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Series Month-wise

October
MockDrill
PDF No. 3
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 12th November 2021

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

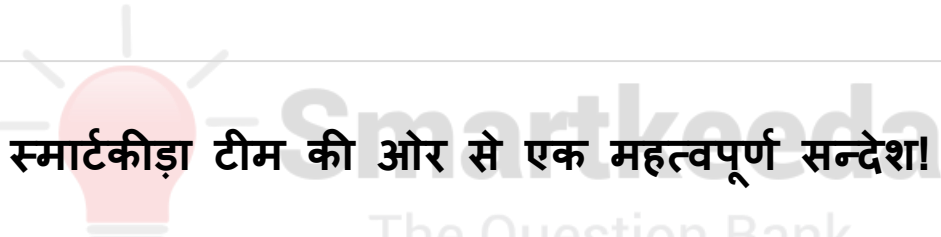
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of October 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

101. Minister of State for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” (JanCARE) to identify 75 Start-Up Innovations in Telemedicine, Digital Health, mHealth with BIG Data, AI, Block Chain and other technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh (Ministry of S&T) – launched the “AmritGrand Challenge Program” titled “जनCARE” (JanCARE)
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

102. The Defence Ministry has decided to enhance the income criteria for grant of family pension to children and siblings suffering from mental or physical disability. Such child/sibling shall be eligible for family pension for life, if his/her overall income from sources other than family pension remains less than the entitled family pension at an ordinary rate that is 30% of the last pay drawn. The financial benefit in such cases will come into effect from February 8, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Defence Ministry – to increase income limit of disabled dependents for family pension
- New limit: 30% of the last pay drawn
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

103. Acuite Ratings & Research became the first Indian credit rating company to be associated with the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), a United Nations-backed initiative that deals with ESG (Environment Social Governance) credit risk. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Acuite Ratings & Research – became the first Indian credit rating company to join UN supported ‘ESG’ credit risk named “Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)”
- HQs of Acuite Ratings & Research – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Sankar Chakraborti

104. On October 1, NITI Aayog, in a joint effort with International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Indian Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), UNICEF and Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) launched “The State Nutrition Profiles” for 19 States and Union Territories. The State nutrition profiles were released by Dr. Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog in a webinar titled “Towards progress on nutrition in India: Insights from National Family Health Survey (Phase -1)” organized by IFPRI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – launched “The State Nutrition Profiles” for 19 States & UTs (along with IFPRI, IIPS, UNICEF & IEG)
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar



105. On October 1, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0) and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0). The outlay of 'SBM-U 2.0' is around Rs 1.41 lakh Cr, while the outlay of 'AMRUT 2.0' is around Rs 2.87 lakh Cr. SBM-U 2.0 envisions to make all cities garbage free and ensure grey and black water management in all cities. AMRUT 2.0 aims at providing 100% coverage of water supply to all households in around 4,700 urban local bodies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – launched the second phase of 'SBM-U 2.0' & 'AMRUT 2.0'
- Outlay of 'SBM-U 2.0' – Rs 1.41 lakh Cr (launched in 2014) | Outlay of 'AMRUT 2.0' – Rs 2.87 lakh Cr (launched in 2015)

106. On October 1, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Shri Giriraj Singh has launched "People's Plan Campaign 2021 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" and "Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard". He also released a booklet on People Plan Campaign-2021 for preparation of plans for FY 2022-23 and also released the 10th issue of Gramoday Sankalp Magazine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giriraj Singh – launched "People's Plan Campaign 2021 - Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" & "Vibrant Gram Sabha Dashboard"
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj & Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Kapil Moreshwar Patil
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti

107. In October 2021, Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) issued guidelines for the Scheme for grant of Award to the Good Samaritan who has saved life of a victim of a fatal accident involving a motor vehicle by administering immediate assistance & rushing to Hospital/Trauma Care Centre within the Golden Hour of the accident to provide medical treatment". The amount of award for the Good Samaritan(s) would be Rs 5,000 per incident. An individual Good Samaritan can be awarded maximum 5 times in a year. Every year, the State Level Monitoring Committee of each State/UT, under Chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Home), will nominate three most worthy proposals for national level awards & the best 10 Good Samaritans of the year will be awarded with Rs 1 lakh each along with a Certificate & trophy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoRTH – issued guidelines of Scheme for grant of Award to the Good Samaritan
- Award for the Good Samaritan – Rs 5,000 per incident (maximum 5 times in a year to an individual)
- National level awards – best 10 Good Samaritans of the year will be awarded with Rs 1 lakh each
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh



108. In October 2021, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizer said that the government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,000 by March 2024. The product basket of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) comprises of 1,451 drugs & 240 surgical instruments. Medicines available under PMBJP are priced around 50% - 90% less than that of branded medicines. Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India is the implementing agency of PMBJP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government set a target to increase PMBJKs to – 10,000 (by March 2024)
- Implementing agency of PMBJP – Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India
- Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers – Mansukh L. Mandaviya | Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat

109. In October 2021, the largest Infrastructure Finance Company, Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) has become the 11th public sector enterprise to get the 'Maharatna' status. The board of a 'Maharatna' CPSE can make equity investments to undertake financial joint ventures & wholly-owned subsidiaries & undertake mergers & acquisitions in India & abroad, subject to a ceiling of 15% of the net worth of the concerned CPSE, limited to ₹5,000 Cr in one project. They can also enter into technology Joint Ventures or other strategic alliances. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC) – became the 11th public sector enterprise to get the 'Maharatna' status
- HQs of PFC Ltd – New Delhi | CMD – Ravinder Singh Dhillon | Established in – 1986

110. In October 2021, Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj inaugurated a training program on Sandalwood Farming & Management of its health in association with the Institute of Wood Science & Technology (IWST), Bengaluru. This training initiative will help attract the youth towards sandalwood farming, revive this declining art & help reposition India as a market leader in the trade. Globally, India & Australia are the largest growers of sandalwood. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Giriraj Singh – inaugurated a training program on Sandalwood Farming (in association with IWST)
- Largest growers of sandalwood – India & Australia
- Ministry of Rural Development: Giriraj Singh | Constituency – Begusarai, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Rural Development: Faggansingh Kulaste & Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti
- IWST based in – Bengaluru | Director – Dr. M. P. Singh

111. In October 2021, Uttar Pradesh has financed the highest number of units in India under Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) during six months of FY 2021-22. The UP government has facilitated to provide a total of over Rs 123 Cr as margin money through various banks to about 3,588 units under PMEGP with a total cost of the projects worth over Rs 450 Cr during the current financial year so far. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – financed the highest number of units under PMEGP (Rs 123 Cr to about 3,588 units)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel



112. In October 2021, Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur launched nationwide Clean India Programme from Prayagraj in commemoration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava from 1st October 2021 to 31st October 2021. This cleanliness drive was the largest in the world. This mega initiative aimed to collect 75 Lakh kg waste mainly plastic waste & dispose with the support & voluntary participation of citizen. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anurag Thakur – launched nationwide Clean India Programme – from Prayagraj
- Aim: to collect & dispose 75 Lakh kg plastic waste
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: Anurag Singh Thakur | Constituency – Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting: L. Murugan

International Affairs

113. The US has declared ‘Ivory-billed Woodpecker’ and 22 more species as Extinct. According to the UN, 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- US – declared ‘Ivory-billed Woodpecker’ and 22 more species as Extinct
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Banking & Economic Affairs

114. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has partnered with YES Bank to launch a contactless payments solutions - “RuPay On-the-Go”. This was launched in association with fintech infrastructure partner, Neokred, and manufacturing partner, Seshaasai at the ‘Global Fintech Festival 2021’. The wearable payment solution would eliminate need to carry a physical card. The 2nd edition of the ‘Global Fintech Festival’ was organised by the NPCI, Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) and Payment Council of India (PCI) under the theme of “FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI + YES Bank = partnership to launch a contactless payments solutions - “RuPay On-the-Go”
- 2nd ‘Global Fintech Festival’ was organised by = NPCI + FCC + PCI
- Theme of the festival – “FinTech: Empowering a Global Digital Economy”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD&CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”



115. In October 2021, Reserve Bank of India has issued a 'Small Finance Bank' licence to the "Centrum Group-BharatPe consortium". The consortium will take over the assets & liabilities of 'Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative' (PMC) Bank. Centrum's MSME & Micro Finance businesses will be merged into "Unity Small Finance Bank". Former SBI chairman Rajnish Kumar will be chairman of the BharatPe board. The joint venture will infuse Rs 1,800 Cr capital into PMC. In September 2019, the RBI had superseded the board of PMC Bank & placed it under regulatory restrictions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – issued SFB licence to "Centrum Group-BharatPe consortium" (Name: Unity Small Finance Bank)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of BharatPe – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Ashneer Grover
- HQs of Centrum Group – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Chandir Gidwani

116. In October 2021, Saraswat Bank & Axis Securities (ASL) have partnered to offer the bank's customers a 3-in-1 account that comprises savings, demat & online trading, all in one account. This will make it easier to transfer funds quickly, reduce paperwork & provide a comprehensive platform to invest. This collaboration will broaden & improve the bank's ability to offer integrated financial solutions to a diverse customer base. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saraswat Bank + Axis Securities = to provide customers with a 3-in-1 account (Savings, Demat & Trading account)
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"
- HQs of Saraswat Bank – Mumbai | Chairman – Gautam Thakur
- HQs of Axis Securities – Mumbai | MD & CEO – B Gopkumar

117. In October 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd announced the launch of 'Micro ATMs'. Micro ATMs are small handheld devices. Customers of all banks who possess a debit card can use a Kotak Micro ATM for key banking services such as cash withdrawals & checking account balances. The bank will use its extensive Business Correspondents (BC) network to launch micro ATMs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kotak Mahindra Bank – to launch small handheld devices "Micro ATMs" for key banking services
- HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Uday Kotak | Tagline – "Let's make money simple"

118. In October 2021, Indian Bank has added a host of new 'digital wealth management products' on its mobile banking app in partnership with Fisdom. Bank's customers will get to invest in pension funds & digital gold & even file income tax returns online. Indian Bank is the seventh-largest public sector bank in India, after the merger with Allahabad Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Bank + Fisdom = added digital wealth management products on its mobile banking app
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"
- HQs of Fisdom – Mumbai | Co-founder & CEO – Subramanya SV



119. In October 2021, Walmart-owned PhonePe has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) Bharat Bill Pay Limited (NBBL) to launch "ClickPay" for its customers. PhonePe is one of the 1st platforms to enable support for ClickPay. ClickPay is a one-of-its-kind payment link that enables customers to make recurring online bill payments for electricity, gas, loan repayments, water bills, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PhonePe + NBBL = to launch "ClickPay" for its customers
- HQs of PhonePe – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Sameer Nigam | Founded in – 2015
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

Schemes & Initiatives

120. In October 2021, Punjab government has launched "Mera Ghar Mere Naam" scheme to give ownership rights to people living in houses within the 'Lal lakir' of villages & cities. 'Lal lakir' refers to land that is part of the village habitation & is used for non-agriculture purposes only. Earlier this scheme was launched only for the residents of villages but now it is being extended to the eligible residents of the cities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – launched "Mera Ghar Mere Naam" scheme for people living in villages & cities
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Sports & Games

121. Rupinder Pal Singh has announced his international retirement from Hockey with immediate effect. The 30-year-old, regarded as one of the best drag-flickers of the country, represented India in 223 matches. He is nicknamed 'Bob'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rupinder Pal Singh – retired from Hockey

122. In October 2021, The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) & the Local Organising Committee (LOC) unveiled "Our Goal for All" as the official tagline of the 2022 Women's Asian Cup to be held in India. A total of 12 teams will make their way to the tournament which will take place in Navi Mumbai, Mumbai & Pune from January 20 to February 6. The top 5 teams in the Asia Cup will also qualify to the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia/New Zealand 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Our Goal for All” - an Official tagline of the 2022 Women’s Asian Cup (Location - India)
- FIFA Women’s World Cup 2023 – Australia/New Zealand
- HQs of FIFA – Zurich, Switzerland | President – Gianni Infantino
- HQs of AIFF – Dwarka, Delhi | President – Praful Patel | Gen. Secretary – Kushal Das
- HQs of AFC – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

123. In October 2021, Divya Deshmukh has become India’s 21st Woman Grand Master (WGM) at the Grandmaster chess tournament in Budapest, Hungary. She is from Nagpur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Divya Deshmukh (Nagpur - Chess Player) – became India’s 21st Woman Grand Master
- HQs of FIDE – Lausanne, Switzerland | CEO – Geoffrey D. Borg | Founded on – July 20, 1924
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

Important Days & Dates

124. The “International Day of Non-Violence” is observed on October 2, the birth anniversary of India’s Independence movement hero Mahatma Gandhi. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in a resolution adopted on June 15, 2007, established the commemoration as an occasion to spread the message of non-violence through education and public awareness. The theme of the International Day of Non-Violence 2021 is not specifically addressed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 2 – “International Day of Non-Violence” (birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

125. International Day of Older Persons is celebrated every year on October 1 to spread awareness about the need for health provisions and social care for elderly. The theme for 2021 is “Digital Equity for All Ages”. According to United Nations, by 2050, the world’s population aged 60 years and older will reach 2 billion, up from 900 million in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 1 – International Day of Older Persons
- 2021’s Theme – “Digital Equity for All Ages”



126. On October 1, The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) observed “National Pension System Diwas” (NPS Diwas). This campaign was dedicated towards ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations and to encourage citizens to join NPS for achieving financial freedom upon retirement through pension as a regular income. As a mark of their contribution towards this eventful day, State Bank of India enabled NPS enrollments in their ‘YONO Mobile App’ and Kotak Mahindra Bank likewise in their Mobile Banking App. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 1 – “National Pension System Diwas”
- HQs of NPS – New Delhi | CEO – Sashi Krishnan | Launched in – 2004

127. On October 1, Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu launched a unique one-to-one national helpline for breast cancer and benign breast diseases, “UBF HELP”. It was set up by Ushalakshmi Breast Cancer Foundation. The helpline launched on the eve of the beginning of “International Breast Cancer Awareness Month” which is annually observed during the month of October and aims at spreading awareness about breast cancer. An international symbol of breast cancer awareness is ‘Pink Ribbon’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October – “International Breast Cancer Awareness Month”
- M. Venkaiah Naidu – launched “UBF HELP” a unique national helpline for breast cancer & benign breast diseases
- An international symbol of Breast Cancer Awareness – ‘Pink Ribbon’

128. In October 2021, “World Standards Day” is observed on 14 October annually to spread awareness about the importance of standardisation to the global economy. The theme for this year’s World Standards Day is “Standards for sustainable development goals - shared vision for a better world”. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national standards body in India. In 1970, the first World Standards Day was formally inaugurated by Faruk Sunter, President (at that time) of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- October 14 – World Standards Day – by ISO (since 1970)
- 2021’s theme – “Standards for sustainable development goals - shared vision for a better world”
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari
- HQs of ISO – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Eddy Njoroge | President-elect – Ulrika Francke



Meetings, Conferences and Summits

129. In October 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually joined the G20 extraordinary leaders' summit that discussed a response to the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan & the fight against terrorism. The summit was convened by Italy, which holds the rotating presidency of the G20. Earlier, Modi participated in a virtual format in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)- Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) outreach summit on Afghanistan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – virtually joined “G20 Extraordinary Leaders’ Summit” (summit convened by – Italy)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2021 – Italy | 2022 – Indonesia | 2023 – India | 2024 – Brazil

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

130. The shortlist for the 3rd Gaja Business Book Prize, selected by a nine-member jury headed by entrepreneur Manish Sabharwal, was announced. The Rs 15 lakh annual prize is awarded to Non-fiction books on contemporary Indian entrepreneurship. This year's shortlist has four titles from the publishing house HarperCollins, including former Reserve Bank of India governor Urjit Patel's book “Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver”, Pavan C. Lall's “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor”, “Azim Premji: The Man Beyond the Billions” by Sundeep Khanna and Varun Sood, and “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India” by RC Bhargava. Former journalist Amit Raj's “Indian Icon: A Cult called Royal Enfield” is also a part of the shortlist. The 2021 winner is scheduled to be announced on November 30. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 3rd Gaja Business Book Prize – to be announced on November 30 (Prize - Rs 15 lakh)
- Shortlist:
 - “Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver” – by Urjit Patel
 - “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” – by Pavan C. Lall
 - “Azim Premji: The Man Beyond the Billions” – by Sundeep Khanna & Varun Sood
 - “Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India” – by RC Bhargava

131. The Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development, a Yemeni humanitarian organization is the winner of the “2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award”. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, announced the laureate. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development (Yemen) – winner of “2021 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award”
- HQs of UNHCR – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Filippo Grandi



132. In October 2021, The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) has named Meghalaya Environment & Forest Minister 'James Pangsang Kongkal Sangm' as the winner of the 'Progressive Business Concept Award' for promoting vegan pineapple leather. He also had plans to open a climate change museum & introduce climate change in the school curricula. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- James Sangm (Meghalaya Environment & Forest Minister) – received 'Progressive Business Concept Award'
- HQs of PETA – Virginia, USA | President – Ingrid Newkirk
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Appointments & Resignations

133. CavinKare Chairman & Managing Director, C. K. Ranganathan has been appointed as President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for a period of one year. Ranganathan has taken over from Harsh Pati Singhania. AIMA is the national apex body of the management profession in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- C. K. Ranganathan – appointed as President of All India Management Association (AIMA) for 1 year
- HQs of AIMA – New Delhi | President – C. K. Ranganathan

134. On October 1, The Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) has appointed automobile industry veteran Vinod Aggarwal as its president. Aggarwal, who is currently the managing director and CEO of VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd (VECV), replaces Nikunj Sanghi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinod Aggarwal – appointed as the President of Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC)
- He replaced Nikunj Sanghi
- HQs of ASDC – New Delhi | President – Vinod Aggarwal

135. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra as the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He has been holding the additional charge of CBDT chairman since May 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J. B. Mohapatra – appointed as the Chairman of CBDT
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Jagannath Bidyadhar Mohapatra | Formed in – 1944



136. On October 1, BC Patnaik has taken charge as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Prior to taking charge as Managing Director of LIC, Patnaik was Secretary General, Council for Insurance Ombudsmen, (CIO) Mumbai. Patnaik has joined in place of Mukesh Gupta. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BC Patnaik – appointed as the MD of the LIC (replacing - Mukesh Gupta)
- 4 MDs of LIC: B. C. Patnaik, Raj Kumar, Siddhartha Mohanty & Mini Ipe
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

137. In October 2021, Vice Admiral Adhir Arora has taken charge as the Chief Hydrographer to the Govt of India from Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar who superannuated on 30 Sep 21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vice Admiral Adhir Arora – appointed as the Chief Hydrographer of India (replacing - Vinay Badhwar)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

138. According to the latest “Bloomberg Billionaires Index” released in October 2021, Tesla & SpaceX CEO, Elon Musk is now the World’s Richest Person overtaking Amazon's founder Jeff Bezos. At present, Elon's net worth is \$222 billion, while Bezos's net worth is \$190.8 billion. While Bernard Arnault stood at the third spot. Currently, Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani ranks 11 while Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani ranks 13 in the Index. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bloomberg Billionaires Index: 1st – Elon Musk | 2nd – Jeff Bezos | 3rd – Bernard Arnault (as on Oct, 2021)
- Mukesh Ambani (11th) – topped among Indians | Gautam Adani – 13th

139. On October 1, NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India, has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled “Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals”. Overall, 75 district hospitals across 24 States and Union Territories emerged as top performers. In India, district hospitals have 24 beds per 1 lakh population on an average. Bihar has the lowest average of 6 beds while Puducherry has the highest of 222. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog – released a report titled “Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals”
- The report was released in collaboration with = Ministry of Health & Family Welfare + WHO India
- District hospitals have 24 beds per 1 lakh population on an average | Top – Puducherry & Lowest – Bihar
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar



140. In October 2021, India remained at the 3rd position in the 58th edition of Ernst & Young's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI), which ranks the world's top 40 markets (nations). US has got the 1st position, Mainland China & India remain unchanged in the ranking at 2nd & 3rd position, respectively. A new PPA Index - introduced in this edition of RECAI - focuses on the attractiveness of renewable power procurement & ranks the growth potential of a nation's corporate PPA market. India is ranked 6th among the top 30 PPA markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – ranks 3rd in the 58th edition of EY's RECAI | 1st – USA | 2nd – China
- India – ranks 6th among top 30 PPA markets
- HQs of EY – London, UK | CEO – Carmine Di Sibio
- HQs of EY India – New Delhi | Chairman – Rajiv Memani

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

141. In October 2021, Adani Group signed a \$700-million Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreement with Sri Lanka's largest listed company John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) to jointly develop the Colombo West International Container Terminal (CWICT) at the strategically advantaged Colombo Port. As per the 35 year-long BOT agreement, the Adani Group will have majority 51% stake, while John Keells would hold 34% and the SLPA would hold 15% stake. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Group + John Keells Holdings + SLPA = a \$700-million Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreement to jointly develop the Colombo West International Container Terminal (CWICT)
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

142. In October 2021, An MoU has been signed among Chennai Port Trust (CPT), the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) & Government of Tamil Nadu to develop a multimodal logistic park (MMLP) at Mappedu. The MMLP project will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 1,045 Cr. India has taken a novel initiative to develop 35 Multi-Modal Logistic Parks (MMLP) under 'Bhartmala Pariyojana'. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched "PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan", which seeks to address the issue of a lack of coordination among various agencies. All departments will have visibility of each other's projects through a centralised portal & the multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated & seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods & services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CPT + NHAI + Tamil Nadu = to develop a multimodal logistic park (MMLP) at Mappedu (Cost – Rs 1045 Cr)
- India will develop – 35 Multi-Modal Logistic Parks (MMLP) under Bhartmala Pariyojana
- Narendra Modi launched – PM GatiShakti-National Master Plan for infrastructure development
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi
- HQs of NHAI – New Delhi | Chairman (addi.) – Aramane Giridhar | Founded in – 1988



143. In October 2021, Karnataka State Higher Education Council has entered into an MoU with NASSCOM for providing industry-aligned skill development experiences to students of higher education. This MoU will make skill development courses available on the 'Future Skills Prime' platform of NASSCOM to all students & faculty members of higher education institutions in Karnataka. 3 courses of Digital Fluency, Artificial Intelligence, & Cyber Security will become part of the curriculum. All universities in the state are covered under this MoU.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASSCOM + Karnataka = an MoU for providing skill development experiences to students of Higher Education
- HQs of NASSCOM – New Delhi | President – Debjani Ghosh
- Chairman – Rekha M. Menon | Vice-Chairman – Krishnan Ramanujam
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

144. In October 2021, U GRO Capital & Kinara Capital have entered into a strategic co-origination partnership to offer collateral-free business loans to small business entrepreneurs in India. Together, both companies plan to disburse ₹100 crores by the end of FY22 to MSMEs in manufacturing, trading & services sectors. Available financing for MSMEs will range from ₹1 lakh to ₹30 lakh with tenure ranging from 12-60 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U GRO Capital + Kinara Capital = to offer collateral-free business loans to MSMEs (₹1 lakh - ₹30 lakh for 12-60 months)
- HQs of U GRO Capital – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Abhijit Ghosh
- HQs of Kinara Capital – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Founder & CEO - Hardika Shah

145. In October 2021, PayPal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) to help increase knowledge base of Indian MSMEs. The partnership is aimed at launching the India Digital Trade Facilitation Forum (IDTFF) for micro, small & medium enterprises (MSMEs). The IDTFF will facilitate education, training & capacity building to empower MSMEs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPal + IIFT = to help increase knowledge base of Indian MSMEs & launch IDTFF
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of IIFT – New Delhi | Vice-Chancellor – Professor Manoj Pant | Established in – 1963
- Ministry of MSME – Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra)



Books & Authors

146. Historian Manu S. Pillai's new book, "False Allies", seeks to examine the erstwhile age of Indian royalty as one of political sophistication. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "False Allies" book – authored by Manu S. Pillai

147. Former ambassador to Nepal Ranjit Rae's book "Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties" stands out for its vision of future ties that go beyond the political relationship. The book covers a gamut of bilateral issues in the 21st century such as the political mainstreaming of the Maoists, the 2020 Kalapani territorial dispute, the economic possibilities and lost opportunities. [{Read more}](#)

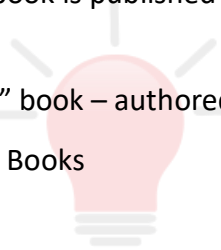
Key Points:

- "Kathmandu Dilemma: Resetting India-Nepal Ties" book – authored by Ranjit Rae (Former Ambassador to Nepal)

148. In October 2021, Harry Potter-fame author, J.K. Rowling has authored a children's fantasy book titled "The Christmas Pig". The book is published by 'Nimble Books'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "The Christmas Pig" book – authored by J.K. Rowling
- Publisher – Nimble Books



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Obituaries

149. In October 2021, Abdul Qadeer Khan, a scientist known as father of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear programme, passed away after a brief illness. He was 85. He was born in 1936 in Bhopal & migrated to Pakistan after the Partition in 1947. In a book "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: A Story of Defiance, Deterrence & Deviance", Pakistani-American scholar 'Hassan Abbas' has highlighted Khan's involvement in nuclear proliferation in Iran, Libya & North Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abdul Qadeer Khan ([Bhopal](#)) – a Scientist – passed away (father of Pakistan's Clandestine nuclear programme)
- "Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb: A Story of Defiance, Deterrence & Deviance" book – authored by – Hassan Abbas
- [Pakistan](#) – [Islamabad](#) – [Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM](#) – [Imran Khan](#) | [President](#) – [Arif Alvi](#)



Science & Technology

150. On October 1, ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has announced its first 'demand-driven' communication satellite mission as part of Space reforms announced by the Government in June, 2020. As part of this initiative, NSIL is undertaking its 1st demand driven communication satellite mission named "GSAT-24", a 4-tonne class Ku-band satellite. NSIL is getting this satellite built by ISRO and will be launching it using 'Ariane-5' launcher operated by Arianespace. GSAT-24 will be leased to its committed customer M/s Tata Sky for meeting their DTH application needs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NSIL (ISRO) – announced its first 'demand-driven' communication satellite mission "GSAT-24" for Tata Sky
- Satellite is being built by – ISRO & will be launched using 'Ariane-5' launcher operated by Arianespace
- HQs of NSIL – Bangalore, Karnataka | CMD – G. Narayanan (an arm of ISRO)





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