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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 13

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 30th January 2022

[Attempt Test No. 13 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

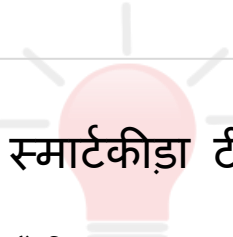
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

601. On December 26, Haryana chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the “Kaushal Rozgar Nigam” portal and announced the setting up of Atal Park and Smriti Kendra in Gurugram. He also launched a magazine “Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan” on the occasion of ‘Good Governance Day’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Kaushal Rozgar Nigam” portal & “Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan” magazine
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

602. On December 27, PM Narendra Modi visited Mandi, Himachal Pradesh to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of Hydropower Projects worth over Rs 11,000 Cr. He also inaugurated 111 MW Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project which is built at a cost of around Rs 2080 Cr. The PM laid the foundation stone of the “Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi inaugurated 111 MW “Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh | Cost – Rs 2080 Cr
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of “Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project” in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

603. On December 28, Oil India Ltd is setting up a 100 kW Green Hydrogen manufacturing plant at its Jorhat oilfield in Assam. The pilot plant will generate green hydrogen using AEM technology. This is a first of its kind project in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oil India Ltd is setting up a 100 kW Green Hydrogen manufacturing plant – at Jorhat, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of OIL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra

604. On December 28, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the completed 9km long section of Kanpur Metro Rail Project in Uttar Pradesh. The section stretches from IIT-Kanpur to Moti Jheel. The entire length of the Metro project is 32km and it is being built at ₹11,000 Cr. While, PM Modi also inaugurated Multiproduct pipeline from Bina Refinery (Madhya Pradesh) to POL Terminal at Panki, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh). 356 Km long project is built at a cost of Rs1524 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – inaugurated the completed 9km long section of Kanpur Metro Rail in UP
- ‘Kanpur Metro’ stretches from IIT-Kanpur to Moti Jheel | Total length – 32km | Cost – ₹11,000 Cr
- PM Modi – inaugurated “Bina-Panki Multiproduct Pipeline Project” which connects MP & UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



605. On December 28, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin ordered a big hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) from 17% to 31% for government employees, pensioners, teachers and family pensioners with effect from January 1, 2022. It would entail the state incurring an additional expenditure of about ₹8,724 Cr annually. Tamil Nadu government also announced to give a 'Pongal' festival gift to government employees & pensioners. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – announced a big hike in D.A. from 17% to 31% for government employees, pensioners & teachers
- Tamil Nadu – announced to give a 'Pongal' festival gift to government employees & pensioners
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

606. On December 28, Minister of State for Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Rajeev Chandrasekhar launched a pilot project for upskilling the cane and bamboo artisans of Nagaland under "Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)", component of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). The project targets to upskill over 4,000 craftsmen and artisans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar – launched a pilot project for upskilling the cane & bamboo artisans of Nagaland under 'RPL'
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

607. On December 30, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched an online service for the verification of identity and submission of life certificates for pensioners of the state government. Odisha is the first state in India to implement such a digital service for pensioners. Under the Digital Life Certificate system, identification and life certificates can now be submitted by the pensioners using AI-based video-verification processes. He also launched E-Diary, under which all information contained in the government diary can be readily and conveniently accessed by citizens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – the first state in India to launch AI-based 'Digital Life Certificate System' for pensioners
- Odisha – launched "E-Diary"
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

International Affairs

608. On December 25, Japan introduced the world's first dual-mode vehicle that can run on roads as well as railway tracks. The DMV can carry upto 21 passengers and runs at a speed of 60km/h on rail tracks and can go as fast as around 100km/h on public roads. The vehicle is powered by diesel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – introduced the world's first dual-mode vehicle that can run on road & railway track
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida



609. Beginning January 1, 2022, India will chair the Counter-terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council for 1 year. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, T. S. Tirumurti will Chair the committee. The UNSC renewed the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) until December 31, 2025. An interim review will be conducted in December 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to chair the Counter-terrorism Committee of the UNSC for 1 year | Committee to be chaired by – T. S. Tirumurti
- HQs of UNSC – New York, US | Presidency in December 2021 – Niger (Nov - Mexico | Jan 2022 - Norway)

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

610. India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI) peaked to a new high of 14.23% in November from 12.54% in October, led by a surge in Primary Food Inflation, according to the data provided by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The WPI climbed 2.73% on a month-on-month basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's annual Wholesale Price Index (WPI) peaked to a new high of 14.23% in November, 2021 (from 12.54% in Oct)

611. On December 29, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with MAS Financial Services to offer loans to MSME borrowers under Priority Sector Lending (PSL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra + MAS Financial Services = partnership to offer loans to MSME borrowers
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of MAS – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO – Darshana S. Pandya | MD & Chairman – Kamlesh Gandhi

612. On December 28, IndusInd Bank launched “Green Fixed Deposits” for retail and corporate customers. The deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The interest rate on IndusInd's Green deposit will remain the same as regular FD plans offered by the bank which is 6% at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndusInd Bank – launched “Green Fixed Deposits” for retail & corporate customers
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

613. On December 27, RBL Bank signed an agreement with Bajaj Finance Limited for the extension of the partnership of co-branded Credit Cards for a period of 5 years to December 2026. Both entities had entered into a partnership in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank + Bajaj Finance = extended the partnership of co-branded Credit Cards up to December 2026
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Ahuja (interim) | Chairman – Prakash Chandra
- HQs of Bajaj Finserv – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Sanjiv Bajaj



614. On December 29, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched “ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium” offering life-stage based cover. This cover offers a return of 105% of all premiums paid on survival, besides providing cover against 64 critical illnesses. It offers two variants - ‘Life Stage Cover’ and ‘Level Cover’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – launched “ICICI Pru iProtect Return of Premium” offering life-stage based cover
- This cover offers a return of 105% of all premiums paid on survival
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

615. On December 28, the RBI extended the restrictions on Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank for another 3 months till March, 2022. The RBI extended the restrictions as further action on the draft scheme for the takeover of the crisis-hit PMC bank by Unity Small Finance Bank (USFB) is in process. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the restrictions on Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank for another 3 months till March, 2022
- HQs of PMC Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Administrator – A. K. Dixit

616. On December 29, Central Bank of India (CBoI) partnered with the National Payments Council of India (NPCI) to launch “RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card” for business & MSME partners. The benefits include ATM withdrawal limit of Rs 1 lakh with a purchase of up to Rs 3 lakh at point of sale (POS) or e-commerce portal and withdrawal of Rs 75,000 at ATMs abroad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBoI + NPCI = partnership to launch “RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card” for business & MSME partners
- HQs of CBoI – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Matam Venkata Rao | Tagline – “Central to You Since 1911”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

617. On December 28, the SEBI announced to introduce Special Situation Funds (SSFs) that will invest only in stressed assets. SSFs were introduced as a sub-category under ‘Category I Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)’. Minimum investment by an investor has to be Rs 10 Cr and Rs 5 Cr in case of an accredited investor, and the minimum corpus has to be Rs 100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – introduced Special Situation Funds (SSFs) as a sub-category under ‘Category I AIFs’
- Minimum investment: Rs 10 Cr by Investor & Rs 5 Cr by Accredited Investor | Minimum Corpus – Rs 100 Cr
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

618. On December 27, the SEBI cleared a proposal to apply a combined limit of up to 35% from 25% for the Initial Public Offerings (IPO). It is to be applied where the intended acquisition/strategic investment is unidentified in the objects of the offer. The SEBI also suggested a reduction in the lock-in period for promoters to 18 months from the current 3 years and for other investors to 6 months against the current 1-year requirement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI cleared a proposal to apply a combined limit of up to 35% for the IPO (fresh issue)
- Lock-in period for promoters reduced to 18 months (from 3 years) | For investors – reduced to 6 months (from 1 year)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



619. On December 30, the IRDAI announced that Insurance Intermediaries, including entities sponsored by them, can maintain multiple 'Current Accounts' in various banks so as to meet regulatory requirements and reinsurance business. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Insurance Intermediaries can maintain multiple 'Current Accounts' in various banks to meet regulatory requirements
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

620. On December 29, Federal Bank signed an MoU with Schwing Stetter (India) Ltd, a subsidiary of Schwing GMBH, Germany, to offer customized financial solutions to their customers. VG Sakthi Kumar, MD of Schwing Stetter India Pvt Ltd, stated that India has emerged as the third largest market for construction equipment globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Schwing Stetter (India) Ltd = an MoU to offer customized financial solutions to their customers
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

621. On December 29, the RBI extended the deadline for Know Your Customer (KYC) in bank accounts till March 31, 2022, from the previous deadline of December 31, 2021. The deadline has been extended again due to the surge in the Omnicron variant of the coronavirus in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI extended the deadline for KYC update in bank accounts – till March 31, 2022 (from Dec 31, 2021)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

622. On December 29, the RBI released the 24th Financial Stability Report (FSR). Macro Stress Tests for Credit Risk indicate that the Gross Non-Performing Asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) may increase from 6.9% in September 2021 to 8.1% by September 2022 under the baseline scenario and to 9.5% under a severe stress scenario. The GNPA ratio of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) may increase from 8.8% in September 2021 to 10.5% by September 2022. While Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of SCBs rose to a new peak of 16.6% and their provisioning coverage ratio (PCR) stood at 68.1% in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released the 24th Financial Stability Report (FSR) on December 29, 2021
- GNPA ratio of SSBs is expected to increase from 6.9% in Sep 2021 to 8.1% by Sep 2022 (under baseline scenario)
- GNPA ratio of PSBs is expected to increase from 8.8% in Sep 2021 to 10.5% by Sep 2022
- CRAR of SCBs increased to a new peak of 16.6% in Sep 2021 | PCR stood at 68.1% in Sep 2021
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



Defence Affairs

623. On December 23, INS Khukri (Pennant number 49), the first of the indigenously built missile corvettes, was decommissioned in Visakhapatnam after 32 years of service. The corvette was built by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders and commissioned on August 23, 1989. [{Read more}](#)

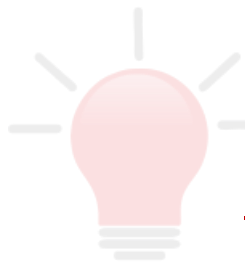
Key Points:

- INS Khukri – decommissioned in Visakhapatnam after 32 years of service (Commissioned on – August 23, 1989)
- “INS Khukri” - the first of the indigenously built missile corvettes – built by Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders

624. On December 29, Indian Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), established the “Quantum Lab” at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow (officially Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) in Indore to spearhead research and training in this key developing field. Indian Army also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre at the same institution with over 140 deployments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + NSCS = established the “Quantum Lab” at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE)
- MCTE – located at Mhow, Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



Sports & Games

625. On December 30, Veteran New Zealand Cricketer Ross Taylor announced to retire from International Cricket. Taylor played 102 T20 internationals, becoming the world’s first cricketer to play more than 100 matches in all three formats of Cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ross Taylor (New Zealand - Cricketer) – announced to retire from International Cricket
- Ross Taylor – the world’s first cricketer to play 100 matches in all three formats of Cricket

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

626. On December 27, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri addressed the first ever “Real Estate Summit 2021 - Unlocking Opportunities” at Convention Centre, Jammu. The summit was organized by Government of Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). During the summit, the J&K government signed 39 MoUs worth of Rs 18,300 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – addressed the first ever “Real Estate Summit 2021 - Unlocking Opportunities”
- The summit was organized by = J&K Govt + MoHUA



627. On December 27, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar inaugurated the “Annual Chief Engineers and Equipment Management Conference of Border Roads Organisation (BRO)” in New Delhi. Dr Ajay Kumar also flagged-in “India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition” which was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh from India Gate, New Delhi on October 14, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ajay Kumar – inaugurated the “Annual Chief Engineers & Equipment Management Conference of BRO” in New Delhi
- Ajay Kumar – also flagged-in “India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

628. On December 28, Alia Bhatt is recognised for her work towards animal welfare. She was recently named “2021 Person of the Year” by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India. While actors Akshay Kumar and Bhumi Pednekar were named “2021 Most Beautiful Vegetarians” by PETA India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alia Bhatt – named “2021 Person of the Year” by PETA India
- Akshay Kumar & Bhumi Pednekar – named “2021 Most Beautiful Vegetarians” by PETA India
- HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA | President – Ingrid Newkirk



Appointments & Resignations

629. On December 28, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Atul Kumar Goel (MD & CEO of UCO Bank) as the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB) with effect from February 1, 2022. Goel will serve as PNB's MD & CEO until December 31, 2024. Goel will replace Mallikarjuna Rao. Meanwhile, the ACC has appointed Soma Sankara Prasad as the MD & CEO of UCO Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Kumar Goel – appointed as the MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (succeeding - S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao)
- Soma Sankara Prasad – appointed as the MD & CEO of UCO Bank (succeeding - Atul Kumar Goel)
- HQs of PNB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Atul Kumar Goel | Tagline – “The Name You Can Bank Upon”
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”

630. On December 24, Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) announced the appointments to its board of Directors. Kamlesh Gandhi (CMD of MAS Financial Services) was appointed as Co-Chairman of FIDC in addition to Umesh Revankar, after the resignation of Sanjay Chamria. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamlesh Gandhi – appointed as Co-Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)
- HQs of FIDC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Emeritus – T. T. Srinivasaraghavan



631. In December 2021, Mohammed ben Sulayem became the first non-European to be elected as the President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), succeeding the retiring Jean Todt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammed ben Sulayem (UAE) – elected as the President of the International Automobile Federation (FIA)
- HQs of FIA – Paris, France | President – Mohammed ben Sulayem

632. On December 28, udazH, India's first portable molecular hydrogen generating machine, announced a well-known Indian Film actress and social worker, Bhagyashree as their brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagyashree – appointed as brand ambassador of 'udazH'

633. On December 25, Indian origin Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen was appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench, the Constitutional Court. President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the appointment of 64-year-old Kollapen and Rammaka Steven Mathopo as the latest additions to the Constitutional Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narandran 'Jody' Kollapen (Indian origin) – appointed to South Africa's highest judicial bench - 'Constitutional Court'
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

634. In December 2021, Yamaha Motor India has appointed Eishin Chihana as its new Chairman. Chihana replaced Motofumi Shitara who held the position since 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eishin Chihana – appointed as new Chairman of Yamaha Motor India
- HQs of Yamaha Motor India – Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Eishin Chihana

635. On December 29, Online travel company EaseMyTrip appointed actors Vijay Raaz and Varun Sharma as its brand ambassadors. The company was co-founded by Nishant Pitti, Rikant Pitti, and Prashant Pitti in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Raaz & Varun Sharma – appointed as brand ambassadors of EaseMyTrip
- HQs of EaseMyTrip – New Delhi | CEO – Nishant Pitti

636. On December 28, Equitas Small Finance Bank's board of directors approved the proposal for re-appointment of Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan as the MD & CEO for 3 years, with effect from July 23, 2022, up to July 22, 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan – re-appointed as the MD & CEO of Equitas Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan



637. On December 28, Vikram Misri, who was India's envoy to Beijing for almost 3 years, was named the next Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA). He succeeded Pankaj Saran, ex-Indian envoy to Russia and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vikram Misri – appointed as the next Deputy National Security Advisor (NSA) | Succeeding – Pankaj Saran
- India's current & 5th National Security Advisor – Ajit Doval

638. On December 27, Radhika Jha, a 2002 Uttarakhand cadre IAS, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in state-run Energy Efficiency Services (EESL), a joint venture among NTPC, Power Grid, Power Finance Corp and REC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Radhika Jha – appointed as the CEO of EESL
- HQs of EESL – New Delhi | CEO – Radhika Jha | Chairman – K. Sreekant

639. On December 30, Senior IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh. He took over from Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985-batch IAS officer, who is due to retire in February 2023. A 1984-batch UP cadre IAS officer, Mishra was due to retire on December 31 but he was given a one-year extension in service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Durga Shankar Mishra – assumed charge as the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh (succeeding - Rajendra Kumar Tiwari)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

640. On December 29, Dr. Anupam Ray (IFS:1994), presently Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs, was appointed as the next Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament (UNCD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Anupam Ray replaced Dr Pankaj Sharma. While, Pankaj Sharma was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anupam Ray – appointed as the next Ambassador/PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament ([Geneva](#))
- Pankaj Sharma – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

641. On December 25, Telangana stood first in the implementation of the “Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)” among the 34 states & UTs. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat took the second and third positions respectively. While Ryakal (Sangareddy) & Jukkal (Kamareddy) clusters in Telangana and Aibawk (Aizawl) cluster in Mizoram stood in the top three positions among the 300 clusters across India. The Mission, launched in February 2016, aims at development of 300 Rurban clusters, in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rankings in the implementation of the “Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)”:
- Among 34 States/UTs: 1st – Telangana, 2nd – Tamil Nadu, 3rd – Gujarat
- Among 300 Clusters: 1st – Ryakal (Sangareddy), 2nd – Jukkal (Kamareddy), 3rd – Aibawk (Aizawl)



642. On December 27, NITI Aayog released the 4th edition of the State Health Index for 2019-20. The report, titled “Healthy States, Progressive India”, ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status. On overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019-20, the top-ranking states were Kerala and Tamil Nadu among the ‘Larger States’, Mizoram and Tripura among the ‘Smaller States’, and Delhi & Jammu & Kashmir among the UTs. The report was developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank. [{Read more}](#)

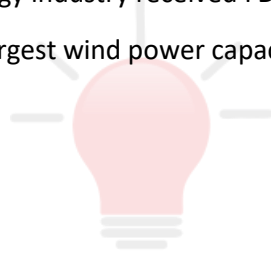
Key Points:

- 4th State Health Index titled “Healthy States, Progressive India” for 2019-20 – developed by NITI Aayog & World Bank
- Top ranking among Larger States: Kerala and Tamil Nadu (respectively)
- Top ranking among Smaller States: Mizoram and Tripura (respectively)
- Top ranking among UTs: New Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir (respectively)

643. On December 28, India’s Green Energy industry received foreign direct investment (FDI) worth \$7.27 billion from 2014-15 till June 2021, according to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Of this, \$797.21 million came during 2020-21. As per “REN21 Renewables 2020 Global Status Report”, during the period 2014-2019 renewable energy programmes and projects in India attracted an investment of \$64.4 billion. India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s Green Energy industry received FDI worth \$7.27 billion from 2014-15 to June 2021 (\$797.21 mn during 2020-21)
- India has the 4th largest wind power capacity in the world



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Obituaries

644. On December 27, Rajya Sabha MP from the Janata Dal (United) and industrialist Mahendra Prasad died at the age of 81. He was the founder of Aristo Pharmaceuticals and was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once. His name was often prefixed with “King”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahendra Prasad – a Politician & Industrialist – passed away
- 7-time Rajya Sabha MP from – Bihar | Party – Janata Dal (U) | Founder of – Aristo Pharmaceuticals

645. In December 2021, Former India goalkeeper Sanath Sett passed away after prolonged illness. He was part of the 1954 Asian Games squad. In his career, he played for Eastern Railway FC, Aryan FC, East Bengal FC & Mohun Bagan FC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanath Sett – a Football Player – passed away



646. On December 27, American Scientist Edward. O. Wilson, dubbed as ‘Modern-day Darwin’, passed away at age 92. He was the trailblazing U.S. biologist, professor and author whose study of insects and clarion call to protect Earth earned him the nickname “Darwin’s natural heir”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Edward. O. Wilson (Modern-day Darwin) – American Scientist (Biologist), Professor & Author – passed away

Person in News

647. On December 28, IPS officer Violet Baruah became the first-ever woman to get promoted to the rank of Inspector General (IG) of Assam Police. Baruah received the President’s Police Medal for Distinguished Service in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPS officer Violet Baruah – became the first-ever woman to get promoted to the rank of IG of Assam Police
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

Science & Technology

648. On December 28, Russia conducted the 3rd & final launch of its new heavy-class “Angara-A5” rocket. It was the third launch of the new rocket after its maiden voyage in 2014. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – conducted the 3rd & final launch of its new heavy-class “Angara-A5” rocket
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

649. On December 29, Russia launched a ‘Project 22220’ nuclear powered icebreaker named “Sibir” that will contribute to the rapidly growing fleet of lethal icebreakers to keep the Northern Sea Route open for year-round shipping through the Arctic enabling wider presence of India in the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – launched a ‘Project 22220’ nuclear powered icebreaker named “Sibir”
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

650. On December 28, PM Narendra Modi launched a system to award Blockchain-based Educational degrees in digital form to students. The technology has been developed by IIT Kanpur under the “National Blockchain Project”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – launched a system to award Blockchain-based Educational degrees in digital form to students
- The technology has been developed by IIT Kanpur under “National Blockchain Project”





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