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

December
MockDrill
PDF No. 8

(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 20th January 2022

[Attempt Test No. 8 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

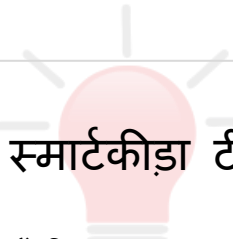
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

मत्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF 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 सद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्यों क MockDrill में शा मल कए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

351. On December 15, Ashok Leyland, flagship of the Hinduja group, partnered with DRDO's lab, Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) to develop and manufacture 600hp indigenous Engine to power futuristic combat vehicles under 'AtmaNirbhar Bharat'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashok Leyland + CVRDE-DRDO (Chennai) = partnership to develop & manufacture 600hp indigenous Engine
- HQs of Ashok Leyland – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Vipin Sondhi (owned by Hinduja Group)

352. On December 15, the Union Cabinet approved an incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit cards and low-value (upto Rs 2,000) BHIM-UPI transactions in India. Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government at an estimated financial outlay of Rs 1,300 Cr for a period of 1 year. Besides, the Cabinet approved the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of Rs 93,068 Cr that aims to benefit about 22 lakh farmers. Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Har Khet ko Paani (HKKP) and Watershed Development components were also approved for continuation during 2021-26. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved an incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit cards & BHIM-UPI transactions | Outlay – Rs 1,300 Cr
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana was approved – till 2021-26 | Outlay – Rs 93,068 Cr | Launched in – 2015

353. The Andhra Pradesh government is planning to distribute 10 lakh LED bulbs to households in rural areas at a highly subsidised rate of ₹10 per bulb under the "Gram Ujala" programme from December 14 to February 15, 2022 with the support of Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL), a subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – plans to distribute 10 lakh LED bulbs to households in rural areas under "Gram Ujala" programme
- CESL distributes high quality LED bulbs – at Rs 10 per bulb
- HQs of CESL – Kolkata, West Bengal | Head – Mahua Acharya (CESL - a subsidiary of EESL)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

354. The 24th International Symposium on Plantation Crops (PLACROSYM) was hosted by Kochi from December 14 to 16 with the theme of "Coping with the Pandemic and Beyond: Research and Innovations in the Plantation Crops Sector". The symposium was organised by the Indian Cardamom Research Institute, Myladumpara. The Plantation Crops Symposium (PLACROSYM) was initiated in the year 1978. and is held biennially. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kochi (Kerala) – hosted the 24th International Symposium on Plantation Crops (PLACROSYM)
- 2021's Theme – "Coping with the Pandemic and Beyond: Research & Innovations in the Plantation Crops Sector"
- PLACROSYM was organised by – Indian Cardamom Research Institute (Myladumpara)



355. On December 15, With an aim to control rising cyber-crime cases, the Odisha government has decided to set up 11 new police stations to deal with cyber-crime and economic offence cases. At present, three such police stations are there at Sambalpur, Rourkela and Berhampur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – decided to set up 11 new Police Stations to deal with Cyber-crime & Economic Offence cases
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

356. On December 15, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) approved to set up a “National Cyber Forensic Laboratory” for evidentiary purposes in the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Hyderabad. While, a state-of-the-art National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) was established at CyPAD, Dwarka, New Delhi to provide early-stage cyber forensic assistance to Investigating Officers (IOs) of State/UT Police. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MHA approved to set up a “National Cyber Forensic Laboratory” for evidentiary purposes in Hyderabad
- A state-of-the-art National Cyber Forensic Laboratory was established in New Delhi

357. On December 14, Skill India Mission conducted a special Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program for candidates in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh under its “SANKALP” (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) programme. The programme was implemented through Adarsh Gram Skill Camps (AGSC). The program aims to enhance the percentage of skilled workers by providing skill-based certification to more than 15,000 workers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Skill India Mission – conducted a special Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program for candidates in Prayagraj, UP
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

358. On December 16, Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh launched MIS (Management Information System) portal called “Vikas Portal” for rankings of States/UTs in Land Acquisition Projects under ‘RFCTLARR Act, 2013’. The Department of Land Resources developed this MIS portal to capture information on various parameters of land acquisition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giriraj Singh – launched MIS portal called “Vikas Portal” for rankings of States/UTs in Land Acquisition Projects
- RFCTLARR – Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

359. On December 17, Ministry of Science and Technology accorded an in-principle approval to a site in Maharashtra’s Jaitapur for setting up 6 Nuclear Power Reactors of 1,650 MW each in technical cooperation with France. This would make it the largest Nuclear Power generating site in India with a total capacity of 9,900 MW. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jaitapur (Maharashtra) site – received in-principle approval to set up 6 Nuclear Power Reactors of 1,650 MW each
- Jaitapur – to become the largest Nuclear Power generating site in India | Total Capacity – 9,900 MW
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



360. On December 18, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) hackathon - "LogiXtics" to crowdsource more ideas which will benefit the logistics industry. The ULIP hackathon - LogiXtics is organised by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and supported by National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) and NICDC Logistics Data Bank Services Limited (NLDSL). The ULIP Hackathon was launched by Amitabh Kant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT (Ministry of C&I) – launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) hackathon - "LogiXtics"
- 'LogiXtics' was organised by = NITI Aayog + AIM | Supported by = NICDC + NLDSL

361. On December 18, Tamil Nadu government announced "Tamil Thaa Vaazhthu" or "Neerarum Kadalutha", an invocation sung in praise of Mother Tamil, as the state song/anthem. The invocation is derived from "Manonmaneyam" (Tamil Drama), written by Tamil scholar Manonmaniam Sundaranar Pillai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – announced "Tamil Thaa Vaazhthu" or "Neerarum Kadalutha" as the state Song/Anthem
- The song is written by – Tamil scholar Manonmaniam Sundaranar Pillai

International Affairs

362. On December 16, India and Vietnam signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media, paving the way for further strengthening the partnership between the two countries. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Hung signed the document. This year completes 5 years of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' between India and Vietnam, and the year 2022 will mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Vietnam = signed a Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Digital Media
- 2021 marked 5 years of 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership' | 2022 will mark 50 years of 'Diplomatic Relations'
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Pham Minh Chinh | President – Nguyen Xuan Phuc

363. On December 15, A treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between India and Poland was approved by the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Treaty aims to enhance effectiveness of both the countries in investigation and prosecution of crime, through cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters – between India & Poland
- Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastian Duda

364. On December 15, the UNESCO added "Congolese Rumba", the central African music & dance to its Intangible Heritage list of Global Cultural Treasures. The Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo Republic had submitted a joint bid for their rumba to receive heritage status. Besides, 'Durga Puja' festival was also inscribed on the UNESCO's list of



'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity'. With the inscription of Durga Puja in Kolkata, India now has 14 intangible cultural heritage elements on the prestigious UNESCO Representative List of ICH of Humanity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO added "Congolese Rumba" - the central African music & dance to its list of Global Cultural Treasures
- India's 'Durga Puja' festival – inscribed on the UNESCO's list of 'Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' (Total - 14)
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay | Founded in – 1945

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

365. During the closure of the "Infinity Forum, 2021", IFSCA launched the FinTech Hackathon "Sprint04: Market-Tech" on 4th December 2021. This hackathon is focused on the Capital Market Segment. "Sprint04: Market-Tech" was hosted by IFSCA and GIFT city in collaboration with NSE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – launched the FinTech Hackathon "Sprint04: Market-Tech"
- "Sprint04: Market-Tech" hosted by = IFSCA + GIFT city + NSE
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

366. On December 15, Meta-owned WhatsApp launched an initiative called "Digital Payments Utsav" to familiarize rural smartphone users with digital payments. The pilot program will cover 500 villages across Karnataka and Maharashtra and aims to provide access to digital payments through WhatsApp Pay to the users. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WhatsApp Pay – launched an initiative called "Digital Payments Utsav"
- The pilot program was launched across 500 villages in Karnataka & Maharashtra
- HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum | Founded in – 2009

367. On December 17, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance launched "Health Prime" rider, an additional coverage that can be availed with its health insurance and personal accident policies. Tele-consultation, doctor consultation, investigations and annual preventive health check-up are the different components of this additional cover. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance – launched an additional insurance cover "Health Prime" rider
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen Ins – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tapan Singhel

368. On December 15, Scheduled Payments Banks and Scheduled Small Finance Banks will be eligible to conduct Government Agency business, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The RBI decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS). It will be subject to the condition that the concerned bank is not under the PCA framework or moratorium. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- RBI allowed Payments Banks & SFBs to conduct Government Agency business
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

369. On December 16, Agritech firm Samunnati entered into a co-lending agreement with IndusInd Bank to expand credit accessibility and market linkages for farmer producer organizations (FPOs) across India. IndusInd Bank is among the first scheduled commercial banks to participate in such a co-lending programme aimed at mainstreaming FPOs as an asset class. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Samunnati + IndusInd Bank = co-lending agreement to expand credit accessibility & market linkages for FPOs
- HQs of Samunnati – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Anil Kumar SG
- HQs of IndusInd Bank – Pune, MH | MD & CEO – Sumant Kathpalia | Tagline – “We Make You Feel Richer”

370. On December 17, Union Bank of India (UBI) and Home First Finance Company India Ltd (HomeFirst) entered into a strategic co-lending partnership to offer home loans to customers at competitive interest rates. HomeFirst will retain a minimum of 20% of the loan on its book while 80% will be on UBI’s book. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI + HomeFirst = a strategic co-lending partnership to offer Home Loans to customers at competitive interest rates
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”
- HQs of HomeFirst – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Manoj Viswanathan

371. On December 17, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance (IPRULIFE) became the first Indian insurance company to sign the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), demonstrating its commitment towards the environment, social and governance (ESG) issues. The UNPRI is an investor initiative in partnership with the two bodies of United Nations - UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative and UN Global Compact. Currently, it has over 4,000 signatories from 60 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential – became 1st Indian insurance company to sign the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – N. S. Kannan

372. On December 17, Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB) tied up with online tax filing platform Clear (formerly ClearTax) to launch an income tax return (ITR) e-filing facility for its NRI customers. The e-filing options will be completely free of cost and that the partnership allows its customers to file their taxes online with reduced effort and lesser time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSB Bank + Clear = tie up to launch an ITR e-filing facility for its NRI customers
- HQs of CSB bank – Thrissur, Kerala | MD & CEO – C. V. Rajendran
- HQs of Clear – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Archit Gupta



Defence Affairs

373. On December 16, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) awarded Rs 2,400 Cr contract to Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for the manufacture and supply of 20 types of airborne electronic systems for the LCA 'Tejas Mk1A' fighter aircraft programme. The order spans 5 years from 2023 to 2028. This is the biggest ever order received by BEL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL awarded Rs 2,400 Cr contract to BEL for the supply of 20 types of avionics for LCA 'Tejas Mk1A' fighter aircraft
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava

374. On December 18, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) secured an order for manufacturing, assembly, integration, testing and supply of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) System, known as "ABHYAS", from Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), DRDO. After this completion, HAL would be identified as Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP) for supply of this target system. ABHYAS is designed and developed by DRDO's ADE, Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL – received an order to manufacture High Speed Expendable Aerial Target System - "ABHYAS" from ADE (DRDO)
- Abhyas – designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan

Schemes & Initiatives

375. On December 17, Haryana Minister of State for Sports & Youth Affairs, Sandeep Singh launched "Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23" to promote sports in the state. The scheme has been started to establish sports nurseries in government, private educational institutions, and private sports institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched "Khel Nursery Scheme 2022-23" to promote sports in the state
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

376. On December 15, the Union Cabinet approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for semiconductor and display board production in India. The scheme envisages investment of Rs 76,000 Cr in semiconductor production over the next 5-6 years. The Incentives include 25% subsidy on capital expenditure for establishing a unit of compound semiconductor wafer fabrication etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a PLI Scheme for semiconductor & display board production in India
- Investment of Rs 76,000 Cr in semiconductor production over the next 5-6 years
- Subsidy on capital expenditure for establishing a unit of semiconductor – 25%



Sports & Games

377. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the first edition of “Khelo India U-21 Women’s Hockey League” which was organised from December 15 to 21 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The league was organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in collaboration with Hockey India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

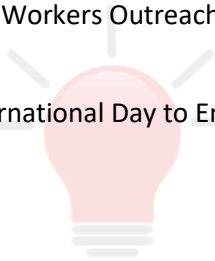
- Anurag Singh Thakur – inaugurated the first edition of “Khelo India U-21 Women’s Hockey League”
- The league was organised at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (Delhi) by = SAI + Hockey India
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

Important Days & Dates

378. “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” is annually observed on December 17 to remember the sex workers who lost their lives due to violence and stigma encountered across the globe. Inaugurated by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and started by the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA, the first annual day was observed in 2003. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 17 – “International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers” (since 2003)



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Meetings, Conferences and Summits

379. On December 15, India hosted the 8th edition of the “Indian Ocean Dialogue” with the assistance of the Indian Council for World Affairs and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Secretariat. The dialogue was held under the theme “Post Pandemic Indian Ocean: Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development and Trade in IORA Member States”. The last (7th) Indian Ocean Dialogue was hosted by the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – hosted the 8th edition of the “Indian Ocean Dialogue”
- Theme – “Post Pandemic Indian Ocean: Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development and Trade in IORA Member States”

380. India co-chaired the Steering Leadership Meeting of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI). Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, V. K. Tiwari was as the Vice Chairman of this global initiative. Global Methane Initiative (GMI) has members from 45 countries. The forum was created in 2004 and India has taken up Vice-Chairmanship for the first time in the Steering Leadership along with USA. The Chairperson of the Steering Leadership is from Canada. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India co-chaired the Steering Leadership Meeting of the Global Methane Initiative (GMI)
- Vice-Chairmanship = India (V. K. Tiwari) + USA | Chairship – Canada
- GMI was created in 2004 | Members from – 45 countries

381. On December 17, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the “All India Mayors’ Conference” in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. As many as 120 mayors from various states participated in the conference whose theme was “New Urban India”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the “All India Mayors’ Conference” in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Theme of the conference – “New Urban India”

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

382. On December 15, Lewis Hamilton was made Britain’s Knight Bachelor. He received his knighthood from Prince Charles at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, England. Lewis was awarded the knighthood in the 2021 New Year Honours list for his services to motorsport. Lewis is the fourth Formula 1 driver to be knighted. Hamilton had also received an MBE by the Queen in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – received the title of Britain’s Knight Bachelor from Prince Charles in England (4th F1 driver)
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – ‘Mercedes’ Team

383. On December 15, Aditya Birla Group’s chairman, Kumar Mangalam Birla received the “Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation” from The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE). Birla is the first Indian Industrialist to receive the award for global entrepreneurship along with top global business leaders Satya Nadella (Entrepreneurial CEO), Elon Musk (Immigrant Entrepreneur), and Jeff Bezos (First Generation). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Entrepreneur of the Year Awards” by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE):

Winner	Category
Kumar Mangalam Birla	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Business Transformation”
Satya Nadella	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Entrepreneurial CEO”
Elon Musk	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-Immigrant Entrepreneur”
Jeff Bezos	“Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award-First Generation”

384. On December 15, PM Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest civilian award of Bhutan, “Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo” (or Order of the Druk Gyalpo), on the occasion of Bhutan’s 114th National Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – conferred with the highest civilian award of Bhutan - “Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo”
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering



385. On December 15, Indian shooter Avani Lekhara won the ‘Best Female Debut’ honour at the “2021 Paralympic Awards” announced by the International Paralympic Committee for her record-breaking Gold medal at the Tokyo Games. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Avani Lekhara ([Para Shooter](#)) – won the ‘Best Female Debut’ honour at the “2021 Paralympic Awards”

Appointments & Resignations

386. On December 15, Popular Bollywood actress Kiara Advani was appointed as the brand ambassador for Audi India. She is the only female actress to become the ambassador of German luxury carmaker Audi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kiara Advani – appointed as the brand ambassador for Audi India
- HQs of Audi India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Country Head – Balbir Singh Dhillon
- HQs of Audi – Ingolstadt, Germany | CEO – Markus Duesmann

387. On December 16, South Korea-based Hyundai Motor Company appointed Unsoo Kim as the MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) from January 1, 2022. He will succeed Seon Seob Kim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Unsoo Kim – appointed as the MD & CEO of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL)
- HQs of Hyundai Motor India – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & CEO – Unsoo Kim

388. On December 10, PepsiCo India’s energy drink ‘Sting’ appointed Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar as its first-ever brand ambassador in India. This combination will extend the brand’s ‘Energy Bole Toh Sting’ mantra. Vineet Sharma is the category director, Mountain Dew and Sting, PepsiCo India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as first-ever brand ambassador of PepsiCo India’s energy drink ‘Sting’ in India

Amount & Agreements

389. On December 17, Meghalaya government received 700 Cr from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for promotion and development of tourism sector in the state. Out of 700 Cr, the Meghalaya government has earmarked Rs 350 Cr each for the Khasi and Garo Hills regions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meghalaya – received 700 Cr from the JICA for promotion & development of Tourism Sector
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

390. On December 16, the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) released the report on the “State of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy in India”. As per the scorecards, Kerala with a score of 67.95 and West Bengal with a score of 58.95 are the top-scoring regions in Small and Large states, respectively. While Lakshadweep (52.69) and Mizoram (51.64) are top-scoring regions in Union Territory and Northeast state category. The report was prepared by the Institute for Competitiveness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State of Foundational Literacy & Numeracy in India” – released by EAC-PM | Prepared by – IFC
- Top-scoring regions in Small & Large states: Kerala (67.95) & West Bengal (58.95)
- Top-scoring regions in UT & Northeast state: Lakshadweep (52.69) & Mizoram (51.64)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

391. On December 15, An MoU was signed between the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-India) for data exchange between the two organizations. FIU-India is in the process of upgrading existing ‘FINnet 1.0’ project to ‘FINnet 2.0’ project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MCA + FIU-India = an MoU for Data Exchange
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Nirmala Sitharaman](#) | Constituency – Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Corporate Affairs: [Rao Inderjit Singh](#)

392. On December 17, Tata Motors signed an MoU with Maharashtra government to establish a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF) in the state. The proposed scrappage centre will have the capacity of recycling up to 35,000 vehicles a year. Tata Motors had earlier signed a similar pact with the Gujarat government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Motors + Maharashtra = an MoU to establish a Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility (RVSF)
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – [Natarajan Chandrasekaran](#)
- Maharashtra: CM – [Uddhav Thackeray](#) | Governor – [Bhagat Singh Koshyari](#)

393. On December 17, Food and tech platform, Innoterra signed an MoU with NABFOUNDATION, the subsidiary of NABARD, to develop farmer clusters through its products and services. Both entities aim to engage with over 5,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) targeting to serve about one lakh smallholder farmer over the next 2 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Innoterra + NABFOUNDATION = an MoU to develop farmer clusters through its products & services
- HQs of Innoterra – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – [Ron Pal](#)



Books & Authors

394. A book titled “Furrows in a Field: The Unexplored Life of H. D. Deve Gowda” was authored by Sugata Srinivasaraju and published by Penguin Random House India. The book’s narrative is instructed by Gowda’s rich parliamentary record, archival material and interviews conducted with people associated with him at various stages of his life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Furrows in a Field: The Unexplored Life of H. D. Deve Gowda” book – authored by Sugata Srinivasaraju
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

395. A new book chronicles how Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath transformed the state in various aspects like law and order, connectivity, education, health infrastructure, and overall growth. “The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh: How Yogi Adityanath Changed UP Waala Bhaiya’ abuse to a Badge of Honour” is written by author Shantanu Gupta and published by Garuda Prakashan. [{Read more}](#)

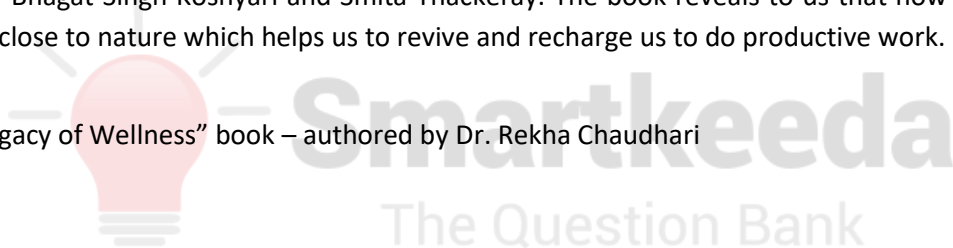
Key Points:

- “The Monk Who Transformed Uttar Pradesh” book – written by Shantanu Gupta

396. On December 15, Dr. Rekha Chaudhari’s book “India’s Ancient Legacy of Wellness” was launched in presence of Honorable Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Smita Thackeray. The book reveals to us that how important it is for us human beings to be close to nature which helps us to revive and recharge us to do productive work. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “India’s Ancient Legacy of Wellness” book – authored by Dr. Rekha Chaudhari



Science & Technology

397. On December 14, Scientists at the University of Cambridge began a clinical trial of a Needle-free Air-powered COVID-19 vaccine. It is developed by Professor Jonathan Heeney. The new ‘DIOSvax’ technology is dubbed a next generation coronavirus vaccine administered through a blast of air that delivers the dose into the skin. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists at the University of Cambridge (UK) – began a clinical trial of a Needle-free Air-powered COVID-19 vaccine
- This vaccine uses ‘DIOSvax’ technology

398. On December 16, “Parker Solar Probe”, a spacecraft launched by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), has officially touched the corona of the Sun. For the first time in history, the spacecraft made its way through an extreme environment which is roughly 2 million degrees Fahrenheit (11,11,093 Celsius). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA’s “Parker Solar Probe” spacecraft – touched the corona of the Sun for the first time in history
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Bill Nelson | Founded on – July 29, 1958



399. On December 15, the researchers at Aarhus University in Denmark developed a new molecule that attaches to the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and prevents it from entering human cells and spreading the COVID-19 infection. The research was released in the journal PNAS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aarhus University ([Denmark](#)) – developed a new molecule that attaches to the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus & prevents it from entering human cells

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

400. On December 16, for improvement in Nutritional levels and related issues, the Union Cabinet passed a proposal to increase the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years, the same as men. This clearance is based on recommendations submitted to NITI Aayog in December 2020 by the Centre's task force headed by Jaya Jaitly. Government will introduce an amendment to the "Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006", and consequently bring amendments to the Special Marriage Act & Personal Laws such as the "Hindu Marriage Act, 1955". According to data from 'NFHS 5' (National Family Health Survey), India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time. The data also revealed that child marriage came down marginally from 27% in 2015-16 to 23% in 2019-21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cabinet approved a proposal to increase the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years (the same as men)
- India attained a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0 for the first time | Child Marriages – 23% in 2019-21
- The approval to increase age criteria was based on the recommendations of a task force headed – Jaya Jaitly





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