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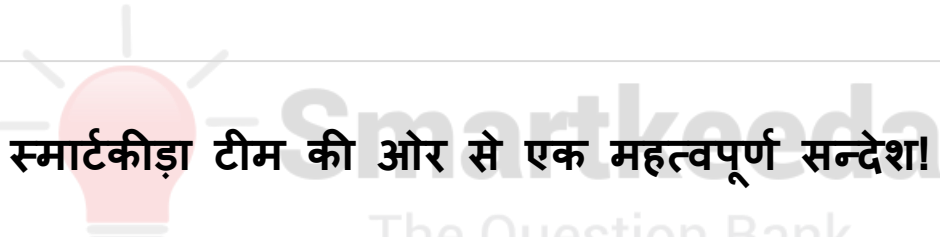
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of November 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

601. Tamil Nadu CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami has launched “Thee”, a mobile phone-based application for the benefit of the general public to reach out to the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services when in need. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched “Thee” app to support the general public to reach out Fire and Rescue Services
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

602. Andhra Pradesh has launched “Abhayam” mobile phone application which helps women and children travelling in taxis and auto-rickshaws, to raise alarm in case of any emergency. To start with, 1,000 auto-rickshaws equipped with Internet-of-Things (IoT)-enabled GPS devices will be rolled out in Visakhapatnam city. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched “Abhayam” app to help women and children travelling in taxis and auto-rickshaws
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

603. Karnataka government has issued a notification on renaming “Haveri railway station” as “Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station” after freedom fighter Mahadeva Mailar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka issued a notification – to rename “Haveri railway station” as “Mahadevappa Mailara Railway Station”
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

604. India’s longest water tunnel - “Parwan tunnel” will become operational by January 2021. The 8.75km-long tunnel will pass through the hilly tract connecting Jhalawar and Baran districts of Rajasthan. The tunnel has been constructed at a cost of Rs 299 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Parwan tunnel” - India’s longest water tunnel – to become operational by January 2021 (located in – Rajasthan)
- Length – 8.75 km | Cost – Rs 299 Cr



• Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

605. The Karnataka government has renamed the Government Medical College and Research Centre in the premises of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Bengaluru as “Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre”. The Bowring Civil Hospital for men was established in 1867. The Lady Curzon Hospital was established in the late 1890s for women and children. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute – named after ‘Atal Bihari Vajpayee’
- The institute is located in – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

606. The Karnataka government has set a target to become a USD 50 billion biotechnology market by 2025, contributing to half of the national bio-economy projected to be achieved by then. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka set a target to become a USD 50 billion biotechnology market by 2025
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

607. Ministry of Tourism has organised a webinar on ‘India’s Hidden Gems’ under Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series on November 21, 2020. The webinar was presented by Bindu Menon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Tourism – organised a webinar on ‘India’s Hidden Gems’ – under ‘Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series’
- Prahlad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture

608. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has inaugurated ‘Padharo Mhare Des’ digital COVID relief concert series to support the folk artists of the state. ‘Padharo Mhare Des’ series will feature 70 folk artists from the interiors of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, and Barmer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan – inaugurated ‘Padharo Mhare Des’ digital COVID relief concert series to support the folk artists
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra



609. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued an order under “Section 69A” of the “Information Technology Act” blocking access to 43 mobile apps majorly including Chinese applications, citing threat to national security, integrity and sovereignty. This is in addition to a total of 177 Chinese apps banned till now. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – issued an order blocking access to 43 mobile apps under “Section 69A” of “Information Technology Act”
- Total number of Chinese apps banned till now = 220 apps (177 +43)
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

610. Food Processing minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated “Sukhjit Mega Food Park” in Kapurthala district of Punjab that will benefit 25,000 farmers and create 5,000 jobs. This MFP is built at project cost of Rs 107.83 Cr and it is equipped with warehouses, silos, cold storage, deep freezer and other related food processing facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated “Sukhjit Mega Food Park” – in Kapurthala, Punjab
- Narendra Singh Tomar – Ministry of Food Processing Industries (Morena, MP)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

611. Daily working hours can extend up to 12 hours, according to the Employment Draft Rules, notified for the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH & WC) by Ministry of Labour. The OSH & WC rules will supersede 13 existing central labour law rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Daily working hours can extend up to 12 hours – according to the Code on OSH & WC
- OSH & WC – Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions – released by Ministry of Labour
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment – Santosh Gangwar

612. The First ever Cow hospital of Northeast is inaugurated in Assam’s Dibrugarh. The hospital “Surbhi Aarogyashala” is set up by Shree Gopal Gaushala at a cost of Rs 17 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The First ever Cow hospital of Northeast “Surbhi Aarogyashala” is inaugurated in – Dibrugarh, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



613. The 10th Edition of prestigious ‘Science Film Festival’ has kicked off in a virtual mode. This year, the 4-day long festival is being jointly organized by Vigyan Prasar and the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 10th Edition of prestigious ‘Science Film Festival’ kicked off in a virtual mode
- It was organized by – Vigyan Prasar & the Tripura State Council of Science and Technology

614. Indian Railway has launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS). Vinod Kumar Yadav has launched HRMS modules of Employee Self Service, PF Advance and Retirement Settlement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railway – launched a completely digitized online Human Resource Management System (HRMS)
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav

615. Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot has e-launched a “National Portal for Transgender Persons” and e-inaugurated a “Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons” in Vadodara, Gujarat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Thaawarchand Gehlot – e-launched “National Portal for Transgender Persons” – in Vadodara, Gujarat
- He also – e-inaugurated “Garima Greh: A Shelter Home for Transgender Persons” – in Vadodara, Gujarat
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment – Thawar Chand Gehlot (Shajapur, Madhya Pradesh)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

616. The SEBI has enhanced the penalty against 3 rating agencies - ICRA, CARE and India Ratings and Research to Rs 1 Cr each for their lapses in giving credit rating to non- convertible debentures of IL&FS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – enhanced the penalty against - ICRA, CARE and India Ratings and Research to Rs 1 Cr each
- For their lapses in giving credit rating to non- convertible debentures of – IL & FS
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi



617. Kia Motors India has launched a complete contactless, paperless aftersales and personalised vehicle service for its customers, in view of safety concerns amid COVID-19. Kia Motors India is also launching a new 'My Convenience' service initiative for personalised vehicle maintenance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kia Motors India – launched a complete contactless, paperless aftersales and personalised vehicle service
- HQs of Kia Motors India – Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh | CEO – Kookhyun Shim

618. Indian Oil R&D Centre has developed Robust Technology on Bio-methanation and has signed MoU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a technology provider for the upcoming CBG Plants. Indian Oil Corporation is the first company to market Compressed Bio-Gas from 10 retail outlets spread across Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat, under the brand name “Indi Green”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Oil R&D Centre – developed Robust Technology on Bio-methanation
- Indian Oil R&D Centre + MoPNG = an MoU as a technology provider for the upcoming CBG Plants
- Indian Oil Corp Ltd – the 1st company to market CBG from 10 retail outlets – under “Indi Green” brand name
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya



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International Affairs

619. On November 22, 2020, the United States has officially withdrawn from the 'Open Skies Treaty'. The US submitted notice of withdrawal from the Treaty on Open Skies on May 22, 2020. The Open Skies Treaty was signed in Helsinki by 23 member nations of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in March 1992. It entered into force on January 2, 2002. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – officially withdrew from the 'Open Skies Treaty'
- The Open Skies Treaty – signed in 1992 & entered into force in – 2002
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

620. Disney has recently launched its own online store "ShopDisney" in India. The eCommerce platform will also offer licensed merchandise inspired by popular Disney characters and more. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Disney – launched its own online store "ShopDisney" in India
- HQs of The Walt Disney Company – California, USA | CEO – Bob Chapek

621. The China has issued a strong statement against the Five-Eyes alliance's criticism of their Hong Kong policy. The Five-Eyes is an intelligence alliance comprising the US, Canada, Britain, Australia, and New Zealand. The Chinese Foreign ministry also attacked Australia in a 14-point letter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – issued a strong statement against the Five-Eyes alliance's criticism of their Hong Kong policy
- The Five-Eyes Alliance – US, Canada, Britain, Australia & New Zealand
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

622. A bipartisan resolution recognising the cultural and religious significance of an autonomous Tibet and seeking peaceful solutions to the conflict has been passed by the US House of Representatives. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA passed – a bipartisan resolution recognising the cultural and religious significance of an autonomous Tibet
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden



623. The United Nations has adopted a resolution calling for the urgent solution of the Rohingya crisis. The resolution tabled by the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and European Union (EU) was adopted by a majority of 132 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- United Nations – adopted a resolution calling for the urgent solution of the ‘Rohingya crisis’
- The resolution was tabled by – OIC & EU
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres



Banking & Economic Affairs

624. ICCI (Inventivepreneur Chamber of Commerce and Industries) has signed an MoU with HDFC Bank in its endeavour to support SMEs and start-ups in India. To make this a success, ICCI and HDFC Bank will jointly conduct various networking activities, awareness camps, interactive sessions and business events. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICCI + HDFC Bank = an MoU to support SMEs and start-ups in India
- HQs of ICCI – New Delhi | President – Ritika Yadav
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”

625. State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a 51.9% Year-on-Year (YoY) rise in net profit for the quarter ended September at Rs 4,574.16 Cr. The bank had reported a net profit of Rs 3,011.73 Cr in the same quarter a year ago. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – reported 51.9% year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit for the quarter ended September – at Rs 4,574.16 Cr
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

626. YES Bank in collaboration with French payment services company Worldline has launched an “SMS Pay” functionality on POS terminals, which enables merchants to accept contactless payments from customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- YES Bank + Worldline = launched an “SMS Pay” functionality on POS terminals
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Worldline – Bezons, France | CEO – Gilles Grapinet



Defence Affairs

627. Secretary of Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of DRDO, G. Satheesh Reddy has flagged off the first “Varunastra”, the heavy weight Anti-submarine Torpedo. It was delivered to the Indian Navy, at a ceremony held at BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited), Visakhapatnam unit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G. Satheesh Reddy – flagged off the first heavy weight Anti-submarine Torpedo - “Varunastra”
- It is designed & developed by – DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

628. Indian Army has launched “Operation 500” in Jammu and Kashmir against Pakistan's terrorists. It has been revealed that 500 terrorists are being trained by Pakistan to infiltrate in Jammu and Kashmir from different launchpads across the LoC. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – launched “Operation 500” in Jammu and Kashmir against Pakistan's terrorists
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



Schemes & Initiatives

629. West Bengal has launched two schemes “Duare Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar” (West Bengal government at every doorstep) for redressing grievances of people at the block level & “Karmai Dharma” (Work is worship) for providing motorbikes to youths to help them run small businesses. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- West Bengal – launched two schemes “Duare Duare Paschim Banga Sarkar” & “Karmai Dharma”
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

630. The Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has relaxed conditions for seeking claims for unemployment benefits, doing away with requirement to submit affidavit form by claimants under “Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana” (ABVKY) of the ESIC. The ESIC in its meeting held on August 20, 2020 had extended the scheme ‘Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana’ from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. It was also decided to enhance the rate of relief under the scheme from present 25% of the average daily earning to 50% of average daily earning. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ESIC relaxed conditions for seeking claims for unemployment benefits
- No requirement to submit affidavit form by claimants under – “Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana” of ESIC
- The scheme ‘Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana’ was extended – to June 30, 2021 (from July 1, 2020 earlier)
- ESIC had increased the rate of unemployment relief – to 50% of average daily earning (from 25% earlier)
- HQs of ESIC – New Delhi | Director General – Ms. Anuradha Prasad

631. Himachal Pradesh has launched “Him Suraksha Abhiyan” door to door campaign to sensitize the people regarding Covid-19 pandemic and also to collect information regarding symptoms of diseases like TB, Leprosy, sugar and blood pressure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – launched “Him Suraksha Abhiyan” door to door campaign
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya



Sports & Games

632. Daniil Medvedev of Russia has defeated Dominic Thiem to lift the 51st Edition of “ATP Tour Finals-2020” trophy officially known as “2020 Nitto ATP Finals” and became the 5th player to win this tournament for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Daniil Medvedev (Russia-Tennis) – won the 51st Edition of “ATP Tour Finals-2020” trophy
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

633. Former 1,500 metres world champion Elijah Manangoi of Kenya has been handed a 2-year ban by the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after missing 3 tests under whereabouts rules. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Elijah Manangoi (Kenya) – a Middle Distance Runner – handed a 2-year ban by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling
- HQs of World Athletics – Monaco | President – Sebastian Coe

634. FIFA has drafted Rules to protect maternity rights of its female football players under new employment rules. The governing body of soccer is preparing to mandate clubs to allow at least 14 weeks of maternity leave paid at a minimum two-thirds of a player's full salary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FIFA – drafted Rules to protect maternity rights of its female football players
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

635. Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) has banned professional tennis player Aleksandrina Naydenova from Bulgaria for life and fined her \$150,000. The player, whose highest career ranking had been 218, was suspended in December 2019 and now has been banned. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aleksandrina Naydenova (Bulgaria-Tennis) – banned for lifetime & fined \$150,000 – by TIU
- HQs of TIU – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray
- Bulgaria – Sofia – Lev | President – Rumen Radev



Important Days & Dates

636. PM Narendra Modi has attended the 100th Centennial Foundation Day celebration of the University of Lucknow and released a centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 and a special commemorative postal stamp on the occasion via video conferencing on November 25. The Lucknow University was established in 1920. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – attended the 100th Centennial Foundation Day celebration of the ‘University of Lucknow’
- He also released a centennial commemorative coin of Rs.100 and a special commemorative postal stamp

637. The UNESCO's “World Heritage Week” is celebrated every year from November 19th to 25th in order to raise awareness about values, recognise the richness in our culture and promote conservation of our heritage. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 19 to 25 – UNESCO's World Heritage Week
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

638. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has commenced “Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020” from November 23 to 27. The week-long celebration was observed at all airports and ANS locations managed by AAI across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 23 to 27 – “Aviation Safety Awareness Week 2020” – by AAI
- HQs of AAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Arvind Singh

639. Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Guru of Sikhs, was observed on 24 November across the country. The martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur is remembered as Shaheedi Divas every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 24 – “Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur” or “Shaheedi Divas”
- Guru Tegh Bahadur – 9th Guru of Sikhs

640. “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women” is observed every year across the globe on November 25 to bring attention to this serious concern and bring an end to persistent violence against



women and girls. The day was designated by the United Nations General Assembly. This year the theme is “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- Theme – “Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect”

641. On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution of India, and it came into effect on January 26, 1950. Therefore, January 26 is celebrated as “Republic Day” and November 26 has been observed as the “Constitution Day” or “Samvidhan Divas” or “National Law Day” since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 26 – 71st “Constitution Day” or “Samvidhan Divas” or “National Law Day” – since 2015
- On November 26, 1949 – the Constitution of India was adopted (Effective from – January 26, 1950)

642. Every year India celebrates the “National Milk Day” on November 26. India is the largest producer of milk and this day celebrates the importance the calcium-rich drink holds in our life. The day is basically dedicated to honour Dr Verghese Kurien, who is known as the father of India's White Revolution. This year marks his 99th Birth Anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 26 – “National Milk Day”
- Dedicated to – 99th Birth Anniversary of ‘Dr Verghese Kurien’ (The father of India's White Revolution)
- India – the largest producer of milk in the world

643. Every year, the World Investor Week (WIW) is celebrated from November 23-29 by IOSCO (International Organization of Securities Commissions). The SEBI has been participating in the celebrations as the national coordinator since 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- November 23-29 – “World Investor Week” - by IOSCO (SEBI participating as national coordinator since 2017)
- HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

644. PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020) on November 26 to woo investors for investing in clean energy in India. India has set an ambitious target of having 175GW of renewable energy by 2022 and 450GW by 2030. During the last 6 years, over Rs 4.7 lakh Cr were invested. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-INVEST 2020)
- Targets of renewable Energy: 175GW by 2022 & 450GW by 2030

645. Over 2,000 representatives from 132 countries attended the virtual 4th “Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies” organised by the Interpol, Europol and the Basel Institute on Governance (Switzerland) from November 18 to 19. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th “Global Conference on Criminal Finances and Cryptocurrencies” – from November 18 to 19
- The Conference was organised by = Interpol, Europol & Basel Institute on Governance (Switzerland)
- HQs of Interpol – Lyon, France | President – Kim Jong Yang
- HQs of Europol – The Hague, Netherlands | Executive Director – Catherine De Bolle

646. The 27th “Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting - 2020” was held virtually on November 20 under the Chairmanship of Malaysia. The Meeting was held with a theme “Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity Pivot Prioritise Progress”. The 2020 Kuala Lumpur Declaration and APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 were issued afterward, marking the result of the meeting. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Malaysia – hosted the 27th “APEC Leaders’ Meeting - 2020” on November 20
- Theme – “Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity Pivot Prioritise Progress”
- HQs of APEC – Singapore | Chairperson – Muhyiddin Yassin | Founded in – 1989 | Countries – 21

647. The 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar was held virtually. The Meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister for Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Dr. Than Myint and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 7th Joint Trade Committee Meeting between India and Myanmar – co-chaired by ‘Piyush Goyal’



- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint

648. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the “PRAGATI” meeting. It marked Prime Minister’s 33rd interaction through PRAGATI - the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – chaired the 33rd “PRAGATI” meeting



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

649. Netflix's India Original series "Delhi Crime", directed by Indian-Canadian director Richie Mehta, has won the best 'Drama Series' honour at the 48th International Emmy Awards. The rest of the awards were given category wise as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 48th International Emmy Awards:
- Best Drama Series – "Delhi Crime" (India) (directed by – Richie Mehta)
- Best Actress – Glenda Jackson (UK)
- Best Actor – Billy Barratt (UK)
- Best Documentary – "For Sama" (UK)

650. "Transboundary Manas Conservation Area" has received the "TX2" Conservation Excellence Award for 2020 for efforts to increase the big cat population. TX2 stands for "Tigers times two", signaling the goal to double the population of wild tigers by 2022. The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) has won the first-ever international award "TX2" for doubling the number of tigers (from 25 to 65) in 4 years against a target of 10 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (UP) – won the first-ever international award "TX2" for doubling the number of tigers
- Transboundary Manas Conservation Area (Assam & Bhutan) – received "TX2" Conservation Excellence Award
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

651. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have been nominated for the "Nobel Peace Prize-2021" for their roles in establishing diplomatic ties between their countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Benjamin Netanyahu & Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan = nominated for the "Nobel Peace Prize-2021"
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

652. Malayalam film "Jallikattu", directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery, has been selected as India's official entry for the Best International Feature Film category for the 93rd Academy Awards. Jallikattu is the third Malayalam film



after Guru (1997) and Adaminte Makan Abu (2011) to be chosen as the country's official entry for the Oscars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Jallikattu" (a Malayalam film) – selected as India's official entry for the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscars-2021)
- The film is direct by – Lijo Jose Pellissery



Appointments & Resignations

653. Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation. And Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh who is presently the Director-General of Border Roads Organisation, has been appointed as the new Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajeev Chaudhary – appointed as Director-General of the Border Roads Organisation
- Harpal Singh – appointed as Engineer-in-Chief of the Indian Army
- HQs of BRO – New Delhi | Director General – Major Gen Rajeev Chaudhary

654. PagorBook, a staff management solutions provider company, has signed Bollywood star Akshay Kumar as its Brand Ambassador till 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'PagorBook' till 2022
- HQs of PagorBook – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co Founder – Rupesh Kumar Mishra

655. New Zealand's Greg Barclay has been elected as the International Cricket Council's new independent Chairman. He will replace Interim Chairman Imran Khwaja. He was also a director of the men's World Cup that was jointly held by Australia and New Zealand in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Greg Barclay (New Zealand) – elected as the new Chairman of – International Cricket Council (ICC)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Manu Sawhney

656. President Roch Marc Christian Kabore has won the 2nd term for another five years as Burkina Faso's President. Kabore has won with nearly 58% of the vote, beating 12 opponents and claiming victory in the first round. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Roch Marc Christian Kabore – won the 2nd term as President of – Burkina Faso
- Burkina Faso – Ouagadougou – CFA franc | President – Roch Marc Christian Kabore



Amount & Agreements

657. India has unveiled new development initiatives for Afghanistan, including a dam to supply water to Kabul and 150 community projects worth \$80 million. India has signed an agreement with Afghanistan to build 'Shahtoot Dam' on Maidan River. [{Read more}](#)

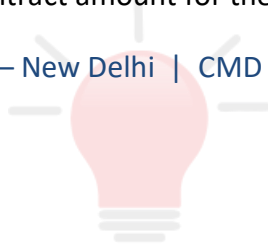
Key Points:

- India + Afghanistan = an agreement to build 'Shahtoot Dam' – on Maidan River – in Kabul City
- Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | President – Ashraf Ghani

658. Iacon International Ltd has received a Rs 723 Cr work order from the National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited (NCRTC). The accepted contract amount for the "Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor" is approximately Rs 405 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iacon International Ltd – received a Rs 723 Cr work order from NCRTC
- The accepted contract amount for the "Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor" – Rs 405 Cr
- HQs of Iacon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary



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Ranks, Reports & Surveys

659. According to the report titled “FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond” by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ernst & Young Global Ltd (EY), India can expect to attract \$120-160 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) annually by 2025 if it manages to increase the FDI to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio between 3-4% from less than 2% now. In States-wise, Maharashtra remains the most attractive destination (28%), followed by Karnataka (19%), Delhi (16%) and Gujarat (10%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond” report – released by CII + EY
- India may attract \$120-160 billion of FDI annually by 2025 – if FDI to GDP ratio remains between 3-4%
- Maharashtra – the most attractive destination for FDI
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio

660. The Indian government has sent the highest ever user data requests to Facebook, second only to the US, in the first 6 months of 2020, according to Facebook's biannual transparency report released on November 19. Facebook has provided data in 50% of the total requests received from the Indian government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India (35,560) – ranked 2nd in terms of requesting ‘Facebook User Data’ during the first half of 2020
- 1st – USA (61,528) | Total request globally – 1,73,592 (increase of 23%)
- HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg

661. Uttar Pradesh was awarded as best performing state in inland fisheries sector while Odisha got the award of the Best Marine state on the occasion of 'World Fisheries Day' by the Department of Fisheries. The rest of the awards were given category wise which are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- States: Uttar Pradesh – Best Inland state | Odisha – Best Marine state | Assam – Best Hilly and NE state
- Districts: Kalahandi – Best Inland District | Krishna – Best Marine District | Nagaon – Best Hilly and NE District

662. Elon Musk, the Tesla Inc co-founder, has passed Bill Gates to become the world's second-richest person. His net worth soared \$7.2 billion to \$127.9 billion. He has added \$100.3 billion to his net worth this year, the



most of anyone on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of the world's 500 richest people. In January he ranked 35th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Bloomberg Billionaires Index” as on November 24
- 1st – Jeff Bezos (\$187 Billion) | 2nd – Elon Musk (\$140 Billion) | 3rd – Bill Gates (\$129 Billion)



Acquisitions & Mergers

663. Bharti Airtel has acquired 5.2% stake in solar power company Avaada MHBuldhana, a subsidiary of Avaada Energy Private Limited (AEPL) for Rs 4.55 Cr. AEPL has developed a portfolio of over 1 GW solar and wind projects across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel – acquired 5.2% stake in Avaada MHBuldhana – for Rs 4.55 Cr
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal
- HQs of AEPL – Mumbai, MH | General Manager – Deepesh Gupta

664. Union Cabinet has approved merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) was put under a 30-day moratorium by the RBI and it was lifted on November 27. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Union Cabinet approved merger of – Lakshmi Vilas Bank with DBS Bank India
- HQs of LVB – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Subramanian Sundar
- HQs of DBS bank India – Mumbai | MD & National Head – Prashant Joshi | CEO – Surojit Shome

665. Bengaluru-based hospital chain Manipal Hospitals has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals for an undisclosed sum. According to sources, the deal size may be around Rs 2,100 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipal Hospitals (Bengaluru) – to acquire Columbia Asia Hospitals (for around Rs 2,100 Cr)

666. AU Small Finance Bank Ltd has sold 35 lakh shares of Aavas Financiers Ltd worth Rs 530 Cr through an open market transaction. AU Small Finance Bank and Nomura India Investment Fund Mother Fund held 4.57% and 1.53% stake, respectively, in Aavas Financiers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU Small Finance Bank Ltd – sold 35 lakh shares (worth Rs 530 Cr) – of Aavas Financiers Ltd
- HQs of AU Small Finance Bank – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of Aavas Financiers Ltd – Jaipur, Rajasthan | CEO – Sushil Kumar Agarwal



667. Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd will acquire nearly 19.95% stake in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC (Asset Reconstruction Company) Private Ltd for Rs 49,87,500. Renaissance Investment was incorporated as a private limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd will acquire nearly 19.95% stake (Rs 49,87,500) – in Renaissance Investment Solutions ARC
- HQs of HDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Deepak Parekh | CEO – Keki Mistry

668. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved FDI worth Rs 2,480.92 Cr into ATC Telecom Infrastructure Pvt Ltd by ATC Asia Pacific PTE limited (ATC Singapore) for a stake of 12.31%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved FDI worth Rs 2,480.92 Cr in ATC Telecom Infrastructure – by ATC Asia Pacific PTE for 12.31% stake



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

669. FLO (the women wing of the FICCI) has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong and Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre (IESC) to mentor women entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FLO FICCI + IIM Shillong = an MoU to mentor women entrepreneurs
- IESC – functions under the aegis of IIM Shillong
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Sangita Reddy

670. Muthoot Finance has tied up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to provide insurance on Gold jewellery as part of their new initiative – “Muthoot Gold Shield”, which is backed and powered by Group Affinity All Risk policy of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Muthoot Finance + Bajaj Allianz General Insurance = partnership to provide insurance on Gold jewellery
- HQs of Muthoot Finance – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – George Alexander Muthoot
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Gen. Ins.– Pune, MH | CEO – Tapan Singhel

671. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company and NSDL Payments Bank Limited have announced their partnership to offer a whole range of general insurance products to the bank's customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC ERGO + NSDL Payments Bank = partnership to offer a whole range of general insurance products
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Kumar
- HQs of NSDL – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – G.V. Nageswara Rao

672. Indian Railways has collaborated with the Indian School of Business (ISB) for a study on ‘An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimisation Model’ to increase Network throughput. A letter of acceptance was exchanged between the SCR’s principal chief operations manager Shiva Prasad and ISB deputy dean Milind Sohoni. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways + ISB = collaboration for a study on ‘An Integrated Coal-Freight Optimisation Model’
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman – Vinod Kumar Yadav



- ISB located at – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Harish Manwani

673. India and the USA have extended the MoU for cooperation on Nuclear Energy for 10 more years at the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP). This MoU was signed on November 7, 2010 in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + USA = extended the MoU for cooperation on Nuclear Energy for 10 more years – at GCNEP
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden

674. India Post Payments bank (IPPB) has tied-up with PNB MetLife India Insurance, for its customers availing the ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’ (PMJJBY). This scheme provides protection and financial security to the poor and underprivileged since 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB + PNB MetLife India = tie up to launch ‘Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana’
- PMJJBY: Launched in – 2015 | Age group – 18 to 50 years | Life cover of – Rs. 2 Lakh
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu
- HQs of PNB MetLife India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ashish K Srivastava

675. HDFC Life insurance and HDFC Ergo General Insurance have joined hands to launch a combi product “Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach” - a single policy with term & COVID-19 health cover, with HDFC Life’s Click 2 Protect 3D Plus (C2P3D Plus) and HDFC Ergo’s Corona Kavach. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Life Insurance + HDFC Ergo General Insurance = partnership to launch “Click 2 Protect Corona Kavach”
- HQs of HDFC Life Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vibha Padalkar
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Ritesh Kumar

676. The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council has signed an MoU with the Suresh Raina Cricket Academy to develop budding cricketers of J&K for the national and international level with comprehensive training programme at a professional level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council + Suresh Raina Cricket Academy = an MoU to develop budding cricketers



677. JBM Renewables has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) for setting up 500 compressed biogas (CBG) projects across India. It will work jointly with MoPNG on the SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JBM Renewables + MoPNG = an MoU for setting up 500 CBG projects across India
- It will work as a part of SATAT initiative which aims to set up 900 CBG plants now & 5000 CBG plants by FY24
- HQs of JBM Group – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – S K Arya

678. A Letter of Understanding (LoU) has been signed between the Rajasthan government and United Nation's World Food Programme (WFP) for proposed participation to achieve food and nutritional security goals. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajasthan + UNWFP = an LoU to achieve food and nutritional security goals
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36

679. The Union Cabinet has approved an MoU between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Netherlands-based Vereniging van Register controllers (VRC) for the Knowledge Base improvement of Accounting, Financial and Audit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Netherlands + ICAI = an MoU for the Knowledge Base improvement of Accounting, Financial and Audit
- HQs of ICAI – New Delhi | Chairman – Atul Kumar Gupta
- HQs of VRC – Netherlands
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro

680. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an MoU signed between BRICS countries on cooperation in the field of physical culture and sports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + BRICS = an MoU for cooperation in the field of Physical Culture and Sports



- BRICS Member Countries – 5 (Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa)
- Chairmanship of BRICS – Russia in 2020 & Indian in 2021

681. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has committed his partnership with India in its quest for a future with low carbon and pollution levels at a digital conference of the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) that was held on November 27. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel committed his partnership with India in its quest for a future with low carbon and pollution levels
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu

682. India has signed an MoU with Finland to develop cooperation in the field of environment protection and biodiversity conservation. The MoU was signed virtually by Prakash Javadekar and Finland's Environment Minister Krista Mikkonen. Prakash Javadekar stated that India will achieve its target of reducing 35% emissions intensity of its GDP well before the year 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Finland = to develop cooperation in the field of environment protection and biodiversity conservation
- Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

683. Razorpay has joined hands with Visa to launch “RazorpayX Corporate Cards” to help SMEs in India. RazorpayX Corporate Cards will help entrepreneurs set up recurring & non-recurring online payments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Razorpay + Visa = to launch “RazorpayX Corporate Cards”
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur
- HQs of Visa – Foster City, California | CEO – Alfred F. Kelly

Books & Authors

684. The much-loved Bhojpuri historical novel “Phoolsunghi”, written by veteran Bhojpuri writer Pandey Kapil, has now been translated into English by academic-writer Gautam Choubey. It will be published under Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Phoolsunghi” Bhojpuri historical novel – written by ‘Pandey Kapil’ & translated into English by ‘Gautam Choubey’

685. “Simply Fly: A Deccan Odyssey” is an autobiography authored by Captain G R Gopinath. In the book, Gopinath wrote about the struggles that he faced in his pursuit to launch a low-cost airline service. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Simply Fly: A Deccan Odyssey” autobiography – authored by ‘G R Gopinath’ (his own autobiography)

686. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism and first of its 10 gurus. The book has been penned by Kirpal Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – released a book on the life and ideals of Guru Nanak Dev (The founder of Sikhism)
- The book is authored by – ‘Kirpal Singh’



Obituaries

687. Noted Telugu poet, journalist, scriptwriter, and Kendra Sahitya Academy award winner Shaik Khaja Hussain (70) popularly known as Devi Priya, passed away on November 21. Devi Priya bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award 2017, for his book Gaali Rangu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaik Khaja Hussain – Telugu Poet, Journalist & Scriptwriter – passed away (Sahitya Academy Award-2017)

688. The co-creator of “Ice Bucket challenge” - a viral social media campaign, Patrick Quinn (Pat Quinn) has passed away recently in November. The campaign raised more than \$220 million for medical research into ALS. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pat Quinn (USA) – passed away (Co-creator of “Ice Bucket challenge”)

689. Renowned thespian Vishwa Mohan Badola has passed away due to age-related illness. The 84-year-old was a popular theatre actor before he started doing TV series and advertisements. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vishwa Mohan Badola – an Actor – passed away

690. Actor Ashiesh Roy has passed away recently in November. He was 55. Ashiesh Roy is known for appearing in television shows like Remix, Baa Bahu Aur Baby, Sasural Simar Ka, Mere Angne Mein and Aarambh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashiesh Roy – an Actor – passed away

691. Argentina football legend Diego Maradona has passed away recently in November. He was 60. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Diego Maradona (Argentina) – a Football Player – passed away
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso



692. Anele Ngcongca has passed away recently in November. He was 33. He was a former South Africa defender who played for the host team at the 2010 World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anele Ngcongca (South Africa) – a Football Player – passed away
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa

693. Faqir Chand Kohli, regarded as the father of Software (IT) Industry in India, has passed away recently. He was 96. Kohli was the founder and first chief executive officer of Indian software bellwether Tata Consultancy Services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Faqir Chand Kohli – Founder and first CEO of TCS – passed away (The father of Software (IT) Industry in India)
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan



Science & Technology

694. Ravi Shankar Prasad in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, has launched the International version of “UMANG app” its 3rd anniversary on 23rd November, 2020. It was launched by PM Narendra Modi in November 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ravi Shankar Prasad – launched the International version of “UMANG app” on its 3rd anniversary
- UMANG – Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)

695. China has successfully launched its first unmanned space mission “Chang'e-5” to collect samples from the moon's surface and return to earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched “Chang'e-5” lunar probe to collect samples from the moon's surface
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

696. Snap Inc has launched a new feature “Spotlight” that would allow users to share short-form videos publicly in its Snapchat app, adding a service that would compete with ByteDance-owned TikTok and Instagram Reels. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Snapchat – launched a new feature “Spotlight” to share short-form videos publicly
- HQs of Snapchat – USA | CEO – Evan Spiegel

697. Google has launched a new chat feature in its Messages service (SMS) based on the open Rich Communication Services (RCS) standard. Chat features upgrade SMS text messaging so that people can send and receive better quality photos and videos. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google launched a new chat feature on its SMS – based on RCS (Rich Communications Services)
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai



698. Google has launched a new application called “Task Mate” in India. Through the new application, the company will provide small random tasks to users and once the task is complete, the application will pay a certain amount to the user. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – launched a new application called “Task Mate” in India
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

699. For the 2nd time, Russia has successfully test-fired a “Tsirkon” Hypersonic Cruise Missile in the Arctic recently in November. It has successfully hit a naval target at a distance of 450 km. In early January, the same frigate test-fired a Tsirkon missile for the first time, striking a ground target over 500 km away. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – test-fired a “Tsirkon” Hypersonic Cruise Missile in the Arctic ocean (2nd time) (distance of 450 km)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

700. “The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance - 2020” was passed by the State Cabinet and was promulgated on November 27. Violation of the provisions of the law would invite a jail term of not less than one year, extendable to five years, with a fine of ₹15,000. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh passed – “Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance - 2020”
- In case of the Violation of the provisions: Jail of 1 to 5 years | Fine of ₹15,000
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel





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