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Full-Length Current Affairs Mock Test Series Month-wise

October MockDrill100 PDF No.4

(PDF in English)



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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of October 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

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

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



301. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

UN Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UN-IGME) has released a report titled "A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths". Stillbirths in 2019 were concentrated in India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Congo, China and Ethiopia, as per estimates released by UNICEF, the WHO, the World Bank Group and the Population Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. {Read more}

Key Points:

- "A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths" report released by UN-IGME
- HQs of UNICEF New York, United States | Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of WHO Geneva, Switzerland | DG Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries 194
- HQs of UNDES New York, USA | Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin

302. Amount & Agreements

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has inked loan agreement worth USD 570 million (about Rs 4,180 crore) with the Centre to fund public infrastructure building and strengthen Urban Local Bodies in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. {Read more}

Key Points:

- ADB + Indian Gov. inked loan agreement worth USD 570 million
- To fund public infrastructure building and strengthen ULBs in Rajasthan (\$300 mn) & Madhya Pradesh (\$270 mn)
- HQs of ADB Mandaluyong, Philippines | President Masatsugu Asakawa | VP Ashok Lavasa

303. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation (TAEF), a leading think tank from Taiwan has signed an MoU with India's National Maritime Foundation (NMF) in order to foster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region as part of Taiwan's South bound policy. {Read more}

Key Points:

- India's NMF + TAEF = an MoU to foster cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region
- Taiwan Taipei New Taiwan dollar | President Tsai Ing-wen

304. Appointments & Resignations

Eminent Indian-origin academician Srikant Datar has been named as Dean of Harvard Business School (HBS), succeeding Nitin Nohria and becoming the second consecutive dean hailing from India to lead the prestigious 112-year-old institution. {Read more}



Key Points:

- Srikant Datar (2nd Indian) named as Dean of Harvard Business School (by succeeding Nitin Nohria)
- HBS located in Boston, Massachusetts, USA | Dean Srikant Datar

305. National & States Affairs

A toll-free government helpline 1800-180-0018 for mental health "Mann Samvad" was launched recently in Rajasthan. {Read more}

Key Points:

- "Mann Samvad" a toll-free government helpline launched in Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital Jaipur | CM Ashok Gehlot | Governor Kalraj Mishra

306. National & States Affairs

The government has selected "Hughes Communications India" to connect 5,000 village panchayats in border and Naxal-affected states as well as in island territories with high-speed satellite broadband under 'BharatNet' project by March 2021. The 'BharatNet' network being created by Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL) along with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL). {Read more}

Key Points:

- BBNL & TCIL = selected 'Hughes Communications' to connect 5,000 village panchayats with Satellite broadband
- It will be done under 'BharatNet' project by March 2021
- The 'BharatNet' network created by = BBNL + TCIL
- HQs of BBNL New Delhi | MD & Chairman Sarvesh Singh
- HQs of TCIL New Delhi | CMD Rajiv Gupta

307. International Affairs

India and France were re-elected as the President and Co-President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the 3rd ISA Assembly. {Read more}

Key Points:

- India re-elected as the President of ISA for 2 years
- France re-elected as the Co-President of ISA
- HQs of ISA Gurugram, Haryana | DG Upendra Tripathy | Member Countries 121
- France Paris Euro | President Emmanuel Macron | New PM Jean Castex



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308. Acquisitions & Mergers

Infosys will acquire Blue Acorn iCi, an Adobe Platinum partner in the US for up to \$125 million. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Infosys to acquire Blue Acorn iCi for up to \$125 million
- HQs of Infosys Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO Salil Parekh

309. Important Days & Dates

Considering the concerns associated with the E-waste stream, the WEEE Forum (a not-for-profit association) has been observing the 3rd "International E-Waste Day" on October 14 since 2018. A recent report by the United Nation's "Global E-waste Monitor-2020" estimated that in last 5 years, the volume of E-waste increased by 21% globally. It has a doubling rate of 16 years. It has already set a record with a massive 53.6 million tonnes (MT) generated in 2019 alone. {Read more}

Key Points:

- October 14 3rd edition of "International E-Waste Day" by WEEE Forum since 2018
- Theme "Education"
- According to UN's report "Global E-waste Monitor-2020" 'E-waste' increased by 21% in last 5 years
- HQs of UN New York, United States | Director António Guterres

310. National & States Affairs

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has launched a dynamic, impact-based Cyclone Warning System aimed at minimising economic losses and damage to property from cyclones that hit the country's coasts every year. {Read more}

Key Points:

- IMD launched a dynamic, impact-based Cyclone Warning System
- HQs of IMD New Delhi | Director General Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

311. Sports & Games

American doll manufacturer Barbie has celebrated para-badminton champion Manasi Joshi with a one-ofa-kind (OOAK) Barbie doll modelled to her likeness on the International Day of Girl Child, on October 11. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Barbie (USA) - created a one-of-a-kind Barbie doll of - Manasi Joshi (Para-badminton)



312. International Affairs

India has joined the Five Eyes alliance and Japan governments in asking big tech companies to come up with a solution for law enforcement to access WhatsApp end-to-end encrypted chats. The Five Eyes intelligence alliance companies consist of the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. {Read more}

Key Points:

- India joined the "Five Eyes alliance"
- Members in Five Eyes intelligence alliance: US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand

313. Important Days & Dates

On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination to mark the long-standing relation of India with FAO. {Read more}

Key Points:

- October 16 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin of Rs 75 denomination on this occasion
- HQs of FAO Rome, Italy | DG QU Dongyu | Formation 16th October, 1945

314. Obituaries

Nagaland's Environment Minister C M Chang has died of Covid-19 complications. He was 77. He was retired IAS officer and former Member of Parliament. {Read more}

Key Points:

- C M Chang a Politician passed away (Nagaland's Environment Minister & former Member of Parliament)
- Nagaland: Capital Kohima | CM Neiphiu Rio | Governor Ravindra Narayana Ravi

315. Ordinance, Bills and Acts

President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the amended "Disturbed Areas Act" passed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly last year. The bill was brought by the BJP government in 2019. The Act bans sale of property by members of one religious community to those from another community without the prior approval of the district collector in areas declared as "disturbed areas". {Read more}

Key Points:

- Ram Nath Kovind = given his assent to the amended "Disturbed Areas Act" passed by the Gujarat L.A.
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Devvrat



316. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and Managing Director of Reliance Industries (RIL), has emerged as India's wealthiest for the 13th straight year as his net worth rose to \$88.7 billion (around Rs 6.65 lakh Cr), according to Forbes India Rich List 2020. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Mukesh Ambani – topped the "Forbes India Rich List 2020" for the 13th straight year (Net worth - \$88.7 billion)

• HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

317. Obituaries

Charlie Moore, the 400-meter hurdles champion at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, has passed away recently in October. He also set a world record of 51.6 in the 440 hurdles at the British Empire Games in London. He was 91. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Charlie Moore (USA) – an Athlete– passed away (400-meter Hurdles Champion at Helsinki Olympics-1952)

318. National & States Affairs

According to the government, the mines and minerals sector is a major employer in rural areas and its role as an essential service has been acknowledged during the coronavirus pandemic. The mining sector has the potential to create total employment for about five crore jobs by 2025. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Mining Sector has the potential to create total employment for about five crore jobs by 2025
- Mines and Minerals major Employers in rural areas in addition to 'Agriculture sector'
- Pralhad Joshi Minister of Coal, Minister of Mines (Constituency Dharwad, Karnataka)

319. Persons in News

Vijay Sethupathi is going to play the role of Sri Lankan spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan in the upcoming cricket biopic 800. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Vijay Sethupathi to play the role of 'Muttiah Muralitharan' in cricket biopic "800"
- Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka) Cricket Coach
- Sri Lanka Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte Sri Lankan rupee
- PM Mahinda Rajapaksa | President Gotabaya Rajapaksa

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320. Schemes & Initiatives

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has initiated "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme in a bid to empower the economically disadvantaged women of the State. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal initiated "Swa-nirbhar Naari: Atmanirbhar Asom" scheme
- Assam: Capital Dispur | CM Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor Jagdish Mukhi

321. Persons in News

Chaitanya Venkateswaran from New Delhi had the unique opportunity to spend as the UK's senior-most diplomat (British High Commissioner) in India for one day. It was held under the mission's initiative aimed at empowering and highlighting the challenges faced by women across the world. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Chaitanya Venkateswaran (New Delhi) became British High Commissioner for a day
- UK London Pound Sterling | PM of UK Boris Johnson

322. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Mastercard has announced a partnership with Signzy, a RegTech startup, to enable the latter's video-based KYC (Know Your Customer) solutions for its banking customers. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Mastercard + Signzy = to enable the latter's video-based KYC solutions for its banking customers
- HQs of Mastercard New York, USA | CEO Ajay Banga (From Jan 2021 Michael Miebach)
- HQs of Signzy Bengaluru, Karnataka | Co-Founder and Business Head Arpit Ratan

323. Amount & Agreements

The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on behalf of the Government of India has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 400 million for undertaking Greater Male's connectivity project in Maldives. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Exim Bank = LoC of \$400 million to Maldives for undertaking Greater Male's connectivity project
- HQs of EXIM Bank Mumbai | Chairman & MD TC Venkat Subramanian
- Maldives Male Maldivian rufiyaa | President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih



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324. Obituaries

Renowned Kuchipudi dance exponent, Shobha Naidu has passed away recently in October. She was born in 1956 at Anakapalli in Andhra Pradesh and had received her training in Kuchipudi dance from Vempati Chinna Satyam. She was awarded the civilian honour of Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2001. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 1991. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Shobha Naidu – Kuchipudi Dancer – passed away (Padma Shri-2001 & Sangeet Natak Akademi award-1991)

- Andhra Pradesh: Capital Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan

325. Science & Technology

IIT Madras has developed an Antimicrobial Food Wrapping Material. The novel material is biodegradable and can prevent the contamination of packaged food by bacteria during storage. {Read more}

Key Points:

IIT Madras – developed an Antimicrobial Food Wrapping Material

326. Obituaries

Noted film Music Composer 'Rajan' has passed away recently in October. He was 87 years old. The composer duo has lent music for around 375 films over 5 decades. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Rajan (Karnataka) – Music Composer – passed away

327. Books & Authors

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the autobiography of Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil and rename 'Pravara Rural Education Society' as 'Loknete Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Education Society'. The autobiography is titled "Deh Vechwa Karani" which means 'Dedicating one's life for a noble cause'. {Read more}

Key Points:

• "Deh Vechwa Karani" autobiography Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil – released by Narendra Modi

• 'Pravara Rural Education Society' renamed as 'Loknete Dr Balasaheb Vikhe Patil Pravara Rural Education Society'



328. Appointments & Resignations

Manoj Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) till the date of his superannuation January 31, 2024. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Manoj Kumar – appointed as the Chairman & MD of the Western Coalfields Limited – till January 31, 2024

- WCL a subsidiary of the Coal India Limited (CIL)
- HQs of WCL Nagpur, Maharashtra | MD & CEO Manoj Kumar

329. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Microsoft has partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to empower learners and educators in new-age technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science and cloud computing. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Microsoft + AICTE = to empower learners and educators in New-Age Technologies
- Microsoft: HQs Washington, USA | CEO Satya Nadella
- HQs of AICTE New Delhi | Chairman Anil D. Sahasrabudhe

330. Important Days & Dates

"World Standards Day", also known as "International Standards Day", is celebrated on October 14 each year. The day is marked to celebrate the contributions of experts and scientists across the world in developing voluntary standards within standards development organisation. This year, the theme is "Protecting the planet with standards". {Read more}

Key Points:

- October 14 "World Standards Day", also known as "International Standards Day"
- Theme "Protecting the planet with standards"

331. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Axis Bank, in collaboration with Google Pay and Visa, has launched the 'ACE Credit Card' with the aim of increasing participation of users in the digital economy. This initiative is aimed at providing simple, secure and intuitive payment experiences. {Read more}



Key Points:

- Axis Bank + Google Pay + Visa = to increase participation of users in the digital economy
- HQs of Axis Bank Mumbai | MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry
- Google HQs California, United States | CEO Sundar Pichai

332. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The 5th meeting of the "India-Mexico Bilateral High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Cooperation" was held on 9 October 2020. The meeting was co-chaired by the Commerce Secretary of the Government of India, Dr. Anup Wadhawan. {Read more}

Key Points:

• 5th meeting of the "India-Mexico Bilateral High Level Group on Trade, Investment and Cooperation" held on Oct 9

• Meeting co-chaired by – Dr. Anup Wadhawan (Commerce Secretary)

333. National & States Affairs

Gujarat government has announced the setting up of the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada in Tapi district. The proposed 300 KTPA production capacity project would provide big employment opportunities to the local youths in this tribal area. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Gujarat announced the setting up of the world's biggest Zinc Smelter project in Dosawada, Tapi
- Gujarat: Capital Gandhinagar | CM Vijay Rupani | Governor Acharya Devvrat

334. Important Days & Dates

The United Nations in 1989 designated October 13 as the "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction" to reduce the impact of calamities on human beings and other life forms on our planet earth. This year, the theme is "It's all about governance". {Read more}

Key Points:

- October 13 "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction" since 1989
- Theme "It's all about governance"
- HQs of UN New York, United States | Director António Guterres



335. Science & Technology

A rocket system called "New Shephard" meant to take tourists to space successfully completed its 7th test launch after it took off from a test facility in Texas, USA. The system is built by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Space Company called "Blue Origin". New Shephard has been named after astronaut 'Alan Shephard', the first American to go to space. {Read more}

Key Points:

- "New Shephard" completed its 7th test launch from Texas, USA
- It is named after American astronaut 'Alan Shephard'
- The system is built by 'Blue Origin' (HQs Washington, USA | Founder Jeff Bezos | CEO Bob Smith)

336. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The government will set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee under NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to spearhead research and study on energy modelling in India. This committee along with a steering committee will serve the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) which is jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). {Read more}

Key Points:

- An Inter-Ministerial Committee to be set up under 'Amitabh Kant'
- NITI Aayog + USAID = jointly launched 'India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)'

337. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have partnered to digitally launch the 'HealthyLife Programme' - a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy living accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, "Apollo 24|7". {Read more}

Key Points:

• HDFC Bank + Apollo Hospitals = to launch 'HealthyLife Programme' on "Apollo 24|7" platform

• HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – "We understand your world"

338. National & States Affairs

The UP government has dedicated the upcoming Navratri festival to women's safety, dignity and empowerment by launching 'Mission Shakti' on October 17. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh launched "Mission Shakti" for women for the upcoming Navratri festival
- UP: Capital Lucknow | CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel



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339. Persons in News

The Delhi government has exempted road tax on its Battery-Operated Vehicles under its new Electric Vehicle Policy. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Delhi exempted road tax on its Battery-Operated Vehicles under its 'Electric Vehicle Policy'
- Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal | Governor Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary Vijay Dev
- Delhi Transport minister Kailash Gahlot

340. Science & Technology

Paytm Payment Gateway has launched the same-day settlement facility for all kinds of fund transfers for businesses on its payment gateway. It will help businesses that depend upon immediate availability of funds to pay down-stream partners. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Paytm launched the same-day settlement facility for all kinds of fund transfers for businesses
- HQs of Paytm Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO of Paytm Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Paytm Money Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO Varun Sridhar
- CEO of Paytm Payment Bank Satish Kumar Gupta | CEO of Paytm General Ins. Vineet Arora

341. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

TRIFED in association with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation has launched "Tech For Tribals" training program designed by IIT Kanpur to bridge gap between tribal hamlets and global markets digitally. This initiative aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs). {Read more}

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Chhattisgarh MFP Federation + IIT Kanpur = launched "Tech For Tribals" training program
- TRIFED works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda Khunti, Jhrakhand)
- HQs of TRIFED New Delhi | MD Pravir Krishna

342. National & States Affairs

Airports Authority of India (AAI) will develop Greenfield Airport in Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi with estimated cost of Rs.650 crore. {Read more}



Key Points:

- AAI to develop Greenfield Airport in Hollongi, Arunachal Pradesh (Cost Rs.650 crore)
- HQs of AAI New Delhi | Chairman Arvind Singh
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital Itanagar | CM Pema Khandu | Governor B D Mishra

343. Obituaries

Bihar's backward and extremely Backward Classes welfare Minister and BJP leader Vinod Kumar Singh has passed away recently in October. He was 54. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Vinod Kumar Singh a Politician passed away (Bihar's Backward Classes Welfare Minister | Party BJP)
- Bihar: Capital Patna | CM Nitish Kumar | Governor Phagu Chauhan

344. Appointments & Resignations

Uday Shankar, the President of The Walt Disney Company Asia Pacific and Chairman of Star and Disney India has recently stepped down from his position. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Uday Shankar resigned from the post of 'Walt Disney Co Asia Pacific Ltd' & Chairman of 'Star and Disney India'
- HQs of Walt Disney Co Asia Pacific Ltd Hong Kong

345. Current GK

Members of the Tanzania National Parks Authority (Tanapa) and local people have been struggling to extinguish a fire that has broken out on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Mount Kilimanjaro located in Tanzania
- Tanzania Dodoma Tanzanian shilling | President John Magufuli

346. Amount & Agreements

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced measures of Rs 73,000 crore to stimulate consumer spending before end of this Financial Year in fight against COVID-19. Also, government employees can avail cash voucher for Leave Travel Concession (LTC) if they can't travel due to pandemic in a 4-year block ending in 2021 i.e. 2018-2021. {Read more}



Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman announced measures of Rs 73,000 crore to stimulate consumer spending
- LTC Leave Travel Concession
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (Constituency Karnataka)

347. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Microsoft has partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to empower learners and educators in new-age technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), data science and cloud computing and to provide online course modules to students across India. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Microsoft + AICTE – partnership to empower learners and educators in new-age technologies ie. AI, IoT, etc.

- Microsoft: HQs Washington, USA | CEO Satya Nadella
- HQs of AICTE New Delhi | Chairperson Anil Sahasrabudhe

348. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has released a report title "The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years" on 13th October. UNDRR report published to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13, 2020, confirms how extreme weather events have come to dominate the disaster landscape in the 21st century. {Read more}

Key Points:

The Question Ban

- UNDRR released a report title "The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years"
- HQs of UNDRR Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General Mami Mizutori

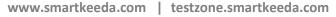
349. National & States Affairs

The government employees are being provided with a prepaid Rupay Card loaded with Rs 10,000. This is under the special festival advance proposed by the government, and the card will be called "UTSAV" card, to be primarily distributed by the SBI. This is to be paid back by the employee in 10 instalments. <u>{Read more}</u>

Key Points:

• "UTSAV" card given to the government Employees – loaded with Rs 10,000 (For interest-free advance) – by SBI

- It is to be paid back in 10 instalments
- HQs of SBI Bank Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia
- CFO of SBI Charanjit Singh Attra | MD & CEO of SBI General Ins. Prakash Chandra Kandpal
- MD & CEO of SBI Card Ashwini Kumar tewari | MD & CEO of SBI Mutual Funds Vinay M. Tonse





350. National & States Affairs

The first in the country, the Kerala government has decided to form a Welfare Fund Board known as "Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board" for the uplift of farmers in the state. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Kerala decided to form "Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board" a Welfare Fund Board
- Kerala: Capital Thiruvananthapuram | CM Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

351. Sports & Games

Jammu and Kashmir Police have organised a 3-day water sports festival "Jashn-E-Dal" with an aim to boost water sports activities and promote tourism in the valley. {Read more}

Key Points:

- J & K Police organised a 3-day water sports festival "Jashn-E-Dal"
- Dal lake located in Srinagar, J & K
- J & K: Capital Srinagar | Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha

352. Amount & Agreements

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has signed an agreement with the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, for making available Line of Credit (LoC) of USD 310 million for the purpose of financing repowering of "Hwange Thermal Power Station" in Zimbabwe. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Exim Bank + Zimbabwe LoC of USD 310 million
- Hwange Thermal Power Station in Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe Harare Dollar
- HQs of EXIM Bank Mumbai | Chairman & MD TC Venkat Subramanian

353. Sports & Games

Rafael Nadal has won 13th French Open title-2020 to lift a record-equalling 20th Grand Slam men's singles title by defeating a great rival Novak Djokovic. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Rafael Nadal (Spain – Tennis) – won 13th men's single in 124th edition of "French Open Title" – at Paris, France

• Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez



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354. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

The prolonged closure of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic in India may cause a loss of over USD 400 billion in the country's future earnings, besides substantial learning losses, according to a World Bank report titled "Beaten or Broken? Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia". South Asia region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario. {Read more}

Key Points:

- "Beaten or Broken? Informality and COVID-19 in South Asia" report released by World Bank
- India may cause a loss of over USD 400 billion in Country's Future Earnings due to lockdown {Prediction}
- South Asia region: to lose \$ 622 billion in present scenario | \$ 880 billion in more pessimistic scenario {Prediction}

355. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI has announced that RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement) will be available round the clock, 24*7*365 from December 2020. The announcement came after the RBI made the NEFT facility available 24X7 from December 16, 2019. Under the current rules, the transfers can be made between 7 AM and 6 PM. {Read more}

Key Points:

• RTGS (Real-Time Gross Settlement) – will be available round the clock, 24*7*365 from – December 2020

Smar

- RBI made the NEFT facility available 24X7 from December 16, 2019
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)

356. Important Days & Dates

"Indian Foreign Service Day" or "IFS Day" was recently observed on October 9, 2020. Established on October 9, 1946, the Indian Foreign Service has celebrated 74 years of its existence. {Read more}

Key Points:

• October 9 – 74th foundation day of "Indian Foreign Service Day" or "IFS Day" (established in – 1946)

357. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

India is ranked 129 out of 158 countries in the Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index by Oxfam. India has spent just 4% of its budget on health going into the pandemic. This is the fourth lowest in the world. {Read more}



Key Points:

- "Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index" by Oxfam
- India 129th | Topped by Norway (Norway Oslo Krone)

358. Schemes & Initiatives

The Delhi government has approved its "Tree Transplantation Policy", paving way for one of its kind scheme to protect the green cover of the city. As per the new rules, construction firms in Delhi have to transplant 80% of the trees affected by any project work. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Delhi government approved "Tree Transplantation Policy"
- Construction firms in Delhi will have to transplant 80% of the affected trees
- Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal | Governor Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary Vijay Dev

359. International Affairs

Taiwan has released a new design for the country's passport highlighting the English word for 'Taiwan' eyeing to distinguish it from China. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Taiwan released a new design for the country's passport to distinguish it from China
- Taiwan Taipei New Taiwan Dollar | President Tsai Ing-wen
- China Beijing Renminbi | President Xi Jinping

360. Current GK

Himachal Pradesh is now ready to inaugurate the longest bridge "Barsi Bridge" on the Manali-Leh highway. The bridge, spanning 360 m, took around 10 years to be ready for use. It is built by the Border Road Organization (BRO) and runs over Bhaga river. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Himachal Pradesh – to inaugurate the longest "Barsi Bridge" on the Manali-Leh highway – over Bhaga river

- The bridge is built by Border Road Organization (BRO)
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital Shimla & Dharamshala | CM Jai Ram Thakur | Governor Bandaru Dattatreya
- HQs of BRO New Delhi | Director General Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh

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361. Obituaries

Former Indian football captain Carlton Chapman has passed away recently in October. He had formed a deadly trio in club football with Bhaichung Bhutia and IM Vijayan in the 1990s. He was 49. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Carlton Chapman (India) - a Football Player - passed away

362. Important Days & Dates

The International Day of the Girl Child is being celebrated every year on October 11. The main objective of this day is to empower women and help them to get their rights. This year, the theme is "My voice, our equal future". {Read more}

Key Points:

• October 11 – International Day of the Girl Child | Theme – "My voice, our equal future"

363. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Coveted trophies for best ship were awarded to INS Sahyadri among capital ships and INS Kora among corvettes at the Fleet Award Function (FAF), 2020. It was organised to mark the successful culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam. {Read more}

Key Points:

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- INS Sahyadri (capital ships) & INS Kora (corvettes) declared as best ship in "Fleet award function 2020"
- Fleet Award Function (FAF) 2020 organised by the 'Indian Navy' at Visakhapatnam
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan

364. National & States Affairs

Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal has launched the "Kisan Rath Mobile App" in order to facilitate timely sale of agricultural products by promoting a buyer-seller network. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Assam launched the "Kisan Rath Mobile App"
- Assam: Capital Dispur | CM Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor Jagdish Mukhi



365. International Affairs

Argentina has formally become the first country in the world to approve the use of drought-resistant genetically modified (GMO) wheat, prompting fierce criticism by the country's massive export agriculture industry. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Argentina the first country in the world to approve the use of drought-resistant GMO wheat
- Argentina Buenos Aires Peso

366. National & States Affairs

Chief minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated Uttar Pradesh's largest oxygen production plant in Ghaziabad in a virtual ceremony. Medical oxygen is important in the treatment of critically ill Covid-19 patients. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Yogi Adityanath inaugurated largest oxygen production plant in Ghaziabad, UP
- UP: Capital Lucknow | CM Yogi Adityanath | Governor Anandiben Patel

367. Sports & Games

A 19-year-old tennis player Iga Swiatek has become the first from the country to clinch a Grand Slam singles title by defeating USA's Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the women's singles final of French Open 2020. {Read more}

Smar

Key Points:

• Iga Swiatek (Tennis-Poland) – won women's single title of 124th edition of "French Open 2020" – at Paris, France

• Poland – Warsaw – Polish Zloty | President – Andrzej Sebastin Duda

368. Important Days & Dates

"World Arthritis Day" is observed on October 12, every year since 1996. This year, the theme is "Time2Work". This day unifies people of all ages, races, and genders to raise awareness of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases (RMDs). {Read more}

Key Points:

- October 12 World Arthritis Day | Theme "Time2Work" since 1996
- RMDs Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases



369. National & States Affairs

All India Football Federation - the apex body for the sport of football in the country has announced the launch of their new motto – "Indian Football. Forward Together". {Read more}

Key Points:

• All India Football Federation – announced the launch of their new motto - "Indian Football. Forward Together"

• HQs of AIIF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel

370. Sports & Games

Captain Meg Lanning has become the fastest player to score 14 One Day International centuries as she starred in Australia's series-clinching win. The hosts won the second ODI by four wickets to retain the "Rose Bowl" series. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Meg Lanning (Australia – Cricket) – became the fastest player to score 14 One Day International centuries

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- "Rose Bowl" series the Women's International cricket series between Australia & New Zealand
- Australia Canberra Australian Dollar | PM Scott Morrison
- New Zealand Wellington Dollar (NZD)

371. Appointments & Resignations

Kyrgyzstan's Prime Minister Sadyr Zhaparov has become the acting President in the wake of the President Sooronbai Jeenbekov's resignation amid turmoil sparked by a disputed parliamentary election. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Sadyr Zhaparov – became the acting President of – Kyrgyzstan (by replacing – Sooronbai Jeenbekov)

372. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

8 beaches in India, across 5 states and 2 union territories, have been awarded the prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification, announced by Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar. {Read more}

Key Points:

- The prestigious 'Blue Flag' certification awarded to 8 beaches in India across 5 state & 2 UTs
- Kappad Kerala | Rushikonda Andhra Pradesh | Golden Puri, Odisha | Radhanagar A&N Islands
- Shivrajpur Dwarka, Gujarat | Ghoghla Diu | Kasarkod & Padubidri Karnataka

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373. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson have won "Nobel Prize-2020" in Economics. They have used their insights to design new auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Paul R Milgrom & Robert B Wilson = won "Nobel Prize-2020" in Economics

374. Important Days & Dates

The World Obesity Federation has changed the global event from October 11 to March 4. The World Obesity Day, which is held on March 4 (as of 2020), encourages practical solutions to help people achieve, maintain a healthy weight and end the global obesity crisis. This year, the theme is "The Roots of Obesity Run Deep." {Read more}

Key Points:

- March 4 World Obesity Day | Theme "The Roots of Obesity Run Deep"
- This day was celebrated on "October 11" till 2019
- HQs of World Obesity Federation London, UK | Founded in 1999

375. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

In the country's first and unique drive, the Goa government has tied up with India Posts to get 11,000 farmers enrolled in the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' scheme. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Goa + India Posts = to get 11,000 farmers enrolled in the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi' scheme
- Goa: Capital Panaji | CM Pramod Sawant | Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Indian Post New Delhi | DG Mrs. Meera Handa | Chairman Ananta Narayan Nanda

376. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will provide banks on-tap funds under on-tap Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations (TLTRO) up to Rs 1 trillion to give loans to sectors having multiplier effects on growth. The sectors, which could benefit from this move, include construction, real estate, and micro finance. {Read more}

Key Points:

- RBI to provide up to Rs 1 trillion on-tap funds to banks under on-tap TLTRO
- TLTRO Targeted Long-Term Repo Operations
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)



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377. Current GK

The last rites on mortal remains of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan were performed with full State honours at "Janardan Ghat" on the banks of Ganga in Patna. {Read more}

Key Points:

- The last rites on mortal remains of Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan performed at "Janardan Ghat"
- Janardan Ghat located in Patna, Bihar
- Bihar: Capital Patna | CM Nitish Kumar | Governor Phagu Chauhan

378. National & States Affairs

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh L. Mandaviya has launched an indigenous variety of Calcium Nitrate and Boronated Calcium Nitrate produced by Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya launched indigenous variety of Calcium Nitrate & Boronated Calcium Nitrate
- It is produced by Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals India Ltd
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Shipping Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency Gujarat

379. International Affairs

China has formally joined COVAX, the global initiative for COVID-19 vaccine by signing an agreement with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. The COVAX facility, led by the WHO, aims to deliver at least 2 billion doses of vaccines by the end of 2021. {Read more}

Key Points:

- China joined COVAX by signing an agreement with "Gavi"
- COVAX facility led by the WHO aims to deliver at least 2 billion doses of vaccines by 2021
- WHO HQs Geneva, Switzerland | DG Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries 194
- China Beijing Renminbi | President Xi Jinping

380. National & States Affairs

An expert group has been constituted by Labour Ministry for a period of 3 years for providing technical guidance to Labour Bureau with respect to surveys on migration, professional bodies, domestic workers and other surveys. It is chaired by Prof S. P. Mukherjee. {Read more}

Key Points:

 \bullet Labour Ministry – constituted An expert group for a period of 3 years to evaluate the employment situation

- Expert Group is headed by S. P. Mukherjee
- MoS in Ministry of Labour and Employment Santosh Gangwar



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381. National & States Affairs

Union Defence minister Rajnath Singh has laid the foundation stone of the "Nechiphu Tunnel" on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. This tunnel will be 450m-long & D-shaped. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Rajnath Singh – laid the foundation stone of "Nechiphu Tunnel" on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road – in AP

- 450m-long & D-shaped
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital Itanagar | CM Pema Khandu | Governor B D Mishra
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh (Constituency Lucknow, UP)

382. Important Days & Dates

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Sikh martyr Bhai Taru Singh, who chose to sacrifice his life instead of compromising with his religious beliefs, on his 300th birth anniversary. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Narendra Modi paid tributes to Sikh martyr "Bhai Taru Singh" – on his 300th birth anniversary

383. Science & Technology

The much-awaited trial of the new version of India's first Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) "Nirbhay" failed due to technical snag. The missile was fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast. It was Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). {Read more}

Key Points:

• DRDO – test fired new version of India's 1st Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) "Nirbhay" – at Odisha

- Strike range 800 km
- DRDO: HQs New Delhi | Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy

384. National & States Affairs

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has released a special commemorative coin of Rs 100 denomination to mark the completion of the birth centenary celebrations of Vijaya Raje Scindia - a renowned Politician. "The last Maharani of Gwalior" is an autobiography of Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia authored by Manohar Malgonkar. <u>{Read more}</u>

Key Points:

- PM Modi releases Rs 100 commemorative coin to honour Vijaya Raje Scindia's birth centenary
- "The last Maharani of Gwalior" autobiography of Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia authored by 'Manohar Malgonkar'

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385. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami has signed 14 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) entailing investments to the tune of ₹10,055 crore with potential to generate employment for over 7,000 people. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Edappadi K. Palaniswami signed 14 MoUs entailing investments worth ₹10,055 crore
- Tamil Nadu: Capital Chennai | CM Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor Banwarilal Purohit

386. National & States Affairs

Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated "DBT-BIRAC" Clean Tech Demo Park at the Barapullah drain site in New Delhi in the virtual presence of lieutenant governor Anil Baijal. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated "DBT-BIRAC" Clean Tech Demo Park in New Delhi
- "DBT-BIRAC" Department of Bio-Technology & Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
- Delhi: CM Arvind Kejriwal | Governor Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary Vijay Dev

387. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Tech giant IBM has collaborated with the Department of Science and Technology (DST) under two initiatives to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning among students. {Read more}

Key Points:

- IBM + Department of S&T partnership to promote STEM learning among students
- IBM HQs Armonk, New York, United States | CEO Arvind Krishna

388. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi have agreed to advance bilateral cooperation on handling the coronavirus pandemic and to hold a digital conference on innovation in the field of solar energy. {Read more}

Key Points:

- India + Israel = agreed to advance Bilateral Cooperation on handling the coronavirus pandemic
- Israel Jerusalem Israeli Shekel | President Reuven Rivlin | PM Benjamin Netanyahu

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389. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India has taken a 'special' decision to purchase state government bonds i.e. State Development Loans (SDL) in the secondary market via open market operations (OMOs). It will ensure that they don't face rising interest costs amid high borrowings. {Read more}

Key Points:

- RBI to buy State Development Loans (SDL) for the 1st time via OMOs
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)

390. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has signed 13 MoUs with the premier academic and R&D institutions to establish supercomputing infrastructure with assembly and manufacturing for the National Supercomputing Mission in India. {Read more}

Key Points:

• C-DAC – signed 13 MoUs with Top Academic Institutes to establish Supercomputing Infrastructure in India

• 'C-DAC' functions under – Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)

- Ravi Shankar Prasad Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- HQs of C-DAC Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director Mahesh Kulkarni

391. Science & Technology

IIT Kharagpur has designed a robotic system capable of identifying the diseases plaguing plants through camera-captured image analysis. {Read more}

Key Points:

• IIT Kharagpur – designed a Robotic System capable of identifying the diseases plaguing plants

392. Obituaries

Veteran Kannada director B. Vijay Reddy has passed away recently (on October 9) in Chennai. He was 84. {Read more}

Key Points:

• B Vijay Reddy – Kannada Director – passed away



393. International Affairs

Cyclone "Ianos" has hit Greece recently. It is also known as a "medicane" (Mediterranean hurricane). An online platform was activated for the immediate payment of the extraordinary one-time financial aid to affected people. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Cyclone "lanos" hit Greece
- Greece Athens Euro | Turkey Ankara Lira

394. Persons in News

A 16-year-old girl, Aava Murto has ceremoniously assumed the post of Finnish Prime Minister for 1 day for the "Girls Takeover" program - part of the U.N. International Day of the Girl to raise more awareness of gender equality. {Read more}

Key Points:

• Aava Murto (Finland) – assumed the post of Prime Minister for 1 day – as a part of "Girls Takeover" program

Finland – Helsinki – Euro | PM – Sanna Marin

395. Meetings, Conferences and Summits

The World Economic Forum (WEF) will hold its Annual Meeting 2021 in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland, from May 18 to 21. It will be held with the theme of "The Great Reset". {Read more}

Key Points:

- "WEF Annual Meeting 2021" to be held in Lucerne-Burgenstock, Switzerland
- Theme "The Great Reset"
- HQs of WEF Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder Klaus Schwab

396. National & States Affairs

LIC Housing Finance has launched "Project RED" (re-imagining excellence through digital transformation) for digital transformation by doing 95% of work through the digital mode. {Read more}

Key Points:

- LIC Housing Finance launched "Project RED" for digital transformation
- HQs of LIC Housing Finance Mumbai, MH | CEO Siddhartha Mohanty



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397. Schemes & Initiatives

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the physical distribution of property cards under "SVAMITVA" scheme, saying the move will make rural India "self-reliant". {Read more}

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi launched the physical distribution of property cards under "SVAMITVA" scheme
- "SVAMITVA" scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, MP)

398. Sports & Games

Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Grand Prix victories seemed like one that would never be beaten. But, Lewis Hamilton has just equalled the record by winning "Eifel Grand Prix-2020" at the Nurburgring, Germany. {Read more}

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton won "Eifel Grand Prix-2020"
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) drives 'Mercedes'

399. National & States Affairs

Kerala has become the first state in the country to have High-Tech classrooms in all its public schools. LDF (Left Democratic Front) government has led the mission. 4 missions have been announced to rejuvenate public education. {Read more}

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Key Points:

- Kerala the 1st state in the country to have High-Tech classrooms in all its public schools
- Kerala: Capital Thiruvananthapuram | CM Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

400. Banking & Economic Affairs

In a bid to boost banks' investment in government bonds, the enhanced HTM limit has been extended by a year to March 31, 2022 from March 31, 2021 by the RBI. {Read more}

Key Points:

- The enhanced HTM limit extended by a year to March 31, 2022
- HTM Held To Maturity
- RBI: HQs Mumbai | Governor Shaktikanta Das (25th)



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