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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 100 of July 2020 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 जुलाई माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

401. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

NTPC Ltd has signed an MoU with National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to explore opportunities for investments in areas like renewable energy, power distribution among other areas of mutual interest in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC + NIIF = an MoU to explore opportunities for investments in renewable energy & power distribution
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh
- HQs of NIIF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Sujoy Bose

402. Amount & Agreements

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 795 Crore for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by cyclone Amphan that ripped through West Bengal in May. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 795 Cr to West Bengal – for reconstructing infrastructure damaged by ‘Amphan’
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu

403. Acquisitions & Mergers

L&T Technology Services will acquire 100% stake in Texas-based Orchestra Technology, which provides engineering services and solutions for telecom network management for USD 25 million or about Rs 187 crore. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T – will acquire 100% stake (Rs 187 Cr) – in Orchestra Technology
- HQs of L&T Tech – Vadodara, Gujarat | CMD – Keshab Panda
- HQs of Orchestra Technology – Texas, USA | Founder and CEO – Anuj Jain

404. Amount & Agreements

USAID and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (USIDFC) are developing a concept to establish a new \$25 million credit guarantee for the Small and Medium Enterprise sector to deploy rooftop solar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAID + USIDFC = to establish \$25-million credit guarantee – For SMEs to deploy rooftop solar
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green
- HQs of USIDFC – Washington D.C., USA | CEO – Adam S. Boehler



405. Sports & Games

American sprinter Deajah Stevens, an Olympic 200m finalist, has been banned for 18 months after violating anti-doping rules, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Deajah Stevens (USA) – banned for 18 months – Sprinter

406. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Tamil Nadu has emerged as the country's top investment destination in the first quarter of this financial year, even as overall fresh investment announcements in India have slumped to the lowest in 5 years amidst a period of lockdown. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu emerged – as the country's Top investment destination in Q1 of this financial year
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

407. Science & Technology

A new Android malware namely "BlackRock" has been discovered that steals data such as password and credit card details from 337 apps including some of the popular ones like Gmail, Amazon, Netflix, Uber, and more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "BlackRock" a new Android malware – discovered – that steals password and credit card details from 337 apps

408. National & States Affairs

Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Minister of State for HRD Sanjay Dhotre have virtually launched the first on-line NISHTHA programme for 1,200 Key Resources Persons of Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal + Sanjay Dhotre = launched the first online NISHTHA programme – in Andhra Pradesh
- NISHTHA – National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement
- HRD Minister – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)
- MoS of HRD – Sanjay Dhotre
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



409. Important Days & Dates

July 17 was marked as "World Day for International Justice" also known as "International Justice Day". It unites all those who wish to support justice, promote the rights of victims, and help prevent crimes that threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 17 – "International Justice Day"

410. Science & Technology

IIT-Madras incubated start-up, 'Modulus Housing' has developed a portable hospital unit called "MediCAB" that can be installed anywhere within two hours by four people. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT-Madras incubated start-up 'Modulus Housing' – developed "MediCAB" a portable hospital unit

411. Science & Technology

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-K) has come out with a unique user friendly wearable device "Veli Band" that alarms proximity for helping implement social distancing norms. It is designed and produced by 'Qual5 India', an IIMK-based incubated start-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIM Kozhikode – developed a unique user friendly wearable device - "Veli Band"
- It is designed and produced by – Qual5 India

412. Current GK

France's Lourdes Roman Catholic shrine has organised its first ever e-pilgrimage following the coronavirus crisis. It has drawn a virtual audience of 80 million from around the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lourdes Roman Catholic shrine (France) – organised its first ever e-pilgrimage
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

413. Sports & Games

Qatar will host the 22nd edition of "men's 2022 FIFA World Cup" at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Qatar – to host 22nd edition of "men's 2022 FIFA World Cup" – at Al Bayt Stadium
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani



414. Defence Affairs

The Indian Navy has conducted a major exercise in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The exercise is led by eastern naval fleet chief Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – conducted a major exercise – in Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- The exercise is led by – Sanjay Vatsayan
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

415. Obituaries

Arjuna awardee and Para-Badminton player Ramesh Tikaram has died of coronavirus in Bengaluru. He was 51. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Tikaram – passed away – Para-Badminton (Arjuna Award)

416. Sports & Games

Andre Schurrle, who has won the FIFA World Cup with Germany, has confirmed his retirement at the age of just 29. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andre Schurrle (Germany) – retirement – from Football
- Germany – Berlin – Euro

417. Appointments & Resignations

German technology major SAP has appointed Kulmeet Bawa as president and managing director of SAP for the Indian subcontinent, with effect from July 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kulmeet Bawa – appointed as the President & MD of – SAP India
- HQs of SAP – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Kulmeet Bawa
- HQs of SAP SE – Walldorf, Germany | CEO – Christian Klein

418. National & States Affairs

Bajaj Housing Finance Limited (BHFL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finance Limited has recently launched E-Home Loan for customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Housing Finance – launched “E-Home Loan” for customers
- HQs of BHFL – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajeev Jain



419. Obituaries

Renowned Mathematician and Padma Bhushan awardee C S Seshadri, who founded Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI) has passed away recently in July. He was 88. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C S Seshadri – passed away – Mathematician and Padma Bhushan awardee

420. Current GK

The Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone notification has mandated the State Government of Uttarakhand to prepare ZMP (Zonal Master Plan) to be implemented under the supervision of the Monitoring Committee. The approval of ZMP will give a boost to conservation and ecology of the area and also to undertake developmental activities as permitted under ZMP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone – mandated Government of Uttarakhand to prepare ZMP
- Bhagirathi river originates at – Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

421. National & States Affairs

FamPay, a neo-bank for teenagers, has announced the launch of India's 1st numberless card "FamCard". FamCard is like a debit card that teenagers can now use to make payments independently. This card has been launched in partnership with IDFC Bank and is accepted across the RuPay payment network of merchants. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FamPay + IDFC Bank = announced the launch of India's 1st numberless card "FamCard"
- HQs of FamPay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder – Sambhav Jain

422. Sports & Games

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has postponed the "2022 Dakar Youth Olympics" for 4 years to 2026 due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2022 Dakar Youth Olympics" – postponed – to 2026
- IOC HQ – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach



423. National & States Affairs

The Tamil Nadu government has proposed to establish a 'Turmeric Research Institute' at Modakurichi in Erode district to enhance production and help the growers realise more income. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – to establish a 'Turmeric Research Institute' – in Erode district
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

424. National & States Affairs

Niti Aayog will recommend to the government to mandate the use of recycled materials, metals, plastics and paper up to 25% in large infrastructure projects, in line with the global move to promote the use of secondary products across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Niti Aayog will recommend to the government – to mandate the use of recycled materials – up to 25%
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi
- CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

425. Sports & Games

Real Madrid Football Club has won the "La Liga Title" for the record 34th time and extended its record. This is Madrid's first league title since the 2016-17 season. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Real Madrid FC (Span) – won the 'La Liga Title' for the record 34th time

426. Science & Technology

To fill the massive gaps in our understanding of the Sun, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the NASA have launched the "Solar Orbiter Mission" on 9 February 2020. The spacecraft has completed its first close pass of the Sun in mid-June and the first images from it have now been released. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESA + NASA = launched the "Solar Orbiter Mission"
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | CEO – Johann-Dietrich Wörner
- NASA HQs – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine



427. National & States Affairs

The first set of 12 private trains will be introduced by 2023, followed by 45 more in the next fiscal, according to an initial timeline drawn by the railways. It plans to roll out all 151 such train services by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first set of 12 private trains – to be introduced by 2023 & total 151 such train services – by 2027
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

428. National & States Affairs

In Madhya Pradesh, coronavirus wards will be created in six central jails across the state, including Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur and Sagar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Coronavirus wards’ will be created in 6 central jails of – Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

429. Schemes & Initiatives

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has approved a proposal to cover the members of the transgender community under the “Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)” which aims at providing financial assistance to the destitute elderly, differently-abled persons and widows. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – approved a proposal to cover transgender community – under "Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY)"
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

430. National & States Affairs

The e-poster competition was organized by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) on the fifth day (7th July 2020) of Swachhata Pakhwada - 2020 with the theme "How does Swachhata impact oceans?" [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- INCOIS – organized ‘Swachhata Pakhwada – 2020’ | HQs of INCOIS – Hyderabad, Telangana
- Theme - "How does Swachhata impact oceans?"

431. National & States Affairs

A mobile application of “PM Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi - PM SVANidhi” was launched by Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry Durga Shanker Mishra in New Delhi to bring micro-credit facility for street vendors at their door steps. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA – launched “PM SVANidhi” in New Delhi – to bring micro-credit facility for street vendors
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

432. Sports & Games

Lewis Hamilton has won the “Hungarian Grand Prix” for the 8th time to equal Michael Schumacher’s single-venue record and take the championship lead. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

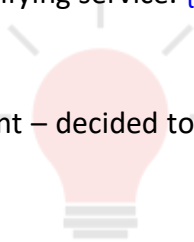
- Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes - UK) – won the “Hungarian Grand Prix” – for the 8th time

433. National & States Affairs

The Central Government has decided to allow Invalid Pension to Armed Forces Personnel with less than 10 years of qualifying service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government – decided to allow ‘Invalid Pension’ to Armed Forces Personnel – with less than 10 years of service



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434. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

U.S. DOE National labs and India U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) have signed an MoU to collaborate on India’s first-ever Solar Decathlon competition in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. DOE National labs + IUSSTF = India’s first-ever Solar Decathlon competition – in 2021

435. Important Days & Dates

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 92nd foundation day On 16, July 2020. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. He also declared the 2019 ICAR Awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 16 – 92nd foundation day of ICAR – inaugurated by Narendra Singh Tomar
- Narendra Singh Tomar declared – 2019 ICAR Awards

436. Schemes & Initiatives

Haryana government has introduced a one-time settlement scheme namely 'Samadhan-se-vikas' for recovery of EDC (External Development Charges) and IDC (Infrastructural Development Charges) from several real estate giants in the state. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – introduced 'Samadhan-se-vikas' a one-time settlement scheme
- EDC – External Development Charges | IDC – Infrastructural Development Charges
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

437. Current GK

After reports of Iran moving forward on the Chabahar-Zahidan railway project without Indian assistance, Tehran has decided to go alone on another major project - the development of the Farzad-B block. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – to develop 'Farzad-B block Gas Field' alone – without India's assistance
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

438. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Actor Kate Winslet will receive the 'Tribute Actor Award' during the 45th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) this year on 15th September. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kate Winslet (Actor) – will receive the 'Tribute Actor Award' – in the 45th TIFF on 15th September

439. Obituaries

Neela Satyanarayan, Maharashtra's first woman chief election commissioner and celebrated author, poet, succumbed to Covid-19. She was aged 72. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neela Satyanarayan – passed away – Author, Poet & first woman chief election commissioner of Maharashtra

440. Appointments & Resignations

SBI Cards and Payment Services has appointed Ashwini Kumar Tewari as Managing Director & CEO by replacing Hardayal Prasad. Tewari would take over from August 1 for a term of two years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashwini Kumar Tewari – appointed as the MD & CEO of – SBI Cards and Payment Services – for 2 years
- He will replace – Hardayal Prasad
- HQs of SBI Card – Gurugram, Haryana | Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar

441. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has announced that the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the high school curriculum for Grade XI and XII for the current academic year (2020 – 2021) has been developed in collaboration with IBM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBSE + IBM = to develop an integration of 'AI' in the High School for Grade XI and XII for 2020-21
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- IBM HQs – Armonk, New York, United States | CEO – [Arvind Krishna](#)

442. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel Dharmendra Pradhan and US Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette have co-chaired the 2nd India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) ministerial meeting through virtual meetings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd India-US Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) ministerial meeting – co-chaired by Dharmendra Pradhan
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Steel, Petroleum & Natural Gas (Constituency – Madhya Pradesh)

443. Banking & Economic Affairs

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has launched an overdraft facility (OD) against fixed deposits (FDs) for its individual customers holding a savings bank account. Under this facility, up to 90 per cent of the FD value can be availed as OD. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bank of Maharashtra – launched an overdraft facility – against FDs
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – A. S. Rajeev

444. Current GK

A rare black panther was spotted in Karnataka's "Nagarhole National Park" in Kabini forest recently in July. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A rare black panther – spotted in "Nagarhole National Park" (Karnataka)
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

445. Persons in News



Madeline Swegle has become the first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot of US Navy. Rosemary Mariner was the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in 1974. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madeline Swegle – became the first Black female Tactical Aircraft pilot of – US Navy
- Rosemary Mariner – the first woman to fly a tactical fighter jet in 1974
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

446. Appointments & Resignations

P Praveen Siddharth, a 2001-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new Private Secretary (PS) to the President Ram Nath Kovind in place of Vikram Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P Praveen Siddharth – appointed as the new Private Secretary – to the President Ram Nath Kovind
- He will replace – Vikram Singh

447. Current GK

Country's only Golden Tiger "Kazi 106F" was recently spotted in 'Kaziranga National Park'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Country's only Golden Tiger "Kazi 106F" – spotted in 'Kaziranga National Park' (Assam)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

448. Appointments & Resignations

The RBI has approved the reappointment of Shyam Srinivasan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Federal Bank with effect from September 23 till September 22, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shyam Srinivasan – to be reappointed as the MD & CEO of – Federal Bank
- HQs Federal Bank – Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan

449. National & States Affairs

The Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP) has announced its 'Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020' for solar, wind, and wind-solar hybrid projects. The policy aims to promote the export of renewable energy outside the state without any obligation of power procurement by state distribution companies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – announced "Renewable Energy Export Policy 2020"
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



450. Books & Authors

Former Australian captain Steve Waugh, in his book 'The Spirit of Cricket - India' has tried to encapsulate the madness revolving the sport in the country, by travelling the lengths and breadths of the nation before COVID-19 hit globally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'The Spirit of Cricket - India' book – authored by Steve Waugh (Australian Cricketer)

451. National & States Affairs

Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, has developed a "post-Covid Coach" to fight the virus. This post-Covid Coach has design improvements like handsfree amenities, copper-coated handrails and latches, plasma air purification and titanium di-oxide coating for Covid free journey. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Kapurthala' Rail Coach Factory (Punjab) – developed a "post-Covid Coach" to fight the virus

452. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020" released by UNDP & the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), 273 million Indians have moved out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-6 and 2015-16 and with this, India has recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in multidimensional poverty. The report also shows that 65 out of 75 countries studied significantly reduced their multidimensional poverty levels between 2000 and 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2020" released by UNDP & OPHI
- India – recorded the largest reduction in the number of people living in multidimensional poverty
- 273 million Indians – moved out of multidimensional poverty (between 2005-6 and 2015-16)
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner
- HQs of OPHI – University of Oxford, UK | Director – Sabina Alkire

453. Persons in News

Actress Priyanka Chopra has been chosen as the ambassador of the 45th edition of Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) 2020. Priyanka has joined the list of 50 celebrated filmmakers and actors who are invited as the ambassadors of the TIFF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Priyanka Chopra – chosen as the ambassador of 45th edition of TIFF-2020

454. Schemes & Initiatives

The Uttarakhand government has decided to convert waste generated in the state to electricity under an initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'. At present, 900 tonnes of waste is generated in the state and this waste can generate upto 5 megawatt of electricity and curb the pollution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand – decided to convert waste to electricity under initiative titled 'Waste to Energy'
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

455. Science & Technology

Boeing, NASA's lead industry partner has won an almost \$916 million contract to support the operations of the International Space Station (ISS) for 4 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Boeing – won an almost \$916 million contract to support the International Space Station – for 4 years
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun

456. Persons in News

The United Nations has designated Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud as a global terrorist. He is the leader of Pakistan based terror organisation 'Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud – a leader of 'Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan' – designated as a Global Terrorist by UN
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

457. International Affairs

Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal has virtually addressed the opening session of "Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing" to partner with Italy in the area of food processing which has a huge market potential in the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal – addressed session of "Digital Indo-Italian Business Mission on Food Processing" between India & Italy
- FPI Minister – Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Constituency – Bathinda, Punjab)
- Italy – Rome – Euro

458. Important Days & Dates

Chess was invented in India in the 5th century. It was then named “Chaturanga”. The International Chess Day is celebrated on July 20 every year as the founding day of the FIDE (World Chess Federation). This year has marked FIDE's 96th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 20 – The International Chess Day & 96th anniversary of FIDE (World Chess Federation)
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Arkady Dvorkovich

459. National & States Affairs

The Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company (MSETCL) has started using drones for inspection of power lines and transmission towers. Drones are now being used for aerial surveillance and inspection of Extra High Voltage (EHV) lines and towers in remote areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – started using drones for inspection of power lines and transmission towers
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

460. Obituaries

One of India's best-known ceramic artists 'Jyotsna Bhatt' passed away. She belongs to Baroda, Gujarat. She was 80. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jyotsna Bhatt (Baroda) – passed away – Ceramic Artists

461. Obituaries

The Rev. Cordy Tindell Vivian, a Civil Rights Veteran (Social Worker) has passed away recently. He was 95. He had worked alongside the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and served as head of the organization co-founded by the civil rights icon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cordy Tindell Vivian – passed away – Social Worker

462. National & States Affairs

The government has tightened the import policy for ‘Power Tillers’ and its components, and placed their imports in the restricted category from free earlier. Power tiller is an agricultural-machinery used for soil preparation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government tightened the import policy for – ‘Power Tillers’ & placed their imports in the ‘restricted category’



463. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Tamil Nadu government has signed 8 new MoUs worth Rs 10,399 Cr. These projects will create 13,507 jobs across the state in solar cells, data centres and industrial parks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – signed 8 new MoUs – to create employment in the state
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

464. Schemes & Initiatives

Haryana Government has decided to set up a mineral water plant for manufacturing of bottled mineral drinking water under the brand name 'Haryana Fresh' through Public Health Engineering Department. Further, the first rural sewerage system under the 'Mahagram Scheme' will be inaugurated in Sotai village in Faridabad, Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – decided to set up a mineral water plant 'Haryana Fresh'
- First rural sewerage system – under the 'Mahagram Scheme' – to be inaugurated in Sotai, Faridabad, Haryana
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

465. Appointments & Resignations

The President of Gabon, Ali Bongo Ondimba has appointed the country's first woman Prime Minister 'Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda – has been appointed as the 1st woman PM of – Gabon
- Gabon – Libreville – Franc | President – Ali Bongo Ondimba | PM – Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda

466. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

India and Russia are exploring joint investment projects in Asia and Africa, as well as interaction in the field of digital technologies. Both India and Russia also plan to jointly create an ecosystem of startups and venture funds for the development of information technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Russia = to explore joint projects in Asia and Africa & to create an ecosystem of startups and venture funds
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



467. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

The Ongole Sub-Division Office of South Central Railway Zone has won the “Water Heroes Award” from Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. The Ongone Sub-Divisional Office of Vijayawada Division, Andhra Pradesh, South Central Railway is led by Pratham Agarwal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ongole Sub-Division Office (South Central Railway Zone) – won the “Water Heroes Award”
- Minister of Jal Shakti – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan

468. Schemes & Initiatives

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the enhanced services of the scheme 'YSR Aarogyasri' in another 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh. With this, 'Aarogyasri Scheme' will cover 2,200 medical procedures instead of the existing 1,259. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh launched enhanced services of – 'YSR Aarogyasri' – in another 6 districts
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

469. Obituaries

US lawmaker John Lewis, a pioneer of the civil rights movement and a long-time member of the US House of Representatives, has passed away recently in July. He was 80. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- John Lewis (USA) – passed away - US lawmaker & a pioneer of the civil rights movement

470. International Affairs

The United Kingdom has banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company manufacturer Huawei. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – banned its companies from sourcing 5G equipment – from Huawei
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM of UK – Boris Johnson
- HQs of Huawei – Shenzhen, China | CEO – Ren Zhengfei

471. Current GK

NTPC's Unit-1 of its Singrauli power plant has emerged as the country's top-performing unit in the first quarter of this fiscal. The unit has registered a Plant Load Factor (PLF) or capacity utilisation of 101.96% in the April-June period. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NTPC's Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station (Uttar Pradesh) – emerged as the country's top-performing unit
- PLF – Plant Load Factor
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh

472. National & States Affairs

Railway Board Chairman VK Yadav has said that all the capitals of North-Eastern states will be connected to the rail network by 2023. The Katra-Banihal rail link project is likely to be completed by December 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- All the capitals of North-Eastern states – to be connected to the rail network – by 2023
- Katra-Banihal rail link project to be completed – by December 2022
- Chairman of Indian Railways – Vinod Kumar Yadav | HQs – New Delhi
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra

473. International Affairs

The Shipping Minister Mansukh Madaviya has flagged off the first trial container ship from Kolkata to Agartala through Chattogram port of Bangladesh. It will increase economic activities, employment and will bring prosperity in India as well as Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Madaviya – flagged off the first trial container ship from Kolkata to Agartala – through Chattogram port
- Chattogram and Mongla ports – Bangladesh
- MoS I/C for Shipping Ministry – Mansukh Madaviya
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid



474. Science & Technology

International Centre of Automotive Technology (ICAT) has launched the automotive technology e-portal 'ASPIRE', which stands for 'Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAT – launched the automotive technology e-portal 'ASPIRE'
- ASPIRE – Automotive Solutions Portal for Industry, Research and Education
- HQs of ICAT – Manesar, Haryana | Director – Dinesh Tyagi

475. Appointments & Resignations

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, currently non-executive director has been appointed as the Chairperson of HCL Technologies. He will replace Shiv Nadar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra – appointed as the Chairperson of HCL Technologies
- HQs of HCL Technologies – Noida, UP | CEO – C Vijayakumar

476. National & States Affairs

A first-of-its-kind Footwear Training Centre for the marginalised community was inaugurated by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC inaugurated – Footwear Training Centre – for the marginalised community – in Delhi
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

477. National & States Affairs

The postal ballot rules will be applicable for voters over the age of 80, disabled or those suspected or confirmed to be infected by the coronavirus. Now, the Election Commission would not allow postal ballot facility for voters above 65 years of age. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The postal ballot rules – applicable for voters over the age of 80 (instead of 65 earlier)
- Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd)



478. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

T Purushothaman, a shrimp farmer from Kerala has received prestigious “Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer award” for the development of diversified aquaculture practices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- T Purushothaman (Kerala) – received prestigious “Jagjivan Ram Innovative Farmer award”
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

479. Current GK

‘Ker Puja’ celebrated at Royal Palace in Agartala, Tripura on July 14. Ker Puja is a century-old celebration observed in Tripura and it is celebrated two weeks after ‘Kharchi Puja’ in the Royal Palace in Agartala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Ker Puja’ + ‘Kharchi Puja’ = celebrated in Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

480. Banking & Economic Affairs

Domestic rating agency ICRA has revised its forecast for contraction in the country's GDP in the current fiscal to 9.5% from 5% earlier. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- According to ICRA – India’s GDP prediction = (-9.5%) {Flexible News}
- HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana | President – Ramnath Krishnan

481. Persons in News

Marcus Rashford is set to become the youngest ever recipient of an honorary degree from The University of Manchester, in recognition of his achievements as a footballer and as a passionate campaigner against child poverty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marcus Rashford – the youngest recipient of honorary degree from “The University of Manchester”
- He is a Footballer – from the UK

482. National & States Affairs

CM Trivendra Singh Rawat has inaugurated 'Smriti Van' on the occasion of 'Harela festival' in Uttarakhand in the memory of famous folk singer of the state late Jeet Singh Negi. This festival is celebrated across hills three times every year. 'Harela' means the day of green. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Smriti Van' – on the occasion of 'Harela festival' – celebrated in Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

483. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

India ranks third in the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing among 48 countries in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions, according to a report released by Cushman & Wakefield. In cost scenario, India is at 3rd position after China and Vietnam. However, India ranks 3rd in Baseline scenario and 30th in risk scenario. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI)" report – released by Cushman & Wakefield (HQs – Chicago, USA)
- List topped by – China | India – 3rd
- India: 3rd – in cost scenario | 3rd – in Baseline scenario | 30th – in risk scenario

484. Books & Authors

Sahitya Akademi Award winner Baldev Singh Sadaknama has written a book 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (sun never dies). The book is on the life of Udham Singh, whose 80th death anniversary will fall on July 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Suraj Kade Marda Nahi' (sun never dies) book – written by Baldev Singh Sadaknama
- The book is on the life of – a martyr "Udham Singh" (80th death anniversary - on July 31)

485. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote virtual address at this year's high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) session at the UN headquarters in New York on the eve of 75th anniversary of the United Nations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed "2020 high-level segment of ECOSOC" – in New York
- On the eve of 75th anniversary of UN (on July 17)
- HQs of ECOSOC – New York, USA | President – Mona Juul

486. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

In total 218 countries, India has remained in the classification of 'Lower-Middle-Income Economy', as per the New World Bank's report of country classifications by income level 2020-2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – 'Lower-Middle-Income Economy' – as per World Bank's report of country classifications by income level
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

487. Amount & Agreements

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Israel's National Cyber Directorate (INCD) have signed an agreement to further expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats amid rapid digitisation due to the coronavirus pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Israel = an agreement to expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

488. Important Days & Dates

The birth anniversary of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is every year observed as "Nelson Mandela International Day" on July 18 by The United Nations to recognize his contribution in creating a democratic South Africa. This year, the theme is "Take action, inspire change". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- July 18 – "Nelson Mandela International Day" – by UN
- Theme – "Take action, inspire change"

489. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

As per the announcement of General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, the laureates of United Nations "Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize-2020" are Marianna Vardinoyannis of Greece and Morissana Kouyate of Guinea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marianna Vardinoyannis (Greece) + Morissana Kouyate (Guinea) = laureates of "Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize"
- HQs of UNGA – NewYork, USA | President – Volkan Bozkır



490. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to Coursera's report titled "Global Skill Index", within the data science domain, India ranks at 51 globally and 12 among APAC countries in data science overall. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A report titled "Global Skill Index" – released by Coursera
- In data science domain: India's rank – 51st globally & 12th among APAC countries

491. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

India and the USA have signed an MoU to create India's 1st strategic petroleum reserves in the USA. The USA has 714 million barrels of oil storage capacity in its strategic petroleum reserve (SPR), the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + USA = an MoU to create India's 1st strategic petroleum reserves in the USA
- USA's oil storage capacity – 714 million barrels (world's largest supply of emergency crude oil)
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Donald Trump

492. Science & Technology

CSIR-CMERI (Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute) Durgapur, has unveiled the COVID Protection System (COPS) for workplace in the current COVID-19 pandemic scenario. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR-CMERI (Durgapur) – unveiled the COVID Protection System (COPS) for workplace
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande

493. Schemes & Initiatives

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana' for an all round development of the Scheduled Castes. A financial assistance of Rs 17.42 Cr was transferred online to 3,484 people under the 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched 'Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana' – for the development of SCs
- A financial assistance of Rs 17.42 Cr – transferred under 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Swarojgar Yojana'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

494. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to Assocham, India's spices exports has risen by 23% to USD 359 million (around Rs 2,690 Cr) in June 2020 from USD 292 million (Rs 2,190 Cr) in the same month last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's spices exports – rose by 23% to USD 359 million (around Rs 2,690 Cr) in June 2020
- HQs of Assocham – New Delhi | President – Niranjan Hiranandani

495. National & States Affairs

Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the “Zoram Mega Food Park” at Kolasib in Mizoram through virtual conference. It is the 1st Food Park of Mizoram built at a cost of Rs 75 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Harsimrat Kaur Badal – inaugurated “Zoram Mega Food Park” – the 1st Food Park of Mizoram
- FPI Minister – Harsimrat Kaur Badal (Constituency – Bathinda, Punjab)
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

496. Obituaries

Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj, the head priest of Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan, Ahmedabad, popularly known as “P P Swami” has recently passed away due to Covid-19. He was 78. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shree Purushottam Priyadasji Swamishree Maharaj (P P Swami) – passed away – Priest
- Maninagar Shree Swaminarayan Gadi Sansthan – Ahmedabad, Gujarat

497. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The Indian direct selling industry has ranked 15th and recorded sales of USD 2.47 billion in 2019, reporting a growth of 12.1%, according to a report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A report by World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA)
- India – 15th (sales of USD 2.47 billion) | List topped by – USA
- HQs of WFDSA – Washington DC, USA | Head – Ms. Kim Drabik

498. Books & Authors

Crime writer S Hussain Zaidi has come out with a new novel namely "The Endgame". It talks of politics, betrayal and unimaginable terror. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Endgame" novel – written by 'S Hussain Zaidi'

499. National & States Affairs

Union Environment and Information & Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar has praised the 'KURMA' mobile application as a unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar praised – 'KURMA' mobile application – a unique tool for tracking and reporting Indian turtles
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Ministry of Info. & Broadcasting
- Constituency – Maharashtra

500. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency through Video Conferencing. The Finance Minister specifically referred to India's comprehensive economic package to address recovery and growth amounting to over \$295 Billion, about 10% of India's GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 3rd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting
- Under the Presidency of – Saudi Arabia
- Italy – likely to hold G20 presidency in 2021
- The outlay of India's comprehensive economic package – \$295 Billion (10% of India's GDP)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnatak



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