



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

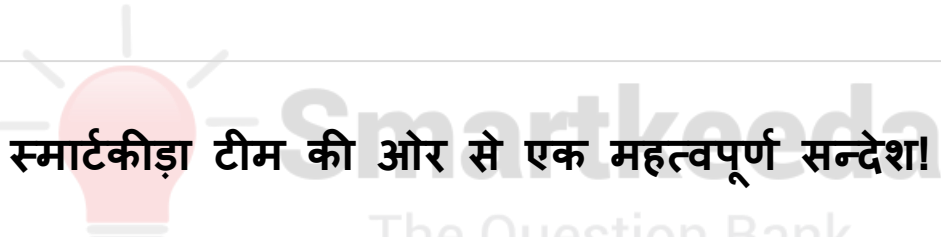
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

701. Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has launched a mobile application - "PR Insight" to receive feedback from people on Schemes and programs implemented. He also launched a mobile application "DigiNest" to give people digital access to the state government's directory. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab launched – "PR Insight" & "DigiNest" mobile applications
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

702. On December 25, the Department of School and Mass Education, Government of Odisha in collaboration with UNICEF has launched a career portal for Secondary and Higher Secondary students to help them with expert advice on their future careers. The Odisha Career guidance portal is available in Odia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + UNICEF = launched a 'Career Portal' for Secondary and Higher Secondary students
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

703. On December 24, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan" in the presence of Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ram Das Athawale and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar to Identify and Geotag the data of Insanitary Latrines and Manual Scavengers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot – launched a Mobile Application "Swachhata Abhiyan"
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)
- MoS for Social Justice and Empowerment – Ram Das Athawale & Krishan Pal Gurjar

704. Minister for Forest and Environment A. Indrakaran Reddy has inaugurated a "Monkey Rescue, Rehabilitation and Sterilisation Centre" near Chincholi village in Nirmal district of Telangana. The centre is the first-of-its-kind in South India and second in across India. It has been built at a cost of Rs 2.25 Cr. The one is available in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Second "Monkey Rescue, Rehabilitation and Sterilisation Centre" – inaugurated in Nirmal, Telangana
- First one is available in – Himachal Pradesh
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



705. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the centenary celebrations of “Visva-Bharati University” in West Bengal’s Santiniketan on December 24. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the centenary celebrations of “Visva-Bharati University” in West Bengal
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

706. Ladakh’s Tso Kar Wetland has been declared as an International Ramsar site by the Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Tso Kar is the 42nd Ramsar site in India. The site is an A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) and also one of the most important breeding areas of the ‘Black-necked Crane’ (*Grus nigricollis*) in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tso Kar Wetland (Ladakh) – declared as an International Ramsar site (A1 Category IBA)
- It is the most important breeding areas of – ‘Black-necked Crane’
- Ramsar Convention or the Convention on Wetlands signed – at Ramsar, Iran (in 1971)
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

707. The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a programme titled as the “YSR-Jagananna Shaswatha Bhoo Hakku/Bhoo Raksha”. It a comprehensive survey of all types of lands in the state to streamline land records and prevent land disputes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched a programme titled as the “YSR-Jagananna Shaswatha Bhoo Hakku/Bhoo Raksha”
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

708. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has launched One Stop Shop (OSS) facility for fast approval of new enterprises. Being established at Udhyog Bhawan, Jaipur under the Bureau of Investment Promotion (BIP) the facility will host officers from 14 departments, around 100 types of clearances with a timeline of 7-45-days for completion of various approvals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – launched One Stop Shop (OSS) facility for fast approval of new enterprises – under BIP
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



709. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched a web portal and mobile app “e-Sampada” to boost transparency and accountability in providing various Estate Services like allotment, retention, regularisation and no dues certificate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – “e-Sampada” a web portal and mobile app for various Estate Services
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

710. The 1st batch of training at the Tata-Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai was launched to provide an impetus to the Skill India programme through private sector participation. This is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Tata Indian Institute of Skills. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE & Tata-Indian Institute of Skills = launched 1st batch of training at the Tata-Indian Institute of Skills, Mumbai
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- MoS for MSDE – R K Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

711. India’s first Lithium refinery will be set up in Gujarat. It will process Lithium ore to produce battery-grade material. Manikaran Power Ltd will be investing over Rs 1,000 crore to set up this refinery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first Lithium refinery will be set up in – Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

712. CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati have jointly organised the inaugural session of the “Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival-2020” to mark the birth anniversary of renowned Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-NISCAIR + Mini. of Earth Sciences + Vijnana Bharati = organised “Vigyanika – Int. Science Literature Festival”
- This festival marks the birth anniversary of – Srinivasa Ramanujan



713. The Jal Jeevan Mission and the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) have launched a “Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge” to develop portable devices for water testing. The JJM is a national mission to provide potable water on tap to every household by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Jeevan Mission + DPIIT = launched a “Water Quality Testing Innovation Challenge”
- Aim of JJM – to provide potable water on tap to every household by – 2024
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

714. India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari was launched in the world famous Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve by Madhya Pradesh. People can watch tigers, leopards, Indian sloth bear and other wild animals from a height. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first hot air balloon wildlife safari = launched in “Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve” – by Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

715. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has unveiled an 18 feet statue of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the historic Ridge Maidan on his 96th birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – unveiled an 18 feet statue of ‘Atal Bihari Vajpayee’ – in Shimla
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

716. East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir has launched “Jan Rasoi” a fully developed private canteen in New Delhi, which will provide food to those in need at ₹1. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Gambhir – launched “Jan Rasoi” a fully developed private canteen | Charge – ₹1
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

717. The Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) will establish the “Dr. F C Kohli Centre of Excellence” for Advanced Research in Mathematical and Computing Sciences in honor of the visionary who created and shaped the IT industry in India and made it synonymous with excellence, globally. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Chennai Mathematical Institute – to establish the “Dr. F C Kohli Centre of Excellence”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

718. Smartphone maker Oppo has set up of 5G innovation lab at its Hyderabad research and development centre. With this, Oppo became the first tech brand to launch 5G mobile products in the European market and organised the first 5G WhatsApp call from India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oppo – set up of 5G innovation lab in Hyderabad
- Oppo – first tech brand to launch 5G mobile products in the European market
- Oppo – first tech brand to organise the first 5G WhatsApp call from India

719. On December 27, Indian and Vietnamese Navy have concluded the 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the South China Sea as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries. As a part of the ongoing Mission Sagar-III, INS Kiltan has arrived at Nha Rong Port in Vietnam with 15 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies for people affected by floods. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy & Vietnamese Navy = concluded the 2-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2020
- INS Kiltan – arrived at Nha Rong Port in “Vietnam” with 15 tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

720. On December 26, Oil India Limited (OIL) has launched “OIL Shakti” - a society-based sanitary napkin production and marketing unit in Assam, to promote menstrual health and hygiene management among women of vulnerable communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- OIL – launched “OIL Shakti” - a society-based sanitary napkin production and marketing unit – in Assam
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

721. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has recently announced that FASTag will be mandatory for all vehicles in India from January 1. The FASTags were launched in 2016. As per the Central Motor Vehicles Rules - 1989, FASTag has been made mandatory for registration of new four-wheelers since



December 1, 2017. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is used to make payments through FASTag. The NHAI has updated “My FASTag App” with a new feature to Check Balance Status by simply entering the vehicle number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FASTag will be mandatory for all vehicles in India from January 1, 2021 (launched in 2016)
- Central Motor Vehicles Rules - 1989
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

722. The Centralised “Investment Clearance Cell”, under the proposed Single Window System, aimed at facilitating businesses through a one-stop digital platform, is planned to be launched with relevant Ministries and Departments and select States by April 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centralised “Investment Clearance Cell” is planned to be launched by April 15, 2021

723. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India’s first driverless train operations on Magenta Line of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first driverless train – at Delhi Metro
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

724. India will implement a Coal Import Monitoring System (CIMS) from February 1 that would require coal importers to submit advance information in an online system for import and obtain an automatic registration number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to implement “CIMS” system from February 1, 2021
- CIMS – Coal Import Monitoring System

725. On December 29, PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 351-km “New Khurja - New Bhaupur section” of the Eastern Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor (EDFC) situated in Uttar Pradesh and also inaugurated the Operation Control Centre (OCC) located at Prayagraj. The Eastern DFC is a 1,856-km stretch starting from Sahnewal near Ludhiana to Dankuni in West Bengal. The Western DFC with a length of 1,504 km is from JN Port (Mumbai) to Dadri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 351-km “New Khurja - New Bhaupur section” of EDFC – located in UP
- Narendra Modi – also inaugurated Operation Control Centre (OCC) located at – Prayagraj, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



726. On December 29, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the 100th run of the 'Kisan Rail' starting from Sangola in Maharashtra and culminating in Shalimar in West Bengal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – flagged off the 100th run of 'Kisan Rail' – from Sangola (Maharashtra) to Shalimar (West Bengal)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

727. The Himachal Pradesh government will frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy for the state, which would include the policy of drug prevention, treatment, management and rehabilitation/ social/integration programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – to frame an integrated Drug Prevention Policy
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

728. Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has launched "DGNCC Digital Forum" - development for National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets in New Delhi. The Digital Forum, hosted on the DGNCC website (indiancc.nic.in) is aimed at providing NCC cadets all over the country to share their experiences of various NCC activities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar (Defence Secretary) – launched "DGNCC" Digital Forum – in New Delhi
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | Director General – Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chopra
- Ministry of Defence – Rajnath Singh (Constituency – Lucknow, UP)

International Affairs

729. Israel is headed for its fourth election in less than two years. The government headed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been inching towards collapse. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel – headed for its fourth election in less than 2 years
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



730. A deadly brain-consuming amoeba “Naegleria Fowleri” is spreading fast in the USA. According to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the geographic range of these cases has been advancing northward. Naegleria fowleri is a free-living microscopic amoeba. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Naegleria Fowleri” a species of amoeba – spreading fast in the USA
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

731. Bangladesh has finalised a Bilateral Rice Deal consisting of 1,50,000 tonnes of rice from India’s NAFED (the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd). India is the world’s biggest rice exporter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bangladesh finalised a Bilateral Rice Deal consisting of 1,50,000 tonnes of rice from India’s NAFED
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh



Banking & Economic Affairs

732. On December 24, Central Bank of India has exited its Housing Finance joint venture (JV) by selling its entire stake of more than 64% to Centrum Housing Finance, a subsidiary of Centrum Capital, for ₹160 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central Bank of India – sold its entire stake (over 64%) in its Housing Finance JV – to Centrum Housing Finance
- HQs of Central Bank of India – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Pallav Mohapatra
- HQs of Centrum Capital – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Jaspal Singh Bindra

733. On December 24, India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) has lowered its estimate for gross domestic product (GDP) contraction during FY 2020-21 to 7.8% from the earlier projection of 11.8%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ind-Ra projected India’s GDP = (-7.8%) for FY2020-21 [{Flexible News}](#)
- HQs of Ind-Ra – Mumbai, Maharashtra



734. On December 24, the RBI has cancelled the licence of Subhadra Local Area Bank, Kolhapur as the bank had breached the minimum net worth requirement for two quarters in the financial year 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Subhadra Local Area Bank
- HQs of Subhadra Local Area Bank – Kolhapur, Maharashtra
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

735. On January 1, 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will introduce the ‘Positive Pay System’ for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000 in a bid to enhance safety and eliminate frauds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to introduce the ‘Positive Pay System’ for cheque transactions above Rs 50,000 – from Jan 1, 2021
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

736. Axis Mutual Fund has renamed its “Axis Multicap Fund” scheme as “Axis Flexicap Fund” from January 31 and moved it to a new category where it will not be constrained by market cap restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Mutual Fund – renamed its “Axis Multicap Fund” scheme as “Axis Flexicap Fund”
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

737. On December 25, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced “PNB e-Credit Card”, a digital replica of a physical Credit Card. Customers can view PNB e-Credit Cards details by clicking on e-Credit Card facility in PNB Genie Mobile app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB – introduced “PNB e-Credit Card” a digital replica of a physical Credit Card
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao

738. On December 28, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the “Digital Lending Platform” to enable prospective retail loan seekers to get loans digitally through a paperless process. Customers can also avail the amount into their Savings bank account and convert it to EMIs from 3 to 18 months through m-Connect+ (Bank’s mobile banking app) in 60 seconds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BoB – launched the “Digital Lending Platform” to digitize the entire process of getting a loan
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha



739. HDFC Bank has emerged as the top player among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies in the country. Apart from HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India (SBI) ranked second and third, respectively. Besides banks, the list of wallet & UPI segment, Neo Banks & payment bank was also released as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Top player among the 100 Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) companies
- Top Bank: 1st – HDFC Bank | 2nd – ICICI Bank | 3rd – SBI
- Wallet and UPI segment: 1st – Google Pay | 2nd – Phone Pe
- Neo Banks: 1st – YONO | 2nd – Niyo | 3rd – Kotak 811
- Payments Bank Category: 1st – Airtel Payments Bank | 2nd – Paytm Payments Bank | 3rd – Jio Payments Bank

740. The SEBI has granted an approval to small lender Suryoday Small Finance Bank to float its Initial Public Offering (IPO). This IPO comprises fresh issuance of 1,15,95,000 equity shares and an offer for sale of up to 84,66,796 equity scrips by existing shareholders [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suryoday SFB – received approval from the SEBI to float its IPO
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

741. Cashaa, a blockchain-based fintech, has joined hands with United Multistate Cooperative Society to launch world's 1st Crypto Bank joint venture namely "UNICAS" that allows users to transact in cryptocurrency and fiat from one account. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cashaa + United Multistate Cooperative Society = partnership to launch world's 1st Crypto Bank - "UNICAS"

742. AU Small Finance Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance to offer need and Goal-based Life Insurance Solutions to the small finance bank's customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU SFB + ICICI Prudential Life Ins. = partnership to offer need and Goal-based Life Insurance Solutions
- HQs of AU Small Finance Bank – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan



Schemes & Initiatives

743. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu “Pedalandariki Illu” (Housing for the poor) at Komaragiri layout of Pithapuram Assembly constituency in East Godavari district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched Navaratnalu “Pedalandariki Illu” (Housing for the poor) flagship programme
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

744. The Jharkhand cabinet has approved a “Farm Loan Waiver” scheme with a total budget of Rs 2,000 Cr. The loan waiver scheme will give relief to 7.83 lakh farmers in the state. In addition to this, Rs 50,000 will be waived for 1.24 lakh farmers. For each farmer, the capping is at Rs 50,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jharkhand – approved a “Farm Loan Waiver” scheme (Total budget of – Rs 2,000 Cr)
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Draupadi Murmu



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The Question Bank

Sports & Games

745. On December 24, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has imposed a two-year ban on basketball player Satnam Singh Bhamara for doping. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Satnam Singh Bhamara – a Basketball player – banned for 2 years by NADA
- HQs of NADA – New Delhi | CEO – Navin Agarwal

746. FIFA has canceled the Under-17 and Under-20 World Cups scheduled for 2021 due to the pandemic. The next editions are now due to be staged in 2023, with Indonesia still hosting the U20s and Peru the U17s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “FIFA Under-17 World Cup-2021” – to take place in 2023 – in Peru
- “FIFA Under-20 World Cup-2021” – to take place in 2023 – in Indonesia
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino



747. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has announced that India's biggest Hockey stadium will come up at Rourkela with 20,000-capacity facility. It will host matches of FIH men's World Cup in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's biggest Hockey stadium – to come up at Rourkela, Odisha
- Venue for "2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup" = Rourkela + Bhubaneswar (both in Odisha)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

748. Uzbekistan's Temur Ismailov has been banned for 7 years from tennis after being found guilty of match-fixing by the Tennis Integrity Unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Temur Ismailov (Uzbekistan - Tennis) – banned for 7 years – by the Tennis Integrity Unit
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm
- HQs of TIU – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray



Important Days & Dates

749. The government has observed the 7th "Good Governance Day" on December 25 to mark the 92nd birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – 7th "Good Governance Day" (92nd birthday of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee)

750. "Good Governance Day" is observed annually on December 25 since 2014. The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country, know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfill. The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Birth Anniversary of Madan Mohan Malaviya was also observed on 25 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – "Good Governance Day" – since 2014
- To commemorate the birth anniversary of – Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- December 25 – Birth Anniversary of Madan Mohan Malaviya (One of the founders of Banaras Hindu University)



751. On Vaikuntha Ekadashi Tithi, devotees celebrate Gita Jayanti, i.e., the birth anniversary of the holy Shrimad Bhagavad Gita. This year, “Gita Jayanti” was celebrated on December 25. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 25 – “Gita Jayanti-2020”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

752. The 51st Director General-level “Border Coordination Conference” between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was held in Guwahati from December 22 to 26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 51st DG-level “Border Coordination Conference” between = BSF (India) & BGB (Bangladesh) – in Guwahati
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | Director General (DG) – Rakesh Asthana
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Seikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

753. On December 28, the Gender Park (Kerala) in partnership with UN Women, is organising the second edition of 3-day International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE) at Kozhikode in February, 2021. It will be held in the Gender Parks Kozhikode campus. The focal theme is “Gender in Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Social Business: The Mediating Role of Empowerment”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gender Park (Kerala) + UN Women = to organise 2nd edition of “Int. Conference on Gender Equality” – in Feb, 2021
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

754. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC) has won the ‘Excellence’ award in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain at CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020. NTPC has also received an award in the Corporate Excellence and Commendation for Significant Achievement category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC – won the ‘Excellence’ award in Corporate Social Responsibility – at CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh



755. The innovation of plant-based mock egg by Prof Kavya Dashora, Centre for Rural Development and Technology, IIT Delhi has secured first prize at “Innovate4SDG” contest by “UNDP Accelerator Lab India”. The award includes a sum of \$5000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Innovation of plant-based mock egg – secured 1st prize at “Innovate4SDG” contest by ‘UNDP Accelerator Lab India’
- The innovation of plant-based mock egg – by Prof Kavya Dashora (IIT Delhi)

756. Senior scientist Hemant Kumar Pandey has been honoured with DRDO's “Scientist of the Year Award-2018” for his contribution in developing several herbal medicines, including the popular drug Lukoskin meant for treatment of leucoderma. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hemant Kumar Pandey – has been honoured with “Scientist of the Year Award-2018” – by the DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

757. India captain Virat Kohli has won the “Sir Garfield Sobers Award” for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade. He also won the “ICC Men’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award”. Former Indian skipper MS Dhoni was also nominated in the “ICC ODI Men’s Cricketer of the decade”. Other awards were also given which are mentioned as below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC Awards:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Virat Kohli | Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade |
| | ICC Men’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade Award |
| MS Dhoni | ICC ODI Men’s Cricketer of the Decade |
| Steve Smith (Australia) | ICC Men’s Test Cricketer of the Decade |
| Rashid Khan (Afghanistan) | ICC Men’s T20I Cricketer of the Decade |
| Ellyse Perry (Australia) | ICC Women’s T20I Cricketer of the Decade |
| | ICC Women’s ODI Cricketer of the Decade |
| | Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade |

758. On December 27, Harmony Foundation has hosted the 16th edition of “Mother Teresa Memorial Awards” for Social Justice. The theme for this year's awards was “Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harmony Foundation (Mumbai) – hosted the 16th edition of “Mother Teresa Memorial Awards” for Social Justice
- Theme – “Celebrating Compassion in Times of Covid”



759. “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Book Prize 2020” were given jointly to Amit Ahuja for his “Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements” (Oxford University Press) and to former Union minister Jairam Ramesh for his “A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay New India Foundation Book Prize 2020” – given to Amit Ahuja & Jairam Ramesh
- “Mobilizing the Marginalized: Ethnic Parties without Ethnic Movements” – by Amit Ahuja
- “A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon” – by Jairam Ramesh

Appointments & Resignations

760. Managing Director of Transport Corporation of India Ltd Vineet Agarwal is appointed as the new President of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham). He has replaced Niranjana Hiranandani. Sumant Sinha (chairman & MD of ReNew Power) is the new Senior Vice-President of Assocham. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vineet Agarwal – appointed as the President of – Assocham (by replacing - Niranjana Hiranandani)
- Sumant Sinha – appointed as the Senior Vice-President of – Assocham
- HQs of Assocham – New Delhi | President – Vineet Agarwal | Vice-President – Sumant Sinha

761. On December 24, Chetan Sharma, Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty are appointed as the new members of BCCI’s Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC). Chetan Sharma is the Chairman of the senior men’s selection committee. The 3 new members will join Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh in the selection committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chetan Sharma, Abey Kuruvilla and Debashish Mohanty – new members of BCCI’s Cricket Advisory Committee
- Chairman of BCCI's Senior Men’s Selection Committee – Chetan Sharma
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Founded in – 1928



762. Former investment banker and finance minister Florin Citu has become the new Prime Minister of Romania. Citu had stints as an economist for the New Zealand central bank and the European Investment Bank before entering politics in 2016. He studied in the U.S. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Florin Citu – became the new Prime Minister of – Romania
- Romania – Bucharest – leu | PM – Florin Citu

763. Prasanth Prabhakaran is elevated as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of YES Securities with immediate effect. Prabhakaran was previously the Joint MD & CEO, YES Securities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasanth Prabhakaran – elevated as the MD & CEO of – YES Securities
- HQs of YES Securities Ltd – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prasanth Prabhakaran | Chairman – Prashant Kumar

764. The Odisha government has appointed senior IAS officer Suresh Chandra Mohapatra as the new chief secretary. He has succeeded Asit Kumar Tripathy. Mohapatra will also hold the post of Chief Development Commissioner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Suresh Chandra Mohapatra – appointed as new Chief Secretary of – Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

765. Former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Rajeev Shukla is set to become the Vice-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) while former India cricketer Brijesh Patel is likely to continue as IPL chairman for a second term. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Shukla – to become the Vice-President of BCCI
- Brijesh Patel – re-appointed as IPL Chairman for a second term
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Founded in – 1928

766. 21-year old Arya Rajendran is set to become the youngest Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The earliest memory of political activity for Arya Rajendran is of joining the Balasangham, a children's organisation, as a 10-year old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Arya Rajendran – to become the youngest Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



767. Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the new Brand Ambassador of Classplus. Classplus is a one of its kind mobile Operating System which enables training institutes to go online with their brick-and-mortar setup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sourav Ganguly – appointed as the new Brand Ambassador of Classplus

768. The Softball Federation of India has elected a woman for the first time, as its President named Neetal Narang. Narang will succeed Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neetal Narang – appointed as President of Softball Federation of India (by succeeding Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi)
- HQs of SFI – Indore, Madhya Pradesh | CEO – Pravin Anaokar

Amount & Agreements

769. On December 22, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to provide a Rs 2,100 Cr loan to the Tripura government for the development of urban areas and tourism in the northeastern state that borders Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – to provide Rs 2,100 Cr loan to the “Tripura” for the development of urban areas and tourism
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

770. US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has announced to invest \$54 million in India to support the development of critical infrastructure projects in the country in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US DFC – announced to invest \$54 million in India to support critical infrastructure projects
- HQs of US DFC – Washington, D.C., USA | Agency executive – Adam S. Boehler

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

771. According to the 12th edition of “World Economic League Table 2021” published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), India will again overtake the UK to become the 5th largest in 2025 and race to the 3rd spot by 2030. At present, India appears to have been pushed back to being the world's 6th biggest economy in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12th edition of “World Economic League Table 2021” – published by CEBR
- India to become the 5th largest in 2025 & 3rd spot by 2030 | Currently India – 6th & 1st – USA
- HQs of CEBR – London, UK | Chief Executive – Nina Skero

772. Rajasthan has become the 6th State in India to successfully undertake “Ease of Doing Business” reform stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. Thus, the State has become eligible to mobilise additional financial resources of Rs 2,731 crore through Open Market Borrowings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – became 6th State in India to successfully undertake “Ease of Doing Business” reform
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



Acquisitions & Mergers

773. On December 24, SBI Life Insurance has acquired an 8.99% stake in non-deposit taking NBFC Paisalo Digital for ₹186.20 Cr. The open market transaction involved acquisition of 38 lakh shares at ₹489.99 each. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI Life Insurance – acquired an 8.99% stake (₹186.20 Cr) – in Paisalo Digital
- HQs of SBI Life – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mahesh Kumar Sharma
- HQs of Paisalo Digital – Agra, UP | MD & CEO – Sunil Agarwal

774. Government has invited bids to sell its 63.75% stake (valued at about Rs 2,500 Cr) in Shipping Corporation of India. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has issued Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM) inviting Expressions of Interest (Eoi) from potential buyers by February 13, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government invited bids to sell its 63.75% stake (Rs 2,500 Cr) – in Shipping Corporation of India
- MoS I/C of Ministry of Shipping – Mansukh L. Mandaviya



775. ICICI Bank has entered into an agreement to acquire 9.09% stake in online school management platform Myclassboard Educational Solutions. The acquisition will be done through a cash consideration of ₹4.5 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – to acquire 9.09% stake (₹4.5 Cr) in Myclassboard Educational Solutions
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD&CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | ED – Sandeep Batra | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

776. A memorandum of cooperation was signed in the field of steel industry between India’s steel ministry and Japan’s economy, trade and industry ministry. It will boost mutual cooperation by establishing an “India-Japan steel dialogue” at the joint secretary-level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Japan = a memorandum of cooperation in the field of steel industry
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

777. Under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the Directorate General of Training (DGT) has joined hands with Microsoft and NASSCOM Foundation to provide digital content for ITI students and also future-ready employability skilling program for upskilling and reskilling via the Bharatskills portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DGT + Microsoft + NASSCOM Foundation = partnership to provide digital content for ITI students
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella
- MSDE Minister – Mahendra Nath Pandey (Constituency – Chandauli, UP)
- MoS for MSDE – R K Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)

778. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) have signed an MoU to set up Yoga wellness centres and naturopathy facilities throughout India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCDC + S-VYASA = an MoU to set up Yoga wellness centres & naturopathy facilities throughout India
- HQs of NCDC – New Delhi | Managing Director – Sundeep Kumar Nayak
- Location of S-VYASA – Bengaluru, Karnataka



779. India and Israel have signed an agreement to cooperate in the fields of health and medicine, including sharing of expertise in building climate resilient infrastructure and support to “Green Healthcare”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Israel – an agreement to cooperate in the fields of health & medicine and to support “Green Healthcare”
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

Books & Authors

780. Justice Rajinder Sachar's autobiography “In Pursuit of Justice” is a glimpse into how close Law is to Politics. The book has been posthumously published and launched on December 22. He passed away on April 20, 2018, at age of 94 in Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “In Pursuit of Justice” an autobiography – of Justice Rajinder Sachar

781. On December 27, Shripad Naik has released a Konkani book “Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav”, by Dr Roopa Chari, which is published by Sanjana Publications. Dr. Roopa Chari is a well-known personality in the field of Compering in Goa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Sutranivednachi sutra- ek an Bav” a Konkani book – authored by Dr. Roopa Chari
- The book is published by – Shripad Yesso Naik
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa

782. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume” to mark the 96th birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25. The book is published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a book “Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament: A Commemorative Volume”
- The book is published by – Lok Sabha Secretariat



783. Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan released a book titled “Element of Quantitative Genetics” by Prof. Dr. Stuti Sharma of Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Element of Quantitative Genetics” – written by Stuti Sharma | released by – Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Obituaries

784. England's former opening batsman ‘John Hugh Edrich’ has passed away at the age of 83. Diagnosed with leukaemia in 2000, the left-hander had scored 103 first-class centuries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Edrich (England) – a Cricketer – passed away
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson

785. On December 26, Robin David Jackman, former England fast bowler, has passed away at the age of 75. Apart from being a Test cricketer for England, Jackman was also a renowned commentator. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Robin Jackman (England) – a Cricketer – passed away

786. On December 26, Eminent Urdu poet, critic and writer Shamsur Rahman Faruqi has passed away. He was 85. He was awarded the Saraswati Samman in 1996 for his work ‘Sher-e Shor-Angez’ and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shamsur Rahman Faruqi – Urdu Poet, Critic & Writer – passed away
- Awards: Saraswati Samman in 1996 | Padma Shri in 2009

787. On December 26, former Union Minister and senior AIADMK leader Kadambur “M. R. Janardhanan” has passed away in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. He was 91. He was elected to the Lok Sabha for 4 times from Tirunelveli constituency in 1984, 1989, 1991 and 1998. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. R. Janardhanan (Tamil Nadu) – a Politician – passed away (4 times Lok Sabha member | Party – AIADMK)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



788. On December 27, Eminent dance scholar and critic Sunil Kothari has passed away at the age of 87 because of COVID-19 related complications. A Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow, Kothari blazed a new trail in documenting Indian classical dance forms. He received “Padma Shri-2001” in Art. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Kothari – Eminent dance scholar and critic – passed away (“Padma Shri-2001” in Art)

789. Veteran Congress leader and former minister Madan Lal Sharma has passed away recently in December. He was 68. Sharma was twice elected to the Lok Sabha from Jammu- Poonch seat in 2004 and 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madan Lal Sharma – a Politician (Congress) – passed away

790. Former India football international Mir Sajjad Ali has passed away recently in December. He was 66. He was selected to play for India in 1977. Later on, he played for East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mir Sajjad Ali – a Football player – passed away



Science & Technology

791. Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the first indigenous vaccine namely “Pneumosil” against Pneumonia which is developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched “Pneumosil” - 1st indigenous vaccine against – Pneumonia (developed by – SII)
- PCV – Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla

792. On December 26, Botanists have discovered a new species of wild Sun Rose from the Eastern Ghats in India. The new species, named “Portulaca Laljii” was discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The details of the discovery have been published in the “Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Portulaca Laljii” a new species of wild Sun Rose – discovered from the Eastern Ghats (in Andhra Pradesh)
- Discovery published in – “Journal of Asia Pacific Biodiversity”
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



793. The ISRO has released the first set of data from the India's second mission to the Moon namely "Chandrayaan-2" through the PRADAN portal hosted by ISSDC. The Indian Space Science Data Centre (ISSDC) is the nodal centre of planetary data archive for the planetary missions of ISRO. Chandrayaan-2 was launched on July 22, 2019 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO – released the first set of data from "Chandrayaan-2" - India's second mission to the Moon
- The data were released through the "PRADAN" portal hosted by – ISSDC
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

794. China has successfully launched "Yaogan-33" a new remote sensing satellite into space through a Long March-4C rocket. It was the 357th flight mission of the Long March carrier rocket series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched "Yaogan-33" a new remote sensing satellite (through a Long March-4C rocket)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

795. ISRO's PSLV will launch Brazilian satellite "Amazonia-1" in February 2021. It was earlier scheduled for July which was pushed for later due to the global pandemic of COVID -19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Brazilian satellite "Amazonia-1" – to be launched by ISRO – in Feb 2021
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

796. Power Minister R K Singh has issued the new "Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules-2020" to ensure the rights of electricity users, stating that the consumer is not powerless now. The new electricity rules also mandate discoms to provide new connections within seven days in metros, 15 days in small towns, and 30 days in rural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R K Singh (Ministry of Power) – issued the new "Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules-2020"
- Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy – R. K. Singh (Raj Kumar Singh)



797. The Union Cabinet has approved an ordinance for extending National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act for further 3 years (till December 2023). Delhi's unauthorised colonies, JJ (Jhuggi Jhopri) clusters and structures in rural areas built on agriculture land would get protection from the ordinance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved an ordinance to extend National Cap. Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act – for 3 years
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

798. The Assam cabinet has approved the “Assam Official Language Amendment Bill” for making Bodo (in Devanagari script) an associate official language of the state. According to the Census 2011, there are around 14.16 lakh Bodo speakers in Assam (4.53% of the total population of the state). Total 22 official languages are listed in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam cabinet approved a bill for making Bodo (in Devanagari script) an associate official language
- Total official languages listed in the 8th Schedule of Indian Constitution – 22 languages
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

799. Madhya Pradesh cabinet has approved the “Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020”. The controversial ordinance outlaws marriages with an aim of religious conversions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – approved the “Dharma Swatantrya (Religious Freedom) Bill 2020”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Arts & Cultural Affairs

800. Madhya Pradesh has hosted a 5-day music festival called “Tansen-Samaroh 2020” in its 96th edition from December 26 to December 30 in Gwalior. The event will be organised by the Madhya Pradesh, Department of Culture and Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala Evam Sangeet Academy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – hosted the 96th edition of a 5-day music festival called “Tansen-Samaroh 2020”
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel





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