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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 5
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 12th January 2022

[Attempt Test No. 5 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

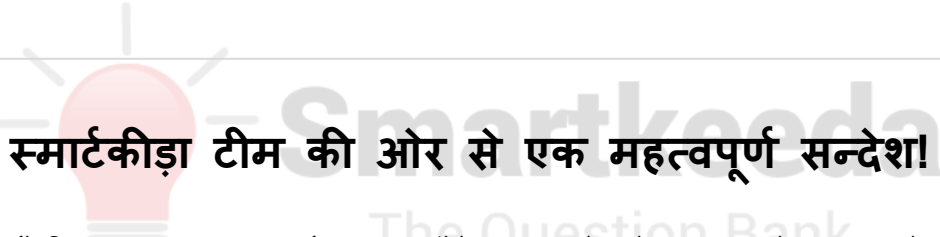
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

101. On December 9, Bharti Airtel launched “Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge” in partnership with Invest India that will let early-stage technology companies demonstrate differentiated solutions. The challenge invites early-stage Indian startups to demonstrate solutions for 5G, IoT, Cloud Communications, Digital Advertising and Digital Entertainment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + Invest India = launched “Airtel India Startup Innovation Challenge”
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)

102. On December 8, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the housing scheme for rural areas - “Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)”, for 3 more years till March 2024. Out of the target of constructing 2.95 Cr houses, 1.65 Cr houses were constructed till November 2021. The extension of the scheme for completing the remaining houses will cost Rs 2.17 lakh Cr, of which the Centre will spend over Rs 1.43 lakh Cr. Besides, the Cabinet also approved the funding and implementation of ‘Ken-Betwa Inter-Linking of Rivers’ project with a total cost of Rs 44,605 Cr. The project has a deadline of 8 years. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA) will be set up to implement the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved the extension of “Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)” till March 2024
- Cabinet approved funding & implementation of ‘Ken-Betwa Inter-Linking of Rivers’ project | Outlay – Rs 44,605 Cr

103. On December 8, Delhi’s Indian National Airways Market became the first market to be certified as the ‘Clean and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Market’ by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian National Airways Market (Delhi) – became the first market to be certified as the ‘Clean & Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Market’ by FSSAI
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatota | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal

104. On December 9, Meta, earlier known as Facebook, opened an office at CyberHub in Gurugram, its first stand-alone office in Asia. The office will be open to anyone who is bringing change in the society, be it creators, small business owners, entrepreneurs, artists or community leaders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meta – opened an office at CyberHub in Gurugram, Haryana (Meta’s first stand-alone office in Asia)
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

105. On December 12, Karnataka Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as part of the state-level initiative “Code-Unnati” with the aim of improving access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youth, including women. As part of this, 50 colleges were identified to work with the faculties and students community. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Karnataka + UNDP = an LoU as part of “Code-Unnati” initiative to improve employment opportunities for Youth
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner | Founded in – 1965

International Affairs

106. In December 2021, the United Arab Emirates announced to change its existing five-day workweek to a four-and-a-half day starting January 1, 2022. With this, the UAE became the world's first country to make the employee-friendly transition as part of its efforts to improve productivity and work-life balance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – announced to change its existing 5-day workweek to a 4-and-a-half day from January 1, 2022
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

107. On December 7-8, the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized a two-day Practical Seminar on “Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment” for delegates from Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States. India assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) from October 28, 2021 for a period of one year. This is the second time, India is hosting such a Seminar. First one was held in Hyderabad, India in August 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Seminar on “Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment” for SCO members = by NSCS + DSCI
- India – assumed the Chairmanship of “Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO)” for 1 year
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Present Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan

108. On December 10, India’s Permanent Ambassador to United Nations, T. S. Tirumurti announced that the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) granted ‘Observer Status’ to International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA was jointly launched by India & France in November 2015, at the 21st session of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris, France. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNGA granted ‘Observer Status’ to International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ISA was launched in 2015 at COP21 – by India & France
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | DG – Alok Sahay | Member countries – 101

109. On December 9, Italy’s antitrust watchdog fined Amazon 1.13 billion euros (\$1.28 billion) for alleged abuse of market dominance. Italy's watchdog claimed that Amazon had leveraged its dominant position in the Italian market for intermediation services on marketplaces to favour the adoption of its own logistics service - Fulfilment by Amazon (FBA) - by sellers active on Amazon. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Italy – fined Amazon 1.13 billion euros (\$1.28 billion) for alleged abuse of market dominance
- Italy – Rome – Euro | PM – Giuseppe Conte
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

110. On December 9, Gurugram-based Aviva Life Insurance launched “Aviva Nivesh Bima”, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan that provides guaranteed moneyback at every fifth policy year, in addition to a lump sum payout at maturity. The minimum annualized premium for the policy is as low as Rs 25,000 and goes up to a maximum of Rs 1 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aviva Life Insurance – launched “Aviva Nivesh Bima” - a non-linked individual savings life insurance plan
- Annualized premium for the policy: minimum – Rs 25,000 | maximum – Rs 1 Cr
- HQs of Aviva Life Insurance – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Amit Malik

111. On December 10, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted its approval to the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) to raise stake in IndusInd Bank up to 9.99%. LIC currently holds 4.95% of the total issued and paid up capital of IndusInd. The approval is valid for a period of 1 year i.e. up to December 8, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI granted its approval to the LIC to raise stake in IndusInd Bank to 9.99%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

112. On December 10, Federal Bank signed a bancassurance agreement with Star Health & Allied Insurance and joined as a corporate agent to provide a wide range of innovative health insurance products for the Bank’s customers across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Star Health & Allied Insurance = a bancassurance agreement
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of Star Health Insurance – Chennai, TN | Chairman & CEO – V. Jagannathan
- Star Health & Allied Insurance – India’s 1st Health Insurance provider

113. On December 9, Bank of Baroda (BoB) signed an MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Ltd (CHFL) for sourcing and financing housing loan borrowers under co-lending model. Bank of Baroda would be able to garner housing loan business to the extent of ₹1,000 Cr in 1 financial year. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- BoB + Centrum Housing Finance = an MoU for sourcing & financing housing loan borrowers under co-lending model
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of CHFL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Sanjay Shukla

114. On December 9, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) received Scheduled Bank status from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and was included in the “Second Schedule to the RBI Act, 1934”. With this, PPBL became the 3rd Scheduled Payments Banks in India, after India Post Payments Bank Ltd (IPPBL) and Fino Payments Bank Ltd (FPBL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paytm Payments Bank – received status of ‘Scheduled Bank’ from the RBI (after IPPBL & FPBL)
- Number of Payments bank in India at present – 6
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta

115. On December 8, the RBI, in its 5th Bi-monthly monetary policy of FY21-22, enhanced the UPI limit for investing in IPOs and RBI Retail Direct Scheme for G-Secs to Rs 5 lakh from the current limit of Rs 2 lakh. The transaction limit in the UPI system was enhanced from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh in March 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI enhanced the UPI limit for investing in IPOs & RBI Retail Direct Scheme for G-Secs to Rs 5 lakh (from Rs 2 lakh)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

116. On December 10, India’s recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations, as per the 2nd edition of the “BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021” released by the RBI. The BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 is prepared by the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Research Group with members from BRICS central banks. This edition addresses the theme of “Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience and Recovery”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021” – released by the RBI | Prepared by – BRICS CRA Research Group
- Theme – “Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience & Recovery”

117. On December 11, Kotak General Insurance and Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank announced a strategic alliance to provide the bank’s customers access to a range of insurance solutions. Kotak General Insurance is a 100% subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd is a scheduled co-operative bank established in the year 1984 and has presence in the suburbs of Mumbai region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak General Insurance + Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank = a strategic alliance to provide insurance products
- Kotak Mahindra Bank holds 100% shareholding in ‘Kotak General Insurance’
- HQs of Kotak General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Suresh Agarwal
- HQs of Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Dilip Sant



Sports & Games

118. On December 8, Indian para-athletes won 41 medals at the 4th edition of the “Asian Youth Para Games”. The Indian contingent won 12 Gold, 15 Silver, and 14 Bronze medals at the Asian Youth Para Games held in Riffa city of Bahrain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won 41 medals at the 4th “Asian Youth Para Games” held in Riffa, Bahrain (12 Gold + 15 Silver + 14 Bronze)
- Bahrain – Manama – Dinar | PM – Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa | King – Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

119. On December 11, Norway’s Magnus Carlsen won his 5th FIDE World Chess Championship with a victory against Russia’s Ian Nepomniachtchi at Dubai’s Expo 2020 held in Dubai, UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) – won the “FIDE World Chess Championship 2021” (his 5th title)
- Magnus defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi (Russia)

Persons in News

120. On December 8, Billionaire Yusaku Maezawa became the first Japanese tourist to visit the International Space Station (ISS). He lifted off in a Soyuz spacecraft from the Russia-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. He has also planned a trip around the moon with Elon Musk’s SpaceX in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yusaku Maezawa – became the first Japanese tourist to visit the International Space Station (ISS)
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

Science & Technology

121. On December 9, the NASA launched a new mission named “Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)” onboard SpaceX’s ‘Falcon 9’ rocket from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida, US. IXPE observatory is a joint effort of NASA and the Italian Space Agency. The mission will study the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – launched a new mission “Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE)” onboard ‘Falcon 9’ rocket of SpaceX
- “IXPE” is a joint effort of = NASA + Italian Space Agency (ASI)



122. In December 2021, South Korea's Agency for Defense Development (ADD) publicly unveiled a model hypersonic cruise missile. The missile, known as the "Hycore", is equipped with a two-stage rocket booster. It is scheduled for flight testing in 2022. Shaan Shaikh is a program manager and research associate with the 'CSIS Missile Defense Project'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agency for Defense Development (South Korea) – unveiled a model hypersonic cruise missile "Hycore"
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

123. On December 9, Google partnered with the World Health Organization (WHO) to build an open source software developer kit (SDK) to help Android developers everywhere build secure digital health solutions using the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) framework. Created by Health Level Seven, Inc. (HL7), FHIR is a global standard framework for healthcare data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + WHO = partnership to build an open source 'Software Developer Kit (SDK)' using FHIR
- HL7 – created **F**ast **H**ealthcare **I**nteroperability **R**esources (FHIR) framework
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

124. On December 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested extended range Pinaka (Pinaka-ER) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System at Rajasthan's Pokhran Range. The DRDO Laboratory Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) along with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune have designed the system. The Pinaka-ER can destroy targets at distances up to 70km, over the 45 km existing range of the missile. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO tested extended range 'Pinaka' (Pinaka-ER) Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System at Pokhran Range, Rajasthan
- Range of 'Pinaka-ER' – 70km | 'Pinaka-ER' is designed by = ARDE + HEMRL (DRDO's labs in Pune)
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

Appointments & Resignations

125. On December 3, Germany's parliament elected Olaf Scholz as the country's 9th Post-World War II Chancellor, after Angela Merkel's 16-year tenure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Olaf Scholz – appointed as the new Chancellor of Germany (succeeding - Angela Merkel)
- He is Germany's 9th Post-World War II Chancellor)
- Germany – Berlin – Euro | President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier



126. In December 2021, BYJU'S announced a two-year partnership with Olympic medalists Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu as the brand ambassadors for "Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app". Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app is a special offering from BYJU'S launched in 2019 in collaboration with Disney India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra & PV Sindhu – appointed as brand ambassadors by BYJU'S for "Disney BYJU'S Early Learn app"
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran | Founded in – 2011
- HQs of The Walt Disney Company India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – K. Madhavan

127. On December 8, Piramal Realty, the real estate arm of the Piramal Group, has roped in actor Farhan Akhtar as a brand ambassador for its portfolio of residential projects in Mumbai and Thane. In September, the company had appointed cricketer Rahul Dravid as a brand ambassador for its portfolio of residential projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farhan Akhtar – appointed as a brand ambassador of Piramal Realty
- HQs of Piramal Realty – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Naaman Atallah

128. On December 11, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Catherine Russell, an adviser to US President Joe Biden, as the Executive Director of UNICEF. She replaced Henrietta H. Fore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Catherine Russell – appointed as Executive Director of UNICEF (succeeding - Henrietta H. Fore)
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

129. In December 2021, Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu released a book titled "Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat" authored by Prabhat Kumar and published by IC Centre for Governance. Prabhat Kumar is a former Governor of Jharkhand and former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India. The book deals with ethics in governance and public service and proposes a collective quest for 'Naitik Bharat'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a book titled "Public Service Ethics - A Quest for Naitik Bharat"
- Author – Prabhat Kumar | Publisher – IC Centre for Governance

130. On December 10, Karnataka Bank was conferred with two "DigiDhan Awards" instituted by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The bank received these awards for achieving the target with the highest percentage in BHIM-UPI transactions under the private sector bank category consecutively for two years - 2019-20 and 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Bank – conferred with two "DigiDhan Awards" instituted by MeitY
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

131. On December 10, Ahmedabad-based Pritzker Award-winner, Balkrishna Doshi was selected for the “Royal Gold Medal 2022” by the London-based Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It is the world’s highest honour for architecture. He became the first Indian architect to receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Balkrishna Doshi ([Gujarat](#)) – selected for the world’s highest honour for architecture “Royal Gold Medal 2022” by RIBA

132. On December 9, International Maritime Organization (IMO) council awarded the Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional and courageous efforts towards rescue operation of M/T New Diamond. IMO Award is given for individual’s and team’s exceptional bravery at sea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMO awarded the Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard & Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional bravery at sea
- HQs of IMO – London, UK | [Secretary-General – Kitack Lim](#)

133. On December 11, Mathematician Neena Gupta from Kolkata’s Indian Statistical Institute was awarded the “2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians” from developing countries, for her contribution in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra. Gupta became the third woman to receive the award ever since it was introduced in 2005. The Ramanujan Prize is given to an eminent Mathematician less than the age of 45 on 31 December, every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neena Gupta ([Kolkata](#)) – awarded the “2021 DST-ICTP-IMU Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians” (3rd woman)

Schemes & Initiatives

134. In December 2021, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved “Atma Nirbhar Krishak Integrated Development Scheme” to boost the agriculture sector. Under this scheme, 1,475 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) will be formed in the next 3 years. The state government is expected to bear an expenditure of Rs 1,220.92 Cr for implementation of the scheme from financial year 2021-22 to 2031-32. Under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh Cr will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Marketing Cooperative Societies, FPOs, Self Help Groups & farmers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – approved “Atma Nirbhar Krishak Integrated Development Scheme” to boost the agriculture sector
- Under this scheme, 1,475 FPOs will be formed in the next 3 years
- Under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh Cr will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



135. On December 10, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) introduced “Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme” to the grass root Artisans of the region. During the launching ceremony, a total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs 1 lakh per artisan. The credit facility is collateral free and carries a subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NEDFi – introduced “Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme” to the grass root Artisans of the region
- HQs of NEDFi – Guwahati, Assam

136. On December 7, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) is implementing an Umbrella scheme namely “Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)” for welfare of Senior Citizens across India. The scheme has some components namely - Scheme of Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSrC), State Action Plan for Senior Citizens (SAPSrC), Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), Promoting silver economy, Channelizing CSR funds for Elderly care & Scheme for Awareness Generation and Capacity Building for welfare of Senior Citizens. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE is implementing “Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY)” for welfare of Senior Citizens across India
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

Important Days & Dates

137. Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This is the day on which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” in 1948. The UDHR is a milestone document, which proclaims the inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world. In 2021, the theme was “Equality - Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 10 – UN’s Human Rights Day
- UNGA adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)” on December 10, 1948
- 2021’s Theme – “Equality - Reducing Inequalities, Advancing Human Rights”

138. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), under the Ministry of Power, marked December 14 as “National Energy Conservation Day” in a bid to raise awareness about the importance of energy conservation. This year, the Ministry of Power, under ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, is celebrating “Energy Conservation Week” from 8 to 14 December. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – “National Energy Conservation Day” – by BEE
- December 8 to 14 – “Energy Conservation Week”
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre

139. Every year, United Nations Children’s Funds (UNICEF) Day is observed on December 11 to raise awareness about saving children’s lives by defending and helping them to fulfill their wishes. 2021 marks the 75th anniversary of UNICEF Day. The UNICEF was established by the United Nations General Agency (UNGA) in 1946. The focus/theme for this year is to help children recover from interruptions and learning losses experienced through pandemics in the last two years.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – 75th UNICEF Day
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

140. December 11 was celebrated as the UN’s “International Mountain Day”. The date was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) & being celebrated since 2003. 2021’s theme was “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – International Mountain Day (since - 2003)
- 2021’s Theme – “Sustainable Mountain Tourism”

Books & Authors

141. In December 2021, A new book titled “Watershed: How We Destroyed India’s Water and How We Can Save It” is authored by Mridula Ramesh. The book has two main parts of ‘understanding’ and ‘action’ describing the facets, faultlines, and stressors of India’s water resources. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Watershed: How We Destroyed India’s Water and How We Can Save It” – authored by Mridula Ramesh

Obituaries

142. On December 9, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat died in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu. The ‘IAF Mi-17V5’ helicopter, in which he was travelling, crashed in a forested area of Niligris district. He was a four-star General of the Indian Army and India’s first chief of defence staff, an office set up in 2019 to improve coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDS General Bipin Rawat – died in ‘IAF Mi-17V5’ helicopter crash in Niligris, Tamil Nadu (CDS since 2019)
- Retirement age for India’s Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) – 65 years



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

143. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) along with the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (c-Ganga) organized the 6th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)” from December 9 to 14, 2021. 2021’s theme was “River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level”. The Summit was inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Minister of Jal Shakti. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NMCG + c-Ganga = organized the 6th edition of the “India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)”
- 2021’s Theme – “River Resources Allocation: Planning and Management at the Regional Level”

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

144. On December 6, India reported reduction in the malaria burden between 2019 and 2020, according to the World Health Organization’s (WHO) latest “World Malaria Report”. The WHO report noted that India accounted for 83% of cases and 82% of all malaria deaths in 2020 in the WHO South-East Asia Region. While globally, India contributed 1.7% of malaria cases and 1.2% deaths. There were an estimated 241 million malaria cases and 6,27,000 malaria deaths worldwide in 2020, representing about 14 million more cases and 69,000 more deaths in 2020 compared to 2019. Malaria deaths increased by 12% globally in 2020 compared with 2019. On the other hand, China and El Salvador were certified by the WHO as malaria-free in 2021, and Iran attained 3 consecutive years of zero indigenous cases in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Malaria Report” – released by the WHO
- In the WHO South-East Asia Region: India accounted for 83% of all malaria cases & 82% of all malaria deaths in 2020
- Globally: India accounted for 1.7% of all malaria cases & 1.2% of all malaria deaths in 2020
- Malaria deaths increased by 12% globally in 2020 (compared with 2019)
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948

145. On December 10, NITI Aayog released “Report on Country-level assessment of Emergency and Injury Care” at secondary, tertiary level centres and district hospitals in India. These reports bring out and highlight the spectrum and load of emergency cases, it brings out the prevailing gaps in ambulance services, health infrastructure, human resources and equipment in the provision of optimal care. These studies were carried out by the Department of Emergency Medicine, JPNATC, AIIMS, New Delhi in collaboration with NITI Aayog. These studies have assessed the prevailing status of 100 emergency and injury care centres in government and private hospitals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released “Report on Country-level assessment of Emergency and Injury Care at secondary, tertiary level centres & district hospitals in India”
- These studies were carried out by = Department of Emergency Medicine + JPNATC + AIIMS + NITI Aayog
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar



146. On December 8, Maharashtra retained the top position in the list of states with the most employable talent followed by Uttar Pradesh and Kerala, according to the “India Skills Report 2022” released by Wheebox. Overall youth employability in India increased to 48.7% compared to last year. The highest employable age group was identified between 22-25 years of age. Pune topped the list of cities with the highest employability followed by Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram. Among the employable youth population, 51.44% of females were found to be employable. Gujarat topped the list of states with highest availability of employable BA and MBA graduates in India. Hubli was identified as the city with the most employable youth capital in the 22-25 age group. The report was prepared by by Wheebox in partnership with the Confederation of Indian Industry, Association of Indian Universities, United Nations Development Program, All India Council for Technical Education, Additional Skill Acquisition Programme, and PeopleStrong and Taggd. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India Skills Report 2022” – released by Wheebox
- States with the most employable talent: 1st - Maharashtra, 2nd - Uttar Pradesh, 3rd - Kerala
- Cities with the highest employability: 1st - Pune, 2nd - Lucknow, 3rd - Thiruvananthapuram
- Gujarat – the states with highest availability of employable BA & MBA graduates in India
- Hubli ([Karnataka](#)) – the city with the most employable youth capital in the 22-25 age group
- Overall youth employability in India increased to – 48.7%
- Highest employable age group in India – 22-25 years

147. On December 9, the world’s population is set to decline for the first time ever in the next century - 2100, a new study published in the Lancet journal has revealed. Currently, there are about 7.8 billion people in the world. The study has predicted that the peak in the global population would expectedly be around 9.7 billion in 2064 and then decline to 8.79 billion in 2100. The population in India would be around 1.09 billion in 2100. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lancet Journal: the peak in the global population would be around 9.7 billion in 2064 *{Dynamic Data}*
- Global population would decline to 8.79 billion in 2100 | India’s population would be around 1.09 billion in 2100

Amount & Agreements

148. On December 9, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$350 million policy-based loan to improve urban services in India. The loan supports the policies established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to accelerate universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation under the recently launched national program “Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0” and provide affordable housing to all under the flagship mission “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)”. The program will benefit the urban poor, including other disadvantaged, economically weaker section and low-income groups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a \$350 million policy-based loan to improve urban services in India
- The loan supports the policies established by – MoHUA
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

149. On December 9, the Rajya Sabha passed the “Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill 2021” to regulate assisted reproductive technology (ART) services such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) centres, sperm or egg banks and curb unethical practices related to issues such as sex selection. The Upper House also approved the “Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020” to regulate the booming surrogacy practice in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajya Sabha approved the “ART (Regulation) Bill 2021” & “Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2020”
- ART – Assisted Reproductive Technology

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

150. On December 9, Karnataka Higher Education Council signed an MoU with NSE Academy to provide financial awareness for holistic well-being of college students. This will impart knowledge to students on economic policies, fin-tech, capital market and central banks, among other subjects. NSE Academy has already introduced this program in 7 states across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Higher Education Council + NSE Academy = an MoU to provide financial awareness to college students
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot





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