshni Nadar Malhotra

23. On February 14, Researchers have discovered 3 fossils of the earliest known living animal - the 550-million-year-old “Dickinsonia”, on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters, about 40 km from Bhopal. The new discovery was published in Gondwana Research journal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Researchers discovered 3 fossils of the 550-million-year-old “Dickinsonia” – at Bhimbetka Rock Shelters
- Discovery was published – in “Gondwana Research” journal
- Bhimbetka Rock Shelters – located in Bhojpur Raisen, Madhya Pradesh (Only Paleolithic site in India)

24. On February 17, The ISRO and the Australian Space Agency have signed an amendment to the MoU for space cooperation which will build on the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the 2 countries announced by PM Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison last year. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ISRO + Australia = signed an amendment to the MoU for space cooperation
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969
- HQs of ASA – Adelaide, South Australia | Agency Executive – Enrico Palermo

25. On February 17, An unmanned Russian “Progress MS-16 cargo ship” (also known as Progress 77) has docked at the International Space Station with a load of supplies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An unmanned Russian “Progress MS-16 cargo ship” (Progress 77) – docked at International Space Station
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

26. IIT Madras-incubated start-up Pi Beam has launched an electric two-wheeler called “PiMo” that can charge faster than a smartphone and comes with a range of 50 km. Priced at ₹30,000, PiMo does not require licence or registration and offers green and easy mobility on Indian roads. It offers the speed of 25 kmph. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pi Beam – launched an electric two-wheeler called “PiMo” that can charge faster than a smartphone
- Range of “PiMo” – 50 km | Speed – 25 kmph | Price – ₹30,000
- Pi Beam – is IIT Madras-incubated start-up

27. On February 15, A SpaceX ‘Falcon 9’ rocket has launched a new batch of 60 Starlink internet satellites into orbit but failed to stick its landing on a floating platform at sea. The two-stage Falcon 9 booster, topped with the 60 broadband spacecraft, lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched a new batch of 60 Starlink internet satellites into orbit – through ‘Falcon 9’ rocket
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk | Founded in – 2002

28. On February 19, The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed “Helina” and “Dhruvastra” Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) in the desert. Helina is the Army variant and Dhruvastra is the Air Force variant of the ALH. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – carried out joint user trials of indigenously developed “Helina” and “Dhruvastra” ATGM from ALH
- ATGM – Anti-Tank Guided Missiles | ALH – Advanced Light Helicopter
- Helina – Army variant of ALH | Dhruvastra – Air Force variant of ALH
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958



29. On February 18, The Directorate of Cashew Research, under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has released a new variety of dwarf cashew named as “Netra Vaman” at Puttur, Karnataka. Its each nut is small in size and is weighed between 5.5 gm to 6 gm. A brochure on “ICAR-DCR Technologies for Commercialisation” was released. A book “Geru-Yettharakke Yeru” written by progressive cashew grower Kadamajalu Subhash Rai was also released on the occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new variety of dwarf cashew named as “Netra Vaman” was released at Puttur, Karnataka
- “Geru-Yettharakke Yeru” book – written by Kadamajalu Subhash Rai
- [Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala](#)

30. On February 19, The Israel Missile Defense Organization along with the US, has begun developing a long-range ballistic missile interceptor, named “Arrow-4”. Arrow-4 will be the next generation of Israel's multi-layered defence doctrine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel + US = commenced the development of the “Arrow-4” - a long-range ballistic missile interceptor
- [Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu](#)
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris](#)

31. On February 20, A Space Station Supply Ship, Northrop Grumman’s Cygnus capsule, named after the Black NASA mathematician S. S. Katherine Johnson, is launched to the International Space Station (ISS) by the NASA. Johnson had featured in the movie ‘Hidden Figures’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA launched – Northrop Grumman’s Cygnus capsule - “Space Station Supply Ship”
- It is named after – S. S. Katherine Johnson (the Black NASA mathematician)

32. February 23, The DRDO has developed & conducted 2 successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-To-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) off the Odisha coast in Balasore. The launches were carried out from a static vertical launcher from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – conducted 2 successful launches of “VL-SRSAM” – off the Odisha coast in Balasore – from ITR, Chandipur
- VL-SRSAM – Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-To-Air Missile
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958](#)

33. On February 24, A new species of alpine plant named as “Cremanthodium Indicum” has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh’s Tawang district by a group of scientists of 3 institutes of India, according to a paper published in ‘Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of Alpine Plant named as “Cremanthodium Indicum” – discovered in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh

- Category – Critically Endangered Species
- The discovery is published in – ‘Biodiversitas: Journal of Biological Diversity’
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

34. On February 24, The UAE’s “Hope” probe has published its first image of Mars after the spacecraft successfully entered the Red Planet's orbit. The picture captured the largest volcano in the solar system - ‘Olympus Mons’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE’s “Hope” probe – published its first image of Mars
- ‘Olympus Mons’ – the largest volcano in the solar system (Mars)
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

35. Two variants/strains of SARS-CoV-2 named “N440K” and “E484K” have been detected in Maharashtra and Kerala. One of the two variants has also been detected in Telangana. Also, 3 other mutated strains - one each from UK, South Africa and Brazil are already present in India. The SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) was established in December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Two variants of SARS-CoV-2 named “N440K” and “E484K” – detected in Maharashtra, Kerala & Telangana



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The Question Bank

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

1. On February 1, Ministry of Corporate Affairs has amended the 'Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014'. These rules may be called the "Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021". They shall come into force on the 1st day of April, 2021. The amendment has reduced the residency limit for an Indian citizen to set up One Person Companies (OPCs) from 182 days to 120 days and also allow Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to incorporate OPCs in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs – amended the 'Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014'
- It will be called the "Companies (Incorporation) Second Amendment Rules, 2021" (effective from 1st April)
- The residency period for being considered as a Resident in India – 120 days (from 182 days)

2. On February 4, An amendment to the "Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961" has been notified to bring Ropeways and Alternate Mobility Solutions under the ambit of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Earlier this area was not assigned to any particular ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An amendment made to the "Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961"
- Ropeways & Alternate Mobility Solutions – will now be developed by 'Ministry of Road Transport and Highways'

3. On February 5, The "SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996" has been amended. The new norms "SEBI (Mutual Funds) Amendment) Regulations, 2021" will come into force on the 30th day from the notification issued by the regulator SEBI. Now, the fund house needs to send dividend payments to the unit-holders within 15 days from the record date from the earlier requirement of 30 days. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996" amended with "SEBI (Mutual Funds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021"
- Now, the dividend payments need to be sent to the unit-holders within 15 days
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi](#)

4. On February 10, The Rajya Sabha has passed "Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020" by replacing "Major Port Trusts Act, 1963". It seeks to convert 11 of the 12 'Ports' run by the Centre into 'Authorities' from the current trustee set-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha – passed "Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020" by replacing "Major Port Trusts Act, 1963"
- The bill seeks to convert 11 of the 12 'Ports' into 'Authorities'



5. On February 17, The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) to amend the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 to introduce measures for strengthening Child Protection set-up to ensure best interest of children. The amendments include authorizing District Magistrate including Additional District Magistrate to issue adoption orders under Section 61 of the JJ Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the proposal of MoWCD to amend “Juvenile Justice (Care & Protection of Children) Act, 2015”
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)





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