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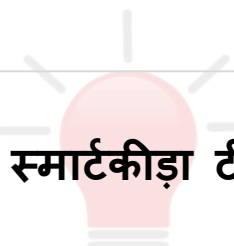
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

201. On January 6, Kerala has recently announced to provide 'Green tag' to government offices and public sector undertakings. A total of 10,000 State government offices and public sector undertakings in Kerala will be declared 'Green' on January 26, the Republic Day. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – to provide 'Green tag' to 10,000 government offices and public sector undertakings on January 26
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

202. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is organising "Udyog Manthan" in association with the Quality Council of India (QCI) and the National Productivity Council (NPC) between January 4 and March 2 this year. It is a marathon of focused sector-specific webinars for promoting quality and productivity in Indian Industry. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- DPIIT + QCI + NPC = organising "Udyog Manthan" – between January 4 and March 2
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQs of DPIIT – New Delhi | DPIIT Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra
- HQs of QCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Adil Zainulbhai | Secretary General – Dr Ravi P Singh

203. Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has decided to create a new 'Bagasara Prant' in Amreli district which would come into effect on 26th January. This will take the state's revenue services nearer to the people and provide services faster. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vijay Rupani – decided to create a new 'Bagasara Prant' in Amreli, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

204. A high-level 85-member committee has been constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, starting January 23. The committee is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A high-level 85-member committee is constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji S. C. Bose
- The committee is headed by – PM Narendra Modi ([Earlier it was expected to be headed by Amit Shah](#))



205. On January 8, An MoU was signed between the Himachal Pradesh government and Nagsons Developers to develop India's 1st Indoor Ski Park at Kufri in Shimla to make Himachal Pradesh a favourite tourist destination in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Indoor Ski Park to come up – at Kufri, in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

206. An all-women pilot team of Air India is set to create a history by flying over North Pole on the world's longest air route and the flight from San Francisco (SFO) reached Bengaluru covering a distance of about 16,000 Km. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- An all-women pilot team of Air India – to create a history by flying over North Pole
- Flight from San Francisco to Bengaluru covering a distance of about 16,000 Km
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Rajiv Bansal

207. On January 8, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Cabinet in Delhi has approved the setting up of a Konkani Language Academy in the capital. Currently, there are 8 functional language academies in Delhi covering Urdu, Sanskrit, Punjabi, Hindi, Maithili-Bhojpuri, Garhwali-Kumaoni-Jaunsari, Sindhi and Tamil. Tamil was notified recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi – approved the setting up of a “Konkani Language Academy” (Tamil Academy was set up recently)
- Currently, there are 8 functional language academies in Delhi
- Konkani – the official language of Goa
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

208. On January 10, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government has reduced the age limit of the aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services Exam from 37 years to 32 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The age limit of the aspirants of J&K Administrative Services Exam reduced – to 32 years (from 37 years)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



209. As part of its 'Swachhta Pakhwada' programme observed between December 16 to 31, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (CCARI) has carried out "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" programme - a series of activities to dispose of garbage from Goa's rural belt. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICAR-CCARI ([Goa](#)) – carried out "Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav" programme
- ICAR – also observed 'Swachhta Pakhwada' programme between December 16 to 31
- [HQs of ICAR – New Delhi](#) | [DG – Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra](#) | [President – Narendra Singh Tomar](#)

210. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has inaugurated the 'Fire Park', a first of its kind initiative in India to bring awareness on fire safety measures. He also launched a dynamic online portal, 'AgnishamaSeva' of Odisha Fire Service on virtual platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – inaugurated the 1st 'Fire Park' & also launched 'AgnishamaSeva' - a dynamic portal
- [Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar](#) | [CM – Naveen Patnaik](#) | [Governor – Ganeshi Lal](#)

211. On January 8, the Air India Express has become the first airline in India to use robotic technology to clean and disinfect the interiors of aircrafts using an Ultraviolet Robotic Device at Delhi Airport. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Air India Express – became the first airline in India to use 'Ultraviolet Robotic Device'
- [HQs of Air India Express – Kochi, Kerala](#) | [CEO – Pradeep Singh Kharola](#)

212. On January 11, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the "Single Window Clearance System" - an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – launched the Single Window Clearance System for 'Coal mines'
- [Ministry of Home Affairs – Shri Amit Shah](#) | [Constituency – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#)
- [Pralhad Joshi – Minister of Coal, Minister of Mines \(Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka\)](#)

213. On January 10, In a bid to ease the woes during menstruation of women residing in congested slums and to provide them hygienic sanitary facilities, a "Period Room" has been set up at a public toilet in Maharashtra's Thane city. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Period Room” – set up at a public toilet in Maharashtra's Thane city
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

214. On January 8, India's 1st Solar Electric RORO service and Kerala's first amphibious water bus will be introduced during the year 2021-2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 1st Solar Electric RORO service – to be launched in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

215. On January 8, the government has cleared 8 Hydropower Projects of 144 MW on the Indus river and its tributaries in Ladakh, the highest so far. These projects will come up in Kargil and Leh districts of Ladakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Government cleared 8 Hydropower Projects of 144 MW on the Indus river – in Kargil & Leh
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

216. On January 8, the Assam government has decided to gift khadi clothes (khadi shirts, shawls & stoles made of 'Eri' - a variety of silk) to grade IV state employees as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – decided to gift 'Khadi clothes' to grade IV state employees
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

217. On January 8, the Embassy of Israel in India has appointed Joyshree Das Verma as 'Honorary Consul' in the North-East region with jurisdiction over the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim. She will be based in Assam. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Israel appointed – “Joyshree Das Verma” as Honorary Consul in the North-East region
- Embassy of Israel in India – Ron Malka
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Reuven Rivlin | PM – Benjamin Netanyahu



218. On January 10, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has asked government to ban WhatsApp & its parent company Facebook over new privacy policy. Facebook has more than 200 million users in India and enabling it to access data of every user can pose serious threat to not only the economy but even to the security of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CAIT – asked government to ban WhatsApp & Facebook new privacy policy
- [HQs of Facebook – California, United States | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg](#)
- [HQs of Whatsapp – California, USA | CEO – Jan Koum](#)

219. National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO) will invest around Rs 30,000 Cr by financial year 2027-28 on various expansion and diversification plans . Of this proposed investment, Rs 22,000 Cr will be spent on smelter and captive power plant (CPP) expansions including company's smelter plant at Angul district in Odisha with construction of a 1400 MW feeder CPP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nalco – to invest around Rs 30,000 Cr by financial year 2027-28
- Rs 22,000 Cr will be spent for the construction of a 1400-MW feeder captive power plant (CPP) – in Angul, Odisha
- [HQs of Nalco – Bhubaneswar, Odisha | CMD – Sridhar Patra](#)

220. According to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, the Centre will soon hold a campaign named “Know your Constitution” in schools, colleges and universities across the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The Centre – to hold a campaign named “know your Constitution” in schools, colleges and universities
- [Lok Sabha Speaker - Om Prakash Birla](#)

221. On January 9, Indian universities and colleges with the Institutions of Eminence (IOEs) tag will now be able to set up campuses in foreign countries with newly issued guidelines by the University Grants Commission (UGC). According to the norms, IOEs shall be permitted to start a maximum of three off-campus centres in 5 years, but not more than one in an academic year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's 'Institutions of Eminence (IOEs)' can now set up maximum of 3 off-campus in foreign countries in 5 years
- [HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – Prof D. P. Singh | Founded in – 1956](#)



222. On January 10, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has launched the “TESOL Core Certificate Program” for English teachers of Delhi government schools. The current batch is of 50 teachers. Regional English Language Officer Ruth Goode from the US Embassy in India was also present during the launch. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- New Delhi – launched the “TESOL Core Certificate Program” for English teachers
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Dep. CM – Manish Sisodia | Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

223. On January 10, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched a colour-coded India's map which segregates Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh from rest of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The WHO – launched a colour-coded India's map which segregates J&K, Ladakh from rest of India
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

224. On January 12, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSME Nitin Gadkari has launched an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” developed by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is a first-of-its-kind product, with anti-fungal, anti-bacterial properties. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – launched an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint called “Khadi Prakritik Paint” – developed by KVIC
- HQs of KVIC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Vinai Kumar Saxena

225. On January 10, Vanadium which is a high-value metal used in strengthening Steel and Titanium is recently found in Arunachal Pradesh. According to data provided by GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 metric tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017. China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumed 44% of the metal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Vanadium” - a high value metal used in strengthening Steel & Titanium – found in Arunachal Pradesh
- According to data provided by GSI for 2017: India consumed 4% & China consumed 44% Vanadium
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra

226. On January 13, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has taken a new initiative to introduce its flagship “Liberalised MSME AEO Package” for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CBIC introduced its new flagship – “Liberalised MSME AEO Package” for MSMEs
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – M. Ajit Kumar



227. On January 12, Tata Power Delhi Distribution has unveiled its official brand mascot named 'Roshni' to convey information on various topics to the consumers via the company's digital platforms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tata Power Delhi Distribution – unveiled its official brand mascot named 'Roshni'
- [HQs of Tata Power Delhi Distribution – New Delhi | CEO – Ganesh Srinivasan](#)

228. India's new Foreign Trade Policy 2021-2026, under formulation, will come into effect from April 1, 2021, for 5 years and will strive to make the country a leader in international trade. The Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, headed by Piyush Goyal has framed the Policy. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's new "Foreign Trade Policy" will come into effect from April 1, 2021 – for 5 years

229. On January 12, the Supreme Court has stayed the execution of the 3 contentious Agri Laws of the centre which are being protested by the farmers since November 26, 2019. The top court also constituted a 4-member committee to hear the grudges of the farmers and recommend points to solve the vexed issue. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Supreme Court stayed the execution of the 3 contentious Agri Laws & constituted a 4-member committee
- [Supreme Court Chief of Justice – Sharad Arvind Bobde \(47th\)](#)

International Affairs

230. On January 5, Diplomatic relations have been restored between Qatar and 4 Arab countries (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt) that imposed an embargo against it for 3 years. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt cut ties with Qatar in 2017, accusing it of supporting terrorism. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Diplomatic relations have been restored between – Qatar & Saudi Arabia + UAE + Bahrain + Egypt
- [Qatar – Doha – Riyal | PM – Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani](#)

231. Amazon has purchased 11 used "Boeing 767-300ER" passenger aircraft to expand its air cargo operations and delivery network for its Prime Air fleet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amazon – purchased 11 used "Boeing 767-300ER" passenger aircraft
- [HQs of Amazon – Seattle, USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos](#)



Banking & Economic Affairs

232. On January 12, Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has signed an MoU with 'Jai Kisan' (a rural-focused fintech platform of Greenizon Agritech Consultancy) to expand access to financial services to individuals and businesses in Karnataka, including farmer and non-farmer entrepreneurs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank + Jai Kisan = an MoU to provide financial services all Entrepreneurs
- HQs of KVGB – Dharwad, Karnataka | Chairman – P Gopi Krishna
- HQs of Jai Kisan Fintech – Mumbai, MH | Founder & CEO – Arjun Ahluwalia

233. On January 12, the RBI has released the 22nd Bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR). As per the FSR, the GNPA (Gross Non-Performing Assets) ratio may increase from 7.5% in September 2020 to 13.5% by September 2021 under the baseline scenario. And the ratio may escalate to 14.8% under the severe stress scenario. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – released the 22nd Bi-annual Financial Stability Report (FSR)
- GNPA ratio may increase: 13.5% under Baseline Scenario & 14.8% under Severe Stress Scenario
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th)

234. Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank citing failure to meet regulatory requirements. The RBI has barred the bank from undertaking banking business with effect from the close of business on January 11, 2021. Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 provides power to RBI to cancel the licence of a bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – cancelled the licence of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank
- “Section 11(1)” of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – provides power to RBI to cancel the licence of a bank
- HQs of Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank – Osmanabad, Maharashtra

235. On January 14, the RBI has set up a 6-member Working Group (WG) on digital lending. The committee will be responsible for suggesting specific regulatory measures in the realm of digital lending within 3 months. And it will be chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – set up a 6-member Working Group (WG) on digital lending – chaired by Jayant Kumar Dash
- RBI: HQs – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935



Defence Affairs

236. The handing over ceremony of Retractable Landing Gear Systems (RLGS) for 'Tapas' and 'SWIFT' UAVs and 18 types of filters for 'P-75 Submarine' took place on January 10 at DRDO's laboratory - Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), Chennai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The handing over ceremony of RLGS for 'Tapas' and 'SWIFT' UAVs & 'P-75 Submarine' – took place at DRDO-CVRDE
- Tapas – Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon-201 or "Tapas BH-201"
- Location of DRDO-CVRDE – Chennai, Tamil Nadu

237. On January 8, an MoU was signed between the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil and the Indian Army to evacuate the Kargil's lower plateau. As per MoU, the Army will move its Maratha Unit from Kurbathang and Mulbekh area within 6 months. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LAHDC (Kargil) + Indian Army = an MoU to evacuate the Kargil's lower plateau
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

238. On January 11, Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani has flagged-off the 91st "K9 VAJRA-T Gun" manufactured by L&T's Armoured System Complex (ASC) at Hazira near Surat. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat – flagged-off the 91st "K9 VAJRA-T Gun" | manufactured by – L&T (Hazira, Surat, Gujarat)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

239. On January 14, An army officer has designed and developed the first prototypes of a compact 9 mm sub-machine gun called 'Asmi'. The prototype weapon is produced in collaboration with the DRDO's Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE). The pistol 'Asmi' was handed over to the Indian Navy as a part of 'Atmanirbhar' programme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + ARDE (Pune) – developed the 1st prototypes of a compact 9 mm sub-machine gun called 'Asmi'
- The pistol 'Asmi' was handed over to – Indian Navy
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy | Established in – 1958



240. On January 13, Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a much-awaited deal worth Rs 48,000 Cr to procure 83 indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) “Tejas” for the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India approved 83 indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) - “Tejas” (Deal worth Rs 48,000 Cr)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

241. On January 12, the Indian Navy has kick-started the 2nd edition of multi-agency military exercise “Sea Vigil” covering India's 7,516 km-long coastline, involving 13 coastal States and Union Territories. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – kick-started the 2nd edition of multi-agency military exercise “Sea Vigil”
- Chief of Indian Navy – Admiral Karambir Singh | Vice Chief – G. Ashok Kumar

Schemes & Initiatives

242. On January 9, Under the “Bhraman Sarathi Scheme”, the chief minister of Assam Sarbananda Sonowal has launched 25 buses to provide free transport service to Women and Senior Citizens to travel within the city of Guwahati. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – launched “Bhraman Sarathi Scheme” to provide free transport service to Women & Senior Citizens
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

243. To settle pending C-form cases pertaining to pre-GST era, the Punjab government has approved a ‘One-Time Settlement Scheme’ for traders to clear their pending arrears. The Punjab “One Time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues-2021” will be implemented from February 1. According to the assessments conducted for the year 2013-14, 40,000 plus dealers with demand of up to Rs 1 lakh would get 90% relief in tax and 100% relief in interest and penalty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Punjab – approved “One Time Settlement Scheme for Recovery of Outstanding Dues-2021” (effective from Feb 1)
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

244. On January 10, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Dharmendra Pradhan have launched the “Clean Bindu Sagar” initiative. It aims at reviving and transforming the largest water body in Bhubaneswar into a spiritual and tourist hotspot. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Odisha – launched the “Clean Bindu Sagar” initiative
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

245. On January 12, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) has completed 5 years. The claims worth Rs 90,000 Cr have so far been disbursed to farmers since the launch of the scheme on January 13, 2016. The scheme was made voluntary for all farmers, after its revamp in February 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) – completed 5 years on January 12 (launched in 2016)
- Claims worth Rs 90,000 Cr have so far been disbursed to farmers



Sports & Games

246. Agnes Keleti, the oldest living Olympic champion, has turned 100 on January 9, 2021. She is the Holocaust survivor and winner of 10 Olympic medals in Gymnastics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agnes Keleti (Gymnast) – the oldest living Olympic champion – turned 100 on January 9, 2021

Important Days & Dates

247. The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Commerce & Industry and Railways Shri Piyush Goyal has attended the 74th foundation day celebration of Bureau of Indian Standards on 6th January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 6 – 74th foundation day of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- HQs of BIS – Manek Bhawan, Old Delhi | Director General – Pramod Kumar Tiwari

248. “World Hindi Day 2020” is observed on January 10. The day commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur of January 10, 1975. The day was first celebrated in 2006. And ‘Hindi Diwas’ or ‘National Hindi Day’ is celebrated every year on September 14. As per the Article 343(1) of the Indian Constitution, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 10 – 15th anniversary of “World Hindi Day” – since 2006
- September 14 – “Hindi Diwas” or “National Hindi Day”
- As per the Article 343(1) of the IC – Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union
- Hindi is spoken in – Suriname, Fiji, Nepal, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Mauritius (Not as an official language)

249. “National Youth Day” was celebrated on January 12 in India to honor the 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 24th National Youth Festival is being held in virtual mode. The theme of this year’s festival is “YUVAAH - Utsah Naye Bharat Ka”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 12 – “National Youth Day” – since 1985 (158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)
- 24th “National Youth Festival-2021” | Theme – “YUVAAH - Utsah Naye Bharat Ka”

250. On January 11, According to an official notification by the Government of India, Ministry of Transport and Highways has decided to observe “Road Safety Month” from January 18 to February 17, 2021 instead of ‘National Road Safety Week’ which is observed from January 11 to 17 every year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 18 to February 17 – “Road Safety Month” – being observed by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

251. Indian Armed Forces has celebrated the 5th Veterans Day on 14th of January to honour services rendered by veterans of the Army. This year marks 50th Anniversary of 1971 Indo-Pak War & it is celebrated as Swarnim Vijay Varsh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 14 – 5th Veterans Day – by Indian Armed Forces (50th Anniversary of 1971 Indo-Pak War)
- Chief of Defence Staff – General Bipin Rawat

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

252. On January 7, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has inaugurated the 2-day Virtual International Akhand Conference "EDUCON 2020" through a video-conference platform to promote use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Higher Education sector. The conference is being organised by Central University of Punjab, Bathinda (CUPB) in collaboration with the Global Educational Research Association (GERA). The focal theme of the conference was "Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Realize Global Peace". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – inaugurated the 2-day Virtual International Akhand Conference "EDUCON 2020"
- The conference is being organised by = Central University of Punjab ([Bathinda](#)) + GERA
- Focal theme – "Envisioning Education for Transforming Youth to Realize Global Peace"

253. On January 12, the Prince of Wales has recently appeared virtually at the 4th Edition of One Planet Summit-2021 which was organised by France. The theme of the Summit was "Let's act together for nature!" [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 4th Edition of One Planet Summit-2021 – organised by France
- Theme – "Let's act together for nature!"
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [New PM – Jean Castex](#)

254. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed "Prarambh: Startup India International Summit" on January 16. The summit was organized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). This event marks the 5th anniversary of the Startup India initiative which was launched on 16 January in 2016. The BIMSTEC countries had participated in the inaugural event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – addressed "Prarambh: Startup India International Summit" – organised by DPIIT
- The summit marks the 5th anniversary of the Startup India initiative (launched on 16 January, 2016)
- [HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi](#) | [Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra](#)



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

255. Aryan Jain, a student of Suncity School, Gurugram (Haryana), is among the 6-member winning team of “Artemis Next-Gen STEM – Moon to Mars App Development Challenge” organised by NASA. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aryan Jain (Haryana) – among winners of “Artemis Next-Gen STEM – Moon to Mars App Development Challenge”
- This App Development Challenge was organised by – NASA
- HQs of NASA – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

256. The 30th National Energy Conservation awards were presented virtually on January 11, 2021. Telangana State Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TSREDCO) has bagged the National Energy Conservation award in the ‘State Designated Agencies’ category for implementing and promoting various energy conservation programmes. The award was instituted jointly by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and Ministry of Power. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 30th National Energy Conservation awards – presented virtually on January 11
- Telangana – won the “National Energy Conservation” award – in ‘State Designated Agencies’ category
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

257. On January 12, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated the 5th “National Kayakalp Awards”. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) had launched a National Initiative ‘Kayakalp’ on 15th May 2015 to ensure hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness in Public Health Facilities in India. The District Hospital Reasi of Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded the first prize of Rs 50 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the 5th “National Kayakalp Awards”
- District Hospital Reasi (J&K) – awarded the first prize of Rs 50 lakh
- MoHFW – launched a National Initiative ‘Kayakalp’ on 15th May 2015 – under Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)



Appointments & Resignations

258. On January 7, Indian-American Dr. Raj Iyer has taken over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020. Dr. Raj Iyer is originally a native of Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Raj Iyer – took over as the first Chief Information Officer of the US Army
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

259. On January 8, the Biden-Harris transition team has announced the appointment of Indian American Sumona Guha to the role of Senior Director for South Asia at the National Security Council. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumona Guha – appointed by Joe Biden as Senior Director for South Asia
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

260. Indian-American Sabrina Singh would serve as Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President in the White House, according to an announcement made by the Biden-Harris Transition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sabrina Singh – named as the White House Deputy Press Secretary
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden](#)

261. On January 11, Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov has recently got elected as the President of Kyrgyzstan. He has won 79% of votes cast. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sadyr Japarov – got elected as the President of Kyrgyzstan
- [Kyrgyzstan – Bishkek – Som | President – Sadyr Nurgojoevich Japarov](#)

262. On January 8, Alok Sharma is appointed as full-time President of “UN COP26 Climate Conference” scheduled to be held in Glasgow in November. He was appointed to the cabinet role of Business secretary in the Boris Johnson government after the December 2019 election. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Alok Sharma – appointed as full-time President of “UN COP26 Climate Conference” – to be held in Glasgow, Scotland
- [Scotland – Edinburgh – Pound sterling](#)



263. On January 9, Former Maharashtra DGP Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has taken over as the 28th chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Mr. Jaiswal is set to retire from service in September, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Subodh Kumar Jaiswal – took over as the 28th chief of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- HQs of CISF – New Delhi | Director – Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

264. On January 7, J Venkatramu has taken charge as the MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB). He is former senior executive of Equitas Small Finance Bank. His appointment is effective from October 29, 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J Venkatramu – took charge as the MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018

265. On January 13, Estonia's Prime Minister Juri Ratas has resigned over corruption scandal investigated by the police and prosecutors in his Center Party. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Juri Ratas – resigned from the Post of Prime Minister of – Estonia
- Estonia – Tallinn – Euro | President – Kersti Kaljulaid

266. The 89th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was held to appoint the Indian board's representative on the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings. Jay Shah will be on the ICC Board as BCCI representative. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Shah – will be on the ICC Board as BCCI representative
- HQs of BCCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sourav Ganguly | Ethics Officer – D K Jain
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Interim Chairman – Imran Khwaja | CEO – Manu Sawhney



Amount & Agreements

267. On January 13, the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) has inked a definitive agreement for takeover of 120 MW Rangit-IV hydro power project of Jalpower Corporation Ltd (JPCL) in Sikkim. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHPC – to take over 120 MW Rangit-IV project – in Sikkim
- HQs of NHPC – Faridabad, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Abhay Kumar Singh
- Sikkim: Capital – Gangtok | CM – Prem Singh Tamang | Governor – Ganga Prasad

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

268. On January 11, In “Digital Evolution Scorecard”, India is among top “Break Out Economies” in 2020. The 3rd edition of the “Digital Evolution Scorecard” is developed by Tufts University's Fletcher School in partnership with Mastercard. India is ranked 4th in the list which was topped by China. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The 3rd edition of the “Digital Evolution Scorecard” – by Tufts University's Fletcher School + Mastercard
- 1st – China | 2nd – Azerbaijan | 3rd – Indonesia | 4th – India

269. On January 10, India has become the 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits in the world in record 3 months' time during the coronavirus induced lockdown in March 2020. China is the leading manufacturer in this. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – became the 2nd largest manufacturer of PPE kits and suits (1st – China)

270. On January 11, Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar has released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in India, saying 70% of global tiger population and over 60% of leopard population in India is a certificate of its thriving biodiversity. As per the MEE report, rankings of the top 5 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are as follow. According to report, 5% of the total geographic area of India is occupied by the Protected Areas. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – released Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) report of 146 NP & WS
- 1st – Tirthan WS & Great Himalayan NP (Himachal Pradesh)
- 2nd – Sainj WS (Himachal Pradesh) | 3rd – Raiganj WS (West Bengal) | 4th – Jaldapara NP (West Bengal)
- 5% of the total Geographic Area of India is occupied by the Protected Areas



271. On January 12, the Henley Passport Index has revealed the latest list of world's most powerful passports. As per the "Henley Passport Index: Q1 2021 Global Ranking", Japan has held the top spot followed by Singapore. India has ranked 85th in the most powerful passport report with a visa-free score of 58. [{Read more}](#)

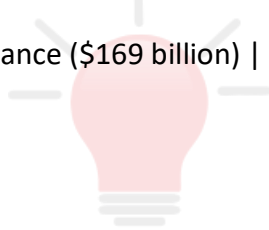
Key Points:

- "Henley Passport Index: Q1 2021 Global Ranking" = India – 85th | 1st – Japan & 2nd – Singapore
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

272. On January 12, with a networth of \$2.1 trillion, Apple is the most valuable company in the world, followed by Microsoft and Amazon with \$1.6 trillion each and Alphabet \$1.2 trillion, according to the "2020 Hurun Global 500 ranking". There were 11 Indian companies in the list, led by Reliance Industries (54th), Tata Consultancy Services (73rd) and HDFC Bank (105th). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "2020 Hurun Global 500 ranking" – as on January 12, 2021
- Globally: 1st – Apple (\$2.1 trillion) | 2nd – Amazon + Microsoft (\$1.6 trillion) | 3rd – Alphabet (\$1.2 trillion)
- In India: 1st – Reliance (\$169 billion) | 2nd – Tata Consultancy (\$139 billion) | 3rd – HDFC Bank (\$108 billion)



Acquisitions & Mergers

273. Migsun Group has announced acquisition of HDFC and Ansal's stake in Ansal IT City Park (SEZ) Tech Zone, Greater Noida. Migsun Group will have 100% stake after acquiring HDFC's 37% stake and the rest of Ansal API. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Migsun Group – acquired 100% stake in "Ansal IT City Park (SEZ) Tech Zone" (37% HDFC + 63% of Ansal API)
- HQs of Migsun Group – Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | CMD – Sunil Miglani

274. On January 8, Sipadan Investments (Mauritius) Ltd has sold its remaining 5.46% stake in IDFC Ltd in the open market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sipadan Investments (Mauritius) – sold its remaining 5.46% stake in IDFC Ltd
- HQs of IDFC Ltd – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Vikram Limaye



275. On January 9, Reliance Infrastructure has successfully sold its entire 74% stake in Parbati Koldam Transmission Company Limited (PKTCL) to India Grid Trust (IndiGrid) for an enterprise value of around Rs 900 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Infrastructure – sold its entire 74% stake in PKTCL – to IndiGrid for Rs 900 Cr
- HQs of Reliance Infrastructure – Navi Mumbai, MH | CEO – Punit Garg
- HQs of IndiGrid – New Delhi | CEO – Harsh Shah

276. On January 11, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved acquisition of minority stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) by Total Renewables SAS, a wholly owned subsidiary of international energy major Total SE. Meanwhile, the CCI has also approved the acquisition of stake in Ecom by PG Esmeralda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCI – approved acquisition of minority stake in Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) – by Total Renewables SAS (Total SE)
- CCI – approved acquisition of Ecom – by PG Esmeralda
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain
- HQs of Total SE – Paris, France | CEO – Patrick Pouyanne

277. On January 13, Tech Mahindra has agreed to acquire 100% shareholding of Hong Kong based Payments Technology Services, a subsidiary of Fidelity Information Services (FIS) for a cash consideration of \$9 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tech Mahindra agreed to acquire 100% stake (\$9 million) of – Payments Technology Services (Hong Kong)
- HQs of Tech Mahindra – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Chander Prakash Gurnani

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

278. Strengthening the India-Israel scientific collaboration, Indian multinational corporation Wipro has signed an MoU with Israel's Tel Aviv University for research and analysis in Quantum Science & Technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wipro + Tel Aviv (Israel) = an MoU for research and analysis in Quantum Science & Technology
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

279. On January 11, Telecom company Bharti Airtel and National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) have signed an MoU to drive the digital transformation of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bharti Airtel + NSIC = an MoU to drive the digital transformation MSMEs in India
- HQs of Bharti Airtel – New Delhi | CEO & MD – Gopal Vittal | Chairman – Sunil Bharti Mittal
- HQs of NSIC – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Vijayendra

280. On January 11, In an effort to enhance the community experience for women entrepreneurs in India, NITI Aayog and Flipkart have come together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NITI Aayog + Flipkart = came together to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

Books & Authors

281. Rapper Lil Nas X has launched a picture book, titled “C is for Country” that will take the readers from ages 3 to 7 on an alphabetical journey. The Grammy winner, whose real name is Montero Lamar Hill, officially released the book on January 5. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “C is for Country” picture book – written by Lil Nas X (Montero Lamar Hill)

282. “Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China” by Romila Thapar is her diary of several months spent in China in 1957 studying the remarkable murals and sculpture at Dunhuang and Maijishan on the Silk Routes. The book “Power Shift: India-China Relations in a Multipolar World” by Zorawar Daulet Singh examines India-China relations in the current geopolitical context and should be on every India-China watcher’s list. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “Gazing Eastwards: Of Buddhist Monks and Revolutionaries in China” – written by Romila Thapar
- “Power Shift: India-China Relations in a Multipolar World” – written by Zorawar Daulet Singh

283. On January 11, a book titled “Unscripted” on conversations on life and cinema is written by leading filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra and award-winning writer Abhijat Joshi. The book is published by Penguin house. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Unscripted” book – authored by Vidhu Vinod Chopra & Abhijat Joshi

284. A coffee table book titled “Modi India Calling – 2021” filled with over hundreds of photographs of PM Narendra Modi from his 107 overseas and bilateral visits was released on the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on January 8. The book is the brainchild of senior BJP leader Vijay Jolly. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A coffee table book titled “Modi India Calling – 2021” – launched on 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
- The book is authored by – Vijay Jolly

285. On January 12, the 17th Chief Election Commissioner of India Shahabuddin Yaqoob Quraishi (S Y Quraishi) will come out with a book title “The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India” on February 15. The book evaluates India's demographics from a religious perspective. The book delves into the Quran and the Hadith to show how Islam might have been one of the first religions in the world to actually advocate smaller families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India” book – authored by S Y Quraishi

Obituaries

286. Chitra Ghosh, the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose and niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, has passed away on January 7, 2021. Ghosh authored many books too. These include Mother of my Heart: The Story of Bivabati Bose, Women Movement Politics in Bengal and Opening the Closed Windows. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chitra Ghosh – a Professor – passed away
- She was the youngest daughter of Sarat Chandra Bose & niece of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

287. On January 11, Veteran journalist, writer and Padma Shri awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao has passed away. He was 89-years old. He worked as editor and editorial writer of Telugu newspaper Andhra Jyothi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turlapati Kutumba Rao – Telugu Journalist & Writer – passed away (Padma Shri in 2002)

288. On January 11, Renowned Astrophysicist Professor Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre has passed away recently at the age of 84. He was a recipient of Padma Bhushan and was a stalwart of the Indian astronomy community, particularly solar physics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre – Astrophysics Professor – passed away

289. Noted Social Activist D. Prakash Rao has passed away in Cuttack, Odisha. He was 63. Rao was a Padma Shri awardee & known for his contribution towards imparting education to slum and orphan children in Cuttack. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- D. Prakash Rao (Odisha) – a Social Activist – passed away
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

Person in News

290. On January 10, the central government has appointed former TRAI chief RS Sharma as the chairperson of a 10-member empowered committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RS Sharma – appointed as Chairperson of a 10-member committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine
- HQs of TRAI – New Delhi | Chairman – P D Vaghela

291. On January 7, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has reached Colombo for a 3-day visit during which he held discussions with Sri Lanka's top leadership on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. It is his first foreign visit of the year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S Jaishankar – visited Colombo, Sri Lanka for a 3-day visit (His 1st foreign visit of 2021)



- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

292. On January 7, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has set up a Technical Expert Group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5). The committee is chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHFW set up – a Technical Expert Group to examine the adverse findings from NFHS-5
- The committee is chaired by – Preeti Pant
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

293. After UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson called-off his India visit, the Indian-origin President of Republic of Suriname, Chandrikapersad Santokhi is likely to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chandrikapersad Santokhi (Suriname) – to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade on January 26, 2021
- Suriname – Paramaribo – Dollar | President – Chandrikapersad (Chan) Santokhi

294. On January 13, Insurance regulator IRDAI has constituted a Health Insurance advisory committee to examine the availability of products and to improve the product quality & coverage of the health insurance. The 10-member committee will be chaired by Subhash Chandra Khuntia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IRDAI – constituted a Health Insurance advisory committee – chaired by Subhash Chandra Khuntia
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

Science & Technology

295. Microsoft Teams has announced a new feature “Virtual Breakout Rooms” to allow you to divide your meeting into smaller groups for discussions and brainstorming. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Microsoft – launched a ‘Virtual Breakout Rooms’ feature
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella

296. On January 9, A new species of fruit fly ‘Euphranta siruvani’ discovered from Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu is named after Siruvani, an ecological hotspot in the Western Ghats. The discovery has been published in the Zootaxa journal recently. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of fruit fly “Euphranta siruvani” – discovered in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
- The discovery is published in – ‘Zootaxa’ journal
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

297. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has targeted the final test of ‘world’s most powerful rocket’ called “Hot Fire” on January 17. This is the final test of an 8-part ‘Green Run’ test series which will gradually bring together the core stage of the agency’s Space Launch System (SLS) to life for the very first time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NASA – targeted the final test of ‘world’s most powerful rocket’ called “Hot Fire”
- HQs of NASA – Washington, D.C., United States | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

298. On January 11, ISRO will adopt 100 ‘Atal Tinkering Labs’ across India to promote scientific temperament among students and encourage them for space education and space technology related innovations. This decision was taken by ISRO and Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ISRO will adopt 100 ‘Atal Tinkering Labs’ across India – to promote scientific temperament among students
- The decision was taken by = ISRO + AIM (Niti Aayog)
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

299. On January 12, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has announced to launch its new flagship rocket “H3” for paving the way for next-generation transportation technologies. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

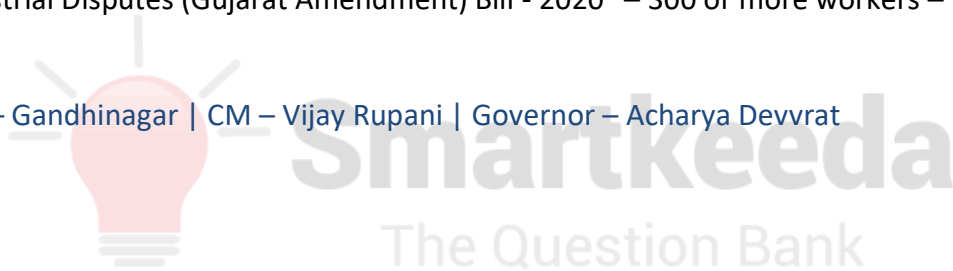
- JAXA – to launch its new flagship rocket “H3”

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

300. On January 1, President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to “The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020”. The Gujarat Assembly had passed the Bill on September 22, 2020, which makes it easier for industrial units to layoff or retrench workers. As per the “Industrial Disputes Act - 1947”, establishments having 100 or more workers were required to seek prior permission of the state government before effecting layoff, retrenchment, or closure. Under The Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Act, 2020, the number of workers has been increased to 300. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the “Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020”
- As per the “Industrial Disputes Act - 1947” – 100 or more workers – to seek prior permission
- As per the “Industrial Disputes (Gujarat Amendment) Bill - 2020” – 300 or more workers – to seek prior permission
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat





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