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# TESTZONE

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

December  
MockDrill  
PDF No. 11  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 11 Here!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

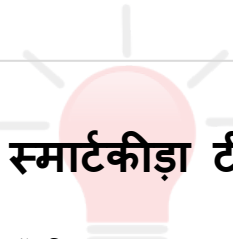
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

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 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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# National & States Affairs

**501.** On December 22, Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air unveiled airline's brand logo which is "Rising A" as well as airline's tagline which is "It's Your Sky". The 'Rising A' symbol represents the spirit of flying, the aim of height and the pursuit of dreams. The brand's colours are 'Sunrise Orange' and 'Passionate Purple', which reflects Akasa's warm, youthful and respectful nature. The symbol & tagline of Akasa Air were crafted by 26FIVE India Lab. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Akasa Air – unveiled its brand logo "Rising A" & its tagline "It's Your Sky" (crafted by - 26FIVE India Lab)
- HQs of Akasa Air – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Founder – Rakesh Jhunjhunwala

**502.** On December 23, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for 27 projects worth ₹2095 Cr in his Varanasi parliamentary constituency. The PM also laid foundation stone for "Banas Dairy Sankul" which is expected to be built at a cost of Rs 475 Cr at Karkhiyaon region in Varanasi. He also distributed rural residential rights record "Gharauni" under the Svamitva scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, to over 20 Lakh residents of Uttar Pradesh. While gifting multiple projects to Varanasi, Narendra Modi also launched a portal and logo dedicated to the Conformity Assessment Scheme (CAS) of milk products developed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) with the help of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for 27 projects worth ₹2095 Cr in Varanasi, UP
- Narendra Modi – laid foundation stone for "Banas Dairy Sankul" in Varanasi, UP
- Narendra Modi – distributed rural residential rights record "Gharauni" to residents of UP under 'Svamitva scheme'
- Narendra Modi – launched portal & logo dedicated to 'Conformity Assessment Scheme' of milk products
- 'Svamitva scheme' – belongs to Ministry of Panchayati Raj | Launched by PM Modi – in April, 2020
- SVAMITVA – Survey of Villages & Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas

**503.** On December 22, Karnataka government decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the police department. The move will help bring transgenders into the mainstream and remove prejudices against them in society. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Karnataka – decided to give 1% reservation to transgenders across all the ranks in the police department
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

**504.** An internet-based platform called "VIHANGAM" integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) was inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to internet platform which can be accessed through 'VIHANGAM' portal by authorized personnel. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- "VIHANGAM" platform, integrated with Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) – inaugurated at Mahanadi Coalfields
- "VIHANGAM" platform is related to Mining activities
- HQs of MCL – Sambalpur, Odisha | CMD – O. P. Singh (addi. charge)



**505.** In December 2021, Goa Chief minister Pramod Sawant launched “Pink Force” to prevent crimes against women and children. Goa became the first state to introduce such a force. The pink force will also work for tourists coming to the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Goa – became the first state to introduce “Pink Force” to prevent crimes against women & children
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**506.** In December 2021, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal laid the foundation stone for a Rs 70 Cr Mega Common Facility Centre for Gem and Jewellery sector, at the Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – laid the foundation stone for a Mega Common Facility Centre for Gem & Jewellery sector – in Mumbai
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**507.** On December 21, North India’s maiden Centre of Entrepreneurship - “MedTech” was opened in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The centre will provide state-of-the-art facilities to startups in MedTech, support the local economy and generate employment opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- North India’s first Centre of Entrepreneurship - “MedTech” – opened in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**508.** On December 24, the SEBI restructured its 3 Advisory Committees pertaining to the secondary market, mutual funds, and corporate bonds & securitisation. SEBI listed Zerodha’s CEO Nithin Kamath among the new inductees in the 17-member Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC). The SMAC will now be chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch. With regard to the Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC), SEBI inducted Saurabh Jain, Aditya Agarwal and Aarati Krishnan. The 24-member advisory committee on mutual funds will be chaired by Usha Thorat. The SEBI also re-constituted its 23-member Corporate Bonds Securitization Advisory Committee (CoBoSAC) which would be headed by G. Mahalingam. In addition, the SEBI stated that its 5-member Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) will be headed by Prof H. Krishnamurthy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI restructured its 3 Advisory Committees:
  - Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC) – to be headed by Madhabi Puri Buch
  - Mutual Funds Advisory Committee (MFAC) – to be headed by Usha Thorat
  - Corporate Bonds Securitization Advisory Committee (CoBoSAC) – to be headed by G. Mahalingam
- Nithin Kamath – inducted into SMAC | Saurabh Jain, Aditya Agarwal & Aarati Krishnan – inducted into MFAC
- Information Systems Security Committee (ISSC) – to be headed by H. Krishnamurthy
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



**509.** On December 22, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin launched a state-of-the-art “CM Dashboard - 360” to spread awareness about the services of the government to the people. It will ensure real-time governance and it is an attempt towards prompt delivery of services and quick decision-making to cope with the emerging situations and cutting-down of delays. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – launched “CM Dashboard - 360” to spread awareness about state government services to the people
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**510.** On December 21, PM Narendra Modi transferred ₹1,000 Cr to bank accounts of self-help groups (SHGs) to benefit around 16 lakh women in Uttar Pradesh. The amount was transferred under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). The mission aims to provide women with necessary skills, incentives and resources. PM Modi also released over ₹20 Cr to more than 1 lakh beneficiaries under the “Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme”. The total remittance is ₹15,000 per beneficiary under this scheme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi transferred ₹1,000 Cr to bank accounts of SHGs to benefit around 16 lakh women in Uttar Pradesh
- “Mukhya Mantri Kanya Sumangala Scheme” – belongs to Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**511.** On December 22, EV maker HOP Electric signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to set up an Electric Vehicle manufacturing plant in Jaipur with a capacity to produce 1.8 lakh vehicles per annum. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HOP Electric + Rajasthan = an MoU to set up an Electric Vehicle manufacturing plant in Jaipur
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of HOP Electric – Jaipur, Rajasthan | CEO – Ketan Mehta

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**512.** On December 22, Vayana Network, one of India’s largest trade finance platform, and Federal Bank were awarded the “Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile and Adaptable” at the “IBSi-Global Fintech Innovation Awards 2021”. The award was conferred in recognition of Vayana Network’s partnership with Federal Bank, for automating and simplifying Supply Chain Finance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vayana Network + Federal Bank = awarded the “Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile & Adaptable”
- HQs of Vayana Network – Pune, Maharashtra | Founder & CEO – Ramaswamy Iyer
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”



**513.** On December 23, Paytm Payments Bank and Nasdaq-listed MoneyGram International Inc. entered into a partnership to enable MoneyGram customers globally to send money in real-time to a Paytm Wallet user in India. This is MoneyGram's first mobile wallet partnership in India. Moreover, in 2017, Paytm Payments bank was launched as India's first bank with zero charges on all online transactions and no minimum balance requirement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm Payments Bank + MoneyGram = partnership to offer international remittance directly to Paytm Wallet
- Paytm Payments bank – India's first bank with zero charges on online transactions & no minimum balance
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of MoneyGram – Texas, US | CEO – W. Alexander Holmes

**514.** On December 24, L&T Finance Holdings Ltd and HSBC Asset Management (India) Private Ltd (HSBC AMC) signed a definitive agreement under which HSBC AMC will acquire 100% equity shares of L&T Investment Management Ltd (L&T Mutual Fund) for \$425 million or about ₹3,191 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- HSBC AMC – to acquire 100% equity shares of L&T Investment Management Ltd for \$425 million (₹3,191 Cr)
- HQs of HSBC AMC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ravi Menon
- HQs of L&T Investment Management Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kailash Kulkarni
- HQs of L&T Finance Holdings – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Dinanath Dubhashi

**515.** On December 24, BOB Financial Solutions and Indian Navy launched a co-branded Credit Card for Navy personnel. The credit card will be equipped with contactless features and will be offered on the RuPay platform. A navy personnel up to the age of 64 years will be eligible to choose from three variants of the co-branded credit card. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BOB Financial Solutions + Indian Navy = launched a co-branded Credit Card for Navy personnel
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India's International Bank”
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**516.** On December 24, the RBI extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline to comply with new card storage rules by another 6 months to June 2022, following requests from industry bodies and other stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenization deadline by another 6 months to June 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935





## Defence Affairs

**517.** On December 21, Pune-based Bharat Forge Ltd developed a unique Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MArG) also called “155 - BR”. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled the Artillery Gun System in the presence of Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane. It is the world’s only 155mm 39 calibre gun system that is mounted on a 4x4 High Mobility Vehicle (HMV). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Bharat Forge Ltd – developed a unique Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MArG) also called “155 - BR”
- HQs of Bharat Forge Ltd – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & Chairman – B. N. Kalyani

**518.** The security of the Offshore Development Area (ODA) in Krishna Godavari Basin on the Eastern Coast of India was reviewed during exercise “Prasthan” conducted from 21 to 22 December 2021. The biannual exercise was coordinated and controlled by NOIC (APD) from Joint Operations Centre, Vizag under the aegis of Indian Navy to assess overall security architecture to provide support during an emergent situation at ODA. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- The security of ODA in Krishna Godavari Basin (East Coast) was reviewed during exercise “Prasthan”
- Exercise “Prasthan” was conducted under the aegis of Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

## Schemes & Initiatives

**519.** On December 20, Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot launched “I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana” to benefit 1.2 Cr women of Rajasthan in a phased manner. In the first phase of this scheme, Rs 200 Cr was given to the department and it will benefit 28-30 lakh women. The Chief Minister also approved the state government’s “Jagriti: Back to Work” scheme for women who had to quit their jobs due to family reasons. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Rajasthan – launched “I Am Shakti Udaan Yojana” & “Jagriti: Back to Work” scheme (both for women)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

## Sports & Games

**520.** On December 23, Indian Men’s Hockey team won a bronze medal after defeating Pakistan at the “Asian Champions Trophy Men’s Hockey Tournament” held in Dhaka, Bangladesh. South Korea emerged as the champions after beating Japan. Harmanpreet Singh was named the ‘Player of the Match’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Asian Champions Trophy Men’s Hockey Tournament” – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Gold – South Korea | Silver – Japan | Bronze – India
- ‘Player of the Match’ – Harmanpreet Singh

**521.** On December 24, Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh announced his retirement from all forms of Cricket. He is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest wicket taker for India in Test cricket. He represented India in 103 Tests, 236 ODIs and 28 T20Is. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harbhajan Singh – retired from all forms of Cricket (4<sup>th</sup> highest wicket taker for India in Test cricket)

**522.** On December 22, Indian teenager Anahat Singh won the prestigious “Junior US Open Squash Tournament” in the ‘U-15 Girls’ category held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US. The 13-year-old Delhi girl defeated Jayda Marei of Egypt. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anahat Singh (Delhi - Squash) – won the prestigious “Junior US Open Squash Tournament” in the ‘U-15 Girls’ category

**523.** Pankaj Advani won “National Billiards Title 2021” defeating his PSPB teammate Dhruv Sitwala. It was his 11<sup>th</sup> National Billiards title and 35<sup>th</sup> title overall. This 88<sup>th</sup> edition of “National Billiards & Snooker Championships” was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pankaj Advani – won “National Billiards Title 2021” (11<sup>th</sup> title)
- 88<sup>th</sup> “National Billiards & Snooker Championships” – held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

**524.** On December 25, Indian skier Aanchal Thakur won the bronze medal in the ‘Giant Slalom (GS)’ category at “Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) Alpine Skiing Competition” held at Kolasin, Montenegro. Aanchal Thakur’s bronze was India’s second-ever international skiing medal. The first, incidentally, was also a bronze won by Aanchal Thakur at the 2018 Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup held in Turkey. With this, Aanchal Thakur became first Indian to win two international skiing medals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Aanchal Thakur (Indian Skier) – won the bronze medal at the “FIS Alpine Skiing Competition” in Montenegro
- Montenegro – Podgorica – Euro | President – Milo Dukanovic

## Important Days & Dates

**525.** “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” is observed across India on December 23 to mark the birth anniversary of the fifth Prime Minister of India, Choudhary Charan Singh. The day was first observed in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 23 – “Kisan Diwas” or “National Farmers Day” (since 2001)
- The day marks the birth anniversary of – Choudhary Charan Singh (5<sup>th</sup> PM of India)

**526.** On 21 December 2021, Indian Army celebrated the 38<sup>th</sup> Corps Day of Judge Advocate General’s Department. Being the legal branch of the Indian Army, Judge Advocate General’s Department deals with military related disciplinary cases and litigation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- December 21 – 38<sup>th</sup> Corps Day of Judge Advocate General's Department (JAG)
- JAG Department is the legal branch of – Indian Army
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

**527.** December 24 is celebrated annually in India as “National Consumer Rights Day”, also called “National Consumer Day” to make consumers aware of their rights and responsibilities. The day commemorates December 24, 1986, when the Consumer Protection Act received assent of the President of India. In 2021, the theme was “Consumer: Know your rights”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 24 – National Consumer Rights Day or National Consumer Day (Consumer Protection Act 1986)
- 2021's Theme – “Consumer: Know your rights”
- March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day

**528.** Ministry of AYUSH observes Siddha Day on eve of Agathiyar's birthday every year on December 23. In 2021, the 5<sup>th</sup> Siddha Day was observed with the theme of “Strength of Siddha Medicine for Communicable Diseases”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 23 – 5<sup>th</sup> Siddha Day – by Ministry of AYUSH (birth anniversary of ‘Agathiyar’)
- 2021's Theme – “Strength of Siddha Medicine for Communicable Diseases”

**529.** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of “Good Governance Day” was celebrated on December 25, to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The day was first observed in 2014. Moreover, “Good Governance Week” was celebrated from December 20 to 25, 2021 with the theme of “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 25 – 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Good Governance Day (since 2014) | Birth anniversary of – Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- December 20 to 25 – “Good Governance Week” | Theme – “Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur”

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**530.** On December 22, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) was awarded Certificate of Merit for energy conservation by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under “National Energy Conservation Awards 2021”. GHIAL was the only one in the airport sector to receive the recognition. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GHIAL – awarded Certificate of Merit for energy conservation under “National Energy Conservation Awards 2021”
- The award was given by – Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre



## Appointments & Resignations

**531.** On December 22, IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance announced the appointment of H. O. Suri as its new managing director and chief executive officer. IFFCO-Tokio General Insurance Company Limited is a 51:49 joint venture between India's IFFCO & Japan's Tokio Marine Group. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- H. O. Suri – appointed as the MD & CEO of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance
- HQs of IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – H. O. Suri

**532.** On December 21, the Indian Olympic Association of India (IOA) appointed Ice Hockey Association of India's (IHAI) general secretary, Harjinder Singh, as the Chef de Mission (in charge of a national team) of Indian contingent for the upcoming "2022 Winter Olympics" in Beijing. The 24<sup>th</sup> edition of Beijing Games will be held from February 4 to 20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Harjinder Singh – appointed as the Chef de Mission of Indian contingent for the "2022 Winter Olympics" in Beijing
- 24<sup>th</sup> edition of "Beijing Winter Olympics" – to be held from February 4 to 20, 2022
- HQs of IHAI – New Delhi | President – Surinder Mohan Bali | General Secretary – Harjinder Singh Jindi

**533.** On December 24, Anindya Banerjee, the Assistant High Commissioner of India to Chittagong, was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Anindya Banerjee – appointed as the High Commissioner of India to Cameroon
- Cameroon – Yaounde – Central African CFA franc | President – Paul Biya

## Amount & Agreements

**534.** On December 23, REC Ltd signed an agreement with German development bank KfW for availing ODA (official development assistance) term loan of \$169.5 million for the power finance sector and renewable energy projects under the Indo-German Bilateral Partnership. Moreover, India government and KfW signed agreements for a Euro 140 million reduced interest loan and Euro 2 million grant for an energy reform programme in Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- REC Ltd + KfW = an agreement to get \$169.5 mn for the Power Finance Sector & RE projects
- Indian Govt + KfW = Euro 140 million loan agreement for Energy sector reforms in Madhya Pradesh
- HQs of KfW – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Gunther Braunig
- HQs of REC Ltd – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Malhotra | Founded in – 1969



**535.** On December 24, Government of India (GoI) and European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a finance contract for the first tranche loan of Euro 250 million for the Agra Metro Rail Project in Uttar Pradesh. EIB had approved a total loan of Euro 450 million to fund the Agra Metro Rail Project. The project aims to provide a safe, reliable, affordable and environment-friendly public Mass Rapid Transit System for Agra city. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GoI + EIB = a contract for the first tranche loan of Euro 250 million for the Agra Metro Rail Project (out of Euro 450 mn)
- HQs of European Investment Bank – Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**536.** On December 23, India, with a total of 54 unicorns (33 unicorns newly added), ranked third in the world, according to “Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021”. According to Hurun India, India’s list of unicorns is led by edtech platform BYJU’s which is valued at \$21 billion. India is behind the US (487 unicorns) and China (301 unicorns) on the index. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021”: 1<sup>st</sup> – US (487 unicorns), 2<sup>nd</sup> – China (301 unicorns), 3<sup>rd</sup> – India (54 unicorns)
- India’s list of unicorns is led by – BYJU’s (valued at \$21 billion)

**537.** On December 21, In the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), 152 (17% of the world total) Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs) were reported in India in 2019, which ranked India third in the list with the maximum dope offenders coming from bodybuilding (57). India is only behind Russia (167) and Italy (157). Based on a compilation of the information received by WADA till January 31, 2021, 1,535 samples (57%) were confirmed as ADRVs (sanctions). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WADA’s “2019 Anti-doping Rule Violations (ADRVs)” report: 1<sup>st</sup> - Russia (167), 2<sup>nd</sup> - Italy (157), 3<sup>rd</sup> - India (152)
- Maximum number of dope offenders came from – Bodybuilding
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Witold Banka

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**538.** “Nadi Utsav 2021” (River Festival) was celebrated in India from December 16 to 23. It is a pan India celebration which was jointly organized by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism. Nadi Utsav was organized under 4 themes - Cleanliness, Patriotism, Nature & Ecology and Devotion & Spirituality. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Nadi Utsav” (River Festival) was organized by = NMCG + Mini. of Jal Shakti + Mini. of Culture + Mini. of Tourism
- 4 themes of Nadi Utsav: Cleanliness + Patriotism + Nature & Ecology + Devotion & Spirituality



# Acquisitions & Mergers

**539.** On December 21, Natural resources conglomerate Vedanta acquired Nicomet, a leading nickel & cobalt producer in Goa, for an undisclosed amount. With the acquisition, Vedanta became India's sole producer of nickel. The acquisition is in line with Vedanta's Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) mission and is a step towards supporting India's Carbon Neutrality Goals. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Vedanta became India's sole producer of nickel – after acquiring 'Nicomet'
- HQs of Vedanta Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sunil Duggal

# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**540.** The Union Cabinet approved the signing of two MoUs. The first MoU was signed between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors (PIBR) to establish mutual co-operation. The second MoU was signed between Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM) for promotion and strengthening of co-operation in competition law and policy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- ICAI + Polish Chamber of Statutory Auditors (Poland) = an MoU approved by Cabinet to establish Mutual Co-operation
- CCI + Competition Commission of Mauritius = an MoU approved by Cabinet for competition law & policy
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | President – Nihar N. Jambusaria | Established in – 1949
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

**541.** On December 24, the SEBI signed the enhanced multilateral MoU (EMMoU) of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). SEBI is already a signatory to MMoU since 2003. The EMMoU was introduced by IOSCO to expand the range of enforcement powers that signatories may use to safeguard the integrity and stability of markets. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SEBI signed the enhanced EMMoU of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)
- SEBI is already a signatory to MMoU – since 2003
- HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**542.** On December 23, An MoU signed between the customs of India and Maldives to launch a pilot project on Pre-arrival Cargo Data Exchange. This marked the beginning of the electronic exchange of customs data between two countries for swifter EXIM clearances. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- An MoU signed between the customs of "India & Maldives" to launch a pilot project on Pre-arrival Cargo Data Exchange
- Maldives – Male – Maldivian rufiyaa | President – Ibrahim Mohamed Solih



**543.** On December 24, UNICEF and TRIFED joined hands to launch the “Tribal Samvaad network” - a Tribal network for Social and Behaviour Change. It is a people-to-people ‘prosperity’ platform built on the emergent digital, social, alternate and mobile revolution. The mantra of the campaign is “Samvad se Sambandh”. Besides, Minister of Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda announced the creation of 14 Honey Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), with TRIFED as the Implementing Agency. He also released a report titled “Tribal Livelihoods: From Sustenance to Sustainability” to highlight the creative capabilities of tribal groups. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UNICEF + TRIFED = launched the “Tribal Samvaad network” - a Tribal network for Social & Behaviour Change
- Arjun Munda – announced the creation of 14 Honey FPOs | Implementing Agency – TRIFED
- Arjun Munda – released a report titled “Tribal Livelihoods: From Sustenance to Sustainability”
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna | Chairman – Ramesh Chand Meena | Founded in – 1987

## Books & Authors

**544.** On December 22, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar released the book titled “Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021”. The book is published by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD). The book highlights the growth achieved in spices sector during the last 7 years from 2014-15 to 2020-21 in India. Spices production in India grew from 67.64 lakh tonnes in 2014-15 to 106.79 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 with an annual growth rate 7.9%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Singh Tomar released the book titled “Spices Statistics at a Glance 2021”
- Published by – Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD)
- Spices production in India grew to 106.79 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 (from 67.64 lakh tonnes in 2014-15)

**545.** Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book titled “The Turnover Wizard - Saviour Of Thousands”, an autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury, the former Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited and NBCC (India) Limited. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Turnover Wizard - Saviour Of Thousands” – an autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury
- The book was released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu

**546.** In December 2021, A number of books were published to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ‘1971 Indo-Pak war’. Penguin Random House published Ian Cardozo’s “1971: Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War” and “The Burning Chaffees, A Soldier’s First-Hand Account of the 1971 War” by Balram Singh Mehta. While Speaking Tiger published Major General Vijay Singh’s book on his father Hamir Singh’s experience - “POW 1971: A Soldier’s Account of the Heroic Battle of Daruchchian”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “1971: Stories of Grit and Glory from the Indo-Pak War” book – authored by Ian Cardozo
- “The Burning Chaffees, A Soldier’s First-Hand Account of the 1971 War” – authored by Balram Singh Mehta
- “POW 1971: A Soldier’s Account of the Heroic Battle of Daruchchian” – authored by Vijay Singh



**547.** “The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0” is authored by economist and BJP national spokesperson Sanju Verma. It is a massive book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his outstanding body of work. The book is divided into three parts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0” – authored by Sanju Verma

## Obituaries

**548.** On December 24, Malayalam film director K. S. Sethumadhavan passed away at the age of 90. Sethumadhavan won 10 National Awards and 8 State Awards including ‘J C Daniel Award’ for lifetime contributions in 2009. He had directed 64 movies in 6 languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- K. S. Sethumadhavan – Malayalam Film Director – passed away

## Science & Technology

**549.** On December 24, the Indian Army launched a contemporary messaging application named, “ASIGMA” (Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application). It is a new generation, state of the art, web based application developed entirely in-house by team of officers of the Corps of Signals of the Army. This new application was deployed on the Army’s internal network as a replacement of “AWAN” (Army Wide Area Network) messaging application which had been in service for past 15 years. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Army – launched a messaging app - “ASIGMA” (**A**rm**y S**ecure **I**ndi**G**eneous **M**essaging **A**pplication)
- This new app replaced “AWAN” (**A**rm**y W**ide **A**rea **N**etwork) messaging app which was in service for past 15 years
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

**550.** In December 2021, the British Council approved ‘Going Global Partnerships Exploratory Grants’ for Digital University Kerala (Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation & Technology) for promoting disaster preparedness in partnership with the University of Southampton in the UK. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- British Council approved ‘Going Global Partnerships Exploratory Grants’ for Digital University Kerala
- Digital University Kerala – located in Veiloor, Thiruvananthapuram
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan







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