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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 12

(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 28th January 2022

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

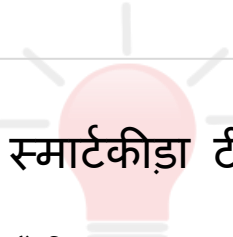
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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



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National & States Affairs

551. On December 24, Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari launched the first “Intelligent Transport System” on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. The ITS can detect any accident and receive alerts to ensure that ambulance reaches the spot within 10-15 minutes. Additionally, the Union minister laid the foundation stone of National Highway projects of 240 Km worth ₹9,119 Cr in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH – launched 1st “Intelligent Transport System” on Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Dasna, Ghaziabad in UP
- Nitin Gadkari – laid the foundation stone of NH projects of 240 Km worth ₹9,119 Cr in Meerut & Muzaffarnagar
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

552. On December 24, the Central government appointed two sub-committees to lower crop insurance premium under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY). The first committee is a 10-member committee which is headed by ISRO’s scientist K. R. Manjunath and will explore the feasibility of adoption of various technology-based approaches. The other sub-committee is headed by Saurabh Mishra and will conduct cost benefit analysis of all accepted models. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Govt constituted 2 sub-committees to lower crop insurance premium under ‘PMFBY’
- The first committee is headed by – K. R. Manjunath
- The second committee is headed by – Saurabh Mishra

553. On December 24, Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) targets to install additional 1.6 Cr ‘Smart LED’ streetlights across India by 2024 under its “Streetlight National Programme (SLNP)”. Since the first project in 2014 in Andhra Pradesh’s Vizag, EESL has so far installed 1.2 Cr LED streetlights across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- EESL – targets to install additional 1.6 Cr ‘Smart LED’ streetlights across India by 2024 under its ‘SLNP’
- EESL’s first project was launched in 2014 – in Vizag, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Arun Kumar Mishra | Chairman – K. Sreekant

554. On December 24, Punjab Cabinet approved to set up a State General Category Commission for unreserved classes. This Commission will safeguard the interests of the unreserved classes besides effective implementation of various welfare schemes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab Cabinet – approved to set up a State General Category Commission for unreserved classes
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

555. On December 23, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) announced to deploy 32 women commandos in VIP security details of some leaders & Z-Plus personalities. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CRPF – to deploy 32 women commandos in VIP security details of some leaders & Z-Plus personalities
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | DG – Kuldiep Singh | Formed – 1939 | Motto – “Service & Loyalty”

556. On December 23, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik distributed a special Covid assistance of Rs 6,000 for every registered newspaper hawker in the state. The assistance has been provided by the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. Along with the COVID-19 assistance, newspaper hawkers have been included in the Unorganized Social Security Board and will be provided the financial cover for accidents and disability due to that. An assistance of Rs 2 lakh will be provided in case of accidental deaths and Rs 1 lakh in case of natural deaths. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – distributed a special Covid assistance of Rs 6,000 for every registered newspaper hawker
- Additionally, financial cover for accidents: Rs 2 lakh in case of accidental deaths & Rs 1 lakh in case of natural deaths
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

557. Following demand from several quarters after the December 4 killing of civilians in Nagaland, a 5-member committee was formed to suggest withdrawal of the “Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)” from Nagaland. The panel would submit its report to the government within 45 days. Vivek Joshi, the registrar general and census commissioner of India, will head the 5-member committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5-member committee is constituted to withdraw “Armed Forces (Special Power) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)” from Nagaland
- The committee will be headed by – Vivek Joshi

558. On December 25, On the eve of “Good Governance Day”, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) announced the launch of an important governance tool for waste management called “Azadi@75 Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities - Toolkit 2022”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched “Azadi@75 Star Rating Protocol of Garbage Free Cities - Toolkit 2022”
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore

559. On December 24, G. Asok Kumar, the Director General of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Vibha Dhawan, the Director General of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) launched the NMCG-TERI’s “Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Water Reuse” at the TERI Headquarters in New Delhi. The Centre will be headed by Dr. Nupur Bahadur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Asok Kumar + Vibha Dhawan – launched “Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Water Reuse” in New Delhi
- The centre will be headed by – Nupur Bahadur
- NMCG functions under – Ministry of Jal Shakti | DG – G. Asok Kumar
- HQs of TERI – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Vibha Dhawan | Established in – 1974



560. On December 24, Union Agriculture Minister Narendrasingh Tomar inaugurated a 4-day agriculture exhibition named 'Agrovision' in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The minister also exhorted farmers (anna-datas) to become urja-datas and grow crops to make ethanol for transport vehicles. [{Read more}](#)

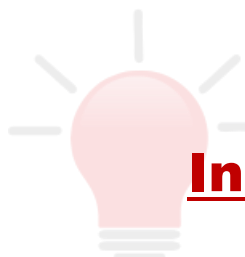
Key Points:

- Narendrasingh Tomar – inaugurated a 4-day agriculture exhibition named 'Agrovision' in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

561. On December 28, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a "Health Service Management Centre" (HSMC) for monitoring various national and state-level health schemes. He also unveiled "GERMIS" (Gujarat Epidemic Response Management Information System) portal in Gandhinagar. HSMC aims to monitor the benefits received under various government schemes. While GERMIS, a portal under HSMC, will monitor the daily availability of hospital beds, ventilators, and oxygen beds in the state's public and private Covid hospitals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched:
 - "Health Service Management Centre (HSMC)" – to monitor various national & state-level health schemes
 - "GERMIS" portal – to monitor the daily availability of hospital beds, ventilators & oxygen beds
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



International Affairs

562. On December 25, Russia fined Google with an unprecedented fine of nearly \$100 million, while Meta (formerly Facebook) received a fine of \$27 million for failing to remove banned content. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – fined Google with \$100 million & Meta with \$27 million for failing to remove banned content
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

563. On December 25, At the "CII Digital Transformation Award 2021", HDFC Bank was adjudged as the "Most Innovative Best Practice" for financial inclusion with the Government of India's Common Service Centres (CSC). HDFC Bank focuses on financial inclusion by offering entire bouquet of its world-class products through CSC's network of VLE (Village Level Executive) centres. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – adjudged as the "Most Innovative Best Practice" at the "CII Digital Transformation Award 2021"
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"



564. On December 25, Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed 4th co-lending arrangement with Lendingkart Finance Limited as part of its efforts to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy. As per RBI Co-Lending Model (CLM), bank and NBFC will co-lend the customer in the ratio of 80 and 20%, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PNB + Lendingkart = 4th co-lending arrangement to improve credit flow to unserved & underserved sector of Economy
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia

565. On December 25, SIDBI signed an MoU with the government of West Bengal to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state. As per the MoU a project management unit (PMU) of SIDBI will work with the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI + West Bengal = an MoU to develop the MSME ecosystem in the state
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

566. On December 27, HDFC Bank partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer its banking services in Semi-urban & Rural areas. Under the pact, HDFC will cater to over 4.7 Cr customers of IPPB, most of which reside in rural areas. IPPB has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank + IPPB = partnership to offer its banking services in Semi-urban & Rural areas
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

567. On December 27, HDFC Life Insurance announced a bancassurance tie-up with South Indian Bank that will enable customers of the bank to avail a range of life insurance products of the insurer that include solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life + South Indian Bank = a bancassurance tie-up
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Vibha Padalkar
- HQs of South Indian Bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – Murali Ramakrishnan

568. On December 29, IndusInd Bank signed an agreement with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) for offering real-time cross-border remittances through UPI. IndusInd Bank has started off with Thailand for Foreign Inward Remittance (FIR) through UPI. With this, IndusInd Bank became the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank + NPCI = an agreement to offer cross-border payments through UPI
- IndusInd Bank – became the first bank in India to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”



569. On December 29, Indipaisa, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank, plans to launch a set of innovative Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's flourishing 63 million Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indipaisa + NSDL Payments Bank = partnership to launch a set of innovative Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions
- HQs of Indipaisa – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Aizaz Tahsildar
- HQs of NSDL Payments Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar

570. On December 24, the RBI imposed penalty of Rs 1 Cr each on two payment system operators (PSOs), Mobikwik and Spice Money, for non-compliance of norms. The penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of 'Section 30' of the PSS Act. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed penalty of Rs 1 Cr each on Mobikwik & Spice Money
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, CEO & Director – Bipin Preet Singh
- HQs of Spice Money – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Co-Founder & CEO – Sanjeev Kumar

571. On December 28, Karnataka government's e-Governance department partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Bank of India (SBI) for enabling and implementing "e-RUPI", a cashless and contactless payment solution to students under its scholarship programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka + NPCI + SBI = partnership to implement "e-RUPI" for cashless education scholarship fee payment
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

Defence Affairs

572. On December 27, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) selected Paras Defence & Space Technologies for handing over the technology of Border Surveillance Systems (BSS) as developed by Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) and DRDO. This technology was transferred by a licensing agreement for transfer of technology (ToT). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO selected Paras Defence & Space Technologies to hand over the technology of Border Surveillance Systems
- BSS are developed by – IRDE-DRDO (Dehradun, Uttarakhand)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of Paras Defence & Space Technologies – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Sharad Virji Shah



573. On December 24, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a first-of-its-kind “Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC)” and a “BrahMos Manufacturing Centre” to be established by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Lucknow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – laid the foundation stone for “Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC)” & “BrahMos Manufacturing Centre” – in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Schemes & Initiatives

574. On December 25, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced to distribute free smartphones and tablets to over 1 Cr final year students of graduation and above under “UP Free Laptop Scheme 2021”. The CM distributed 60,000 smartphones and 40,000 tablets to the students in the first phase. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UP – to distribute free smartphones/tablets to final year students of UG/PG under “UP Free Laptop Scheme 2021”
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

575. In December 2021, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched “Meendum Manjappai” scheme to promote the use of cloth bags by the public and discourage the use of single-use plastic bags. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “Meendum Manjappai” scheme against single-use plastic bags & to promote cloth bags
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

Sports & Games

576. On December 24, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) restored the accreditation of the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), which was suspended in 2019 because of its failure to comply with global standards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WADA – restored the accreditation of the National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)
- HQs of WADA – Montreal, Canada | President – Witold Banka
- HQs of NDTL – New Delhi | Chairman – Anurag Singh Thakur

577. On December 23, Bangladesh Under-19 Women’s team defeated India by 1-0 to lift the “South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-19 Women’s Football Championship”. The match was played at Bir Shrestha Shaheed Shipahi Mustofa Kamal Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Bangladesh – won the “SAFF U-19 Women’s Football Championship”
- HQs of SAFF – Dhaka, Bangladesh | President – Kazi Salahuddin | General Secretary – Anwarul Huq

578. On December 23, All India Football Federation announced, as many as 18 Indian referees have been selected in the FIFA Refereeing International List for 2022. Out of 18, four are women (two referees and two assistant referees). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18 Indian referees – selected in the “FIFA Refereeing International List for 2022”
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

579. On December 26, Himachal Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu in the final of the “Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021” and won their first-ever domestic title at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – won “Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021” – at Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur, Rajasthan (beating - TN)
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



Important Days & Dates

580. The 2nd edition of “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness” was marked on December 27, 2021. The day was first observed in 2020. This day is marked as preparedness for pandemic has always been an important aspect for health authorities across the globe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 27 – 2nd edition of “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

581. In December 2021, Environmentalist Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi was awarded the “Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021”. Vidyut Mohan, Tulsi Gowda and Ridhima Pandey were also the recipients of the award. The awardees were felicitated by Dr Abraham Mathai, the founder chairman of Harmony Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice 2021” – given by Harmony Foundation (Mumbai)
- Winners: Anil Prakash Joshi + Vidyut Mohan + Ridhima Pandey + Tulsi Gowda



582. In December 2021, For the second year in a row, IIT Roorkee has been selected by the prestigious Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for the “Industrial Innovation Awards 2021”. IIT Roorkee bagged the first position under the ‘Most Innovative Research Institutions’ category in 2021. The second and third positions went to IIT Madras and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad (INCOIS), respectively. The awards were announced at the 27th DST-CII Technology Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Industrial Innovation Awards 2021” – given by the CII
- IIT Roorkee – first position under the ‘Most Innovative Research Institution’ category (2nd year in a row)
- 2nd – IIT Madras | 3rd – INCOIS (Hyderabad)
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

583. On December 24, Anukrti Upadhyay won the “Sushila Devi Award 2021” for the ‘Best Book of Fiction’ for her critically acclaimed novel, “Kintsugi”. This prize is instituted by the Shri Ratanlal Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anukrti Upadhyay (“Kintsugi” novel) – won the “Sushila Devi Award 2021” for the ‘Best Book of Fiction’
- This award is given by – Shri Ratanlal Foundation

584. In December 2021, Gujarat’s Surat-based noted industrialist Viral Desai, popularly known as ‘Greenman’ for his love for the environment, was awarded the prestigious “Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award” in Dubai. Viral Desai and the other winners were felicitated with the 8th edition of “Bharat Gaurav Samman” by Sanskruti Yuva Sansthan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th edition of “Bharat Gaurav Samman” – given by Sanskruti Yuva Sansthan in Dubai, UAE
- Viral Desai (Gujarat) – awarded the prestigious “Global Environment & Climate Action Citizen Award 2021”

Appointments & Resignations

585. On December 23, Indian golfer Aditi Ashok signed a 2-year MoU with Hyundai Motor India Ltd as brand ambassador. Aditi will be representing Hyundai in national and international sports tournaments and championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aditi Ashok (Indian Golfer) – appointed as brand ambassador of Hyundai Motor India
- HQs of Hyundai Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Unsoo Kim

586. The RBI approved the appointment of Rajeev Ahuja as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of RBL Bank for upto 3 months effective from December 25, 2021. Rajeev Ahuja was appointed after its regular MD & CEO Vishwavir Ahuja went on medical leave. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Rajeev Ahuja – appointed as interim MD & CEO RBL Bank for up to 3 months
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

587. On December 21, Global demand for coal-fired electricity grew 6% in 2021 to 7,906 million tonnes (Mt) and generation 9% to 10,350 terawatt-hours (TWh), according to “Coal 2021 Report” released by the International Energy Agency (IEA). Generation increased 12% in India and 9% in China. The CO₂ emissions from coal in 2024 will result in 3 gigatonnes higher than its Net Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Coal 2021 Report” – released by IEA
- Global demand for coal-fired electricity in 2021 – increased by 6% to 7,906 MT
- Global coal-fired electricity generation in 2021 – increased by 9% to 10,350 TWh
- CO₂ emissions from coal in 2024 will result in 3 GT higher than its Net Zero Emissions by 2050
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

588. On December 26, As per the “World Economic League Table 2022” released by UK-based Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), the world’s economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022. The report predicted that China will become the world’s largest Economy in 2030 by overtaking the USA. India looks set to overtake France in 2022 and then Britain in 2023 to regain its place as the world’s 6th biggest economy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Economic League Table 2022” – released by Centre for Economics & Business Research (London, UK)
- World’s economic output will exceed \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022
- China – become the world’s largest Economy in 2030 by overtaking the USA
- India – to overtake France in 2022 & Britain in 2023

589. On December 25, Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah released the “Good Governance Index 2021” prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) on Good Governance Day at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa top the composite rank score under Group A covering 10 sectors. Under Group B, Madhya Pradesh topped the list. While Himachal Pradesh and Delhi topped under Northeast & Hill States & Union Territories category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released the “Good Governance Index 2021” prepared by DARPG
- Group A Composite: Gujarat
- Group B Composite: Madhya Pradesh
- Northeast & Hill States: Himachal Pradesh
- UTs: New Delhi



Acquisitions & Mergers

590. On December 20, Wipro announced to acquire Texas-based Edgile for \$230 million. Edgile is the trusted cyber risk and regulatory compliance partner to the world's leading organizations. Edgile's experienced cybersecurity and risk management professionals will allow Wipro to further enhance its cybersecurity and risk consulting capabilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

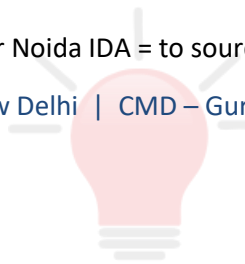
- Wipro – announced to acquire 'Edgile' (US) for \$230 million
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte | Founder Chairman – Azim Premji

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

591. On December 24, NTPC Ltd signed an agreement with Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) for sourcing combustible parts of municipal solid waste also referred to as 'Refused Derived Fuel'. The GNIDA will be supplying 20 tonnes per day of Refused Derived Fuel to NTPC for a period of 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC Ltd + Greater Noida IDA = to source combustible parts of 'Municipal Solid Waste' or 'Refused Derived Fuel'
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975



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Books & Authors

592. A new book titled "The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land" is authored by India's former Chief of Army Staff Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (ret'd). It is published by HarperCollins India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Kashmir Conundrum: The Quest for Peace in a Troubled Land" book – authored by Nirmal Chander Vij

593. On December 27, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book "Dr. V. L. Dutt - Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey", written by V. L. Indira Dutt, the Chairperson and MD of KCP Group. The book highlights the life of Late Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt (V.L. Dutt), the former Chairman of KCP Group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu released – "Dr. V. L. Dutt - Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey" book – written by V. L. Indira Dutt



Obituaries

594. On December 26, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for his opposition to racial discrimination in South Africa, passed away. He was 90. He received Nobel Prize in 1984. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Desmond Tutu ([South Africa](#)) – a Theologian & Human Rights Activist – passed away (Nobel Peace Prize in 1984)

Science & Technology

595. On December 25, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approved “Apretude”, the world’s first-ever injectable medication capable of reducing the risk of acquiring HIV. It has been developed by GlaxoSmithKline’s ViiV Healthcare. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US FDA – approved “Apretude”, the world’s first-ever injectable medication for HIV pre-exposure prevention
- It has been developed by – ViiV Healthcare ([US](#))

596. On December 25, NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope was launched with Arianespace’s ‘Ariane 5’ rocket from the European Space Agency’s (ESA) launch base in French Guiana. The space telescope reached its final destination which is 1 million miles (1.5 million km) away from Earth. This powerful \$9 billion infrared telescope is an international collaboration led by NASA in partnership with the European Space Agencies (ESA) and Canadian Space Agencies (CSA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “James Webb Space Telescope” – launched with Arianespace’s ‘Ariane 5’ rocket
- Telescope’s final destination – 1.5 million km away from Earth | Cost of the telescope – \$9 billion
- Telescope is an international collaboration between = NASA + ESA + CSA

597. On December 26, China launched a new satellite called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five-meter Optical Satellite 02” with a camera that can take pictures of the ground with a resolution of five meters, as announced by the China National Space Administration (CNSA). The satellite was launched by a ‘Long March-4C’ rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north China's Shanxi province. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched a new satellite called “Ziyuan-1 02E” or “Five-meter Optical Satellite 02”
- The satellite was launched by – ‘Long March-4C’ rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

598. On December 26, Japan launched a huge & highly advanced communications satellite called “Inmarsat-6 F1” into orbit. The satellite was launched atop a Mitsubishi Heavy Industries H-2A rocket from Japan’s Tanegashima Space Center. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Japan – launched a huge & highly advanced communications satellite called “Inmarsat-6 F1” into orbit
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

599. On December 24, In a bid to cool down the domestic prices of Soya Meal, Government notified an order under the Essential Commodities Act to declare “Soya Meal” as an Essential Commodities up to 30th June, 2022 by amending the Schedule of the “Essential Commodities Act, 1955”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government notified an order to declare “Soya Meal” as an Essential Commodities up to 30th June, 2022

600. On December 23, Maharashtra Assembly passed the “Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act” unanimously. With the passage of the Bill, it became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for heinous offences of rape and gangrape. In cases of grievous hurt caused due to acid attacks, the punishment has been enhanced to a minimum of 15 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – passed the “Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) Act”
- Maharashtra – became the second state in India to approve death penalty for offences of rape (1st - Andhra Pradesh)
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari





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