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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. 9  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 22<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 9 Here!](#)



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

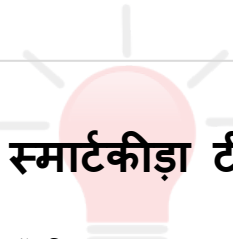
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

**401.** On December 17, India's first International Arbitration & Mediation Centre (IAMC) was jointly inaugurated by Chief Justice of India, N. V. Ramana, and Telangana Chief Minister, K. Chandrasekhar Rao in Hyderabad. Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NV Ramana & K. Chandrasekhar Rao – inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> Int. Arbitration & Mediation Centre in Hyderabad
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

**402.** On December 16, To bridge the gap between skilling and employment, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Generation India Foundation (GIF) launched "Project AMBER" (Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention) in New Delhi. The project is equally funded by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) under the Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) programme, and private philanthropy. The project aims to train 30,000 youth, 50% of whom will be women and the training will be conducted in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) across 70 districts in COVID-resilient job roles. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NSDC + GIF = launched "Project AMBER" in New Delhi to bridge the gap between skilling & employment
- The project is funded by = MSDE (under 'SANKALP' programme) + Private Philanthropy
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar
- HQs of GIF – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Arunesh Singh

**403.** On December 18, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of "Ganga Expressway" in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur. Rs 36,200 Cr will be spent on this 594 km long expressway which is the longest highway in Uttar Pradesh & India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of "Ganga Expressway" in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh
- Length – 594 km | Cost – Rs 36,200 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**404.** On December 16, Nagaland Chief Minister, Neiphiu Rio launched the online Inner Line Permit (ILP) module portal. ILP is a tool to protect the indigenous people of Nagaland and is enforced under the "Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Nagaland – launched the online Inner Line Permit (ILP) module portal
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

**405.** On December 16, the Ministry of AYUSH announced a series of initiatives to strengthen the AYUSH infrastructure in Uttarakhand under the 'National AYUSH Mission (NAM)' scheme. In Addition, to ensure access to premier Ayurvedic Education, a "Marma Chikitsa" training center will be built in the Uttarakhand Ayurveda University as the nodal centre for India, which will help students from across the country and world to specialize themselves in Ayurveda. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of AYUSH – announced a series of initiatives to strengthen the AYUSH infrastructure in Uttarakhand
- “Marma Chikitsa” training center will be built in – Uttarakhand Ayurveda University
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**406.** On December 18, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a “Centre for Excellence in Land Survey” at the National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM), as a part of the Capacity Building initiative of the Government of India. It aims to train government officers in drone-based surveys and satellite imagery-based surveys. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated a “Centre for Excellence in Land Survey” at NIDEM, New Delhi
- The centre is established by – NIDEM

**407.** On December 17, the “Malabar Tree Nymph” (*Idea malabarica*), known for its attractive black and white wing pattern and unique flight movement, was declared as Goa’s state butterfly, at the 5<sup>th</sup> Goa Bird Festival at Chorao. This has made Goa 8<sup>th</sup> in India to have butterfly as a state emblem species. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Malabar Tree Nymph” (*Idea malabarica*) – declared as the state butterfly of Goa (8<sup>th</sup> state to declare so)
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**408.** On December 21, Nagaland government created 3 new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to 15. The three new districts are Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumukedima. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nagaland created 3 new districts – Tseminyu, Niuland & Chumukedima (Total number of districts – 15)
- Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi (addi. charge)

**409.** On December 21, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated “T-Setu”, the State’s longest bridge over Mahanadi in Cuttack district. The 3.4 km long bridge has been built in the shape of English alphabet ‘T’ at a cost of Rs 111 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – inaugurated “T-Setu”, the State’s longest bridge over Mahanadi in Cuttack district
- Cost – Rs 111 Cr | Length – 3.4 km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



## International Affairs

**410.** On December 17, India and the US announced a new programme titled “Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero” supporting innovations to tackle climate & clean energy challenges. The programme constitutes a call for Ignition Grants by the United States-India Science & Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF), in partnership with Social Alpha. This program aligns with the launch of the “U.S.-India Climate and Clean Energy Agenda 2030” partnership agreement signed in April 2021. [{Read more}](#)

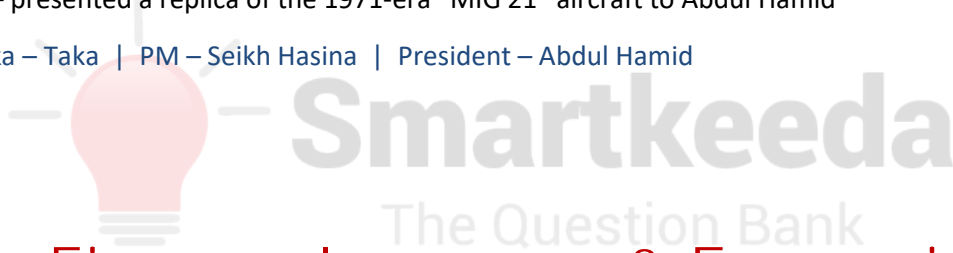
### **Key Points:**

- India + US = announced a new programme titled “Technology-based Energy Solutions: Innovations for Net Zero”
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

**411.** In December 2021, President Ram Nath Kovind was on a 3-day visit to participate in the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory Day in Dhaka where he was the Guest of honour. President Ram Nath Kovind presented a replica of the 1971-era “MIG 21” aircraft to his counterpart from Bangladesh Abdul Hamid to commemorate the joint sacrifices made by the armed forces of India and Bangladesh during the 1971 liberation war. The original aircraft has been installed at the Bangladesh National Museum. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- President Ram Nath Kovind – participated in the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> Victory Day in Dhaka as Guest of Honour
- Ram Nath Kovind – presented a replica of the 1971-era “MIG 21” aircraft to Abdul Hamid
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**412.** On December 17, the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) set up a committee for creating a framework for transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to financial institutions in IFSC. The committee would be chaired by former Executive Director of RBI G. Padmanabhan. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- IFSCA set up a committee for creating a framework for transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to FIs in IFSC
- The committee would be chaired by – G. Padmanabhan
- HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas

**413.** On December 16, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) partnered with brands and aggregators such as bigbasket, Goibibo, MakeMyTrip, JioPay, Paytm and PhonePe to introduce Tokenization Facility for Rupay card users to enhance online transaction security. The facility will be supported by the recently launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- NPCI partnered with brands & aggregators to introduce Tokenization Facility for Rupay card users
- The facility will be supported by – NPCI Tokenization System (NTS)
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008





**414.** On December 16, the government slashed the Goods & Services Tax (GST) rate on Ethanol meant for blending under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme to 5% from 18%. Under the government's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Govt slashed GST rate on Ethanol meant for blending – to 5% (from 18%)

**415.** On December 16, India registered the highest ever annual foreign direct investment (FDI) Inflow of \$81.97 billion (provisional figure) in FY 2020-21, according to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The Computer Software & Hardware sector attracted the largest share of FDI inflows at 19%, followed by the service sector at 15% & trading sector at 8%. The top five countries from where FDI equity inflows were received during April 2014 and August 2021 are Singapore (28%), Mauritius (22%), USA (10%), Netherlands (8%), and Japan (6%). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India registered the highest ever annual FDI Inflow of \$81.97 billion in FY 2020-21
- The Sector that attracted the largest share of FDI inflows: Computer Software & Hardware (19%)
- Top countries from where FDI inflows were received during April 2014 & August 2021: Singapore, Mauritius & USA

**416.** On December 15, World Bank announced a \$93 billion replenishment package of the International Development Association (IDA) to help low-income countries respond to the COVID-19 crisis and build a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future. The financing brings together \$23.5 billion of contributions from 48 high- and middle-income countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- World Bank – announced \$93 bn replenishment package of IDA to help low-income countries for pandemic recovery
- HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US | Members – 189 | President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

**417.** On December 20, Equitas Small Finance Bank was empanelled as a banking partner of the Government of Maharashtra to offer its services to the state government employees. Bandhan Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, South Indian Bank are the other three banks that are assigned the role of distributing salaries, allowances to government employees. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Equitas SFB – empanelled as a banking partner of Maharashtra to offer its services to state government employees
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**418.** On December 21, Liberty General Insurance partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Through this agreement Liberty will strengthen its presence in rural areas across India by selling its insurance products through the CSC network. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Liberty General Insurance + CSC e-Governance = partnership under the MeitY to expand its rural reach
- HQs of Liberty General Insurance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Roopam Asthana
- HQs of CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – New Delhi | CEO – Sanjay Kumar Rakesh | MD – Dinesh Tyagi
- CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd – set up by MeitY under the “Companies Act, 1956”





**419.** On December 20, Edelweiss General Insurance partnered with PhonePe to offer simple & end to end digital solutions in the motor insurance segment. The partnership will help EGI reach out to PhonePe's vast and growing network of customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Edelweiss General Insurance + PhonePe = partnership to offer digital motor insurance
- HQs of EGI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO & Executive Director – Shanai Ghosh
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015

## Defence Affairs

**420.** On December 19, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a flight demonstration of its Controlled Aerial Delivery System of 500-kilogram capacity (CADS-500). The demonstration was carried out by the DRDO's Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra as a part of celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO – conducted a flight demonstration of "CADS-500" (Controlled Aerial Delivery System of 500-kilogram capacity)
- The demonstration was carried out by the – ADRDE-DRDO (Agra, Uttar Pradesh)

**421.** On December 18, the DRDO's lab, Defence Research Development Establishment (DRDE) decided to set up an Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC) in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh to study viruses dangerous to humans. The new ABDRC laboratory with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) and cyber techniques will develop ways to repel virus attacks instantly. ABDRC is going to be of "Bio Safety Level (BSL) - 4", which very few countries have right now. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDE-DRDO (Gwalior) – to set up to set up an Advanced Biological Defence Research Centre (ABDRC) in Gwalior, MP
- ABDRC is going to be of "Bio Safety Level (BSL) - 4"
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

## Schemes & Initiatives

**422.** On December 17, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the "Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva" (Air Ambulance Service) at the Biju Patnaik International Airport to provide health services to people of remote and backward areas of the State. In the first phase, the free service will be available for people of four districts Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Kalahandi and Nuapada. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – launched the "Mukhyamantri Vayu Swasthya Seva (Air Ambulance Service)" for remote & backward areas
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



# Sports & Games

**423.** In December 2021, Bindyarani Devi won the Gold medal in the women's 55-kg Clean & Jerk at the World Weightlifting Championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Moreover, India concluded the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" with 16 medals, including 4 Gold, 7 Silver, & 5 Bronze. Indian weightlifter Purnima Pandey won the Gold medal in the +87kg women's category at the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. While S. Bindyarani Devi won Silver medal in 55 Kg category at commonwealth. The four Commonwealth gold medallists - Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Achinta Sheuli, Ajay Singh, Purnima Pandey - have qualified directly for the 2022 Games in Birmingham. Weightlifter S. Bindyarani Devi's gold medal in clean and jerk remained the only success for India at the "World Weightlifting Championship 2021". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – won the "Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021" (4 Gold, 7 Silver & 5 Bronze)
- 4 Gold medalists: Purnima Pandey, Jeremy Lalrinnunga, Achinta Sheuli & Ajay Singh
- Bindyarani Devi – won Gold medal in women's 55-kg Clean & Jerk at "World Weightlifting Championship 2021"
- Both Championships were held – in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**424.** India will host South Asian Football Federation's (SAFF) U-18 and U-19 Women's Championships in 2022 from March 3-14 and from July 25 to August 3 respectively. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India – to host SAFF U-18 Women's Championships from March 3-14, 2022
- India – to host SAFF U-19 Women's Championships from July 25 to Aug 3, 2022

**425.** On December 19, Shuttler Kidambi Srikanth became the first Indian man to win a silver medal at the "BWF World Championships 2021". Singapore's Loh Kean Yew defeated Kidambi to win Gold medal. This is the first time that a men's player from Singapore has won gold at the BWF World Championships. While Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won Gold Medal under Women's Singles Category. Srikanth had created history by becoming the first Indian shuttler to enter the final in the men's singles category of the BWF World Championships in Huelva, Spain. India's Lakshya Sen & Denmark's Anders Antonsen won the Bronze Medal in the Men's Singles. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kidambi Srikanth – won Silver medal in men's singles at the "BWF World Championships 2021" (1<sup>st</sup> Indian man)
- Loh Kean Yew ([Singapore](#)) – won Gold medal in men's singles at the "BWF World Championships 2021"
- Akane Yamaguchi ([Japan](#)) – won Gold medal in women's singles at the "BWF World Championships 2021"
- Lakshya Sen & Anders Antonsen ([Denmark](#)) – won Bronze medal in the Men's Singles



# Important Days & Dates

**426.** “Minorities Rights Day” is observed every year on December 18 in India. The day aims at promoting the rights of the minority community across the country. Minorities Rights Day was first observed in India on December 18, 2013. In 2006, Ministry of Minority Affairs was set up in India. The ministry was formed out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- December 18 – “Minorities Rights Day” in India (since 2013)
- Ministry of Minority Affairs – was formed out of Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (in 2006)

**427.** “World Arabic Language Day” is observed on December 18 to honour the Arabic language, which is spoken by over 400 million people globally. The day has been celebrated since 2012 to mark the adoption of Arabic as the sixth official language of the United Nations by the UN General Assembly on 18 December, 1973. In 2021, the theme was “Arabic Language, a bridge between civilisations”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- December 18 – UN’s World Arabic Language Day (since 2012)
- 2021’s Theme – “Arabic Language, a bridge between Civilisations”

**428.** International Migrants Day is annually observed across the world on December 18. In 2021, the theme was “Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- December 18 – International Migrants Day
- 2021’s Theme – “Harnessing the Potential of Human Mobility”

**429.** Every year on December 19, Goa Liberation Day is celebrated in the state as Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on that day in 1961. Goa was a Portuguese colony for 451 years. On 19 December, 1961, India conquered Goa from the Portuguese and Goa became a part of India. 2021 marked 60<sup>th</sup> edition of Goa Liberation Day. Moreover, on the occasion of Goa Liberation day, Indian Navy’s second indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer of the ‘Project 15B’ class namely “Mormugao” went for her maiden sea trials. It is planned for commissioning in mid-2022. Mormugao was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDSL) as part of the P15B destroyers. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- December 19 – 60<sup>th</sup> Goa Liberation Day
- “INS Mormugao” - Navy’s 2<sup>nd</sup> indigenous stealth guided-missile destroyer of the ‘Project 15B’ class went for sea trials
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**430.** “International Human Solidarity Day” is observed annually on December 20 every year. The day was introduced by the UN General Assembly. The day commemorates the establishment of the World Solidarity Fund on the same date in 2002. The basic purpose of International Human Solidarity Day is to promote the culture of cooperation, equality and social justice. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- December 20 – International Human Solidarity Day



## Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**431.** External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue in New Delhi from 18-20 December 2021. Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, apart from EAM participated in the meeting. India considers Central Asia as part of its 'extended neighbourhood'. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- S. Jaishankar – hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the “India-Central Asia Dialogue” in New Delhi
- Participant Nations: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**432.** In December 2021, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) was awarded with the prestigious “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award” for the year 2021 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors. SAIL has been the winner of this award for successive 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- SAIL – awarded with the prestigious “Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021”
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal | Founded in – 1954



**433.** In December 2021, Karl Nehammer was sworn in as Chancellor of Austria in by President Alexander Van der Bellen. He succeeded Alexander Schallenberg. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Karl Nehammer – sworn in as the Chancellor of Austria
- Austria – Vienna – Euro | President – Alexander Van der Bellen | Chancellor – Karl Nehammer

**434.** On December 16, Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan assumed charge as the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command. On promotion to the Flag Rank in Feb 2018, he was appointed as the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at IHQ MoD (Navy). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Sanjay Vatsayan – assumed charge as the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC)
- HQs of ENC – Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh | FOC-in-C – Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta



**435.** On December 16, Rear Admiral Sandeep Mehta assumed office as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area (FOMA) at Mumbai. The formal handing and taking over ceremony was held at INS Kunjali. Rear Admiral Mehta was commissioned on 01 January 1989, in the Executive branch of the Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sandeep Mehta – assumed office as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area (FOMA), Mumbai

**436.** On December 20, Indian wicket-keeper batter Rishabh Pant was appointed as the state brand ambassador of Uttarakhand to encourage the youth to focus on sports. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rishabh Pant – appointed as the state brand ambassador of Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

**437.** On December 20, With 56% of the votes, Gabriel Boric was elected as Chile’s next President by defeating his opposition Jose Antonio Kast. At 35, Boric became Chile’s youngest modern President. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gabriel Boric – elected as the next President of Chile (to take office in March, 2022)
- Chile – Santiago – Peso | President – Gabriel Boric (from March, 2022)



## Amount & Agreements

**438.** On December 17, the Government of India and the Germany Development Bank - KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) signed a 442.26 million Euros loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project. The total cost of the project is 1.5 billion euros, of which KfW is financing 442.26 million euros. The project is being co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD (Agence Francaise de Developpemet) for 250 million euro. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- GoI + KfW = 442.26 million Euros loan pact for Surat Metro Rail project in Gujarat | Total cost – 1.5 billion Euros
- The project is being co-financed by – AFD (France)
- HQs of KfW – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Gunther Braunig

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**439.** On December 18, In the “Global Spam Report 2021” released by Truecaller, India ranked 4<sup>th</sup> on the list of top 20 countries affected by spam calls in 2021. Brazil ranks number one on the list of the most spammed country in the world (4<sup>th</sup> year in a row), followed by Peru and Ukraine. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Global Spam Report 2021” – released by Truecaller
- India – 4<sup>th</sup> most affected country by spam calls in 2021 | 1<sup>st</sup> – Brazil, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Peru, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Ukraine



## Arts & Cultural Affairs

**440.** “Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra” would be celebrated as a ‘State Festival’ every year by the Punjab government from 2022 onwards. Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi also announced a sum of Rs 2.50 Cr for ISKCON temple in Ludhiana. The Rath Yatra is organised by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). It is considered the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest congregation of Lord Jagannath devotees in India after the historic Jagannath Yatra of Puri in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Lord Krishna Balram Jagannath Rath Yatra” – to be celebrated as a ‘State Festival’ every year by Punjab
- This Rath Yatra is organised by – ISKCON (2<sup>nd</sup> largest congregation of Lord Jagannath devotees in India)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**441.** On December 18, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) suspended its more than 2-year-old approval for Amazon’s deal to acquire stake in Future Coupons Pvt Ltd and also imposed a Rs 202 Cr penalty on Amazon for certain contraventions. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CCI suspended its approval for Amazon to acquire stake in Future Coupons & imposed Rs 202 Cr penalty on Amazon
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle, Washington, US | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994

**442.** On December 21, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of up to 16.94% equity share capital of IRB Infrastructure Developers (IRB) by Bricklayers Investment (controlled by GIC Investor). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- CCI approved acquisition of up to 16.94% stake of IRB Infrastructure Developers by Bricklayers Investment
- HQs of IRB Infrastructure Developers – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman & MD – Virendra D. Mhaskar
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



# MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**443.** On December 18, GAIL (India) Ltd signed an MoU with Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd for setting up a 500 litre per day Bioethanol plant at an estimated investment of Rs 1,000 Cr in Gujarat. It is expected to generate annual revenue of approximately Rs 1500 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- GAIL + Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals = an MoU to set up a 500 litre/day Bioethanol plant in Gujarat | Cost: Rs 1,000 Cr
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Manoj Jain
- HQs of Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals – Vadodara, Gujarat | Chairman – Pankaj Kumar

**444.** On December 17, the Central Government and Maharashtra government signed a pact to set up 5 more multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) at 5 strategic locations in Maharashtra: Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik and Dighi Port Industrial Estate. The government proposes to set up as many as 35 MMLPs at strategic locations at a total cost of ₹50,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- GoI + Maharashtra = an MoU to set up 5 more multi-modal logistics parks (MMLPs) in the state
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**445.** On December 19, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) signed an MoU with IIT Madras and digital tech company MapmyIndia for driver and road safety technologies in India. The three parties jointly launched a Free-to-use-Navigation app for citizens that provides road safety alerts about upcoming accident hazards while on road. The navigation service app developed by MapmyIndia, called “MOVE” has won the government’s “Aatmanirbhar App Innovation Challenge in 2020”. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- MoRTH + IIT Madras + MapmyIndia = launched Free-to-use-Navigation app for citizens that provides Road Safety alerts
- HQs of MapmyIndia – New Delhi | CEO – Rohan Verma | CMD – Rakesh Verma
- Director of IIT Madras – Bhaskar Ramamurthi

**446.** On December 17, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed an MoU with the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to reuse plastic waste collected by the cadets, for construction of roads across India. NCC started a month-long “Puneet Sagar Abhiyan” on December 1 to clean the beaches. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NHAI + NCC = an MoU to reuse plastic waste collected by the cadets for construction of roads across India
- NCC – started a month-long “Puneet Sagar Abhiyan” to clean the beaches
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh | Founded on – 16 April, 1948 | Motto – ‘Unity & Discipline’
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Alka Upadhyaya | Founded in – 1988

**447.** On December 21, An MoU was signed between the Jammu & Kashmir government and University College Birmingham (UCB) at the “India Global Forum” held in Dubai to provide better opportunities for students. For the first time, the UCB will set up an office in Jammu & Kashmir to tie up with the local educational institutions, facilitating academic exchange programmes while enabling students to secure admissions at reduced fees. [{Read more}](#)





### Key Points:

- J & K + University College Birmingham (England) = an MoU to provide better opportunities for students
- The first “India Global Forum 2021” – held in Dubai, UAE
- For the first time, the UCB will set up an office in J & K to tie up with the local Educational institutions
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

## Books & Authors

**448.** On December 20, “Sahakar Sandarbha” - a book was released by Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the convocation ceremony of Vaikuntha Mehta National Cooperative Management Institute in Pune, Maharashtra. In the event, he also stated that the government has decided to amend the “Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 2002” to establish an effective regulatory mechanism for multi-state cooperative societies and remove the loopholes in the existing act. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released a book titled “Sahakar Sandarbha”
- Vaikuntha Mehta National Cooperative Management Institute – located in Pune, Maharashtra



## Obituaries

**449.** On December 17, Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister R. L. Jalappa passed away in Kolar, Karnataka following age-related issues. He was 96. Mr. Jalappa was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chickballapur constituency on the Janata Dal ticket in 1996 and became the Union Minister for Textiles. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- R. L. Jalappa – a Politician – passed away (Party – INC | Constituency – Chickballapur, Karnataka)
- He served as the Minister for Textiles

## Science & Technology

**450.** On December 18, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile “Agni-P” (Agni Prime missile) from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha. Agni-P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system and has a range of up to 2000 km. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DRDO – successfully tested a new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile “Agni-P” from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island – located in Odisha | Range of “Agni-P” missile – up to 2000 km
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal





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