18-Feb-2021

* India – Singapore CEO Forum, that was launched in November 2018, again held their meeting
* The Reserve Bank of India has approved the takeover of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) by Piramal Group on February 18, 2021
* The tech-giant Facebook has recently blocked the Australian users from reading and sharing any local and international news
* The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ said that the annual interaction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the students called the ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’ will be held online is the backdrop of ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
* The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot released the “3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary, in a virtual event.
* The National Informatics Centre (NIC), under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has launched an instant messaging platform called “Sandes”
* West Bengal government launched “Maa” canteens for providing subsidised cooked meals for the poor and the destitute at a nominal cost of ₹5. The govt will give a subsidy of ₹15 and people have to pay ₹5.
* HCL Technologies has inked an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) to collaborate in the area of cybersecurity. As part of the pact, the IT company will work with C3iHub, a specialised cybersecurity research centre at IITK
* The e-commerce company Flipkart has partnered with ICICI Lombard to offer its customers the ‘Group SafeGuard’ insurance, a group health insurance policy.
* India joined Iran and Russia in the naval exercise dubbed as “Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021”, which kicked-off in the northern part of the Indian Ocean. The Chinese navy will also join the exercise.

19-Feb-2021

1. The Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, had launched the ‘Go Electric Campaign’ on February 19, 2021.
2. Joe Biden is all set to make the first big appearance on a global stage as president on February 19, 2021.
3. The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, addressed the India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) on February 19, 2021.
4. Israel has announced in February 18, 2021 that it is developing a new ballistic missile shield named “Arrow-4” in collaboration with the United States
5. Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to complete more than three crore COVID-19 tests and administer more than ten lakh vaccines to health care workers and frontline workers.
6. Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio has announced two new grants, namely, the Chief Minister’s Grant for Journalism and the Chief Minister’s Research Grant.
7. Chris Morris became the costliest ever player at an IPL auction for Rajasthan Royal. And Krishnappa Gowtham became the costliest Indian uncapped player for Chennai Super Kings at the IPL 2021 auction.
8. The Bangladesh Supreme Court on 19 Feb 2021 launched the Artificial Intelligence (AI) based translation software ‘Amar Vasha’ through a virtual event.
9. India and Nepal have signed an MoU for the reconstruction of six secondary schools in the Himalayan nation.
10. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has received the Asia Environmental Enforcement Award-2020 awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

20-Feb-2021

1. India and Ethiopia have signed two agreements related to visa facilitation and leather technology.
2. Swedish furniture giant IKEA signed MoU with the Uttar Pradesh govt on 19 Feb’21 for Rs 5,500 cr investment.
3. Sir M Visvesvaraya Railway Terminal in Bengaluru, which will be India’s first centralized AC railway terminal, would be available by the end of Feb’21.
4. Bengaluru emerged as the 3rd worst city in India to be affected by air pollution in 2020 with 12,000 estimated deaths, according to a Greenpeace Southeast Asia analysis.
5. Edtech unicorn BYJU’S has acquired Mumbai-based doubt-solving ed-tech startup Scholr.
6. India administered more than 1 crore doses of vaccine till 19 Feb 2021 becoming 2nd fastest in the world to cross the milestone after the US.
7. The European Union’s Executive Commission pledged on 19 Feb 2021 to double its contribution by giving additional 100 mn euros to the WHO’s Covax program.
8. Covid-19 mutations N440K, E484K, V911I have been found in India.
9. DigiLocker platform was launched for MEA’s Passport Seva Programme by Union Minister V Muraleedharan on 19 Feb’21.
10. Patanjali Ayurved’s Coronil tablet has received certification from the Ayush Ministry as a medicine supporting COVID-19 treatment

21-Feb-2021

1. Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel will inaugurate the 3 day Incredible India Mega Homestay Development & Training Workshop in Darjeeling on 22 Feb’21.
2. EAM S.Jaishankar signed a $50 million defence Line of Credit agreement with the island nation Maldives to facilitate capability building in the maritime domain.
3. Government has announced a new Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir.The scheme is approved with a total outlay of 28 thousand 400 crore rupees.It will be effective from 1st April 2021 and will remain in force up to 31st March 2037.
4. E-commerce marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau to bring local artisans, weavers, & SMBs into e-commerce fold.
5. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and CSIR signed an MoU to support the development, conduct & promotion of health research in country on 19 Feb’21.
6. The Punjab govt paved way for villagers living within the ‘Lal Lakir’ to get their property registered with the revenue department to monetize it or for availing benefits provided by the banks.
7. The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, announced 25 shortlisted cities for the ‘Nurturing Neighborhoods Challenge’ cohort, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation and technical partner WRI India.
8. Nomi Osaka won her fourth Grand Slam title by pulling away to beat Jennifer Brady 6-4, 6-3 in the Australian Open final.
9. European aviation major Airbus has signed an initial pact with FlyBlade India to help develop the on-demand helicopter services market in South Asia.
10. Renowned poet Prabha Varma has bagged Mahakavi Kunchan Nambiar Award 2021 for his outstanding contributions to Malayalam language and literature.