



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

TESTZONE

बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए
निश्चित रूप से
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



Kriti Advani
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Kola Murali Krishna Sai
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Abhishek Raj
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Rahul Jha
All IBPS 2020 Exams



Nimish Mishra
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



Subha Saha
IBPS PO & IBPS CLERK 2020

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

**“ Friends!
We used TESTZONE
And Cracked Bank Exams
”**

Warning: Smartkeeda possesses all copyrights on its content. This doesn't allow anyone to use its content for commercial purposes. If any infringement is found, legal action will be taken against the individual or entity. If you want to use the content for commercial purposes, kindly write to us at admin@smartkeeda.com.

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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 10

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 23th January 2022

[Attempt Test No. 10 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

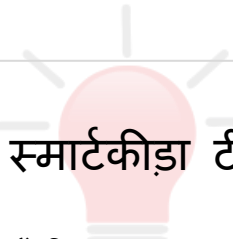
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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!

मत्रों! 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 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लए 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 सद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्यों क MockDrill में शा मल कए 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
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs.....	7
Defence Affairs.....	9
Important Days & Dates.....	10
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	10
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	10
Appointments & Resignations.....	12
Amount & Agreements.....	13
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	13
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	13
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	13
Books & Authors.....	15
Obituaries	15
Science & Technology.....	15



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank



National & States Affairs

451. On December 21, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) launched their first “AgriTech Challenge cohort” for its ambitious innovative Agri-tech program that aims to help smallholder farmers across Asia and Africa. It was launched in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Rabo Foundation under the South-South innovation platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + UNCDF + BMGF + Rabo Foundation = launched the 1st “Agritech Challenge cohort”
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)
- HQs of UNCDF – New York, US | Executive Secretary – Preeti Sinha
- Location of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Washington, US | Location of Rabo Foundation – Netherlands

452. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the GIS-based “Automatic Water Supply System” for citizens of Cantonment Boards under “eChhawani” project on the occasion of ‘Defence Estates Day 2021’. The module for this system was developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics (BISAG). “Defence Estates Day” was celebrated on December 16, 2021 by Director General of Defence Estates, Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched GIS-based “Automatic Water Supply System” for citizens of Cantonment Boards
- The module for this system was developed by – BISAG | GIS – Geographic Information System
- December 16 – “Defence Estates Day” – observed by Director General of Defence Estates (Delhi)

453. On December 19, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) plans to set up new Hydro & Solar projects of more than 27,000 MW capacity in 9 states and Nepal. The company is also setting up 2,000 MW Subansiri lower hydroelectric project on the border of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC – plans to set up new Hydro & Solar projects of more than 27,000 MW capacity in 9 states & Nepal
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

454. On December 20, Delhi Cabinet approved setting up of Delhi Teachers’ University. The University will offer a 4-year “Integrated Teacher Education Programme” after Class 12, in which B.A. and B.Ed., B.Sc. and B.Ed. and B.Com. and B.Ed. courses will be incorporated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Cabinet approved setting up of “Delhi Teachers’ University”
- The University will offer a 4-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme after Class 12
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

455. On December 18, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated “Rishihood University” at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi. The university is aimed at preparing leaders in the coming generations for social impact and nation-building. “Decoding the Business Mind” authored by Rishihood co-founder Ajay Gupta, was also released by the Vice President. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated “Rishihood University” at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi
- “Decoding the Business Mind” book – authored by Ajay Gupta

456. On December 22, Maharashtra Tourism & Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray launched “Chalo” mobile application and “Chalo Smart Cards” which will facilitate digital, and advance purchase of BEST bus tickets. Chalo app will allow commuters to purchase bus tickets and passes through e-wallet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched “Chalo” mobile app & “Chalo Smart Cards” for convenient Bus travel
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

457. On December 21, Docprime Technologies, a wholly owned subsidiary of PB Fintech, launched “Docprime Health Locker”, India’s first Health Locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The ABDM, an initiative of the Union Health Ministry, was launched in August 2020 to develop an integrated digital health infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Docprime Technologies – launched “Docprime Health Locker” - India’s first Health Locker integrated with ‘ABDM’
- HQs of Docprime Technologies – Gurugram, Haryana

458. On December 22, In a move to empower innovators and entrepreneurs across India by removing the language barrier, the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog developed a Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP), which will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages. Further, the AIM will launch a train-the-trainer program where it will collaborate with the design department of IIT Delhi to coach the VTF in design thinking and entrepreneurship and the adaptation of these subjects in the 22 languages and cultures. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – launched “Vernacular Innovation Program (VIP)” in 22 languages for Innovators & Entrepreneurs
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

459. On December 20, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) awarded a contract to Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd for setting up a 100MW solar project with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh. It is one of the largest Grid-connected BESS projects in India. The project is supported by the World Bank and SECI’s internal resources and domestic loans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SECI – awarded a contract to Tata Power Solar to set up 100MW Solar project with BESS at Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
- The project is supported by = World Bank + SECI
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011
- HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

460. On December 21, the State Bank of India (SBI) acquired a minority stake in JSW Cement Limited, with an investment of Rs 100 Cr in the company via compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS). JSW Cement is working towards achieving the 25MTPA milestone from 14MTPA over the next 24 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – acquired a minority stake in JSW Cement for Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

461. On December 20, Bank of Baroda achieved the top position in the overall digital transactions amongst large banks for the financial year 2020-21. The bank was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) at the 'Digital Payments Utsav'. As a part of the celebration, the Bank of Baroda was conferred with 5 DigiDhan awards for the financial years 2019-20 & 2020-21 in various categories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Baroda – achieved the top position in the overall digital transactions during FY 2020-21 (felicitated by MeitY)
- BOB – conferred with 5 DigiDhan awards for FY 2019-20 & FY 2020-21 at the 'Digital Payments Utsav'
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – "India's International Bank"

462. On December 20, ICICI Lombard General Insurance collaborated with Clove Dental, India's largest network of oral clinics, to offer dental insurance. This partnership will provide oral health support to Clove Dental's consumers that will encompass all necessary dental treatment expenses under the OPD benefit of ICICI Lombard. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard + Clove Dental = partnership to offer dental insurance
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

463. On December 21, Mastercard and Google Pay partnered to launch Tokenization Card Services that will enable Google Pay users to safely transact using their Mastercard credit and debit cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Google Pay = partnership to launch Tokenization Card Services
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998

464. On December 21, Karnataka Gramin Bank (KGB) signed an MoU with Care Health Insurance Ltd to market health insurance products for customers of the bank across 22 districts of Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Gramin Bank + Care Health Insurance = partnership to market Health Insurance products
- HQs of Karnataka Gramin Bank – Ballari, Karnataka | CEO – Nandini K R
- HQs of Care Health Insurance – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Anuj Gulati



465. On December 21, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with Udemy Business, a destination for learning and teaching online, to encourage continuous learning and skill development for its employees. Under its vision of “Talent Development for All”, NPCI is working hard on the capability building of its employees and has increased its budget for Learning & Development (L&D) by seven times. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + Udemy Business = partnership to encourage continuous Learning & Skill Development for its employees
- “Talent Development for All” – a vision/mission of NPCI
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Udemy Busine – San Francisco, US | CEO – Gregg Coccari

466. On December 21, Axis Bank approved to reclassify the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL) from ‘Promoter’ category to ‘Public’ category shareholder. The Oriental Insurance held 0.17% stake in Axis Bank as on September 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – approved to reclassify the Oriental Insurance from ‘Promoter’ category to ‘Public’ category shareholder
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of OICL – New Delhi | CMD – Anjan Dey

467. On December 22, U GRO Capital signed a co-lending agreement with Central Bank of India. Under this partnership, the two entities aim to disburse up to Rs 1000 Cr to UGRO Capital’s varied MSME segments under its programs like Pratham, Sanjeevani, Saathi, GRO MSME and Machinery financing, in next 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U GRO Capital + CBol = co-lending agreement to disburse up to Rs 1000 Cr to underserved MSMEs in next 12 months
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of CBol – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”

468. On December 22, National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched a new corporate governance initiative - “NSE Prime” that NSE-listed companies can adopt voluntarily. NSE Prime is a framework that prescribes higher standards of corporate governance for listed Companies than those required by regulations. An NSE Prime company needs at least 40% public shareholding as against 25% under the SEBI rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSE – launched a new corporate governance initiative - “NSE Prime” for companies willing to raise governance bar
- An NSE Prime company needs at least 40% public shareholding as against 25% under the SEBI Rules
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye



Defence Affairs

469. “PANEX-21”, a multi-national - multi-agency exercise was organised at Pune from December 20-22, 2021 to develop capabilities in Disaster Management aspects for the BIMSTEC nations. The exercise was attended by delegates and subject matter experts from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “PANEX-21” exercise – organised at Pune to develop capabilities in Disaster Management for the BIMSTEC nations
- HQs of BIMSTEC – Dhaka, Bangladesh | Secretary General – H. E. Mr. Tenzin Lekphell | Established in – 1997
- BIMSTEC member countries: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand | Chair – Sri Lanka

470. On December 21, the first set of indigenously developed next generation “Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle” was inducted into the Corps of Engineers of Indian Army. The system was designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak & Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First set of “Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle” was inducted into the Indian Army Corps of Engineers
- The system was designed by DRDO | Manufactured by – Ordnance Factory Medak & BEL

471. On December 21, the Indian Army is set to receive a new range of indigenously designed and developed anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. The Indian Army is going to induct 7 lakh indigenously developed “Nipun” anti-personnel mines which are developed by the DRDO. The Corps of Engineers are also carrying out trials of ‘Vibhav’ and ‘Vishal’ anti-tank mines, which are also developed by the DRDO for the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – to induct 7 lakh indigenously developed “Nipun” anti-personnel mines | Developed by – DRDO
- Corps of Engineers are carrying out trials of ‘Vibhav’ & ‘Vishal’ anti-tank mines | Developed by – DRDO
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

472. On December 21, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed the first squadron of Russia-made “S-400” missile system in the Punjab sector. This will give a boost to country’s air defence capabilities. The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India in a deal worth around ₹35,000 Cr and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats from up to 400 km. The S-400 was developed by Russia’s Almaz Central Marine Design Bureau. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF – deployed the first squadron of Russia’s “S-400” missile system in the Punjab sector
- Operational range – 400 km
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh



Important Days & Dates

473. The Central government celebrated “Good Governance Week” from December 20 to 26, according to the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievance (DARPG). During the week, the nationwide campaign titled “Prashasan Gaon ki Aur” was launched. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 20 to 26 – “Good Governance Week”
- Nationwide campaign launched during the week – “Prashasan Gaon ki Aur”

474. On 22 December 2021, India celebrated 10th edition of “National Mathematics Day” to mark the 134th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, one of the most remarkable mathematicians of the 20th century. Dr Manmohan Singh, then Prime Minister, declared the December 22 as National Mathematics Day in 2012. Moreover, 2012 was observed as the “National Year of Mathematics” in India. Besides, 1729 is globally known as the ‘Hardy-Ramanujan Number’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 22 – 10th “National Mathematics Day” (134th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan)
- 2012 – “National Year of Mathematics” in India
- 1729 – Hardy-Ramanujan Number



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

475. On December 18, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal chaired an interaction with the heads of Indian industry and Export Promotion Councils in Mumbai, Maharashtra to enhance market access for India in the UAE. During the meeting, the UAE committed \$100 Billion for investment and infrastructure creation in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – chaired an interaction with the heads of Indian industry & Export Promotion Councils in Mumbai
- UAE – committed \$100 Billion for investment & infrastructure creation in India
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

476. In December 2021, Divya Hegde from Udupi, Karnataka, won the “UN Women’s Award for Leadership Commitment” at the “2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women’s Empowerment Principles Awards” ceremony. She was recognised for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts. Her organisation, Baeru Environmental Services, works in the areas of waste management, creation of livelihoods for rural women, and developing a circular economy in the region. This award is a joint initiative of UN Women and the UN Global Compact. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Divya Hegde ([Karnataka](#)) – won the “UN Women’s Award for Leadership Commitment”
- [The Founder of Baeru Environmental Services – Divya Hegde](#)

477. In December 2021, Azim Premji (Founder Chairman of Wipro) received the 10th annual “Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration” award, jointly established by Christian Medical College Vellore (CMC) and the US-based Vellore CMC Foundation. The award was presented to Mr. Premji in recognition of his contributions to the society through the foundation. Dr. Scudder who was born in Ranipet in 1870 dedicated her life to bringing modern healthcare and medical education to people of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Azim Premji – received the 10th annual “Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration” award in 2021
- The award is jointly established by = Christian Medical College Vellore + Vellore CMC Foundation
- [HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji](#)

478. On December 21, Sonapat-based O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) was the Only Indian University to be Shortlisted for the “Digital Innovation of the Year” award at the distinguished “Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021”. JGU was awarded for creating a free, cloud-based application to help schools and universities manage data. Besides, Bhubaneswar-based Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology won the prize for Asia’s “Leadership & Management Team of the Year” category at “THE Asia Awards 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- O. P. Jindal Global University ([Haryana](#)) – won the “Digital Innovation of the Year” award at the “THE Asia Awards 2021”
- [Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology \(Odisha\)](#) – won the “Leadership & Management Team of the Year” award

479. On December 21, HDFC Life was adjudged the ‘Best Governed Company Listed Segment: Large Category’ at the 21st edition of the “ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance”. The award was presented by Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. The eminent Jury was headed by Justice P. Sathasivam, Former Chief Justice of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life – won ‘Best Governed Company Listed Segment: Large Category’ award at the 21st “ICSI National Awards”
- The award was presented by – Amit Shah | The eminent Jury was headed by – Justice P. Sathasivam
- [HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar](#)

480. On December 20, Tennis player Emma Raducanu was named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”. While Olympic medal-winning skateboarder Sky Brown was named “BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Emma Raducanu ([British Tennis Player](#)) – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”
- Sky Brown ([British-Japanese Skateboarder](#)) – named “BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021”



Appointments & Resignations

481. On December 21, the most outstanding scientist of the DRDO, Atul Dinkar Rane was appointed as the Director-General (DG) of the BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd. This JV entity is known to produce the world-class BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Dinkar Rane – appointed as the Director General of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd
- HQs of BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd – New Delhi | DG – Atul Dinkar Rane

482. On December 20, Indian shuttler PV Sindhu was appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission for 2nd term till 2025. The BWF's Athletes' Commission is chaired by Germany's Marc Zwiebler. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PV Sindhu – re-appointed as a member of the BWF's Athletes' Commission for 2nd term till 2025
- BWF's Athletes' Commission is chaired by – Marc Zwiebler (Germany)
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

483. On December 18, Mohit Jain (The Economic Times) was elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2021-22. Mohit Jain succeeded L. Adimoolam (Health & The Antiseptic publication). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohit Jain – elected as President of The Indian Newspaper Society for 2021-22

484. On December 21, Vivek Gogia (presently IG-NCRB, Ministry of Home Affairs) was appointed as the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). He replaced Ram Phal Pawar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vivek Gogia – appointed as the Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- HQs of NCRB – New Delhi | Director – Vivek Gogia | Established in – 1986

485. On December 22, Cough-and-cold OTC brand Vicks, backed by Procter & Gamble Hygiene and Health Care, announced Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as its new brand ambassador in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ranveer Singh – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Vicks' in India (backed by P&G Hygiene & Health Care)

486. On December 21, Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF). Eastern Fleet is known as the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command. He succeeded Rear Admiral Tarun Sobti. Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla was commissioned into the Indian Navy on January 1, 1989, and is a specialist in communication and electronic warfare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Bhalla – took over the Command of the Eastern Fleet, the 'Sword Arm' of the ENC (succeeding - Tarun Sobti)
- HQs of Eastern Fleet – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOCEF – Sanjay Bhalla



487. On December 20, Rear Admiral Atul Anand assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK). He will be responsible to the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command. He is the recipient of Vishisht Seva Medal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Anand – assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area (FOK)

488. On December 20, Pradeep Kumar Rawat (Ambassador of India to the Netherlands) was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China. He replaced Vikram Misri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradeep Kumar Rawat – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

489. On December 22, Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court following the retirement of Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjaya Kumar Mishra – appointed as the acting Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court
- Retirement age: Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

490. On December 21, India's Kidambi Srikanth jumped 4 places to regain his place (10th) in the world's top 10 in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings. Young Lakshya Sen ranked at 17th position and B. Sai Praneeth slipped two places to the 18th spot. In Men's Single BWF world rankings, Denmark's Viktor Axelsen topped the list. While in women's singles, China's Tai Tzu-ying topped the list. Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu remained static at 7th place, while Saina Nehwal ranked 25th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Men's Single BWF world rankings: Top – Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) | Kidambi Srikanth (10th) & Lakshya Sen (17th)
- Women's Single BWF world rankings: Top – Tai Tzu-ying (China) | PV Sindhu (7th) & Saina Nehwal (25th)

Acquisitions & Mergers

491. On December 21, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) acquired 4.93% stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). IGX is India's first automated national level Gas Exchange. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOCL – acquired 4.93% stake in Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959



492. On December 21, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of the government's shareholding in Air India, Air India Express and Air India SATS Airport Services by Talace Private Limited, a wholly-acquired subsidiary of Tata Sons. The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100% equity share capital of Air India and Air India Express (AIXL) and 50% equity share capital of Air India SATS Airport Services by Talace. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved the acquisition of Air India (100%), Air India Express (100%) & Air India SATS (50%) – by Talace (Mumbai)
- HQs of Tata Sons – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Rajiv Bansal
- HQs of Air India Express – Kochi, Kerala | CEO – Alope Singh
- HQs of Air India SATS Airport Services – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & Chairman – Rajiv Bansal

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

493. On December 21, NITI Aayog signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to address issues related to inclusion of millets in government programmes. The focus will be on mainstreaming millets and strengthening of climate resilient agriculture for enhanced food and nutrition security in India. The Indian government had observed 2018 as a Year of Millets to encourage and promote millet production in India and declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + UNWFP = a Statement of Intent (Sol) to address issues related to Millet & promote its production in India
- 2023 – “International Year of Millet” by UN
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

494. On December 20, Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to promote Indian culture. It was planned to telecast on the national and international channels of Doordarshan. The MoU will be in operation for 3 years from December 2021 to December 2024. Previously, Prasar Bharati signed an MoU with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to bring quality educational programmes to every household, including those in rural and remote areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prasar Bharati + ICCR = an MoU to promote Indian Culture by telecasting on National & Int. Doordarshan channels
- Prasar Bharati + MeitY = an MoU to bring Quality Educational Programmes to every household
- HQs of Prasar Bharati – New Delhi | CEO – Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- HQs of ICCR – New Delhi | DG – Kumar Tuhin | President – Vinay Sahasrabuddhe | Founded in – 1950



Books & Authors

495. On December 19, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik released the book titled, “Gajapati: A king without A Kingdom” written by Ashok Bal. The book highlights a unique facet of ritual association between Gajapati kings with Lord Jagannath. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

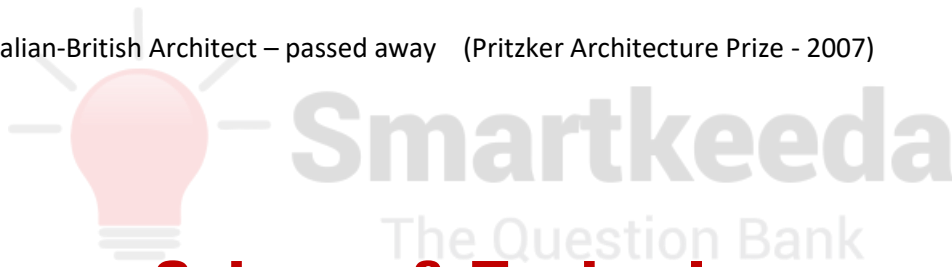
- Naveen Patnaik released “Gajapati: A king without A Kingdom” book – written by Ashok Bal
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Obituaries

496. On December 20, British architect Richard Rogers passed away at the age of 88. He designed a series of landmark buildings around the world, including London’s “Cheesegrater” and the famous multi-coloured, pipe-covered Pompidou arts centre in Paris. He was also the architect of the new World Trade Center in New York, US & the Millennium Dome in London, UK. He was an Italian immigrant and winner of the prestigious Pritzker prize in 2007. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Richard Rogers – Italian-British Architect – passed away (Pritzker Architecture Prize - 2007)



Science & Technology

497. On December 18, IIT Madras developed a class of fast and efficient ‘motion planning’ algorithms which can think like human beings and enable autonomous aerial, ground or surface vehicles to navigate obstacle-cluttered environments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Madras – developed a class of fast & efficient ‘Motion Planning’ algorithms which can think like human beings
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

498. On December 22, Kochi-based Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) was chosen to join a research project backed by the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the ISRO under a NASA-ISRO collaborative programme. NASA and ISRO are jointly developing a space-borne synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) to be launched in January 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KUFOS – was chosen to join a research project backed by the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the ISRO
- NASA + ISRO = jointly developing “NISAR” (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) | To be launched in – Jan 2023
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969



499. On December 21, Pakistan successfully test-fired an enhanced range version of the indigenously-built surface-to-surface Babur cruise missile called “Babur Cruise Missile 1B”. The missile can strike targets up to 900 km from 450 km of earlier missile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired an enhanced range version of Babur cruise missile called “Babur Cruise Missile 1B”
- Missile range of new version – 900 km (from 450 km)
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – Arif Alvi](#)

500. On December 22, India successfully test-fired “Pralay”, surface-to-surface quasi ballistic missile from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The indigenously developed missile can strike targets at a range from 150 to 500 kms and it has a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg. The ballistic missile developed by DRDO is a solid-fuel, battlefield missile that is based on ‘Prithvi Defence Vehicle’ from the Indian ballistic missile programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface quasi ballistic missile “Pralay” | Strike range – from 150 to 500 km
- The missile was test-fired from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha)
- [HQs of DRDO – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)





Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

Presents

TESTZONE

India's least priced Test Series Platform

JOIN

All Bank Exams

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

₹ 599/-

900+ Mock Tests

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

JOIN NOW

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com

SBI | RBI | IBPS | RRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



Join us