



**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)

FRIENDS!  
WE USED **TESTZONE**  
AND CRACKED BANK EXAMS  
बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए निश्चित  
रूप से सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक  
टेस्ट सीरीज

IT'S YOUR TURN NOW  
TAKE A **FREE** MOCK TEST



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank



**Testzone presents**  
**Full-Length Current Affairs Mock**  
**Test Series Month-wise**

**December**  
**MockDrill100**  
**PDF No. 7**

**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

**[Attempt Test No 7 Now!](#)**



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

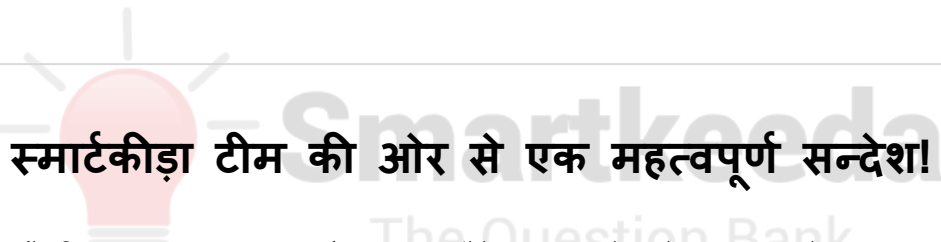
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

# **INDEX**

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	12
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	13
Defence Affairs.....	15
Schemes & Initiatives.....	16
Sports & Games.....	17
Important Days & Dates.....	18
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	18
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	19
Appointments & Resignations.....	21
Amount & Agreements.....	30
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	22
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	24
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	24
Books & Authors.....	27
Obituaries.....	28
Persons in News .....	28
Science & Technology.....	29



## **National & States Affairs**

**601.** The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a 2-month long campaign “Varasat” to curb property & land-related disputes in rural areas. This special campaign will continue till 15<sup>th</sup> February next year. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a 2-month long campaign “Varasat” to curb property & land-related disputes
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**602.** On 17 December, Uttar Pradesh has launched India and South Asia's first blockchain-enabled Peer to Peer (P2P) Trading of Rooftop Solar Power in Lucknow. The project is being implemented by India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) along with blockchain technology partner Power Ledger, Australia and Abajyon Consulting. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India and South Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> blockchain-enabled P2P Trading of Rooftop Solar Power – launched in Lucknow, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**603.** On December 19, the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the “North East Festival” was started with a colourful inaugural function in Guwahati. Union DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh addressed the inaugural function of the two-day North East Festival (NEF). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the “North East Festival” started – in Guwahati (addressed by - Jitendra Singh)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**604.** Nagaland Government has totally banned the use of flex banners, boards and posters by departments, institutions and agencies during functions or programmes in government offices with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Nagaland – totally banned the use of flex banners, boards and posters by departments, institutions and agencies
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi



**605.** The Embassy of Japan in India has shared some photos of the 'E5 Series Shinkansen bullet train'. Indians can now witness the first pictures the bullet train, which probably will be the India avatar for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- E5 Series Shinkansen bullet train – belongs to Japan
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project – India's first high-speed rail corridor (to be built by L&T)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**606.** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has opened India's 8<sup>th</sup> hydrocarbon producing basin when it started oil flow from a well in the Basin in West Bengal. The Bengal basin is spread across nearly 1.22 lakh square km. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ONGC – opened India's 8<sup>th</sup> hydrocarbon producing basin – in West Bengal
- HQs of ONGC – New Delhi | CMD – Sashi Shanker
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**607.** On December 15, Paytm has launched a 24x7 RTGS facility to support the companies that make high-value transactions. It also enables businesses to make bulk and instant money transfers to their employees, vendors & partners. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm – launched a “24x7 RTGS facility” to support the companies that make high-value transactions
- Paytm HQs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Paytm CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- Paytm Payment Bank CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta | Paytm General Ins. CEO – Vineet Arora

**608.** On December 19, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has inaugurated 2 Tribes India showrooms (Kolkata in person and Gwalior virtually) in a grand opening ceremony in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Munda – inaugurated 2 Tribes India showrooms – in Kolkata & Gwalior
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)



**609.** The Modi government has decided to constitute a high-level committee headed by home minister Amit Shah to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose which will be on January 23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government decided to constitute a High-level committee to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- The committee will be headed by – Amit Shah ([Ministry of Home Affairs – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#))

**610.** “International Gita Festival” was held in Haryana's Kurukshetra from December 17 to 25. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Haryana Tourism and Education Minister Kanwar Pal and Kurukshetra MP Nayab Singh Saini inaugurated the festival. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “International Gita Festival” – held in Kurukshetra, Haryana (from December 17 to 25)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya](#)

**611.** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has proposed the adoption of “E20” fuel (a blend of 20% of Ethanol and the rest Gasoline) as an automobile fuel in order to reduce vehicular emissions as well as the country's oil import bill. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoRTH – proposed the adoption of “E20” fuel (mising 20% Ethanol with Gasoline) to cut vehicular emissions
- [Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs \(Nagpur, Maharashtra\)](#)

**612.** National Water Mission(NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has launched the “JSA II: Catch the Rain” Awareness Generation Campaign for rainwater harvesting. The tagline of the campaign is “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NWM + NYKS – launched the “JSA II: Catch the Rain” Awareness Generation Campaign
- NWM – under Ministry of Jal Shakti ([Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan](#))

**613.** Reliance Industries (RIL) and BP (British Petroleum Co.) of the U.K. have announced the commencement of natural gas production from Asia's Deepest Gas Field “R-cluster” situated in the KG-D6 block, Krishna-Godavari basin of the Bay of Bengal. “R-Cluster” is the first of the three deepsea projects Reliance-BP are developing in the eastern offshore block. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RIL + BP (UK) = started natural gas production from Asia's Deepest Gas Field "R-cluster"
- "R-cluster" – situated in the KG-D6 block of 'Krishna-Godavari basin'
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

**614.** In Gujarat, the Ahmedabad division of Western Railway has created a record by loading 10.06 crore litres of milk and running the highest milk special trains in Indian Railways during 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ahmedabad division of Western Railway – created a record by loading 10.06 crore litres of milk in 2020
- HQs of Western Railway Zone – Mumbai, Maharashtra | GM – Shri Alok Kansal

**615.** The Karnataka government has unveiled the Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System (FRUITS), an e-governance portal, to create a repository of farmland information and farm loan details on a single platform. Canara Bank has agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Karnataka unveiled the "FRUITS" an e-governance portal
- FRUITS – Farmer Registration and Unified beneficiary Information System
- Canara Bank – agreed to run FRUITS on a pilot basis
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – "Together We Can"

**616.** India is planning to set up Coastal Radar Stations in Maldives, Myanmar & Bangladesh as part of efforts to further expand the Coastal Surveillance Network (CSN). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – to set up Coastal Radar Stations in Maldives, Myanmar & Bangladesh to expand CSN
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid





**617.** To commemorate the completion of 25 years of the Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA), Secunderabad, a special postal cover was released by S. Rajendra Kumar (Chief Postmaster General) in the presence of Sanjiv Mittal, Controller General of Defence Accounts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A special postal cover was released – to commemorate the completion of 25 years of the CDA, Secunderabad
- CGDA (Secunderabad) – Sanjiv Mittal | 52<sup>nd</sup> CGDA – Rajendra Kumar Nayak

**618.** On December 22, PM Narendra Modi has released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). This is the first time in 5 decades that a Prime Minister has attended an AMU event as the Chief Guest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – released a special postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of ‘Aligarh Muslim University’
- AMU is located in – Uttar Pradesh | Established in – 1875 | Founder – Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

**619.** Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda has e-launched new ‘Tribes India Outlet’ at the Departure Lounge of Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati, Assam. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arjun Munda – e-launched new ‘Tribes India Outlet’ at Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**620.** On December 20, Faridabad Police has launched a programme called “Police ki Pathshala”, which aims to change the perception of the youth about the police. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Faridabad Police (Haryana) – launched a programme called “Police ki Pathshala”
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**621.** On December 21, Union Finance Ministry has decided to extend the suspension of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) till March 31, 2021, to help businesses cope with the lingering difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Finance Ministry – decided to extend the suspension of the IBC – till March 31, 2021
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Constituency – Karnataka)

**622.** On December 23, CEO of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant has virtually launched India's first digital asset management platform “DigiBoxx”. The platform provides an easy and secure way to store all the files in one centralised location. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amitabh Kant – launched “DigiBoxx” India's first digital asset management platform
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

**623.** On December 27, Mastercard has launched its “Team Cashless India” campaign for cashless transactions, especially in the SME sector. The campaign is engaging with merchants and consumers of Tier 2 & 3 cities to create awareness about digital payments. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mastercard – launched its “Team Cashless India” campaign for cashless transactions in the SME sector
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)

**624.** On December 21, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), led by a Joint Secretary to assess damages caused by Cyclone “Burevi” in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Home Affairs deputed an Inter-Ministerial Central Team to assess damages caused by Cyclone “Burevi”
- Tamil Nadu – was affected by Cyclone “Burevi”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**625.** The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) along with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) India has come up with a unique initiative - a “Firefly Bird Diverter” to save Great Indian Bustard (GIB) populations. Firefly bird diverters are flaps installed on power lines. The firefly detectors have been installed along 2 stretches of approximately 6.5 km in Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoEFCC + WCS = launched a unique initiative - a “Firefly Bird Diverter” to save ‘Great Indian Bustard’
- The firefly detectors have been installed – in Rajasthan



- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (Constituency – Maharashtra)
- HQs of WCS – New York, USA | President and CEO – Dr. Cristian Samper
- HQs of WCS India – Bengaluru, Karnataka

**626.** In 5 years, India has become the 6<sup>th</sup> country in the world to produce High Power Electric Locomotives indigenously. In 2015, Ministry of Railways & Alstom had signed a contract worth €3.5 billion (Rs 25,000 Cr) to produce High Power Electric Locomotives at Madhepura Electric Loco Factory in Bihar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – the 6<sup>th</sup> country in the world to produce High Power Electric Locomotives indigenously
- Railway Ministry & Alstom (France) = €3.5 billion contract to produce HP locos – at Madhepura, Bihar (in 2015)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav
- Minister of Railways – Piyush Goyal (Maharashtra) | MoS for Railway Ministry – Suresh Angadi

**627.** The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched “CoWIN”, a grand challenge for strengthening the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN) system. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHFW + MeitY = launched “CoWIN” - Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

**628.** Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is set to build the world's largest zoo in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The zoo will house close to 100 different species of animals, birds and reptiles from India and across the world. It will be built on about 280-acre land. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Reliance Industries – to build the world's largest zoo in Jamnagar, Gujarat (in 280-acre land)
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



**629.** On December 23, the Union Cabinet has approved revised guidelines for Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services, allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as well as increasing the licence period to 20 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The Cabinet has approved revised guidelines for DTH broadcasting services allowing 100% FDI
- The Cabinet also increased the licence period to – 20 years

## **International Affairs**

**630.** The UNICEF has launched an interactive tool “Covid-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard” to follow the developments of the rapidly evolving coronavirus vaccine market and the efforts of the COVAX Facility. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UNICEF – launched an interactive tool “Covid-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard”
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore

**631.** Pakistan has approved the chemical castration of rapists as part of sweeping new legislation. New laws are approved by President Arif Alvi on December 15. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pakistan – approved a law for Chemical Castration of rapists
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**632.** Xinxing, the world's oldest giant panda in captivity, has passed away recently due to multiple organ failure at the age of 38 years and four months. She died at a zoo in southwest China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Xinxing – the world's oldest giant panda – passed away – in South China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**633.** IIFL Home Finance (wholly owned subsidiary of IIFL Finance) and ICICI Bank have partnered to extend credit to the affordable housing loans & MSME loans (loan against property). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- IIFL Home Finance + ICICI Bank = partnered to offer Housing Loans & MSME loans
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nirmal Jain
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

**634.** On December 22, the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has projected a contraction of 7.3% in India's GDP in FY21, as per its report titled “2020-21 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy”. NCAER has forecast the annual CPI inflation at 6.7%. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NCAER projected India's GDP = (-7.3%) for FY21 – in its report “2020-21 Mid-Year Review of the Indian Economy”
- HQs of NCAER – New Delhi | DG – Shekhar Shah

**635.** Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard to offer customised services along with a host of facilities to account holders. The bank has also renewed its existing MoU with the Indian Army to offer specially customised banking services through ‘Baroda Military Salary Package’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- BoB + Indian Navy + ICG = an MoU to offer customised services
- BoB renewed its existing MoU with ‘Indian Army’ – for new ‘Baroda Military Salary package’
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini

**636.** Central Bank of India has launched contactless “RuPay Select” debit card in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Users of Central Bank RuPay Select Debit Card can avail complementary membership and concessional access to golf courses, gyms, spas and restaurants. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CBI + NPCI = launched contactless “RuPay Select” debit card
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe



**637.** On December 21, The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) has announced the final close of the 'Master Fund' after raising \$107 million investment from Canada's PSP Investments, US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and Axis Bank. The overall size of the 'master fund' has touched \$2.34 billion exceeding its target of \$2.1 Billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIIF – announced the final close of the 'Master Fund' after raising \$107 million – Canada's PSP, US' DFC, Axis Bank
- The overall size of the 'master fund' touched – \$2.34 billion (exceeding target - \$2.1 Billion)
- HQs of NIIFL – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose

**638.** State Bank of India (1<sup>st</sup>), Axis Bank (2<sup>nd</sup>), HDFC Bank (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd. (4<sup>th</sup>) have led the pack in November among the top UPI Remitter Banks, as per the "UPI Ecosystem Statistics" for November by NPCI. These banks have initiated close to half or 1.1 billion of the total UPI transactions processed in November. SBI closed almost 608 million UPI transactions in November. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "UPI Ecosystem Statistics" for November by NPCI – topped by SBI (608 million UPI transactions)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Axis Bank | 3<sup>rd</sup> – HDFC Bank | 4<sup>th</sup> – Paytm Payments Bank
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe

**639.** ICICI Bank has become the 1<sup>st</sup> bank in India to launch "Infinite India" - a new online platform for foreign firms looking to set up or expand their business in India. It will offer foreign businesses banking solutions and value-added services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank – the 1<sup>st</sup> bank to launch "Infinite India" - a new online platform for foreign firms
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"

**640.** Mortgage lender HDFC has entered into an MOU with the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) to promote Green Buildings in the country. HDFC has disbursed over 14,000 Cr worth retail loans to home buyers in 310 certified green building projects across the country as of December 23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HDFC + IGBC = an MOU to promote Green Buildings in the country
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai | CEO – Keki Mistry



# **Defence Affairs**

**641.** L&T has stated that its defence arm, L&T Defence has been awarded the coveted “Green Channel Status” for major Naval weapon delivery systems from the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA), Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- L&T Defence – awarded the coveted “Green Channel Status” – by the DGQA, Ministry of Defence
- HQs L&T – Mumbai | MD & CEO – SN Subrahmanyam

**642.** On December 23, Indian Army has successfully conducted the maiden test of “Medium Range Surface to Air Missile” (MRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Coast of Odisha. The missile is jointly developed by the DRDO and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Indian + Israel – conducted the test of “Medium Range Surface to Air Missile” (MRSAM) – in Chandipur, Odisha
- Missile developed by – DRDO + IAI
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

**643.** On December 21, Boeing in coordination with U.S. Navy has successfully demonstrated the compatibility of its “F/A-18 Super Hornet” fighter jets with the Indian Navy’s aircraft carriers at the Naval Air Station Patuxent river in Maryland, U.S. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Boeing + USA = demonstrated the compatibility of “F/A-18 Super Hornet” fighter jets – in Maryland, U.S.
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

## Schemes & Initiatives

**644.** On December 26, PM Narendra Modi has launched the “Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT” scheme for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. The beneficiaries will get the Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) as per the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 database. The scheme would work in convergence with Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi – “AB-PMJAY SEHAT” scheme for the residents of Jammu & Kashmir
- Insurance coverage of “PM-JAY” - world’s largest health insurance scheme – Rs 5 lakh per family per year
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**645.** The Union Cabinet has approved changes in the centrally sponsored “Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme” to benefit more than 4 Cr Scheduled Caste (SC) students in the next 5 years and approved a total investment of over Rs 59,000 Cr for the purpose. The percentage of students benefiting from the post-metric scholarship has risen to 23% from 17% in 2014-15. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved “Rs 59,000 Cr” for “Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme” to benefit ‘Scheduled Caste’ students
- Students benefiting from the post-metric scholarship rose to – 23% in 2020 (from 17% in 2014-15)

**646.** On December 26, the Income Tax department has introduced a new initiative called, “Jhatpat Processing” to smoothen the ITR filing experience for taxpayers. “Jhatpat Processing” has started for ITR1 and ITR4. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Income Tax dept – introduced “Jhatpat Processing” initiative to smoothen the ITR filing experience for ITR1 & ITR4
- HQs of Income Tax department – New Delhi | Executive – Pramod Chandra Modi



## Sports & Games

**647.** On December 21, Egyptian tennis player Mostafa Hatem was banned for 2 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit as part of a match-fixing case. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Mostafa Hatem (Egypt - Tennis) – banned for 2 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**648.** Indonesia has been announced as the host for the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Asia Cup in 2021. The best 16 men's teams from Asia and Oceania are set to contest the FIBA Asia Cup from August 16 to 28, 2021. Indonesia is also due to co-host the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup alongside Japan and the Philippines. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indonesia – to host “FIBA Asia Cup 2021”
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo
- HQs of FIBA – Mies, Switzerland | President – Hamane Niang

**649.** Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri has become the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian and overall 2<sup>nd</sup> player to complete 50 goal contributions in Indian Super League's (ISL) short history. Former FC Goa striker Ferran Corominas was the first player ever to breach the 50 goal contribution-mark in ISL. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Sunil Chhetri – became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian player to complete 50 goal contributions in Indian Super League's (ISL)
- Sunil Chhetri (Football) – Bengaluru FC captain

**650.** Tamil Nadu government has granted permission to hold Jallikattu event, with certain restrictions. The number of players should be not to be more than 150 at an event. Jallikattu is a traditional bull taming sport in Tamil Nadu and it is conducted during the Pongal festival. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – granted permission to hold “Jallikattu” - a traditional bull taming sport
- Number of maximum players – 150 | It is conducted during – Pongal festival
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



## Important Days & Dates

**651.** National Mathematics Day is celebrated every year on December 22, honouring the birth anniversary of mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. This year marks his 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary and it was first observed in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 22 – National Mathematics Day (125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan)

**652.** “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” is observed every year on December 23 across the country to praise the farmers. The day was chosen to honour the birth anniversary of the 5<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 23 – “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day”
- To honour the birth anniversary of – Choudhary Charan Singh (5<sup>th</sup> PM of India)

**653.** In India, the “National Consumer Rights Day” is observed every year on December 24 to spread awareness to about consumer importance, their rights, and responsibilities. On December 24, 1986, the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received the approval of the President of India and came into force. This year, the theme is “The Sustainable Consumer”. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- December 24 – National Consumer Rights Day (the Consumer Protection Act 1986)
- Theme – “The Sustainable Consumer”

## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**654.** On December 17, the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has chaired a meeting of the “National Museum Institute Society” in New Delhi to review the proposal of setting up an Indian Institute of Heritage. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Prahlad Singh Patel – chaired a meeting of the “National Museum Institute Society” in New Delhi
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**655.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed to create a library for traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures in his 6<sup>th</sup> Indo-Japan Samwad conference that was held virtually on December 21. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Indo-Japan Samwad conference – held on December 21
- Narendra Modi – proposed to create a library for traditional Buddhist literature and scriptures

**656.** Indian Meteorological Society (IMS) in collaboration with North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong, has organized a 4-day “Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology” (TROPMET-2020) under the theme “Weather and Climate Services over Mountainous Regions” during 14-17 December. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Meteorological Society – organized a 4-day “Virtual Symposium on Tropical Meteorology” (TROPMET-2020)
- Theme – “Weather and Climate Services over Mountainous Regions”

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**657.** Lewis Hamilton has been named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year”, rounding off a remarkable year in which he became Formula One world champion for a record-equaling seventh time. Premier League champion Liverpool Football Club was named “Team of the Year” and its manager Jurgen Klopp won “Coach of the Year”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lewis Hamilton – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year”
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’
- Liverpool FC – “Team of the Year” | Jurgen Klopp – “Coach of the Year”

**658.** The “SASTRA Ramanujan Prize-2020” will be awarded to Shai Evra of Princeton University, USA and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. The prize is awarded annually at an international conference during December 21-22, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam. Since the conference will not take place this year, Mr. Evra will receive the prize in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shai Evra – to receive “SASTRA Ramanujan Prize-2020” – in 2021 at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam, TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**659.** PM Narendra Modi was awarded the “Legion of Merit” medal by U.S. President Donald Trump for his role in advancing the India-U.S. relationship. The award was also presented to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison. India, the U.S., Japan and Australia constitute the ‘Quad’ group of countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – awarded with the “Legion of Merit” medal by Donald Trump
- Shinzo Abe + Scott Morrison = also awarded with the “Legion of Merit” by Donald Trump
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

**660.** Recogsquare, a start-up incubated and funded by the IIT Roorkee has won the “Most Innovative Digital Rollout Award” at the Global Fintech Innovation Awards, by IBS Intelligence for the start-up association with Equitas Small Finance Bank. Recogsquare is an AI SaaS-backed eKYC and Video KYC platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Recogsquare – won the “Most Innovative Digital Rollout Award”
- Recogsquare – a start-up incubated and funded by the IIT Roorkee

**661.** The first ever Filmfare Awards for OTT platforms were given on December 19, 2020. The awards were given category wise as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Filmfare OTT awards 2020”
- Best Series – Paatal Lok
- Best Director (Series) – Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy (Paatal Lok)
- Best Actor in a Drama Series (Male) – Jaideep Ahlawat (Paatal Lok)
- Best Actor in a Drama Series (Female) – Sushmita Sen (Aarya)

**662.** Rafael Nadal has received the “Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award” for the third year straight. Roger Federer was the singles fans’ favourite for a record-extending 18<sup>th</sup> straight year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain – Tennis](#)) – received the “Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award” (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year)
- [Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez](#)

**663.** On December 22, Kaspersky has been recognised as the “Best Cybersecurity Brand” for 2020 and received an honor for their Product Innovation in the category at a recently held industry award ceremony. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kaspersky – recognised as the “Best Cybersecurity Brand” for 2020
- HQs of Kaspersky – Moscow, Russia | CEO – Eugene Kaspersky

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**664.** Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) has approved the appointment of Nand Kishore as the group's Executive Director with effect from December 21, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nand Kishore – appointed as the Executive Director of IL&FS
- HQs of IL&FS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Uday Kotak | Executive Director – Nand Kishore

**665.** Secretary of Water Resources department, senior IAS officer, Aditya Nath Das has been appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh. He will take over from incumbent Nilam Sawhney, who will retire from service on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aditya Nath – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh (by replacing - Nilam Sawhney)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**666.** The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Sandeep Batra as Executive Director of ICICI Bank for a period of 3 years with effect from December 23, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sandeep Batra – appointed as Executive Director of – ICICI Bank for a period of 3 years
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | ED – Sandeep Batra | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”



## Amount & Agreements

**667.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a \$231m loan for the construction of the “Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant” in Central Assam, India. The plant will produce a total capacity of 120MW of electricity to harness water from the Kopili River. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ADB – sanctioned a \$231m loan for the construction of “Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Power Plant” – in Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**668.** On December 22, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a Rs 295 Cr (\$40 million) loan to Northern Arc Capital for onlending to the microfinance and the MSME sectors in India. Northern Arc Capital will use it to extend loans proceeds and provide guarantees to financial institutions and individual borrowers. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- ADB provided a Rs 295 Cr (\$40 million) loan to ‘Northern Arc Capital’ to lend loans to MSME’s
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**669.** The Indian government and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), an arm of the World Bank, have signed a \$500 million project to build National Highway corridors in the states of Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. This loan agreement has a maturity of 18.5 years including a five-year grace period. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- India + World Bank = signed a \$500 million project to build NH corridors – in Rajasthan, HP, UP, AP
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant



# **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**670.** According to the “Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020”, 1.5 billion people living in rural areas and 600 million in urban areas (total 2.1 Billion People) still lack adequate water supply and sanitation. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Asian Water Development Outlook (AWDO) 2020” – released by ADB
- 2.1 Billion People (1.5 billion from rural + 600 million from urban) lack adequate water supply & sanitation
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

**671.** The population of leopards in India has increased by 60% since 2014, according to the “Status of Leopards in India 2018” report of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of leopards (3,421) followed by Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Status of Leopards in India 2018” report – released by Environment Ministry
- Population of leopards increased by – 60% since 2014 | Top state – Madhya Pradesh (3,421)
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**672.** The Indian men's and women's hockey teams will finish 2020 in 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively, in the ranking released by International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2020. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ranking released by International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2020:
- Indian Men Hockey Team – 4<sup>th</sup> | Indian Women Hockey Team – 9<sup>th</sup>
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil

**673.** In India, 1.7 million deaths were attributable to air pollution in 2019, which was 18% of the total deaths in the country, according to the Lancet Study. The economic loss due to the lost output from premature deaths and morbidity from air pollution was 1.4% of the GDP or ₹260,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 1.7 million deaths in India occur due to air pollution in 2019 – according to Lancet Study (18% of the total deaths)
- Loss due to the lost output – 1.4% of the GDP or ₹260,000 Cr



## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**674.** On December 18, Redwood Investment Ltd, an entity owned by Warburg Pincus, has sold a 4.47% stake in AU Small Finance Bank for ₹1,247.69 Cr through open market transactions. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Redwood Investment (Warburg Pincus) – sold a 4.47% stake (₹1,247.69 Cr) in AU Small Finance Bank
- HQs of AU Small Finance Bank – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal

**675.** The Cabinet has approved the merger of 4 government-run Film and Media units - Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archives of India and Children's Film Society, with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- The Cabinet has approved the merger of 4 government-run Film and Media units
- Films Division + Directorate of Film Festivals + National Film Archives of India + Children's Film Society = NFDC
- HQs of NFDC – Mumbai | Head – Anupama Chopra



## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**676.** The government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with education infrastructure fund Cerestra Ventures to develop a Special Education Region at Dholera. The G-SER will be spread over 1, 000 acres consisting of residential and sports complexes for students. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Gujarat + Cerestra Ventures = an MoU to develop a 'Special Education Region' – at Dholera, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**677.** Startup Haryana and the department of Information Technology, Electronics and Communication (DITECH) signed an MoU with India Accelerator to build robust startup ecosystem in the state. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Haryana + India Accelerator = an MoU to build robust startup ecosystem
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- HQs of India Accelerator – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Ashish Bhatia



**678.** Kerala government has partnered with UN Women to set up India's first Gender Data Centre at the Parks 24-acre Kozhikode campus. It will further the cause of women empowerment and function as a South Asia hub for gender equality. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala + UN Women = partnership to set up India's first Gender Data Centre in Kozhikode
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

**679.** "India - Vietnam Virtual Summit" was held on December 21, 2020 and was co-chaired by PM Narendra Modi. India and Vietnam have signed 7 agreements in varied areas such as defence, scientific research, renewable energy, nuclear energy, petro-chemicals, and cancer treatment. An MoU was signed between Tata Memorial Centre of India and Vietnam National Cancer Hospital for collaboration in diagnosis and treatment for cancer patients. As per the agreement, Army Software Park will be built in Vietnam using the \$5 million Grant Assistance provided by India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "India - Vietnam Virtual Summit" – held on December 21 | Co-chaired by – PM Narendra Modi
- Agreements: Defence, Scientific research, Renewable energy, Nuclear energy, Petro-chemicals & Cancer treatment
- Tata Memorial Centre of India + Vietnam National Cancer Hospital = an MoU for Cancer treatment
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

**680.** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and CSIR-NGRI (National Geophysical Research Institute) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for use of Advanced Heliborne Geophysical Survey and other scientific studies in parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana under the 'Aquifer Mapping Programme'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CGWB + CSIR-NGRI ([Hyderabad](#)) = MoA signed for use of Advanced Heliborne Geophysical Survey
- CGWB – functions under Ministry of Jal Shakti ([HQs – Faridabad, Haryana](#))

**681.** IndiGo has partnered with car rental company Urban Drive so that passengers can book self-driven and chauffeur driver services across 60 cities in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IndiGo + Urban Drive = partnership to help passengers book self-driven and chauffeur driver services
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Rono Dutta

**682.** The Maharashtra state government has signed an MoU worth ₹61,000 Cr with 25 Indian companies in more than 15 sectors under its 'Magnetic Maharashtra' initiative. The proposed investments are expected to create 2.53 lakh jobs across the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – signed an MoU worth ₹61,000 Cr with 25 Indian companies in more than 15 sectors
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**683.** NMDC Ltd (National Mineral Development Corporation) has signed an MoU with Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) for joint exploration for iron ore, gold, coal, diamond and other minerals in mutually agreed projects across various States. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NMDC + MECL = signed an MoU for joint mineral exploration
- HQs of NMDC – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Sumit Deb
- HQs of MECL – Nagpur, Maharashtra | CMD – Dr. Ranjit Rath

**684.** Telangana government and the Indian arm of German software group SAP have entered into an MoU to equip micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the State with digital skilling and technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana + SAP India = an MoU to equip MSMEs with digital skilling and technologies
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of SAP India – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Kulmeet Bawa
- HQs of SAP SE – Walldorf, Germany | CEO – Christian Klein

**685.** On December 24, the Indian Navy and the CSIR-NIO (National Institute of Oceanography) have signed an MoU to collaborate and exchange expertise in the field of ocean studies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Navy + CSIR-NIO = an MoU to collaborate and exchange expertise in the field of ocean studies
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Panaji, Goa



**686.** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed virtually between IIT- Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) and ISRO to set up its Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S). It will pave the way for advanced research in the future technology of the Indian space programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT-BHU + ISRO = an MoU to set up its Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S) – at IIT-BHU campus, UP
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed in – 1969

**687.** On December 23, the Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing revised Air Services Agreement with Philippines and Afghanistan. The agreements have the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet = given its approval for signing revised Air Services Agreement with Philippines & Afghanistan
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

## **Books & Authors**

**688.** The government has issued 100-page e-booklet “Putting Farmers First” highlighting the success stories of farmers who have benefited from contract farming after enactment of these legislations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- The government issued 100-page e-booklet – “Putting Farmers First”

**689.** The book titled “COVID-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan” (COVID-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions) was launched online on December 17 by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh. The book is authored by Kailash Satyarthi. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “COVID-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan” book – authored by Kailash Satyarthi

**690.** On December 22, former Maharashtra Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Devendra Fadnavis has released the book titled “Ayodhya” written by BJP's State Vice President Madhav Bhandari. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Ayodhya” book - written by Madhav Bhandari | released by – Devendra Fadnavis
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



## Obituaries

**691.** Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue and its first spokesperson Madhav Govind Vaidya has passed away on December 19. He was 97. He was a former chief editor of the city-based pro-RSS Marathi daily 'Tarun Bharat'. Vaidya became a member of the RSS in 1943. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Madhav Govind Vaidya – passed away – former Chief Editor of 'Tarun Bharat' newspaper & RSS ideologue

**692.** Congress veteran Motilal Vora has passed away recently in December. He was 93. Starting out as a journalist, Mr Vora had occupied several key positions including being the CM of Madhya Pradesh twice (1985-88 and 1989), health minister in Rajiv Gandhi's cabinet and Governor of Uttar Pradesh in mid-90s. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Motilal Vora – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (2 times CM of Madhya Pradesh & Gov of UP)

**693.** On December 23, Renowned Malayalam Poet and Social activist Sugathakumari has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram following COVID-19-related health complications. She was 86. In 2006, she was honoured with Padma Shri for her contribution towards Literature in Malayalam. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Sugathakumari – Renowned Malayalam Poet & Social activist – passed away (Padma Shri 2006 – in Literature)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

## Person in News

**694.** Parliament's Committee on Home Affairs has submitted a report on "Management of COVID-19 pandemic and related issues" to M. Venkaiah Naidu. The House panel on home affairs is led by Congress veteran Anand Sharma. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Parliament's Committee on HA – presented a report on "Management of COVID-19 pandemic & related issues"
- Parliament's Committee on Home Affairs is led by – Anand Sharma | Members – 31

# Science & Technology

**695.** British epidemiologists have discovered a new mutated COVID-19 variant in the UK. The new variant can help the virus in infecting the people more efficiently as two of the mutations affect the spike protein of the virus that makes it easy to stick to the human cell wall and enter the body. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- British epidemiologists discovered a new mutated COVID-19 variant – in the UK
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

**696.** The Trump administration celebrated the first birthday of the U.S. Space Force by announcing that its members will be known as 'Guardians'. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Members of U.S. Space Force – will be known as 'Guardians'
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

**697.** China's new medium-lift carrier rocket Long March-8 made its maiden flight on December 22, sending 5 satellites successfully into planned orbit. The rocket was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in Hainan. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- China's rocket "Long March-8" – made its maiden flight with 5 satellites into orbit
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**698.** The world's largest vaccine maker, Serum Institute of India (SII) will become the world's first company to produce a 'Green Vaccine'. It is also aspiring to be the first 'Net Zero' pharma company in the world. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SII – to become the world's first company to produce a 'Green Vaccine'
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

**699.** After nearly 400 years, Saturn and Jupiter - the 2 largest planets in our solar system, will be brought closest in the night sky by an astronomical event called the "Great Astronomical Conjunction" and popularly referred to as the "Christmas Star". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Saturn and Jupiter – will be brought closest in the night sky due to "Great Astronomical Conjunction"



**700.** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has signed an MoU with Rajasthan government to help the state to implement data-driven systems approach to road safety. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajasthan + IIT Madras = an MoU to help the state to implement data-driven systems approach to road safety
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra





# SmartKeeda

The Question Bank

Presents

## TestZone

India's least priced Test Series platform



### ALL BANK EXAMS

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

# ₹ 599/-

300+ Full Length Tests

- ✓ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ✓ Excellent Content
- ✓ Unmatched Explanations

JOIN NOW

