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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. 7**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 7 Here!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

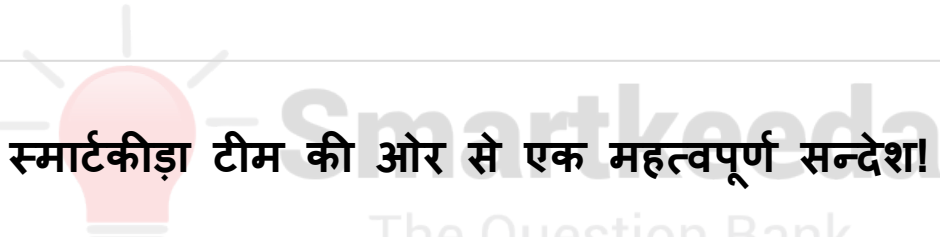
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

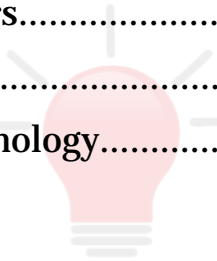
आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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# National & States Affairs

**301.** On December 13, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog and the Royal Embassy of Denmark to India announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Water Innovation Challenges” to address the global water woes through innovations as part of the ‘Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic Partnership’. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- AIM (NITI Aayog) + Royal Embassy of Denmark to India = announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Water Innovation Challenges”
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

**302.** On December 12, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) launched a “National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA)” to prevent atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The helpline will be launched to ensure proper implementation of the “Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989”. The helpline will be available round the clock on toll-free number 14566 across India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MoSJE – launched a “National Helpline Against Atrocities (NHAA)” to prevent atrocities on SCs/STs
- Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Virendra Kumar | Constituency – Sagar, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment: Ramdas Athawale

**303.** On December 12, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, in partnership with Startup India, launched the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge 2.0” at an event celebrating ‘National Milk Day’ in Anand, Gujarat to commemorate the birth centenary of Dr. Varghese Kurien. The first edition of the startup grand challenge was launched by PM Narendra Modi in September, 2019. For each of the 6 problem areas, a winner will be awarded with Rs 10 Lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying + Startup India = launched 2<sup>nd</sup> “Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge”
- First edition was launched by PM Narendra Modi – in September, 2019

**304.** On December 12, the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahostav was held at eight venues in Goa. The science festival, named after the late BJP leader and former chief minister of Goa, Manohar Parrikar. Former ISRO chairperson Professor K. Kasturirangan delivered a lecture on ‘Space - A Promising Endeavour’ at the National Institute of Oceanography in Dona Paula, Goa. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Manohar Parrikar Vigyan Mahostav – held at 8 venues in Goa
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**305.** On December 12, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated “Swarnim Vijay Parv” in New Delhi. It is an event commemorating the valour & professionalism of the Armed Forces and their contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh in the ‘Indo-Pak 1971 war’. It commemorates 50 years of India’s victory in the 1971 war. Besides, Vijay Diwas is also observed across India and Bangladesh on December 16 to commemorate the same phenomenon. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated “Swarnim Vijay Parv” in New Delhi (50 years of India’s victory in ‘Indo-Pak 1971 war’)
- December 16 – Vijay Diwas – observed between India & Bangladesh

**306.** On December 15, Meta announced to partner with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety, online well-being and augmented reality (AR) for over 1 Cr students and 10 lakh teachers in India over the next 3 years. The first phase of “FB for Education” initiative was launched in June 2020 with an aim to create a safe online environment and learning experience. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Meta + CBSE = to provide a curriculum on digital safety, online well-being & AR for students & teachers in India
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairman – Manoj Ahuja | Formed in – 1962

**307.** On December 16, NTPC Ltd awarded project of ‘Standalone Fuel-Cell based Micro-Grid with Hydrogen production using Electrolyser’ at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh. This will be India’s first Green Hydrogen based Energy Storage Project and one of world’s largest. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) also signed a pact with Ladakh for a Green Hydrogen Mobility project. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- NTPC Ltd – awarded India’s first Green Hydrogen based Energy Storage Project at NTPC Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh
- NTPC REL + Ladakh = signed a pact for a Green Hydrogen Mobility project
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

**308.** On December 13, Better Life Farming Alliance (BLFA) tied up with “JEEViKA”, the Bihar government’s livelihood programme for poverty alleviation. The partnership aims to empower the state’s small and marginal farmers by scaling up its agri-entrepreneurship model. Under this partnership, about 500 Agri Entrepreneur Service Centers will be set up to support 2,500 villages and over 2.5 Lakh farmers across the state. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- BLFA + “JEEViKA” program (Bihar) = tie up for poverty alleviation from small & marginal farmers
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

## International Affairs

**309.** On December 14, Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA) renamed itself to “International Boxing Association (IBA)” during the “AIBA Extraordinary Congress 2021”. According to AIBA, included among the amendments were the creation of a new ‘Boxing Independent Integrity Unit’, which is expected to become operational in the course of 2022. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- AIBA renamed itself to “International Boxing Association (IBA)” during the “AIBA Extraordinary Congress 2021”
- HQs of IBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlyov

**310.** On December 14, India and Uzbekistan decided to promote Interregional Cooperation between the Andijan region of Uzbekistan and the Gujarat state of India. Measures to intensify interregional cooperation were studied when Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Sardor Umurzakov met Indian envoy Manish Prabhat. EXIM Bank allocated \$448 million to finance the implementation of priority projects in Uzbekistan in the areas of infrastructure development and education. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India & Uzbekistan decided to promote Interregional Cooperation between Andijan & Gujarat
- Ambassador of India to Uzbekistan – Manish Prabhat
- EXIM Bank – allocated \$448 million to finance the implementation of priority projects in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

**311.** On December 12, Accenture, Dubai Cares, Microsoft and UNICEF launched a digital education platform called “Passport to Earning” to help address global learning crisis. The platform will provide young people aged 15-24 across the world with free, certified education and skills training. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Accenture + Dubai Cares + Microsoft + UNICEF = launched a digital education platform called “Passport to Earning”
- HQs of Accenture – Dublin, Ireland | CEO – Julie Sweet | MD (in India) – Rekha Menon
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, US | Executive Director – Catherine Russell | Established in – 1946

**312.** On December 13, the US, China and North Korea agreed in principle on declaring a formal end to the “1950-53 Korean War”. During the war, the US fought alongside South Korea to fend off an invasion by North Korea, which was backed by China. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US + China + North Korea = agreed in principle on declaring a formal end to the “1950-53 Korean War”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un



# Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**313.** On December 13, Equitas Small Finance Bank partnered with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance to launch a “Chola Sarva Shakti Policy”, a women-specific health insurance policy. According to a recent survey among 1,009 women, only 39% of them had a health cover. The Chola Sarva Shakti Policy initiative aims to provide women with an independent and comprehensive policy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Equitas SFB + Cholamandalam MS Gen. Ins. = to launch “Chola Sarva Shakti Policy” for women
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- HQs of Cholamandalam MS Gen. Ins. – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – M. M. Murugappan

**314.** On December 13, Axis Bank is integrating different digitisation initiatives by government bodies and service providers to extend an end-to-end service to business clients. With this purpose, Axis Bank tied up with Swift (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) to provide comprehensive digital banking solutions to clients. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Axis Bank + Swift = tied up to provide comprehensive digital banking solutions to clients
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of Swift – La Hulpe, Belgium | CEO – Javier Perez-Tasso

**315.** On December 15, SBI Card launched a first-of-its-kind fitness & wellness-focused credit card - “SBI Card PULSE”. The card has been thoughtfully designed with unique features and benefits to complement cardholders' proactive approach towards health and wellness. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- SBI Card – launched a first-of-its-kind fitness & wellness-focused credit card - “SBI Card PULSE”
- HQs of SBI Cards & Payment Services Ltd – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara

**316.** On December 15, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched a new a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan called “Dhan Rekha”. The minimum sum assured under this plan is Rs 2 lakh, with no limit for maximum sum assured. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- LIC – launched a new a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan called “Dhan Rekha”
- Minimum sum assured – Rs 2 lakh | Maximum sum assured – No limit
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**317.** On December 13, Bank of Baroda (BOB) partnered with National Payments Corporations of India (NPCI) to launch “bob World Wave”, a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem. The device will provide contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 in all NFC enabled PoS devices. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- BOB + NPCI = partnership to launch “bob World Wave” - a wearable line of products for payments
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

**318.** On December 15, Financial Software and Systems (FSS), a leading provider of integrated payment products, partnered with CSB Bank to deliver Hyperlocal Banking Services to financially underserved segments. Under this partnership, CSB Bank and FSS plan to open 1,000 Smart Cash franchisees in semi-urban and rural areas across India. Powered by FSS eFinclusiv (AePS) at the backend, Smart Cash franchisees will extend interoperable banking services to customers of any bank. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- FSS + CSB Bank = partnership to deliver Hyperlocal Banking Services to financially underserved segments
- CSB Bank + FSS = plan to open 1,000 Smart Cash franchisees in semi-urban and rural areas
- HQs of FSS – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & Chairman – Nagaraj Mylandla
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – C. V. Rajendran

**319.** On December 14, the SEBI constituted the Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies. ALeRTS will be headed by SEBI’s ex-whole time member Madhabi Puri Buch. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – constituted the Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory & Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)
- ALeRTS will be headed by – Madhabi Puri Buch
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

**320.** On December 14, Paytm launched its first AI-powered educational platform called “Paytm Wealth Academy” for traders and investors on its trading app Paytm Money. Paytm Wealth Academy is an educational platform designed to make financial learning intuitive and self-driven. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Paytm – launched its first AI-powered educational platform called “Paytm Wealth Academy” for traders & investors
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma | Founded in – 2010

**321.** On December 15, the RBI introduced a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for large non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). This brings them almost on a par with banks in terms of supervision and regulatory reach. The PCA framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFCs from October 2022 on the basis of their financial position on or after March 31. However, non-deposit taking NBFCs with an asset size of less than Rs 1,000 Cr, primary dealers, government-owned NBFCs, and housing finance companies are exempt from this framework. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- RBI introduced prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for large NBFCs effective from October 2022
- The NBFCs which are excepted:
  - Non-deposit taking NBFCs with an asset size of less than Rs 1,000 Cr
  - Primary Dealers
  - Government-owned NBFCs
  - Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**322.** On December 16, Global debt rose to a record \$226 trillion in 2020 as the world was hit by Covid-19 pandemic and a deep recession, as announced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Global debt rose by 28% points to 256% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020, the largest one-year debt surge since World War II. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- According to IMF: Global debt rose to a record \$226 trillion in 2020 (rose by 28% points to 256% of GDP in 2020)
- HQs of IMF – Washington, D.C., US | President – Kristalina Georgieva | Member countries – 190

**323.** On December 15, State Bank of India (SBI) renewed its MoU with Indian Army to offer benefits to all serving as well as retired army personnel and their families through its Defence Salary Package (DSP) Scheme. It also supports education of children and marriage of girl child of deceased army personnel. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – renewed its MoU with Indian Army to offer benefits to army personnel through its Defence Salary Package Scheme
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**324.** On December 16, Pine Labs, a merchant commerce platform, partnered with AU Small Finance Bank to avail EMI offers to the bank's credit cardholders. Currently, Pine Labs powers more than 30 different credit issuers and NBFC partners on its Android PoS terminals. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pine Labs + AU SFB = partnership to avail EMI offers to the bank's credit cardholders
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Lokvir Kapoor | CEO – B. Amrish Rau
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani

**325.** On December 16, PhonePe became the first payments platform to tokenize cards on Visa, Mastercard and Rupay card networks by launching tokenization solution - "PhonePe Safecard". It will help businesses save time and effort by removing the need to integrate with multiple card networks. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- PhonePe – launched a tokenization solution named “PhonePe Safecard”
- PhonePe – became the first payments platform to tokenize cards on Visa, Mastercard and Rupay card networks
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

**326.** On December 16, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an MoU with Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout in India. This collaboration will enable customers in India to receive international money transfers in real time into their bank accounts in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIPL + Western Union = an MoU to enable Real-time Cross-border Money Transfers seamlessly & instantly
- HQs of NIPL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ritesh Shukla
- HQs of Western Union – Colorado, US | President & CEO – Devin McGranahan

## Defence Affairs

**327.** On December 14, IIT Delhi signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) to find indigenous solutions towards various defense-related projects. The joint partnership aims to accelerate IAF’s indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Delhi + IAF = an MoU to find indigenous solutions towards various defense-related projects
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

**328.** On December 14, the official website for the forthcoming Multinational Naval Exercise - “MILAN 2022” was launched by Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), ENC. The ‘MILAN 2022’ is scheduled to be hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 25 February to 4 March 2022. The theme of ‘MILAN 2022’ is “Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rear Admiral Sanjay Sadhu – launched the official website for the “MILAN 2022” multinational naval exercise
- “MILAN 2022” – to be hosted by Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (from Feb 5 to March 4, 2022)
- Theme of ‘MILAN 2022’ – “Camaraderie, Cohesion, Collaboration”
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan, 1950

**329.** On December 14, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh handed over 5 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces & other Security Agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The five products are - Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit. Earlier DRDO organised a Seminar on “Preparing For The Future” where Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces and DRDO Scientists shared their views. Six Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LAToT) were handed over to 7 public and private sector companies. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – handed over 5 DRDO developed products to the Armed forces & other Security Agencies
- Products: Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants, Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit
- DRDO – organised a Seminar on “Preparing For The Future” for Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces & DRDO Scientists
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

## Schemes & Initiatives

**330.** On December 15, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introduced “e-Verification Scheme, 2021” for faceless collection of information from taxpayers, where mismatches are detected. The scheme is notified under a provision in ‘Income Tax Act 135A’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CBDT – introduced “e-Verification Scheme, 2021” for faceless collection of information from taxpayers
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944

**331.** On December 16, Jharkhand government launched “Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY)” scheme aimed at nurturing young sporting talents in Maoist-hit districts. According to the scheme, boys and girls in the 14-19 age group from villages to ward level will be registered under the scheme, and given opportunities to display their skills in basketball, volleyball, hockey and athletics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jharkhand – launched “Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY)” scheme
- Boys & Girls in the 14-19 age group will be registered under the scheme
- Jharkhand: Capital – Ranchi | CM – Hemant Soren | Governor – Ramesh Bais

## Sports & Games

**332.** On December 13, Chandeeep Singh from Jammu & Kashmir won Silver medal for India in the 9<sup>th</sup> “World Para-Taekwondo Championships 2021” held in Istanbul, Turkey. He won the medal in the Men’s plus 80 kg event. It is India’s first-ever medal in the history of Para-Taekwondo World Championship. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chandeeep Singh (J&K) – won Silver at the 9<sup>th</sup> “World Para-Taekwondo Championships 2021” – in Istanbul, Turkey
- It is the first-ever Medal for India in the history of Para-Taekwondo World Championship



## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**333.** Time Magazine named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its “Person of the Year 2021”. American singer Olivia Rodrigo was named “Entertainer of the Year 2021” by Time Magazine. American gymnast Simone Biles was named “Athlete of the Year 2021”. While Covid-19 Vaccine scientists - Kizzmekia Corbett, Barney Graham, Katalin Kariko and Drew Weissman named “Heroes of the Year 2021” by Time Magazine. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Time Magazine’s Awards:

Award	Winner
Person of the Year 2021	Elon Musk (Tesla CEO)
Entertainer of the Year 2021	Olivia Rodrigo (American Singer)
Athlete of the Year 2021	Simone Biles (American Gymnast)
Heroes of the Year 2021	- Kizzmekia Corbett - Barney Graham - Katalin Kariko - Drew Weissman

**334.** On December 15, the Sports Journalists’ Federation of India (SJFI) at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Guwahati conferred the prestigious “SJFI Medal” to legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. Neeraj Chopra was adjudged the recipient of the “SJFI Sportsman of the Year” award while weightlifter Mirabai Chanu was voted as the “SJFI Sportswoman of the Year”. Sumit Antil and Pramod Bhagat shared the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” in men’s category while shooter Avani Lekhra received the SJFI Parathlete of the Year in women’s category. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sunil Gavaskar – received the prestigious “SJFI Medal” - the highest honour of SJFI
- Neeraj Chopra – received the “SJFI Sportsman of the Year” award
- Mirabai Chanu – received the “SJFI Sportswoman of the Year” award
- Sumit Antil & Pramod Bhagat – received the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” (men’s)
- Avani Lekhra – received the “SJFI Parathlete of the Year” (women’s)
- HQs of SJFI – Kolkata, West Bengal | President – A. Vinod

## Appointments & Resignations

**335.** On December 15, the government appointed General M. M. Naravane (Chief of Army Staff) as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC). The post fell vacant after the sudden demise of the first CDS General Bipin Rawat. Chiefs of Staff Committee includes the Chiefs of Navy and Air Force Staff too. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- M. M. Naravane – appointed as the Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee (succeeding - General Bipin Rawat)

**336.** On December 13, Ravinder Bhakar assumed charge as the MD & CEO of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Director General of Films Division of India and CEO of Children Films Society of India (CFSI). He was assigned these charges in addition to his present duties as CEO of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravinder Bhakar (CEO of CBFC) assumed charge as:
  - MD & CEO of National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)
  - Director General of Films Division of India
  - CEO of Children Films Society of India (CFSI)
- HQs of NFDC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ravinder Bhakar
- HQs of Films Division of India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | DG – Ravinder Bhakar
- HQs of CFSI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ravinder Bhakar

## Amount & Agreements

**337.** On December 14, Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$112 million loan to strengthen skills education and training through the establishment of the Assam Skill University (ASU). An additional \$1 million grant from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction would also be provided. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB – approved \$112 million loan to strengthen skills education & training by establishing Assam Skill University (ASU)
- Assam Skill University (ASU) – located at Mangaldai, Darrang, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

**338.** On December 13, Power Finance Corporation (PFC) signed an agreement with GreenCell Mobility to lend Rs 275 Cr for deployment of 350 electric buses across 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh. GreenCell Mobility is an e-mobility platform supported by governments of India and the UK to boost adoption of electric vehicles in India. The Centre launched FAME-II scheme with an allocation of Rs 3,500 Cr for promotion of adoption of electric buses. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PFC + GreenCell Mobility = an agreement to lend Rs 275 Cr for deployment of 350 e-buses in 9 cities of Uttar Pradesh
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon | Established in – 1986
- GreenCell Mobility – an e-mobility platform supported by governments of India & UK
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**339.** On December 13, Maharashtra topped the list of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)”, followed by Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries were provided a total of ₹409.72 Cr under the scheme. Under the ABRY, the government is paying both employees' and employers' contributions of 24% of wages (12% of wages for each) in respect of establishments having 1,000 employees and employees' contribution of 12% of wages to establishments having more than 1,000 employees. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- List of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the “Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)”:
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Maharashtra | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tamil Nadu | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Gujarat

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**340.** On December 15, Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) signed the world’s largest ever Green Power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4,667 MW of Green Power. Adani Group has committed \$50-\$70 billion of investment in the renewables space. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Adani Green Energy + SECI = world’s largest Green Power purchase agreement to supply 4,667 MW of Green Power
- HQs of Adani Green Energy Ltd – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011

**341.** On December 14, Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale up Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production. This is a first of its kind initiative to support India's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- BPCL + BARC = collaboration to scale up Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production
- HQs of BPCL – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Arun Kumar Singh | Founded in – 1952
- HQs of BARC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Director – Ajit Kumar Mohanty

**342.** On December 12, Rays Power Infra signed an MoU with the Rajasthan government to construct an Avant-Garde PV Photovoltaic (PV) Power Station (Solar Power Plant or Solar Park) and generate 500 MW of Green electricity. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Rays Power Infra + Rajasthan = an MoU to construct a 500 MW Avant-Garde PV Photovoltaic Power Station (Solar Park)
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of Rays Power Infra – Jaipur, Rajasthan | CEO & MD – Ketan Mehta

**343.** On December 14, Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on the Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for strengthening the capacities to support the farmers for adopting the sustainable Agri-food systems. They will train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh + FAO + ICAR = a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) to support the farmers
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1945
- HQs of ICAR – New Delhi | DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra | Established in – 1929

## Books & Authors

**344.** On December 15, Synchronizing with the commemoration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the occasion of 75 years of India's independence, Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi released a book "Principles and Practice of Oncology". Director of Dr. B Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Dr Amal Kataki published the book. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jagdish Mukhi – released a book "Principles and Practice of Oncology"
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

**345.** On December 14, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a memoir on the legendary filmmaker and actor Raj Kapoor titled "Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work" in Delhi. The book is authored by filmmaker Rahul Rawail, who served as an assistant director to Raj Kapoor. The book launched coincided with Raj Kapoor's 97<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a memoir "Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work" – authored by Rahul Rawail

**346.** On December 15, the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu released the book "Gandhitopi Governor", authored by the Chairman of Official Language Commission, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released the book "Gandhitopi Governor" – authored by Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad

**347.** On December 15, Ajay Prakash Sawhney unveiled a book titled "Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology" authored by S. S. Oberoi, the former adviser at the MeitY. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology" book – authored by S. S. Oberoi



## Obituaries

**348.** On December 12, Gothic novel Author from the USA, Anne Rice passed away at the age of 80. She was widely known for her bestselling novel “Interview with the Vampire” published in 1976. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anne Rice ([USA](#)) – a Gothic novel Author – passed away

**349.** On December 12, A beloved Mexican singer Vicente Fernandez passed away at the age of 81. He was awarded three Grammys and nine Latin Grammys. Nicknamed “Chente”, he was singer as well as Actor and Film producer. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vicente Fernandez ([Mexico](#)) – a Singer – passed away (3 Grammys & 9 Latin Grammys)

## Science & Technology

**350.** On December 13, IIT Kanpur developed a portable testing device that can detect soil health in just 90 seconds through a mobile application named “Bhu Parikshak” using merely 5 grams of soil as a sample. This first-of-its-kind invention is based on near Infrared spectroscopy technology that provides real-time soil analysis reports on smartphones. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kanpur – developed a portable testing device named “Bhu Parikshak” for testing soil health in just 90 seconds
- Director of IIT Kanpur – Abhay Karandikar





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