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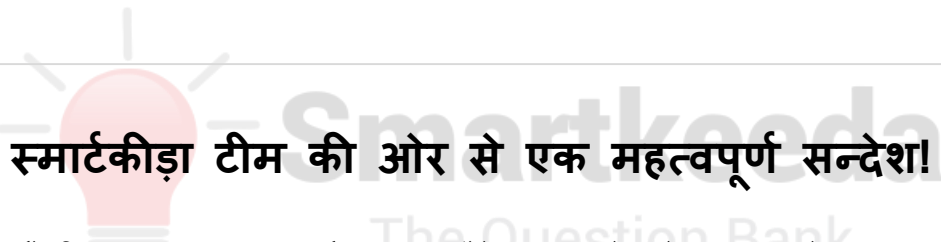
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

1. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and the Minister of MSMEs Nitin Gadkari has stated that the Elon Musk-owned Tesla is expected to start operations in India in 2021. He also stated that India is going to become a number 1 manufacturing hub for auto in 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tesla is expected to start operations in India in 2021
- [HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk](#)

2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually laid the foundation stone of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Rajkot, Gujarat. It will be built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1195 Cr and is expected to be completed by mid of 2022. There are a total of 15 AIIMS across India and the AIIMS Rajkot will be the 16th institute. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of AIIMS – in Rajkot, Gujarat (16th AIIMS in India)
- Total number of AIIMS across India = 15 (excluding AIIMS Rajkot)
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat](#)

3. On January 1, PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of 6 Light House Projects (LHPs) under the Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India). The programme seeks to build over 1,000 houses each in six cities in 12 months. The LHPs are being constructed at the following 6 places. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – the foundation stone of 6 LHPs under GHTC-India
1. Indore (Madhya Pradesh) 2. Rajkot (Gujarat) 3. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
4. Ranchi (Jharkhand) 5. Agartala (Tripura) 6. Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)

4. On January 1, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has unveiled an e-commerce portal “eKhadiIndia.com” which catalogues over 50,000 locally made products of over 500 varieties and various categories. It is the first-of-its-kind government online shopping platform to boost rural economy and become self-sustainable. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KVIC – unveiled its first-of-its-kind e-commerce portal “eKhadiIndia.com” to boost rural economy
- [KVIC works under – Ministry of MSME \(Nitin Gadkari – Nagpur, Maharashtra\)](#)
- [HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena](#)



5. On January 2, the SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs 15 Cr on Mukesh Ambani and Rs 25 Cr on his oil-to-telecom conglomerate for 'manipulative trading' done in shares of Reliance Petroleum Ltd in 2007. SEBI has also imposed fine of Rs 20 crore on Navi Mumbai SEZ and Rs 10 crore on Mumbai SEZ. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – imposed a fine of Rs 15 Cr on Mukesh Ambani & Rs 25 Cr on his oil-to-telecom conglomerate
- Fine imposed for 'manipulative trading' done in shares of Reliance Petroleum – in 2007
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi
- HQs of Reliance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani

6. Maitre Setu - the 1.9 km bridge over River Feni connecting South Tripura with Ramgarh of Bangladesh is all set to be opened in a couple of months after confirmation of schedule from Prime Minister of India and Bangladesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maitre Setu (1.9 km) – over River Feni – connects Tripura with Ramgarh (Bangladesh)
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

7. Northeast's first-ever specialised 'Ginger' processing plant at district Ri-Bhoui in Meghalaya is being revived and is likely to become functional in the beginning of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Northeast's first-ever specialised 'Ginger' processing plant – in Ri-Bhoui, Meghalaya
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

8. A farmers' association has applied for the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for the 'Cumbum Panneer Thratchai', a grape variant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Farmers' association – applied for the GI tag for Cumbum Panneer Thratchai' - a Grape variant

9. On January 1, India has begun its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). On January 1, India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico joined non-permanent members of the UNSC. India will be UNSC President in August 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – begun its two-year tenure as a non-permanent member of the **IUCN** – on January 1, 2021
- Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico – also joined on the IUCN as non-permanent members on January 1, 2021
- **India – UNSC President in August 2021**
- **Permanent members in the UNSC = 5 – China, France, Russia, U.K. & U.S.**
- **HQs of UNSC – New York, USA | Presidency in January 2021 – Tunisia (followed by UK & USA)**

10. On January 2, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus in the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sambalpur in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- **Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone IIM Sambalpur – in Odisha**
- **Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal**

11. Union home minister Amit Shah has released the inaugural issue of the “National Police K-9 Journal” of the Union Home Ministry's Police Modernisation Division. The police dog squad can act as a force multiplier to ensure the safety of society, much like the way drones or satellites are being used in the country [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released the inaugural issue of the “National Police K-9 Journal”
- “K-9” represents – Police Service Dogs
- **Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah | Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

12. The Odisha government will set up a memorial in honour of all the Covid Warriors who sacrificed their lives fighting the deadly virus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to set up a memorial in honour of all the Covid Warriors
- **Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal**

13. According to farmers, around 10,000 ducks have died in Kuttanad, Kerala. Majority of the dead ducks belonged to two farmers in Thalavady and Pallippad. The cause of death can only be ascertained after receiving the test results. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Around 10,000 ducks have died in – Kuttanad, Kerala
- **Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan**



14. The “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project was launched by Ministry of Tourism in collaboration with Ministry of Culture. Under this project, public as well as private companies are invited to become the “monument mitras” of the heritage sites in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan” project – launched by Ministry of Tourism + Ministry of Culture
- [Pralhad Singh Patel](#) – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, Madhya Pradesh)

15. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria has launched an “e-governance” portal at Vayu Bhawan for the Indian Air Force (IAF) in order to promote a paperless office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RKS Bhadauria (IAF) – an “e-governance” portal to promote a paperless office
- [HQs of IAF – New Delhi](#) | [Chief – Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria](#)

16. Ministry of Railways has released a booklet of achievements of Ministry of Railways in the year 2020 with the title “Building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat”. The Hindi & English version of the booklet is available in Ministry of Railways’ website. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat” booklet – released by Ministry of Railways
- [Piyush Goyal](#) – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | [Constituency – Maharashtra](#)

17. The Union Home Ministry has declared the entire Nagaland a ‘disturbed area’ for 6 more months enabling the continuation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) that has been in force in Nagaland for several decades. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Home Ministry declared the entire “Nagaland” as a ‘disturbed area’ for 6 more months
- [Nagaland: Capital – Kohima](#) | [CM – Neiphiu Rio](#) | [Governor – Ravindra Narayana Ravi](#)

18. The 4th Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF 2021), aimed at the global discussion and development of Ayurveda, will be held from March 12 to 19 as a virtual meet. Kerala will host the festival this time. Earlier, the festival was scheduled from May 16 to 20 in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala will host the 4th Global Ayurveda Festival – from March 12 to 19, 2021
- [Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram](#) | [CM – Pinarayi Vijayan](#) | [Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan](#)



19. The government is implementing a Rs 320-crore Enterprise Business System (EBS) project for 5 major ports in order to provide a Digital Port Ecosystem, according to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. These ports are Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip and Kolkata (including Haldia). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government is implementing a Rs 320 Cr project for 5 major ports to provide a Digital Port Ecosystem
- 5 ports: Mumbai, Chennai, Deendayal, Paradip & Kolkata

20. TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has proposed to collaborate with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and India Post to implement a successful marketing and logistic intervention for promoting the rich and traditional tribal products of the North Eastern states. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + Ministry of DoNER + India Post = to promote products of North-East region
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Jitendra Singh – MoS of DoNER, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space
- HQs of India Post – New Delhi | Director General – Vineet Pandey

21. The inaugural flight of Flybig, India's newest airline, took off from Indore. It has concluded its journey in Ahmedabad in the course of an hour and five minutes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flybig – India's newest airline – took off 1st flight from Indore to Ahmedabad
- HQs of Flybig – Gurugram, India | CEO – Sanjay Mandavia Srinivas Rao

22. The Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department in Odisha has decided to give cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh to a normal person for marrying a Person with Disability (PWD) in a bid to promote social harmony. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – to give cash award of Rs 2.5 lakh to a normal person for marrying a Person with Disability
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal



23. To ease the inconvenience faced by pensioners, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has launched the “mPension Manipur” App on January 4, where pensioners can self-update without going to the treasury office. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Manipur – launched the “mPension Manipur” app on January 4
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla

24. The SEBI has extended the date of implementation of uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) across various mutual fund schemes on realisation of funds by one month to February 1, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI extended the date of implementation of uniformity in applicability of Net Asset Value (NAV) – to Feb 1, 2021
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 450-km Natural Gas Pipeline between Kochi and Mangalore. The GAIL India Ltd has constructed this pipeline at a cost of Rs 3000 Cr. Moreover, the government has also planned to increase the share of natural gas in the energy sector to 15% by 2030 from 6% at present. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – inaugurated the 450-km Natural Gas Pipeline between Kochi and Mangalore
- The pipeline is constructed by – GAIL India Ltd | Cost – Rs 3000 Cr
- Target: To increase the share of Natural Gas in the Energy sector – to 15% by 2030
- HQs of GAIL – New Delhi | CMD – Manoj Jain

26. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will use indigenously designed ‘Ballastless Tracks’ for the country's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). The Track slabs will be operational by 2023, while the entire 82-km-long corridor will be completed by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCRTC – to use indigenously designed ‘Ballastless Tracks’ for India’s RRTS
- HQs of NCRTC – New Delhi | MD – Vinay Kumar Singh

27. Union petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated India's 1st migrant worker cell at Surat in Gujarat. It is the initiative to help Odia migrant workers working in different industries of the city. It was created under the center's "National Urban Livelihood Mission Scheme". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated India's 1st migrant worker cell at – Surat, Gujarat – to help Odia migrant workers
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

28. On January 3, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has capped the amount of Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats to 3% for 2021 and 2% by 2022 from the current permissible limit of 5%. It was done through an amendment to the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- FSSAI capped the amount of Trans Fatty Acids (TFA) in oils and fats to – 3% for 2021 & 2% by 2022 (from 5%)
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teatota

29. India has flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica from the Mormugao Port in Goa. This Indian expedition marks four decades of the country's scientific endeavour to the southern white continent. Maitri and Bharati are the two Indian Research Stations located in Antarctica. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India flagged off the 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica – from Mormugao Port (Goa)
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshiyari

30. On January 3, TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has signed an MoU with Akhil Bhartiya Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra (ABVKK) to set up TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh to improve the livelihoods of the tribals(both forest dwellers and artisans) and work towards tribal empowerment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + ABVKK = an MoU to set up TRIFOOD Parks in 5 districts of Madhya Pradesh
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel



31. The telecom industry moves to a new regime from January 1, 2021 with the Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) becoming zero. This means the operators will no longer have to pay the termination charge of 6 paise per minute to each other. Reliance Jio is the only operator which charged its customers for termination of off-net calls. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “IUC” - Interconnect Usage Charge became zero – from January 1, 2021 (Exception – Reliance Jio)

32. The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched a new initiative “Prayaas”, to address the needs of the local communities near its fuel stations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOC – launched a new initiative “Prayaas” to address the needs of the local communities
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya

33. An 11-year-old boy has recently died in Kozhikode, Kerala due to a Shigella infection. Shigella is a genus of bacteria that causes an infection called shigellosis. It is the second leading cause of bacterial diarrhea worldwide and the third leading cause of death in children less than 5 years old. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shigella infection – caused by or a genus of ‘Bacteria’

34. The Department of Art, Culture and Language of the Delhi government set up a Tamil academy to promote the South Indian language and culture in the Capital. N. Raja is appointed as vice-chairman of the academy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi government – set up a “Tamil Academy” to promote the South Indian language and culture
- Vice-chairman of the academy – N. Raja
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

35. On January 5, Railway Minister Piyush Vedprakash Goyal has launched an exclusive “Freight Business Development Portal” to promote and develop the railways’ freight business. It will act as a ‘One-Stop, Single-Window’ solution for all the needs of its freight customers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched “Freight Business Development Portal”
- Piyush Goyal – Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Commerce & Industry | Constituency – Maharashtra



36. Smriti Zubin Irani and Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' have jointly launched the "Toycathon 2021" to promote indigenous toy industries. This Toycathon is aimed to conceptualize innovative toys based on the Indian value system which will inculcate the positive behaviour and good value among the children. Six Ministries, including education, women & child development, textile, commerce and industries, MSME, I&B and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) are part of the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Zubin Irani & Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' = jointly launched the "Toycathon 2021"
- 6 ministries – are part of "Toycathon 2021" initiative
- Smriti Zubin Irani – Minister of Women & Child Development, Minister of Textiles (Amethi, Uttar Pradesh)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)

International Affairs

37. India will be the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for 3 years. The APAP is a regional platform to help governments and other stakeholders to collaborate for more effective management of protected areas (PA) in the region. The APAP currently consists of 21 members from 17 countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – the co-chair of the IUCN-supported Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) for 3 years
- HQs of IUCN – Gland, Switzerland | President – Xinsheng Zhang

38. China has deployed a fleet of underwater drones called "Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider" in the Indian Ocean, which can operate for months on end and make observations for naval intelligence purposes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- China – deployed a fleet of underwater drones called "Sea Wing (Haiyi) glider" in the Indian Ocean
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

39. A Japanese startup called Sumitomo Forestry has teamed up with researchers from the Kyoto University, to work on a wooden satellite. The two teams plan to launch the world's first satellite made out of wood in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan – to launch the world's first-ever wooden satellites – by 2023
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga



40. On January 2, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has signed a law ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which entails a formal commitment to abolish the death penalty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kazakhstan – abolished the death penalty
- [Kazakhstan – Nur-Sultan – Tenge](#) | [President – Kassym-Jomart Tokayev](#)

41. For the first time ever, more than half of U.K. electricity came from wind as “Storm Bella” blew through the country, according to data from Drax Plc’s Electric Insights. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Storm Bella” – hits the UK (produced 50% of its power from wind)
- [UK – London – Pound Sterling](#) | [PM of UK – Boris Johnson](#)

42. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Small drones will be allowed to fly over people and at night in the United States. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Small drones will be allowed to fly over people and at night in – USA
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar](#) | [President – Joe Biden](#)

43. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a mobile application called the “WHO Covid-19” app to provide users with the latest updates on the coronavirus disease (Covid-19). WHO had launched a similar app at the beginning of the year to provide real-time updates on the coronavirus disease. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO – launched a mobile application called the “WHO Covid-19” app
- [HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland](#) | [DG – Tedros Adhanom](#) | [Member Countries – 194](#)

44. Argentina has become the largest Latin American country to legalise abortion after its senate approved the historic law. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Argentina – the largest Latin American country to legalise abortion
- [Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso](#)



45. The US House of Representatives has officially re-elected House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to another term with 216 members voting for her. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nancy Pelosi – re-elected as the US House Speaker – after winning 216 votes
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

46. Iran has resumed enriching uranium to 20% purity at the Fordo nuclear facility, far beyond the limits laid out in the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran also seized a South Korean-flagged chemical tanker. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran – resumed enriching uranium to 20% purity at the Fordo nuclear facility
- [Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Hassan Rouhani](#)

Banking & Economic Affairs

47. International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an associate member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The IOSCO works closely with the G20 nations and the Financial Stability Board (FSB), in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IFSCA – become an associate member of the IOSCO
- [HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairman – Injeti Srinivas](#)
- [HQs of IOSCO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary General – Paul P. Andrews](#)

48. The Reserve Bank of India has come up with a composite “Digital Payments Index (DPI)” to measure the extent of digitisation of payments in India. The RBI-DPI index has been set-up with March 2018 as the base year. India’s UPI payments have shot up 82% in the current fiscal year’s Q2. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – introduced a composite “Digital Payments Index (DPI)” to measure the extent of digitisation of payments
- The base year for the RBI-DPI index – 2018 | rise in India’s UPI payments – 82% in the Q2
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\)](#)

49. RuPay has partnered with RBL Bank to launch “RuPay PoS” - a payment solution for Indian merchants in association with fintech company PayNearby. Merchants will now be able to accept contactless payments of up to Rs 5,000 through a simple tap. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RuPay + RBL Bank + PayNearby = to launch “RuPay PoS” - a payment solution for Indian merchants
- HQs of RuPay – New Delhi | Launched by – NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India)
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja
- HQs of PayNearby – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Anand Kumar Bajaj

50. The government has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, unchanged for the January-March quarter (Q4). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Interest rates on small savings schemes for Q4:
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1%
- National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 6.8%
- Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) – 6.9%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 7.4%
- Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Interest rate on savings deposits – 4%

51. India's fiscal deficit surged to Rs 10.75 lakh Cr at the end of November 2020, which is equivalent to 135.1% of the 2020-21 Budget Estimates (BE), according to the latest data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's fiscal deficit surged to – Rs 10.75 lakh Cr = 135.1% of the 2020-21 Budget Estimates (as of Nov 2020)
- Present CGA – Soma Roy Burman

52. PayPal has been imposed a Rs 96 lakh penalty by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) for alleged contravention of the anti-money laundering law and accused of “concealing” suspect financial transactions and abetting “disintegration” of India’s financial system. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PayPal – imposed a Rs 96 lakh penalty by the FIU for alleged contravention of the anti-money laundering law
- HQs of PayPal – California, USA | CEO – Daniel Schulman



53. The gross Goods and Services Tax collections has touched a record high of over Rs 1.15 lakh Cr in December - the highest since the implementation of the regime. With this, the GST has also now crossed the psychological Rs 1 lakh crore-mark for the third straight month in the current fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The gross Goods and Services Tax collections – touched a record high of over Rs 1.15 lakh Cr in December
- [HQs of GSTN – New Delhi | CEO – Prakash Kumar | Founded in – 2013](#)

54. The Labour Ministry has decided to notify the 8.5% rate of interest for crediting the same into the account of over 6 crore subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Labour Ministry decided to notify the 8.5% rate of interest for 6 crore subscribers of EPFO
- [HQs of EPFO – New Delhi | CEO – Shri Sunil Barthwal](#)

55. The government has used financial innovation to recapitalise Punjab & Sind Bank by issuing the lender Rs 5,500-crore worth of non-interest bearing bonds valued at par. Since these bonds are not tradable, the lender has kept them in the held-to-maturity (HTM) category. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The government has issued the lender of Rs 5,500 Cr – to recapitalise Punjab & Sind Bank
- [HQs of Punjab & Sind Bank – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S Krishnan](#)

Defence Affairs

56. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered MK IV class vessel LCU ship “L-58” to the Indian Navy the last of the eight landing craft utility (LCU) ships manufactured by it. The ship will be based in the Andaman & Nicobar Command. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GRSE – delivered MK IV class vessel LCU ship “L-58” – to the Indian Navy (last of the eight LCU ships)
- [HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena](#)
- [Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar](#)



57. The Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed two contracts with Ministry of Defence to supply 20 “Laser Dazzlers”, a non-lethal weapon to Indian Navy for warning and stopping suspicious vehicles, boats and aircraft. And the second contract for procuring as many as 10 “Lynx U2 fire control systems” for frontline warships of Indian Navy at a cost of ₹1,355 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BEL + Defence Mini. = an MoU to supply 20 “Laser Dazzlers” + 10 “Lynx U2 fire control systems” – for Indian Navy
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

Schemes & Initiatives

58. Madhya Pradesh has recently started “Launch Pad Scheme” to provide employment opportunities for boys and girls coming out of child care institutions and having completed 18 years of age. An amount of Rs 6 lakh will be provided by the Women and Child Development Department for the installation of each launch pad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Madhya Pradesh – started “Launch Pad Scheme” to provide employment opportunities for the youth
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Sports & Games

59. A famous tennis player from Slovakia Dagmara Baskova has been banned for 12 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) after uncovering 5 incidents of match-fixing by the player in 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dagmara Baskova (Slovakia) – a Tennis player – banned for 12 years by the Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU)
- HQs of TIU – London, UK | CEO – Jonny Gray
- Slovakia – Bratislava – Euro | President – Zuzana Caputova

60. The second edition of the “Khelo India Winter Games” is set to be held in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from February 11, 2021. The Winter Games will be organised by the Winter Games Association of J&K. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd edition of “Khelo India Winter Games” – to be held in Gulmarg, J & K (in Feb, 2021)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

Important Days & Dates

61. “Global Family Day” is celebrated each year on 1st January. It was first observed in the year 2000, when the United Nations (UN) decided to keep the first day of the millennium year, i.e. 2000, as ‘One Day of Peace’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 1 – “Global Family Day” – since 2000

62. On January 1, the DRDO has observed the 63rd Foundation Day of its establishment. DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in Defence sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 1 – 63rd Foundation Day of DRDO
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958

63. The 3rd edition of “World Braille Day” was observed on January 4 to raise awareness about how Braille plays a significant role in the complete realization of human rights in the lives of blind and partially sighted people. The day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 4 – 3rd edition of “World Braille Day” – since 2019 (birth anniversary of – Louis Braille)

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

64. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the "Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020" in New Delhi. The hackathon will happen in 3 elimination rounds and the final 24 winners will get a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Singh Tomar – inaugurated the "Virtual Agri-hackathon 2020" in New Delhi
- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, MP)

65. PM Narendra Modi has addressed the "National Metrology Conclave 2021" recently in January. Theme of the Conclave is "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation". He has dedicated the 'National Atomic Timescale' and the 'Bhartiya Nirdeshak Dravya Pranali' to the nation and laid the foundation stone of the National Environmental Standards Laboratory in New Delhi. National Atomic Timescale was released to measure the time in nano second range. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed the "National Metrology Conclave 2021"
- Theme of the Conclave – "Metrology for the Inclusive Growth of the Nation"
- Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of "National Environmental Standards Laboratory" – in New Delhi

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

66. PM Narendra Modi has given annual "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019" for excellence in 6 categories. Puducherry has bagged the award for the "Best Performing Union Territory" in India for Implementing the PMAY (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana). Uttar Pradesh has bagged the award for the "Best Performing State" followed by Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – gave "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Awards-2019" for excellence in 6 categories
- "Best Performing Union Territory" in India for Implementing the PMAY – Puducherry
- "Best Performing State" in India for Implementing the PMAY – Uttar Pradesh

67. Chief of Army Staff Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has held extensive talks with his South Korean counterpart, Gen Nam Yeong Shin to boost bilateral military ties. He has received a 'Guard of Honour' from the Army of South Korea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M. M. Naravane – received a 'Guard of Honour' from the Army of South Korea
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

68. Well-known breast cancer surgeon from Hyderabad Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti has been named in the New Year's Honours list of Queen Elizabeth II. He would be accorded with an "OBE - Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire", in recognition of his services towards improving breast cancer care. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti (Hyderabad) – named in the New Year's Honours list of Queen Elizabeth II
- He will receive – "OBE-Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" – for his services in Breast cancer

69. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva has awarded the status of "Centennial Observing Station" to the Patna meteorological observatory in recognition to its long-term meteorological observation exceeding over 100 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Patna meteorological observatory – awarded with the status of "Centennial Observing Station" – by the WMO
- HQs of WMO – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Petteri Taalas
- Location of Patna meteorological observatory – Bihar | Established in – 1867

Appointments & Resignations

70. Soma Mondal has taken over the charge as Chairman of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) from January 1. She was the Director (Commercial) of SAIL prior to this. She has replaced Anil Kumar Chaudhary. She has become the 1st woman Chairperson of SAIL. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Soma Mondal – took charge as Chairman of SAIL from January 1 (by replacing - Anil Kumar Chaudhary)
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal



71. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet cleared the extension in the term of reemployment of Umesh Sinha as Deputy Election Commissioner on contract basis for a period of 6 months beyond December 31, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Umesh Sinha – extended as Deputy Election Commissioner – for 6 months (till June 30, 2021)
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sunil Arora (23rd)

72. Major General Gautam Chauhan has taken over as the first Additional Director General-ADG of the Indian Army's Human Rights Cell at its headquarters in New Delhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gautam Chauhan – appointed as the 1st ADG of Indian Army's Human Rights Cell (New Delhi)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini

73. Sanjay Kapoor was elected as President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) while Bharat Singh Chauhan retained the secretary's post. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sanjay Kapoor – elected as President of the All India Chess Federation (AICF)
- HQs of AICF – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | President – Sanjay Kapoor | Secretary – Bharat Singh Chauhan

Amount & Agreements

74. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a loan agreement for \$231 million to augment electricity generation capacity in Assam through construction of a 120-megawatt (MW) hydroelectric power plant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = signed a loan agreement for \$231-million – to enhance power generation capacity in Assam
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

75. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India have signed a \$10 million Project Readiness Financing (PRF) to expand horticulture production and farm household income in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB + India = \$10 million PRF to expand horticulture production in Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

76. The ADB and the Government of India have signed a \$100 million loan agreement to modernise and upgrade the power distribution system to enhance the quality and reliability of electricity supply in Bengaluru. Beside the \$100 million sovereign loan, ADB will provide a \$90 million loan without sovereign guarantee for the project to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd (BESCOM). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + ADB = signed \$100 million loan agreement to upgrade the power distribution system in Bangalore
- \$100 million sovereign loan + \$90 million loan without sovereign guarantee = Total \$190 million loan
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- ADB: HQs – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68



77. Mukesh Ambani recently has dropped down to 12th position in the “Bloomberg Billionaires Index-2021” after reaching the fourth spot earlier this year. Amazon boss Jeff Bezos and Tesla's Elon Musk top the chart. Zhong Shanshan also known as “Lone Wolf” has replaced Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani as Asia's richest person on December 31. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World’s Richest Persons List” – as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index (as on January 2, 2021)
- 1st – Jeff Bezos (\$190 Billion) | 2nd – Elon Musk (\$170 Billion) | 3rd – Bill Gates (\$132 Billion)
- “Asia’s richest man” – Zhong Shanshan (Lone Wolf) | Mukesh Ambani – 12th

78. On January 1, Bajaj Auto has become the first two-wheeler company globally to cross market capitalization of Rs 1 lakh Cr. The stock closed at Rs 3479 per share on NSE that day making its market capitalization Rs 100,670.76 Cr at this price. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Auto – become the first two-wheeler company globally to cross market capitalization of Rs 1 lakh Cr
- HQs of Bajaj Auto – Pune, Maharashtra | CEO – Rajiv Bajaj

79. The RBI has launched the January 2021 round of the “Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)” and “Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)” to capture inflation expectations and consumer confidence, which provide useful inputs for its monetary policy. The Annual Growth in all-India House Price Index (HPI) has remained moderate at 1.1% in Q2 of FY21 (July-Sep 2020). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI launched “Inflation Expectations Survey of Households (IESH)” & “Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS)”
- The Annual Growth in all-India House Price Index (HPI) in Q2 of FY21 = 1.1%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

80. Dr Harsh Vardhan has released the report “Action Agenda for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat” (AAAN) prepared by Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) in New Delhi. The comprehensive report AAAN is a consequential follow-up of the TIFAC’s White Paper on Focused Interventions for ‘Make in India’: post COVID -19 which was released earlier in July, 2020 by Dr Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – released a report titled “Action Agenda for an Atma Nirbhar Bharat” (AAAN)
- The report is prepared by – TIFAC ([New Delhi](#))

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

81. Jammu and Kashmir has signed an MoU with National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) for promoting Horticulture produce. After signing of the MoU, NAFED will cover 5,500 Hectares at a cost of Rs 1,700 Cr in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + NAFED = an MoU for promoting Horticulture produce
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Shri Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh

82. The Indian Army has inked a contract worth Rs. 65 Cr with Goa Shipyard Limited for 12 fast patrol boats for surveillance and patrol of large water bodies, including those in high altitude areas. Their delivery will commence from May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + Goa Shipyard = Rs. 65 Cr contract for 12 fast patrol boats
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – S K Saini
- MD & Chairman of Goa Shipyard – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal



83. The TRIFED has tied up with Deen Dayal Antyodaya - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) to undertake economic support programmes that helps boost livelihoods especially that of the SHG women, including those from tribal populations of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TRIFED + DAY-NRLM = tie up to boost livelihoods of Tribal populations especially that of SHG women
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- Ministry of Rural Development – Narendra Singh Tomar (Morena, Madhya Pradesh)

84. The MoUs were signed among Power Development Department (PDD), NHPC and Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation to make J&K a power surplus region in the country. It will attract Rs 35,000 crore investments besides ensuring 24-hour power supply in the UT. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K + NHPC + PDD = MoUs to make J&K a power surplus region in India
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh

85. In an effort to bring about reforms in the Information Technology (IT) sector in Jammu and Kashmir, an MoU was signed between National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and JK IT Infrastructure Development Company for establishing IT towers in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NBCC + JK IT Infrastructure Development = an MoU to establish IT towers in the cities of Jammu & Srinagar
- HQs of NBCC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Shri P K Gupta

86. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has tied-up with the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir to launch “Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT” for the citizens of J&K. The scheme will cover the entire population of J&K irrespective of their economic strata. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bajaj Allianz + J & K = to launch “Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-SEHAT”
- HQs of Bajaj Allianz Life – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Tarun Chugh
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



Obituaries

87. India's 1975 Hockey World Cup-winning and 1972 Olympics bronze winning team member Michael Kindo has passed away. He was 73. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Michael Kindo – a Hockey Player – passed away
- Winner of: India's 1975 Hockey World Cup & 1972 Olympics bronze

88. Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister Buta Singh has passed away recently on January 2. A prominent Dalit leader in the Congress, he was convener of the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) Harijan cell in 1973-74, after which he became the AICC general secretary in 1978. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Buta Singh – a Politician (Congress) – passed away (Former Home Minister)

89. Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar, a highly decorated Army officer and a 'death-defying' mountaineer has passed away recently. He was 84. He was the first to scale Mount Nanda Devi in 1964, first to put India on Mt Everest in 1965 and first to climb Kanchenjunga from its toughest north-east face in 1976. In 1965, Col Kumar was awarded Padma Shri and later Arjuna Award for the Everest expedition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Colonel Narendra 'Bull' Kumar – an Army officer & a Mountaineer – passed away (Padma Shri – 1965)
- He was the first to scale – Mount Nanda Devi (1964) + Mt Everest (1965) + Kanchenjunga (1976)

90. On January 2, Former-Malian prime minister 'Modibo Keita' has passed away at the age of 78. He headed the government in 2002 and from January 2015 to April 2017. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Modibo Keita – Former PM of Mali – passed away
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | President – Bah Ndaw

91. On January 3, Poet and lyricist Anil Panachooran has passed away. He was 55. He continued to write lyrics consistently for Malayalam films. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Anil Panachooran – Malayalam Poet and lyricist – passed away

92. On January 4, Veteran Congressman and former Maharashtra Minister Vilas Patil Undalkar, a seven-time MLA from Karad, has passed away. He was 82. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vilas Patil Undalkar – a Politician (INC) – passed away (7-time MLA from Karad, Maharashtra)

Person in News

93. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a 7-member committee to consider the issue of holding Common Entrance Test (CET) at undergraduate level only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission. The committee is headed by Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab Raghavendra P. Tiwari. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UGC – set up a 7-member committee to consider the issue of holding CET exam at undergraduate level
- The committee is headed by – R. P. Tiwari (Vice-Chancellor of Central University of Punjab)
- HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – Prof D. P. Singh | Founded in – 1956

94. The Finance Ministry has stated that Benefit of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme will be extended to all export goods from January 1, 2021. India's exports fell 8.74% in November, steeper than 5.12% dip in October at \$23.52 billion. The RoDTEP rates, conditions and exclusions would be specified by the department of commerce, based on recommendation of the GK Pillai committee that are expected soon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A committee chaired by GK Pillai – made recommendations on “RoDTEP” scheme
- RoDTEP – Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products
- India's exports fell 8.74% in November

95. Ministry of External Affairs has set up a high-level group named the “South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)” headed by former Union power secretary Ram Vinay Shahi to build a South Asia-focused energy security architecture. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of External Affairs – set up “South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE)” – headed by Ram Vinay Shahi
- Ministry of External Affairs – Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | Constituency – Gujarat

Science & Technology

96. NASA has approved two heliophysics missions to explore the Sun and space weather near Earth. The 2 approved missions are Extreme Ultraviolet High-Throughput Spectroscopic Telescope Epsilon Mission (EUVST) and Electrospect Zeeman Imaging Explorer (EZIE). The EUVST Mission is led by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in partnership with other international organisations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – approved 2 heliophysics missions to explore the Sun and Earth's Aurora – “EUVST” & “EZIE”
- [HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine](#)

97. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given nod to 2 Coronavirus vaccines, “Covishield” developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University and the other is “Covaxin” developed by Bharat Biotech for restricted emergency use. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DCGI – approved 2 Coronavirus vaccines “Covishield” (by AstraZeneca) & “Covaxin” (by Bharat Biotech)
- [The Drug Controller General of India \(DCGI\) – V G Somani](#)

98. Using Low Frequency Array (LOFAR), a radio telescope, in the Netherlands, a team of researchers from Cornell University has discovered emission bursts from the ‘Tau Bootes’ exoplanet system, 51 light-years away from the earth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “LOFAR” a radio telescope in Netherlands discovered the 1st ever radio signal 51 light years away from the Earth
- The signals were detected from the – ‘Tau Bootes’ - a Star System
- LOFAR – Low Frequency Array
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#)

99. Google has announced the launch of its new ‘Insight Tools’ for the travel industry in India. Travel Insights with Google will provide “demand trends to sector participants” in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Google – to launch its new ‘Insight Tools’ for the travel industry in India
- [HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai](#)



Ordinance, Bills and Acts

100. The U.S. Congress has passed the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act” which will expand the number of scholarships available to Pakistani women to receive higher education under a merit and needs-based programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA – passed the “Malala Yousafzai Scholarship Act” – to avail scholarships to Pakistani women
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi





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