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October
MockDrill
PDF No. 13
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 30th November 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

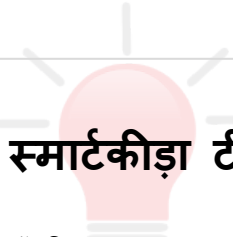
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of October 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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



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National & States Affairs

601. In October 2021, Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) for 2 years. Total 9 IIMs are the academic partner for classroom sessions for MGNF phase-II. IIM Bangalore was the academic Partner for phase-I. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan – launched phase-II of “MGNF” for – 2 years

602. In October 2021, R K Singh, Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy, launched the new market segment, “Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”. It will help in energy transition from fossil fuel to non-fossil fuel. Now any interested party can setup renewable energy capacity and sell it to Discoms/industries. National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC), POSOCO, is the Nodal Agency for GDAM. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R. K. Singh (Ministry of Power) – launched a new market segment “Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM)”
- Nodal Agency for GDAM – National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC), POSOCO

603. In October 2021, Under the initiative ‘Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa’, free breast cancer screening using ‘iBreast’ devices will be done for 1 lakh women in Goa. Also, free treatment will be provided for all positive cases with the support of the Government of Goa. The initiative was launched by cricketer Yuvraj Singh’s YouWeCan Foundation in partnership with SBI foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yuvraj Singh’s YouWeCan Foundation – launched “Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa” for breast cancer screening of women
- “Swasth Mahila, Swasth Goa” – was launched in partnership with SBI foundation
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

604. On October 24, Former India captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president Mohd Azharuddin unveiled the world’s biggest Cricket bat in Hyderabad. The bat is certified by the Guinness Book of World Records and designed by Pernod Ricard India. The bat measures 56.10 feet, weighs 9 tonnes and is made of poplar wood. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mohd Azharuddin – unveiled the world’s biggest Cricket bat – in Hyderabad
- Length – 56.10 feet | Weight – 9 tonnes | Made of – Poplar wood

605. On October 26, The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with global partners launched the first-of-its-kind and the largest ‘Impact Bond’ for skilling in India. The collaboration involves a \$14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth by making them employment ready. The Skill Impact Bond (SIB) is the first impact bond involving public, private partners and a public private partnership organisation, NSDC. The target group includes 60% women and girls and the objective is to equip them with skills and vocational training and provide access to wage-employment in Covid-19 recovery sectors. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- NSDC – launched the first-of-its-kind & the largest ‘Impact Bond’ for skilling in India
- The collaboration involves a \$14.4 million fund which will benefit 50,000 youth
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar

606. On October 24, The Karnataka government has decided to rename the Mumbai-Karnataka region as Kittur-Karnataka. Former chief minister BS Yediyurappa had earlier renamed Hyderabad-Karnataka as Kalyana-Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka – to rename the ‘Mumbai-Karnataka’ region as ‘Kittur-Karnataka’
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

607. Indian and international dance groups participated in the 3-day National Tribal Dance Festival organised in Raipur from October 28 to 30 under the tourism development plan of the Chhattisgarh government. The first edition of the National Tribal Dance Festival was held in 2019. The dance performances were held in two categories - ‘Wedding Ceremonies’ and ‘Other Prominent Rituals’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3-day National Tribal Dance Festival – organised in Raipur, Chhattisgarh (1st edition – in 2019)
- The dance performances were held in two categories: ‘Wedding Ceremonies’ & ‘Other Prominent Rituals’
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey

608. On October 28, PM Narendra Modi approved the reconstitution of his Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) for a period of 2 years. Former Deputy Governor of RBI Rakesh Mohan, along with IIM Ahmedabad Professor T. T. Ram Mohan, and Director-General of the NCAER Poonam Gupta, are the 3 new members who will join the 7-member council that advises the Prime Minister of India on the country’s Economy. The term of the previous EAC to the PM ended in September, 2021. Bibek Debroy has retained his position as the chairman of the EAC-PM since 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – approved the reconstitution of his Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) for a period of 2 years
- Rakesh Mohan + T. T. Ram Mohan + Poonam Gupta = joined the 7-member EAC-PM
- Chairman of EAC-PM – Bibek Debroy (since 2017)



International Affairs

609. In October 2021, Singapore has planned to launch standardised guidelines for 'Renewable Energy Certificates' (RECs) to decarbonise its power sector & develop a regional grid. The RECs are market-based instruments substantiating that electricity has been generated from renewable energy sources. One certificate represents that one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity was generated from a renewable energy source and delivered to the grid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Singapore – to launch standardised guidelines for RECs & develop a Regional Grid
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

610. On October 25, India, along with Australia, the UK and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will be launching a new initiative for "Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)" on the sidelines of the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP26). India, Australia and the UK have committed an initial funding of \$10 million for IRIS. SIDS comprises 58 countries in the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea regions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Australia + UK + SIDS = to launch a new initiative called "IRIS" at COP26
- India + Australia + UK = committed an initial funding of \$10 million for 'IRIS'

611. On October 23, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's ceremonial but top legislative body, passed a new land law for the protection and exploitation of the country's land border areas, which will come into effect from January 1, 2022. China shares its 22,457-km land boundary with 14 countries including India, the third longest after the borders with Mongolia and Russia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – passed a new land law for the protection & exploitation of its land border areas (effective from Jan 1, 2022)
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

612. On October 27, South Korea built the world's largest Hydrogen Fuel cell power plant. The Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant is a power plant with a total capacity of 78 MW constructed in four stages since 2017 by using fuel cells supplied by POSCO Energy and Doosan Fuel Cell. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Korea – built the world's largest 'Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant' | Total capacity – 78 MW
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

613. On October 26, Yes Bank has launched a new category of savings account named “YES Family” proposition enabling customers to care for the well-being of everyone in their family. The proposition is available across YES Prosperity, YES Premia and YES FIRST programs to cater to different customer segments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank – launched a new category of savings account named “YES Family” proposition
- Yes Family accounts include 3 programmes: YES Prosperity, YES Premia & YES First
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

614. On October 27, SBI General Insurance announced its technological collaboration with Google Pay that will enable users to buy SBI General’s health insurance on the Google Pay app. This collaboration marks Google Pay’s first such alliance with any insurer in India. Users will be able to buy both individual and family plans under ‘Arogya Sanjeevani’ policy through ‘Google Pay Spot’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- G-Pay + SBI General Insurance = first collaboration with any insurer in India
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of SBI Gen Ins. – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prakash Chandra Kandpal | Tagline – “Suraksha aur Bharosa Dono”

615. On October 25, Future Generali India Insurance (FGII) has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with the Bank of India (BoI) for further penetration of its general insurance products. Through this alliance, FGII will offer its wide array of best-in-class and innovative insurance solutions to 5,084 BoI branches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Future Generali India Insurance + BoI = a bancassurance tie-up
- HQs of FGII – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anup Rau
- HQs of BoI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Atanu Kumar Das | Tagline – “Relationship Beyond Banking”

616. On October 28, The government announced the appointment of veteran banker K. V. Kamath as Chairperson of the newly set up ₹20,000 Cr National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID). Mr. Kamath completed his 5-year tenure in 2020 as the first head of the New Development Bank set up by the BRICS group of countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. V. Kamath – appointed as the Chairperson of the newly set up ‘NaBFID’ with a corpus of ₹20,000 Cr



617. On October 27, Karnataka Bank has been conferred with the “Top Organizations with Innovative HR Practices” award at the 19th edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

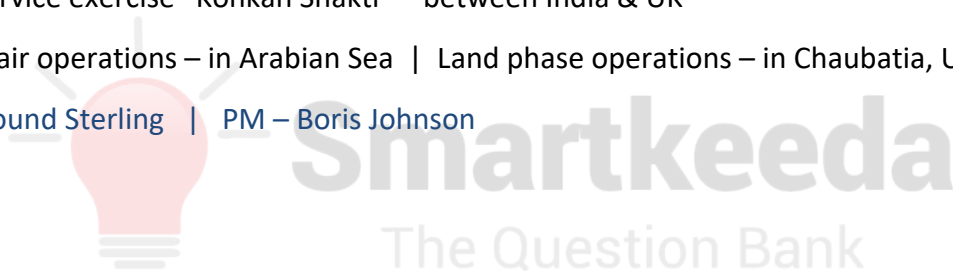
- Karnataka Bank – conferred with the “Top Organizations with Innovative HR Practices” award
- 19th edition of the Asia Pacific HRM Congress – held in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- HQs of Karnataka Bank – Mangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Mahabaleshwara M. S. | Chairman – Pradeep Kumar Panja

Defence Affairs

618. In October 2021, Konkan Shakti 2021 is the first bilateral tri-service exercise between the armed forces of India and the UK. The sea phase & the air operations of this exercise held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The land phase of the exercise conducted at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 1st bilateral tri-service exercise “Konkan Shakti” – between India & UK
- Sea phase & the air operations – in Arabian Sea | Land phase operations – in Chaubatia, Uttarakhand
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson



Sports & Games

619. In October 2021, Olympic badminton champion Viktor Axelsen clinched the ‘Denmark Open 2021’ in his hometown with an emphatic win over world number one Momota Kento of Japan. Also, Akane Yamaguchi of Japan won her second title in the women’s category defeating An Se-young of South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark - Badminton) – won “Denmark Open 2021” in men’s single
- Akane Yamaguchi (Japan - Badminton) – won “Denmark Open 2021” in women’s single

620. In October 2021, BCCI unveiled Ahmedabad & Lucknow as the two new teams for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 after CVC Capitals Partners & RPSG Group bid for the teams. The RPSG Group picked Lucknow as their home base with a winning bid of Rs 7090 Cr while CVC Capital Partners have opted for Ahmedabad with a bid of Rs 5625 Cr. Now, ‘IPL 2022’ season will comprise 10 teams. Before 2022, the 2010 edition of the IPL also featured 10 teams. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Ahmedabad & Lucknow – 2 new teams for ‘IPL 2022’ (Now total teams – 10)
- RPSG Group – opted for Lucknow team
- CVC Capital Partners – opted for Ahmedabad team
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Secretary – Jay Shah | Founded in – 1928

621. In October 2021, Netherlands all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate has announced his retirement from international cricket after his side failed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the T20 World Cup in Sharjah. Born in South Africa, Ten Doeschate made his debut in Amstelveen in 2006 against Sri Lanka in an ODI match. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ryan ten Doeschate (Netherlands) – retired from International Cricket
- Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte

622. On October 27, In a first of its kind move, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed a 3-year exclusive partnership with sports management firm IOS Sports and Entertainment. IOS Sport will act as exclusive commercial partner of AFI. They will work towards building the AFI’s brand in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- AFI + IOS Sports & Entertainment = a 3-year exclusive partnership
- HQs of IOS Sports – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Neerav Tomar
- HQs of AFI – New Delhi | President – Adille J. Sumariwalla | Secretary General – Ravinder Chaudhry

Important Days & Dates

623. “Occupational Therapy Day” is observed every year on October 27. It was first observed in 2010. The theme for this year is “Belong. Be You”. On the occasion of World Occupational Therapy Day, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) announced the introduction of ‘Adaptive Clothing’ to meet the needs of patients with physical, cognitive and sensory impairments and disabilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 27 – “Occupational Therapy Day” (since - 2010)
- 2021’s Theme – “Belong. Be You”
- HQs of NIMHANS – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Pratima Murthy



624. October 26 is celebrated as the 'Accession Day' in Jammu and Kashmir every year to commemorate the day when Maharaja Hari Singh signed the Instrument of Accession in 1947, making Jammu & Kashmir an integral part of India. This day was officially made a public holiday in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 26 – 'Accession Day' – celebrated in Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

625. "Infantry Day" is observed on 27 October in all army establishments to pay tribute & homage to infantry soldiers who had laid down their lives for India in the line of duty. It was on this day when the first Battalion of the Sikh Regiment reached Srinagar airbase & became 'The Wall' for the country to prevent it from the Pakistan Army, who had entered Kashmir in 1947. This year the 75th Infantry Day was observed & IAF recalled the history of vintage aircraft 'Parashurama' on this occasion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 27 – "Infantry Day" to pay tribute & homage to infantry soldiers
- IAF – recalled the history of vintage aircraft 'Parashurama'
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh

626. "World Day for Audiovisual Heritage" is observed by United Nations every year on October 27 to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents. Audiovisual archives tell us stories about people's lives and cultures from all over the world. "Your Window to the World" is the theme for this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 27 – "World Day for Audiovisual Heritage" by – United Nations
- 2021's theme – "Your Window to the World"
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

627. India and Sweden celebrated the 8th Innovation Day on October 26, 2021 to discuss various aspects of climate change and the possible solutions to bring green transition. The online event themed "Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition" is hosted by India Unlimited in association with the Embassy of India in Sweden, Sweden-India Business Council, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 26 – 8th Innovation Day – celebrated by India & Sweden
- 2021's Theme – "Accelerating India Sweden's Green Transition"
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Kjell Stefan Lofven



628. Every year on October 28, “International Animation Day (IAD)” is marked and celebrated across the world. On this day, in the year 1892, the birth of animation took place as the first public performance of projected moving images at the renowned Emile Reynaud’s Theatre Optique in Paris. The day was introduced and initiated globally in 2002 by the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA), which is a member of the UNESCO. On June 7, 2021, the annual “ASIFA Prize 2021” was awarded to Germany’s Otto Alder at the opening ceremony of Animafest Zagreb. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 28 – “International Animation Day (IAD)” – by ASIFA (since - 2002)
- ASIFA – a member of the UNESCO
- “ASIFA Prize 2021” – awarded to Otto Alder ([Germany](#))

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

629. On October 26, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar addressed the leadership session of “WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response” which was co-chaired by India. During the meeting, she highlighted the PM Narendra Modi’s commitment to eliminate TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the global target. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharati Pravin Pawar – addressed the leadership session of “WHO SEAR High-Level Meeting for Renewed TB Response”
- The meeting was co-chaired by – India
- Indian government’ target to eliminate TB – by 2025 | Global target – by 2030
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: [Mansukh L. Mandaviya](#) | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat
- MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: [Bharati Pravin Pawar](#)

630. On October 26, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) via video conference from New Delhi. This year’s Annual Meeting has been jointly organized by AIIB and the United Arab Emirates on the theme of “Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow”. Nirmala Sitharaman shared her thoughts in the Governor’s Roundtable Discussion on the theme “COVID-19 Crisis and Post-COVID Support”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman – participated in the 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB
- Theme – “Investing Today and Transforming Tomorrow”
- HQs of AIIB – Beijing, China | President – Jin Liqun | Established in – 2016 | Members – 104



631. On October 22, In view of the need for combating plastic pollution, NITI Aayog organized a National Policy Dialogue on “Plastic Free Cities and Oceans” under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. On World Environment Day in 2018, the PM had committed to eliminate 100% single-use plastic by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – organized a National Policy Dialogue on “Plastic Free Cities and Oceans”
- It was organised under the Chairmanship of – Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan | Formed on – August 15, 1969

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

632. On October 24, Kerala has won the award for the ‘City with the Most Sustainable Transport System’. The award has been given in recognition of the projects implemented like Kochi Metro, Water Metro and e-mobility, to enhance the transport facilities in Kochi. The formation of the ‘Kochi Open Mobility Network’ also helped to win the award. The award was presented in Delhi by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – won the award for ‘City with the Most Sustainable Transport System’ – for implementing projects in Kochi
- The award was presented by – Hardeep Singh Puri
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

633. On October 21, TVS Motor Company has been recognised in the category ‘Outstanding Renewable Energy User’ at the 3rd Edition of “India Green Energy Award 2020” by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE). The award was presented by Shri Nitin Gadkari. In 2020-21, renewable energy contributed to 84% of overall company power consumption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd Edition of “India Green Energy Award 2020” – by the Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE)
- TVS Motor Company – won “India Green Energy Award 2020” in ‘Outstanding Renewable Energy User’ category
- The award presented by – Nitin Gadkari
- HQs of TVS Motor Company – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – K. N. Radhakrishnan



Appointments & Resignations

634. On October 24, Sunil Paliwal has assumed charge as Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust. He was holding the post of CMD at the Kamarajar Port Ltd. Paliwal, a 1993-batch Tamil Nadu Cadre IAS Officer, succeeded P. Raveendran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunil Paliwal – assumed charge as Chairperson of the Chennai Port Trust (succeeding - P. Raveendran)

635. On October 22, K. Madhavan has been re-elected as the President of the Indian Broadcasting and Digital Foundation (IBDF) for the second consecutive term. India TV Chairman Rajat Sharma, Rahul Joshi and Shashi Vempati have been elected as Vice Presidents of the IBDF which was formerly known as the Indian Broadcasting Foundation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- K. Madhavan – re-elected as the President of the Indian Broadcasting & Digital Foundation (2nd term)
- Rajat Sharma + Rahul Joshi + Shashi Vempati = elected as the Vice Presidents of the IBDF

636. On October 28, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited appointed Dr. Subhash Chandra Khuntia as the part-time Chairman. A 1981-batch IAS officer, Dr. Khuntia has earlier worked as Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, Secretary to Government of India and was the Chairman of IRDAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subhash Chandra Khuntia – appointed as the part-time Chairman of Jana Small Finance Bank
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia

637. On October 28, Jammu & Kashmir Bank has approved the appointment of Baldev Prakash as its next MD and CEO for a period of 3 years from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. Presently, Rajesh Kumar Chhibber is the Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank, who assumed charge of the bank in June 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Baldev Prakash – to take charge as the next MD & CEO of Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar, J & K | MD & Chairman – R. K. Chhibber



Amount & Agreements

638. On October 26, Neom Tech and OneWeb have signed a \$200 million joint venture (JV) agreement to bring high-speed satellite connectivity to Neom, Saudi Arabia and the wider West Asia and neighbouring East African countries. Neom Tech & Digital Holding Company and OneWeb expect to complete ground infrastructure in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neom Tech (Saudi Arabia) + OneWeb = \$200 million JV agreement to bring high-speed satellite connectivity
- HQs of OneWeb – London, UK | CEO – Adrian Steckel | Executive Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- OneWeb – co-owned by Bharti Global & the UK

639. On October 26, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$4.5 million project readiness financing (PRF) loan to support Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Mizoram. Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs Additional Secretary Rajat Kumar Mishra and ADB Country Director for India Takeo Konishi signed the agreement. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + GoI = \$4.5 million PRF loan to support Aizawl Sustainable Urban Transport Project in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

640. On October 27, Four Indian universities led by IISc Bangalore make it to the "Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2021". IISc Bangalore climbed into the top 100 (91-100 band), leading among the Indian institutes. IIT Bombay climbed two ranking bands to 126-150th. IIT Madras retained its place in the 176-200 band while IIT Delhi (176-200) appeared in the list for the first time. Harvard University in the US retained its position at the very top of the list, followed by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US. China's Tsinghua University that ranked 10th, is the only Asian university in the top 10. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Times Higher Education's World University Rankings 2021" – topped by Harvard University (US)
- IISc Bangalore – topped among Indian universities | Other 3 universities: IIT Bombay, IIT Madras & IIT Delhi
- Tsinghua University (China) – the only Asian university in the top 10



641. On October 26, India ranked at the 9th spot globally for Climate Tech Investment, according to a report titled “Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement” by London & Partners, and Dealroom.Co. India's climate tech firms received \$1 billion in venture capital funding between 2016 and 2021. Global climate tech venture capital investment soared from \$6.6 billion in 2016 to \$32.3 billion in 2021. The list was topped by the US (\$48 billion), followed by China (\$18.6 billion) & Sweden (\$5.8 billion). Europe is the fastest-growing region globally for climate tech. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Five years on: Global climate tech investment trends since the Paris Agreement” report – by L&P + Dealroom.Co
- India ranked 9th for Climate Tech Investment | 1st – US (\$48 billion)
- Europe – the fastest-growing region globally for Climate Tech

642. On October 26, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Bihar are the most vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts and cyclones in India, according to a first-of-its-kind report titled “Mapping India’s Climate Vulnerability - A District-level Assessment” released by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). The report analysed 640 districts in India and found 463 are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts and cyclones. More than 80% of Indians live in districts are vulnerable to Climate Risks. The report further states that more than 45% of these districts have undergone unsustainable landscape and infrastructure changes. The CEEW study also indicated that only 63% of Indian districts have a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mapping India’s Climate Vulnerability - A District-level Assessment” – released by CEEW
- 463 out of 640 districts in India are vulnerable to extreme floods, droughts & cyclones
- More than 80% of Indians live in districts are vulnerable to Climate Risks
- HQs of CEEW – New Delhi | CEO – Arunabha Ghosh

Acquisitions & Mergers

643. On October 27, Paytm Insuretech Private Limited (PIT) has entered into a strategic partnership with Swiss Re, one of the world’s leading providers of reinsurance. Swiss Re will invest Rs 920 Cr to acquire 23% stake in Paytm Insuretech Limited (PIT). Gross written premium for non-life insurance is expected to increase from \$27 billion as of FY2021 to \$50-60 billion by FY 2026, as per RedSeer data. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swiss Re + Paytm Insuretech = a strategic partnership to acquire 23% stake in Paytm Insuretech for Rs 920 Cr
- HQs of Swiss Re – Zurich, Switzerland | CEO – Christian Mumenthaler



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

644. On October 27, Google has partnered the Ministry of Electronics and IT's Startup Hub to launch "Appscale Academy", a growth and development program to train early to mid-stage startups across India on building high-quality apps for the world. 100 startups will be selected based on defined qualitative and quantitative parameters. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google + MeitY Startup Hub = partnership to launch a growth & development program - "Appscale Academy"
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

645. On October 28, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has signed an MoU with the Government of Chhattisgarh to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in the state. BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to create awareness. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE + Chhattisgarh = an MoU to spread awareness about the benefits of listing SMEs in the state
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uikey
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Justice Vikramajit Sen | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- BSE is Asia's 1st Stock Exchange Company

Books & Authors

646. In October 2021, A new anthology titled "Writing for My Life: The Very Best of Ruskin" has been published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). It contains some of the most exemplary stories, essays, poems and memories by Ruskin Bond. It comes 25 years after the publication of his another anthology, "The Best of Ruskin Bond". The anthology is edited by Premanka Goswami. Ruskin Bond was born in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh. He is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri & Padma Bhushan among other prestigious awards. His 1st novel, "The Room on the Roof", written when he was 17, received the "John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize" in 1957. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Writing for My Life: The Very Best of Ruskin" book – authored by Ruskin Bond
- Edited by – Premanka Goswami | Publisher – Penguin Random House India



647. In October 2021, Former Union minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' gifted a copy of a book to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book, titled "AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue" was written by him during his battle with COVID-19 in AIIMS Hospital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

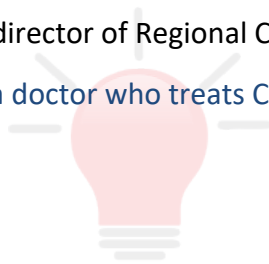
- "AIIMS Mein Ek Jang Ladte Hue" book – authored by Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' gifted this book to – PM Narendra Modi

Obituaries

648. On October 29, Noted Oncologist and founder director of Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. M. Krishnan Nair passed away. He was 81. He was credited with setting up the first Paediatric Oncology Section in a hospital in India. The country honoured him with Padma Shri in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. M. Krishnan Nair (Kerala) – a renowned Oncologist – passed away (recipient of Padma Shri - 2001)
- He was founder director of Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
- An oncologist is a doctor who treats Cancer



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Science & Technology

649. On October 27, China successfully launched an optical remote sensing satellite called "Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F" from a low-cost small, solid-fuel carrier rocket named 'Kuaizhou-1A' (KZ-1A). It was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in the northwestern Gansu Province, China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – launched an optical remote sensing satellite called "Jilin-1 Gaofen 02F" by 'Kuaizhou-1A' carrier rocket
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

650. On October 28, The DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile "Agni-5" that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km with a very high degree of accuracy. The test-firing was carried out from APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DRDO successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile "Agni-5" | Strike range – up to 5,000 km
- The missile was test-fired from – APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha)





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