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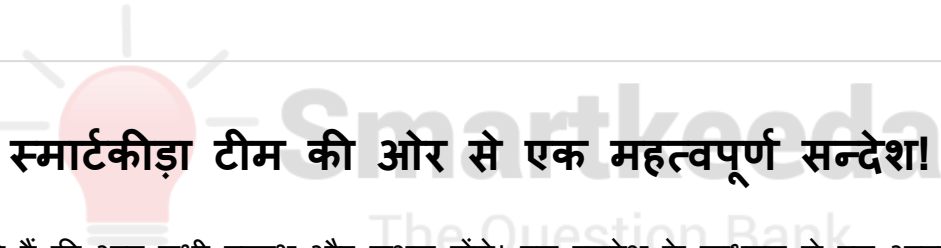
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 पढ़ना, 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

**201.** The 8<sup>th</sup> North East Festival (NEF) was held in Guwahati on December 19 and 20. Assam Government is the host State. The North East Festival is an attempt to showcase and create awareness about India's North East and to promote entrepreneurship and tourism. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- The 8<sup>th</sup> North East Festival (NEF) was held in – Guwahati | Host State – Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**202.** The Union Health Ministry has developed a digital platform, including a mobile application namely "Co-WIN" for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, recording data and to enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Union Health Ministry – launched "Co-WIN" app for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery
- Health & Family Welfare Minister – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk, New Delhi

**203.** The Mizoram government has launched a project christened as "Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers" to assist the migrant workers find suitable employment who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is Rs 3.3 Cr project under the Mizoram Youth Commission (MZYC). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Mizoram – launched a project christened as "Livelihood Generation for Returned Migrant Workers"
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**204.** The Gujarat forest department has transferred 12 leopards to 'Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom' in Jamnagar for their maintenance and upkeep as part of a public private partnership (PPP) project between the state government and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Gujarat – transferred 12 leopards to 'Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation Kingdom' in Jamnagar
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani



**205.** Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 15 National Highway projects worth ₹4,127 Cr in Nagaland. 55 highway projects worth ₹11,711 Cr were approved for the state in the last 6 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated 15 National Highway projects in Nagaland (worth ₹4,127 Cr)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

**206.** The Delhi government has launched a forum to engage with stakeholders for the successful implementation of its recently launched Electric Vehicles (EV) policy. It aims at having an electric vehicle market share of 25% across all new vehicle sales in Delhi by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched a forum for the successful implementation of Electric Vehicles (EV) policy
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**207.** The northeastern state of Mizoram has entered the solar map of the country with the commissioning of the first solar power plant at Tlungvel. The grid-connected 2-megawatt Solar PhotoVoltaic (SPV) plant was inaugurated by the state's Power Minister R Lalzirliana. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mizoram – inaugurated the first 2-MW Solar PhotoVoltaic (SPV) plant – at Tlungvel
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**208.** Jharkhand school education and literacy (SEL) department has launched 2 educational applications “Learnytic” & “Digischool” for students of class 9 to class 12 & class 1 to class 8 respectively. It aims to provide classroom-like education experience at home and reduce educational loss due to lockdowns. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched 2 educational applications “Learnytic” & “Digischool”
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu

**209.** The Uttar Pradesh government has recently embarked upon a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic ‘Tharu tribe’ across the world. The intention is to put Tharu villages on the tourism map, and to create jobs and bring economic independence to the tribal population. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic ‘Tharu tribe’ across the world



- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**210.** Japan Foundation New Delhi has launched the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Japanese Film Festival (JFF) 2020 in India on 4 December 2020. The one-of-a-kind 10-day digital Film Festival will be held from 4 to 13 December. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Japanese Film Festival (JFF) 2020 – held in India from 4 to 13 December
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**211.** The cyber wing of the Maharashtra Police has recently acquired a software “Crawler” from Interpol that would help them track down child pornography uploaded online. TRACE unit was set up by Maharashtra Cyber to counter child pornography. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra Police – acquired “Crawler” software from ‘Interpol’ to crack down on child porn
- TRACE – Tactical Response Against Cyber Child Exploitation
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Kim Jong Yang

**212.** The AYUSH Ministry has announced that the upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune will be called ‘Nisarg Gram’. This decision has been taken to invoke recollections of Mahatma Gandhi's famous nature cure campaign of 1946 at the ‘Nisarg Upchar’ Ashram in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The upcoming new campus of the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune will be called ‘Nisarg Gram’
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- HQs of NIN – Pune, Maharashtra

**213.** On December 10, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched its new digital campaign - ‘Heroes of My City’ celebrating real life heroes and their acts of generosity during the ongoing pandemic. This two month long campaign is an extension to the initiative ‘me for my city’ which was launched in 2018 by Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance – launched its new digital campaign - ‘Heroes of My City’



- HQs of Canara HSBC OBC Life Ins. – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Anuj Mathur

**214.** On December 9, Insurance regulator IRDAI has proposed a standard personal accident product with common coverage and policy wordings across the industry. General and health insurers should offer the product from April 1, 2021 onwards with minimum sum insured of Rs 2.5 lakh and a maximum sum insured of Rs 1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI asked all General and health insurers to offer the standard personal accident product – from April 1, 2021
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 2.5 lakh | Maximum sum insured – Rs 1 Cr
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**215.** On December 9, Max Life Insurance has announced the launch of “Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider” and with it, the launch of “Max Fit”, a comprehensive wellness programme. The rider provides comprehensive financial protection against a range of 22 to 64 critical illnesses and disability. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Max Life Insurance launched “Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Rider” & “Max Fit” programme
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy

**216.** On December 10, Tourism Department of Odisha has kick started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of its flagship “Eco-Retreat” programme. It is a 3-month-long glamping festival. Odisha Tourism has started Eco-Retreats at 5 major tourist destinations in Konark, Bhitarkanika, Daringibadi, Hiraakud and Satkosia this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – started the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of its flagship “Eco-Retreat” programme
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**217.** On December 9, The Union Cabinet has approved the Provision of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Mainland (Kochi) and Lakshadweep Islands (KLI Project). The estimated cost of implementation is about Rs 1,072 Cr. The Project would be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**





- The Provision approved for Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity – between Kochi & Lakshadweep Islands
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma

**218.** On December 10, The Union cabinet has cleared a proposal recommended by TRAI, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) to allow Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to set up public Wi-Fi networks. The public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as “PM-WANI”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union cabinet approved a proposal to set up the public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface - “PM-WANI”
- WANI – Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela

**219.** On December 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament building in New Delhi. He also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the building, which is expected to be completed by 2022. The new building will have an area of 64,500 square metres. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of the new Parliament in New Delhi
- Area: 64,500 square metres | Expected to be completed by – 2022
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

## **International Affairs**

**220.** Oman is the 1<sup>st</sup> country from West Asia that has announced to establish Friendship Association with India. Oman is India’s oldest strategic partner in West Asia. Indian counterpart S Jaishankar has attended the dialogue. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Oman – the 1<sup>st</sup> country from West Asia to establish Friendship Association with India
- Oman – Muscat – Rial | Sultan – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said



**221.** The world's loneliest elephant "Kaavan" has reached Cambodia - on a flight from Islamabad in Pakistan and will now spend his days at the Cambodia Wildlife Sanctuary in the country's northwest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The World's loneliest elephant "Kaavan" has been shifted to Cambodia (from Pakistan)
- Cambodia – Phnom Penh – Riel
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**222.** The UK is examining Ella's death, possibly the first in the world to be legally certified as having been caused by "air pollution". She had died in February, 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The first death in the world to be legally certified as having been caused by "air pollution" – in the UK
- Ella's death took place in – 2013
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**223.** Argentina has passed a 'Millionaire's Tax' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people, to pay for coronavirus measures including medical supplies and relief for the poor and small businesses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Argentina – passed a 'Millionaire's Tax' on about 12,000 of the country's richest people
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso

**224.** The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency has banned cotton and cotton products from the Chinese Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) citing 'Slave Labour'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – banned cotton imports from China citing 'Slave Labour'
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**225.** Bangladesh has signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan allowing duty free access to a range of goods between the 2 countries. This is the first PTA Bangladesh has signed with any country in the world. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh – signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum



# **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**226.** HDFC Bank has invested an undisclosed amount in investment startup Smallcase Technologies. CEO Vasant Kamath has estimated that there are about 2 million users and as much as Rs 50,000 crore has been transacted in smallcases. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HDFC Bank – bought a minority stake of an undisclosed amount – in Smallcase Technologies
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & MD – Aditya Puri (Sashidhar Jagdishan – from Nov.)
- HQs of Smallcase – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Vasanth Kamath

**227.** ICICI Bank has been designated for all financial transactions under National Health Mission (NHM) in West Bengal. The West Bengal government has decided to implement a single bank account system for NHM. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank – designated for all financial transactions in West Bengal – under NHM
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**228.** Federal Bank has entered into a tie-up with OrbitRemit Limited, a money transfer company, to facilitate money transfer from New Zealand to India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Federal Bank + OrbitRemit Ltd = to facilitate money transfer from New Zealand to India
- HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan
- HQs of OrbitRemit Ltd – Wellington, New Zealand

**229.** On December 9, the RBI has cancelled the licence of The Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd, Karad, Maharashtra, as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- RBI cancelled the licence of – Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd
- Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd – Karad, Satara, Maharashtra



**230.** ICICI Bank has inaugurated its representative office Kathmandu, marking the foray of an Indian private sector bank in Nepal. ICICI Bank has expanded its global footprint to 15 countries, including India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank – the first Private Bank of India to open its representative office – in Kathmandu, Nepal
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

**231.** To ensure the adoption of digital payments in a safe and secure manner, the RBI has proposed to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 per transaction from January 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – proposed to increase the limit for contactless card transactions to Rs 5,000 from Rs 2,000 (from Jan 1, 2021)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)

**232.** The RBI has announced introduction of Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) & Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). These include Implemented Core Banking Solution (CBS), a minimum CRAR of 9% and full compliance with the terms and conditions for availing LAF and MSF issued by Financial Markets Operations Department (FMOD). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI introduced Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) & Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) – for RRBs
- CBS – Core Banking Solution | FMOD – Financial Markets Operations Department
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)

**233.** The government has launched the Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP) scheme for Small Taxpayers under GST system. Taxpayers with aggregate annual turnover of up to Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year and have filed their October GSTR-3B (sales) return by November 30, 2020, are eligible for this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian government launched – “Quarterly Return filing & Monthly Payment of Taxes (QRMP)” scheme
- The scheme is for Small Taxpayers with annual turnover of up to Rs 5 Cr in the preceding FY



**234.** The “Asian Development Outlook (ADO) Supplement” by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has upgraded its forecast for the Indian economy, projecting 8% contraction in 2020-21 as compared to 9% estimated earlier. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB projected India’s GDP – (-8%) for 2020-21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**235.** The central government has sold nearly 1 Cr shares of Axis Bank worth around ₹600 Cr through the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI). SUUTI sold 61.43 lakh shares of Axis Bank for ₹374.21 Cr between 2 and 4 December and 36.25 lakh shares for ₹221.47 Cr between November 26 and 27. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Central government has sold nearly 1 Cr shares of ‘Axis Bank’ through SUUTI (worth around ₹600 Cr)
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

**236.** On December 12, Yes Bank in partnership with Mastercard, has recently launched “Yes Private Prime Credit Card” for India’s affluent and ultra High-Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs). The credit card is available on the Mastercard World Elite platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yes Bank + Mastercard = launched “Yes Private Prime Credit Card”
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)



# Defence Affairs

**237.** The Indian Navy has ordered to procure “SMASH 2000 Plus systems” from Israel to destroy high-speed enemy drones. It will be installed mainly on AK-47 and AK 203 rifles and it is manufactured by Israel Firm ‘Smart Shooter’. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Indian Navy – ordered Israel to procure “SMASH 2000 Plus systems” to tackle enemy drones
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

**238.** The air forces of Pakistan and China have commenced a joint exercise “Shaheen (Eagle)-IX” in Sindh province. It is designed to deepen practical cooperation and improve the actual-combat training level of the two sides. The first such drill was held in Pakistan in March 2011. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Shaheen (Eagle)-IX” a joint exercise – commenced between the Air Forces of Pakistan & China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi



## Schemes & Initiatives

**239.** A new rural development scheme in Maharashtra has been named after NCP president Sharad Pawar, who has turned 80 on December 12. The “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” will focus on doubling farmers’ income in the state. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Maharashtra launched “Sharad Pawar Rural Prosperity Scheme” (named after NCP president - Sharad Pawar)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**240.** On December 9, the Union Cabinet has approved the provision of a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme for providing mobile coverage in Arunachal Pradesh and two districts of Assam (Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao) under the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plan (CTDP) for North Eastern Region (NER). The project is targeted to be completed by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Arunachal Pradesh & Assam – to be provided complete mobile coverage under the “USOF” Scheme
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**241.** The Union Cabinet has approved ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana’ (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under “Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0”. Cabinet has approved an expenditure of Rs 1,584 Cr for the current financial year and Rs 22,810 Cr for the entire Scheme period i.e. 2020-2023. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet approved ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana’ (ABRY) to boost employment in the formal sector
- Under – “Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0” | Entire scheme layout – Rs 22,810 Cr





# Sports & Games

**242.** A wicketkeeper-batsman Parthiv Patel announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. Parthiv, 35, has featured in 25 Tests, 38 ODIs and a couple of T20Is for India. In domestic cricket, he featured in 194 first-class matches for Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Parthiv Patel (Gujarat) – retired from all forms of Cricket

**243.** Breakdance has become an official Olympic sport and will make its debut at 2024 Paris Games. Breakdancing will be called 'Breaking' at the Olympics, as it was in the 1970s by hip-hop pioneers in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 'Breakdance' or 'Breaking' – became an official Olympic sport & to make its debut at 2024 Paris Games
- 2024 Summer Olympics – to be held in Paris, France

**244.** Virat Kohli has become the first Indian skipper to win a T20I series in SENA countries - South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia. The Indian skipper also became the only international captain to clinch a series (more than one match) across all formats in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Virat Kohli – became the first Indian skipper to win a T20I series in SENA countries
- SENA countries – South Africa, England, New Zealand, and Australia

**245.** Italian club Napoli has renamed its stadium in honour of former captain Diego Armando Maradona. The Naples city council unanimously approved the change of name from "Stadio San Paolo" to "Stadio Diego Armando Maradona". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- S.S.C. Napoli FC (Italy) – renamed its stadium in honour of former captain 'Diego Maradona' (Argentina)
- From "Stadio San Paolo" – to "Stadio Diego Armando Maradona"

**246.** Former world champion Marina Arzamasova of Belarus received a 4-year ban for doping after her defense that she had taken contaminated over-the-counter supplements was rejected. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**



- Marina Arzamasova (Belarus) – an Athletic (Middle-distance Runner) – banned for 4 years
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas

**247.** Sergio Perez has won “Sakhir Grand Prix” title, his first Formula One career win in his 190<sup>th</sup> race. While Renault's Esteban Ocon took second place with Lance Stroll finishing third. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sergio Perez – won “Sakhir Grand Prix” title (F1)
- Sergio Perez (Mexico) – ‘Racing Point’ Team

**248.** As per the original schedule, the Asia Cup 2020 was to be hosted by Pakistan in August-September but couldn't take place due to COVID-19 pandemic. Sri Lanka will host the Asia Cup in June 2021 while Pakistan has earned the rights to host the event a year after in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka – to host the Asia Cup in June 2021 | Pakistan – to host the Asia Cup in 2022
- Asia Cup is associated with – Cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

**249.** Madagascar has replaced Maldives as the host of the 2023 Indian Ocean Island Games due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The decision came as a result of the challenges Maldives is facing in organising the event during the coronavirus crisis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madagascar – replaced Maldives as the host of the “Indian Ocean Island Games-2023”
- Madagascar – Antananarivo – Malagasy Ariary
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

**250.** Bala Devi (Ngangom Bala Devi) created history by becoming the first Indian woman to score in a professional European football league, when she scored against Motherwell for Rangers FC. She also became the first Indian woman to sign a professional football contract overseas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bala Devi – became the first Indian woman to score in a professional European Football League



- Bala Devi (Football) – plays for Rangers W.F.C Team

## Important Days & Dates

**251.** Every year December 5 is celebrated as “World Soil Day” to bring people’s focus and attention on the importance of healthy soil as well as stress on the importance of sustainable management of soil resources. The theme according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) campaign, is “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 5 – “World Soil Day”
- Theme – “Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity”

**252.** On December 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to the architect of the Constitution Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on his 64<sup>th</sup> death anniversary which is observed as “Mahaparinirvan Diwas”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 6 – “Mahaparinirvan Diwas” (64<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar)

**253.** UN’s Human Rights Day is observed on December 10<sup>th</sup> every year. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. This year's theme is “Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 10 – UN’s Human Rights Day (adopted by UNGA in – 1948)
- Theme – “Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights”
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir

## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**254.** The 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting under the India-Japan ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was held virtually on December 8. The India-Japan ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework was set up almost 7 years ago to advance bilateral cooperation in the field of ICT. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- India & Japan – held 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting under the ICT Comprehensive Cooperation Framework
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**255.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> India Mobile Congress-2020 which was scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> December virtually. The title theme for IMC 2020 is “Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the 4<sup>th</sup> “India Mobile Congress-2020” – on 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December
- Theme – “Inclusive Innovation - Smart, Secure, Sustainable”

**256.** Singapore will host the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting in May, 2021 to discuss the ongoing global issues. It will return to Davos, Switzerland for the Annual Meeting 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Singapore – to host the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting – 2021
- The WEF Annual Meeting 2022 – to be held in Davos, Switzerland
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

**257.** Rajnath Singh has attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) which includes the 10 members of Asean and its eight dialogue partners. This annual meeting was chaired this year by Vietnam. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (ADMM Plus) – chaired by Vietnam
- Chairmanship of ASEAN 2020 – Vietnam | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**258.** Paul Sein Twa has been named the 'Asia winner' of the "Goldman Environmental Prize - 2020", also known as the "Green Nobel Prize" for grassroots activism. He has established a 1.35 million acre (546,300 hectares) peace park namely "Salween Peace Park" two years ago. This prize recognizes 6 grassroots environmental activists annually from each of the world's 6 continents. The remaining winners are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- "Goldman Environmental Prize - 2020" or "Green Nobel Prize"
- Paul Sein Twa (Myanmar) – Asia winner
- Lucie Pinson (France) – Europe winner
- Chibeze Ezekiel (Ghana) – Africa winner
- Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador) – South & Central America winner
- Leydy Pech (Mexico) – Islands & Island Nations winner

**259.** Writer and chief editor of The Indian Express, Raj Kamal Jha has won the "Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020" for his book, 'The City and the Sea'. Choreographer Sandip Soparrkar from India has received the Tagore Prize for Social Achievement. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Raj Kamal Jha – won the "Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020" for his 'The City and the Sea' book
- Sandip Soparrkar + Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said = won the "Tagore Social Achievement Prize 2020"

**260.** India's agri-research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has won the prestigious "International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award" from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for raising awareness about importance of soil health among all stakeholders. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand will give the award to ICAR in an official ceremony to be held in Bangkok in January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- ICAR – won the prestigious "International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award" from the UNFAO
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | President – Narendra Singh Tomar
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945



**261.** Atanu Ghosh directed 'Robibaar' has bagged 2 prestigious awards at the "Madrid International Film Festival 2020". The relationship drama has won the best Lead Actress for Jaya Ahsan and Best Original Screenplay in the Foreign Language Film category. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 'Robibaar' (Bengali Film) – won 2 prestigious awards at the "Madrid International Film Festival 2020"
- The film is directed by – Atanu Ghosh

**262.** Wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan have bagged the top honours "Sportsperson of the Year" in their respective categories at the "FICCI India Sports Awards 2020" held virtually this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bajrang Punia (Wrestler) & Elavenil Valarivan (Shooter) = top honours at "FICCI India Sports Awards 2020"
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar



# Appointments & Resignations

**263.** On December 8, Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the common High Court for the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Rajesh Bindal – appointed as the Chief Justice of common High Court for the union territories of J&K and Ladakh
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**264.** Coffee Day Enterprises appointed Malavika Hegde as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the company. She is the wife of late V.G. Siddhartha, the founder of Coffee Day Global and Amalgamated Bean Coffee Trading Co. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Malavika Hegde – appointed as CEO of – Coffee Day Enterprises

**265.** Zena Wooldridge has been elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of World Squash Federation following the WSF's 2020 Annual General Meeting. Wooldridge has previously served for 6 years as President of the European Squash Federation during 2013-2019. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Zena Wooldridge – elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> President of World Squash Federation
- HQs of WSF – Hastings, UK | President – Zena Wooldridge | Founded in – 1967

**266.** Vivek Murthy, the Indian-origin doctor is appointed as Surgeon General by Joe Biden administration. The 43-year-old has also served as Surgeon General of the United States during the Obama administration. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Vivek Murthy – appointed as Surgeon General by Joe Biden administration
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

**267.** Kuwait Emir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah has re-appointed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah as Prime Minister. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah – re-appointed as Prime Minister of – Kuwait
- Kuwait – Kuwait City – Dinar | PM – Sabah Al-Khalid Al-Sabah | Emir – Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah

## Amount & Agreements

**268.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved USD 300 million (about Rs 2,200 Cr) loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas in India. The program will benefit an estimated 256 million urban residents. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ADB – approved USD 300 million (about Rs 2,200 Cr) loan to improve primary Health Care in urban areas
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**269.** Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has made it to the list of the “World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes”, for the second year in a row. She is ranked 41<sup>st</sup> on the list this year. In 2019, she was ranked at 34. The list has been topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde is ranked second for the second straight year. Vice President of USA, Kamala Harris is ranked third on the list. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – ranked 41<sup>st</sup> in the list of “World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Angela Merkel | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Christine Lagarde | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kamala Harris
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

**270.** The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”, was launched virtually by UNESCO New Delhi, with over 400 attendees. Madhya Pradesh leads among the State government run schools. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:





- 2<sup>nd</sup> “State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical & Vocational Education and Training” – by UNESCO
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

**271.** Truecaller has released its 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “Global Insights Report for 2020”, which ranks India 9<sup>th</sup> on the list of top countries affected by spam calls in 2020. As per the report, Brazil is the most affected country in the world by spam calls followed by the US and Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of “Global Insights Report for 2020” – released by Truecaller
- India – 9<sup>th</sup> | 1<sup>st</sup> – Brazil | 2<sup>nd</sup> – USA | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hungary
- HQs of Truecaller – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO – Alan Mamedi

**272.** A first-of-its-kind study by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has projected that numbers of the “Malayan Giant Squirrel” (*Ratufa bicolor*) could decline by 90% in India by 2050, and if urgent steps are not taken, the species could be extinct in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to a study by ZSI – “Malayan Giant Squirrel” may become extinct
- HQs of ZSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director – K Venkatraman

**273.** India is expected to surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026, according to “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020”. India has the highest average monthly mobile data traffic per smartphone. As per the report, 4 out of every 10 mobile subscriptions in 2026 will be 5G globally with 5G subscriptions forecast to reach 3.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to surpass 350 million 5G subscriptions by 2026 – according to “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020”
- HQs of Ericsson – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO – Borje Ekholm

**274.** Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle have been accused of “zero progress” on reducing plastic waste, after being named the world’s top plastic polluters for the third year in a row. Coca-Cola was ranked the world’s No 1 plastic polluter by “Break Free From Plastic” in its annual report. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Report of Plastic polluter Companies in the world – by “Break Free From Plastic”



- 1<sup>st</sup> – Coca-Cola | 2<sup>nd</sup> – PepsiCo | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nestle

**275.** The North-Eastern states have topped the list of states in managing Covid-19 followed by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, according to a study conducted by SBI Research. Northeast was combined into one. Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh, on the other hand, are at the bottom of the list. The SBI group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh was the Author of this report. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The North- Eastern states” topped the list of states in managing Covid-19 – according to ‘SBI Research’
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Bihar | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Uttar Pradesh
- Author of the report – Soumya Kanti Ghosh

**276.** The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) has released the “Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020”. Overall, Mumbai tops the list of 14, followed closely by Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai & Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Bombay – released the “Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Mumbai | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Delhi | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Kolkata | 4<sup>th</sup> – Chennai | 5<sup>th</sup> – Hyderabad

**277.** On December 7, According to the data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Google Pay and PhonePe together have more than 82% of the market by volume and more than 86% by value. In November, Google Pay had done 960.02 million transactions, accounting for Rs 1.61 trillion, followed by PhonePe, with 868.4 million transactions, worth Rs 1.75 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Google Pay and PhonePe – cover over 82% of the market by volume & over 86% by value
- Google Pay – 960.02 million transactions (Rs 1.61 trillion) | PhonePe – 868.4 million transactions (Rs 1.75 trillion)
- PhonePE HQs – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**278.** On December 9, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has released the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of annual “Emissions Gap Report 2020”. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could decrease by about 7% in 2020 compared with 2019 emission levels due to COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 11<sup>th</sup> edition of annual “Emissions Gap Report 2020” – released by UNEP
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions could decrease by about 7% in 2020 due to COVID-19
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**279.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has allowed Odisha Hydro Power Corporation Limited (OHPC) to acquire 49% shares of AES Corporation (USA) in Odisha Power Generation Corporation (OPGC). Odisha Power is a joint venture with the State government holding 51% shareholding and AES Corporation 49%. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of 49% shares of AES Corp in Odisha Power – by Odisha Hydro Power Corp
- Odisha Power = 49% shareholding of AES Corporation (USA) + 51% shareholding of State government
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**280.** Microsoft India and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) are joining hands for the India edition of “Microsoft Imagine Cup 2021”, an annual innovation challenge for students and technology enthusiasts. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Microsoft + NSDC = partnership for the India edition of “Microsoft Imagine Cup 2021”
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

**281.** The Andhra Pradesh government has signed an MoU with the Survey of India (SoI) for taking up the first of its kind Land Survey christened ‘YSR Jagananna Saswath Bhoo Hakku-Bhoo Raksha Pathakam’. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh + Sol = an MoU to implement first of its kind Land Survey
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of Sol – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | Surveyor General of India – Lt. Gen. Girish Kumar

**282.** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has signed an MoU with the Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology of Austria on technology cooperation in the road infrastructure sector. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Austria + MoRTH = an MoU on technology cooperation in the Road Infrastructure Sector
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**283.** The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between India and Suriname for cooperation in the field of health and medicine. It will also lead towards achieving Atma-nirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) by way of sharing of expertise in public health system. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Suriname = an MoU for cooperation in the field of health and medicine
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi

**284.** The Union Cabinet has approved signing a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between markets regulator SEBI and Luxembourg's Financial and Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF). The MoU will strengthen the information sharing framework and also help in establishing a technical assistance programme. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SEBI + CSSF (Luxembourg) = an MoU to strengthen cross border cooperation in the area of securities regulations
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

**285.** On December 9, SBI General Insurance has partnered with Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd (MIBL) under 'Sajhedaari programme' to raise the insurance penetration in tier-II and III cities. This association will enable the



company to provide health insurance cover to a significant number of people in tier-II and III cities and generate employment. [{Read more}](#)

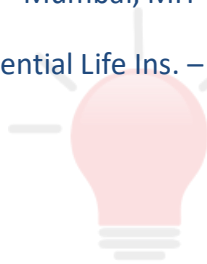
**Key Points:**

- SBI Gen Ins. + Mahindra Insurance Brokers = to raise the insurance penetration in tier-II and III cities
- Sajnedaari programme - belongs to Mahindra Insurance Brokers Ltd
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal
- MD of MIBL – Jaideep Devare

**286.** RBL Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has entered into a Bancassurance Partnership to offer an array of life insurance products to the Bank's customers. RBL Bank will distribute ICICI Prudential Life's products through its network of 398 branches spread across 28 states. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBL Bank + ICICI Prudential Life Insurance = Bancassurance Partnership
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan



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**Books & Authors**

**287.** Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has released the book “Vriksha Vedam” published by the Green India Challenge. The book is authored by Mamidi Harikrishna and edited by Deshapathi Srinivas. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K Chandrashekhar Rao – released the book “Vriksha Vedam” (authored by - Mamidi Harikrishna)
- Edited by – Deshapathi Srinivas | Published by – Green India Challenge



# Obituaries

**288.** Frank Carney has passed away recently in December. He was the co-founder of 'Pizza Hut' and was 82 year old. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Frank Carney (USA) – Co-founder of 'Pizza Hut' – passed away

**289.** Bengali actor Monu Mukherjee has passed away recently in December due to a cardiac arrest. He was 90. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Monu Mukherjee – a Bengali Actor – passed away

**290.** Renowned Physicist, businessman and Sikh activist Narinder Singh Kapany has passed away recently. He was 94. He was called the 'Father of Fiber Optics' and had more than 100 patents in his name. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narinder Singh Kapany – Renowned Physicist, Businessman & Sikh Activist – passed away
- He was known as – the 'Father of Fiber Optics' (100 patents in his name)

**291.** Veteran Hindi writer Madhukar Gangadhar has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was 88 years old. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Madhukar Gangadhar – Hindi writer – passed away

**292.** Legendary Choreographer and Padma Shri Awardee 'Astad Deboo' has passed away recently in December. He was 73 and had created a unique Indian contemporary dance vocabulary. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Astad Deboo – a Choreographer – passed away ("Padma Shri" – for Dance)

**293.** Popular Contemporary Hindi poet and Literary Journalist Manglesh Dabral has passed away recently. He was undergoing treatment for Covid-19. He was 72. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**



- Manglesh Dabral – Hindi poet & Literary Journalist – passed away



## Person in News

**294.** Margaret Keenan, a 90-year-old grandmother from Britain, has become the first person in the world to receive the “Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine” outside of a trial. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Margaret Keenan (Britain, UK) – become the first person in the world to receive the “Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine”
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

## Science & Technology

**295.** WNS Cares Foundation (WCF) has partnered with Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), an initiative under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) by NITI Aayog, to empower children and youth with knowledge on relevant topics around cybersafety and digital education through its “CyberSmart” platform. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- WCF + Atal Tinkering Labs = to empower children and youth with knowledge on relevant topics around cybersafety
- Location of WCF – Mumbai, MH
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**296.** China has become the second country in the world to unfurl its flag on the moon after the United States, which put its flag on the lunar surface some 50 years ago. Chang’e 5 is the third Chinese spacecraft to successfully land on the moon and the first to take off from it again. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- China – became the second country in the world to unfurl its flag on the moon (1<sup>st</sup> – USA)
- By using – Chang’e 5 spacecraft
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**297.** China has successfully launched 2 satellites for the detection of gravitational waves into planned orbit under its Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor (GECAM) mission from





the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province. It was launched by a Long March-11 carrier rocket. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – launched 2 satellites for the detection of gravitational waves – under its ‘GECAM’ mission
- GECAM – Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**298.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated communication between its 2 labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology, which is a “robust” way to share encryption keys. The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – demonstrated communication between its 2 labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology
- DRDL & RCI labs = participated in this demonstration
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

**299.** China successfully powered up its “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor for the first time. The “HL-2M Tokamak” reactor is China’s largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device and scientists hope that the device can potentially unlock a powerful clean energy source. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China successfully powered up its “HL-2M Tokamak” nuclear fusion reactor for the first time
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**300.** The “Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2020” has been drafted along the lines of the Andhra Pradesh Disha Act Criminal Law (AP Amendment) Act, 2019. Once passed by the state legislature, it will be called the “Shakti Act”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Maharashtra state legislature – to pass “Maharashtra Shakti Criminal Law Bill, 2020” or “Shakti Act”
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari





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