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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

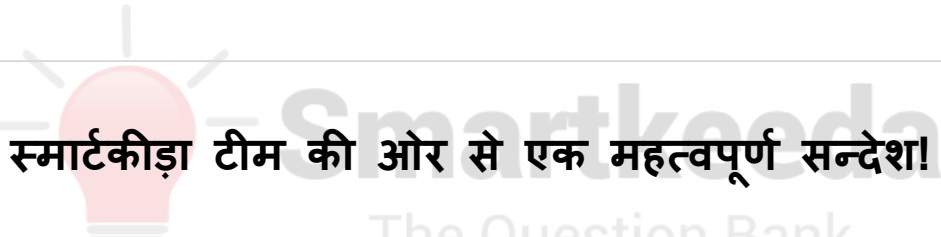
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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 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.** Tesla Inc, the US-based electric vehicle company, has registered with the Registrar of Companies in Bengaluru as 'Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited' on January 8, 2021. The most valued carmaker in the world, has registered itself as a private company with an authorised capital of Rs 15 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tesla Inc – registered with the Registrar of Companies in Bengaluru as 'Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Ltd'
- Authorised capital – Rs 15 lakh
- HQs of Tesla – California, USA | CEO – Elon Musk
- HQs of Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Ltd – Bangalore, Karnataka

**302.** On January 8, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar has launched a Digital Calendar and Diary along with the mobile application to access them during an event at the National Media Center. The app is free and will be available in 11 languages from January 15, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Prakash Javadekar – launched a Digital Calendar and Diary available in 11 languages
- Prakash Javadekar – Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Constituency – Maharashtra)

**303.** Mamata Banerjee Chief Minister of West Bengal has virtually inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2021. The festival was held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January. 'Apur Sansar' (The World of Apu), the third film in legendary film maker Satyajit Ray's internationally recognised Apu Trilogy, was screened at the inauguration. It also marks the birth centenary of Satyajit Ray. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Mamata Banerjee – inaugurated the 26<sup>th</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) 2021 – from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> January
- It also marks the birth centenary of – Satyajit Ray
- 'Apur Sansar' (The World of Apu) film – screened at the inauguration
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – Jagdeep Dhankar

**304.** On January 10, the Tamil Nadu government will provide free data cards of 2 GB per day capacity to over 9.69 lakh college students to enable them to attend online classes till April, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – to provide free data cards of 2 GB per day capacity to college students – till April, 2021
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



**305.** On January 10, Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has directed complete waiver of examination fees for the matriculation examination to be conducted by the Board of Secondary Education this year. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – waived the examination fees for matriculation students this year
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**306.** On January 14, Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has dedicated a “National Innovation Portal” to the nation, in New Delhi. The portal is developed by National Innovation Foundation (NIF) and it is a step towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – dedicated a “National Innovation Portal” to the nation – developed by NIF
- HQs of NIF – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | Chairperson – P. S. Goel

**307.** National Informatics Centre (NIC) & Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) have launched “CollabCAD” software. It will provide a total engineering solution from 2D drafting and detailing to 3D product design for students and faculty of engineering graphics curriculum. NIC, CBSE & Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) have jointly released a comprehensive e-book on “CollabCAD 3D modelling”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIC + CBSE = launched “CollabCAD” software
- NIC + CBSE + AIM = released a comprehensive e-book on “CollabCAD 3D modelling”
- HQs of NIC – New Delhi | Director General – Neeta Verma
- HQs of CBSE – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shri Manoj Ahuja
- AIM – a flagship of NITI Aayog (NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant)

**308.** Finally, India will not invite any foreign dignitary to be the Chief Guest at the upcoming Republic Day celebrations on the 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The last time such a situation arose was in 1966 when no Chief Guest was present at the event. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India will not invite any foreign dignitary to be the Chief Guest
- The last time such a situation arose was in – 1966



**309.** On January 15, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled India's first indigenously designed and developed 'Driverless Metro Car' for Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority at the BEML manufacturing facility in Bengaluru. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rajnath Singh – unveiled India's 1<sup>st</sup> indigenously designed and developed Driverless Metro Car – in Bengaluru
- Mumbai Metropolitan Region – will be the first to avail the service
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

**310.** On January 14, India has planned to achieve 20% ethanol-blending with gasoline by 2025, five years ahead of its previous target to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India plans to achieve 20% ethanol-blending with gasoline by 2025

**311.** Every year, the Gujarat government undertakes the "Karuna Abhiyan", a campaign to save and treat birds that get injured during Uttarayan, the kite festival. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat – undertakes the "Karuna Abhiyan" to save birds getting injured during Uttarayan
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**312.** On January 14, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated India's 1<sup>st</sup> small aircraft Air Taxi Service. The air taxi service in its first phase will function from Chandigarh to Hisar under UDAN scheme of the central government. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1<sup>st</sup> small aircraft Air Taxi Service – inaugurated in Chandigarh (Flight – Chandigarh to Hisar)
- Haryana: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Manohar Lal Khattar | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**313.** On January 15, Home Minister Amit Shah has laid the foundation stone for establishing a unit of the CRPF's Rapid Action Force (RAF) at Bhadravati in Shivamogga district of Karnataka. He also inaugurated Indian Reserve Battalion unit's administrative office building at Tikota, Vijayapura district. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amit Shah – laid the foundation stone of a unit of the CRPF's Rapid Action Force (RAF) – in Shivamogga, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – BS Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari



**314.** On January 16, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has launched a month long fuel conservation campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) - "Saksham 2020" to spread awareness about green and clean energy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoPNG – launched "Saksham 2020" a flagship program of PCRA
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Madhya Pradesh)

**315.** On January 12, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health and Family (MoHFW) welfare has inaugurated the first "Red Ribbon Quiz Competition" organized by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and the MoHFW. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – inaugurated the 1<sup>st</sup> ever "Red Ribbon Quiz Competition" – organized by NACO + MoHFW
- HQs of NACO – New Delhi
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk, Delhi)

**316.** On January 15, two new 'Doppler Radar Weather' stations were set up at Mukteshwar in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh's Kufri to improve the localised forecasting and help avert devastation due to natural disasters. The launch of the stations coincided with India Meteorological Department (IMD)'s 146<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 2 new 'Doppler Radar Weather' stations set up at – Mukteshwar (Uttarakhand) & Kufri (Himachal Pradesh)
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Trivendra Singh Rawat | Governor – Baby Rani Maurya
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**317.** On January 14, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated a new institute of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) namely "CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)" by merging 2 prestigious institutes of CSIR namely, CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR) & CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies (CSIR-NISTADS). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Harsh Vardhan inaugurated – CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication & Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)
- By merging = CSIR-NISCAIR + CSIR-NISTADS
- HQs of CSIR – New Delhi | CSIR President – Narendra Modi | Director General – Shekhar C. Mande





**318.** On January 14, State-owned Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) has paid a final dividend of Rs 215.48 Cr to the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for 2019-20. The dividend is 5% of net worth of the company as on March 31, 2020 or 41% of profit for 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SPMCIL paid a final dividend of Rs 215.48 Cr to the Ministry of Finance (5% of net worth or 41% of profit)
- HQs of SPMCIL – New Delhi | MD & Chairman – Tripti Patra Ghosh

**319.** On January 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off 8 trains from various parts of India connecting to Kevadiya in Gujarat, where the “Statue of Unity” is located, in a bid to increase tourism in the belt. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi flagged off 8 trains from various parts of India connecting to Kevadiya in Gujarat
- “Statue of Unity” – located in Kevadiya, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**320.** On January 16, the Ministry of Railways has approved a new “Iron-ore Policy 2021” governing the allocation of rakes and transportation of iron-ore. It will come into effect from February 10, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Railways approved a new “Iron-ore Policy 2021” (effective from – Feb 10, 2021)
- Minister of Railways – Piyush Goyal (Maharashtra) | MoS for Railway Ministry – Suresh Angadi

**321.** On January 17, Jitendra Singh has stated that recently-introduced electronic Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) promises ease of living for Senior Citizens. The Department of Pensions and Pensioners’ Welfare has decided to integrate the electronic PPO generated through PFMS application of CGA (Controller General of Accounts) with Digi-locker. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- electronic-Pension Payment Order (e-PPO) promises Ease of living for ‘Senior Citizens’
- Dept of Pensions and Pensioners’ Welfare decided – to integrate “e-PPO” with “Digi-locker”

**322.** India’s first Labour Movement Museum, showcasing the history of world labour movement, would be launched in Kerala’s houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha with an outlay of ₹9.95 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India’s first Labour Movement Museum – to be launched in Alappuzha, Kerala (Outlay - ₹9.95 Cr)
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



**323.** On January 18, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has announced that the target of constructing 40 kilometre roads per day will be achieved by the end of March, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Target of constructing 40 Km roads per day will be achieved – by the end of March, 2021
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

## **International Affairs**

**324.** On January 12, the Trump administration has re-designated Cuba as a 'state sponsor of terrorism', reversing an Obama-era decision days ahead of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – re-designated Cuba as a 'state sponsor of terrorism'
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris
- Cuba – Havana – Peso | President – Miguel Díaz-Canel

**325.** Bangladesh Armed Forces will participate in the Republic Day Parade in New Delhi on January 26, at Rajpath. A contingent of 122 proud personnel of the Bangladesh Armed Forces has departed for India in a specially-sent IAF C-17 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh Armed Forces – participate in the Republic Day Parade on January 26 – at Rajpath, New Delhi
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**326.** On January 14, the U.S. has barred entry of all cotton products and tomatoes from China's Xinjiang region due to some companies' alleged ill-treatment of workers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- USA – banned the entry of all cotton products & tomatoes from China's Xinjiang region
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping



**327.** On January 13, the President Donald Trump was impeached by the US House for a historic second time. Trump is the only US president to be twice impeached. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Donald Trump – 1<sup>st</sup> President of USA to be impeached twice
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris

**328.** The 19<sup>th</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) was inaugurated on 16<sup>th</sup> January. The film festival this year is dedicated to the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 16 – 19<sup>th</sup> Dhaka International Film Festival (birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman)
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid

**329.** On January 15, US President-elect Joe Biden has announced a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package to tackle the economic fallout from the pandemic. Biden's proposal also sets aside USD 20 billion for a national vaccination programme and USD 50 billion to scale up coronavirus testing. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Joe Biden announced a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package to tackle the economic fallout
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris

**330.** On January 15, the 6<sup>th</sup> India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. During the meeting, India conveyed that it would undertake 2 more cultural heritage projects in Nepal, namely, the Pashupatinath Riverfront Development and the Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 6<sup>th</sup> India-Nepal Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) – co-chaired by S. Jaishankar
- India – to construct 2 cultural heritage sites in Nepal
- Two Sites: Pashupatinath Riverfront Development & Bhandarkhal Garden Restoration (Nepal)
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari

**331.** On January 18, India has supplied a consignment of 2 Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) to Iran's Chabahar port with a total contract value of over \$25 million under a contract agreement for supply of 6 MHC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India supplied a consignment of 2 Mobile Harbour Cranes (MHC) – to Iran's Chabahar port (Value: \$25 million)
- Iran – Tehran – Rial/Toman | President – Hassan Rouhani



**332.** On January 18, the US National Rifle Association (NRA) has filed for bankruptcy under 'Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code' in an effort to avoid being investigated by New York's Attorney General. NRA is the most powerful gun lobbyist in the US. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US National Rifle Association – filed for bankruptcy under 'Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code'
- HQs of NRA – Virginia, USA | President – Carolyn D. Meadows

**333.** On January 12, the Pakistan government has issued at least 7 special permits to Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and 6 other members of the ruling family to hunt the internationally protected bird 'Houbara Bustard' during the 2020-21 hunting season. 'Houbara Bustard' is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pakistan issued 7 special permits for Dubai royals to hunt – 'Houbara Bustard' an internationally protected Bird
- 'Houbara Bustard' is listed as 'Vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**334.** On January 19, Malaysia has seized a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Boeing-777 Airplane at the Kuala Lumpur Airport owing to non-payment of aircraft lease dues. It is in one of the rarest incidents in the history of international civil aviation that signals the state of Pak economy. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Malaysia – seized a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Boeing-777 Airplane
- Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit | PM – Muhyiddin Yassin
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**335.** On January 12, the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Deutsche Bank AG for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions concerning interest rate on deposits. The statutory inspection of Deutsche Bank's financial position as on March 31, 2019 and the Risk Assessment Report revealed non-compliance with the 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016'. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- RBI – imposed a penalty of Rs 2 Cr on Deutsche Bank AG for non-compliance with certain provisions
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935
- HQs of Deutsche Bank – Frankfurt, Germany | CEO – Christian Sewing | President – Karl von Rohr

**336.** On January 12, Mahindra Lifespace Developers has signed an MoU with SBI for faster home loan approvals as well as to offer special discounts to customers and employees of both the companies. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SBI + Mahindra Lifespace Developers = an MoU for faster home loan approvals & to offer discounts
- HQs of Mahindra Lifespace – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Arvind Subramanian
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

**337.** On January 12, FSS (Financial Software and Systems) has partnered with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments. As part of the collaboration, IPPB will use FSS' Aadhaar enabled Payment System (AePS) to deliver interoperable and affordable doorstep banking services to customers across India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- IPPB + FSS = partnership to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments
- AePS – Aadhaar enabled Payment System
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – J Venkatramu
- HQs of FSS – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | Chairman – Nagaraj Mylandla

**338.** On January 14, ICICI Bank has announced a tie-up with FinTech 'Niyto' to issue prepaid cards to MSME workers. MSME blue-collar workers would be able to get the "ICICI Bank Niyto Bharat Payroll Card" which Allowed customers to receive funds of upto Rs 1 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ICICI Bank + Niyto = to issue "ICICI Bank Niyto Bharat Payroll Card"
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – "Hum Hain Na!"
- HQs of Niyto – Bangalore, Karnataka | CEO – Vinay Bagri



**339.** State Bank of India has provided a major relief to farmers under its loan settlement schemes “Rin Samadhan Yojna”. Under the Rin Samadhan Yojna, if the farmer who has borrowed loan, pays 20% of the principal amount of the total dues pending since 2 years, then the entire loan will be waived. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI – provided a major relief to farmers under its “Rin Samadhan Yojna”
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia

**340.** On January 15, YES Bank has teamed up with Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited to launch “YES BANK Wellness” and “YES BANK Wellness Plus” credit cards, which aimed at the holistic health, self-care and wellness of consumers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- YES Bank + Aditya Birla Wellness = to launch Wellness Credit Cards
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of Aditya Birla Wellness – Mumbai, MH | Head – Murtuza Arsiwala

**341.** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das headed Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) has reviewed the major developments in the global and domestic economy as well as financial markets that impact financial stability. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) – headed by Shaktikanta Das
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April 1935

**342.** On January 15, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Investment Bank (EIB) have formed a new clean and sustainable ocean partnership to support initiatives in Asia and the Pacific to help meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate goals of the Paris Agreement. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ADB + EIB = collaborated to make oceans Clean and Sustainable
- HQs of ADB – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa | Member countries – 68
- HQs of EIB – Kirchberg, Luxembourg | President – Werner Hoyer



## Defence Affairs

**343.** Indian Army will deploy the first batch of women helicopter pilots by 2022 into the Aviation Corps of the Indian Army. Indian Army's Aviation Corps was raised on November 1 in 1986. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Indian Army – to deploy the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of women helicopter pilots by 2022 into Army Aviation Corps
- HQs of AAC – New Delhi | DG – Lt Gen Kanwal Kumar

**344.** On January 18, 21 'Bike Ambulances' namely "Rakshita" developed by the DRDO were inducted into the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for casualty evacuation tasks in remote Naxal violence and insurgency-affected areas. The ambulances have been created on 350cc Royal Enfield Classic bikes by DRDO's Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS). [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 21 'Bike Ambulances' namely "Rakshita" developed by the INMAS-DRDO – inducted into the CRPF
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- HQs of CRPF – New Delhi | Director – Anand Prakash Maheshwari



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## Schemes & Initiatives

**345.** The third phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) was launched on January 15 in 600 districts across all states of India. It is focused on new-age and COVID-related skills. Skill India Mission PMKVY 3.0 envisages training of 8 lakh candidates over a scheme period of 2020-2021 with an outlay of Rs. 948.90 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY 3.0) – launched in 600 districts to provide Skill development courses
- Outlay – Rs. 948.90 Cr | PMKVY was launched in – 2015

**346.** On January 13, Ministry of Finance has introduced the "Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021" which will digitise issuing of penalties on assesseees under the faceless taxation regime. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Ministry of Finance – introduced the "Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021"
- Finance Minister – Nirmala Sitharaman (Karnataka) | MoS for Ministry of Finance – Anurag Thakur



**347.** On January 16, Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has launched a first-of-its-kind initiative “Street Theatre and Performing Arts Fellowship” scheme to give artists an opportunity to showcase their craft. The flagship scheme has been started by the Sahitya Kala Parishad under the Department of Arts, Culture & Languages. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Delhi – launched a first-of-its-kind initiative “Street Theatre and Performing Arts Fellowship” scheme
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

**348.** On January 17, Kerala Governor has launched ‘One School One IAS’ scheme of Vedhik Erudite Foundation for financially weak students. It will provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to 10,000 meritorious but financially weak students across the State. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala – launched ‘One School One IAS’ scheme for financially weak students
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan



## **Sports & Games**

**349.** Young shuttlers Varun Kapur and Samiya Imad Farooqui have attained career-best second spots in their respective categories in the latest BWF's Junior World Rankings, which features 6 Indians in the top-10. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Varun Kapur (Badminton) – ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in BWF's Junior World Rankings (Men's)
- Samiya Imad Farooqui (Badminton) – ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in BWF's Junior World Rankings (Women's)

**350.** On January 17, Carolina Marin has beaten Tai Tzu-ying to claim the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok. The Thailand Open is the first of three consecutive tournaments in Bangkok culminating in the World Tour Finals from January 27. And Viktor Axelsen has won the Men's title Thailand Open 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Carolina Marin (Spain - Badminton) – won the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok (women's)
- Viktor Axelsen (Denmark - Badminton) – won the “Yonex Thailand Open 2021” title in Bangkok (men's)
- Spain – Madrid – Euro | PM – Pedro Sanchez





**351.** In a bid to boost winter sports in the Kashmir region, the Snowshoe Federation of India organized a ‘Snowshoe Run cum Interaction Programme’ in Srinagar for the first time amid the heavy snowfall season. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ‘Snowshoe Run cum Interaction Programme’ – was organized in Srinagar for the 1<sup>st</sup> time
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

## **Important Days & Dates**

**352.** The 73<sup>rd</sup> Army Day was celebrated on January 15, 2021 in India as it is on this historic day that General KM Cariappa became the first Indian to take charge of the Indian Army in 1949. The Indian Army also organised “Vijay Run” a marathon to commemorate the celebration of India’s victory against Pakistan in 1971. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 15 – 73<sup>rd</sup> Army Day
- General KM Cariappa became the first Indian to take charge of the Indian Army – on January 15, 1949

**353.** “Thiruvalluvar Day” was first celebrated on May 17 and 18 in 1935. In the present time, it is usually observed either on January 15 or 16 in Tamil Nadu and is a part of Pongal celebrations. In 2020, Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated on January 15 to honour the Saint Poet Thiruvalluvar. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 15 – “Thiruvalluvar Day” celebrated in Tamil Nadu – since 1935
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**354.** Shri Piyush Goyal has inaugurated the newly constructed building of Divisional Office, Mysuru on the occasion of 57<sup>th</sup> Foundation day of Food Corporation of India (FCI) on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Piyush Goyal – inaugurated the newly constructed building of Divisional Office – in Mysuru, Karnataka
- January 14 – 57<sup>th</sup> Foundation day of Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- HQs of FCI – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Sanjiv Kumar



**355.** On January 15, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has celebrated its 146<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day. It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences established in 1875. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 15 – 146<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of IMD
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra

**356.** On January 11, “Missionary Day” is celebrated by Mizos in Mizoram with gratitude every year across the world. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 11 – “Missionary Day” celebrated by Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – P. S. Sreedharan Pillai

**357.** On January 17, PM Narendra Modi has paid tribute to AIADMK founder and former Chief Minister M G Ramachandran on his 104<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. He was awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ posthumously in 1988. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 17 – 104<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of M G Ramachandran – paid tribute by PM Modi
- Founder of - AIADMK party | Former CM of - Tamil Nadu | ‘Bharat Ratna’ posthumously - in 1988

## **Meetings, Conferences and Summits**

**358.** Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has chaired a virtual meeting with Vietnamese Deputy Defence Minister Lieutenant General Nguyen Chi Vinh during the 13<sup>th</sup> India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue in New Delhi on January 12, 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 13<sup>th</sup> India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue – chaired by Ajay Kumar
- Vietnam – Hanoi – Vietnamese dong | PM – Nguyen Xuan Phuc



## Arts and Cultural Affairs

**359.** Kolam, a traditional Indian art form of drawing geometric patterns on the floors as a sign of welcome, was part of the virtual kick-off ceremony of the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden and his deputy Kamala Harris. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- “Kolam” a traditional Indian art – marks kickoff of Biden-Harris inauguration ceremony
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris

## Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**360.** Indian physicist and Padma Shri awardee Rohini Godbole has been conferred with the “Ordre National du Merite” (National Order of Merit of France), one of the highest distinctions granted by France to honour eminent persons. She is a professor at the Centre for High Energy Physics in the IISc – Bangalore. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Rohini Godbole – conferred with the “Ordre National du Merite” (National Order of Merit of France)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**361.** On January 15, Arjun Munda, Union Minister of Tribal Affairs has virtually received “SKOCH Challenger Award” conferred to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for e-Governance for its IT-led initiative. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has received SKOCH Challenger Award for the Transparency in governance [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Minister of Tribal Affairs – received “SKOCH Challenger Award” for e-Governance
- Ministry of Panchayati Raj – received “SKOCH Challenger Award” for the Transparency in governance
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs – Arjun Munda (Constituency – Khunti, Jharkhand)

**362.** 21 private companies in India have received UN Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards for their exemplary company policies to promote gender equality amid the COVID-19 threat. The first-place winners in each of the 6 categories qualify for the Asia-Pacific regional awards ceremony to be held on 15 December in Bangkok. IKEA India Pvt Ltd was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Gender-Responsive Workplace category. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- 21 private companies in India – received UN Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Awards
- IKEA India – placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the ‘Gender-Responsive Workplace category’
- HQs of IKEA India – Navi Mumbai, MH | CEO – Peter Betzel



**363.** On January 17, Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) & announced a new 'Indian Personality of the Year' award which was conferred upon veteran actor, director and singer Biswajit Chatterjee. The 'Lifetime Achievement' this year was given to Italian cinematographer Vittorio Storaro. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Prakash Javadekar – inaugurated the 51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI)
- Biswajit Chatterjee – received 'Indian Personality of the Year' award – at the 51st IFFI
- Vittorio Storaro – received 'Lifetime Achievement' award – at the 51st IFFI

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**364.** The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has appointed Sandeep Aggarwal as the new Chairman. Aggarwal, the MD and Promoter of Delhi-based Paramount Communications will replace Shyamal Ghosh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sandeep Aggarwal – appointed as Chairman of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC)
- HQs of TEPC – New Delhi | Chairman – Sandeep Aggarwal

**365.** On January 13, VMware Inc CEO Pat Gelsinger has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of Intel by replacing Robert (Bob) H. Swan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Pat Gelsinger – appointed as the CEO of Intel (by replacing - Bob Swan)
- HQs of Intel – California, USA | CEO – Pat Gelsinger

**366.** US President-elect Joe Biden has nominated former US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power as administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Samantha Power – nominated as Administrator/Chief of the USAID
- HQs of USAID – Washington D.C., USA | Administrator – Samantha Power

**367.** On January 15, the UN Human Rights Council has elected Fiji's ambassador Nazahat Shameen Khan as its president in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nazahat Shameen Khan – elected as the President of UN Human Rights Council
- HQs of UNHRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Nazahat Shameen Khan



**368.** On January 14, Kiran mazumdar-Shaw (Executive Chairperson of Biocon) has been selected as one of the Vice Chairs of 2021 Global Board of Directors of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) with immediate effect. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kiran mazumdar-Shaw – selected as one of the Vice Chairs of US-India Business Council (USIBC)
- HQs of USIBC – Washington, D.C., USA | Chairman – Nisha Desai Biswal | VC- Kiran mazumdar-Shaw

**369.** Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra Priyanka Chaturvedi has been nominated as a board member of the stakeholder panel, Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub for a two-year term beginning January 14. She is the deputy leader and National Spokesperson of Shiv Sena. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Priyanka Chaturvedi – nominated as a board member of ‘Commonwealth Youth Innovation Hub’
- Priyanka Chaturvedi – RS MP from Maharashtra | National Spokesperson of – Shiv Sena Political party

**370.** On January 15, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved the appointment of Belarus’ Nikolai Snesarev as the middle and long distance coach of the Indian athletics team. He has been appointed till the end of September, a period which will include the Tokyo Olympics scheduled to take place in July-August. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nikolai Snesarev (Belarus) – appointed as a Coach of Indian Athletics Team – for middle & long-distance Runners
- Belarus – Minsk – Ruble | PM – Siarhiey Rumas
- HQs of SAI – New Delhi | Director General – Sandip Pradhan

**371.** On January 13, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has again extended the tenure of Justice Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) till his attaining the age of 67 years or till further orders, whichever is earlier. This is his 4<sup>th</sup> extension since he was appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the NCLAT on March 15, 2020 for 3 months. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bansi Lal Bhat – tenure extended as Chairperson of NCLAT (4<sup>th</sup> extension – till his age of 67 years)

**372.** Uganda's long-time President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has been re-elected recently in January 2021. Mr Museveni won almost 59% of the vote. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Yoweri Museveni – re-elected as President of Uganda
- Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling | President – Yoweri Museveni



## Amount & Agreements

**373.** On January 14, the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd has signed a USD 12.7-million contract to build an ocean-going vessel for the government of Guyana in the Caribbean region in South America. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- GRSE + Guyana = USD 12.7-million contract to build an ocean-going vessel
- Guyana – Georgetown – Guyanese Dollar | President – Irfaan Ali
- HQs of GRSE – Kolkata, India | CMD – Rear Admiral Vipin Kumar Saxena

**374.** On January 16, the Indian Army has signed a \$20-million contract with ideaForge to procure undisclosed quantities of a High-altitude variant of “SWITCH UAV” - an indigenous system used in surveillance operations. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Army + ideaForge = \$20-million contract to procure High-altitude variant of “SWITCH UAV”
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty
- HQs of ideaForge Tech. Pvt Ltd – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Ankit Mehta

**375.** On January 12, India has decided to set up \$1 million facility for academic collaboration with the Arab World. This was decided at third Senior Officials Meeting of the Arab-India Cooperation Forum held via video conference. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – decided to set up \$1 million facility for academic collaboration with the Arab World

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**376.** The report “International Migration 2020 Highlights”, is released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on January 15. India has the largest diaspora population in the world (majority in UAE & Saudi Arabia) with 18 million people from the country living outside their homeland in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- The report “International Migration 2020 Highlights” – released by UNDESA
- HQs of UNDESA – New York, USA | Head – Liu Zhenmin



**377.** The annual cost of adaptation to the effects of climate change for developing countries is estimated to increase at least 4 times by 2050, according to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of “United Nations Adaptation Gap Report-2020” released by the UNEP. The current annual adaptation costs in developing countries are around \$70 billion. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> edition of “UN Adaptation Gap Report-2020” – released by the UNEP
- Annual cost of adaptation to the effects of climate change expected to increase 4 times – by 2050
- Current annual adaptation costs in developing countries – \$70 billion
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

**378.** India has collected just 10% of the electronic waste (e-waste) estimated to have been generated in the country in 2018-19 and 3.5% of that in the generated in 2017-18, as per the report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India – collected just 10% of the electronic waste (e-waste) generated in 2018-19 in India
- HQs of CPCB – New Delhi | Chairman – Shri Shiv Das Meena

**379.** The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report titled “Working from home: From invisibility to Decent Work” on January 13, 2021. The report has focused on 3 types of home-based workers: Artisanal ones like beedi workers, teleworkers and digital worker. The report has highlighted the need to adopt Global Labour Standards. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Working from home: From invisibility to Decent Work” – released by ILO
- 3 types of home-based workers are focused: Industrial home-based workers, Teleworkers, Digital workers
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder

## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**380.** Singapore-based Investment Opportunities V Pte Ltd has raised its share holdings in PNB Housing Finance to 9.92% from 8.19% during the quarter ending December 2020. V Pte Ltd now holds 1.67 Cr equity shares in PNB Housing Finance at the end of December. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V Pte Ltd (Singapore) – raised its share holdings in PNB Housing Finance to 9.92% (from 8.19%)
- HQs of PNBHF – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Hardayal Prasad | Tag Line – Ghar Ki Baat



**381.** On January 14, Government of India has decided to sell 10% stake of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) for Rs 2,600 Cr. The government has decided to sell up to 5% of total equity of SAIL through the OFS (Offer for Sale) & has also kept the option to sell another 5% if the issue is oversubscribed. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Indian Gov – to sell 10% stake of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) for Rs 2,600 Cr
- HQs of SAIL – New Delhi | CEO – Soma Mondal

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**382.** On January 13, Jammu and Kashmir & the North-East Cane and Bamboo Development Council (NECBDC) have signed an MoU to set up 3 bamboo clusters in the Jammu region's 3 districts, with the aim of generating employment for 25,000 people. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J&K + NECBDC = an MoU to set up 3 bamboo clusters in the Jammu region
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**383.** On January 13, the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) have signed a memorandum of understanding with Russia's V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute for collaboration on the field of marine sciences and technology. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NIO + NGRI + V.I. Il'ichev Pacific Oceanological Institute (Russia) = collaboration on marine sciences and technology
- HQs of CSIR-NIO – Goa | HQs of CSIR-NGRI – Hyderabad

**384.** On January 13, the Union Cabinet has approved an MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the Ministry of Earth Sciences (India) and the National Centre of Meteorology of the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet approved an MoU on Scientific and Technical Cooperation – between India & UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & MoES – Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Constituency – Chandni Chowk, Delhi)





**385.** India and Japan have signed an MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), including 5G standardisation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Japan = an MoU to enhance cooperation in the field of Information and Communications Technology
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Yoshihide Suga

**386.** Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company has become a signatory to Climate Action 100+, which drives focus on clean energy transition and helps achieve the Paris Agreement’s goals. Climate Action 100+ is an investor-led initiative to ensure the world’s largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take necessary action on climate change. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra AMC – became a signatory to Climate Action 100+
- HQs of Kotak Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & President – Nilesh Shah

**387.** On January 14, Madhya Pradesh has signed an MoU with Kerala for replicating Kerala’s Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative. It is a joint declaration under which Kerala will extend a series of services under a 16-point programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh + Kerala = an MoU for Kerala’s Responsible Tourism (RT) initiative
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**388.** On January 15, Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and UK based Thales have signed a ‘Teaming Agreement’ to work in partnership on the “STARStreak Air Defence System” with the support of both the Governments of India and the United Kingdom. The system is to be developed under the ‘Make in India’ programmes. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BDL + Thales (UK) = signed a Teaming Agreement to develop “STARStreak Air Defence System” in India
- HQs of BDL – Hyderabad, Telangana | CMD – Siddharth Mishra

**389.** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed an MoU with the Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE) and Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh (IDC), to promote road safety and collaborate in the areas of traffic management. Titled as 'Capacity building of Road Safety Management through the Safe Systems Approach Programme,' this arrangement will be effective for two years. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- NHA + IRTE + IDC (Chandigarh) – an MoU to promote road safety
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | Chairman – Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
- HQs of IRTE – New Delhi | President – Rohit Baluja

**390.** On January 18, “WE Hub” India’s first state-led incubator set up by Telangana Government has partnered with “i-Hub” of Gujarat, to encourage women entrepreneurs and support startups in raising capital. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- WE Hub (Telangana) + i-Hub (Gujarat) = partnership to support Women Entrepreneurs
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



## Books & Authors

**391.** In his latest book “Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World”, Fareed Zakaria writes about how the world is set to undergo significant behavioural changes in the aftermath of Pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World” book – authored by Fareed Zakaria

**392.** Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has recently released a book “Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record” written by journalist and author Waman Prabhu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Manohar Parrikar – Off the Record” book – authored by Waman Prabhu | released by – Pramod Sawant
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari



# Obituaries

**393.** On January 9, Indian-American novelist Ved Mehta has passed away at the age of 86. He overcame blindness and became widely known as the 20<sup>th</sup> century writer most responsible for introducing American readers to India. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ved Mehta – Indian-American Writer – passed away

**394.** Former Union minister and businessman Kamal Mahavirprasad Morarka has passed away recently in January, 2021. He was 74. He was a Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office in the Chandra Sekhar-led government between 1990 and 1991. He was also a Rajya Sabha MP, nominated by the JD (S) from Rajasthan, between 1988 and 1994. He was incumbent president of Samajwadi Janata Party (Chandra Shekhar). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Kamal Mahavirprasad Morarka – a Politician (SJP) & a renowned Businessman – passed away
- MoS in the Prime Minister's Office – between 1990 and 1991 | Rajya Sabha MP – from Rajasthan
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

**395.** On January 15, former Member of Parliament and vice-president of Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC) party, BS Gnanadesikan has passed away in Chennai. He was 71. One of the seasoned politicians in Tamil Nadu, Gnanadesikan was elected to the Rajya Sabha twice from 2001-2007 and from 2007-2013. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- BS Gnanadesikan (Tamil Nadu) – a Politician – passed away (Party – TMC | 2 times RS member from TN)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**396.** On January 18, Legendary Indian classical musician and Padma Vibhushan awardee Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan has passed away recently. He was 89. He was born on March 3, 1931 in Badaun in Uttar Pradesh. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhusan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan – Indian classical musician – passed away
- Padma Shri – 1991 | Padma Bhusan – 2006 | Padma Vibhushan - 2018



## Person in News

**397.** On January 15, Google has showcased a doodle celebrating the legacy of Dr. James Naismith, a Canadian-American physical educator, professor, doctor and coach, who invented the Basketball game. He invented the basketball game in 1891. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Google showcased a doodle celebrating the legacy of Dr. James Naismith (Canada) – inventor of Basketball (1891)

## Science & Technology

**398.** On January 12, the 4 leading organisations have announced the establishment of a 'Global Ebola Vaccine' stockpile to ensure outbreak response. The 4 organisation include - WHO, UNICEF, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). The injectable single-dose Ebola vaccine is manufactured by Merck, Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Corp. Ebola was first discovered in 1976 in Congo. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- WHO + UNICEF + IFRC + MSF = collaborated to establish a 'Global Ebola Vaccine' stockpile
- Ebola was first discovered – in 1976 in Congo
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of IFRC – Geneva, Switzerland | President – Francesco Rocca
- HQs of MSF – Geneva, Switzerland

**99.** On January 14, Archaeologists have discovered the world's oldest known cave art, a life-sized picture of a wild pig that was painted at least 45,500 years ago in Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Archaeologists discovered the world's oldest known cave art (a picture of a wild pig) – in Indonesia
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo



## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**400.** On January 13, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved structural reforms in the mining sector through legislative amendments to the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. India has liberalised the mineral sector paving way for large private investments through auction of nearly 500 leases, doubling production in the next 4-5 years. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Cabinet approved structural reforms in – ‘Mining sector’
- Cabinet approved amendments in – Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957





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