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सर्वश्रेष्ठ टेस्ट सीरीज



Kriti Advani
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Kola Murali Krishna Sai
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Abhishek Raj
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Rahul Jha
All IBPS 2020 Exams



Nimish Mishra
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



Subha Saha
IBPS PO & IBPS CLERK 2020

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Full-Length Current Affairs Mock Test
Series Month-wise

October
MockDrill
PDF No. 12
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 29th November 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

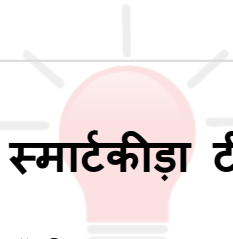
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of October 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 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।

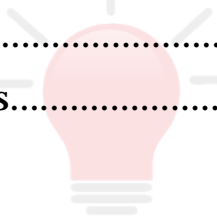
आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

551. In October 2021, To ensure faster, transparent and timely completion of election work, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has introduced the 'Garuda' app for digital mapping of all polling stations by adding latitude and longitude by booth-level officers (BLOs). BLOs will upload photos and location information of polling stations from their registered mobile numbers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ECI – launched 'Garuda' app for digital mapping of all polling stations
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

552. On October 20, The Government has declared "Kalij Pheasant" as new State bird of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. This bird is also known as "Lophura Leucomelanos". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Kalij Pheasant" – declared as new State bird of J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

553. On October 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Infosys Foundation made 806-bedded Vishram Sadan at National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Jhajjar Campus of AIIMS New Delhi. This is done as a part of Infosys' Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated 806-bedded Vishram Sadan – at AIIMS, New Delhi
- It is made by Infosys foundation's CSR
- HQs of Infosys – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Salil Parekh | Founded in – 1981

554. On October 21, NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched a Digi-Book "Innovations for You", an attempt to showcase the success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains. The first edition of this book is focused on innovations in Health Care and soon other sectors shall follow. The book is a compilation of 45 health tech startups, incubated at Atal Incubation Centres spread across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AIM (NITI Aayog) – launched 1st edition of a Digi-Book "Innovations for You" focused on innovations in Health Care
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (HQs of AIM – New Delhi | Director – Chintan Vaishnav)



555. On October 20, With a sugarcane yield of 2,635 quintal per hectare, Subhash Chandra, a farmer from Bijnor district in Uttar Pradesh has won the “State-level Sugarcane Competition 2021”. He received the prize money of ₹15,000 for his yield in the ‘Early Plant’ category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subhash Chandra (Bijnor, UP) – won the “State-level Sugarcane Competition 2021” – conducted by Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

556. On October 24, Haryana government has announced to provide Smartwatches to the state’s government officials to track their attendance as well as their movement during office hours. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation in 2018 became the first government body to introduce GPS-enabled smartwatches under the Smart City Project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – announced to provide Smart-watches to the state’s government officials to track their attendance
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

557. On October 23, Goa has achieved 100% implementation in major schemes such as open defecation free (ODF), electricity, piped water, ration to poor. PM Narendra Modi interacted with beneficiaries and stakeholders of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Swayampurna Goa programme via video conferencing. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Goa – achieved 100% implementation in major schemes such as ODF, electricity, piped water, ration to poor
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

558. On October 25, PM Narendra Modi has launched “PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission” from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi with the total outlay of Rs. 64,180 Cr. It is touted to be one of India's largest pan-India schemes. Under the scheme, a National Institution for One Health, 4 new National Institutes for Virology, a Regional Research Platform for WHO South East Asia Region, 9 Biosafety level-III Laboratories, 5 new Regional National Centres for Disease Control will be set up. For making Uttar Pradesh a medical hub of India, Narendra Modi inaugurated 9 medical colleges in the state worth Rs 2,329 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched “PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission” from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Total outlay of the Mission – Rs 64,180 Cr
- Narendra Modi – also inaugurated 9 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh worth Rs 2,329 Cr
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



559. On October 25, Department of School Education and Literacy had launched the “National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission” in July 2021 with the aim to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by Grade 3. For implementation of the mission, a National Steering Committee (NSC) has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A National Steering Committee is constituted for the implementation of “NIPUN Bharat Mission”
- Chairman of the NSC – Dharmendra Pradhan

International Affairs

560. On October 20, Sri Lanka has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India to help the island nation's Eastern province in the cultivation of maize and paddy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – received the first consignment of non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa



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Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

561. In October 2021, HDFC Ltd & India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) have entered into a strategic alliance to offer home loans to customers of IPPB. As per the MoU, credit, technical and legal appraisals, processing, and disbursement for all home loans will be handled by HDFC Ltd, while IPPB will be responsible for sourcing of loans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Ltd + IPPB = a strategic alliance to offer home loans to customers of IPPB
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthy | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

562. In October 2021, ICICI Lombard has introduced a new initiative “BeFit”. It will be serviced through its “ILTakeCare” app. It provides customers with the benefits of OPD services i.e. doctor consultation, pharmacy & diagnostics services, and physiotherapy sessions in a cashless manner. The pharmacy service provides with its express service, i.e. medicine delivered at home within 60 minutes and lab tests both at home and centre visit. The product also offers 24 x 7 consultations (tele and virtual) by a panel of expert doctors. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard – introduced a new initiative “BeFit” to provide customers with the benefits of OPD services
- ICICI Lombard’s app – “ILTakeCare”
- HQs of ICICI Lombard – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Bhargav Das Gupta

563. In October 2021, IndiGo & Kotak Mahindra Bank announced a strategic partnership to launch a co-branded credit card, Ka-ching under the 6E Rewards programme. 6E is the airline code for IndiGo. The co-branded card will be available in two variants – ‘6E Rewards’ & ‘6E Rewards XL’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IndiGo + Kotak Mahindra Bank = partnership to launch a co-branded credit card - “Ka-ching”
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of IndiGo – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Ronojoy Dutta

564. On October 23, The RBI has introduced a revised Scale-based Regulatory Framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), which will be effective from 1 October, 2022. The scale-based Regulatory Framework will comprise of 4 layers based on their size, activity, and perceived riskiness. Under the new framework, the RBI has tweaked the Non-Performing Asset (NPA) classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs. Based on their size & activity, NBFCs are mainly categorised into 3 layers - Base Layer, Middle Layer & Upper Layer. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – introduced a revised Scale-based Regulatory Framework for NBFCs effective from October 1, 2022
- RBI tweaked the NPA classification to more than 90 days for all categories of NBFCs
- NBFCs are mainly categorised into 3 layers – Base Layer, Middle Layer & Upper Layer
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

565. On October 23, The RBI has released a draft framework on master directions to implement the “Basel III Capital Framework for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs)” including EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB, and SIDBI. The draft directions propose minimum capital ratio of 11.5% of total risk weighted assets (RWA) effective from July 1, 2022. They also propose AIFIs to maintain a capital conservation buffer in the form of common equity at 2.5% of RWA, in addition to the minimum capital adequacy ratio of 9%. The draft regulations proposed raising common equity in tier-1 capital to 5.5% of RWA and proposed the minimum tier-1 capital at 7%. All India Financial Institutions’ (AIFIs) investments in the capital instruments should be limited to 10% of the investing bank’s capital funds. For improving the quality of banking supervision, three sets of regulations known as Basel-I, II, and III were issued by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released a draft framework to implement the “Basel III Capital Framework for AIFIs”
- Ratios effective from July 1, 2022:



- Minimum Capital Ratio: 11.5%
- Minimum Capital Adequacy Ratio: 9%
- Capital Conservation Buffer: 2.5%
- Common Equity In Tier-1 Capital: 5.5%
- Minimum Tier-1 Capital: 7%
- AIFIs investments in the capital instruments should be limited to 10% of the investing bank’s capital funds
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

566. On October 18, RBL Bank has launched the new digital platform named “Abacus 2.0”. It would enable the bank to provide products and services to new as well as existing customers digitally. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBL Bank – launched the new digital platform named “Abacus 2.0”
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja | Chairman – Prakash Chandra

Defence Affairs

567. On October 23, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched an ‘Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy’ at the 2nd edition of the Naval Commanders’ Conference. This will outline all the unmanned aerial and underwater platforms and efforts of the Navy as part of its force modernisation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched an ‘Integrated Unmanned Road Map for Indian Navy’
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

568. On October 22, The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with the US government under #ForeignMilitarySale (FMS) for procurement of “MK 54 Torpedo & Expendable (Chaff and Flares)” for the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 423 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoD + US = a contract to procure “MK 54 Torpedo & Expendable (Chaff & Flares)” for Indian Navy (Cost - Rs 423 Cr)
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



569. On October 26, The sea phase of the maiden bilateral tri-service exercise “Konkan Shakti 2021” between the UK and Indian Armed Forces commenced off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. INS Chennai participated in the exercise. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A bilateral tri-service exercise “Konkan Shakti 2021” – held between India & UK in the Arabian Sea
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

570. On October 26, As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, Indian Navy has conducted an Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi to Goa under aegis of Indian Naval Sailing Association (INSA). Six Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) viz Mhadei, Tarini, Bulbul, Neelkanth, Kadalpura and Hariyal participated in this event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – conducted an Offshore Sailing Regatta from Kochi (Kerala) to Goa
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral Karambir Singh | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950

Schemes & Initiatives

571. On October 23, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the state government’s ambitious “Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id)” scheme for students. Free of cost education will be given to those whose verified family income is less than ₹1.80 lakh per annum. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Haryana – launched “Parivar Pehchan Patra (family id)” scheme for students
- Free education will be provided to students whose family income is less than ₹1.80 lakh/annum
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Bandaru Dattatraya

572. On October 19, Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal inaugurated 250mm Seer Water Supply scheme in Kashmir. The project will benefit around 10,000 people and will be completed under the ambit of Jal Jeevan Mission within 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated 250mm Seer Water Supply scheme in Kashmir, J & K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



Important Days & Dates

573. Every five years, “World Statistics Day” is marked on October 20. The day is celebrated to mark the importance of statistics in human lives. The day was first observed in 2010. In 2020, the 3rd World Statistics Day was observed with the theme of “Connecting the world with data we can Trust”. And the next (4th) World Statistics Day will be celebrated in 2025. The UN’s Statistical Commission was formed in the year 1947. But the Commission adopted the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics in 1994 only. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 20, 2020 – 3rd World Statistics Day (observed once in 5 years) | First edition – in 2010
- 2020’s Theme – “Connecting the world with data we can Trust”

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

574. On October 22, The 4th General Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held virtually between October 18 to 21, 2021. It was presided by Union Minister R. K. Singh. A total of 108 countries participated in the Assembly. UK and India will together bring the “Green Grids Initiative” and “One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)” at COP26. ISA is the nodal agency for implementing OSOWOG led by India. The ISA also announced a partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for solar energy across ISA’s member countries. The two organizations will work with World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a Solar Investment Action Agenda and a Solar Investment Roadmap, which will be launched at COP26. During the assembly, two new programmes were launched: ‘Management of Solar PV panels & Battery usage waste’, and ‘Solar Hydrogen programme’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh – presided over the 4th General Assembly of the ISA
- UK + India = to bring the “Green Grids Initiative” & “One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)” at COP26
- Nodal agency for India-led ‘OSOWOG’ – ISA
- ISA + Bloomberg Philanthropies = to mobilize \$1 trillion in global investments for Solar Energy across ISA’s members

575. On October 26, Lokmat Media Group organized the first-ever “National Inter-Religious Conference” in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The conference was addressed by Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari who was the Chief Guest of the event. The theme of this first of its kind conference was “Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – addressed the first-ever “National Inter-Religious Conference” in Nagpur, Maharashtra
- The conference was organized by – Lokmat Media Group
- Theme – “Global Challenges to Communal Harmony and Role of India”



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

576. In October 2021, Tamil drama Koozhangal (Pebbles), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, has been selected as India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards. Koozhangal had won the Tiger Award for best film, at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR). The film will compete under the "Best International Feature Film" category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Koozhangal (Tamil movie) – India's official entry for the 94th Academy Awards | Directed by – Vinothraj PS

577. On October 23, The Zimbabwean author and filmmaker Tsitsi Dangarembga is the recipient of the "2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade" by the German Book Trade Association. She is the first Black woman to receive the €25,000 award from the German Book Trade Association. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tsitsi Dangarembga (Zimbabwe) – first Black woman to receive "2021 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade"
- Zimbabwe – Harare – Dollar | President – Emmerson Mnangagwa

578. On October 25, Actor Rajinikanth was conferred with the 51st "Dadasaheb Phalke Award" for the year 2019 by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu for his stupendous contribution to Indian cinema at 67th National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi. Amitabh Bachchan was the recipient of the 50th Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajinikanth – received the 51st "Dadasaheb Phalke Award" for the year 2019 – from M. Venkaiah Naidu
- 67th National Film Awards ceremony – held in New Delhi

Appointments & Resignations

579. In October 2021, FloBiz, a fast-growing neobank for Indian SMBs, has roped in Padma Shri awardee actor Manoj Bajpayee as the brand ambassador to accelerate its outreach to the SMB sector and promote the adoption of its flagship product myBillBook - a simple to use GST billing and accounting software. FloBiz is also running a campaign "Business Ko Le Seriously". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manoj Bajpayee – roped in as the brand ambassador of 'FloBiz'
- HQs of FloBiz – Bengaluru | CEO – Rahul Raj



580. In October 2021, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a 2nd five-year term. He swept to victory with 80.1% of the vote in the election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shavkat Mirziyoyev – re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan (2nd term)
- [Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm](#) | [President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev](#)

581. In October 2021, Ms. Nagma Mohamed Mallick, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Poland, has been concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lithuania. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nagma Mohamed Mallick – appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Lithuania
- [Lithuania – Vilnius – Euro](#) | [President – Gitanas Nauseda](#)

582. In October 2021, Toshiba India announced the appointment of Shuichi Ito as its Managing Director effective from October 1, 2021. He will succeed Tomohiko Okada, and lead Toshiba India's energy and social infrastructure businesses in India. Toshiba India Private Limited (TIPL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Toshiba Corporation, Japan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shuichi Ito – appointed as the MD of Toshiba India (succeeding - Tomohiko Okada)
- [HQs of Toshiba India – New Delhi](#) | [MD – Shuichi Ito](#)

583. On October 23, The makers of renowned herbal medicine Zinda Tilismath in Hyderabad has launched an ointment Zinda Balm, with international tennis star Sania Mirza as Brand Ambassador. The launch of Zinda Balm celebrates its 100th anniversary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sania Mirza – appointed as Brand Ambassador of 'Zinda Balm' - newly launched by Zinda Tilismath (Hyderabad)

584. On October 23, The rating agency ICRA has announced the appointment of Ramnath Krishnan as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer from 23 October 2021. Krishnan succeeds N. Sivaraman. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramnath Krishnan – appointed as MD & CEO of 'ICRA' (succeeding - N. Sivaraman)
- [HQs of ICRA – Gurgaon, Haryana](#) | [President – Ramnath Krishnan](#) | [CEO – Ramnath Krishnan](#)

585. On October 25, World champion and double Olympics medallist P. V. Sindhu has been roped in as a brand ambassador of Spinny, a full-stack online-to-offline retail platform for buying and selling used cars. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- P. V. Sindhu – roped in as a brand ambassador of 'Spinny' - a retail platform for buying & selling used cars



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

586. On October 23, “From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and Plastic Pollution” report, released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), reveals the impact of marine litter and plastic pollution in the environment and their effects on the health of ecosystems, wildlife and humans . Plastics are the largest, most harmful and most persistent fraction of marine litter, accounting for at least 85% of total marine waste. Plastic Waste entering the aquatic ecosystem is expected to triple by 2040. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “From Pollution to Solution: A global assessment of marine litter and Plastic Pollution” report – released by UNEP
- Plastics accounts for 85% of total Marine Waste | Plastic Waste is expected to triple by 2040
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen | Founded in – 1972

587. On October 19, India is ranked at the top in Emissions related to crop burning, accounting for 13% of total Global Emissions for the 2015-2020 period, according to a new report released by climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics. The Indian climate tech startup Blue Sky Analytics which is founded by an IIT alumnus, also pointed towards a 12.2% contribution by India to cropland fire emissions in 2020. Blue Sky Analytics is also part of global coalition “Climate TRACE”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranked at the top in Emissions related to Crop burning (13% of total Global Emissions during 2015-2020)
- India’s contribution to cropland fire emissions in 2020 – 12.2%

588. On October 23, According to the 6th edition of “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020” report by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), global warming has killed 14% of the world’s coral reefs in a decade from 2009 to 2018. Coral reefs cover just under 1% of the ocean floor but support more than 25% of marine life. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th edition of “Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2020” report – by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
- Global warming has killed 14% of the world’s coral reefs in a decade from 2009 to 2018

589. On October 27, India is estimated to have suffered an average annual loss of about \$87 billion from extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts, according to the “State of the Climate in Asia 2020” report released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). China, India and Japan experienced the majority of this loss, approximately \$238 billion in China and \$87 billion in each India & Japan. In India, in West Bengal, 13.6 million people were affected and damage amounted to approximately USD 14 billion due to the cyclone. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “State of the Climate in Asia 2020” – released by WMO
- India – suffered an average annual loss of about \$87 billion from extreme weather events
- China (\$238 billion) – experienced the majority of this loss | Followed by India & Japan (\$87 billion in each)
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas | Established in – 1950

590. On October 25, the “Global Threat Assessment report 2021”, released by WeProtect Global Alliance stated that COVID-19 had contributed to a significant spike in child sexual exploitation and abuse online. The report featured a survey of technology companies that showed most were using tools to search child sexual abuse material, but only 37% currently use tools to search online grooming. During the COVID-19 lockdown in India, there was a 95% rise in searches for child sexual abuse material. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Threat Assessment report 2021” – released by WeProtect Global Alliance
- 95% rise in searches for child sexual abuse material in India during the COVID-19 lockdown

591. On October 25, According to the “National Intelligence Estimate on Climate” report released by the US-based National Intelligence Council, India is among the 11 countries which have been identified by United States intelligence agencies as ‘countries of concern’ with regard to Climate Change. The report has been released ahead of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “National Intelligence Estimate on Climate” report – released by National Intelligence Council (US)
- India is among the 11 countries identified as ‘countries of concern’ with regard to Climate Change

Acquisitions & Mergers

592. In October 2021, The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 4.99% shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company by HDFC Bank. HDFC ERGO is a joint venture between HDFC & ERGO International AG & offers a complete range of general/non-life insurance products. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HDFC Bank – to acquire 4.99% shareholding in HDFC ERGO General Insurance
- HQs of HDFC Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sashidhar Jagdishan | Tagline – “We understand your world”
- HQs of HDFC ERGO General Insurance – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Ritesh Kumar
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003



593. In October 2021, The CCI has approved the acquisition of 100% of the equity shareholding of Parexel International Corporation by Phoenix Parentco Inc. The Parexel International Corporation provides biopharmaceutical outsourcing services to biopharmaceutical companies. Phoenix Parentco is a special purpose investment vehicle that is jointly controlled by EQT Fund Management S.A.R.L & The Goldman Sachs Group Inc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Phoenix Parentco – to acquire 100% shareholding of Parexel International Corporation
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003

594. On October 25, The government has signed the share purchase agreement (SPA) with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 Cr. The government is divesting its 100% ownership of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50% stake in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government + Tata Sons = signed share purchase agreement for the sale of Air India for Rs 18,000 Cr
- Government is divesting its 100% ownership of Air India and Air India Express & 50% stake in AISATS

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

595. In October 2021, Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India and Auditor General of Maldives have signed an MoU to strengthen the audit process of public finance. The MoU was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, CAG of India & Hussain Niyazy, Auditor General of Maldives They also agreed to conduct training programmes in their respective countries for their staff on a need basis and explore other means of capacity development support, and cooperate on mutually beneficial areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Maldives = an MoU to strengthen the audit process of public finance
- CAG of India – Girish Chandra Murmu
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Myint Swe | PM – Min Aung Hlaing

596. On October 23, Newly launched airline Flybig has entered into an agreement with IRCTC to facilitate travellers to book tickets for any of its northeast destinations through the latter's 'Air' platform. The partnership is launched in line with 'Dekho Apna Desh' to promote NE sectors' flora, fauna and culture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flybig + IRCTC = an agreement to facilitate travellers to book tickets for any of the NE destinations
- HQs of Flybig – Gurugram, India | CEO – Sanjay Mandavia Srinivas Rao
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall



Obituaries

597. On October 20, Former Tamil Nadu top-order batsman R. C. Vasanth Kumar passed away following a heart attack. He was 45. Vasanth was the Secretary of Magnet Cricket Club. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. C. Vasanth Kumar ([Tamil Nadu](#)) – a Cricketer – passed away

Science & Technology

598. On October 23, Tata Power has signed an MoU with IIT Delhi to collaborate in areas such as Smart Grid Technology & Clean Energy Solutions. They also agreed to explore a possibility to develop Tata Power Virtual Centre of Excellence towards complementing and supplementing various technologies, labs and infrastructure. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power + IIT Delhi = an MoU to collaborate in areas such as Smart Grid Technology & Clean Energy Solutions
- HQs of Tata Power – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Praveer Sinha | Established – 1915
- Director of IIT Delhi – V. Ramgopal Rao

599. On October 21, Intel has launched the “Intel Unnati Program” to help equip engineering students in India with industry-relevant data-centric skills. The company plans to setup 100 Intel Unnati Data Centric Labs by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Intel – launched the “Intel Unnati Program” to set up 100 Data Centric Labs in a year
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Patrick P. Gelsinger | Founded on – July 18, 1968

600. On October 20, Microsoft launched a new 10-week programme called “Microsoft AI Innovate” for nurturing and scaling startups that are leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI). Both B2B and B2C startups from various industries can participate in the Quarterly cohorts of this programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched a new 10-week programme called “Microsoft AI Innovate” for nurturing & scaling startups
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975





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