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The Question Bank

# TESTZONE

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निश्चित रूप से  
सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



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

**December**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 1**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 1 Here!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

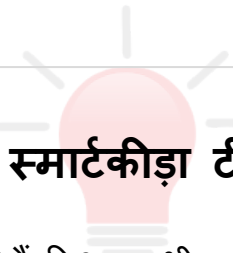
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

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

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



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

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

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

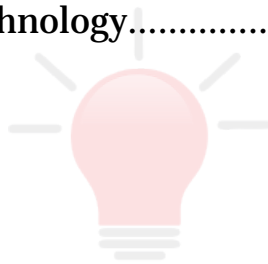
आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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## National & States Affairs

1. On December 1, the Central government constituted a 3-member committee to review the criteria of 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) in educational institutions and government jobs. The committee is headed by Ajay Bhushan Pandey along with other two members - VK Malhotra & Sanjeev Sanyal.

[{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Central government constituted a 3-member committee to review the criteria of 10% reservation for EWS
- The committee is headed by – Ajay Bhushan Pandey | Other members – VK Malhotra & Sanjeev Sanyal

2. The ST & SC Development Department of the Odisha government started a project called “Samhati” to address the language issues faced by tribal students in early grades or elementary classes. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI) along with the Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC), Bhubaneswar are implementing the project. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Odisha government – started a project called “Samhati” to address the language issues faced by tribal students
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

3. All India Radio decided to begin a new programme called “AIRNxt” to offer youth a platform to air their voices as part of the ongoing ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- All India Radio – to begin a new programme called “AIRNxt” to offer youth a platform to air their voices
- HQs of AIR – New Delhi | DG – N. Venudhar Reddy

## International Affairs

4. Barbados has now become the world’s newest Republic. It officially removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of state, 396 years after it became a British colony. Dame Sandra Prunella Mason was sworn in as the first President of Barbados. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Barbados – became the world’s newest Republic, 396 years after it became a British colony
- Dame Sandra Prunella Mason – sworn in as the first President of Barbados
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Dame Sandra Prunella Mason



5. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA) have agreed to work together to help countries strengthen technical capacities in decommissioning, radioactive waste management and nuclear security. The agreement will be valid until 2025. The JAEA is the fifth IAEA Collaborating Centre in the field of decommissioning. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IAEA + JAEA = to work together until 2025 in Decommissioning, Radioactive Waste Management & Nuclear Security
- HQs of IAEA – Vienna, Austria | Director General – Rafael Mariano Grossi | Founded in – 1957
- HQs of JAEA – Ibaraki, Japan | President – Toshio Kodama

6. On December 1, India joined the “G20 Troika” which consists of Indonesia, Italy, and India - the current, previous and next G20 Presidencies, respectively. Indonesia assumed the G20 Presidency from the outgoing Italy. While India will assume the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2022 from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders’ Summit for the first time in India in 2023. The G20 Leaders’ Summit under Indonesia’s presidency will be held on October 30-31, 2022 under the overall theme of “Recover Together Recover Stronger”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indonesia – assumed the G20 Presidency from the outgoing Italy
- India – joined the “G20 Troika” which consists of Indonesia, Italy & India
- Theme of “G20 Leaders’ Summit 2022” – “Recover Together Recover Stronger” – to held on October 30-31, 2022
- G20 Troika: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

7. The Reserve Bank of India imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with the certain provisions relating to ‘Sale of Stressed Assets by Banks’ and ‘Fraud - Classification and Reporting by commercial banks and select FIs’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI imposed a fine of Rs 1 Cr on “Union Bank of India” for non-compliance with the certain provisions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”



**8.** India's GDP for the 2nd quarter (Q2) ended on September 30 grew by 8.4% in FY22 compared to 7.4% contraction in Q2FY21, as per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Data showed that in Q2 of FY22, agriculture sector grew by 4.5% & manufacturing sector grew by 5.5%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSO (MoSPI): India's GDP grew by 8.4% in Q2FY22 (compared to 7.4% contraction in Q2FY21)
- Agriculture sector grew by 4.5% & manufacturing sector grew by 5.5%
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**9.** DBS Bank India introduced an industry-first paperless proposition for the financing of domestic invoices by buyers and sellers. The bank has also executed its first paperless domestic trade financing transaction with Lincon Polymers Pvt. Ltd. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DBS Bank India – introduced a paperless proposition for the financing of domestic invoices by buyers & sellers
- DBS Bank India executed its first paperless domestic trade financing transaction with – Lincon Polymers
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome
- HQs of DBS Bank – Singapore | CEO – Piyush Gupta

**10.** On December 1, IDFC FIRST Bank in partnership with Visa launched "FIRST Private Infinite", India's first-ever standalone metal debit card. FIRST Private Infinite is a lifetime free card designed specifically for customers who are part of the Bank's FIRST Private program. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IDFC FIRST Bank + Visa = launched India's first-ever standalone metal debit card named "FIRST Private Infinite"
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018
- IDFC Bank + Capital First = IDFC First Bank (merged in 2018)
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly | Founded in – 1958

**11.** India1 Payments Ltd (formerly BTI Payments Pvt Ltd) crossed the ATM deployment milestone of 10,000 White Label ATMs. ATMs deployed by White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) reached over 25,000 in number with a strong CAGR of 21% between March 2015 and March 2021. CRISIL Research expects the number of ATMs deployed by WLAs to grow at a compounded annual growth rate of 17% between March 2021 and March 2026, and to reach 55,000 by March 2026. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India1 Payments – crossed the ATM deployment milestone of 10,000 White Label ATMs
- HQs of India1 Payments Ltd – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – K. Srinivas | Founded in – 2006



**12.** On December 2, Federal Bank launched a feature-rich savings bank product called “Mahila Mitra Plus” for women. The savings scheme provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Federal Bank – launched a feature-rich savings bank product called “Mahila Mitra Plus” for women
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

**13.** On December 2, State Bank of India (SBI) signed a master agreement with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops. Adani Capital is an NBFC arm of Adani Group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI + Adani Capital = a master agreement for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor & farm implements
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- HQs of Adani Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Gaurav Gupta

**14.** On December 2, Paytm signed an MoU with the Directorate of General Training (DGT) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship to train 6,000 individuals over a period of 3 years in the rapidly growing fintech industry. The selected individuals will undertake a 6-month programme, designed by Paytm, in consultation with the DGT. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm + DGT = an MoU to train 6,000 individuals over a period of 3 years
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010
- DGT – functions under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship

**15.** On December 2, Kotak Mahindra Bank tied up with Worldline to enable EMI payments through its debit cards in India. The minimum purchase value to avail EMIs on the Kotak debit cards facility is ₹5,000, and customers have the flexibility to repay the loan over tenures between 3 months & 12 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Worldline = tie up to enable EMI payments through its Debit Cards in India
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Worldline – Bezons, France | CEO – Gilles Grapinet





**16.** State Bank of India (SBI) listed its \$650 million Green Bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange (India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE). The lender has raised \$800 million in the Green Bond market so far. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – listed its \$650 million Green Bonds simultaneously on ‘India INX’ & ‘LuxSE’
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**17.** On December 1, World Bank’s lending arm, International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) approved a \$135 million loan to West Bengal to improve the operational efficiency and reliability of electricity supply in select pockets in the state. This variable spread loan or floating interest loan will have a maturity of 17 years, including a grace period of 7 years. The project will support the implementation of the Government of India’s “24X7 Power for All” programme in the state. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IBRD – approved a \$135 million loan to West Bengal to upgrade Rural Power Distribution Network
- Loan maturity period – 17 years | Grace period – 7 years
- IBRD – a lending arm of World Bank
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**18.** On December 1, the combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31% by March, 2022 which is worryingly higher than the target of 20% to be achieved by 2022-23, according to the RBI’s annual publication titled “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22” released under the theme “Coping with the Pandemic: A Third-Tier Dimension”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “State Finances: A Study of Budgets of 2021-22” report – released by the RBI
- Combined debt-to-GDP ratio of states is expected to remain at 31% by March, 2022 (higher than the target of 20%)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**19.** On December 1, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new savings product “ICICI Pru Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow (Long-term)”. This new non-participating product will provide customers with the option to either receive regular guaranteed tax-free income or income with a 110% return of premium. Both these plan options provide income for up to 30 years. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance – launched a new savings product “Guaranteed Income for Tomorrow (Long-term)”
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

## Schemes & Initiatives

**20.** Ministry of Commerce & Industry approved the continuation of the “Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP)” for 5 years (2021-26) with a financial outlay of Rs 970 Cr. The SIP was launched on November 11, 2008. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is the implementing agency of the SIP. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of C&I approved the continuation of the “Scheme for Investment Promotion (SIP)” till 2025-26 (5 years)
- Total outlay of the SIP – Rs 970 Cr | SIP was launched in – 2008 | Implementing Agency of the SIP – DPIIT



**21.** On 1 December 2021, the Border Security Force celebrated its 57th Raising Day. The Border Security Force is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh and it came into existence in 1965. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- December 1 – 57<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of the BSF
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

**22.** On December 1, World AIDS Day was observed across the globe by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) & World Health Organization (WHO). In 2021, the theme is “End inequalities. End AIDS”. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- December 1 – World AIDS Day – by UNAIDS & WHO
- 2021's Theme – “End inequalities. End AIDS”



**23.** On December 1, “Indigenous Faith Day” was celebrated across Arunachal Pradesh to safeguard the indigenous faith and identity of tribal communities of the state. The day marks the birth anniversary of Golgi Bote Talom Rukbo, known as the Father of the Indigenous Faith. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 1 – “Indigenous Faith Day” celebrated by Arunachal Pradesh (birth anniversary of Golgi Bote Talom Rukbo)
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra

**24.** Every year, 2 December is observed as “World Computer Literacy Day” to create awareness about the growing use and importance of computers. National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT), first celebrated this day in 2001 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the NIIT’s establishment. In 2021, the theme is “Literacy for Human-centered Recovery: Narrowing the Digital Divide”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 2 – World Computer Literacy Day (since - 2001)
- 2021’s Theme – “Literacy for Human-centered Recovery: Narrowing the Digital Divide”

**25.** “National Pollution Control Day” is observed annually on December 2 to remember the people who lost lives during Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984 and to raise awareness about the hazards of air pollution. 2021 marks the 37th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 2 – “National Pollution Control Day” (37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bhopal Gas Tragedy, 1984)

**26.** On December 2, the “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery” is observed to eradicate contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, the worst forms of child labour, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 2 – “International Day for the Abolition of Slavery”

**27.** Nagaland celebrated its 59th Statehood Day on December 1, 2021. Nagaland is the first State in the northeast to be bifurcated from Assam as the 16th State of the Indian Union. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- December 1 – 59<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Nagaland
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**28.** Grameen Foundation India (GFI) launched a special initiative “Catalyst Award” under its ‘MANDI’ (Market Enabled Access through Digital Innovation) project to support and develop the farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in Uttar Pradesh. The ‘MANDI’ project aims to strengthen the FPO’s capacity to connect smallholder farmers and it is implemented by GFI in partnership with Walmart Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- GFI launched a special initiative “Catalyst Award” under its ‘MANDI’ project to supports FPOs in Uttar Pradesh
- ‘MANDI’ project is implemented by = GFI + Walmart Foundation
- HQs of GFI – Gurugram, Haryana

**29.** New India Foundation announced the winner of the 4th edition of the “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021”. It went to Dinyar Patel for “Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism”. In his book, Dinyar Patel illuminates the life and legacy of Dadabhai Naoroji as a key figure in the history of India’s movement towards Independence. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 4<sup>th</sup> “Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize” for 2021 – to Dinyar Patel for “Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism”
- The book marked the life events & legacy of – Dada Bhai Naoroji

**30.** Prof. Velchala Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor of Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), has been selected for the 7th “Dr. M S Swaminathan Award” for the period 2017-19. The biennial national award was constituted by Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- V. Praveen Rao – selected for “Dr. M S Swaminathan Award” for the period 2017-19 – by RICAREA & Nuziveedu Seeds

**31.** Group Captain Abhinandan Varthaman was awarded “Vir Chakra” by President Ram Nath Kovind at an investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. He shot down a Pakistani ‘F-16’ jet during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) on February 27, 2019. Vir Chakra is India’s third highest Wartime Gallantry Award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Abhinandan Varthaman – awarded “Vir Chakra” by President Ram Nath Kovind
- Vir Chakra – India’s 3<sup>rd</sup> highest Wartime Gallantry Award | 1<sup>st</sup> - Param Vir Chakra | 2<sup>nd</sup> - Maha Vir Chakra



**32.** On December 2, Indian athlete Anju Bobby George won the “Woman of the Year Award” by World Athletic. She is the 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump. Olympic champions Elaine Thompson-Herah of Jamaica and Karsten Warholm of Norway were named the “World Athletes of the Year” at the ‘World Athletics Awards 2021’. Ryan Pierse named the “World Athletics Photograph of the Year” for his photograph of the women’s high jump at the Tokyo Olympic Games. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Athletics Awards 2021 – given by World Athletic
- “Woman of the Year Award” – Anju Bobby George ([India - Long Jump](#))
- “World Athletes of the Year” – Elaine Thompson-Herah ([Jamaica - Sprinter](#)) & Karsten Warholm ([Norway - Sprinter](#))
- “World Athletics Photograph of the Year” – Ryan Pierse ([Australia - Photographer](#))

## Appointments & Resignations

**33.** Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Mago took over as the 34th Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi from Air Marshal D Choudhury who superannuated on November 30, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Kumar Mago – took over as the 34<sup>th</sup> Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi

**34.** Arunachal Pradesh government has roped in Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador for ‘50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh’ celebration from 20th January to 20th February, 2022. While Rahul Mitra was roped in as Brand Advisor. Arunachal Pradesh came into existence as a Union Territory on 20th January, 1972. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjay Dutt – appointed as the Brand Ambassador for ‘50 Years of Arunachal Pradesh’ celebration
- Rahul Mitra – appointed as the Brand Advisor of the occasion
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar](#) | [CM – Pema Khandu](#) | [Governor – B. D. Mishra](#)

**35.** Haryana’s 1986-batch IAS officer, Sanjeev Kaushal, was recently appointed as 35th Chief Secretary of Haryana after the superannuation of his predecessor Vijai Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sanjeev Kaushal – appointed as 35<sup>th</sup> Chief Secretary of Haryana (succeeding - Vijai Vardhan)
- [Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh](#) | [CM – Manohar Lal Khattar](#) | [Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya](#)



**36.** GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated startup roped in Indian women's cricketer Smriti Mandhana as its brand ambassador. GUVI is India's first vernacular Ed-tech Startup to impart tech & programming skills to aspiring individuals in their preferred native languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Smriti Mandhana – appointed as Brand Ambassador of GUVI, an IIT Madras incubated startup
- Location of GUVI – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**37.** On December 2, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra was appointed as the Part-Time Non-Executive Director & Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) for a period of 3 years, as Tourism Ministry's proposal approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Ganji Kamala V. Rao will continue to hold the post of Managing Director of the ITDC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sambit Patra – appointed as the Chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation – for 3 years
- HQs of ITDC – New Delhi | Chairman – Sambit Patra | MD – Ganji Kamala V. Rao

**38.** UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay appointed Japanese film director Naomi Kawase as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries. Ms. Azoulay named Naomi Kawase in recognition of her commitment to culture and creativity at the service of the development of more just societies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Naomi Kawase (Japan) – appointed as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural & Creative Industries
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**39.** On December 1, Israel's Tel Aviv is the world's most expensive city to live in as soaring inflation has pushed up living costs globally, according to the "Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021" published by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). Paris and Singapore jointly came at second place, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong at 4th & 5th places. Damascus was ranked the world's cheapest city to live in. This year's data was collected in August and September. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021" – released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- Tel Aviv (Israel) – the world's most expensive city to live in
- Damascus (Syria) – the world's cheapest city to live in



**40.** Global trade is expected to increase by 23% to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021 as compared to 2020, according to the “Global Trade Update” report issued by the UNCTAD. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Trade Update” report – issued by the UNCTAD
- Global trade is expected to increase by 23% to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebecca Grynspan

**41.** On December 2, According to the 11th edition of “World Migration Report 2022” released by the UN’s International Organization for Migration (IOM), the number of international migrants has grown from 84 million globally in 1970 to 281 million in 2020. Due to growth in Global population too, the proportion of international migrants increased from 2.3% to just 3.6% of the world’s population. India has the largest Emigration population in the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 11<sup>th</sup> edition of “World Migration Report 2022” – released by the UN’s IOM ([Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland](#))
- Number of international migrants increased – to 281 million in 2020 (from 84 million in 1970)
- Proportion of international migrants increased to 3.6% of the world’s population (from 2.3%)

**42.** On December 2, the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked ‘Number one Cooperative’ among the top 300 cooperatives in the world, as per the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). IFFCO has also stepped up to 60th Position in overall Turnover ranking from 65th position in 2020. Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (Amul) ranked at the 2nd position. Moreover, the world’s first Nano Urea was globally introduced by the IFFCO for the farmers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report – published by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)
- IFFCO – ranked No. 1 Cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Amul
- HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | MD & CEO – U. S. Awasthi

**43.** Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above in urban areas rose to 9.3% in January-March 2021 from 9.1% in January-March 2020, as per the 10th “Periodic Labour Force Survey” released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Labour force participation rate in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas for those 15 years of age and above was 47.5% in January-March quarter of 2021, down from 48.1% in January-March 2020. NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely UR, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), etc. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- 10<sup>th</sup> “Periodic Labour Force Survey” – released by the NSO under the MoSPI
- Unemployment rate for people of age 15 years and above in urban areas rose to – 9.3% in January-March 2021
- Labour force participation rate in CWS in urban areas for 15 years & above age – 47.5% in Jan-March 2021
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**44.** The Bihar pavilion won Gold medal by showcasing the state’s art and cultural richness through handicrafts, handlooms and other indigenous products of state at the “India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021”. This is the 6th Gold medal for the Bihar pavilion for its outstanding implementations of the theme - ‘Aatamnirbhar Bharat’ at the trade fair held at New Delhi’s Pragati Maidan. Bihar has been adjudged as the ‘First for Excellence’ in display at the 40th IITF in the category of ‘State or UT pavilions’. Bihar was the partner state in IITF this year while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand were the states in focus of fair. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Bihar pavilion – won Gold medal at the “40<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair 2021” held in New Delhi (6<sup>th</sup> Gold medal)
- Bihar – adjudged as the ‘First for Excellence’ in display in the ‘State or UT pavilions’ category at the 40<sup>th</sup> IITF
- Partner state of 40<sup>th</sup> IITF – Bihar | Focus states of 40<sup>th</sup> IITF – Uttar Pradesh & Jharkhand
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**45.** On December 1, Walmart and its subsidiary Flipkart signed an MoU with the Madhya Pradesh government to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs in the state under “Walmart Vridhhi Supplier Development Programme” (Walmart Vridhhi). Launched in 2019, Walmart Vridhhi aims to train 50,000 Indian MSMEs with the business skills necessary to succeed as suppliers to Walmart, sellers on Flipkart, and other domestic and global marketplace platforms. Under the Walmart Vridhhi Programme, Walmart and Flipkart have partnered with several states across India, including Haryana and Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- Walmart + Flipkart + Madhya Pradesh = an MoU to create an ecosystem of capacity building for MSMEs
- This initiative comes under “Walmart Vriddhi Supplier Development Programme”
- Walmart Vriddhi: Launched in 2019 | Aims to train 50,000 Indian MSMEs with the business skills
- HQs of Walmart – Arkansas, US | CEO – Doug McMillon
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

**46.** Dassault Systemes has signed an MoU with Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) to establish The Tamil Nadu Center of Advance Manufacturing (TANCAM) - a first of its kind Center of Excellence (CoE) in India, at the TIDEL Park, in Chennai. TANCAM will provide a dedicated IT engineering ecosystem to support the MSME sector and students across the state. The TANCAM Startup Cell along with Dassault Systemes’ 3DEXPERIENCE Lab will fuel an innovation ecosystem for next-generation products and new business models. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Dassault Systemes (France) + TIDCO = an MoU to establish “TANCAM” - India’s first of its kind CoE – in Chennai, TN
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



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## Obituaries

**47.** Noted Tollywood/Telugu lyricist Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry passed away. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019 for his contribution and excellence in the field of arts. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sirivennela Seetharama Sastry – Noted Tollywood/Telugu lyricist – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (2019) in the field of Arts

## Science & Technology

**48.** NASSCOM, in partnership with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and government of Andhra Pradesh, launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on internet of things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) at Andhra University Campus, Visakhapatnam, aimed at promoting innovation in emerging technology. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- NASSCOM + MeitY = launched a Centre of Excellence (CoE) focused on IoT & AI – in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**49.** A technology to produce bio-jet fuel, developed by the CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) Dehradun, has been formally approved for use on military aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A technology to produce bio-jet fuel – formally approved for use on military aircraft of IAF
- It is developed by – CSIR-IIP, Dehradun
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

**50.** The European Space Agency (ESA) approved “Matosinhos Manifesto” to accelerate the use of space in Europe to tackle the urgent and unprecedented societal, economic and security challenges faced by Europe and its citizens. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ESA – approved “Matosinhos Manifesto” to accelerate the use of space in Europe
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | Administrator – Josef Aschbacher





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