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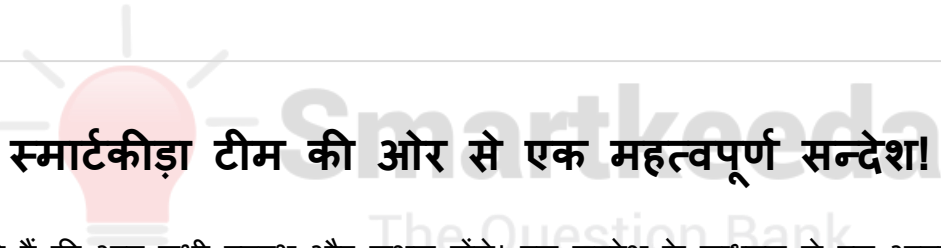
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of November 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 नवम्बर 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 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



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National & States Affairs

501. Madhya Pradesh is the first state to release a roadmap for self-reliance on the strategy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atmanirbhar Bharat. Chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has unveiled the blueprint for Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh by 2023 in Bhopal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – the first state to release a roadmap for self-reliance under PM's Aatmanirbhar Bharat
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the blueprint for Atmanirbhar Madhya Pradesh – by 2023
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

502. Union Minister of Communications, Ravi Shankar Prasad has released a "My Stamp on Chhath Puja" and a special cover on the theme "Chhath - A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness". "My Stamp" is an innovative concept initiated by the Department of Posts (DoP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad has released a "My Stamp on Chhath Puja"
- He also launched – a special cover on the theme "Chhath - A symbol of Simplicity and Cleanliness"
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Constituency – Patna Sahib, Bihar)

503. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched "Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge" across 243 cities on the occasion of World Toilet Day. It aims to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again, owing to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri (MoHUA) – launched "Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge" – across 243 cities
- MoHUA Minister – Hardeep Singh Puri

504. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Bhutanese counterpart Lotay Tshering has launched "RuPay Card Phase-II" that will allow Bhutanese card holders to access the RuPay network in India. The RuPay card is an Indian debit and credit card payment network, with acceptance at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi (India) + Lotay Tshering (Bhutan) = launched "RuPay Card Phase-II"
- Bhutan – Thimphu – Bhutanese Ngultrum | PM – Lotay Tshering

505. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stated that marriage between first cousins is illegal. The assertion came after a youth moved the High Court against the State of Punjab for anticipatory bail. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Punjab and Haryana – stated that marriage between first cousins is illegal
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

506. One of the longest migrating small birds - “Willow Warbler” (Phylloscopus trochilus) was spotted for the first time in India at Punchakkari on the outskirts of Thiruvananthapuram. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Willow Warbler” – spotted for the 1st time in India – at Punchakkari, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

507. On November 18, 2020, Army Chief has complimented the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) on Completion of 15 Years of Excellence since its inception in 2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Army Chief – complimented the CLAWS on Completion of 15 Years of Excellence
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini
- HQs of CLAWS – New Delhi | Director – Vijay Kumar Ahluwalia | Inception – 2005

508. The Uttarakhand tourism department has flagged off a 3-day “Nayar Valley Adventure Sports Festival” in Pauri which is being dubbed as the first such mega-event in the country where multiple adventure sports events are being organised at one platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttarakhand tourism department – flagged off a 3-day “Nayar Valley Adventure Sports Festival” – in Pauri
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

509. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced its first digital application, “Ananda” - an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application, for onboarding of policyholders through a paperless module. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIC – introduced its first digital application - “Ananda”
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M R Kumar



510. Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) has successfully conducted a 'Proof of Concept' feasibility study on 'zero-emission electric mobility' at one of its fuel stations in Bengaluru. Zero-Emission Electric Mobility is a concept that allows the electric vehicle (EV) to charge using solar power and ensuring zero emissions. The EV charging system has been designed by Hygge Energy, a start-up incubated by Tech Mahindra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOCL – conducted a 'Proof of Concept' feasibility study on 'zero-emission electric mobility' – in Bengaluru
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya
- The EV charging system – designed by Hygge Energy (a start-up incubated by - Tech Mahindra)

511. Ayodhya has created a new Guinness world record by lighting 6,06,569 (approx 6 lakh) earthen lamps (diyas) at the majestic 'Ram Ki Paidi' ghat on the banks of the Saryu river and other ghats of the temple town during the fourth Deepotsav. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new Guinness world record by lighting 6,06,569 diyas – at 'Ram Ki Paidi' ghat, Ayodhya (Saryu river)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

512. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has secured a mega contract to build India's first high-speed rail corridor from the National High-Speed Rail Corporation (NHSRCL) to construct 87.569 km of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) project, popularly referred as the 'Bullet Train' project. As per the L&T's classification, the valuation of the mega order is above Rs 7000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- L&T – secured a mega contract to build 87.569 km of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail project
- MAHSR project – India's first high-speed rail corridor
- HQs of NHSRCL – New Delhi
- HQs of L&T – Mumbai, MH | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

513. The Maharashtra government has decided to pay a monthly stipend to Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates preparing for the UPSC exams to increase scheduled tribe representation in the civil service sector. The state government has decided to pay a monthly stipend of Rs 12,000 and a total of Rs 26,000 for the purchase of books. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – decided to pay a monthly stipend to ST candidates – preparing for the UPSC exams
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

514. The chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, M Ajit Kumar, (IRS) along with all board members has virtually inaugurated the newly built “GST Bhawan” at Sector 25 Panchkula, Haryana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Ajit Kumar inaugurated newly built “GST Bhawan” – at Panchkula, Haryana
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

515. Chhattisgarh has launched a unique women special mobile medical facility - “Dai-Didi (Mother-Sister) clinic” across the slums and other localities of urban areas from November 19. It is first of its kind in the country and would initially offer its free health services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – launched “Dai-Didi (Mother-Sister) clinic” - a unique women special mobile medical facility
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

516. India’s first ‘Moss Garden’ is inaugurated in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The garden is spread across an area of around 10 hectares and it is home to around 30 different species of moss and various other bryophytes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first ‘Moss Garden’ is inaugurated – in Nainital, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

517. Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has offered flowers, ‘harathi’, and ‘vastrams’ to the statue of Tungabhadra Thalli on the banks of the Tungabhadra river, marking the beginning of the 12-day “Pushkaralu” festival at the Sankal Bagh Pushkar Gha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 12-day “Pushkaralu” festival – celebrated in honour of the Tungabhadra river
- Tungabhadra river flows through – Karnataka, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh

518. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for Drinking Water Supply Projects worth Rs 5,555.38 Cr by launching “Har Ghar Nal Yojna” in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra districts of Uttar Pradesh. It is aimed at providing water to over 41 lakh villagers in two districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi launched “Har Ghar Nal Yojna” in Mirzapur & Sonbhadra, UP – for Drinking Water Supply Projects
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



519. SunSource Energy has won a bid to develop a 4 megawatt (MW) Grid-connected Floating Solar Photovoltaic Power Project, along with 2 MW Battery Storage System (BESS) in Andaman and Nicobar islands. The project will be situated at the reservoir of Kalpong river, Kalpong Hydroelectric Project Dam, Diglipur in North Andaman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SunSource Energy – to develop a 6 MW (4+2) Floating Solar Plus Storage Project in Andaman & Nicobar islands
- “Kalpong river” or “Kalpong Hydroelectric Project” – located in Andaman & Nicobar islands
- HQs of SunSource Energy – Noida, UP | CEO – Adarsh Das
- Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Capital – Port Blair | Lieu. Governor– Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi

520. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Invest India have launched a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Investor Map for India, laying out 18 Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs) in six SDG enabling sectors. Due to Covid-19, the SDG financing gap has widened by an estimated \$400 billion in developing countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNDP + Invest India = launched a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Investor Map for India
- HQs of UNDP – New York, USA | Administrator – Achim Steiner

521. Coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are bracing for Cyclone “Nivar”, which has intensified into a "severe cyclonic storm", expected to intensify further and is barrelling towards the southeast coast. The name Nivar has been given by Iran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Cyclone “Nivar” likely to hit – Coastal Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
- The name “Nivar” is given by – Iran
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

522. Oil India Ltd (OIL) has launched a Rs 220 Cr seismic campaign to locate oil and gas in the Mahanadi basin in Odisha, as it is boosting the country's hydrocarbon resource base. OIL had won 5 blocks for hydrocarbon exploration in Odisha in two bid rounds under Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Oil India Ltd – launched a Rs 220 Cr seismic campaign to locate oil and gas – in the Mahanadi basin, in Odisha
- HQs of OIL – Noida, UP | CMD – Sushil Chandra Mishra
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



International Affairs

523. The National Science Foundation (NSF) has announced to dismantle the iconic “Arecibo radio telescope” in Puerto Rico. Based on the stresses acting on the second broken cable, engineers concluded that the remaining cables were probably weaker than previously thought. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Science Foundation announced to dismantle “Arecibo Radio Telescope” – located in Puerto Rico, US
- HQs of NSF – Virginia, US | Director – Sethuraman “Panch” Panchanathan

524. India has become the 4th country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system “IRNSS” (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System) recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS). The other 3 are the US, Russia and China. The IRNSS is developed by the ISRO. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – the 4th country in the world to have its independent “IRNSS” (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System)
- HQs of IMO – London, UK | Secretary-General – Kitack Lim

525. The isolated UK Overseas Territory of ‘Tristan da Cunha’ is declared as the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean at 6,87,000 square Kms. It is home to the world’s most remote human settlement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ‘Tristan da Cunha’ – declared as the largest fully protected marine reserves in Atlantic Ocean

526. The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami has launched a limited series of Special Edition Wristwatches in Dhaka, Bangladesh for the Mujib Centenary year ‘Mujib Borsho’. The wristwatches in this limited edition series bear the images of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vikram Doraiswami – launched a limited series of Special Edition Wristwatches – in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- The High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh – Vikram Doraiswami
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

527. The only known White Giraffe in the world has been fitted with a GPS tracking device in Kenya. A rare genetic trait called leucism causes the white color. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The only known White Giraffe in the world – is fitted with a GPS tracking device – in Kenya



- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling

528. 18th century stone statue of goddess Annapurna, which may have been stolen and transported to Canada over a century back, will be returned to India by Canada. The statue is believed to be originally from Varanasi and was part of the university's collection in its MacKenzie Art Gallery. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canada – to return 18th century stone statue of goddess Annapurna – to India
- MacKenzie Art Gallery – located in Canada
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

529. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently discovered a rare “Chapare” virus in Bolivia. The virus is capable of human-to-human transmission and belongs to a family of viruses that can cause haemorrhagic fevers, such as Ebola. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US CDC discovered a rare “Chapare” virus – in Bolivia
- Bolivia – La Paz/Sucre – Boliviano | President – Luis Arce

530. Scotland has launched the world's first Hydrogen Powered Double-Decker Buses. It is an attempt to reduce air pollution and transform the city into a green economy. A fleet of 15 such buses have been launched as part of the trial. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scotland – launched the world's first Hydrogen Powered Double-Decker Buses
- Scotland – Edinburgh – Pound sterling

531. In the wake of rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a global group called ‘One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance’ was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The 20-member group was co-chaired by Bangladesh and Barbados. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FAO + OIE + WHO = launched ‘One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance’
- The 20-member group was co-chaired by – Bangladesh & Barbados
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu
- HQs of OIE – Paris, France | President – Mark Schipp



532. Widespread and heavy rains due to “Cyclone Gati” in Somalia have spurred a threat of a widespread locust outbreak in the east African country. It made landfall there on November 22, 2020. It was the first named cyclone of the 2018 North Indian Ocean cyclone season & was named by India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Cyclone Gati” – made landfall in Somalia (The cyclone is named by – India)
- Somalia – Mogadishu – Dollar/Shilling | New PM – Mohamed Hussein Roble | President – Md Abdullahi



Banking & Economic Affairs

533. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has launched “Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund”. The fund will focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and the Principles for Responsible Investing (PRI). Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund will be managed by Harsha Upadhyaya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra AMC – launched “Kotak ESG Opportunities Fund”
- Focused on 3 Factors – Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)
- Fund will be managed by – Harsha Upadhyaya
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Uday Kotak

534. ICICI Bank in a tie-up with Pine Labs has launched a “Cardless EMI facility” for its customers to use at retail stores. With this, ICICI Bank becomes India’s first bank to launch a Cardless EMI facility at retail stores. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Pine Labs = launched a “Cardless EMI facility” (India’s first bank to launch Cardless EMI facility)
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, UP | CEO – B Amrith Rau

535. Moody's has revised our real, inflation-adjusted GDP forecast for fiscal 2020 (April 2020-March 2021) to a 10.6% contraction, from a 11.5% drop previously. For next fiscal 2021-22, Moody's projected India to grow at 10.8%, as against the previous estimate of 10.6%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Moody's projected India’s GDP = (-10.6%) – for 2020-21
- Moody's projected India’s GDP = (10.8%) – for 2021-22
- HQs of Moody’s – New York, USA | CEO – Raymond W. McDaniel

536. An Internal Working Group set up by the RBI has proposed to raise the cap on promoters’ stake in Private Banks from the current 15% to 26% in 15 years. The RBI had constituted the internal working group (IWG) on June 12, 2020, to review extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for Indian private sector banks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI’s Internal Working Group proposed to raise the cap on promoters’ stake in Private Banks to – 26%
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)



537. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a total fine of over Rs 5.78 Cr on 6 entities - Punjab National Bank, Sodexo, PhonePe, QwikCilver Solutions, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd and Muthoot finance for violating regulatory guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed a total fine of over Rs 5.78 Cr on 6 entities1. PNB (Rs 1 Cr) 2. Sodexo (Rs 2 Cr) 3. PhonePe (Rs 1.39 Cr)4. QwikCilver (Rs 1 Cr) 5. DMRC – (Rs 5 lakh) 6. Muthoot finance (Rs 34.55 Lakh)
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

538. The RBI has imposed restrictions on withdrawals from Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank for 6 months from the close of business on November 17, 2020. The RBI also imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on the Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank for contravention of the directions issued by it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI imposed restrictions on withdrawals from – Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank (for 6 months)
- RBI imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh on – Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

539. In a first among central banks, the Reserve Bank of India has become the first monetary authority in the world to have more than 1 million followers on its official Twitter handle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – became the first monetary authority in the world to have more than 1 million followers on Twitter
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)
- HQs of Twitter – San Francisco, California, USA | CEO – Jack Dorsey



Defence Affairs

540. The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 18 – 20 November 2020 in Andaman Sea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 30th edition of Indo-Thai CORPAT – between Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy – in Andaman Sea
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht

541. The U.S. Navy has shot down an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) over the Pacific Ocean with a Raytheon Standard Missile (SM)-3 Block IIA missile in a milestone test. The missile test was conducted in an area of Open Ocean near Hawaii, United States (US). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – shot down an ICBM over the Pacific Ocean with a Raytheon Standard Missile (SM)-3 Block IIA missile
- ICBM – Intercontinental Ballistic Missile
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

542. The 2nd edition of the India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral Naval exercise “SITMEX-20” is concluded in the Andaman Sea on November 22 and the 27th edition of India-Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise “SIMBEX-20” was held in the same area from November 23 to 25. “The exercise, being conducted as a ‘non-contact, at sea only’ exercise in view of COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 2nd edition of “SITMEX-20” in the Andaman Sea on November 22 (India + Thailand + Singapore)
- 27th edition of “SIMBEX-20” in the Andaman Sea from November 23 to 25 (India + Singapore)
- Thailand – Bangkok – Thai Baht
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob



Schemes & Initiatives

543. On the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Rajasthan government has launched “Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana”. Rs 6,000 will be given to women becoming mothers for the second time under a new government scheme. [{Read more}](#)

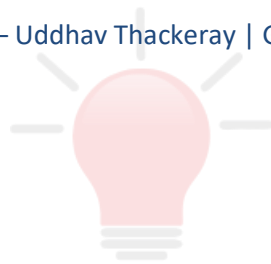
Key Points:

- Rajasthan – launched “Indira Gandhi Matritva Poshan Yojana”
- Rs 6,000 will be given to women becoming mothers for the second time
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

544. Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray has launched a new rural housing project named “Maha Awas Yojana”, under which 8.82 lakh (8,82,135) rural houses will be built in 100 days period (by the end of February, 2021). Currently, the cost of the project has been estimated to be around Rs 4,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched “Maha Awas Yojana” - a new rural housing project
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



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Sports & Games

545. International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has introduced a minimum age policy for players to play international cricket and according to that, the cricketer must be 15-year-old to play the game globally. Earlier, there was no bar on the age of a cricketer to play any form of international cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICC introduced minimum age policy for players to play international cricket – 15 years
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Interim Chairman – Imran Khwaja | CEO – Manu Sawhney

546. The ICC has announced that the next Women’s T20 World Cup will now be held in February 2023 in South Africa, instead of November 2022 as it was earlier scheduled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Women’s T20 World Cup – 2023” – to be held in South Africa
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

547. Young Indian International master Leon Luke Mendonca has won a “Grand Master Tournament” in Hungary. The 14-year old player from Goa won his second Grand Master title in Budapest, Hungary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Leon Luke Mendonca (Goa) – won a “Grand Master Tournament” – in Budapest, Hungary
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- Hungary – Budapest – Forint

548. Australian swimmer Shayna Jack was found guilty of accidental doping and was given a 2-year ban. The 22-year-old swimmer is a 4-time medalist in relays at the 2017 world championships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shayna Jack (Australia-Swimming) – banned for 2 years due to accidental doping
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison



Important Days & Dates

549. Indian Army has celebrated the 240th Corps of Engineers Day on November 18. In a solemn ceremony organized at 'National War Memorial', Lt Gen SK Shrivastava, Engineer-in-Chief along with other serving officers, has laid wreaths and paid homage to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 18 – 240th “Corps of Engineers Day” – celebrated by Indian Army
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – SK Saini

550. Every year, the world celebrates “World Television Day” on November 21 to acknowledge the importance of visual media. The first World Television Forum was celebrated on November 21 in 1996 and the day later came to be known as World Television Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 21 – “World Television Day” – since 1996

551. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan has chaired an event to mark “National Newborn Week 2020”, being observed from November 15-21. The theme of National Newborn Week this year is “Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 15-21 – “National Newborn Week 2020”
- Theme – “Quality, Equity, Dignity for every newborn at every health facility and everywhere”

552. “World Fisheries Day” is observed every year on 21st of November to demonstrate solidarity with all fisher-folk communities, fish farmers and concerned stakeholders throughout the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 21 – “World Fisheries Day”

553. World Children's Day (Universal Children's Day) is observed on November 20 every year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare. This year, the theme was “Investing in our future means investing in our children”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 20 – “World Children's Day”
- Theme – “Investing in our future means investing in our children”



554. National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, has celebrated its 72nd Raising Day on November 22. The Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and DG NCC Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra laid wreaths on behalf of the entire NCC fraternity. Unity and discipline is the motto of NCC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 22 – 72nd Raising Day of National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- Motto – “Unity & Discipline”

555. The Indian Pharmaceutical Association-Delhi State Branch (IPADSB) in collaboration with Delhi Pharmaceutical Trust (DPT) celebrated the inaugural function of the 59th National Pharmacy Week (NPW) on November 15, 2020. The theme of the NPW this year is “Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals” and will be celebrated throughout the country from November 16-22, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 16-22 – 59th National Pharmacy Week
- Theme – “Pharmacists: Frontline Health Professionals”



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

556. PM Narendra Modi has held a virtual “India-Luxembourg Bilateral Summit” with his Luxembourg counterpart Xavier Bettel. India and Luxembourg signed 3 bilateral agreements mainly in the financial sector, even as both countries reaffirmed the need to finalise an India-EU FTA at the earliest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Luxembourg = held a virtual India-Luxembourg Bilateral Summit
- Luxembourg – Luxembourg – Euro | PM – Xavier Bettel

557. The 12th Counter Terrorism Dialogue was held virtually between India and the European Union (EU). It will be the first time that India and EU will designate certain terror groups and individuals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 12th Counter Terrorism Dialogue held virtually between – India & European Union (EU)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

558. The 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit is chaired by Saudi Arabia and is attended by heads of state and government of the 19 member countries and representatives of the European Union and international organisations. From India, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the Summit. The theme of the summit was “Realising the opportunities of 21st Century for all”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi addressed – the 15th G20 Leaders’ Summit – chaired by Saudi Arabia
- Theme – “Realising the opportunities of 21st Century for all”
- Saudi Arab – Riyadh – Saudi Riyal

559. India will now host the Group of 20 Summit in 2023, a year later than what was decided earlier. G20 Riyadh Summit leaders stated that next meetings of G20 are supposed to be held in Italy in 2021, Indonesia in 2022, India in 2023 and Brazil in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Presidency of G20 (Group of 20) Summit:2020 – Saudi Arabia | 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

560. Bish Agrawal (Chairman of Accord Group India) has been awarded the Association for Executive Search and Leadership Consulting (AESC) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the first Asian to receive this recognition in AESC history. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bish Agrawal – awarded the AESC Lifetime Achievement Award (first Asian)
- HQs of AESC – New York, USA
- HQs of Accord Group India – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Bish Agrawal

561. New York-based Scottish writer Douglas Stuart has won the “2020 Booker Prize” for his debut novel ‘Shuggie Bain’, a coming of age story set in Glasgow, beating Indian-origin author Avni Doshi, who was shortlisted among the final 6 authors for her debut novel ‘Burnt Sugar’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Douglas Stuart (Scotland) – won the “2020 Booker Prize” – for his ‘Shuggie Bain’ novel
- Debut novel ‘Burnt Sugar’ – by Avni Doshi (lost in final)

562. Dr. Adam Yao Liu (a political scientist trained at Stanford University) was declared the winner of “EXIM Bank's BRICS Economic Research Award 2020” during the 10th Annual BRICS Financial Forum, hosted virtually by the Russia’s State Development Corporation on November 16, 2020. It was given for his Ph.D. dissertation, “Building Markets within Authoritarian Institutions: The Political Economy of Banking Development in China.” [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Adam Yao Liu – won the “EXIM Bank's BRICS Economic Research Award 2020”
- 10th Annual BRICS Financial Forum – hosted Russia
- BRICS Member Countries – 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
- Chairmanship of BRICS – Russia in 2020 & Indian in 2021

563. On the occasion of World Toilet Day on November 19, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has conferred the “Swachhata Award-2020” (Swachhata Puraskar) on Siang district for being one of the 20 best-performing districts of the country. The awards were given via a virtual ceremony organized by the jal shakti ministry’s drinking water & sanitation department. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jal Shakti Ministry – conferred “Swachhata Award-2020” (Swachhata Puraskar) – on Siang, Arunachal Pradesh
- Jal Shakti Minister – Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan



• Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

564. Actor Richa Chadha has been awarded the “Bharat Ratna Ambedkar Award-2020”. The award was given for her significant contribution to Indian cinema. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

• Richa Chadha (Actor) – awarded the “Bharat Ratna Ambedkar Award-2020”

565. Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has conferred with the “Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award” for his exemplary contribution in the field of literature. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

• Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ – conferred with the “Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award”

• Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

566. Vinisha Umashankar, a 14-year-old studying in 9th grade in Tiruvannamalai, has won the prestigious “Children's Climate Prize-2020” under the ‘2020 Clear Air Category’ at the 5th edition of Children’s Climate Prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

• Vinisha Umashankar (Tamil Nadu) – won the prestigious “Children's Climate Prize-2020”

• Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

567. North Police Station located in Kohima, Nagaland has been awarded an ISO certification (ISO 9001:2015 certification). This police station was the first established police station under Naga Hills district by the British Regime in the year 1933. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

• North Police Station (Kohima, Nagaland) – awarded an ISO certification

• Nagaland: Capital – Kohima | CM – Neiphiu Rio | Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi

568. Veteran Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah was recently honoured with the “Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar” at Sangit Kala Kendra Awards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

• Naseeruddin Shah – honoured with the “Aditya Vikram Birla Kalashikhar Puraskar”



569. Ruskin Bond was conferred with the “Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020”, while the poet and screenwriter Javed Akhtar was honoured with the “Poet Laureate Award” for his sustained and outstanding contribution to poetry in India. The publisher of the year award was presented to Penguin Random House. [\[Read more\]](#)

Key Points:

- Ruskin Bond – conferred with the “Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020”
- Javed Akhtar – honoured with the “Poet Laureate Award”
- Publisher of the award – Penguin Random House



Appointments & Resignations

570. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Girish Chandra Murmu, has been elected as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), Geneva, for a 3-year term. He will take charge of this position from the Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Girish Chandra Murmu – appointed as External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) – for 3 years
- The 14th Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) – Girish Chandra Murmu (G. C. Murmu)

571. Haeal, a personal wellness brand from Kerala, has signed Indian cricketer Sanju Samson as its Brand Ambassador. Launched in 2015, Haeal offers a wide range of natural health supplements, household and personal care products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanju Samson – appointed as Brand Ambassador of – Haeal (Kerala)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

572. India's only individual Olympic gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra was named event Ambassador of the 16th "Airtel Delhi Half Marathon" held on November 29. Bindra had won the gold medal in the 10m air rifle event at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abhinav Bindra – named event Ambassador of the 16th "Airtel Delhi Half Marathon"



Amount & Agreements

573. The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, Finance Ministry, National Capital Region Transport Corp. Ltd (NCRTC) and New Development Bank (NDB) have signed the loan agreement to lend \$500 million for funding the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) project. The loan from the NDB has a tenor of 25 years with an 8-year grace period. The total project cost is estimated at \$3,749 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + Finance Ministry + NCRTC + NDB = loan agreement to lend \$500 million
- NDB – to lend \$500 million loan for funding the ‘Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS’ project
- HQs of NDB – Shanghai, China | President – Marcos Troyjo

574. The Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank have signed a \$120 million project to improve and modernise the transport sector of state of Meghalaya. This will help Meghalaya to harness its vast growth potential for high-value agriculture and tourism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + Meghalaya = signed a \$120 million project to improve and modernise the transport sector
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 189
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

575. The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 50 million (about Rs 370 Cr) loan to improve operational efficiencies and resource planning and management in West Bengal. The loan will support the integration of financial and information system and the expansion of automation reforms in the operations of the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – approved a USD 50 million (about Rs 370 Cr) loan to “West Bengal” to improve resource planning
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | Member countries – 68

576. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs 74.31 Cr under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-Tranche-XXVI for the construction of 6 new roads and improvement of 24 existing roads in Meghalaya. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD sanctioned Rs 74.31 Cr to Meghalaya – under RIDF-Tranche-XXVI
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Chintala Govinda Rajulu
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik



577. The Government of Himachal Pradesh in partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB) has decided to improve the infrastructure in Mandi district. The estimated cost of the construction is Rs. 15 Cr out of which Rs. 9 Cr is being paid by ADB and the rest by the government of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

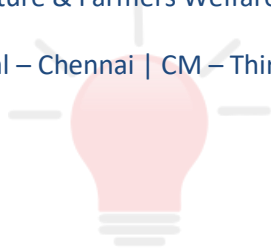
Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh (Rs. 6 Cr) + ADB (Rs. 9 Cr) = to improve the infrastructure in Mandi district (Rs. 15 Cr)
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68

578. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has approved subsidised loans worth Rs 3,971.31 Cr for implementing micro-irrigation projects, and maximum loan worth Rs 1,357.93 Cr has been approved for Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Ministry approved loans worth Rs 3,971.31 Cr for implementing micro-irrigation projects
- Maximum loan worth Rs 1,357.93 Cr has been approved for – Tamil Nadu
- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare – Narendra Singh Tomar (Constituency – Morena, MP)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



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Ranks, Reports & Surveys

579. India is the 15th most employable country in the world, as per the “Employability Ranking 2020” published by the Times Higher Education (THE). The most employable institute in India is IIT-Delhi which has attained the 27th rank worldwide. The report termed IIT-Delhi as “a microcosm of India’s success story in the past 10 years”. California Institute of Technology is the most Employable Institutes in the World. And the USA is the most employable country in the world. The ranking was last published in 2010. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Employability Ranking 2020” – published by the Times Higher Education (THE)
- Most employable country: 1st – USA | India – 15th
- Most employable institute: 1st – California Institute of Technology | IIT Delhi – 27th (1st in India)

580. India has added 438 MW of solar in the Q3 of 2020, a 114% rise over last quarter’s 205 MW, according to Mercom India Research’s newly released “Q3 2020 India Solar Market Update”. The report showed that solar installations were still about 80% lower from the same quarter in 2019, which saw 2,177 MW of solar capacity additions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – added 438 MW of solar in the Q3 of 2020 – according to Mercom Communications India
- Addition of solar capacity: In Q3 2019 – 2,177 MW | In Q3 2020 – 438 MW (80% lower than Q3 2019)
- HQs of Mercom Communications India – Bangalore, India | MD – Priyadarshini Sanjay



Acquisitions & Mergers

581. Four banks - Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Indian Bank & South Indian Bank have acquired 6.67% stake each in financial technology firm IBBIC. All these banks have acquired 6.67% stake each (representing 50,000 equity shares) in IBBIC for a cash consideration of Rs 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank, Axis Bank, Indian Bank & South Indian Bank = acquired 6.67% stake in IBBIC
- Cash consideration – Rs 5 lakh

582. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of the Future Group by Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) & Reliance Retail and Fashion Lifestyle Limited (RRVL WOS) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI approved acquisition of the “Future Group” – by RRVL + RRVL WOS
- CCI HQs – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani
- HQs of Future Group Business – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kishore Biyani



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MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

583. The Indian School of Business (ISB) and Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) have signed an MoU to promote and support activities that contribute to better understanding and relations between India and global partners. ISB and ICWA will soon set up a 'learning table' involving experts and stakeholders from industry, government and academia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISB + ICWA = an MoU to promote and support research activities in the areas of International Relations
- ISB located at – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Harish Manwani
- HQs of ICWA – New Delhi | Director General – TCA Raghavan

584. Delhi government signed an MoU with “YuWaah” initiative of UNICEF to connect 10 million youth of Delhi with jobs. The partnership will make Delhi government’s ‘Rozgaar Bazaar’ portal a robust one-stop solution for young people seeking jobs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi + YuWaah (UNICEF) = an MoU to help youth find jobs via government’s ‘Rozgaar Bazaar’ portal
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

585. The Delhi government and the Centre for Effective Governance of Indian States (CEGIS) have signed an MoUs for carrying out a detailed study of measures for state revenue. It is an important step in the Delhi government's resolve to bring in tax reforms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi + CEGIS = an MoU for carrying out a detailed study of measures for state revenue
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev
- HQs of CEGIS – Dhaka, Bangladesh | MD – Smita Mathur Jha

586. Infosys and the ATP (the governing body of the men’s professional tennis circuits) have announced the renewal of their partnership for another 3 years. As the technology partner of the ATP since 2015, Infosys has been supporting ATP’s development of key digital assets and infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Infosys + ATP = announced the renewal of their partnership for another 3 years
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Salil Parekh



587. Mastercard and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced their partnership to launch “Project Kirana” to enable women entrepreneurs to launch, grow and thrive under the Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP) Initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + USAID = partnership to launch “Project Kirana”
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 - Michael Miebach)
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Mark Green

588. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) and 8 leading oil & gas marketing companies & technology providers have signed MoUs to establish 900 Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plants across India under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative with an outlay of Rs 30,000 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoPNG + 8 leading oil & Gas marketing companies = signed MoUs to establish 900 Compressed Bio-Gas plants
- Under – “SATAT” Initiative | Outlay of the project – Rs 30,000 Cr
- SATAT – Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

589. The UNICEF, International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India, Alive and Thrive, Nutrition International and ARTIST For Her & Pregnancy and Obesity Nutrition Initiative (PONI) have partnered to strengthen the implementation of the revolutionary “POSHAN Abhiyaan” or “National Nutrition Mission” (NNM) - a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6 International Organisations = partnered to strengthen the implementation of “POSHAN Abhiyaan”
- “POSHAN Abhiyaan” or “NNM” – a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women and Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Constituency – Amethi, UP)

590. The Odisha government has signed an MoU with Prasanti Medical Services and Research Foundation (PMSRF) for extension of free cardiac treatment services to the poor children. The agreement will remain in force for the next 2 years at Satya Sai Heart Hospital in Ahmedabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha + PMSRF = an MoU for extension of free cardiac treatment services to the poor children
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



591. Three MoUs were signed on the occasion of the first ever “India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit”. State Bank of India has signed an MoU with the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSe). India International Exchange (India INX) and Luxembourg Stock Exchange signed MoU for cooperation in financial services industry. Invest India and Luxinnovation also signed an MoU on this occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI + Luxembourg Stock Exchange = an MoU
- India INX + Luxembourg Stock Exchange = an MoU
- Invest India + Luxinnovation = an MoU
- Luxembourg – Luxembourg – Euro
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia



Books & Authors

592. The book “Balochistan: Bruised, Battered and Bloodied”, published by Bloomsbury India, was released on November 28. The book is authored by an Italian journalist Francesca Marino. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Balochistan: Bruised, Battered and Bloodied” book – authored by ‘Francesca Marino’ (Italian journalist)

593. Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Prakash Javadekar have unveiled 2 books “The Republican Ethic Volume III” and “Loktantra Ke Swar” on November 19. The books are the collection of President Ram Nath Kovind's selected speeches, including the one on the country's efforts to fight COVID-19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh & Prakash Javadekar released books – “The Republican Ethic Volume III” & “Loktantra Ke Swar”
- The books are the collection of selected speeches of – President Ram Nath Kovind



Obituaries

594. Veteran Congress leader and a 3-term former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi has passed away recently in November. He was 84. He was chief minister of the state from 2001 to 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tarun Gogoi – a Politician – passed away (3-term former Assam Chief Minister)
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



Science & Technology

595. Pfizer and BioNTech have completed the trial of their coronavirus vaccine called “BNT162b2” with 95% effectiveness in preventing Covid-19. It becomes highly effective against the virus 28 days after the first dose, and its effectiveness was consistent across all ages, races and ethnicities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pfizer & BioNTech – completed the trial of their coronavirus vaccine - “BNT162b2” with 95% effectiveness
- HQs of Pfizer – New York, USA | CEO – Albert Bourla
- HQs of BioNTech – Germany | CEO – Ugur Sahin

596. A Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts at a mountain in northwest Pakistan’s Swat district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1,300 years old Hindu temple – discovered in Swat district of Pakistan
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

597. The US Food and Drug Administration has approved the first Covid-19 self-testing kit for home use that provides results within 30 minutes. It is made by Lucira Health. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – approved the first Covid-19 self-testing kit for home use (result within 30 minutes)
- It is made by – Lucira Health
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

598. A new species of mushroom named “Roridomyces phyllostachydis” was discovered in Meghalaya’s Jaintia Hills district. It is a new species of mushroom that emits bright green light in the dark. It is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Roridomyces phyllostachydis” a new species of mushroom – discovered in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

599. The Copernicus “Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich” satellite, designed to monitor oceans, was launched from the Vandenberg Air Force base in California aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on November 21. It has been developed jointly by the European Space Agency (ESA) & the NASA. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich” satellite – launched in California, USA (with SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket)
- Developed by – ESA + NASA
- HQs of ESA – Paris, France | CEO – Johann-Dietrich Worner
- HQs NASA – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

600. Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit has promulgated an ordinance to ban online gaming in the State, providing for the levy of a ₹5,000 fine and 6 months' imprisonment for those found to be engaging in it. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – promulgated an ordinance to ban online gaming (₹5,000 fine & 6 months' imprisonment)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit





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