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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 4
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 13th January 2022

[Attempt Test No. 4 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

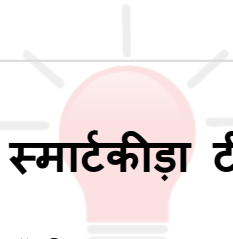
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

151. On December 7, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. He also inaugurated a Fertilizer Plant and a new building of the Regional Medical Research Center of the ICMR in Gorakhpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) – in Gorakhpur, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

152. On December 6, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched “Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM)” portal, which acts as a directory of skilled workforce. ASEEM portal is managed by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of MSDE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE – launched “Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employees Employer Mapping (ASEEM)” portal
- ASEEM portal is managed by – NSDC
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

153. On December 7, NITI Aayog, in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), launched “e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition” with support from ‘Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative’ (TUMI). The coalition was launched with the aim to share knowledge and learnings on e-bus adoption in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + CESL + WRI India = launched “e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya (CESL - a subsidiary of EESL)
- HQs of WRI – Washington, D.C., US | President & CEO – Ani Dasgupta

154. On December 5, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) organized a unique event - “Digital Payment Utsav” as part of ‘Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav’. The event held at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi witnessed the unveiling of the “DIGIDHAN” logo, launch of an awareness campaign called “Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra” with digital payments anthem titled “Chutki Baja ke”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – organized “Digital Payment Utsav” as part of ‘Azadi Ka Digital Mahotsav’ at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Ashwini Vaishnav – launched “DIGIDHAN” logo & “Digital Payments Sandesh Yatra” campaign
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar



155. On December 7, To improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders, the National Commission for Women (NCW) launched a pan-India capacity building programme “She is a Changemaker” for women representatives at all levels in Politics. The programme was launched by Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of NCW. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCW – launched a pan-India capacity building programme “She is a Changemaker” for women in Politics
- HQs of NCW – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rekha Sharma | Founded in – 1992

156. On December 7, Microsoft launched a first of its kind ‘Cybersecurity Skilling Program’ to empower India’s workforce for a career in security. This initiative aims to skill 1 lakh learners by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched a first of its kind ‘Cybersecurity Skilling Program’ to skill 1 lakh learners in India by 2022
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- President of Microsoft India – Anant Maheshwari

International Affairs

157. On December 7, Switzerland legalised a ‘suicide machine’ named “Sarco” that allows users to kill themselves relatively painlessly by inducing hypoxia and hypocapnia (the state of inadequate oxygen supply at the tissue level and reduced carbon dioxide in the blood leading to death). This machine is specifically engineered to allow an individual to die quickly with minimal pain in countries where voluntary euthanasia or assisted suicide is legal. The Sarco ‘suicide machine’ was invented by Dr. Philip Nitschke, dubbed ‘Dr Death’, and is short for “sarcophagus”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Switzerland – legalised a suicide machine named “Sarco” or “Sarco Suicide Pod”
- Switzerland – Bern – Swiss Franc | President – Guy Parmelin

158. On December 6, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the “SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant Assays & Animal Models Study Tracker”. SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant was first identified in South Africa’s Gauteng province. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched the “SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant Assays & Animal Models Study Tracker”
- ‘SARS-CoV-2 Omicron’ variant was first identified in Gauteng, South Africa
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

159. On December 8, India surpassed Brazil in food exports to the ‘Arab League’, formally the ‘League of Arab States’ for the first time in 15 years as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted trade flows in 2020, according to data provided by the Arab-Brazil Chamber of Commerce. Brazil accounted for 8.15% of the total agribusiness products imported by the 22 League members last year, whereas India captured 8.25% of that trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – surpassed Brazil in food exports to the ‘League of Arab States’ for the first time in 15 years
- HQs of Arab League – Cairo, Egypt | Secretary-General – Ahmed About Gheit



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

160. On December 7, State Bank of India (SBI) chose “Intellect Wealth Qube” - a Digital Wealth Management suite of Intellect Design Arena Limited, for its digital wealth management transformation agenda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – chose “Intellect Wealth Qube” - a Digital Wealth Management suite for its digital wealth management
- HQs of Intellect Design Arena – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – Arun Jain
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

161. On December 7, ICICI Bank partnered with Flipkart to offer an instant and digital overdraft (OD) facility of up to ₹25 lakh to individual sellers and businesses registered on the e-commerce platform. The partnership is enabled by API integration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Flipkart = partnership to offer an instant & digital OD facility of up to ₹25 lakh to individual sellers
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

162. On December 7, Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) partnered with fintech firm Indiagold to launch India’s first Loan product against digital Gold. This collaboration will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail instant and digital loans up to Rs 60,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shivalik SFB + Indiagold = partnership to launch India’s first Loan product against digital Gold (up to Rs 60,000)
- HQs of SSFB – Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Suveer Kumar Gupta

163. On December 6, the Finance Ministry announced in Parliament that around 2,13,145 ATMs (automated teller machines) were installed across India by the end of September 2021 and over 47.4% of these are in Rural & Semi-Urban areas. In addition to this, 27,837 White Label ATMs (WLA) were also installed by WLA operators up to September 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry: 2,13,145 ATMs were installed across India by the end of September 2021
- 47.4% of 2,13,145 ATMs are in Rural & Semi-Urban areas | 27,837 White Label ATMs (WLA) were also installed
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaudhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad

164. On December 6, the RBI imposed several restrictions on Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, including a cap of Rs 10,000 on withdrawals for customers in the wake of deterioration of its financial position. The restrictions, imposed through directions under the Banking Regulation Act 1949, shall remain in force for a period of 6 months. Meanwhile, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 lakh on Pune People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Pune for non-compliance with 'know your customer' norms. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- RBI imposed several restrictions on Nagar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd ([Ahmednagar, Maharashtra](#))
- Restrictions include cap of Rs 10,000 on withdrawals for customers
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

165. On December 6, PayPhi, Phi Commerce's API-first digital payments platform became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) that supports the tokenization of RuPay cards. NPCI's NTS platform enables PayPhi Tokenization service to provide partner merchants and aggregators with Token Reference On File (TROF). TROF is a unique digital identifier aka 'token' which replaces the 16-digit RuPay card number. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPhi – became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) supporting the tokenization of RuPay cards
- TROF – Token Reference On File | RuPay card consists of 16 digits on it
- HQs of PayPhi – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO & Co Founder – Jose Thattil

166. On December 7, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) signed an MoU with Liberty General Insurance for selling general insurance products through its 629 branches. They will offer cheap vehicle and health insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVGB + Liberty General Insurance = an MoU to offer cheap vehicle & health insurance products
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P. Gopi Krishna | Sponsored by – Canara Bank
- HQs of Liberty General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Roopam Asthana

167. On December 8, City Union Bank (CUB), in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched "RuPay On-the-Go" contactless wearable keychain for its Debit Card customers. This On-the-Go solution allows the customers to carry payment cards on their keychains, making for fast and convenient payments up to ₹5,000 at all RuPay-enabled point of sale devices (PoS) without entering a PIN. For payments above ₹5,000, customers need to tap, followed by entering their PIN. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- City Union Bank + NPCI = launched "RuPay On-the-Go" contactless wearable keychain for its Debit Card customers
- HQs of CUB – Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008



Schemes & Initiatives

168. On December 9, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the “Milk Price Incentive Scheme” which will benefit around 53,000 people in the state. The state government will spend Rs 444.62 Cr to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – launched the “Milk Price Incentive Scheme”
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

Sports & Games

169. On December 5, Indian badminton ace P. V. Sindhu won a Silver medal at the “BWF World Tour Finals 2021” held in Bali, Indonesia, after being defeated by Korean An Se-Young. Sindhu had won the title in 2018 to become the only Indian to achieve the feat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. V. Sindhu ([Badminton](#)) – won Silver medal at the “BWF World Tour Finals 2021” (Gold – An Se-Young of Korea)

170. On December 6, Russia beat Croatia to win Davis Cup title. The Russian team is officially being called “RTF” (Russian Tennis Federation) in the competition amid its ongoing doping suspension in international sport. It was Russia’s third Davis Cup title. Andrey Andreyevich Rublev was named as the Most Valuable Player of the Davis Cup tournament which is an international Men’s Team Tennis event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia (RTF) – beat Croatia to win “Davis Cup Title 2021”
- Andrey Rublev ([Russia - Tennis](#)) – named “Most Valuable Player” of the Davis Cup tournament
- Croatia – Zagreb – Kuna | PM – Andrej Plenkovic | President – Zoran Milanovic

Important Days & Dates

171. The Army Service Corps celebrates its Raising Day on December 8 annually. Known as the oldest and largest administrative unit in the armed forces, the Army Service Corps (ASC) celebrated its 261st Raising Day. The ASC was established by the East India Company (EIC) in 1760. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 261st Raising Day of Army Service Corps
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty



172. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed annually on December 8 to commemorate the adoption of the SAARC Charter. 2021 marked the 37th anniversary of the establishment of the SAARC. On 8 December 1985, the SAARC Charter was adopted, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 8 – 37th SAARC Charter Day
- HQs of SAARC – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary General – Esala Ruwan Weerakoon (Sri Lanka)

173. The “International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime” or “UN International Day of Victims of Genocide” is observed annually on December 9. It is observed to raise awareness about genocide and the role of the United Nations’ ‘Genocide Convention’ in preventing it. 2021 marked the 73rd anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ which was adopted in 1948 by UN General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – UN International Day of Victims of Genocide
- 2021 marked 73rd anniversary of the adoption of ‘Genocide Convention’ | adopted in 1948 by UNGA

174. The UN’s “International Anti-Corruption Day” is observed on December 9 to put our thoughts and actions in preventing corruption in various organisations and institutions around the world. In 2021, the theme was “Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 9 – International Anti-Corruption Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Your Right, Your Role: Say No to Corruption”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

175. On December 8, President Ram Nath Kovind awarded the “President’s Standard” to the Indian Navy’s 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron (MVS), also known as the ‘Killer Squadron’ at a ceremonial parade held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The President’s Standard is the highest honour bestowed by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to a military unit in recognition of the service rendered to the nation. ‘Operation Trident’ was carried out by the 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron during the ‘1971 Indo-Pak War’. The 22nd Missile Vessels Squadron was formally established at Mumbai in October 1991. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind – awarded “President’s Standard” to 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- Indian Navy’s 22nd Missile Vessel Squadron – also known as ‘Killer Squadron’
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

176. On December 8, Ashleigh Barty won the “2021 WTA Player of the Year” award. Ash Barty’s Wimbledon title and hold on the No. 1 ranking helped her win award for the second time. Barbora Krejčíková was selected as “Most Improved Player” and shared the “Doubles Team of the Year” award with Katerina Siniakova. Emma Raducanu was picked as “Newcomer of the Year” while Carla Suarez Navarro is the “Comeback Player of the Year”. The WTA Awards are given by the Women’s Tennis Association to players for achievements during the season or their career. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Winners of 2021 WTA Awards:

Award's Category	Winner
2021 WTA Player of the Year	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
2021 WTA Most Improved Player	Barbora Krejcikova (Czech Republic)
2021 WTA Doubles Team of the Year	Barbora Krejcikova & Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)
2021 WTA Newcomer of the Year	Emma Raducanu (UK)
2021 WTA Comeback Player of the Year	Carla Suarez Navarro (Spain)

177. On December 8, Assamese poet Nilmani Phookan Jr won the 56th Jnanpith Award, and Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo won the 57th Jnanpith Award. India's highest literary award, the annual Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for their outstanding contribution towards literature. Guwahati-based Nilmani Phookan Jr was also awarded the 'Padma Shri' in 1990 and received the 'Sahitya Akademi Fellowship' in 2002. While Goa-based Damodar Mauzo had also won the 'Sahitya Akademi Award' in 1983 for his novel "Karmelin". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nilmani Phookan Jr. ([Assamese Poet](#)) – won the 56th Jnanpith Award (Padma Shri & Sahitya Akademi Fellowship)
- Damodar Mauzo ([Konkani Novelist](#)) – won the 57th Jnanpith Award (Sahitya Akademi Award)

Appointments & Resignations

178. On December 8, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) appointed Ittira Davis as its managing director and chief executive officer for three years. He succeeded Nitin Chugh. He was an additional director of Ujjivan SFB from March 13, 2021, till July 23, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ittira Davis – appointed as the MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (succeeding - Nitin Chugh)
- HQs of Ujjivan SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ittira Davis | Founded in – 2004

179. In December 2021, Xiomara Castro, presidential candidate of the Liberty and Refoundation Party, was elected as the first female President of Honduras. The former first lady had 53% of the votes. She succeeded Juan Orlando Hernandez. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Xiomara Castro – elected as the first female President of Honduras (succeeding - Juan Orlando Hernandez)
- Honduras – Tegucigalpa – Honduran Lempira | President – Xiomara Castro

180. On December 6, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) chairman and managing director Sanjiv Mehta became the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). He is also the President of Unilever South Asia. He succeeded Uday Shankar. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Sanjiv Mehta – became the President of the FICCI (succeeding - Uday Shankar)
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | DG – Arun Chawla | President – Sanjiv Mehta | Founded in – 1927

181. On December 7, the former Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), a Stockholm-based inter-governmental organisation consisting of 34 member countries. Mr. Arora was India's 23rd Chief Election Commissioner from December 2, 2018 to April 12, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Arora – joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- HQs of International IDEA – Stockholm, Sweden | Secretary-General – Kevin Casas-Zamora

182. On December 7, the General Assembly of World LPG Association (WLPGA) appointed Shrikant Madhav Vaidya (Chairman of IOCL) as the President during the ongoing World LPG Forum 2021 at Dubai, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shrikant Madhav Vaidya – appointed as the President of World LPG Association (WLPGA)
- HQs of WLPGA – Neuilly, France | President – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Established in – 1987



Amount & Agreements

183. In December 2021, the Central Government released grants of Rs 169.60 Cr to Meghalaya (out of ₹678.39 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 402.24 Cr to Punjab (out of Rs 1,656.39 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 1,667 Cr to Maharashtra (out of Rs 7,064.41 Cr allocated to the state), Rs 120 Cr to Manipur (out of Rs 481 Cr allocated to the state) & Rs 604 Cr to Jammu & Kashmir (out of Rs 2,747 Cr allocated to the UT) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The aim of JJM is to provide potable water on tap to every household by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central grant released under Jal Jeevan Mission:
 - Maharashtra – Rs 1,667 Cr (out of Rs 7,064.41 Cr allocated)
 - Meghalaya – Rs 169.60 Cr (out of ₹678.39 Cr allocated)
 - Punjab – Rs 402.24 Cr (out of Rs 1,656.39 Cr allocated)
 - Manipur – Rs 120 Cr (out of Rs 481 Cr allocated)
 - J&K – 604 Cr (out of Rs 2,747 Cr allocated)
- Aim of JJM: To provide potable water on tap to every household by – 2024



184. On December 7, the Indian government signed two loan agreements of \$275 million (Rs 2,074 Cr) with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for an affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu (\$150 million) and a water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand (\$125 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + ADB = \$150 million (Rs 1,132 Cr) loan agreement for an affordable housing project in Tamil Nadu
- India + ADB = \$125 million (Rs 942 Cr) loan agreement for water sanitation programme in Uttarakhand
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

185. On December 6, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) and Indian Ordnance Factories (Directorate of Ordnance) were among the “Top 100 Global arms-producing and Military Services Companies in 2020”, released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), consisting of the Indian Ordnance Factories, is now known as Directorate of Ordnance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Top 100 Global arms-producing & Military Services Companies, 2020” – released by SIPRI
- HAL + BEL + OFB = among the top 100 global arms-producing & military services companies in 2020
- HQs of SIPRI – Stockholm, Sweden | Chair – Jan Eliasson

186. On December 6, the report, titled “Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management” - a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste, was released by NITI Aayog and Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). The report documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Waste-Wise Cities: Best Practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management” report = released by NITI Aayog + CSE
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of CSE – New Delhi | DG – Sunita Narain

187. On December 6, the number of new accounts opened under “Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA)” from April 2018 to October 2021 is 1,42,73,910, as announced by the Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary. Uttar Pradesh (29,12,632) opened the maximum Sukanya Samridhi Accounts in this period while Lakshadweep (331) opened the lowest accounts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New accounts opened under “Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA)” from April 2018 to October 2021 = 1,42,73,910
- Uttar Pradesh – opened the maximum Sukanya Samridhi Accounts (29,12,632)
- Ministry of Finance: Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Finance: Pankaj Chaowdhary & Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad



188. On December 8, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman improved her rank on the Forbes' 18th "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" from 41st last year to 37th in 2021. This is the third year in a row that she made it to the list. Besides Sitharaman, other Indians to feature on the list are the HCL Corporation CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52), Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72), and Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar (88). Philanthropist Mackenzie Scott is in the number one position, followed by the US vice president Kamala Harris & European Central Bank Head Christine Lagarde. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 18th edition of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" – released by the Forbes
- 1st – Mackenzie Scott | 2nd – Kamala Harris | 3rd – Christine Lagarde
- In India: Nirmala Sitharaman (37) | Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52) | Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (72)

189. On December 6, India emerged as the 4th most powerful country in Asia after the US, China & Japan respectively. It has been ranked fourth among the 26 countries and territories in Indo-Pacific for comprehensive power as per the Lowy Institute's "Asia Power Index 2021". India ranked 3rd in the future resources measure, behind only the United States and China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Asia Power Index 2021" – by Lowy Institute ([Sydney](#))
- Most Powerful Countries in Asia: 1st – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – Japan, 4th – India
- In Future Resources measure: 1st – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – India

190. On December 6, India stands out as a poor and very unequal country, as per the "World Inequality Report 2022" released by Paris-based World Inequality Lab. India's top 10% and top 1% of the population hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income. The richest 10% of the global population currently takes 52% of global income, whereas the poorest half of the population earns 8% of it. Middle East & North Africa (MENA) is the most unequal region in the world, while Europe has the lowest inequality levels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "World Inequality Report 2022" – released by World Inequality Lab ([Paris, France](#))
- India's top 10% of the population hold 57% of total National Income | Top 1% hold 22% of total National Income
- World's top 10% of the global population hold 52% of Global Income
- Highest inequality levels in the world – MENA | Lowest inequality levels – in Europe

191. On December 8, Shri Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj released a report on "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions". On this occasion, two dedicated Dashboards namely (i) Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) Monitoring Dashboard and (ii) Training Management Portal were launched. "Handbook on Training Management Portal" was also released. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Minister Giriraj Singh:
 - released a report on "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Panchayati Raj Institutions"
 - launched "GPDP Monitoring Dashboard" & "Training Management Portal"
 - released "Handbook on Training Management Portal"
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

192. On December 6, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) signed an MoU with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the overall ambit of “Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban 2.0” (SBM-U 2.0). The MoU is for the period of 5 years (2021-26). The waste processing capacity in India has gone up by nearly 4 times, from 18% in 2014, to 70% at present. Moreover, “SBM-U 2.0” launched the ‘Swachh Technology Challenge’ to harness the entrepreneurial potential of the waste management sector in India. To further incentivize the start-up ecosystem, MoHUA will also launch a ‘Swachhata Start-Up Challenge’ as an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + UNDP India = an MoU to strengthen the Waste Management Sector in India under “SBM-U 2.0”
- Waste Processing Capacity in India increased to 70% (from 18% in 2014)
- MoHUA – to launch a ‘Swachhata Start-Up Challenge’ in January 2022
- Outlay of ‘SBM-U 2.0’ – Rs 1.41 lakh Cr (launched in 2014)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965
- UNDP India’s Resident Representative – Shoko Noda

193. On December 7, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) signed an agreement with the Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco) to develop manufacturing capabilities in Saudi Arabia. Under the plan, L&T will build the region’s first “Heavy Wall Pressure Vessels Facility” at Saudi Arabia’s strategically located Jubail Industrial City. The pact is in line with the Aramco Namaat programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T + Saudi Aramco = an agreement to develop manufacturing capabilities in Saudi Arabia
- L&T – to build Saudi Arabia’s first “Heavy Wall Pressure Vessels Facility” – in Jubail city
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal | Saudi Crown Prince – Mohammed bin Salman

194. On December 7, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) formed a \$2 billion partnership with Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA’ZIZ) for chemical production in Ruwais, UAE. The Ta’ziz Industrial Chemicals Zone is a joint venture between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ADQ. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL + TA’ZIZ (UAE) = \$2 billion partnership for chemical production in Ruwais, UAE
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973

195. On December 7, the Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva, the Centre for Trade and Investment Law, New Delhi (CTIL) and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration, Geneva (CTEI) signed a tripartite MoU in Geneva to collaborate towards research and capacity-building in the field of international trade law and policy. The MoU was signed by India’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO, Brajendra Navnit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PMI to WTO + CTIL + CTEI = a tripartite MoU for capacity building & research in International Trade Law & Policy
- India’s Ambassador & Permanent Representative to the WTO – Brajendra Navnit



Books & Authors

196. On December 6, IAS (Rtd) R. C. Sinha, advisor to Union Ministry of Road Development, released an autobiography titled “At Home In The Universe” authored by Bala Krishna Madhur, in Mumbai. The book chronicles a poor boy’s journey from a village in South India to the pinnacle of corporate success and personal spiritual growth spanning over 6 decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “At Home In The Universe” – an autobiography of Bala Krishna Madhur

Obituaries

197. On December 7, Padma Shri awardee and centenarian teacher from Odisha, Nanda Kishore Prusty (fondly called Nanda Sir) passed away at the age of 104. He was conferred with the Padma Shri award for his contributions in the field of Education in November 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nanda Kishore Prusty (Nanda Sir) – a Renowned Teacher – passed away (‘Padma Shri 2021’ in Education)



198. On December 7, the NASA launched Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder (UVSC Pathfinder) through ‘United Launch Alliance Atlas V’ rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida as part of the U.S. Space Force's Space Test Program 3 mission. Moreover, Indian-origin Anil Menon has been chosen as one of the 10 members of NASA’s 2021 Astronaut Class. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA launched: (through ‘United Launch Alliance Atlas V’ rocket)
- Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) &
- U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder (UVSC Pathfinder)
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958

199. On December 9, India successfully test fired the Air launched version of “BrahMos” supersonic cruise missile from the supersonic fighter aircraft ‘Sukhoi 30 MK-I’ from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. Besides, India also test-fired the “Vertically Launched Short Range Surface to Air Missile” (VL-SRSAM) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The VL-SRSAM is indigenously designed and developed for Indian Navy by the DRDO. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India – test fired the Air launched version of “BrahMos” supersonic cruise missile – from Chandipur, Odisha
- India – test fired the “VL-SRSAM” – from Chandipur, Odisha | Developed for Indian Navy by – DRDO
- The missiles was launched from – ‘Sukhoi 30 MK-I’ fighter aircraft

200. On December 6, Tata Power and IIT Madras signed an MoU to collaborate on R&D, Consultancy, Advocacy, Training and Technology Solutions. The MoU is signed to facilitate pursuit of advanced research to future technological projects and campus recruitment opportunities to IIT-M postgraduate students. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power + IIT Madras = an MoU to collaborate on R&D, Consultancy, Advocacy, Training & Technology Solutions
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established – 1915
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi





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