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Series Month-wise

October
MockDrill
PDF No. 10
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 25th November 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

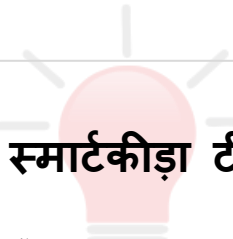
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of October 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF अक्टूबर 2021 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	7
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs.....	8
Defence Affairs.....	11
Schemes & Initiatives.....	11
Sports & Games.....	12
Important Days & Dates.....	12
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	13
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	13
Appointments & Resignations.....	14
Amount & Agreements.....	15
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	16
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	16
Books & Authors.....	17
Obituaries.....	18
Science & Technology.....	18



National & States Affairs

451. In October 2021, The Central Government has constituted a Working Group (WG) to roll out an overhauled Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) from Kharif 2022. The aim is to prevent quitting of the scheme by many states due to the share of premium. The group will be headed by Ritesh Chauhan (CEO of PMFBY).

Key Points:

- Central Government constituted a Working Group (WG) to launch an overhauled PMFBY from 'Kharif 2022'
- The group will be headed by – Ritesh Chauhan
- PMFBY launched in – 2016 | CEO of PMFBY – Ritesh Chauhan

452. As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, India will host young leaders aged under-35 from 75 democracies under the initiative "Gen-Next Democratic Network". Om Prakash Birla will inaugurate the event on 25th November, 2021. The objective behind the event is to give the young leaders a comprehensive idea about India's rich democratic culture. The first batch will include leaders from Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, Indonesia, Chile and Zambia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to host young leaders aged under-35 from 75 democracies under "Gen-Next Democratic Network" initiative
- It will be inaugurated by – Om Prakash Birla

453. On October 18, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has flagged off 'Modi Van' under the "Seva hi Sangathan" programme to commemorate PM Narendra Modi completing 20 years as an elected representative. 'Modi Van' will operate under the aegis of Kaushambi Vikas Parishad, which is run by BJP's National Secretary Vinod Sonkar. The van will help in the 100% registration under widow pension, disability pension and PM Kisan Samman Nidhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – flagged off 'Modi Van' under the "Seva hi Sangathan" programme
- It commemorates PM Narendra Modi completing 20 years as an Elected Representative

454. In October 2021, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated 2 web portals 'e-Munnetram' & 'IT Nanban' developed by the IT Department. He also released 2 Tamil computing Software 'Keezhadi Keyboard' & 'Tamizhi – Tamizhinayam Unicode converter'. 'e-munnetram' provides the status of about 200 major infrastructure projects. 'IT Nanban' is an interactive platform to engage with the IT sector. It will enable IT/ITeS companies to interact with the State government & also contribute to policy making. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – inaugurated 2 web portals 'e-Munnetram' & 'IT Nanban'
- MK Stalin – also inaugurated 2 Tamil computing Software 'Keezhadi Keyboard' & 'Tamizhi'
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



455. GAIL (India) Ltd will build India's largest green hydrogen-making plant of 10 MW capacity to supplement its natural gas business with carbon-free fuel. This was announced at the 5th edition of 'India Energy Forum' by CERAWEEK. NTPC has also announced to build a 5MW green hydrogen plant. India has targeted to use 15% natural gas by 2030 which is currently 6.2%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GAIL – to build India's largest 10 MW Green Hydrogen-making plant
- NTPC – announced to build a 5MW Green Hydrogen Plant
- India's target to use 15% natural gas – by 2030
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975

456. In October 2021, Maharashtra Chief minister Uddhav Thackeray & home minister Dilip Walse-Patil inaugurated India's 1st state government-owned Wildlife DNA analysis laboratory at Regional Forensic Science Laboratory (RFSL) in Nagpur. 3 fast-track DNA test unit at RFSL was also inaugurated along with the same facilities in Mumbai & Pune for cases registered under the Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. These 5 labs were developed with the special fund of Rs 53 Cr under Nirbhaya Yojana of Central government. There are 2 central government-owned Wildlife DNA laboratory at Dehradun & Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – inaugurated India's 1st state-owned "Wildlife DNA Analysis Laboratory" at RFSL in Nagpur
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

457. In October 2021, Ircon International has handed over the newly commissioned cross-border rail section from Jaynagar to Kurtha to Government of Nepal. The 1st phase of 34.9 Km Jaynagar (India) - Kurtha (Nepal) section is part of 68.72 Km Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link being built under Government of India grant assistance of NPR 8.77 billion. It will be the first broad gauge cross border rail link between India & Nepal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ircon International – handed over newly commissioned cross-border rail section from Jaynagar (Bihar) to Kurtha (Nepal)
- HQs of Ircon Int. – New Delhi | CMD – S K Chaudhary
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

458. In October 2021, The Indian Railways has ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC). The stations managed by IRSDC shall be handed over to respective Zonal Railways. This is in line with recommendation from the cabinet secretariat to integrate, & undertake structural reforms in various bodies under Railways Ministry. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Indian Railways – ordered to dissolve Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation (IRSDC)
- Ministry of Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Railways: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao & Darshana Vikram Jardosh

International Affairs

459. On October 18, Spain has housed 'La Lloreria' or the 'Crying Room' to remove the mental health stigma in the society. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez recently announced a 100-million-euro (\$116 million) mental healthcare drive, which will include services such as a 24-hour suicide helpline. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Spain – housed 'La Lloreria' or the 'Crying Room' to remove the mental health stigma in the society
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez | President – Emmanuel Macron

460. On October 19, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso announced a 60-day State of Emergency amidst a rise in violent drug crimes. The government has pointed to drug trafficking and consumption as the underlying problem. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ecuador – announced a 60-day 'State of Emergency' amidst a rise in violent drug crimes
- Ecuador – Quito – US Dollar | President – Guillermo Lasso

461. On October 18, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has unveiled the "Bhoodan Grove" plaque at the Jerusalem Forest in Israel. Indian leaders who were exploring ways to implement the socialist ideals of the Sarvodaya movement namely, 'Bhoodan and Gramdan', made several visits to Israel to study the social structure of different forms of Israel's communal and cooperative institutions - 'Kibbutzim and Moshavim'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – unveiled the "Bhoodan Grove" plaque in Israel
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

462. In October 2021, Invest India has been unanimously elected as the President of the Steering Committee of World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) for 2021-2023. As WAIPA President, Invest India shall be guided by Prime Minister Modi's vision of "Vasudaiva Kutumbakam" to promote prosperity for all through sustainable investment. WAIPA is the primary nodal global agency for Investment Promotion Agencies & is a premier global platform for investment & trade. WAIPA was established in 1995 under the auspices of the UNCTAD, to promote the role of Investment Promotion Agencies. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Invest India – elected as the President of the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies for 2021-23
- HQs of Invest India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Deepak Bagla | Established in – 2009 (under ministry of C&I)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebecca Grynspan
- HQs of WAIPA – Geneva | Presidency – Invest India | Established in – 1995

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

463. On October 18, The RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.95 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank for not complying with various directions issued by the central bank with regard to ‘customer protection’, ‘cyber security framework in banks’, ‘credit card operations of banks, and ‘creation of a central repository of large common exposures’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.95 Cr on Standard Chartered Bank
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

464. In October 2021, ITILITE, a business travel & expense management platform has tied up with ICICI Bank to issue commercial credit cards for businesses in India. ICICI bank will issue the CTA card to businesses, while ITILITE will offer a digital, automated, & cost-effective travel & expense management platform. Businesses can use the CTA card to recharge their ITILITE wallet & make travel bookings on behalf of their employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ITILITE + ICICI Bank = an MoU to issue Commercial Credit Cards for businesses
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – [Sandeep Bakhshi](#) | Taglines – “Hum Hain Na!” & “Khayal Apka”

465. In October 2021, Rupifi & Flipkart Wholesale have partnered to offer Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) offering to the MSMEs shopping on Flipkart Wholesale. To ease customer onboarding on the platform, Flipkart Wholesale & Rupifi team have designed a multilingual application. This partnership enables Kiranas & MSMEs members on Flipkart Wholesale get instant & digital credit, with flexible repayment terms & transparent pricing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rupifi + Flipkart Wholesale = to offer ‘Buy Now, Pay Later’ to the MSMEs
- HQs of Rupifi – Bengaluru | CEO – Anubhav Jain
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy



466. In October 2021, In a first for any NBFC in India, REC Limited, a Navratna NBFC has successfully raised USD 75 million (about Rs 561 Cr) 5-year Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked Syndicated Term Loan with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC). It shall be utilised to fund power sector projects as permitted under the external commercial borrowing (ECB) guidelines of the RBI. Along with the loan, REC has also entered into interest rate swap referencing Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) to hedge the interest rate risk on this facility, which is the first such deal by any corporate in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- REC Limited – raised \$75 million 5-year SOFR linked Syndicated term loan with SMBC to fund power sector projects
- REC Limited – entered into interest rate swap referencing ‘SOFR’
- HQs of REC Limited – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjay Malhotra | Founded in – 1969

467. In October 2021, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched NPCI Tokenization System (NTS) to support tokenisation of RuPay cards. NTS will support tokenisation of RuPay as an alternate to storing card details with merchants. Businesses can maintain their RuPay consumer base utilizing TROF (Token Reference On File) for future transactions initiated by their respective RuPay consumers. Card tokenisation is a process that replaces details of a card with an encrypted algorithmically generated token. The token is generated either by the card issuer or payments network. The RBI has mandated tokenisation of cards from 1 January 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI – launched “NPCI Tokenization System” to support tokenisation of RuPay cards
- Businesses can maintain RuPay consumer base utilizing TROF for future transactions
- RBI mandated tokenisation of cards from – 1 January 2022
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

468. In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Pine Labs to expand its point-of-sale (PoS) services to more merchants. This MoU opens up a significant market opportunity for the bank to onboard new merchants & offer them an integrated PoS-plus suite of digital payments & banking products proposition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + Pine Labs = to expand point-of-sale services to merchants
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, UP | CEO – B Amrish Rau



469. In October 2021, India Infrastructure Finance Co. Ltd. (IIFCL) will finance Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InVITs), adding a new funding avenue for infrastructure projects. IIFCL has received approval from the RBI to back InVITs & will spend about ₹4,000 Cr in this segment this fiscal. InVITs are emerging as a key instrument in the infrastructure sector offering more liquidity & flexibility for developers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIFCL – to finance InVITs & will spend about ₹4,000 Cr in this segment
- HQs of IIFCL – New Delhi | MD – Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

470. In October 2021, Union Bank of India has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Hyderabad under which C-DAC will assist the bank to impart cyber security awareness & education to customers & employees. As part of the National Cyber Security Awareness month (October), the bank launched an e-book & Spin-N-Learn, an online game on its website. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UBI + C-DAC = an MoU to assist the bank to impart Cyber Security awareness
- UBI – launched an e-book & an online game ‘Spin-N-Learn’
- October – “National Cyber Security Awareness Month”
- HQs of C-DAC – Pune, Maharashtra | Senior Director – Mahesh Kulkarni
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajkiran Rai G. | Tagline – “Good People to Bank With”

471. In October 2021, Razorpay announced the launch of ‘Razorpay TokenHQ’, India’s 1st multi-network Card-on-File (CoF) tokenization solution. Razorpay will be the first payment gateway to launch Tokenization solutions across Mastercard, RuPay, & Visa. Using Razorpay TokenHQ, businesses would be able to create, process, delete & modify tokens for online card payments with customers’ consent. Recently, RBI introduced new guidelines disallowing businesses, payment aggregators, & acquiring banks, from storing customers’ credit/debit/prepaid card information. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Razorpay – to launch ‘Razorpay TokenHQ’ - India’s 1st multi-network Card-on-File tokenization solution
- HQs of Razorpay – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Harshil Mathur
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

472. In October 2021, AU Small Finance Bank unveiled a sound box that provides instant voice-based payment alerts to merchant partners. It is made available in five languages - Hindi, English, Punjabi, Gujarati & Marathi. The QR Code Sound Box will enhance the bank’s reach in digital payments. Paytm had introduced a similar feature in March this year. AU Small Finance Bank is the first & only small finance bank to have launched credit cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AU Small Finance Bank – unveiled a voice-based Payment Alerts Sound Box (available in 5 languages)
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal | President – Sharad Goklani



Defence Affairs

473. On October 18, The Indian Navy has received the 11th anti-submarine warfare aircraft “P-8I” from the US-based aerospace company Boeing. The Defence Ministry had first signed a contract for eight P-8I aircraft in 2009. Later, in 2016, it signed a contract for four additional P-8I aircraft. And this is the third aircraft to be delivered under the option contract signed in 2016. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – received the 11th anti-submarine warfare aircraft “P-8I” from Boeing
- HQs of Boeing – Chicago, USA | CEO – Dave Calhoun | Founded in – 1916
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

474. In October 2021, The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously designed Abhyas - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur in Odisha. Abhyas is designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO – successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously designed Abhyas - HEAT
- Abhyas – designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

Schemes & Initiatives

475. In October 2021, The central government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP), the insurance scheme for healthcare workers fighting covid-19 for another 6 months w.e.f October 20, 2021. The scheme was launched on 30 March 2020 to provide personal accident cover of Rs 50 Lakh to health care providers who are in direct contact & care of covid-19 patients. A relief package of Rs 1.70 Lakh Cr was announced under PMGKY. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government – extended the PMGKP insurance scheme for healthcare workers for 6 months
- PMGKP – launched on 30 March, 2020 | Personal accident cover to health care providers – Rs 50 Lakh



Sports & Games

476. On October 18, Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has become the highest wicket-taker in T20 International cricket when he crossed Lasith Malinga's tally of 107 wickets. Shakib now has 108 wickets from 89 T20 International games. Third in the list is New Zealand's Tim Southee, who has 99 wickets to his name. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shakib Al Hasan ([Bangladesh](#)) – became the highest wicket-taker in T20 International Cricket (108 wickets)
- 2nd - Lasith Malinga ([Sri Lanka](#)) - 107 wickets | 3rd - Tim Southee ([New Zealand](#)) - 99 wickets

477. In October 2021, Karnataka swimmer Ridhima Veerendrakumar bagged the Gold medal in 50m backstroke for group II girls at the 37th Sub Junior & 47th Junior National Championships. She broke Maana Patel's 7 year old record of 30.37 seconds created in 2014 with 29.94 seconds. Shalini Dixit of Karnataka bagged the Silver medal in this event. Also, Maharashtra's Apeksha Fernandes created a new national record in the 50m breast stroke for group I girls. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ridhima Veerendrakumar ([Karnataka](#)) – won Gold medal in 50m backstroke for group II girls at the 37th Sub Junior & 47th Junior National Championships
- Shalini Dixit ([Karnataka](#)) – won Silver in this event in this event
- Ridhima Veerendrakumar – broke Maana Patel's 7 year old record
- Apeksha Fernandes ([Maharashtra](#)) – created a new national record in the 50m breast stroke for group I girls

Important Days & Dates

478. 'The International Stuttering Awareness Day' is marked annually on 22 October to create more knowledge about the condition & reduce the stigma associated with it. The theme for this year is "Speak the Change You Wish to See". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 22 – The International Stuttering Awareness Day
- 2021's theme – "Speak the Change You Wish to See"

479. October 23 is commemorated each year as "International Snow Leopard Day". This day was first celebrated in 2014 after the signing of the 'Bishkek declaration on conservation of snow leopards' at the 1st 'Global snow leopard forum' in Kyrgyzstan in 2013. This declaration led to the formation of the "Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program" (GSLEP). India is also a part of the GSLEP Programme. Also, India has been conserving snow leopards & their habitats through the Project Snow Leopard (PSL). The IUCN Status of Snow Leopard was changed from "endangered" to "vulnerable" in 2017. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- October 23 – “International Snow Leopard Day” (since – 2014)
- ‘Bishkek declaration’ – signed on October 23, 2013 at the 1st ‘Global Snow Leopard Forum’
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang | CEO – Bruno Oberle | Founded in – 1948

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

480. In October 2021, India has convened the 7th meeting of BRICS Communications ministers. Minister of State Shri Devusinh Chauhan chaired this Meeting. The ministers adopted the Terms of References of Digital BRICS Task Force. They also adopted the proposal to host the Digital BRICS Forum annually to facilitate sharing of information & knowledge, practices, initiatives, etc. They also discussed to work together to develop multi-pronged approaches & reference models for affordable access to communications services & digital technologies to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th meeting of BRICS Communications Ministers – chaired by “Shri Devusinh Chauhan”
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairmanship in 2021 – India
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

481. In October 2021, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced that Hollywood veteran Martin Scorsese & Hungarian film-maker Istevan Szabo will be honoured with the “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award” at this year’s International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It will be 52nd edition of IFFI which will be held in Goa. Istevan Szabo is known for his masterpieces like 1966’s ‘Father’ & 1981 movie ‘Mephisto’. Martin Scorsese is widely regarded as one of the greatest & most influential directors in film history. Also, IFFI has invited major OTT players to participate in the festival for the first time ever. The opening film of this edition of IFFI will be “The King of all the World”, directed by Carlos Saura. BRICS Film Festival will also be conducted alongside IFFI in which films from 5 BRICS nations will be showcased. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Martin Scorsese (America) & Istevan Szabo (Hungary) – to be honoured with “Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award”
- 52nd edition of IFFI will be held in – Goa
- Opening film of 2021’s IFFI – “The King of all the World” (directed by – Carlos Saura)



- Focus countries of 2021's IFFI – BRICS
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan

482. In October 2021, Dr. Rajiv Nigam, Former Chief Scientist of CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography has been selected as 2022 recipient of “Joseph A. Cushman Award” which is the highest honor given by the “Cushman Foundation” for Excellence in Foraminiferal research. This award was established by USA based Cushman foundation in 1979. Dr. Rajiv Nigam is the 1st Indian Citizen who is selected for this lifetime achievement award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Rajiv Nigam – will be awarded “Joseph A. Cushman Award” in 2022 for Excellence in Foraminiferal research
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | President – Narendra Modi | DG – Shekhar C. Mande | Established in – 1942
- HQs of Cushman Foundation – Kansas, USA | President – Pamela Buzas Stephens | President-Elect – Ken Miller

Appointments & Resignations

483. In October 2021, Bangla Tigers has named former India captain Mohammad Azharuddin as the brand ambassador for the franchise for the upcoming ‘Abu Dhabi T10 League’. The tournament is scheduled to be held at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi from November 19 and is being staged under the aegis of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohammad Azharuddin – appointed as the brand ambassador of ‘Bangla Tigers’ for the ‘Abu Dhabi T10 League’
- Zayed Cricket Stadium – Abu Dhabi, UAE | ‘T10 League’ – in UAE

484. In October 2021, German sportswear company Adidas has roped in Deepika Padukone as its global brand ambassador. She will join an already dense line-up of female brand ambassadors associated with Adidas in India — including Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Simranjeet Kaur, Hima Das & Dipika Pallikal. Recently Levi’s also announced Padukone as its global brand ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adidas – roped in Deepika Padukone as its Global Brand Ambassador
- Other female brand ambassadors of Adidas: Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Simranjeet Kaur, Hima Das & Dipika Pallikal
- Deepika Padukone – is also global brand ambassador of Levi’s
- HQs of Adidas – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Kasper Rorsted



485. In October 2021, Realme has announced the appointment of Team India cricketer star KL Rahul as its brand ambassador. Rahul will endorse realme's smartphone category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Realme – roped in Indian cricketer 'K. L. Rahul' as its brand ambassador for smartphone category

486. In October 2021, The Sports Authority of India (SAI) appointed Commodore PK Garg as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS). He will replace Commander Rajesh Rajagopalan. Commodore Garg was a High-Performance Director with SAI till June 2021 & is an Arjuna Awardee recipient (1990) in Sailing & Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardee in 1993-94. He represented India in 5 Asian Games from 1986 to 2002 in Enterprise Class Sailing events & is a 5-time national champion. He has also served in Indian Navy for 34 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. K. Garg – appointed as the CEO of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme of SAI (replacing - Rajesh Rajagopalan)
- PK Garg – 5 time National Champion in Enterprise Class Sailing events
- PK Garg – won Arjuna Award in 1990 (Sailing) & Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 1993-94
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan

487. In October 2021, The governor general of Barbados, Sandra Mason has become the country's 1st president. She will replace Queen Elizabeth II who was holding the position since 1950s. She will be sworn in on Nov. 30, making Barbados a republic on the 55th anniversary of its independence from Britain. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sandra Mason – elected as the 1st President of Barbados (replacing - Queen Elizabeth II)
- Barbados – Bridgetown – Barbados Dollar | PM – Mia Mottley | President – Sandra Mason

Amount & Agreements

488. In October 2021, NABARD has sanctioned Rs 608 Cr to government of India for different infrastructure projects in rural areas in Assam under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) - XXVII. The infrastructure projects include roads, bridges, flood protection projects & soil conservation projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NABARD – sanctioned Rs 608 Cr to Assam for infrastructure projects in Rural areas
- HQs of NABARD – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Govinda Rajulu Chintala | Founded in – 1982
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

489. On October 14, India ranked 79th out of 139 countries, dropping 3 positions, in the “Rule of Law Index 2021” report released by the World Justice Project. India placed 3rd out of 6 in the South Asia region. India’s overall rule of law score decreased 1.9% in this year’s Index. Globally, the top three performers were Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Regionally, South Asia’s top performer in the Index is Nepal, followed by Sri Lanka and India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Rule of Law Index 2021” report – released by World Justice Project
- Globally: India – 79th | Top three – Denmark, Norway & Finland
- In South Asia region: India – 3rd | Top two – Nepal & Sri Lanka

490. On October 19, India ranked at 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points among 113 countries in the 10th edition of the “Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021” released by Economist Impact and Corteva Agriscience. Ireland, Australia, the UK shared the top rank with the overall GFS score in the range of 77.8 and 80 points on the index. In the region of Asia Pacific, Japan topped the index followed by Singapore and New Zealand, while India ranked 14th in the region. Burundi ranked the lowest at 113. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th “Global Food Security (GFS) Index 2021” report – released by Economist Impact & Corteva Agriscience
- Globally: India (57.2 points) – 71st | Top three – Ireland, Australia & UK | Lowest at 113 – Burundi
- In Asia Pacific region: India – 14th | Top three – Japan, Singapore & New Zealand

491. In October 2021, After final rounds of the UEFA Nations League & qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, in “FIFA Rankings 2021”, India has moved one spot ahead to the 106th position. Brazil remains 2nd while Belgium is holding top position. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranked 106th in the latest FIFA Rankings | 1st – Belgium, 2nd – Brazil, 3rd – France
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

492. In October 2021, STPI (Software Technology Park of India) FinBlue has signed an MoU with ASEAN Financial Innovation Network Ltd (AFIN) to explore cross border collaboration. The MoU will strengthen collaboration for leveraging the expertise & knowledge to empower start-ups incubated at STPI FinBlue to develop World Class Products. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- STPI + AFIN = an MoU to explore cross-border collaboration & empower start-ups incubated at STPI FinBlue
- HQs of STPI – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Omkar Rai
- Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10

493. In October 2021, Goa has signed an MoU with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide essential skills like computational thinking, coding & communication to children aged 8-14 years. In addition, a letter of intent was also signed with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), India & Google CS Education. The aim is to prepare youth, especially from the weaker sections of society, for employment by upgrading them with the required skill set. In the 1st phase, they will provide training required for employment. The 2nd programme is planned to further help college students to improve employability & communication skills under TCS' Youth Employment Programme (YEP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa + TCS + Google = an MoU to launch a programme for skill training of children aged 8-14 years
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

Books & Authors

494. In a new book “Harsh Realities: The Making of Marico, Mariwala” details the difficulties he faced when he proposed financial separation from the family-run business, a prospect that also paved the way for the growth of Brand Marico. The book is authored by Harsh Mariwala and Ram Charan.

Key Points:

- “Harsh Realities: The Making of Marico, Mariwala” book – authored by Harsh Mariwala & Ram Charan

495. In October 2021, Poet-lyricist Gulzar has recently authored a book titled “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir”. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Actually... I Met Them: A Memoir” book – authored by Gulzar
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

Obituaries

496. On October 17, Afghanistan's former Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai passed away at the age of 78. Ahmadzai served as prime minister of Afghanistan from 1995 to 1996 soon before the Taliban took control of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai – Former PM of Afghanistan – passed away

497. On October 16, Former international hockey player Saranjeet Singh passed away. He was 59 year old. He was former State Bank of India hockey player who played for Coronation Club in local league. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saranjeet Singh – Former International Hockey Player – passed away

Science & Technology

498. In October 2021, South Korea unsuccessfully test launches 1st domestically made space rocket, Nuri from Naro Space Centre. The rocket reached its desired altitude but failed to deliver a dummy payload into orbit in its first test launch. Nuri is powered by liquid propellants but the South Koreans plan to develop a solid-fuel space launch rocket by 2024. Also, South Korea is hoping to send a probe to the moon by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Korea – unsuccessfully test launched 1st domestically made space rocket - “Nuri”
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

499. In October 2021, Bellatrix Aerospace & Dhruva Space have each signed an MoU with Larsen & Toubro for the joint development of products & manufacturing to service demand for private space access. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the Expo 2020 event in Dubai. Dhruva is a developer of satellites & launch platforms. Bellatrix is world's 1st firm to develop a Microwave Plasma Thruster that uses only water as a fuel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bellatrix Aerospace + Dhruva Space + Larsen & Toubro = an MoU to develop products for Private Space access
- Bellatrix – world's 1st firm to develop 'Microwave Plasma Thruster' that uses only water as a fuel
- HQs of Bellatrix Aerospace – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Ganapathy | Established in – 2015
- HQs of Dhruva Space – Hyderabad | CEO – Sanjay Nekkanti



500. In October 2021, The Department of Zoology of 'Dera Natung Government College' of Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh has discovered three new species of fish of genus *Aborichthys* of family Nemachelidae. They have been named "Aborichthys uniobarensis", "Aborichthys barapensis" & "Aborichthys palinensis". The Eastern Himalaya region is one of the four major biodiversity hotspots of India. It is endemic to more than 20% fauna of India, including the fish species. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3 new species of fish – found in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh (Genus – *Aborichthys* & Family – Nemachelidae)
- The 3 species are named : *Aborichthys uniobarensis*, *Aborichthys barapensis* & *Aborichthys palinensis*
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra





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