



Bipin Nambiar
(SBI PO 2018)



Shiraz Khan
(SBI Clerk 2018)



Kuldeep Yadav
(SBI PO 2018)



Rajat Saxena
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



Anupam Tyagi
(IBPS PO 2018)

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the 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

401. Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), India's first cloud-native insurer, has launched a first of its kind, "Open API" (Application Programming Interface) Gateway, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edelweiss General Insurance – launched a first of its kind, "Open API" Gateway
- HQs of Edelweiss General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO and Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh

402. NITI Aayog has released a White Paper titled "Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India" on a more responsive and citizen-friendly public health surveillance system which would have a better data-sharing mechanism between the Centre and States while ensuring individual privacy and confidentiality. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released a White Paper titled "Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India"
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

403. A rare genus of malaria, "Plasmodium Ovale" has been detected in Kerala. The disease was detected in a soldier who travelled from Sudan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Plasmodium Ovale" - a rare genus of malaria – detected in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

404. Indian Railways launched a Trial Project of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) on December 11 in a bid to achieve a paradigm shift in the healthcare system maintained by the railway network. The hospital management information system is developed by RailTel Corporation Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways – launched a Trial Project of the Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)
- HMIS is developed by – RailTel Corp
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav
- HQs of RailTel – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Puneet Chawla



405. The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Mumbai has claimed to have seized the contraband “Malana Cream” from a person linked to actor Sushant Singh Rajput’s death. It is the charas or hash or hashish which comes from the Malana Valley in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narcotics Control Bureau – seized the contraband “Malana Cream”
- “Malana Cream” – a charas or hash or hashish coming from the Malana Valley, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

406. Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Company Ltd has launched its 5-city outdoor campaign to increase awareness about its recently launched health insurance product - “Kotak Health Shield”. The campaign is spread across 5 major metros of Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Life – launched “Kotak Health Shield” across 5 major metros
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

407. BSE Ebix Insurance Broking Private Ltd has announced the beta launch of term Insurance of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co Ltd, on its state-of-the-art hi-tech platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE Ebix Insurance Broking – launched beta version of term Insurance of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan
- HQs of BSE Ebix Insurance Broking Pvt Ltd – Mumbai, MH

408. Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched “YSR Free Crop Insurance” scheme and credited ₹1,252 Cr into the bank accounts of 9.48 lakh farmers in insurance claims for the agricultural season 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched “YSR Free Crop Insurance” scheme
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



409. The Quality Council of India (QCI) has come out with a scheme for approval of “Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies” with an aim to help consumers. FSSAI's initiative of “Food Hygiene Rating Scheme” - a certification system is also launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Quality Council of India – launched a scheme for approval of “Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies”
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy

410. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Dhordo in Gujarat's Kutch on December 15 and laid the foundation stone of several development projects in the state. These projects include first-of-its-kind world's largest Hybrid Renewable Energy Park and a fully Automated Milk Processing and Packing Plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – visited Dhordo in Gujarat's Kutch on December 15
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone of world's largest ‘Hybrid Renewable Energy Park’ – in Dhordo, Kutch, Guj
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

411. Himalayan Serow, a goat antelope that is rarely spotted, has been sighted by the state wing of Himachal Pradesh in the state's remote Spiti Valley. This rare species has been spotted for the first time as per the reports. It is categorised as Vulnerable in IUCN List. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himalayan Serow – spotted in ‘Spiti Valley’ of Himachal Pradesh for the first time
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

412. Maharashtra government has now unveiled Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR) across the state which is expected to boost real estate activity across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – unveiled Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



413. The government is all set to launch a “Brand India” mission, focused on the promotion of quality products that are manufactured in the country. The move is being piloted by the Piyush Goyal-led commerce and industry ministry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian government – to launch a “Brand India” mission to promote quality products manufactured in India
- The move is being piloted by – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry ([Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra](#))

414. The Ministry of AYUSH has approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in Almora district of Uttarakhand under centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission. The Central Government has decided to operationalise 12,500 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in phased manner by the year 2023-2024 throughout the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of AYUSH – approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in Almora, Uttarakhand
- [Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya](#)

415. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved the Telecom Spectrum auction to be held in March, 2021. The government will sell total 2251.25 MHz spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh Cr (₹3,92,332.70 Cr) in March. The last auction was held in October 2016 and bids worth around ₹65,789 crore were received. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet – approved the Telecom Spectrum auction to be held in March, 2021
- Government will sell – Total 2251.25 MHz spectrum worth ₹3.92 lakh Cr (₹3,92,332.70 Cr)
- The last auction was held in – Oct 2016

416. The Indian government has approved the 6th multi-facilitated Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bangladesh borders to boost trade, economy and easier movement of people. Finance Ministry has given approval of Rs 90.60 Cr to the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) to acquire land for setting up the new ICP at Sabroom in Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gov approved the 6th multi-facilitated ICP along the India-Bangladesh borders at Sabroom, Tripura
- Finance Ministry Rs 90.60 Cr to the LPAI to acquire land for setting up the new ICP
- [HQs of LPAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Aditya Mishra \(LPAI functions under Ministry of Home Affairs\)](#)



417. The Nehru Zoological Park has become the first in India to acquire ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification. The zoo was assessed on the basis of sanitisation, food processing, animal breeding, medicare, animal care, hygiene maintenance and establishment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nehru Zoological Park (Telangana) – became the first in India to acquire “ISO Certification”
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

418. The CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the revised cost estimate of Rs 6,700 Cr for North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) for 6 states to strengthen intra-state transmission and distribution systems. The scheme is being implemented through PowerGrid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved revised cost of Rs 6,700 Cr for power transmission project for 6 North-eastern states
- Arunachal Pradesh – is not in the list of states covered under NERPSIP
- The scheme is being implemented through – PowerGrid
- [HQs of PGCIL – Gurgaon, Haryana | CMD – Kandikuppa Sreekant](#)

419. Mr. Kishan Reddy has formally inaugurated the first of its initiative, the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE), an exclusive facility for training the CRPF personnel in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mr. Kishan Reddy formally inaugurated the 1st National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) in Hyderabad
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)
- [MoS for Home Affairs – G. Kishan Reddy](#)

420. Dr Harsh Vardhan has approved the health data management policy of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) that intends to digitise the entire healthcare ecosystem of India by creating digital health records and creating and maintaining registries for healthcare professionals and health facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – approved the health data management policy of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)
- [Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan \(Chandni Chowk, Delhi\)](#)

421. Nitin Gadkari has launched “Vedic paint” made from cow dung by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to give a boost to the rural economy and help farmers make extra income. The eco-friendly paint will be launched in two variants – Distemper and Emulsion. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari has launched “Vedic paint” made from cow dung – by KVIC
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

International Affairs

422. “Swadhinata Sarak” a road linking India with Mujibnagar, Bangladesh will be opened on March 26 next year to mark 50 years of the country’s independence and to boost people-to-people ties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Swadhinata Sarak” – Between India & Bangladesh (Mujibnagar) – to be opened on March 26, 2021
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

423. Bangladesh has begun moving Rohingya families from refugee camps near Ukha in Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh to ‘Bhasan Char’ - an island formed from a build-up of silt in the Bay of Bengal only 20 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh is shifting Rohingyas families to Bhasan Char Island (Char Piya) in Bangladesh
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

424. The USA has imposed sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russia’s S-400 missile defence system. The issue of sanctions is under Section 231 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – imposed sanctions on Turkey for its purchase of Russia’s S-400 missile defence system
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- Turkey – Ankara – Lira | President – Recep Tayyip Erdogan



425. United States has decided to remove Sudan from the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism” after 27 years. It will eliminate a burden that had weighed on Sudan’s economy since 1993 and restricted its ability to receive aid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – removed ‘Sudan’ from the list of “State Sponsors of Terrorism” after 27 years
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound

426. The Royal Bengal Tiger has been spotted at an altitude of 3,165 meter above sea level for the first time in Nepal, raising concerns about the impact of global warming on wildlife. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Royal Bengal Tiger – spotted at an altitude of 3,165 meter above sea level for the first time – in Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

427. “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” is annually observed on December 17 since 2003 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” – since 2003

Banking & Economic Affairs

428. On December 15, S&P Global Ratings has raised India's growth projection for the current fiscal to -7.7% from -9% estimated earlier for the year ending March 2021 on rising demand and falling COVID infection rates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S&P Global Ratings projected India’s GDP = (-7.7%) in FY21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of S&P Global Ratings – New York, USA



429. Rating agency CRISIL has projected a slower contraction of 7.7% for the Indian economy in the ongoing fiscal (FY21), compared to the (-9%) forecast in September. The agency expects the growth to bounce back to 10% in FY22. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRISIL projected India's GDP = (-7.7%) for FY21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- CRISIL projected India's GDP = 10% for FY22 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of CRISIL – Mumbai, Maharashtra

430. Ewire Softtech (under Kerala Startup Mission) has launched a Prepaid Card in association with YES Bank, enabling the next-generation payment platform provider chart an all-India presence. This can be done via its dedicated RuPay prepaid cards platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ewire Softtech + YES Bank = launched a Prepaid Card
- HQs of Ewire Softtech – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Rakesh Kumar Upadhyay
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

431. Canara Bank has launched “FX 4 U” through internet banking helping users to manage and handle their forex transactions seamlessly. Currently the outward remittances module is active while the remaining modules will be activated soon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank – launched “FX 4 U” to manage and handle their forex transactions
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – “Together We Can”

432. The State Bank of India (SBI), in its latest research update Ecowrap, has stated that India's FY21 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at -7.4% as compared to earlier estimate at -10.9%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI has projected India's GDP = (-7.4%) for FY21
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia



433. The National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) and Citibank have partnered to offer “Citi-NCPA Scholarships” (Hindustani Music Scholarships) to Young Musicians . The entries are limited to the age group of 18 to 35 years and applications will be accepted till 15th January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCPA + Citibank = partnership to offer “Citi-NCPA Scholarships” (Hindustani Music) to Young Musicians
- HQs of Citibank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ashu Khullar
- HQs of NCPA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – K N Suntook

434. Yes Bank in partnership with VISA, has launched a new line of debit cards E-series to enhance payments efficiency for salaried and Yes First account holders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + VISA = launched a new line of debit cards E-series to enhance payments efficiency
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly

435. On December 16, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved 4 India projects worth over \$800 million. The four projects will support India’s efforts to build back better by creating a sustainable and resilient economy. The projects approved are: Chhattisgarh Inclusive Rural and Accelerated Agriculture Growth Project (CHIRAAG), Nagaland: Enhancing Classroom Teaching and Resources Project, Second Accelerating India's COVID-19 Social Protection Response Program & Second Dam Improvement and Rehabilitation Project (DRIP-2). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank – approved 4 India projects worth over \$800 million
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

Defence Affairs

436. Russia will join a military exercise “Aman-2021” next year that will become its first joint drill with NATO countries in a decade. The exercise will take place in February off the coast of Pakistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – to join a military exercise “Aman-2021” (its first joint drill with NATO countries) – off the coast of Pakistan
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



437. “INS Himgiri”, the first of the 3 Indian Navy ‘Project 17A’ - a Nilgiri-class frigate for the Indian Navy was launched on December 14 by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “INS Himgiri” the first of the 3 Indian Navy ‘Project 17A’ - a Nilgiri-class frigate – launched by GRSE
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

438. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship “Sujeet”, the second in the series of 5 Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited, was commissioned at Goa on December 15. ICGS Sachet - the 1st ship in the series of 5 OPVs was launched in May, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS Sujeet (2nd in the series of 5 OPV) – commissioned at Goa (built by - Goa Shipyard Ltd)
- ICGS Sachet – the 1st ship in the series of 5 OPVs
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

439. The first of 3 stealth frigates, INS Himgiri was launched into water from Kolkata. It is built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) under Project 17A for the Navy. The contract for construction of 3 stealth frigates under Project 17A is valued at over ₹19,293 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INS Himgiri – launched into water from Kolkata (built by – GRSE)
- FPVs – Fast Patrol Vessels
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

440. Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has launched the 5th and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) out of an order of 5 such vessels in Goa. The vessel has been named “ICGS Saksham”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa Shipyard Ltd – launched “ICGS Saksham” - the 5th and final Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard Limited – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan



441. Israel's Defense Ministry along with the US Missile Defense Agency has successfully conducted a series of live fire drills with its Multi-Range Missile-Defense System. They are the "Arrow", "David's Sling" and "Iron Dome". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel + USA = successfully test fired 3 multi-range missiles – "Arrow", "David's Sling" & "Iron Dome"
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

442. An indigenously built interceptor boat was handed over to the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at an event at Hazira in Surat. The interceptor boat "C-454" was commissioned at Hazira, Surat (Gujarat) by Surat Police Commissioner Ajay Tomar. It is built by Larsen and Toubro at its Hazira plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICGS "C-454" commissioned at Hazira, Surat (Guj) | Built by – L&T, Hazira plant
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan

443. The country's first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) is set to take concrete shape by next year, with its commander-in-chief having full operational control over the western and eastern naval fleets. The MTC will have its headquarters at the Karwar naval base in coastal Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) – to take concrete shape by 2021 – in Karwar naval base, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

Sports & Games

444. India's Ankita Raina and Ekaterine Gorgodze of Georgia has won the Doubles Title in the ITF Women's Tennis Tournament. Ankita Raina has now ranked No.180 on the WTA in the women's singles competition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ankita Raina (India) & Ekaterine Gorgodze (Georgia) – won Doubles Title in the "ITF Women's Tennis Tournament"
- HQs of ITF – London, UK | President – David Haggerty



445. According to the International Cricket Council, the rescheduled Women's 50-over World Cup in New Zealand will start on March 4, 2022 with the final to be held on April 3. The tournament was originally scheduled for February-March next year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2022 – in New Zealand (March 4, 2022)
- [New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar \(NZD\)](#)

446. Four-time African badminton champion Kate Foo Kune was banned for 2 years in a doping case by the World Badminton Federation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kate Foo Kune (Badminton- Mauritius) – banned for 2 years – by the World Badminton Federation
- [Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth](#)

447. The 39th Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly was recently held on December 16. Doha (Qatar) will host "Asian Games-2030" and Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) will host in 2034. Qatar will also host the 2022 FIFA Football World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 39th Olympic Council of Asia's General Assembly – held on December 16
- [Qatar – will host "Asian Games-2030" | Saudi Arabia – will host "Asian Games-2034"](#)
- [Qatar will also host – "FIFA Football World Cup-2022"](#)
- [Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani](#)
- [Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal](#)

448. Jaffna Stallions has defeated Galle Gladiators by 53 runs in the inaugural season of the final of T20 Lanka Premier League (LPL) 2020 to lift the trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- [Jaffna Stallions – won the inaugural season of the "T20 Lanka Premier League 2020"](#)

Important Days & Dates

449. “International Tea Day” is being observed on December 15 in many countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 15 – “International Tea Day”

450. “Vijay Diwas” or “Victory Day” is celebrated in India every year on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War, also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 16 – 49th “Vijay Diwas” or “Victory Day”
- To commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the “1971 Indo-Pak War”

451. The youth wing of Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA) has celebrated “Losar” festival in Leh on December 15. “Losar” is celebrated to mark the beginning of the new year of the Buddhist community. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 15 – Ladakhi New year “Losar” in Leh – celebrated by Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

452. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the “Climate Ambition Summit-2020” which is being hosted by the United Nations and United Kingdom to mark the 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the “Climate Ambition Summit-2020” – hosted by UN + UK
- December 12 – 5th anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement (adopted in 2015)
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson



453. The 1st Trilateral Working Group meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port was held virtually on December 14. The port is being developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan to boost trade ties among the three countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 1st Trilateral Working Group meeting – held between India, Iran and Uzbekistan
- Chabahar Port – located in Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

454. The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is scheduled to take place from 1–12 November 2021 in Glasgow, UK. as the scheduled meeting this year could not be organised due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be hosted by UK & co-hosted by Chile and Italy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 26th session of the COP 26 to the UNFCCC scheduled to take place from 1–12 Nov 2021 – in Glasgow, UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

455. The Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has virtually inaugurated the ABTO (Association of Buddhist Tour Operators) International Convention. ABTO Convention a 3-day event is being held in partnership with Ministry of Tourism from 10-12 Dec 2020 in Bodhgaya, Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – organised “ABTO International Convention” – in Bodhgaya, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

456. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has stated that the 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held from January 16 to 24 in Goa. A total of 224 films will be screened under different sections. The festival will be held in a hybrid format that will be both virtual and physical for the 1st time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 51st edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) – to be held from January 16 to 24 – in Goa
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



457. India and the U.K. have agreed to set up a Joint Task Force consisting of designated Higher Education Organisations from both the countries to work towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications during a bilateral meeting between India & UK. The meeting was attended by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' & Sanjay Dhotre. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + UK = to set up a Joint Task Force consisting of designated Higher Education Organisations
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' & Sanjay Dhotre – participated in the Bilateral meeting between India & UK
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- MoS for Ministry of Education – Sanjay Dhotre
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

458. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced 6 laureates of the “2020 Champions of the Earth Award”. The 2020 Champions of the Earth are given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 laureates of the “2020 Champions of the Earth Award” – announced by the UNEP
- Professor Robert D. Bullard (USA) – Earth Lifetime Achievement Award
- Dr. Fabian Leendertz (Germany) – Science and Innovation category
- Mindy Lubber (USA) – Entrepreneurial Vision category
- Frank Bainimarama (PM of Fiji) – Policy Leadership category
- Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso) – Inspiration & Action category
- Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador) – Inspiration & Action category
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

459. Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) has presented the “Dr. R. S. Tolia Memorial Award-2020” to Dr Ajay Rawat, an eminent scholar and environmental activist whose legal actions prevented environmental destruction of lakes and forests in the Indian Himalayan region (IHR). Instituted in the name of Dr Raghunandan Singh Tolia, the award carries a citation, a shawl and a cash award of Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Rawat – received “Dr. R. S. Tolia Memorial Award-2020” – by IMI (a cash award of Rs 1 lakh)



460. Department of Posts has conducted “Meghdoot Award Function 2020” on December 15, 2020. The Function was graced by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad as the Chief Guest and Shri Sanjay Dhotre as Guest of Honour. The meghdoot award 2019-20 was given in 8 categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Department of Posts – conducted “Meghdoot Award Function 2020” on December 15
- Chief Guest – Ravi Shankar Prasad | Guest of Honour – Sanjay Dhotre

461. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has named 7 young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and activists from across the globe as its “Young Champions of the Earth-2020”. The names are as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7 winners of the “Young Champions of the Earth-2020” – announced by the UNEP
- Asia and the Pacific: Xiaoyuan Ren (China)
- Asia and The Pacific: Vidyut Mohan (India)
- Europe: Lefteris Arapakis (Greece)
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Max Hidalgo Quinto (Peru)
- North America: Niria Alicia Garcia (USA)
- West Asia: Fatemah Alzelzela (Kuwait)

Appointments & Resignations

462. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Uday Kotak as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank for a further period of 3 years with effect from January 1, 2021. The regulator has also cleared re-appointments of Prakash Apte as part-time chairman, and Dipak Gupta as joint managing director. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uday Kotak – re-appointed as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank – for further 3 years
- Other re-appointments: Prakash Apte – Part-time Chairman | Dipak Gupta – Joint Managing Director
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak



463. Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo has been re-elected after obtaining 51.6% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nana Akufo-Addo – appointed as the President – of Ghana
- Ghana – Accra – Cedi | President – Nana Akufo-Addo

464. Spice Money has joined hands with actor Sonu Sood to digitally and financially empower 1 Crore rural entrepreneurs. He will also be the company's first Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sonu Sood – appointed as Brand Ambassador – of Spice Money

465. Edtech startup Classplus has announced former Indian cricket captain, Sourav Ganguly as its Brand Ambassador and nationwide celebrity endorser. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sourav Ganguly – appointed Brand Ambassador of – 'Classplus' an Edtech startup

466. Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati was elected as the Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU), one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world for a 3-year term starting from 1st January, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashi Shekhar Vempati – elected as the Vice President of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- HQs of ABU – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Ibrahim Eren

Amount & Agreements

467. Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (Norway) has signed an agreement with 'cGanga' for development of sludge management framework in India. The agreement was signed during the 5th India Water Impact 2020 summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Norway + cGanga = an agreement for development of sludge management framework in India
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Erna Solberg



468. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has announced to provide Rs. 25 Cr in the first phase for the development of Dajipur Sanctuary, which is part of the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary in Kolhapur district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – to provide Rs. 25 Cr in the first phase for the development of ‘Dajipur Sanctuary’
- ‘Dajipur Sanctuary’ - a part of the Radhanagari Wildlife Sanctuary – located in Maharashtra
- [Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray](#) | [Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

469. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved assistance of about Rs. 3,500 Cr for sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan). Currently, there are close to 5 crore sugarcane farmers (Ganna Kisan) and their dependents in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs – approved assistance of about Rs. 3,500 Cr for ‘Sugarcane farmers’

470. On December 16, the Indian government has signed a loan agreement worth \$1 billion with the New Development Bank (NDB) to support the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and India’s rural infrastructure. The loan comes with a 30-year tenor and includes a five-year grace period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NDB – to provide \$1 billion to support MGNREG Scheme and India’s rural infrastructure (Tenor – 30 years)
- [HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China](#) | [President – Marcos Troyjo](#)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

471. The historic shock of the COVID-19 crisis will result in a 2% decline in global electricity demand, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA)’s first-ever “Electricity Market Report 2020”. It forecasts electricity demand will grow by about 3% in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to IEA’s “Electricity Market Report 2020” – Global electricity demand to decline by 2% due to Pandemic
- [HQs of IEA – Paris, France](#) | [Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol](#)



472. India has dropped 2 ranks in the UNDP’s “Human Development Index-2020”, standing at 131 out of 189 countries. For the first time, the UNDP has introduced a new metric to reflect the impact caused by each country’s per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP’s “Human Development Index-2020” – topped by Norway | India – 131st (from 129th last year)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner

473. American media personality and reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been crowned the “Highest-Paid Celebrity of 2020” by Forbes with earnings of \$590 million. American rapper and record producer Kanye West is ranked at number 2 on the list by making \$170 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The list of “Highest-Paid Celebrity of 2020” by Forbes – topped by Kylie Jenner (\$590 million)
- 2nd – American rapper ‘Kanye West’ (\$170 million) | 3rd – Roger Federer (\$106.3 million)
- HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey

474. The 5th edition of “2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction” is released by the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC). The report has highlighted that CO₂ emissions from the operation of buildings have increased to their highest level yet at around 10 GtCO₂ or 28% of total global energy-related CO₂ emissions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th edition of “2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction” – released by GlobalABC
- CO₂ emissions from the operation of buildings increased to 10 GtCO₂ or 28% of total Global Energy

Acquisitions & Mergers

475. Britain’s AstraZeneca has agreed to buy US drugmaker Alexion Pharmaceuticals for \$39 billion in cash and shares to bolster its positions in immunology and rare diseases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AstraZeneca – to buy ‘Alexion Pharmaceuticals’ (USA) – for \$39 billion
- HQs of AstraZeneca – Cambridge, UK | CEO – Pascal Soriot



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

476. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) and Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has tied up with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's auto dealerships and build their capacity in this critical growth driver. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FADA + ASDC = tied up with Google India to bridge the digital skills gap in the country's auto dealerships
- HQs of FADA – New Delhi | President – Vinkesh Gulati
- HQs of ASDC – New Delhi | CEO – Arindam Lahiri
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

477. SBI General Insurance has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to offer domestic travel insurance worth Rs 5 lakh which will come along with the travel ticket to bus customers who travel through IntrCity SmartBus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI General Insurance + IntrCity RailYatri = partnership to offer domestic travel insurance worth Rs 5 lakh
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal

478. SBI Card has launched “BPCL SBI Card Octane” in association with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), offering maximum savings to consumers who spend a significant amount on fuel. The card offers 7.25% value back (including 1% surcharge waiver) on fuel and lubricant spends at BPCL fuel stations and 6.25% value back on Bharat Gas spends. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Card + Bharat Petroleum = launched “BPCL SBI Card Octane”
- HQs of SBI Card – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar | MD & CEO – Ashwini Kumar Tewari
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, MH | CMD – K Padmakar

479. The Union Cabinet has approved Central Electricity Regulatory Commission's (CERC) proposal for entering into an MoU with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), USA in the Electricity sector. The MoU will help in improving regulatory and policy framework for developing efficient wholesale power market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



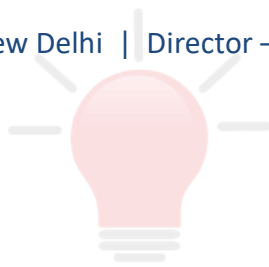
- CERC (India) + FERC (USA) = an MoU in the Electricity sector
- HQs of CERC – New Delhi | Chairman – A. K. Basu
- HQs of FERC – Washington, D.C., USA | Chairperson – James Danly

Books & Authors

480. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has brought out a book namely “The Shaurya Unbound”. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Prakash Birla has released the book in his chamber on the 19th anniversary of the Parliament attack. The first book in this series is a collection of 13 most exemplary acts of valour of the force personnel. CRPF DIG Ms. Nitu is co-author of the book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CRPF brought out a book namely “The Shaurya Unbound” – launched by Om Prakash Birla
- Co-author of the book – Ms. Nitu (CRPF DIG)
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari



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Obituaries

481. American Music Star Charley Pride has passed away recently in December due to complications from COVID-19. He was 86. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charley Pride (USA) – a Singer – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

482. Charles Elwood “Chuck” Yeager, the US test pilot of World War II, has passed away recently on December 8. He became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound, referred to as breaking the “sound barrier” on October 14, 1947. He was 97. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chuck Yeager (USA) – a Test Pilot – passed away
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden



483. Eminent Malayalam writer UA Khader, who enriched Malayalam language and literature with his unique style, has passed away recently on December 12. She was 85. He was recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UA Khader – Malayalam writer – passed away (recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award)

484. On December 8, Eminent aerospace scientist, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan Awardee, Roddam Narasimha has passed away recently. He was 87. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roddam Narasimha – Eminent Aerospace Scientist – passed away (Padma Bhushan & Padma Vibhushan Awardee)

485. Alex Olmedo has passed away recently in December. He was 84. He had won the Wimbledon and Australian Championships singles titles in 1959 and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1987. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alex Olmedo (Peru) – a Tennis player – passed away (Wimbledon and Australian Championships – 1959)
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Martin Vizcarra

486. Veteran Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and 5-time former MP Radhika Ranjan Pramanik has passed away recently. He was 87. He was MP from Mathurapur in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radhika Ranjan Pramanik – a Politician (TMC) – passed away (Constituency – Mathurapur, WB)
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

487. Eswatini Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo (M.) Dlamini, who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus has passed away. He was 52. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ambrose Dlamini – PM of Eswatini – passed away
- Eswatini – Mbabane/Lobamba – Swazi lilangeni



488. Indian Navy's Senior Most Submariner, Vice Admiral Srikant has passed away recently on December 15 due to COVID-19-related complications. He was due to retire on December 31. He was Director General of 'Project Seabird'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Srikant – DG of 'Project Seabird' – passed away

489. Noted wrestler Sripati Khanchanale, who had won the prestigious 'Hind Kesari' title in 1959, has passed away recently in December. He was 86. He was also a recipient of the Shiv Chhatrapati award, which is given by the Maharashtra government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sripati Khanchanale – a Wrestler – passed away
- Winner of: 'Hind Kesari' title in 1959 & 'Shiv Chhatrapati Award' by Maharashtra

Person in News

490. UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will be Chief Guest at India's 72nd Republic Day parade at the Red Fort on 26 January 2021. Boris Johnson would be the first British PM since John Major to be guest of honour at the Rajpath parade in 27 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Boris Johnson – will be Chief Guest at India's 72nd Republic Day parade on 26 January 2021
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

Science & Technology

491. Russia has successfully test launched its heavy lift "Angara A5" space rocket after a six-year hiatus in a project. It was First test-launched in 2014. It is being developed to replace the 'Proton M' as Russia's heavy lift rocket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – successfully test launched its heavy lift "Angara A5" space rocket (First test-launched in 2014)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



492. Tech major IBM will work with Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) to offer “Open P-TECH”, a free digital education platform focused on emerging technologies and professional development skills, for 30,000 students in the State. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IBM + Telangana = partnership to offer “Open P-TECH” a free digital education platform
- HQs of IBM – Armonk, New York, United States | CEO – Arvind Krishna
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

493. SpaceX’s first super heavy-lift Starship Prototype “SN8 rocket” has exploded while attempting to land after a successful test launch from the company's rocket facility in Boca Chica, Texas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SpaceX’s first super heavy-lift Starship Prototype “SN8 rocket” – exploded while attempting to land
- HQs of SpaceX – California, U.S. | CEO – Elon Musk

494. The Department of Posts and the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has unveiled a new digital payment application “DakPay” as part of its ongoing efforts to provide digital financial inclusion at the last mile across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB – launched a new digital payment application “DakPay”
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

495. The Grasshopper Specialist Group of the IUCN is initiating the Red List Assessment of grasshoppers in India for the first time. The assessment will include a new species of grasshopper namely “Tettilobus trishula” or “Shiva's Pygmy Trishula” discovered recently in the Eravikulam National Park in Kerala’s Idukki district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tettilobus trishula” or “Shiva's Pygmy Trishula” – in IUCN’s Red List Assessment of grasshoppers in India
- It was discovered in – Eravikulam National Park (Idukki, Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang



496. China's Chang'e-5 probe successfully touched down on Earth on December 17, bringing home the first samples of the moon in over 40 years. The spacecraft landed in Siziwang Banner in north China. Zhang Kejian, head of the CNSA, declared the Chang'e-5 mission a success. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China's Chang'e-5 spacecraft – brought back to the Earth the first samples of the moon in over 40 years
- China's space agency – CNSA (China National Space Administration)
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

497. On December 14, ISRO has set up 'NETRA' (NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis) - a dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – set up 'NETRA' - a dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities
- NETRA – NETwork for space object TRacking and Analysis
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

498. On December 16, India has successfully testfired two "Prithvi-2" Surface-to-Surface Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) off the eastern coast of Odisha in Balasore. It is developed by DRDO with fire Range of 350 Kilometres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – successfully testfired two "Prithvi-2" ballistic missiles – in Balasore, Odisha
- It is a Surface-to-Surface Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM) | Developed by – DRDO | Range – 350 Km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

499. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has exempted Handicraft and Geographical Indications toys from Quality Control Order. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) mentioned this exemption in Toys (Quality Control) Second Amendment Order, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of C & I – exempted 'Handicraft & GI Toys' from Quality Control Order



- DPIIT comes under – Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- DPIIT HQ – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

500. “The State Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act” has been passed in the last session of the Gujarat state Assembly. It has been framed to ensure time-bound and speedy disposal of complaints and protect the interests of farmers and common man. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat state Assembly passed – “The State Land Grabbing (Prohibition) Act” against illegal land grabbing
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat





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