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The Question Bank

# TESTZONE

बैंक परीक्षाओं के लिए  
निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



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

**December**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 14**

**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 14 Here!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

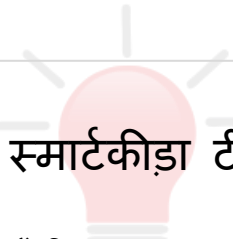
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



### स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मत्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जनवरी 2022 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्यों क MockDrill में शा मल कए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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# Ranks, Report & Surveys

1. In December 2021, UN Women along released a report titled “Women and Girls left behind: Glaring gaps in Pandemic Responses”. This was calculated using data from the “UNDP-UN Women Gender Response Tracker”. The report compiled and analysed the results of Rapid Gender Assessment surveys (RGA) from April 2020-March 2021. At least 29% of working mothers living with children lost their jobs compared to only 20% of working men living with children. Women without children (single, widowed or partnered) were also less likely to receive cash relief (8% of women versus 17% of men).

[{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Women and Girls left behind: Glaring gaps in Pandemic Responses” – released by UN Women
- This was calculated using data from the “UNDP-UN Women Gender Response Tracker”
- HQs of UN Women – New York, USA | Executive Director – Ms. Sima Bahous

2. On December 29, IIT Madras topped the list in promotion and support of innovation and entrepreneurship development, according to “Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)”. IIT Madras was followed by IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur and IIT Roorkee. IISc Bengaluru has bagged the 6<sup>th</sup> position. ARIIA is an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE). [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- “Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)” – an initiative of Ministry of Education
- 1<sup>st</sup> – IIT Madras | 2<sup>nd</sup> – IIT Bombay | 3<sup>rd</sup> – IIT Delhi



3. On December 29, Egypt joined as the 4<sup>th</sup> new member of the New Development Bank (NDB) that was established by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South-Africa) in 2015. Bangladesh, UAE & Uruguay joined in September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Egypt – joined as the 4<sup>th</sup> new member of NDB (Bangladesh, UAE & Uruguay joined in Sep 2021)
- Total number of members in NDB at present – 9 (5 + 4)
- Egypt – Cairo – Egyptian Pound | President – Abdel Fattah el-Sisi
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2021 – India

4. On December 30, China’s Shanghai maintained its position as the city with the largest Metro network in the world, with the opening of two driverless lines - Line 14 and Phase-1 of Line 18. With the inauguration of the new Metro lines, the Shanghai subway network will expand largely along 831km. Shanghai’s Metro network is followed by Beijing, which has the second-largest subway network of 780km. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Shanghai (China) – maintained its position as the city with the largest Metro network in the world (2<sup>nd</sup> - Beijing)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



5. In December 2021, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari reached Port of Maputo, Mozambique to deliver 500 tonnes of food aid under Mission Security And Growth for All in the Region (Sagar). The aid was provided to support the efforts of Government of Mozambique to cope with the ongoing drought and concurrent challenges of the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INS Kesari (India) – delivered 500 tonnes food aid to Mozambique under mission ‘SAGAR’
- Mozambique – Maputo – Mozambican Metical | President – Filipe Nyusi

6. In December 2021, Somalia’s President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed suspended the Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble for suspected corruption. The PM was accused of stealing land owned by the Somali National Army (SNA) and of interfering with a defence ministry investigation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (Somalia’s President) – suspended Mohamed Hussein Roble (Somalia’s PM)
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | President – Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed

7. After being declared extinct in 2003, ‘Tequila Fish’ was reintroduced to its native home - Mexico. Exotic fish and water pollution led to the extinction of the 70mm-long Zoogoneticus tequila in 2003, which is the smallest known species of fish in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Tequila Fish’ (extinct since 2003) – reintroduced to its native home ‘Mexico’
- Mexico – Mexico City – Peso | President – Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador



## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

8. On December 30, ITC Ltd collaborated with Invest India to crowdsource innovative ideas for single-use plastic substitution and automate waste segregation. Under the collaboration, ITC Paperboards and Specialty Papers Division (PSPD) launched the “ITC Sustainability Innovation Challenge”, which would support innovative start-up ideas on sustainable packaging and smart waste management solutions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITC Ltd + Invest India = partnership to crowdsource innovative ideas for single-use plastic substitution
- HQs of ITC Ltd – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & Chairman – Sanjiv Puri
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)

9. On December 30, Premier city-based B-school, Indian School of Business (ISB) partnered with the government of Jharkhand to empower the state’s forest Economy. This initiative will focus on partnership between local communities, industry leaders, who would be using the products of that forest, and government agencies facilitating and regulating the creation of jobs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- B-school, ISB + Jharkhand = partnership to empower the state’s forest Economy & create jobs
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**10.** On December 30, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed an MoU with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini-Nation First Policy Research Centre (RMP-NFPRC) to leverage knowledge, expertise & institutional strengths. The MoU aims to review government schemes like Van Dhan Yojana which is being implemented by TRIFED. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TRIFED + Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini = an MoU to leverage knowledge, expertise & institutional strengths
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | Chairman – Ramsinh Rathwa | Founded in – 1987
- HQs of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Devendra Fadnavis

## **National & States Affairs**

**11.** On December 30, Days after forming a committee to review the Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended it in the entire state till June 30, 2022, declaring the entire state as 'Disturbed Area'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Home Affairs – declared the entire Nagaland as a 'disturbed area' for further 6 months till June 30, 2022
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

**12.** On December 29, Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated "Narendra Modi Marg". It is constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). It is the second road linking Tsomgo lake and Nathula border pass with Gangtok and it spans around 19.51 km. The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated "Narendra Modi Marg" | Constructed by BRO | Length – 19.51 km
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

**13.** On December 28, the US-based chipset company Intel is planning to set up its semiconductor manufacturing unit in India. The Union Cabinet approved a ₹76,000 Cr policy boost for semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in India. A Design Linked Incentive (DLI) scheme will offer incentive of up to 50% of eligible expenditure and product deployment linked incentive of 6-4% on net sales for 5 years. 'India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)', launched by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation that aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Intel is planning to set up its Semiconductor Manufacturing Unit in India
- Union Cabinet approved a ₹76,000 Cr policy boost for Semiconductor & Display Manufacturing Ecosystem in India
- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) – launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw (MeitY)
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968

**14.** On December 30, Tamil Nadu released its "Tamil Nadu State New Policy for Women 2021". The policy would be implemented over 5 years. As per the draft, all forms of transport must be made women-friendly. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu released its “New Policy for Women 2021”
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**15.** First Phase of commercial 5G services will be rolled out in 13 cities in India, including the metropolises, in 2022. These cities are Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Jamnagar. 5G trials are being carried out by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, and Vodafone Idea in the 700 MHz, 3.5 GHz and 26 GHz bands. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- First Phase of commercial 5G services will be rolled out in 13 cities in India in 2022
- 5G trials are being carried out by Bharti Airtel, Jio & Vi in 700 MHz, 3.5 GHz & 26 GHz bands

**16.** On December 28, originally based in Germany, Translumina, a global developer and manufacturer of innovative cardiovascular medical devices, laid the foundation stone of Asia’s Largest Heart Valve manufacturing facility at Visakhapatnam (Vizag) in Andhra Pradesh. Translumina has a global presence with their headquarters based at India and Germany. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Translumina (Germany) – to set up Asia’s Largest Heart Valve manufacturing facility at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**17.** On December 28, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated “Surai Ecotourism Zone” and “Kakra Crocodile Trail” at Khatima. Kakra Crocodile Trail is the first crocodile trail in India where tourists will be able to witness the crocodile from close & safely. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Surai Ecotourism Zone” and “Kakra Crocodile Trail” inaugurated at Khatima, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**18.** As on December 31, the government is planning to draw up an Energy Transition Roadmap for the oil & gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India’s path to Net-Zero Emissions by 2070. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee headed by former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoPNG – set up the Energy Transition Advisory Committee – headed by Tarun Kapoor
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli

**19.** On December 31, the SEBI restructured its Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy. The panel will now be headed by M. S. Sahoo. This 20-member committee was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- SEBI restructured its 20-member Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC) – headed by M. S. Sahoo
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**20.** 'As on December 31, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) formed 6 academia-driven Task Forces under the Technology Innovation Group (TIG) on sixth-generation or 6G technology. Group for financing research and development is headed by Ashok Kumar Tiwari, while a task force on International Standards is headed by N. G. Subramaniam. Other task forces and their chairpersons are as given below. Moreover, in November 2021, the government also formed a 22-member innovation group headed by K Rajaraman to create a vision for the 6G roadmap development in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Department of Telecommunications – formed 6 Task Forces under Technology Innovation Group for 6G development
- Task Force for financing Research & Development – headed by Ashok Kumar Tiwari
- Task Force on International Standards – headed by N. G. Subramaniam
- Task Force on Spectrum Policy – headed by Abhay Karandikar
- Task Force on Multi-platform for Next Generation Networks – headed by Bhaskar Ramamurthy
- Task Force on Devices – headed by Kiran Kumar Kuchi
- Task Force on Multi-disciplinary Innovative Solutions – headed by Bharadwaj Amrutur'

**21.** On December 31, Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Supreme Court judge Justice D. Y. Chandrachud (who is also Chairperson of e-committee of the court), and Kerala High Court Chief Justice S. Manikumar inaugurated the paperless court, e-filing modules for High Court and the State judiciary, and e-office in courts, respectively. With this, Kerala HC became India's 1<sup>st</sup> Paperless High Court. The cases e-filed will be processed, verified and cured through e-mode. Every part of the process can be viewed, processed through the dashboard or virtual box of individual stakeholders. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pinarayi Vijayan + D. Y. Chandrachud + S. Manikumar = inaugurated e-filing, paperless court & e-office projects
- Kerala High Court Chief Justice – S. Manikumar
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**22.** On December 31, the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) handed over the first of the 23 battery-powered Electric Boats being constructed for the water metro project under the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL). The battery-powered water metro boat namely "Muziris" can carry 100 passengers. For the first time in the world, a centrally controlled integrated water transport system with a large fleet is powered by battery. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cochin Shipyard Ltd – handed over 1st Electric Boat namely "Muziris" to Kochi Metro Rail for the Water Metro Project
- HQs of Cochin Shipyard – Kochi, Kerala | Chairman & MD – Madhu S. Nair



## Books & Authors

**23.** On December 29, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog released two digital books - the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Innovations for You” and “The Ingenious Tinkerers”. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on the startups and innovations in field of Agriculture and Allied services. While the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this book was focused on innovations in Health Care, which was launched in October, 2021. While “The Ingenious Tinkerers” - a compendium on the innovations on technology featuring 41 innovations from Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) of India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – released two digital books - the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Innovations for You” & “The Ingenious Tinkerers”
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on Health Care
- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Innovations for You” focuses on Agriculture & Allied services
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)

## Appointments & Resignations

**24.** In December 2021, U.S. official Uzra Zeya was appointed as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues. She will hold the position concurrently with her current role as Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Uzra Zeya – appointed as the US Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**25.** On December 30, ITBP Director General Sanjay Arora was given the additional charge as Director General of another border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), as the SSB’s DG Kumar Rajesh Chandra retired on December 31, 2021.

[{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sanjay Arora – given additional charge as DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (succeeding - Kumar Rajesh Chandra)
- HQs of SSB – New Delhi | Director General – Sanjay Arora (addi. charge)

**26.** In December 2021, GoodDot, the plant-based meat company, roped in Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as its brand ambassador, as announced by Abhishek Sinha, Co-founder & CEO of GoodDot. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – appointed as brand ambassador of GoodDot
- HQs of GoodDot – Udaipur, Rajasthan | Co-founder & CEO – Abhishek Sinha

**27.** On December 30, Amir Subhani, the 1987 batch IAS topper, was appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar. He replaced Tripurari Sharan who retired on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Amir Subhani – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Bihar (succeeding - Tripurari Sharan)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan



**28.** In December 2021, Government of India approved the appointment of Praveen Kumar to the post of Director General & Chief Executive Officer (DG&CEO) of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA). Praveen Kumar is a 1987 batch retired IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, and a former Secretary Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Praveen Kumar – appointed as the DG & CEO of Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)
- HQs of IICA – New Delhi | DG & CEO – Praveen Kumar

**29.** On December 31, the Centre appointed Virender Singh Pathania as the new Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). Before this appointment, he was posted as the Additional Director General at the Coast Guard Headquarters. Virender Singh Pathania replaced Krishnaswamy Natarajan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Virender Singh Pathania – appointed as the new DG of the Indian Coast Guard (succeeding - K. Natarajan)
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | DG – Virender Singh Pathania | Founded in – 1977

**30.** On December 31, S. Balachandran, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, was concurrently accredited as the next High Commissioner of India to Barbados. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- S. Balachandran – appointed as next High Commissioner of India to Barbados
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Dame Sandra Prunella Mason

**31.** On December 31, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi, General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Railway Board, New Delhi. Tripathi succeeded Suneet Sharma. The appointment was initially made for 6 months from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. While the ACC approved the extension of 6 months up to December 2022 to Tripathi's tenure. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vinay Kumar Tripathi – appointed as the Chairman & CEO of Railway Board, New Delhi (till Dec 2022)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

## **Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs**

**32.** On December 30, State Bank of India (SBI) will acquire 9.95% stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (IICC). IICC is the first international clearing corporation set up at GIFT-IFSC that acts as a central counterparty providing clearing and settlement and risk management services. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – to acquire 9.95% stake in the India International Clearing Corporation (IICC)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



**33.** Ahead of assembly elections in five states (UP, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa), the government approved issuance of the 19<sup>th</sup> tranche of Electoral Bonds which was open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022. State Bank of India (SBI) was the only authorised bank to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches. The sale of the first batch of Electoral Bonds took place from March 1-10, 2018 after the Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced with the Finance Bill in 2017. Electoral Bonds can be purchased by both Indian & Foreign entities or citizens. And the range of an Electoral Bond remains between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1 Cr. Besides, the bonds donated to political parties must be encashed within 15 days. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government approved issuance of the 19<sup>th</sup> tranche of Electoral Bonds | Sale was open from Jan 1-10, 2022
- SBI – the only authorised bank to issue & encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches
- Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced with the ‘Finance Bill’ in 2017

**34.** On December 29, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) inaugurated “LIC Digi Zone” at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, to enhance its sales and services for its customers. The Corporation will offer information regarding its products and services through kiosks installed in the Digi Zone premises. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC – inaugurated “LIC Digi Zone” at Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**35.** On December 30, the IRDAI announced that Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance (NIA) continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22. D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter connectedness, whose distress or failure would cause significant dislocation in the domestic financial system. D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are ‘too big or too important to fail’ (TBTF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- LIC + GIC + NIA = continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”
- HQs of GIC Re – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Devesh Srivastava
- HQs of NIA – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CMD – Atul Sahai

**36.** On December 30, SBI Cards & Payment Services collaborated with Paytm to enable cardholders to tokenise their cards on devices and make payments through Paytm. Tokenisation refers to masking the original 16-digit card number by replacing it with a set of unique characters, termed as token. The card tokenisation facility is available only on Android NFC (near field communication) devices. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI Cards & Payment Services + Paytm = collaboration to enable cardholders to tokenise their cards
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

**37.** On December 30, Paisabazaar, in partnership with Axis Bank launched a Pre-Qualified Program for unsecured loans on its platform. This program entails deep technology and analytics collaboration with Banks and NBFCs. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Paisabazaar + Axis Bank = partnership to launch a Pre-Qualified Program for unsecured loans on its platform
- HQs of Paisabazaar – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO & Co-founder – Naveen Kukreja
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”

**38.** In December 2021, EXIM bank extended \$40 million Line of Credit (LOC) to Togo (officially Togolese Republic) for the purpose of financing the project for electrification of 350 villages through ‘Solar Photo Voltaic Systems’ in the Togolese Republic. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- EXIM bank (India) – extended \$40 million Line of Credit to Togo
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD – Harsha Bangari | Founded in – 1982
- Togo – Lome – CFA franc | President – Faure Gnassingbe

**39.** India’s federal fiscal deficit in April-November 2021, the first 8 months of current fiscal year, decreased to 46.2% of the full-year budgeted target. The fiscal deficit had surged to 135.1% of the full-year target during the same period in 2020 (April-November). The fiscal deficit for 8 months ending on November 2021 stood at Rs 6.96 Lakh Cr (\$93.7 billion) against Rs 15.07 Lakh Cr target for the whole fiscal year. This was the lowest deficit of the central government in terms of percentage since financial year 1998. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India’s fiscal deficit in April-Nov 2021 – decreased to 46.2% (against 135.1% in April-Nov 2020)
- In amount, the fiscal deficit at Rs 6.96 Lakh Cr (\$93.7 billion) against Rs 15.07 Lakh Cr target for the whole FY

**40.** The Ministry of Finance retained the interest rates of ‘Small Savings Schemes’ for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (Q4) ending on 31 March 2022 same as in Q3 FY22. This means small savings schemes such as the Fixed Deposits, Public Provident Fund (PPF), Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS), National Savings Certificate (NCS), Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana etc will continue to fetch/earn the same interest rates for the quarter ending March 2022 as they did in the previous quarter, i.e., September-December 2021. The rates of interest of Small Savings Schemes are revised by the Ministry of Finance once in 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Finance kept interest rates on ‘Small Savings Schemes (SSS)’ unchanged for the Q4 of 2021-22
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4% | Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 6.6%
- The Small Savings Schemes consist of – 12 Schemes

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**41.** On December 31, Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% stake in Faradion Ltd for an enterprise value of £100 million. Reliance New Energy Solar will also invest £25 million in growth capital to accelerate the commercial roll-out. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Reliance New Energy Solar – signed a definitive agreement to acquire 100% stake in Faradion Ltd for £100 million
- HQs of RNE SL – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

**42.** On December 30, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of 96.42% stake in Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) by Worldone Private Limited for Rs 7,401 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI approved the acquisition of 96.42% stake in Jindal Steel & Power – by Worldone Private Ltd
- HQs of Jindal Steel & Power – New Delhi | Chairman – Naveen Jindal

**43.** On December 31, Tech Mahindra announced that the company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Tech Mahindra (Americas) Inc. approved the proposal to acquire 100% equity shares in Allyis India Pvt Ltd and Green Investments LLC for \$125 million. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tech Mahindra – to acquire 100% stake in Allyis India & Green Investments
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**44.** On December 30, 20 names were announced for the “Sahitya Akademi Award 2021”. The awards for Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date. Some of the important awards & winners are as given below. Meanwhile, author Megha Majumdar won the “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” for her debut book “A Burning”, published in 2020. “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” was awarded for 22 Indian languages. Author Anita Vachharajani won the “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” in the English language for her children’s book “Amrita Sher-gil: Rebel With A Paintbrush”. “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” was also given in 22 Indian languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Sahitya Akademi Award 2021” – awarded for 20 Indian languages (Winner in English – Namita Gokhale)
- “Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021” – awarded for 22 Indian languages (Winner in English – Megha Majumdar)
- “Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021” – awarded for 22 Indian languages (Winner in English – Anita Vachharajani)
- Other winners of Sahitya Akademi Award 2021:

Language	Winner
Hindi	Daya Prakash Sinha
Assamese	Anuradha Sarma Pujari
Bengali	Bratya Basu
Malayalam	George Onakkoor
Nepali	Chhabilal Upadhyaya
Punjabi	Khalid Hussain
Tamil	Ambai
Telugu	Gorati Venkannat

**45.** On December 31, India women's team cricketer Smriti Mandhana was nominated for the prestigious "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021" award. Besides Mandhana, the other three cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis also figure in the list. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – nominated for the "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021"
- Other 3 cricketers in the list: Tammy Beaumont ([England](#)) + Lizelle Lee ([Australia](#)) + Gaby Lewis ([Ireland](#))

## **Defence Affairs**

**46.** On December 29, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over indigenously-developed technology to 5 Indian companies for producing extreme cold-weather clothing system (ECWCS) for the armed forces. Three-layered ECWCS is designed to suitably provide thermal insulation over a temperature ranging from 15 degrees Celsius to minus 50 degree celsius. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – handed over a technology to 5 Indian companies for production of cold-weather clothing for Armed Forces
- HQs of DRDO – [New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy](#) | [Established in – 1958](#)



## **Science & Technology**

**47.** On December 30, Iran launched a new Space Launch Vehicle (SLV) named "Simorgh", in a move likely to irk Western powers amid tough talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal. In February 2021, Iran announced a successful test of its most powerful solid fuel satellite launcher "Zoljanah". [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Iran – launched a new Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) named "Simorgh"
- "Zoljanah" – most powerful solid fuel Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) of Iran
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial](#) | [President – Ali Khamenei](#)

## **Sports & Games**

**48.** On December 30, South Africa wicketkeeper-batsman, Quinton de Kock, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect. The announcement comes on the backdrop of South Africa's defeat in the first Test match against India in Centurion. With this, India became the first Asian team to win a Test match at Centurion, South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Quinton de Kock ([South Africa](#)) – retired from Test cricket
- India – the first Asian team to win a Test match at Centurion, South Africa



**49.** On December 30, Jammu & Kashmir alpine skier Arif Mohammed Khan became the first athlete from India to qualify for two different events of the Winter Olympics, set to be held in Beijing from February 4-20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Arif Mohammed Khan (J&K - Alpine Skier) – 1<sup>st</sup> Indian athlete to qualify for 2 different events of “2022 Winter Olympics”

## Important Days & Dates

**50.** Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) celebrated the first anniversary of “One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency” on December 31, 2021. 70 Sub-stations across India along with Regional Headquarters have been lit up in tricolour to mark this momentous achievement. All possible measures are taken to ensure that the grid frequency always remains within the 49.90-50.05 Hz (hertz) band. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of “One Nation-One Grid-One Frequency” by POWERGRID
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant







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