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Test Series Month-wise

October
MockDrill
PDF No. 14
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 2nd December 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

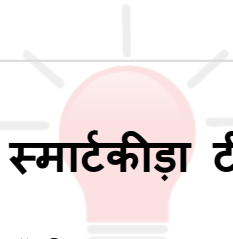
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of October 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

651. On October 28, Union Minister of MSME Shri Narayan Rane has launched “SAMBHAV”, a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 being organised by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises in New Delhi. Under the 1-month long awareness programme, students from different colleges/ITIs from all parts of India will be encouraged by 130 field offices of the Ministry to take up entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narayan Rane – launched “SAMBHAV” - a National Level Awareness Programme-2021 – organised by Ministry of MSME
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma

652. On October 28, A Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice N. V. Ramana has appointed a 3-member panel to enquire, investigate and determine whether Pegasus spyware was used for snooping on citizens during 2019. The panel comprises Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P. & Ashwin Anil Gumaste and their probe would be monitored by former SC Judge R. V. Raveendran. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The SC appointed an expert panel led by R. V. Raveendran to probe Pegasus spyware
- The 3-member panel comprises: Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Prabakaran P. & Ashwin Anil Gumaste
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)
- Retirement age of Chief Justices & Judges of HC – 62 years | Chief Justice of India & judges of the SC – 65 years

653. On October 26, The Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata was inaugurated for providing effective long-range marine communications. The ROIP system is introduced as a marine communication mode, for the first time in any major Indian port. SMT Port is the only riverine port in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System” – inaugurated at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata)
- Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port – the only riverine port in India (the rest are Coastal Ports)

654. On October 29, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai launched “Paryavaran Saathi” Chabot and website to facilitate people’s participation in the fight against pollution. The chatbot has been made in partnership with UNICEF’s Yuwaah initiative. Besides, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia launched a parent outreach programme called “Parents Sammavad” to increase parents’ participation in their children’s education. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gopal Rai (Delhi) – launched “Paryavaran Saathi” Chabot & website to fight against pollution
- Manish Sisodia (Delhi) – launched a parent outreach programme called “Parents Sammavad”
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



655. On October 27, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin launched the “Illam Thedi Kalvi” (Education at Doorstep) scheme at Mudaliarkuppam in Villupuram district to promote education at all levels, right from school to university, for all sections of society. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – launched the “Illam Thedi Kalvi” (Education at Doorstep) scheme at Mudaliarkuppam, Villupuram
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

656. On October 27, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a mobile application “Food Safety Connect” to connect with consumers and food business operators (FBOs). The app will help food businesses, particularly hawkers, vendors and start-ups, to apply for FSSAI registration through a faster and convenient mode. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FSSAI – launched a mobile application “Food Safety Connect” to connect with consumers & FBOs
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Shri Arun Singhal

657. On October 28, Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express has become the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of Southern Railway, first Shatabdi of Indian Railways and second mail/express train on Indian Railways. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express – became the first IMS certified train of Southern Railway
- HQs of Southern Railway – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | GM – John Thomas

International Affairs

658. In October 2021, Australia has given in-principle support for Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2050. The National party’s in-principle support for the target is a breakthrough for the Prime Minister Scott Morrison. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia – gave in-principle support for Net-Zero Carbon Emission by 2050
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

659. On October 29, Facebook Inc. changed its name to “Meta” (Meta Platforms, Inc.). Facebook’s name change is the most definitive signal so far of the company’s intention to stake its future on a new computing platform - ‘Metaverse’. Meta is fundamentally an ancient Greek word, which means ‘Beyond’. A new corporate logo is designed like an infinity-shaped symbol of blue colour. The term ‘Metaverse’ was first coined in 1992 in “Snow Crash” novel written by Neal Stephenson. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Facebook changed its name to “Meta” – to stake its future on a new computing platform - ‘Metaverse’
- Meta – an ancient Greek word which means ‘Beyond’ | New Logo – Blue infinity-shaped symbol
- ‘Metaverse’ term was first coined in 1992 in “Snow Crash” novel written by Neal Stephenson
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

660. On October 29, The US Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the launch of a new, 5-year, \$49 million initiative called the “South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)”. The SAREP will facilitate collaboration among Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to improve access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USAID – launched a 5-year initiative called the “South Asia Regional Energy Partnership (SAREP)” worth \$49 million
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., US | Administrator – Samantha Power | Founded in – 1961

661. The African Union (AU) has also suspended Sudan from the bloc over the unconstitutional seizure of power. Sudan's civilian and military leaders had been in a fragile power-sharing agreement for the past two years. Sudan will remain suspended until civilian rule in the country is restored. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- African Union – suspended Sudan from the bloc over the unconstitutional seizure of power
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound | PM – Abdalla Hamdok

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

662. On October 27, Sunfresh Agro Industries Pvt Ltd (SAIPL) and State Bank of India (SBI) have joined hands to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in Maharashtra. The credit facility through SBI will help in improving animal health, yield and milk quality in addition to enabling marginal farmers to own more cattle. Sunfresh Agro owns dairy brand ‘Prabhat’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sunfresh Agro Industries + SBI = partnership to extend financial support to the dairy farmers in Maharashtra
- Sunfresh Agro owns dairy brand ‘Prabhat’
- Location of Sunfresh Agro Industries – Shrirampur, Maharashtra
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman



663. On October 27, The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published the 37th half-yearly reports on 'Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves' as of end-September 2021. According to the report, India's foreign exchange reserves surged by \$58.38 billion during April-September, 2021 to \$635.36 billion, from \$576.98 billion as at end-March 2021. The RBI's share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves increased marginally from about 5.87% to 5.88% which is 743.84 metric tonnes of gold with the increase of 11% (year-on-year). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI published the 37th half-yearly reports on 'Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves' as of end-September 2021
- India's Foreign Exchange Reserves: surged by \$58.38 billion during April-Sep, 2021 (from \$576.98 bn to \$635.36 bn)
- RBI's share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves: 743.84 metric tonnes (5.88%) | increased by 11% y-o-y
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

664. In October 2021, As per the latest rules published by the RBI, there shall be a ceiling of Rs 1 Cr per borrower for financing subscriptions to Initial Public Offerings (IPO) from April 1, 2022. The RBI's new rules might reduce the quantum of funds available with high networth investors (HNI) for bidding in IPOs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – capped NBFC's IPO funding at Rs 1 Cr per borrower from April 1, 2022
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

665. On October 28, PayU launched its tokenisation solution "PayU Token Hub", which allows issuing banks to generate their own tokens. This solution is built by PayU and Wibmo, in partnership with Visa, MasterCard and leading banks. 'PayU Token Hub' will enable businesses to comply with RBI's latest guidelines on online card data storage. PayU Token Hub is fully interoperable, providing best of network and issuer tokens for Card-On-File (COF) use cases extensible to device tap-and-pay. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayU – launched its tokenisation solution "PayU Token Hub"
- The tokenisation solution is built by = PayU + Wibmo + Visa + MasterCard
- HQs of PayU – Netherlands | CEO – Laurent le Moal

666. On October 28, Max Life Insurance, in collaboration with FinVu and Finarkein, has adopted the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem. Max Life Insurance is the first insurer to adopt the AA ecosystem, which allows customers to digitally share their financial information and data across various financial institutions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance + FinVu + Finarkein = adopted the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem
- Max Life Insurance – the first insurer to adopt the AA ecosystem
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy



667. On October 28, Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Credit Cards on the RuPay Network for Indian armed forces personnel. The 'Kotak RuPay Veer Platinum' and 'Kotak RuPay Veer Select' Credit Cards are specially designed to fulfill the needs of armed forces Personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + NPCI = to launch Credit Cards on the RuPay Network for Indian armed forces' personnel
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – “Let’s make money simple”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

668. On October 31, Yes Bank in partnership with BankBazaar.com, launched a co-branded credit card “FinBooster” which is built around a unique proposition of credit fitness tracker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Bank + BankBazaar.com = launched a co-branded credit card “FinBooster”
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of BankBazaar.com – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Adhil Shetty

669. On October 31, Federal Bank and Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited (ABHICL) have announced their bancassurance partnership to provide bank’s customers with innovative health insurance solutions offered by ABHICL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Aditya Birla Health Insurance = bancassurance partnership
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”
- HQs of ABHICL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mayank Bathwal

670. On October 28, Mastercard has partnered with Lawrencedale Agro Processing India (LEAF) to launch “LEAF Farmer Network (LFN)”, a digital platform to improve financial assess and inclusion among the farmers in India. LFN will empower farmers across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu with digitization. The launch of LFN is an extension of ‘Mastercard Farm Pass’, a pilot programme that was introduced in 2018 in Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mastercard + LEAF = to launch “LEAF Farmer Network (LFN)” to improve financial assess & inclusion among farmers
- LFN is an extension of ‘Mastercard Farm Pass’ which was introduced in 2018 in Andhra Pradesh
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, US | CEO – Michael Miebach | Founded in – 1966
- HQs of LEAF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Founder & CEO – Palat Vijayaraghavan



Defence Affairs

671. On October 29, The 7th Indian Navy Frigate of 'P1135.6' class "INS Tushil" was launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia. Mrs Datla Vidya Varma named the new frigate as "Tushil", a Sanskrit word which means 'Protector Shield'. Frigates being built in Russia cost almost \$500 million each. Project '1135.6' is also known as 'Talwar Class' - a class of guided-missile frigates. These have been designed and built by Russia for the Indian Navy. These are modified Krivak III-class frigates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 7th ship of 'P1135.6' class (Talwar Class frigate) named "INS Tushil" – launched at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

672. On October 28, in a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak' was commissioned and dedicated to the nation at Goa by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard K. Natarajan. ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India's Western Seaboard. ICGS Sarthak was built by the Goa Shipyard Limited and will be commanded by Deputy Inspector General M. M. Syed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'ICGS Sarthak' – commissioned & dedicated to the nation at Goa – by K. Natarajan (DG of ICG)
- Built by – Goa Shipyard Limited | Commanded by – Inspector General M. M. Syed
- 'ICGS Sarthak' will be based – at Porbandar, Gujarat
- [HQs of ICG – New Delhi](#) | [Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan](#) | [Founded in – 1977](#)

Schemes & Initiatives

673. On October 26, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia launched the "Krishi Udaan 2.0" scheme which will help solve the problem of wastage of agricultural food wastes in India. 'Krishi UDAN' scheme was initially launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in 2020 to focus on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, northeastern states and tribal areas. The ministry has selected 53 airports to be covered under the scheme which will be majorly operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jyotiraditya Scindia (MoCA) – launched the "Krishi Udaan 2.0" scheme | Initially launched in 2020
- 53 airports will be covered under the "Krishi UDAN 2.0" scheme
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia](#) | [Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh](#)



Sports & Games

674. On October 29, Naveen Patnaik, Chief Minister of Odisha has virtually launched the world's first-ever "FIFA Football for School Programme" at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar. Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious world-wide programme run by FIFA, which aims to contribute to the education, development and empowerment of around 700 million children. In the run-up, a 3-day "Capacity Building Workshop - Train the Trainer" was conducted by FIFA at KISS from 25th October in which 100 Physical Education teachers from Odisha and over 100 football players from KIIT & KISS participated. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naveen Patnaik (Odisha) – launched the world's first-ever "FIFA Football for School Programme" at KISS, Bhubaneswar
- FIFA – conducted a 3-day "Capacity Building Workshop - Train the Trainer" at KISS, Bhubaneswar
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

675. On October 28, Fran Wilson has announced her retirement from International Cricket. She has featured in three World Cups, including being part of England team that lifted the ICC Women's World Cup trophy at Lord's in 2017. Besides, Sri Lankan cricketer Eshani Lokusuriyage also announced her retirement from International Cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Fran Wilson (England) – retired from International Cricket
- Eshani Lokusuriyage (Sri Lanka) – retired from International Cricket

Important Days & Dates

676. Every year on October 23, "Mole Day" is marked and celebrated across the world by chemists, chemistry enthusiasts, and students learning chemistry. Uniquely, this day is celebrated from 6:02 am to 6:02 pm, hence forming the date '6:02 10/23' which denotes the 'Avogadro Number'. This year, Mole Day comes during the "National Chemistry Week" which is observed between October 17 to 23. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 23 – "Mole Day" – celebrated by chemists & students learning chemistry (commemorates 'Avogadro Number')
- October 17 to 23 – "National Chemistry Week"

677. "World Stroke Day" is observed on October 29 every year. "World Stroke Day 2021" focuses on the "Precious Time" campaign which aims to raise awareness about stroke symptoms and the benefits of acting FAST (Facial drooping, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Timely emergency service) to identify a stroke and access emergency medical care. More than 13 million people will have a stroke each year and around 5.5 million will die as a result, according to the World Stroke Organization (WSO). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- October 29 – “World Stroke Day”
- This year’s focus is on the “Precious Time” campaign

678. “International Internet Day” is marked annually on 29 October. The day commemorates the anniversary of the first message “login” that was sent between two computers on 29 October, 1969 through ‘ARPANET’, the predecessor of the Internet. The number of active Internet users in India is expected to rise by 45% from 2020 to 2025. Internet penetration is highest in Maharashtra, Goa and Kerala while it is the lowest in Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. India ranked 122nd globally in terms of mobile Internet download speed as per data obtained in July, 2021. In terms of broadband internet speed, India ranked 68th. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 29 – “International Internet Day”
- The day commemorates the anniversary of the first message “login” sent between 2 computers on 29 October, 1969

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

679. On October 28, PM Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 18th “India-ASEAN Summit 2021” and welcomed Cambodia as the new chair of ASEAN for the year 2022. The ASEAN leaders highlighted the milestone of 30th anniversary of “India-ASEAN Partnership” and announced the year 2022 as “India-ASEAN Friendship Year”. India has contributed medical supplies worth \$200,000 to ASEAN’s humanitarian initiative for Myanmar and \$1 million for ASEAN’s Covid-19 Response Fund. PM Narendra Modi also participated in the 16th East Asia Summit (EAS) 2021 which was hosted by Brunei. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – participated in the 18th “India-ASEAN Summit 2021”
- 2022 – announced as “India-ASEAN Friendship Year”
- India – contributed medical supplies worth \$200,000 to ASEAN’s humanitarian initiative for Myanmar
- India – contributed \$1 million for ASEAN’s Covid-19 Response Fund
- Narendra Modi – participated in the 16th “East Asia Summit (EAS) 2021” – hosted by Brunei
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2021 – Brunei](#) | [Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia](#) | [Members – 10](#)
- [Chairmanship of ASEAN 2022 – Cambodia](#)

680. In October 2021, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav addressed the “Middle East Green Initiative Summit 2021” at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. The summit was held with the theme of “Succeeding the Transition to Green Economies: The Role of Sustainable Finance”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – addressed the “Middle East Green Initiative Summit 2021” at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- Theme – “Succeeding the Transition to Green Economies: The Role of Sustainable Finance”



681. On October 29, The 19th Meeting of Prosecutors General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States was hosted by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India. The SCO Prosecutors General signed a protocol to deal with human trafficking especially women and children. The next (20th) meeting of the Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States will be held in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 19th Meeting of Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States – hosted by Tushar Mehta (SGI)
- 20th Meeting of Prosecutors General of the SCO Member States – will be held in Kazakhstan (in 2022)
- HQs of SCO – Beijing, China | SG – Vladimir Norov | Present Member Countries – 8 | 2021 Presidency – Tajikistan

682. On October 28, Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya addressed the inaugural session of “CII Asia Health Summit 2021” organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The theme of the summit was “Transforming Healthcare for a Better Tomorrow”. Indian government is focusing on the theme of “From Token to Total Health”. Moreover, the CII launched a report titled “Telemedicine Demystified - Necessity During the Pandemic, Boon for the Future”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – addressed the inaugural session of “CII Asia Health Summit 2021” – organised by CII
- Theme – “Transforming Healthcare for a Better Tomorrow”
- Indian government is focusing on the theme – “From Token to Total Health”
- “Telemedicine Demystified - Necessity During the Pandemic, Boon for the Future” report – released by CII
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – T. V. Narendran | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

683. The UN General Assembly designated 2021 as the “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (IYFV)” to raise awareness on the important role of fruits and vegetables in human nutrition, food security and health. Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the National Conference on “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables” organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The conference was held under the theme “Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables for balanced and healthy diet and lifestyle”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – addressed the National Conference on “International Year of Fruits & Vegetables”
- The conference was organised by = MoAFW + UNFAO | IYFV was designated by – UNGA
- Theme – “Awareness about the nutritional benefits of fruits & vegetables for balanced and healthy diet & lifestyle”
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu | Formation – 16th October, 1945
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Abdulla Shahid | Member Countries – 193



Appointments & Resignations

684. On October 26, Kapiva has roped in Malaika Arora as the brand ambassador. As part of the association, Arora will also be a wellness mentor at the 'Kapiva Academy of Ayurveda'. Kapiva offers the best quality modern ayurvedic nutrition products with natural ingredients and supplements online to improve your lifestyle. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Malaika Arora – appointed as the brand ambassador of 'Kapiva'
- Malaika Arora – will be a wellness mentor at the 'Kapiva Academy of Ayurveda'

685. On October 26, Eicher Motors has approved the re-appointment of Siddhartha Lal as the company's Managing Director for a period of 5 years. Lal was credited with reviving the brand image of Royal Enfield since he took charge as MD in 2006-07. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Siddhartha Lal – reappointed as the MD of Eicher Motors – for 5 years
- HQs of Eicher Motors – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Siddhartha Lal

686. On October 29, The Central government appointed senior IAS officer Renu Sharma as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram. Renu Sharma replaced Lalnunmawia Chuaungo. The appointment of Sharma coincided with the Mizoram government appointing state additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister J. C. Ramthanga. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Renu Sharma – appointed as the new Chief Secretary of Mizoram (replacing - Lalnunmawia Chuaungo)
- J. C. Ramthanga – appointed as additional Chief Secretary to the CM of Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

687. On October 29, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the reappointment of Shaktikanta Das as the Governor of the RBI for a period of 3 years beyond December 10, 2021, or until further order. He was first appointed in 2018 replacing Urjit Patel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaktikanta Das – reappointed as the RBI Governor – for further 3 years
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

688. Indian-origin Canadian politician Anita Anand is appointed as Canada's new Defence Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Ms. Anand will replace long-time Defence Minister Indian-origin Harjit Sajjan. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Anita Anand (Indian-origin Canadian) – appointed as new Defence Minister of Canada
- Canada – Ottawa – Canadian Dollar | PM – Justin Trudeau

Amount & Agreements

689. On October 27, The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$100 million (around Rs 749 Cr) loan to promote agribusiness network to boost farm incomes and reduce food losses in Maharashtra. ADB will also provide a \$500,000 (\$0.5 million) technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund and \$2 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction on a grant basis to promote Maharashtra Agri-business Network Project (MAGNET). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – will provide \$100 million (Rs 749 Cr) to promote Maharashtra Agri-business Network Project (MAGNET)
- \$0.5 million from ADB's Technical Assistance Special Fund & \$2 million from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR)
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Members – 68 | Established in – 1966

690. In October 2021, S. Jaishankar arrived as part of his 4-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia with an aim to further expand bilateral ties with the three Central Asian countries. India has agreed to a \$200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan. During his visit to Kazakhstan, EAM addressed the 6th Ministerial meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures (CICA) 2021 in Nur-Sultan. EAM visited Armenia from October 12 to 13 which was the first ever visit of an Indian EAM to Armenia. During his visit, he visited the National Gallery of Armenia, which contains fresco versions of select Ajanta Cave paintings. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Jaishankar – was on 4-day visit to Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Armenia in October, 2021
- India – agreed to a \$200 million Line of Credit support for development projects in Kyrgyzstan
- S. Jaishankar – addressed the 6th Ministerial meeting of the 'CICA 2021' in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- S. Jaishankar – visited the National Gallery of Armenia
- Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov
- Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge | President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
- Armenia – Yerevan – Dram | President – Armen Sarkissian | PM – Nikol Pashinyan



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

691. On October 29, The World Bank has released the 4th edition of “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future” report. The report provides an updated database and rich analysis of the world’s wealth accounts spanning 146 countries, annually from 1995 to 2018. Due to air pollution, South Asia suffered the most loss in the world on human capital, as per the report. For the first time, the report introduced Blue Natural capital to the core accounts, such as marine fisheries and mangroves. And the report also applied Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) prices to wealth for the first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th edition of “The Changing Wealth of Nations 2021: Managing Assets for the Future” report – by World Bank
- South Asia – suffered the most loss in the world on human capital
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., USA](#) | [Member Countries – 189](#)
- [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

692. On October 28, Kerala emerged on top in the 6th edition of the “Public Affairs Index 2021” launched by Bengaluru-based Public Affairs Centre (PAC). Kerala was followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana in the large states category. In the smaller states category, Sikkim emerged first, followed by Goa and Mizoram. Puducherry achieved top rank among Union Territories, followed by Jammu and Kashmir and Chandigarh. Uttar Pradesh ranked first from the bottom as the worst performing large state, Manipur among small states and Andaman and Nicobar Islands in UTs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 6th edition of the “Public Affairs Index 2021” – launched by Public Affairs Centre ([Bengaluru, Karnataka](#))
- Large states: 1st - Kerala, 2nd - Tamil Nadu, 3rd - Telangana | Worst - Uttar Pradesh
- Smaller states: 1st - Sikkim, 2nd - Goa, 3rd - Mizoram | Worst - Manipur
- UTs: 1st - Puducherry, 2nd - J & K, 3rd - Chandigarh | Worst - Andaman & Nicobar Islands

693. On October 28, Union Health Minister Mansukh L. Mandaviya launched the 6th edition of the “National Formulary of India (NFI)” published by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) to promote rational use of medicines in India. The ‘NFI 2021’ would act as a guidance document for all the healthcare professionals such as clinicians, pharmacists, nurses, dentists. It will play a crucial role in daily clinical practices. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – launched the 6th edition of the “National Formulary of India (NFI)” published by IPC
- ‘NFI 2021’ will act as a Guidance Document for all the Healthcare Professionals
- [HQs of IPC – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh](#)



694. On October 28, Rajasthan has ranked 2nd after Karnataka in India in terms of energy efficiency as per the “State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020” released by the Ministry of Power. Karnataka topped the index with the score of 70. SEEI 2020 was developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE). Rajasthan is the only state to have constituted an Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) Cell in its Public Works Department (PWD). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2020” – released by Ministry of Power | Prepared by = BEE + AEEE
- 1st – Karnataka | 2nd – Rajasthan
- Rajasthan – the only state to have constituted an ECBC Cell in its Public Works Department
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal

695. On October 30, Wipro’s Azim Premji tops the “EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021” for the second consecutive year, retaining ‘India’s most generous’ title with a donation of Rs 9,713 Cr during fiscal 2020-21. Hurun India and EdelGive released the 8th edition of the list, ranking the most generous people in India based on the value of their donations between April 1 2020 and March 31, 2021. Among the philanthropists, education is the most favoured cause drawing a total of Rs 9,659 Cr from 72 donors. Azim Premji was followed by Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 Cr) & Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 8th edition of “EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2021” – released by Hurun India & EdelGive
- 1st - Azim Premji (Rs 9,713 Cr) | 2nd - Shiv Nadar (Rs 1,263 Cr) | 3rd - Mukesh Ambani (Rs 577 Cr)

696. NITI Aayog released a comprehensive report titled “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle”, which brings out the gaps in the health insurance coverage across the Indian population and offers solutions to address the situation. The “Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana” (AB PMJAY) - a flagship scheme towards Universal Health Coverage, provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of the population. Around 20% of the population is covered through social health insurance, and private voluntary health insurance. While remaining 30% of the population, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the “missing middle”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Health Insurance for India’s Missing Middle” report – released by NITI Aayog
- 50% population is provided with a comprehensive hospitalization cover under ‘AB PMJAY’
- 20% population is covered through social & private voluntary health insurance
- 30% population, devoid of health insurance, is termed as the “missing middle”
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant | Chairperson – Narendra Modi | VC – Rajiv Kumar



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

697. On October 28, The Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) partnered with Truecaller to provide passengers with greater trust in communication. Truecaller verified identity will aim to reduce fraud by assuring people that critical communication such as booking details and PNR status are being delivered by IRCTC. With this, the integrated National Railways Helpline 139 'used by lakhs of Indians daily' will now be verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions. IRCTC started the 139 Enquiry and Helpline Services in 2007 with Bharat BPO Services Limited as its technical partner in the project. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRCTC + Truecaller = to provide passengers with greater trust in communication
- 'National Railways Helpline - 139' – will now be verified by Truecaller Business Identity solutions
- HQs of IRCTC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Mahendra Pratap Mall
- HQs of Truecaller – Stockholm, Sweden | CEO & Co-founder – Alan Mamedi

Books & Authors

698. A new book titled "John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranee" revisits the life of John Lang, the Australian writer-lawyer settled in India in the 19th century. The book, authored by Amit Ranjan, is about Lang's life, his exploits and his literary works. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "John Lang: Wanderer of Hindoostan, Slanderer of Hindoostanee, Lawyer for the Ranee" book – Amit Ranjan

Obituaries

699. On October 29, Actor Puneeth Rajkumar passed away after suffering a cardiac arrest. He was 46 years old and was associated with the Kannada film industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puneeth Rajkumar – a Kannada Actor – passed away



Science & Technology

700. On October 30, An Indian Air Force (IAF) team and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested India's first indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha. The bomb is part of the class of weapons with a range of 50 to 150 km. The bomb has been designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI) laboratory in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IAF + DRDO = flight-tested India's 1st indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) – from Chandipur, Odisha
- The bomb is developed by – DRDO's Research Centre Imarat lab ([Hyderabad](#)) | Bomb range – 50 to 150 km
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958





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