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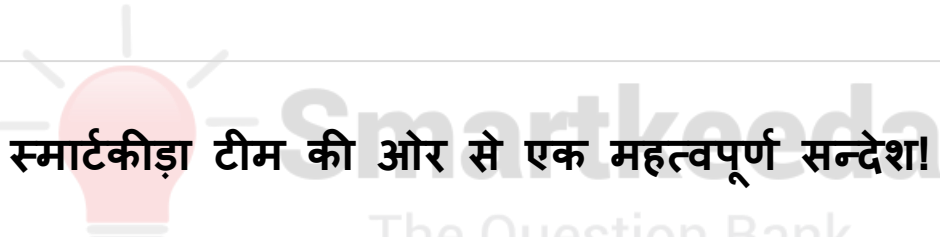
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 दिसम्बर माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

101. India's first mobile Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing unit was launched by Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan. The Mobile Refuelling Unit will be operated by Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL) in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first mobile Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing unit
- The Mobile Refuelling Unit will be operated by – Mahanagar Gas Ltd (MNGL) in Pune
- HQs of Mahanagar Gas – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Rajeev Mathur | Chairman – Bhuwan Chandra Tripathi
- HQs of International Gas Union – Barcelona, Spain | President – Joe M. Kang

102. Lufthansa has launched 'Calendar of Hope' to help Street Children in India. Lufthansa is partnering with ImpactGuru (a Harvard incubated start-up and India's leading healthcare crowdfunding platform) for this initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lufthansa – launched 'Calendar of Hope' to help Street Children in India
- HQs of Lufthansa – Cologne, Germany | CEO – Carsten Spohr

103. HDFC Life has launched a new digital campaign namely "HDFC Click2Wealth" plan that focuses on the role of Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) as part of a prudent financial plan. Through the central message of '#SirfSafeNahiSmartBhiBano', the brand aims to change the way consumers look at ULIPs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life – launched a new digital campaign namely "HDFC Click2Wealth" focused on ULIPs
- HQs of HDFC Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vibha Padalkar

104. The State Board for Wildlife in Maharashtra has decided to declare 10 new Conservation Reserves (CRs) along with a new sanctuary - Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary (the state's 50th) in Chandrapur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – decided to declare 10 new Conservation Reserves (CRs) + 1 new Wildlife Sanctuary
- Kanhargaon Wildlife Sanctuary (the state's 50th) – located in Chandrapur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



105. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched “Mera Covid Kendra” app that gives users the locations of free Covid test centres within a radius of 5 kilometres in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched “Mera Covid Kendra” app
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

106. Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has laid the foundation stone for a Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plant at Bidadi, being developed by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd (KPCL). The plant is expected to be operational by the end of 2022 and is set to be the first WtE plant in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- B.S. Yediyurappa has laid the foundation stone for a Waste-to-Energy plant – at Bidadi, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

107. The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has made it mandatory to mention 8-digit HSN or tariff code for 49 chemical based products while issuing Goods and Services Tax (GST) invoice. Currently, businesses mention up to 4-digit tariff code while issuing invoices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC made it mandatory to mention 8-digit HSN code for 49 chemical based products while issuing GST invoice
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

108. The Dandupur Railway Station situated in Uttar Pradesh has been renamed as “Maa Barahi Devi Dham”. It is situated between Pratapgarh and Badshahpur on Lucknow-Varanasi rail section. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dandupur Railway Station” (Uttar Pradesh) is renamed as – “Maa Barahi Devi Dham”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

109. PSU major NHPC Ltd has stated that the 2,000 MW Subansiri Hydropower Project, which was stalled for nearly 8 years due to intense protests by many groups in Assam, will be commissioned by March 2022. It will be commissioned on Subansiri River. The initial project cost was estimated at Rs 6,285 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- The “2,000 MW Hydropower Project” will be commissioned by March 2022 – on Subansiri River
- Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project (LSHEP) is located in = Assam + Arunachal Pradesh
- Subansiri River – a tributary of Brahmaputra River

110. At the 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority chaired by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, two new zoos - the Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar and Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh were granted recognition. [{Read more}](#)

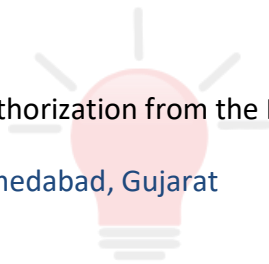
Key Points:

- 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority – chaired by Prakash Javadekar
- 2 new Zoos granted recognition = Rajgir Zoo Safari (Bihar) & Shaheed Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan (UP)

111. Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) has secured authorization from the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to operate as a Gas Exchange for a period of 25 years. IGX is India's first automated delivery-based gas trading platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IGX – secured authorization from the PNGRB to operate as a ‘Gas Exchange’ for a period of 25 years
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat



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112. The Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department has signed an MoU with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to promote and encourage tourism industry by developing river tourism in the state. The MoU was regarding the operation of PAX Vessel in Varanasi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh + IWAI = an MoU to promote River Tourism in the state
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- HQs of IWAI – Noida, UP | Chaiperson – Jalaj Shrivastava

113. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has announced that the state cabinet has approved the construction of a Deep Sea Port in Tajpur. Tajpur Deep Sea Port will be built at a cost of Rs 15,000 Cr and will generate employment for 25,000 people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal approved the construction of state’s 1st Deep Sea Port – in Tajpur (Cost: Rs 15,000 Cr)



- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

114. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the construction of Phase 1 of Agra Metro Rail Project (AMRP) through video conference at the 15 Battalion PAC parade ground in Agra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the construction of Phase 1 of Agra Metro Rail Project (AMRP)
- Agra – the 5th city of Uttar Pradesh to get a Metro System
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

International Affairs

115. New Zealand has joined 32 other countries that have declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ and promised its public sector would become Carbon Neutral by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Zealand – declared a ‘Climate Emergency’ | New Zealand promised to become Carbon Neutral – by 2025
- Total number of countries in the World that have declared ‘Climate Emergency’ = 33 (as of December 2020)
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

116. Libra Association, a cryptocurrency project started by Facebook Inc. has changed its name to “Diem Association” named for the word “day” in Latin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Libra Association – changed its name to “Diem Association”
- Libra Association, a cryptocurrency project started by – Facebook
- Facebook: HQs – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

117. On the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN-CND), the 53-member CND has chosen to affirm a World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation from 2019 to remove Cannabis from its ‘most dangerous’ category, with 27 Member States voting in favour, 25 against, and one abstention. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UN-CND)



- Cannabis – has been removed from the ‘most dangerous’ category

118. Nepal and China have jointly announced the revised height of ‘Mount Everest’ as 8,848.86 meters in a high-profile virtual ceremony. The new height is 86 cm more than the previous measurement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal & China – jointly announced the revised height of ‘Mount Everest’ as 8,848.86 meters
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

Banking & Economic Affairs

119. According to the official data released by Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the Union Government’s fiscal deficit has further increased to ₹9.53 lakh Cr or 119.7% of the annual budget estimate, at the end of October of the current fiscal. The fiscal deficit at the end of September 2020 was about 114.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per data released by CGA – Government’s fiscal deficit increased to ₹9.53 lakh Cr or 119.7% (on Oct-2020)
- Present CGA – Soma Roy Burman
- $\text{Total Expenditure} - \text{Total Receipts/Revenue (excluding borrowings)} = \text{Fiscal Deficit}$

120. Axis Bank has partnered with Rupifi to offer a business credit card powered by Visa. The card will be offered to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to transact on aggregator platforms for their business purchases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rupifi + Axis Bank + Visa = partnership to launch credit card for MSMEs
- HQs of Rupifi – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Anubhav Jain
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly

121. PayNearby, India's largest hyperlocal fintech startup has partnered with YES Bank and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch "PayNearby Shopping Card". The new offering aims to enable PayNearby retailers to seamlessly consume a range of digital services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayNearby + YES Bank + NPCI = to launch "PayNearby Shopping Card"
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

122. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided to keep Repo Rate unchanged at 4%, the Reverse Repo Rate at 3.35% and Bank Rate at 4.25%. The RBI has also projected India's GDP for FY21 at (-7.5%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The RBI's 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on December 4
- Repo Rate – 4% | Reverse Repo Rate – 3.35% | Bank Rate/MSF Rate – 4.25%
- RBI projected India's GDP for FY21 = (-7.5%) [{Flexible News}](#)
- Total members in the RBI's MPC = 6 (3 of RBI + 3 of GoI)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

123. Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB), has launched an overdraft (OD) facility namely "Kirishi OD" scheme for farmers. The limit is capped to a maximum of ₹1.5 lakh per acre to irrigated lands and ₹1 lakh per acre to dry land. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank – launched "Kirishi OD" scheme for farmers
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna

124. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to bring the 26 stressed sectors - identified by the Kamath Committee, within the ambit of sectors eligible under on-tap Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to bring the 26 stressed sectors (identified by the Kamath Committee) under TLTRO



- TLTRO – Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

125. ICICI Bank has launched the “iMobile Pay” app which offers payments and banking services for all. The ‘iMobile Pay’ app offers a combination of facilities of a payment app such as enabling customers to pay to any UPI ID or merchants, pay bills etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched the “iMobile Pay” app
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

126. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has launched of Kotak International REIT Fund of Funds, which is India’s first diversified Real Estate Investment. The open-ended scheme will invest in units of SMAM Asia REIT Sub Trust Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra AMC – launched “REIT Fund of Funds” scheme
- REIT – Real Estate Investment Trusts
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

127. On December 8, Fitch Ratings in its “Global Economic Outlook” report has raised India’s GDP forecast to -9.4% in the current fiscal year to March 2021 from a previously projected contraction of 10.5%. For the global economy, it projected a less severe decline in GDP at -3.7% in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Economic Outlook” report – released by Fitch Ratings
- Fitch Ratings projected India’s GDP = (-9.4%) for FY21
- Fitch Ratings projected the GDP of Global Economy = (-3.7%) for FY21
- HQs of Fitch Solutions – New York, USA | President – Brian Filanowski

128. On December 4, UBS Principal Capital Asia Ltd has sold more than 20,70,000 shares of IndusInd Bank worth Rs 184.51 Cr via Open Market Transaction. The shares of IndusInd Bank were purchased by BofA Securities Europe SA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- UBS Principal Capital Asia – sold more than 20,70,000 shares of ‘IndusInd Bank’ – to ‘BofA Securities Europe SA’
- HQs of UBS – Zurich, Switzerland | HQs of BofA Securities Europe SA – Paris, France
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – "We Make You Feel Richer"

129. Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the “Atmanirbhar Women Scheme” as part of its Baroda Gold Loan. Under the scheme, the bank is offering loans at 0.50% concession for women, agri-gold loan at 0.25% concession and retail loan at 0.50% concession. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB – launched the “Atmanirbhar Women Scheme” (0.50% concession for women)
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha

130. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has introduced a new channel “Money Mitra” to make banking services accessible to customers in their neighbourhood. The bank has established over 100 Money Mitra outlets across the country and plans to scale up further. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ujjivan SFB – introduced a new channel “Money Mitra”
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Nitin Chugh

Defence Affairs

131. American firm Lockheed Martin has shared the first picture of the “MH-60” multi-role 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopter for the Indian Navy. India has placed orders for 24 of these helicopters under a government to government deal which were approved by the USA in April. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lockheed Martin – shared the first picture of the “MH-60” multi-role 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopter
- HQs of Lockheed Martin – Maryland, USA | CEO – Jim Taiclet

132. Indian Navy has begun a 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) aimed at enhancing interoperability. Indian Navy is being represented by indigenously constructed guided-missile frigate Shivalik and anti-submarine corvette Kadmatt along with



integral helicopters. This exercise is being conducted on the occasion of 'Navy Day' on December 4. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PASSEX” – began between India & Russia – in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region
- 2 Indian Warships participated: 1. Shivalik 2. Kadmat
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Schemes & Initiatives

133. Sanjay Dhotre has inaugurated “Five-Star Village Postal Scheme” to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of Uttarakhand. He also distributed ‘Sukanya Samirdhi Yojana’ passbooks, cheque books and ATM cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Dhotre inaugurated “Five-Star Village Postal Scheme” in rural areas of Uttarakhand
- Sukanya Samirdhi Yojana: Central Gov. Scheme | Launched in 2015 | Interest rate – 7.6%
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

134. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has initiated the “Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment (QRMP)” scheme. Starting January 2021, 92% of taxpayers under the Goods and Services Tax regime with an annual turnover of up to ₹5 crore can opt to file their returns once a quarter instead of the present monthly system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC initiated the “QRMP” scheme - Small Taxpayers with turnover up to Rs. 5 Cr (effective from Jan 2021)
- QRMP – Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar

135. On December 7, National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have signed an MoU with Central Bank of India for the implementation of Interest subvention Scheme “Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS)” Yojana of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- NBCFDC + NSFDC + Central Bank of India = an MoU for the implementation of “VISVAS” Yojana
- “VISVAS” Yojana – belongs to Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra

Sports & Games

136. France's Stephanie Frappart will become the first woman to referee a men's UEFA Champions League match. The 36-year-old has already made history as the first woman to referee in the French top flight and took charge of the 2019 UEFA Super Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Stephanie Frappart (France) – became the first woman to referee a men's UEFA Champions League
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

137. Japan will host the 18th Edition of FIFA Club World Cup in 2021, as per the announcement made by FIFA president Gianni Infantino. Japan has hosted the Club World Cup eight times before, most recently in 2016. Qatar is hosting the 2020 edition between February 1 and 11. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – will host the 18th Edition of FIFA Club World Cup in 2021
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

138. The 29-year-old, Corey Anderson has retired from International Cricket and signed a three-year deal with USA's Major League Cricket (MLC). He has played 13 Tests, 49 ODIs and 31 T20Is for New Zealand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Corey Anderson (New Zealand) – retired from International Cricket
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern

139. Kenya's Kibiwott Kandie has smashed the half marathon world record by 29 seconds, becoming the first person to break 58 minutes at the Valencia Half Marathon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Kibiwott Kandie (Kenya) – smashed the half marathon world record
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling

140. Jehan Daruvala has created history when he became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jehan Daruvala (India) – became the first Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the “Sakhir Grand Prix”
- Team – Carlin Motorsport

141. A Swedish pole vaulter Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis was named the male Athlete of the Year, while Venezuelan triple jumper Yulimar Rojas won the women's title at athletics' annual awards ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis (Sweden - Pole Vaulter) – named the male “Athlete of the Year-2020”
- Yulimar Rojas (Venezuela - Triple Jumper) – named the female “Athlete of the Year-2020”



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Important Days & Dates

142. Indian Navy day is observed on December 4 every year to commemorate the launch of ‘Operation Trident’ against Pakistan during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”. This year, the theme was “Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – “Indian Navy day” – to commemorate the launch of ‘Operation Trident’ against Pakistan
- 50th Anniversary of the victory in the 1971 war “Swarnim Vijay Varsh”
- Theme – “Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible & Cohesive”

143. Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of 12th Prime Minister of India “I. K. Gujral” to mark his 101st birth anniversary on December 4, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- M. Venkaiah Naidu released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of I. K. Gujral's 101st birth anniversary
- He was the 12th Prime Minister of India

144. 4 December 2020 marks the first International Day of Banks. The day was celebrated by the United Nations to recognise the vital role of the banking systems in Member States in contributing to the improvement of the standard of living. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 1st ever “International Day of Banks” – by the UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

145. International Volunteers Day (IVD) is observed internationally on December 5 every year. The UN General Assembly has mandated the day in 1985. This year, the theme was “Together We Can Through Volunteering”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 5 – International Volunteers Day – by the UNGA – since 1985
- Theme – “Together We Can Through Volunteering”
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir

146. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has inaugurated the 63rd Founding Day Celebrations of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on December 4. On the occasion, Bravery Awards were conferred upon Najimudheen T S of DRI Cochin Zonal Unit and Sumer Sen, an independent witness of a case booked by DRI, Jaipur. [{Read more}](#)[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 4 – 63rd Founding Day of DRI – inaugurated by Nirmala Sitharaman
- “Bravery Awards” conferred upon – Najimudheen T S & Sumer Sen

147. India has been observing December 7 as the Armed Forces Flag Day since 1949 to honour those soldiers who valiantly fought on the borders to safeguard the country's honour. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh stated that Indian government will celebrate the month of December as “Gaurav Maah” (Pride Month) to honour the contributions of the armed forces and their veterans to the nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- December 7 – “Armed Forces Flag Day” – since 1949
- Indian government to celebrate “December” month as “Gaurav Maah” (Pride Month)

148. “International Civil Aviation Day” is observed on December 7th every year to reinforce awareness of the role and importance of International Civil Aviation Organisation in air travel across the globe. This year, the theme was “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 7 – “International Civil Aviation Day” – since 1994
- Theme – “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development” (valid till 2023)

149. “SAARC Charter Day” is observed annually on 8th December. The day marks the signing of the SAARC Charter in 1985 by the Leaders of SAARC Countries at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka. This year marks the 36th edition of SAARC Charter Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 36th “SAARC Charter Day” | Signing of the SAARC Charter in – 1985
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary Generals – Amjad Hussain B Sial

150. Army Service Corps (ASC) has celebrated its 260th Corps Day on December 8, 2020 at Headquarters Western Command Chandimandir, Haryana. The solemn occasion was marked by wreath laying ceremony at “Veer Smriti”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 260th Corps Day or Raising Day – celebrated by Army Service Corps (ASC)
- It was celebrated at – Western Command Chandimandir, Haryana
- Major General of Army Service Corps Western Command – Harsh Chhibber
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

151. The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy observed the 53rd Submarine Day on December 8, 2020. The 53rd Submarine Day commemorates the maiden unfurling of the naval ensign on the erstwhile INS Kalvari at Riga, Latvia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 53rd Submarine Day – observed by Western Naval Command
- The first submarine of Indian Navy – INS Kalvari



- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

152. The UN’s “International Anti Corruption Day” is observed on December 9 in order for us to put our thoughts and actions in preventing corruption in various organisations and institutions around the world. According to the United Nations, the theme for the year 2020 is “Recover with integrity”. [{Read more}](#)

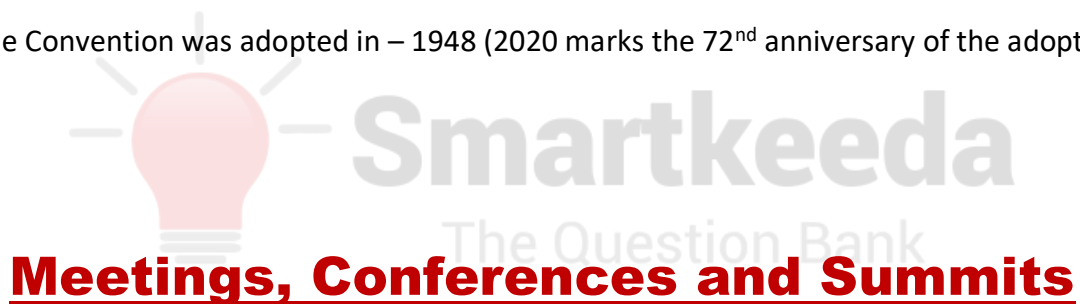
Key Points:

- December 9 – The 15th “International Anti Corruption Day” - by UN
- Theme – “Recover with integrity”

153. “The International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime” or “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide” is observed on December 9. The Genocide Convention was adopted in December 1948. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide”
- The Genocide Convention was adopted in – 1948 (2020 marks the 72nd anniversary of the adoption)



154. Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has addressed the first virtual “Shanghai Cooperation Organisation - Young Scientist Conclave 2020” (SCO-YSC). The conclave was hosted by India. The conclave was held with a theme of “Shaping SCO-STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan addressed the first virtual “SCO-YSC 2020” – hosted by India
- Theme – “Shaping SCO-STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) Partnership: Young Scientists Perspectives”
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

155. The 7th meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation was held virtually on December 3. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has participated in this meeting. Both the countries acknowledged that this year has marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia. S. Jaishankar has virtually handed over 25 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur, the Buddhist canonical text in 108 volumes, printed by the Government of India under the ‘National Mission for Manuscripts’. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The 7th meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Committee on Cooperation – participated by S. Jaishankar
- This year marked the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Mongolia
- India printed 25 volumes of 'Kanjur' - a Mongolian language
- [Mongolia – Ulaanbaatar – Mongolian Togrog | President – Khaltmaagiin Battulga](#)

156. The 7th edition of a 3-day virtual conclave on “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) -2020” was kicked off in Hyderabad, Telangana from December 2-4, 2020. It was organised by UNICEF in collaboration with the 3 State governments and the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR). The theme of this year’s conclave is “Hygiene Matters”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th edition of 3-day virtual conclave on “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) -2020” – started in Hyderabad
- Theme – “Hygiene Matters” | It was organised by – UNICEF
- 3 States participated – Telangana, Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka
- Target year to provide access of safe and adequate drinking water to all households – 2024
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore](#)

157. Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan has addressed 'Building Bridges for Constructive Development' at the 6th India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave held from December 3-4. A Project Development Fund titled “PDF-CLMV Fund” with a corpus of Rs 500 Cr has been created by government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V Muraleedharan addressed – the 6th India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave
- [Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat](#)

158. Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Nityanand Rai has addressed the 4th South Asian Forum of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - 2020. The gathering was virtually organised by UNESCAP & Maldives. The key objectives of the High Level meeting were to identify the opportunities and imperatives to overcome the challenges in implementing the systemic approach to disaster and public health risk management. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nityanand Rai – addressed the 4th South Asian Forum of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) - 2020



- Minister of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat
- Minister of State for Home Affairs – Shri Nityanand Rai

159. Narendra Modi has delivered the keynote address at the “IIT-2020 Global Summit” on December 4. The theme of this year's summit, organised by the PanIIT USA is “The Future is Now”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the “IIT-2020 Global Summit” – organised by the PanIIT USA
- Theme – “The Future is Now”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

160. The National Defence Academy (NDA) has instituted a trophy in the memory of Lieutenant Ummer Fayaz, an Army officer alumnus of the tri-services academy, who was kidnapped and killed by militants in May 2017 in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDA instituted a trophy in the memory of Lt. Ummer Fayaz
- HQs of NDA – Pune, Maharashtra | Commandant – General Asit Mistry

161. President Donald Trump has awarded the “Medal of Freedom” to Lou Holtz in an Oval Office ceremony. He served as the head football coach of the University of Notre Dame and the University of South Carolina. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Donald Trump awarded the “Medal of Freedom” to – Lou Holtz (Former football coach from USA)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

162. British Indian journalist and author Anita Anand's book “The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj” has won a prestigious history-literary prize namely “PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History 2020” in the UK. The prize carries the amount of £2,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj” book – written by Anita Anand



- Her book won the “PEN Hessel-Tiltman Prize for History 2020” in the UK (Prize of £2,000)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

163. Adar C. Poonawalla, the CEO of Serum Institute of India (SII), is among 6 people named “Asians of the Year” by Singapore's leading daily - The Straits Times for their work in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. SII has collaborated with Oxford University and AstraZeneca for making the COVID-19 vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adar Poonawalla – is among 6 people named “Asians of the Year” by The Straits Times (Singapore)
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

164. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared “Invest India” as winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020. The award ceremony took place on Monday at the UNCTAD headquarters in Geneva. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNCTAD declared “Invest India” as winner of the “United Nations Investment Promotion Award 2020”
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | UNCTAD Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

165. The historical fort cities of Gwalior and Orchha in Madhya Pradesh have been included in the list of UNESCOs World Heritage Cities under its ‘Urban Landscape City’ programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gwalior & Orchha (Madhya Pradesh) = included in the list of UNESCOs World Heritage Cities
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Appointments & Resignations

166. Uday Shankar has been named as the President of FICCI for the year 2020-21. He has succeeded Sangita Reddy during FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on December 11, 12 and 14, 2020. Currently, Shankar is the President of The Walt Disney Company for Asia Pacific and the Chairman of Star and Disney India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- Uday Shankar – appointed as the President of FICCI (by succeeding - Sangita Reddy)
- FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on December 11, 12 and 14 | Theme – “Inspired India”
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar

167. Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched The WHO Foundation. It which works alongside the World Health Organization to address most pressing health challenges across the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Soni – appointed as the first CEO of the WHO Foundation
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

168. On December 7, Romania's president Klaus Iohannis has appointed defence minister Nicolae Ionel Ciuca as Interim Prime Minister to replace Ludovic Orban who resigned December 8. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nicolae Ionel Ciuca – appointed as Interim Prime Minister of – Romania
- Ludovic Orban – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of – Romania
- Romania – Bucharest – Leu | President – Klaus Iohannis | Interim PM – Nicolae Ionel Ciuca

Amount & Agreements

169. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$190 million (over Rs 1,400 Cr) loan to modernize and upgrade the power distribution system in Karnataka for the Bengaluru Smart Energy Efficient Power Distribution Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$190 million (over Rs 1,400 Cr) loan for upgradation of Bengaluru power distribution system
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

170. On December 7, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$2.5 million (about Rs 18 Cr) technical assistance to support advanced biofuel development in India. The grant is funded from the Asia Clean Energy



Fund, financed by the Government of Japan under the Clean Energy Financing Partnership Facility, and the Republic of Korea's e-Asia and Knowledge Partnership Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$2.5 million (about Rs 18 Cr) for advanced Biofuel Development in India
- ADB: HQ – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | VP – Ashok Lavasa | MC – 68

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

171. “The Production Gap” report is produced by the UNEP and published on December 2, 2020. The report has warned to follow a 1.5°C-consistent pathway. The governments would need to decrease fossil fuel production by roughly 6% a year between 2020 and 2030. They are, instead, projecting an average annual increase of 2%. This would result in more than double the production consistent with the 1.5°C limit by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Production Gap” report is produced by – UNEP
- Average warming Target – 1.5°C limit by 2030
- The governments need to decrease fossil fuel production – by 6%
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

172. According to the World Meteorological Organization's annual “State of the Global Climate 2020” report, year 2020 is on track to being one of the three warmest years on record. Global temperatures from January to October were around 1.2 degrees Celsius. The most notable warming in 2020 happened in the Siberian Arctic, according to the report. Greenland lost 152 billion tons of ice this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of the Global Climate 2020” report – by WMO
- 2020 is on track to being one of the three warmest years
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas

173. The number of people living in extreme poverty (earning less than Rs 150 or \$1.90 per day), will increase by over 32 million in 2020 because of COVID-19, according to “The Least Developed Countries Report 2020” by UNCTAD. This was expected to lead to a 2.6% reduction in per capita income in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in 2020, with 43 out of 47 LDCs experiencing a fall in their average income levels. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “The Least Developed Countries Report 2020” – by UNCTAD
- The number of people living in Extreme Poverty will increase by over 32 million in 2020
- Extreme Poverty = Earning less than Rs 150 or \$1.90 per day
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Mukhisa Kituyi

174. Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named by Fortune among the Businessperson of the Year 2020 at 8th & 9th position respectively. The list is topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk. The Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year is Elon Musk for a second time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year” – topped by CEO of Tesla & SpaceX - Elon Musk (2nd time)
- Shantanu Narayen – 8th (Adobe CEO) | Ajay Banga – 9th (Mastercard CEO)

175. According to a report titled “The Global Wage Report 2020-21” published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) on December 2, 2020, Low-paid workers, disproportionately women, were the most affected by loss of working hours. The average wages in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly in the first six months of 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Global Wage Report 2020-21” report – published by ILO
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder

176. India's iconic Western Ghats (inscribed as a natural world heritage site by UNESCO in 2012) is threatened by population pressure, urbanisation and climate change, according to a new report “IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The conservation outlook of the mountain chain of the Western Ghats is of significant concern. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Western Ghats” is under ‘Significant Concern’ – according to “IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3” report
- Western Ghats – declared as UNESCO world heritage site – in 2012
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre – Mechtild Rossler



177. On December 8, India remains in the top 10 for the second year in a row ranking at the 10th spot in the latest global “Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” released by Germanwatch and NewClimate Institute (Germany) along with the Climate Action Network (CAN International). No country has placed on the first 3 positions and Sweden has stood at the fourth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 16th edition of “Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)” – released by Germanwatch
- India – 10th | 1 to 3 spots – No countries | 4th – Sweden

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

178. NTPC Ltd has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal, to implement the Narmada Landscape Restoration Project (NLRP) in Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh. The program is being implemented in partnership with a grant-in-aid from NTPC and USAID in equal proportions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + IIFM-Bhopal – an MoU to implement “Narmada Landscape Restoration Project”
- Funds for NLRP to be provided equally by = NTPC & USAID
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green

179. On December 7, the CSIR-National Metallurgical Laboratory (NML), Jamshedpur has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force on research and development in material Science & Engineering. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NML (Jamshedpur) + IAF = an MoU on research and development in material Science & Engineering
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

180. On December 8, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) has entered a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with SJVN Ltd for Green Energy Projects. SJVN is presently developing 100-megawatt (MW) Dholera solar power project and 100-MW Raghanseda solar project in Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- IREDA + SJVN = an MoU for Green Energy Projects
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | Director – Girish Kumar
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | CMD – Nand Lal Sharma

181. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and NABARD have signed an MoU to utilise their expertise by working together to synergize the activities in the interest of agriculture & allied sectors and to implement Agriculture Export Policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- APEDA + NABARD = an MoU to Cooperate in Agriculture Activities & to implement Agriculture Export Policy
- HQs of APEDA – New Delhi | Chairman – Paban K. Borthakur
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu

182. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have signed an MoU on December 2 to increase intellectual property cooperation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT (India) + USPTO (USA) = an MoU to increase intellectual property cooperation
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

183. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has announced a strategic MoU with Mastercard and National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (ni-msme) to launch the “Digital Saksham” initiative - an expansive program designed to strengthen the competitiveness of MSMEs through digital know-how and acceptance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CII + Mastercard + ni-msme = partnership to launch the “Digital Saksham” initiative in India
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)



184. ICICI Lombard General Insurance has partnered with Plum Benefits Private Limited (India's fastest growing employee health insurance startup) to re-imagine and co-create India's first technologically backed group health insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard + Plum = to co-create India's first technologically backed group health insurance products
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta
- HQs of Plum Benefits – Bengaluru, Karnataka

185. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) India has announced a strategic collaboration with UNICEF and YuWaah to help bridge the digital gap. Under the initiative, 300 million young people in India will be upskilled over the next 10 years. A multi-sector partnership has aimed at helping 1.8 billion young people transition from school to work by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PwC India+ UNICEF + YuWaah = collaboration to upskill 300 million youth in India over next decade
- Aim: 1.8 billion young people transition from school to work by 2030
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore



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Books & Authors

186. Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has presented the first copy of his inspirational book "Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind" to President Ram Nath Kovind at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The book is in Hindi with the title 'Manavta ke Praneta Maharishi Arvind'. The book is about Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (Maharishi Arvind). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal – presented the first copy of his book titled "Pioneer of Humanity: Maharishi Arvind"
- The book is about – Sri Aurobindo Ghosh (an Indian Philosopher)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

187. A book titled "Romancing Targets" is authored by Nidhi Vadhera. In this book, she shares with you a systematic approach to understand the sales process which will empower you to embrace sales targets and achieve results without getting burnt in the process. The book was published by Success Gyan Publishing. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Romancing Targets” book – authored by Nidhi Vadhera

188. Best-selling author Amish Tripathi has announced a new non-fiction book “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life”. This would be his second in the genre after Immortal India, which was released in 2017. The book has been co-authored by Amish’s sister Bhavna Roy and published by Westland Publications. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life” book – authored by Amish Tripathi + Bhavna Roy
- Published by – Westland Publications

Obituaries

189. Lakshwadweep’s Administrator and former Intelligence Bureau chief Dineshwar Sharma has passed away. He was 66. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dineshwar Sharma – Lakshwadweep’s Administrator – passed away (former Chief of IB)

190. American film actor Rafer Johnson, who won the Decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics has passed away. He acted in “License to Kill” 1989 James Bond movie. He was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rafer Johnson (USA) – an Actor & Sports person – passed away (winner of Decathlon at the 1960 Rome Olympics)
- [HQs of International Gas Union – Barcelona, Spain | President – Joe M. Kang](#)

191. Veteran Marathi Actor Ravi Patwardhan has passed away recently. He was 84. He was best known for starring in the Marathi show Aggabai Sasubai and 1980s Hindi films like Tezaab and Ankush. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Patwardhan – Marathi Actor – passed away
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)



192. Former Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez has passed away recently in December after suffering from lung cancer. He was 80. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tabare Vazquez – Former Uruguayan President – passed away
- Uruguay – Montevideo – Peso Uruguayo

193. Justice G. R. Udhwani of Gujarat High Court has died of COVID-19. He was 59. Justice Udhwani was elevated as High Court judge in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

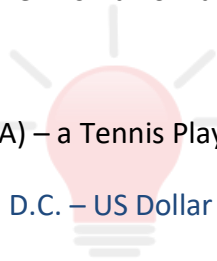
Key Points:

- Justice G. R. Udhwani – Judge of Gujarat High Court – passed away
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

194. Dennis Ralston has passed away recently in December. He was a 5-time Grand Slam doubles champion and an International Tennis Hall of Fame inductee. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dennis Ralston (USA) – a Tennis Player – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden



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Person in News

195. Former Punjab Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal patron Parkash Singh Badal has returned his “Padma Vibhushan” award in protest against what he termed as the “betrayal of farmers”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Parkash Singh Badal (Former CM of Punjab) – returned his “Padma Vibhushan” award in protest to the Farm Bills
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore



Science & Technology

196. Space start-up Pixxel has signed an agreement with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) to launch India's first Private Remote-Sensing Satellite on an ISRO PSLV rocket in early 2021 under the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pixxel + NewSpace India = to launch India's 1st Private Remote-Sensing Satellite on an ISRO PSLV rocket in 2021
- HQs of Pixxel – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Awais Ahmed
- HQs of NewSpace India – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan | ED – Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

197. SpaceX has recently launched its 21st Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-21) to International space station (ISS) by using a Falcon 9 rocket. It was launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX – launched its 21st Commercial Resupply Services mission “CRS-21” (by using a Falcon 9 rocket)
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

198. The first rock samples from beneath the surface of Asteroid ‘Ryugu’ was collected by the Japanese spacecraft Hayabusa-2. A capsule containing the first significant quantities of rock from an asteroid is in “perfect” shape. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hayabusa 2 (JAXA) – collected the first rock samples from beneath the surface of Asteroid ‘Ryugu’
- HQs of JAXA – Tokyo, Japan | Administrator – Hiroshi Yamakawa

199. The made-in-India “Howitzer” - Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) has undergone for trials in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar on December 6. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with a striking range of around 50 km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Howitzer” - Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) underwent for trials in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra



- It is developed by – DRDO (India) | Strike Range – 50 km
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

200. On December 6, China has successfully launched a new Earth observation satellite “Gaofen-14” which can take high-resolution pictures of ground objects across the globe. The satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched a new Earth observation satellite “Gaofen-14” (by a Long March-3B carrier rocket)
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping





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