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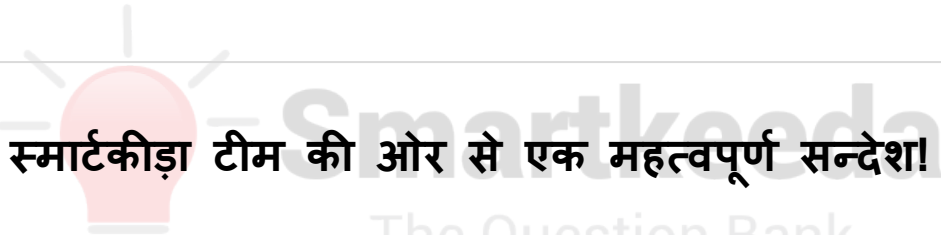
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of December 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 दिसम्बर 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

301. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has standardised all health policies across health insurers and specifically for Robotic and Bariatric Surgeries in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – standardised Robotic and Bariatric Surgeries in India
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

302. India has added a 763.47 MW Renewable Energy (RE) capacity in November this year, which took the total installed RE capacity to 90.39 GW as on 30 November 2020. India has set an ambitious target of 175 GW capacity by 2022, which would include 100 GW of solar energy, 60 GW of wind energy, 10 GW of small hydro power, and 5 GW of biomass-based power projects. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total installed Renewable Energy capacity in India – 90.39 GW (as on 30 November 2020)
- Government's Target: 175 GW – by 2022 & 450 GW – by 2030

303. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has decided to set up an Export promotion council for AYUSH products. The Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Industry, and AYUSH will work together to facilitate more exports of such products, by standardising their HS (Harmonised System) codes used for global trade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mini. of C & I + Ministries of Finance + AYUSH = to set up an Export promotion council for AYUSH products
- MoS of AYUSH – Shripad Yesso Naik | Constituency – North Goa
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

304. In 2016, Sikkim became the first state to be 100% organic. Now, after Sikkim, Lakshadweep has been become the first Union Territory of India to be 100% organic. The UT opted for 100% organic farming without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep – became the first UT of India to be 100% organic (1st state – Sikkim)
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Dineshwar Sharma



• Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

305. On December 12, BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) in collaboration with Frontier Agriculture Platforms has launched an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities – “BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd. (BEAM)” - through its subsidiary BSE Investments. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – launched “BEAM” - an electronic spot platform for agricultural commodities
- BEAM – BSE E-Agricultural Markets Ltd
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi

306. On December 6, the iconic “Stone chariot” located in Hampi (Karnataka) has got protective ring from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to avoid damage through public contact. Now, Tourists can no longer get too close to the iconic stone chariot in front of the Vijaya Vittala Temple in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The iconic “Stone chariot” (Hampi, Karnataka) – got protective ring from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)
- Vijaya Vittala Temple – the UNESCO World Heritage site – located in Hampi, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of ASI – New Delhi | Director General – V. Vidyavathi

307. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the three-lane 1.5-km-long “Koilar Bridge” over Sone river in Bihar. The bridge is major road for transport between Bihar and UP. A sum of Rs 266 Cr was spent to construct this bridge. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated the three-lane 1.5-km-long “Koilar Bridge” – over Sone river in Bihar
- Cost of the Bridge – Rs 266 Cr
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

308. The Centre has launched a programme for socio-economic profiling of the beneficiaries of the PM Street Vendor’s Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) and their families. Quality Council of India (QCI) has been appointed as the implementing partner for the programme. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- QCI appointed as the implementing partner for a programme for socio-economic profiling
- The programme is for the beneficiaries of “PM SVANidhi” Scheme
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai

309. Shri A.K. Singh (CMD of NHPC) has laid the foundation stone of “Indo-Nepal Link Canal” at Barrage of 94.2 MW Tanakpur Power Station of NHPC located in Banbasa, Champawat (Uttarakhand) on 8th December 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shri A.K. Singh – laid the foundation stone of “Indo-Nepal Link Canal” at ‘Tanakpur Power Station’ (Uttarakhand)
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

310. The Talcher Fertilizers Ltd’s (TFL) plant at Talcher will be India’s first coal gasification-based fertiliser plant with pet coke blending. It will facilitate seamless supply of urea and fertiliser in Odisha and eastern India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s first coal gasification-based fertiliser plant with pet coke blending – being set up at Talcher, Odisha
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

311. Bharti Infratel has received approval from the Registrar of Companies for changing its name to Indus Towers, following the recent merger of the two companies (Bharti Infratel & Indus Towers Ltd) to create a mega tower entity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Infratel – received approval from the Registrar of Companies to change its name to ‘Indus Towers’
- HQs of Bharti Infratel – New Delhi | CEO – Devender Singh Rawat
- HQs of Indus Towers – Gurugram, Haryana | CEO – Bimal Dayal

312. The post-mortem report of an elephant calf which was found dead on December 2 has revealed the presence of ‘Anthrax’ at the Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve in Dibrugarh district. The forest department has started a vaccination drive to prevent the spread of the bacterial infection. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Assam forest department started a Vaccination drive after 'Anthrax' detection in wild elephant
- It was detected at the "Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve" – in Dibrugarh, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

313. The Indian Coast Guard has pressed into service an aircraft for "Operation Oliva", the coastal patrolling as part of its annual mission to ensure the safe mid-sea sojourn of breeding Olive Ridley sea turtles in Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Coast Guard – conducted "Operation Oliva" to ensure safe breeding of 'Olive Ridley Turtles' in Odisha
- HQs of ICG – New Delhi | Director General – Krishnaswamy Natarajan
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

314. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched "GotYouCovered" campaign observing the Universal Health Coverage Day. It is a special initiative to appreciate frontline healthcare workers who are striving to protect people from the Covid-19 pandemic. Bharti AXA Life Insurance has joined hands with Primero Skills & Training for this purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance + Primero Skills & Training = launched "GotYouCovered" campaign
- HQs of Bharti AXA Life Ins. – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Parag Raja
- HQs of Primero Skills & Training – New Delhi | Director – Jayanta Das

315. Gujarat is the 1st state to bring the fire safety certification process online through a portal called "Fire Safety COP". The system will be implemented from January 26, 2021. The portal will help the State government monitor the compliance level of FSC approval and renewal and bring about transparency. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – the 1st state to bring the fire safety certification process online through a portal called "Fire Safety COP"
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

316. Maharashtra state government has launched "Mahasharad" a digital platform where people with disabilities can register for their needs, such as hearing aid, battery-operated wheelchair, prosthesis, Braille kits



etc. 'Mahasharad' stands for Maharashtra System of Health Rehabilitation And Assistance for Divyang. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra – launched “Mahasharad” a digital platform to help disabled
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

International Affairs

317. Australia’s “Go for Zero” policy has helped it bring Covid-19 cases down to a trickle. Since October 27, Australia has reported just 1 Covid-19-related death out of the 908 fatalities in the country, having a fatality rate of 3.2%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Australia’s “Go for Zero” policy helped it bring Covid-19 cases down
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

318. India and Qatar have agreed to set up a task force on Energy to identify projects for the country’s largest natural gas supplier for investment. Qatar is India’s biggest gas supplier, shipping 8.5 million tonnes per annum of LNG (liquefied natural gas) to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Qatar = agreed to set up a Task Force on Energy
- Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani

319. In recognition of the United Nations’ International Anti-Corruption Day, Microsoft has launched “Anti-Corruption Technology and Solutions” (ACTS) to help empower governments and other stakeholders in their corruption fight. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched “Anti-Corruption Technology and Solutions” (ACTS)
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella



320. The 2nd Bangladesh-India Cotton Festival was held recently in December in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It was organised by Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA). More than 30 Indian companies participated at the festival. Bangladesh Prime Minister's Adviser Salman F Rahman was the Chief Guest of the event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 2nd Bangladesh-India Cotton Festival – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Chief Guest of the event – Salman F Rahman
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

Banking & Economic Affairs

321. With a view to ensure financial discipline and transparency, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed guidelines for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for declaring dividends. Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) comply with minimum prudential requirements under Section 45 IC of the RBI Act, 1934 in order to declare dividend. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – proposed guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for declaring dividends
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

322. Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a 3-in-1 account or tripartite account (Savings +Trading+ Demat), which allows its customers to invest in wide variety of financial product using a single platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Equitas SFB – launched a 3-in-1 account or tripartite account (Savings +Trading+ Demat)
- HQs of Equitas SFB – Chennai, TN | MD & CEO – Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan

323. DBS Bank India has joined hands with social enterprise Haqdarshak Empowerment Solutions to enable recovery of Indian MSMEs through its newly launched platform. Haqdarshak will provide application support services to business owners for availing the right schemes that the government has announced. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DBS Bank India + Haqdarshak = to enable recovery of Indian MSMEs from COVID-19 pandemic
- HQs of DBS Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Surojit Shome



324. With a view to effectively deal with increasing circulation of banknotes, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for receipt, storage and dispatch of currency notes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur, Rajasthan
- It will be for – Receipt, Storage & Dispatch of currency notes
- Coins minting places – Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Noida
- Current Notes printing places – Nasik, Dewas, Mysore, Salboni
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

325. Market regulator SEBI has set up a specialised department to tackle cases of diversion of funds, bank loans and resources by company promoters. The new department will be known as the Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – set up a Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID)
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi

326. Aceware, a fintech company based in Infopark, has launched “AceMoney Micro ATM Service” in association with ICICI Bank. Initially, the service will be available in Kochi city. The customers can place the order for money on the Ace Money app and the money will be delivered at the doorstep within 30-40 minutes after the order is placed. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aceware + ICICI bank = launched “AceMoney Micro ATM Service” to deliver money at the doorstep
- ICICI Bank: HQs – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”
- HQs of Aceware – Kochi, Kerala | MD & CEO – Jimmin James Kurichiyil



Defence Affairs

327. The 5.56x30 mm Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) developed by the DRDO has successfully completed its final phase user trials meeting all the parameters related to General Staff Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs). JVPC is a Gas Operated Semi Bull-pup automatic weapon. It is designed and developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a DRDO lab. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5.56x30 mm Joint Venture Protective Carbine (JVPC) – successfully completed its final phase user trials
- It is designed and developed by – Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) - Pune
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy

328. A webinar between India and Brazil was held with a theme of “Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership: Webinar and Expo”. This webinar which is the first is a part of the series of webinars which are being organized with friendly foreign countries in order to boost Defence Exports and achieve Defence Export Target of \$5 billion in the next 5 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Brazil = held 1st webinar in order to boost Defence Exports
- Defence Export Target – \$5 billion in the next 5 years
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

329. Production of ammunition under the Joint Venture between Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos (CBC) Brazil and Stumpp Schuele & Somappa India (SSS Defence) will take off in August 2021 in Andhra Pradesh. The focus of the Indian envoy to Brazil was on the “Triple-Helix” approach to lay emphasis on innovation and R&D for its army, navy and air force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Production of ammunition under JV between CBC Brazil & SSS Defence – to start in Andhra Pradesh (in Aug 2021)
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



Schemes & Initiatives

330. Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has virtually launched “Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi” scheme, under which 2.49 lakh units of sheep and goats will be distributed to women in a phased manner at a cost of ₹1,869 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – launched “Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi” scheme (Cost: ₹1,869 Cr)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

331. The Finance Ministry has notified the updated Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme which gives a push to the social infrastructure sector in India. The new scheme, applicable with immediate effect, allows for funding up to Rs 200 Cr to be sanctioned by an Empowered Committee (EC) headed by the Economic Affairs Secretary Tarun Bajaj. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Finance Ministry – notified the updated Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme
- The scheme allows for funding up to Rs 200 Cr to be sanctioned by an Empowered Committee (EC)
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

Sports & Games

332. During the 10th Global Sports Summit “TURF 2020”, organised by FICCI on December 8, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the government will start 1000 Khelo India centres in the country to provide employment to Retired Sportspersons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th Global Sports Summit “TURF 2020” – organised by FICCI
- Government will start 1000 Khelo India centres in India to provide Employment to Retired Sportspersons
- Sports Minister – Kiren Rijiju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- HQs of FICCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Uday Shankar



333. Max Verstappen has won the 2020 Formula One “Abu Dhabi Grand Prix”. Max Verstappen led every lap of what turned out to be a processional race to cross the line 15.9 seconds ahead of Mercedes pair Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Verstappen – won the 2020 F1 “Abu Dhabi Grand Prix”
- Max Verstappen (Belgium) – Red Bull

334. International Hockey Federation (FIH) President Narinder Batra has stated that Rourkela has been selected as the second venue for “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” besides Bhubaneswar in Odisha. India has previously hosted 2018 Men's Hockey World Cup. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Venue for “2023 FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup” = Rourkela + Bhubaneswar (both in Odisha)
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil

335. On December 13, Junior Asian champion Yash Vardhan has clinched the 10m air rifle event at the 6th International Online Shooting Championship (IOSC). The 17-year-old shot a score of 251.9 to lift the title with a margin of 1.2 points. The IOSC organised by former Indian shooter Shimon Sharif saw participation of shooters from around 20 different countries. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yash Vardhan (Shooting) – won Gold in 10m air rifle event at the 6th International Online Shooting Championship
- Silver – Martin Strempl (Austria) | Bronze – Oleksandr Halkin (Ukraine)

336. Guwahati is all set to organise the 1st Northeast MTB (Mountain Terrain Bike) Championship. The event will be held at Basistha in Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guwahati – organised the 1st Northeast MTB (Mountain Terrain Bike) Championship
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



Important Days & Dates

337. The 193-member UN General Assembly has approved a resolution to observe December 27 as the “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness”. India welcomed the resolutions on International Day of Epidemic Preparedness and United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030 tabled in the General Assembly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 27 – “International Day of Epidemic Preparedness” – approved by UNGA
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

338. UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) Day is observed every year on December 11. The United Nations General Assembly created UNICEF on December 11, 1946, as the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – “UNICEF Day” or “United Nations Children’s Fund Day”
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

339. The “International Mountain Day” is celebrated on December 11 every year to encourage sustainable development in mountains. The day was announced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. “Mountain Biodiversity” is the theme of this year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 11 – The UN’s “International Mountain Day”
- Theme – “Mountain Biodiversity”
- HQs of UNGA – New York, USA | President – Volkan Bozkir | Member Countries – 193

340. “International Day of Neutrality” is observed by the United Nations on December 12 since 2017. Turkmenistan is recognized by the UN as a permanently neutral state since 12 December 1995. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – “International Day of Neutrality” (since 2017)
- Turkmenistan – the only country to get recognised by the UN as a permanently Neutral State
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat



341. International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day) was recently observed on December 12, 2020. This year, the theme was “Health for All: Protect Everyone”. On 12 December 2017, the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as UHC Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 12 – International Universal Health Coverage Day (UHC Day)
- Theme – “Health for All: Protect Everyone”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Director – Antonio Guterres

342. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has celebrated December 14 as the “National Energy Conservation Day” to showcase India’s contribution to energy conservation and steps taken towards becoming an energy-efficient nation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- December 14 – “National Energy Conservation Day” – celebrated by BEE
- HQs of BEE – New Delhi | Director General – Abhay Bakre



343. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) held the Curtain Raiser to announce the 26th edition of Technology Summit 2020 on December 1, 2020. Portugal is the partner country this year. The 26th edition of India-Portugal Technology Summit 2020 was held over a digital platform from December 7-9 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 26th edition of DST-CII or India-Portugal Technology Summit 2020 – held from December 7-9
- Guest of Honour – Manuel Heitor (Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal)
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

344. Partners in Population and Development (PPD), the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA), and National Health Commission of China have jointly organized the 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development entitled “Nairobi Commitments and the 2030 Agenda: Taking stock and looking ahead in post COVID-19 crisis”. The India was represented by Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- 17th International Inter-Ministerial Conference on South-South Cooperation in Population and Development
- India was represented by – Dr. Harsh Vardhan

345. The TiE Hyderabad has hosted its largest ever and first virtual “The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit-2020” from December 8. The summit was inaugurated by M Venkaiah Naidu. The summit was based on the theme “Entrepreneurship 360” and was focused on issues faced by entrepreneurs and on providing a platform for funding. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated world’s largest ever “The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE) Global Summit-2020”
- It was hosted by – TiE Hyderabad | Theme of the Summit – “Entrepreneurship 360”

346. India and Nepal have held the 8th meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation in the Power sector through video conference in December 2020. The meeting was chaired by Sanjiv Nandan Sahai (Power Secretary of India). The JSC is an apex bilateral mechanism set up by both nations to enhance and coordinating various government-to-government led initiatives in the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Nepal = held the 8th meeting of Joint Steering Committee (JSC) on cooperation in the Power sector
- Meeting was chaired by – Sanjiv Nandan Sahai (Power Secretary of India)
- 900MW Arun-III Hydro Electric Project – Nepal
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

347. The 5th India-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation between the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), India and the Central Committee on Drug Abuse Control, Myanmar was held virtually on 10th December, 2020. The Indian delegation was led by the Director General Narcotics Control Bureau, Shri Rakesh Asthana. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th India-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Drug Control Cooperation – between India & Myanmar
- Indian delegation was led by – Shri Rakesh Asthana (DG of Narcotics Control Bureau)
- Myanmar – Naypyitaw – Kyat | President – Win Myint



348. The 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) between India and Cyprus was held on December 10 virtually where both the countries have reviewed the cooperation in various fields including political, economic, consular and cultural areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 5th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) held between – India & Cyprus
- Cyprus – Nicosia – Euro | President – Nicos Anastasiades

349. Recently, the 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) was held from 10th to 15th December 2020. It was organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga). Theme of the summit is “Arth Ganga – river conservation synchronized development”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 5th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) – held from December 10-15 – organised by NMCG + cGanga
- Theme – “Arth Ganga – river conservation synchronized development”

350. The 9th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The theme for this year is “Emerging Pathways for Building a Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adaptation, Innovation and Acceleration”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 9th edition of the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) was held in – Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya

Arts & Cultural Affairs

351. Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R K Mathur has virtually inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Ladakh Literature Festival - 2020” in Leh. The three Day festival will host a series of talks, importance of the region, ancient knowledge of Ladakh, Folk music, cultural Dance, geology and wildlife of Himalayas and several interesting topics on YouTube and Facebook streaming. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- R K Mathur – inaugurated the 2nd edition of “Ladakh Literature Festival - 2020” – in Leh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

352. On December 10, US President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have been chosen as Time magazine's "Person of the Year - 2020". Time's magazine cover has a picture of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris with the subtitle "Changing America's story". Besides, Basketball superstar LeBron James, Eric Yuan & K-Pop sensation BTS were also named by TIME as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Joe Biden & Kamala Harris = chosen as TIME magazine's "Person of the Year - 2020"
- LeBron James – "Athlete of the Year-2020" by TIME
- BTS – "Entertainer of the Year" by TIME
- Eric Yuan – "Businessperson of the Year" by TIME

353. IIT Roorkee has been adjudged as the "The Most Innovative Institute of the Year" for its innovation quotient in the CII Industrial Innovation Awards 2020. The award ceremony was held during the 26th DST-CII Technology Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Roorkee – recognised as the "The Most Innovative Institute of the Year"

354. The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) has presented Awards under different categories in its award ceremony at the TiE Global Summit 2020. The awards are given as mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Winners under different categories:

Best Government Agency Supporting Startup Ecosystem	Singapore
Best Incubator/Accelerator in the World	Y Combinator (California)
Best Corporate Supporting Entrepreneurship Development Program	Google / Alphabet
Most Active Angel Network / Group in the World Award	Tech Coast Angels
Best Global University/Institution for Promoting Entrepreneurship	Stanford University
Bootstrapped to Billions Award	Ben Chestnut (MailChimp)
Best Performing Global VC (Venture Capital) Fund	Sequoia Capital
Rapid Listing Award	George Scangos
Lightning Unicorn Award	Ron Hovsepian
Lifetime Achievement Family Business (Transformer) Award	Bill Marriot
Most Innovative Startup Award	Jeremy Achin
Lifetime Achievement Service to the Indian IT Industry (Posthumous)	Heng Swee Keat (F. C. Kohli)
Lifetime Achievement First Generation (Creator) Award	Bill Gates

355. The “Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020” has been awarded to Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Brazil, in a virtual ceremony on December 9, 2020. He is the 1st Non-Indian to win this prize. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Carolina Araujo (Brazil) – received the “Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians 2020”
- Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian real | President – Jair Bolsonaro

356. On December 11, Seeni Viswanathan has received the “Bharathi Award 2020” on the International Bharathi Festival 2020 addressed by PM Shri Narendra Modi. The festival is being organised by Vanavil Cultural Centre to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi (a Tamil writer, Poet & Journalist). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Seeni Viswanathan – received the “Bharathi Award 2020” – on the “International Bharathi Festival 2020”
- To celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi (a Tamil writer, Poet & Journalist)

357. The UNESCO has decided to launch an International Prize in the field of ‘Creative Economy’ in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Starting November 2021, the \$50,000 award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UNESCO – decided to launch an International Prize in the field of ‘Creative Economy’
- The prize to be launched in the name of – Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France | Director-General – Audrey Azoulay

358. Ashraf Patel representing Pravah and ComMutiny, has won the “Social Entrepreneur of the Year-2020” (SEOY) award instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation. Established in 1993, Pravah has been facilitating the development of a generation of empathetic, sensitive youth change-makers in India. ComMutiny which was formed in 2008, works on the idea of making collectives out of organizations like Pravah. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ashraf Patel – won “Social Entrepreneur of the Year-2020” – by Schwab Foundation & Jubilant Bhartia Foundation
- Pravah and ComMutiny – represented by Ashraf Patel



Appointments & Resignations

359. Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto have been appointed as the International Judo Federation (IJF) Climate Ambassadors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sabrina Filzmoser and Flavio Canto – appointed as the Climate Ambassadors of – IJF
- HQs of IJF – Budapest, Hungary | President – Marius Vizer

360. Russia's Umar Kremlev was elected as the President of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) at a virtual congress. Kremlev was the head of the Russian Boxing Federation since 2017 and chairman of AIBA's market commission. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Umar Kremlev (Russia) – elected president of the International Boxing Association (AIBA)
- HQs of AIBA – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Umar Kremlev (from Russia)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

361. Dabur Chyawanprash has roped in Akshay Kumar as its Brand Ambassador. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Akshay Kumar – appointed as Brand Ambassador of – Dabur Chyawanprash
- HQs of Dabur – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | Chairman – Amit Burman | CEO – Mohit Malhotra

362. Diplomat Gaurav Ahluwalia, presently Deputy High Commissioner in the Indian High Commission in Islamabad, has been appointed as the next India Ambassador to Algeria. Diplomat Suresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gaurav Ahluwalia – appointed as the next India Ambassador to Algeria
- Suresh Kumar – appointed as the new Charge d'Affaires at the Pakistan High Commission of India
- Algeria – Algiers – Dinar | Prime minister – Abdelaziz Djerad | President – Abdelmadjid Tebboune



Amount & Agreements

363. India has contributed another \$2 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), fulfilling its commitment of \$5 million in aid annually to support its programmes and services. The \$2 million cheque was presented to UNRWA by Representative of India in Palestine, Sunil Kumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – contributed another \$2 million to UNRWA to support ‘Palestinian’ refugees
- Representative of India in Palestine – Sunil Kumar
- Palestine – Ramallah & East Jerusalem – Israeli new shekel & Jordanian dinar
- HQs of UNRWA – Amman, Jordan | Commissioner-General – Philippe Lazzarini

364. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched a \$9 billion vaccine initiative - the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) offering support to its developing member economies to procure and deliver COVID-19 vaccines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ADB – launched \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) initiative
- ADB: HQs – [Mandaluyong, Philippines](#) | President – [Masatsugu Asakawa](#) | Member countries – 68

365. Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has extended a \$448-million line of credit (LOC) for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan. Exim Bank has now in place 266 LOCs, covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Commonwealth of Independent States and the Oceania, with credit commitments of around \$26.59 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Exim Bank – extended a \$448-million LOC for various infrastructure projects in Uzbekistan
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So’m | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev
- HQs of EXIM Bank – Mumbai | Chairman & MD – TC Venkat Subramanian

366. India has pledged a commitment of \$2 billion at the World Health Organisation's “Lives in the Balance” summit to provide essential services to women, newborns, young children and adolescents across the world. The summit organised by WHO's The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- India – pledged a commitment of \$2 billion at the WHO’s “Lives in the Balance” summit
- Essential services to – Women, Newborns, Young Children & Adolescents
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

367. India loves cricket and this has been proven yet again as the Indian Premier League (IPL) beat even the ‘Coronavirus’ for the top trending query overall in the year, according to Google India’s ‘Year In Search 2020’. Last year, the top trending query on Google Search was ‘ICC Cricket World Cup’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “IPL” – India's most-searched word on Google – according to Google India’s ‘Year In Search 2020’
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

368. India has dropped to the 2nd position from first in Bloomberg New Energy Finance’s (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking, as a result of a decline in clean energy investment. India’s clean energy investment declined from 32% in 2017 to 12% in 2018-2019 to \$8.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India stood at the 2nd – in Bloomberg New Energy Finance’s (BNEF) 2020 Climatescope survey ranking
- India’s clean energy investment declined to – 12% in 2018-2019 (\$8.5 billion)

369. Keshav Suri Foundation, Pride Circle, Stonewall UK and FICCI have virtually released the “India Workplace Equality Index-2020” touted as India’s 1st LGBT + Workplace Equality Index. 21 firms won under the Gold category, while 18 were placed under Silver and 13 got Bronze. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Keshav Suri Foundation + Pride Circle + Stonewall UK + FICCI = released the “India Workplace Equality Index”
- It’s also touted as – India’s 1st LGBT + Workplace Equality Index
- Categories: Gold – 21 firms | Silver – 18 firms | Bronze – 13 firms

370. Heart disease has remained the leading cause of death at the global level for last 20 years (from 2000 to 2019), according to the WHO’s 2019 Global Health Estimates. Heart disease now represents 16% of total deaths from all causes. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Heart disease – remained the leading cause of death at the Global Level from 2000 to 2019
- 16% of total deaths in the world are caused by – Heart Disease
- WHO HQs – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

371. Odisha ranked first, and Maharashtra came second in terms of good governance, according to a survey namely “Urban Governance Index 2020” conducted across 28 states and 40 cities in India and published by Praja Foundation, a Mumbai-based think tank. The top 5 states are Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Urban Governance Index 2020” – published by Praja Foundation (Mumbai)
- 1st – Odisha | 2nd – Maharashtra | 3rd – Kerala | 4th – Madhya Pradesh | 5th – Chhattisgarh

372. Around 1.8 billion people are at heightened risk of Covid-19 and other diseases because they use or work in healthcare facilities without basic water or WASH services, according to a joint report titled “Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities: fundamentals first” by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNICEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global progress report on WASH in health care facilities: fundamentals first” report – by WHO + UNICEF
- WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Around 1.8 billion people are at heightened risk of Covid-19 and other diseases
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, USA | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore | Established in – 1946

373. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton is ranked as the world’s number 1 driver, as per Formula One (F1) rankings in December, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lewis Hamilton – ranked as the world’s number 1 driver as per F1 Rankings in December 2020
- Lewis Hamilton (UK) – drives ‘Mercedes’



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

374. The Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with the Cornell University in New York to set up a world-class incubation centre in Maharashtra to provide the necessary infrastructure and conducive environment for new entrepreneurs and innovative start-ups. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maharashtra + Cornell University = an MoU to set up a world-class incubation centre in Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

375. Under “Project Nand Ghar”, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with the Anil Agarwal Foundation to support the Union Women and Child Development Ministry in achieving the UNDP Goal-2, which aims to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by the year 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bill & Melinda Gates + Anil Agarwal Foundation = to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition by the year 2030
- “Project Nand Ghar” an initiative of = Anil Agarwal Foundation + Ministry of Women and Child Development

376. Vodafone India Foundation has entered into a partnership with Nokia to deploy a smart agriculture solution to improve the productivity of farmers in India. A pilot project is being conducted across 100 locations in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vodafone India Foundation + Nokia = to deploy a smart agriculture solution
- A pilot project is being conducted – in Madhya Pradesh & Maharashtra
- HQs of Nokia – Espoo, Finland | CEO – Pekka Lundmark

377. Edtech major BYJU'S has inked an agreement with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) to support the skilling of teachers and trainers. Byju's will provide NSDC free access to its educational content and tools to help teachers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BYJU'S+ NSDC = an agreement to support the skilling of teachers and trainers
- HQs of BYJU'S – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Byju Raveendran
- HQs of NSDC – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Manish Kumar



378. BSNL has partnered with Skylotech India for the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things) network. It will enable to provide connectivity for millions of unconnected machines, sensors and industrial IoT devices across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSNL + Skylotech India = partnership for the world's first satellite-based NB-IoT network
- HQs of BSNL – New Delhi | CMD – Pravin Kumar Purwar

379. On December 11, the India Energy Storage Alliance (IESA) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) have joined hands to promote innovations in energy storage in India. UNIDO launched the 4th round of innovation challenge to support and encourage new innovations in Indian energy storage and e-mobility space. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IESA + UNIDO = partnership to promote innovations in energy storage in India
- HQ of IESA – Pune, Maharashtra | President – Dr. Rahul Walawalkar
- HQs of UNIDO – Vienna, Austria | Director general – Li Yong

380. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) have signed an MoU known as the “Red Channel Agreement” to strengthen the delivery of emergency medical and health services during humanitarian crises. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WHO + IFRC = signed an MoU known as the “Red Channel Agreement”
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of IFRC – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary General – Jagan Chapagain

381. India and Uzbekistan have signed 9 agreements to further broadbase cooperation in several areas and vowed to combat the threat of terrorism by destroying terrorist safe-havens, networks and funding channels. The Summit was co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India + Uzbekistan = signed 9 Agreements in their first High level Bilateral Virtual Summit
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev



382. Tamil Nadu government has signed 18 MoUs worth 19,955 Cr with 18 companies, corporate houses and industrial groups, which will create jobs for 26,509 people. Palaniswami has also laid the foundation stone for 5 industrial projects worth Rs 4,456 Cr which will create 27,324 jobs. The cumulative investment in the 24 projects is about Rs 24,458 Cr and the employment potential will be about 54,218 persons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – signed 18 MoUs with different corporate for 24 projects worth about Rs 24,458 Cr
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

383. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Amazon India have signed an MoU to increase Export potential of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in 10 states and help them leverage e-commerce to boost domestic trade. The pact was signed at the 17th CII Global SME Business Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 17th CII Global SME Business Summit – held on December 9-10
- Amazon + CII = an MoU to increase Export potential of MSMEs in 10 states
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Uday Kotak | Director General – Chandrajit Banerjee

384. Aiming to make India a manufacturing hub for electric vehicles, Ola has signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for an investment of Rs 2,400 Cr to set up its first factory in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ola + Tamil Nadu = to set up the World’s largest scooter manufacturing factory – in Hosur, Tamil Nadu
- HQs of Ola – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Bhavish Aggarwal

Books & Authors

385. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has released a booklet titled “Putting Farmers First”, highlighting the reforms introduced by the government in the agriculture sector through the new farm laws. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I&B – released a booklet titled “Putting Farmers First”
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)



Obituaries

386. Italy's World Cup hero Paolo Rossi has passed away recently. He won the Golden Boot as the top scorer and Golden Ball as the best player of the tournament in 1982 World Cup. He was 64. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paolo Rossi (Italy) – a Football player – passed away (1982 World Cup)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | PM – Giuseppe Conte

387. Dharmalingam Ethiraj has passed away recently in Bengaluru. He was 87. He was former India football player and member of the 1962 Asian Games Gold medal-winning team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmalingam Ethiraj – a Football Player – passed away
- He was member of – 1962 Asian Games Gold medal-winning team

388. South Korean Film Director Kim Ki-duk has passed away recently after getting infected by Corona virus. He has won the top prize “The Golden Lion Award” at the Venice Film Festival in 2012 for his 2012 film “Pietà”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kim Ki-duk (South Korea) – a Film Director – passed away
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

389. Noted Sanskrit scholar and eminent discourses Bannanje Govindacharya passed away recently on December 13. He was 84. A Padma Shri awardee in 2009 for ‘Literature’, he had edited the weekly magazine of Kannada daily “Udayavani” for some years during the 1970s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bannanje Govindacharya – a Sanskrit scholar – passed away (Padma Shri - 2009 for ‘Literature’)



Person in News

390. Villa San Carlos striker Mara Gomez has become the first transgender woman to play football in Argentina. Gomez, 23, got the approval to play from the Argentina Football Association (AFA) and started in Villa San Carlos' 7-1 win over Lanus in the Primera A. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mara Gomez – became the first transgender woman to play Football in Argentina
- Argentina – Buenos Aires – Peso | President – Alberto Fernandez

391. Indian Embassy in Beijing (China) Vikram Misri has launched Bollywood “CinemaSCOpe” series for SCO diplomats. More than two dozen Indian movies including '3 Idiots', dubbed in Russian language, will be screened on a monthly basis till India's chairmanship of the eight-member SCO 'Council of Heads of State' meeting in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Embassy of India in China – launched Bollywood “CinemaSCOpe” series for SCO diplomats
- Vikram Misri – Embassy of India in Beijing China
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



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Science & Technology

392. A team of researchers at the IIT Guwahati has developed a pitcher plant-inspired inexpensive method for harvesting water from humid air. Such water harvesting techniques use the concept of hydrophobicity or water-repelling nature of some materials such as the lotus leaf. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – developed a method for harvesting water from humid air by using the concept of hydrophobicity
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

393. A new species of ‘Indian Muraingrasses’ known for their ecological and economic importance have been spotted by the scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI) in Goa in the Western Ghats. The species was named “Ischaemum Janarthanamiin” honour of Prof. M. K. Janarthanam (Professor in Goa University). A team was led by Dr. Mandar Datar and Dr. Ritesh Kumar Choudhary from ARI. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Ischaemum Janarthanamiin” a new species of ‘Indian Muraingrasses’ – found in Goa – by ARI Scientists
- HQs of ARI – Pune, MH | Founder Director – Shankar Purushottam Agharkar

394. Chinese scientists have claimed to have built a Quantum Computer that is able to perform certain computations nearly 100 trillion times faster than the world’s most advanced supercomputer. Chinese government is building a \$10 billion National Laboratory for Quantum Information Sciences as part of a big push in the field. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chinese scientists claim to have built the world’s fastest Quantum Computer
- It is 100 trillion times faster than the world’s most advanced supercomputer
- China: Capital – Beijing | Currency – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

395. Dr Harsh Vardhan has virtually addressed the “World Bank Inter Ministerial Meeting on Vaccination of South Asia” against COVID-19. A total of 260 vaccine candidates are in different stages of development globally. India could develop its total 3 indigenous vaccines until now - Covishield, Covaxin & ZyCoV-D. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – addressed the “World Bank Inter Ministerial Meeting on Vaccination of South Asia”
- India’s 3 indigenously developed vaccines – Covishield, Covaxin & ZyCoV-D
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

396. India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate “HGCO19” has received approval from the Drug Controller General of India to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial. It has been developed by Gennova, a company based in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate namely – “HGCO19”
- It received approval from DCGA to initiate Phase I/II human clinical trial
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani



397. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all set to launch a communication satellite “CMS-01” on 17 December from the Second Launch Pad (SLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. The communication satellite will be onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C50). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO launched a communication satellite “CMS-01” from SLP of Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota
- Rocket used is – PSLV-C50
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amaravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

398. NASA has named the 18 astronauts, including women, who will be trained for its Artemis moon-landing programme. Raja Chari, 43, a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, MIT, is the only Indian-American in the list. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA has named the 18 astronauts for its Artemis moon-landing programme
- Raja Chari – the only Indian-American in the list
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

399. A Buddhist Era archaeological site, about 2,600 years old is discovered on the bank of Chanan river in Amarpur area of Banka district in Bihar. The Chief Minister personally visited the archaeological site in Banka district. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A Buddhist Era archaeological site (about 2,600 years old) – discovered on the bank of Chanan river, in Bihar
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

400. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has circulated draft of “Indian Ports Bill 2020” for public consultation which will repeal and replace the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”. It aims at bringing more investment in the maritime sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – circulated draft for public consultation
- “Indian Ports Bill 2020” – will repeal and replace the “Indian Ports Act, 1908”
- MoS I/C in Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways – Mansukh L. Mandaviya





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