



**Bipin Nambiar**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Shiraz Khan**  
(SBI Clerk 2018)



**Kuldeep Yadav**  
(SBI PO 2018)



**Rajat Saxena**  
(IBPS Clerk 2018)



**Anupam Tyagi**  
(IBPS PO 2018)

FRIENDS!  
WE USED **TESTZONE**  
AND CRACKED BANK EXAMS  
बैंक परीक्षाओ के लिए निश्चित  
रूप से सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक  
टेस्ट सीरीज

IT'S YOUR TURN NOW  
TAKE A **FREE** MOCK TEST



**Smartkeeda**  
The Question Bank

[www.smartkeeda.com](http://www.smartkeeda.com) | [testzone.smartkeeda.com](http://testzone.smartkeeda.com)

SBI | RBI | IBPS | IRRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



Join us

**Testzone presents**  
**Full-Length Current Affairs Mock**  
**Test Series Month-wise**

**January**  
**MockDrill100**  
**PDF No.5**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 28<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021**

**[Attempt Test No 5 Now!](#)**



## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

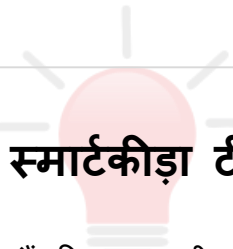
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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



# INDEX

National & States Affairs.....	5
International Affairs.....	10
Banking & Economic Affairs.....	11
Defence Affairs.....	14
Schemes & Initiatives.....	15
Sports & Games.....	15
Important Days & Dates.....	16
Meetings, Conferences and Summits.....	18
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes.....	19
Appointments & Resignations.....	20
Ranks, Reports & Surveys.....	22
Acquisitions & Mergers.....	23
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships.....	24
Books & Authors.....	26
Obituaries.....	27
Persons in News .....	28
Science & Technology.....	28



## National & States Affairs

**401.** On January 14, Tech giant Google has reviewed hundreds of personal loan apps in India that were flagged by users and government agencies and those found to be violating its user safety policies were immediately removed from its Play Store. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Google – removed hundreds of personal loan apps in India from its Play Store
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai

**402.** On January 15, Wipro Limited has been chosen as a strategic technology services partner by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) to establish its first Global Digital Hub called “FCA ICT India” in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Fiat Chrysler Automobiles + Wipro = to establish its 1<sup>st</sup> Global Digital Hub called “FCA ICT India” in Hyderabad
- HQs of FCA – London, UK | CEO – Michael Manley
- HQs of Wipro – Bangalore, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Thierry Delaporte

**403.** On January 17, A geographical indication (GI) tag has been sought for one of the costliest mushrooms in the world that grows in Jammu and Kashmir’s Doda district. Locally called “Gucchi or Morel”, the mushroom is priced at over ₹20,000 a kg. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- “Gucchi or Morel” in J & K – received GI tag | priced at over ₹20,000/kg
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**404.** On January 15, A Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac has presented a Covid-dented State budget for 2021-22 that provides for additional expenditures of ₹ 1,164 Cr and tax concessions of ₹ 191 Cr against additional revenue mobilisation of just ₹ 200 Cr, leaving a cumulative deficit of ₹ 1,306.69 Cr. Isaac presented his 12<sup>th</sup> overall and the last budget of the Pinarayi Vijayan government. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Thomas Isaac (FM of Kerala) – presented a Covid-dented State budget for 2021-22
- Additional Expenditures – ₹ 1,164 Cr | Tax concessions – ₹ 191 Cr | Additional revenue mobilization – ₹ 200 Cr



**405.** On January 14, the government has notified the modified scheme for extending financial assistance for producing “1<sup>st</sup> Generation” (1G) ethanol from feed stocks such as cereals, sugarcane and sugar beet. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government has notified the modified scheme to produce ‘1G ethanol’

**406.** On January 16, PM Narendra Modi has virtually flagged-off the first phase of the pan-India roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination drive which is the world’s largest vaccination programme. ‘CoWIN’ app will be used to monitor the vaccination programme. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PM Narendra Modi flagged-off the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of World’s Largest Vaccination Programme
- ‘CoWIN’ app will be used to monitor the vaccination programme

**407.** On January 19, the Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) has commissioned one of the biggest floating solar power plants in Kerala with a capacity to produce 452 KWh. It is the world’s first fully solar-powered operated airport. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cochin International Airport ([Kerala](#)) – commissioned one of the biggest floating solar power plants in Kerala
- Capacity – 452 KWh

**408.** Satellite imagery has shown that China has constructed a village in disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh. The village is located on the banks of Tsari Chu river in Upper Subansiri district, an area along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Satellite imagery shows that China has constructed a village in disputed region of Arunachal Pradesh
- The village is located on the banks of – Tsari Chu river
- [Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra](#)

**409.** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified “Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules - 2021” which would facilitate and regulate the movement of passenger and goods vehicles between India and neighbouring countries. The Inter Country Transport Permit will remain valid for a period of 1 year from the date of its issue and it will be renewable for a period of 5 years on yearly basis. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways – notified “Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules - 2021”
- The permit will remain valid for a period of 1 year from the date of its issue

**410.** Wild Otters Research, a Goa-based organisation has launched Project Lighthouse in Goa, roping in citizen scientists to collate information on otters. Of the world’s 13 otter species, 3 are found in India: the Eurasian, the smooth-coated, and the small-clawed otter. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Wild Otters Research – launched “Project Lighthouse” in Goa to collate information on ‘Otters’ - a mammal animal
- 3 out of 13 species of Otters are found in India
- Goa: Capital – Panaji | CM – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**411.** On January 15, Minister of State (IC) for Culture & Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel has inaugurated 2 excavations Sites at Karanbel Tripuri and Tewar in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurated 2 excavations Sites at Karanbel Tripuri and Tewar – in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

**412.** Chattergala tunnel to be build at a cost of Rs 3,000 Cr by Border Road Organisation (BRO) is going to be a revolutionary game changer. The tunnel will connect district Kathua with Doda, both in Jammu & Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chattergala tunnel – to be build at a cost of Rs 3,000 Cr by BRO
- It will connect ‘Kathua’ with ‘Doda’ – in Jammu & Kashmir
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**413.** On January 20, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa has launched “Avolokana” software that will enable the government to access data on sanctions and expenditures incurred by 39 departments on 1,800 programmes implemented by them. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Karnataka – launched “Avolokana” software to access data on government sanctions & expenditures
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – B. S. Yediyurappa | Governor – Vajubhai Vala

**414.** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has been directed by Cabinet Secretary to act as the nodal department for coordinating the exercise of minimizing regulatory compliance burden for citizens and businesses. A major initiative in this regard is the launch of “Regulatory Compliance Portal” by DPIIT on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- DPIIT – launched “Regulatory Compliance Portal” on 1<sup>st</sup> January
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

**415.** On January 19, Indian Railways has renamed one of its oldest trains, the Howrah-Kalka Mail as the ‘Netaji Express’. It was started in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century as one of the early commercial passenger train services in India. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Indian Railways – renamed one of its oldest trains ‘Howrah-Kalka Mail’ or ‘Kalka Mail’ as the “Netaji Express”
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Suneet Sharma

**416.** On January 13, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021” which will digitise issuing of penalties on assesseees under the faceless taxation regime. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- CBDT introduced the “Faceless Penalty Scheme 2021”
- HQs of CBDT – New Delhi | Chairman – Pramod Chandra Mody

**417.** On January 20, PM Narendra Modi has released Financial Assistance of around ₹2691 Cr to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh, under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) via video conferencing. The government is ensuring ‘Housing for All’ in Uttar Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Narendra Modi released Financial Assistance of around ₹2691 Cr to 6.1 lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel





**418.** On January 21, Kerala Assembly has rejected a resolution moved against Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan by the opposition United Democratic Front (UDF). He is the third Speaker in Kerala Assembly against whom the resolution seeking dismissal from office has been moved. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kerala Assembly – rejected the resolution for Speaker’s removal
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**419.** Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Modi has approved the much awaited 850 MW “Ratle Hydroelectric Project” at an investment of ₹5,282 Cr on Chenab river and ensuring the unprecedented development of Jammu and Kashmir. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved 850 MW “Ratle Hydroelectric Project” of ₹5,282 Cr on Chenab river in J&K
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**420.** From April 1, all general insurers dealing in fire and allied-perils insurance business have to offer 3 standard products designed by the IRDAI. IRDAI has asked to replace Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy with Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha and Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha from April 1. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IRDAI asked to replace Standard Fire and Special Perils (SFSP) Policy with 3 standard products from April 1
- 3 Products: Bharat Griha Raksha, Bharat Sookshma Udyam Suraksha & Bharat Laghu Udyam Suraksha
- HQs of IRDAI – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Subhash Chandra Khuntia | Executive Dr. – Suresh Mathur

**421.** The Gujarat government has renamed Dragon fruit as ‘Kamalam’ since according to Chief Minister Vijay Rupani the fruit’s outer shape resembles a lotus. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat government has renamed Dragon fruit as ‘Kamalam’
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat



**422.** Under the Uttar Pradesh government's 'Virasat Drive' campaign, more than 4.43 lakh cases have been disposed of till January 19. These cases were pending for years and within a month, all these have been disposed of by the officials of the revenue department. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Under UP's 'Virasat Drive' campaign – over 4.43 lakh cases have been disposed of till January 19
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

## **International Affairs**

**423.** On January 15, Russia has announced to leave the Open Skies treaty, saying that the pact had been seriously compromised by the withdrawal of the United States in November. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Russia – announced to leave the 'Open Skies treaty'
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin
- The Open Skies Treaty – signed in 1992 & entered into force in – 2002 | Countries – 23

**424.** Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has announced the revival of an 'Indian and Japanese Investment Project' to develop a deep-sea terminal in Colombo harbour. The terminal will be developed with 51% ownership by Sri Lanka and the remaining 49% by Adani Group (India) and Japan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sri Lanka revived port deal with India and Japan for a deep-sea terminal – in Colombo harbour
- Ownership of Deep-sea terminal = 51% by Sri Lanka + 49 by Adani Group (India) & Japan

**425.** On January 21, to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) recover from the pandemic and prepare for the future, Mastercard has launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses Microsite across most of its Asia Pacific websites. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mastercard – launched the Digital Acceleration for Small Businesses Microsite – across Asia Pacific websites
- HQs of Mastercard – New York, USA | CEO – Michael Miebach



**426.** On January 16, a team of 10 Nepali climbers has made history by becoming the first to scale in winter the world's second highest mountain K2, considered as the world's most dangerous and challenging peak. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- A team of 10 Nepali climbers – made history by becoming the 1<sup>st</sup> to scale “K2” in winter
- “K2” – the world's second highest mountain | Height – 8611 meters
- It is Located in – on the China-Pakistan border in the Gilgit-Baltistan region

**427.** On January 22, Minister of State for External affairs V Muraleedharan has inaugurated the Indian government's first “Upskilling & Training Centre” for blue-collar workers in the UAE. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- V Muraleedharan – inaugurated the Indian government's first “Upskilling & Training Centre” in the UAE
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



## **Banking & Economic Affairs**

**428.** On January 20, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has virtually launched “YES MSME”, a proposition with the aim to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with speedy and easy access to funds. The launch comes during the SME carnival from January 18 – 22, 2021 at the Bank’s MSME-focused branches across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Nitin Gadkari – launched “YES MSME” to enable access to funding
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**429.** On January 21, ICICI Bank has launched a new mobile application ‘InstaFX’ for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get ‘ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card’ swiftly. ICICI Bank is the 1<sup>st</sup> in India to offer digital validation of KYC for its Forex partners. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ICICI Bank – launched a new mobile application ‘InstaFX’ to help customers get ‘Forex Prepaid Card’
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sandeep Bakhshi | Tagline – “Hum Hain Na!”



**430.** On January 20, the RBI has released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) based on the Framework for dealing with D-SIBs. SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). These banks are considered 'too big to fail banks'. The assets of the bank greater than 2% of GDP are considered part of this group. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)
- Criteria for D-SIBs: Assets of the bank should be greater than 2% of GDP
- D-SIBs – SBI, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)

**431.** On January 16, IIFL Home Finance and Standard Chartered Bank have entered into a co-lending agreement for extending credit to the MSME loans (loan against property). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIFL Home Finance + SCB = a Co-lending Agreement for extending credit to the MSME loans
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nirmal jain
- HQs of SCB – London, UK | CEO – Bill Winters

**432.** As per the Financial Stability Report released by the RBI, the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRPs) has taken an average of 433 days as of September 2020. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) prescribes a maximum period of 330 days for a resolution as per an amendment introduced in 2019. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CIRPs took an average of 433 days as of September 2020
- IBC prescribes a maximum period of 330 days for a resolution
- CIRPs – Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)

**433.** On January 19, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) has announced its partnership with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB) to facilitate fixed deposit services to its account holders. The payments bank has already been offering fixed deposits service in collaboration with IndusInd Bank with a minimum investment of Rs. 100. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PPBL + SSFB = partnership to facilitate fixed deposit services to its account holders'
- HQs of PPBL – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | MD & CEO – Satish Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Paytm – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – Vijay Sekhar Sharma
- HQs of Suryoday SFB – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Baskar Babu



**434.** On January 19, Private lender Axis Bank has launched a credit card named “Aura” dedicated towards various health and wellness benefits. The card would have tie ups with Decathlon, Practo, Fitternity, IndushealthPlus, 1MG, amongst others. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Axis Bank launched a credit card named “Aura” – for various health and wellness benefits
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry

**435.** The RBI has drained Rs 2 trillion (\$27.4 billion) from the banking system, as it seeks to push up money-market rates that had crashed below the reverse repo rate. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI – drained Rs 2 trillion (\$27.4 billion) from the banking system in a bid to nudge shorter rates higher
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>)

**436.** The government has raised the authorised capital of Punjab & Sind bank to Rs. 10,000 Cr from previous Rs. 3000 Cr. Last year, the government had approved capital infusion of Rs 5,500 Cr into the bank through preferential allotment of shares. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Government raised the authorised capital of Punjab & Sind bank to Rs. 10,000 Cr (from previous Rs. 3000 Cr)
- HQs of Punjab & Sind Bank – New Delhi | MD & CEO – S Krishnan

**437.** On January 20, State Bank of India (SBI) has executed 2 inter-bank short-term money market deals through its Hong Kong branch with the pricing linked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate). SOFR is an identified replacement for USD (US Dollar) LIBOR (London InterBank Offered Rate), which is expected to be phased out at the end of 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI executed 2 inter-bank short-term money market deals through its Hong Kong branch
- SOFR – Secured Overnight Financing Rate | LIBOR – London InterBank Offered Rate
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Arjit Basu | Ashwani Bhatia



# Defence Affairs

**438.** On January 20, French A-400M tactical aircraft arrived at Jodhpur to participate in the Indo-French bilateral exercise “Desert Knight 21” which is being held at Air Force Station Jodhpur from January 20 to 24. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- “Desert Knight 21” – a bilateral Air exercise between India & France (from January 20 to 24)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | New PM – Jean Castex

**439.** The Indian Air Force is going ahead with plans to urgently procure “21 MiG-29” and “12 Sukhoi-30MKI” fighters jets from Russia. In addition, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by PM Narendra Modi has approved a ₹48,000-Cr proposal to buy 83 Tejas LCA (light combat aircraft) Mk 1A aircraft for the Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- IAF – to urgently procure “21 MiG-29” and “12 Sukhoi-30MKI” – total 33 fighters jets from Russia
- CCS approved a proposal to buy 83 ‘Tejas’ LCA Mk 1A aircraft for IAF (worth – ₹48,000 Cr)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

**440.** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has successfully test fired a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the ‘Hawk-i’ aircraft off the coast of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- HAL – test fired a Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the ‘Hawk-i’ aircraft off the coast of Odisha
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**441.** As India prepares to receive the first batch of “S-400” long-range air defence system by year-end, the first group of Indian Military Personnel are scheduled to depart for Moscow to undergo training courses on the “S-400” missile system. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> group of Indian Military Personnel are scheduled to depart for Moscow for training courses on “S-400”
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



## Schemes & Initiatives

**442.** On January 16, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has virtually kicked off a state-wide scheme for allotment of 7,219 Fair Price Shops (FPS) under his government's flagship "Ghar Ghar Rozgar te Karobaar Mission". [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Punjab – started allotment of 7,219 FPS under "Ghar Ghar Rozgar te Karobaar Mission"
- FPS – Fair Price Shops
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor – V. P. Singh Badnore

**443.** On January 16, Gujarat Chief minister Vijay Rupani has announced the formation of 'Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission' or 'Horticulture Development Mission'. The aim is to accelerate agriculture, horticulture and promote farming of herbal plants. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Gujarat – to form 'Mukhyamantri Bagayat Vikas Mission' or 'Horticulture Development Mission'
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**444.** Madhya Pradesh has become the first State to give electricity subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). With this, the State has successfully implemented one out of the three stipulated reforms in the power sector. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Madhya Pradesh – became the 1<sup>st</sup> State to give 'Electricity Subsidy' through Direct Benefit Transfer
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Anandiben Patel

## Sports & Games

**445.** New Zealand has grabbed the No. 1 position in the ICC Test rankings for the first time in history after decimating Pakistan by an innings and 176 runs in the second Test in Christchurch. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- New Zealand – grabbed the No. 1 position in the ICC Test rankings
- New Zealand – Wellington – Dollar (NZD) | PM – Jacinda Ardern



**446.** Pacer Thangarasu Natarajan has become the first Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all 3 formats during the same tour. The 29-year-old player is from Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Thangarasu Natarajan – became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian cricketer to make his international debut across all 3 formats

**447.** Ravichandran Ashwin has surpassed Muttiah Muralitharan in the list of most number of wickets in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen. R. Ashwin has dismissed 192 left-handers in his Test career so far. Earlier, Muttiah Muralitharan held the record with 191 wickets. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravichandran Ashwin (India-Cricket) – most number of wickets in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen
- He surpassed – Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka-Cricket)

**448.** On January 19, India has beaten Australia by 3 wickets to retain “Border-Gavaskar Trophy” held at the Gabba, Brisbane. Australia was defeated for the first time at the Gabba in its history. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India has beaten Australia by 3 wickets to retain “Border-Gavaskar Trophy” held at the Gabba, Brisbane, Australia
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Scott Morrison

**449.** JSW Sports has signed an exclusive talent management contract with Rishabh Pant who became the fastest Indian wicketkeeper-batsman to clock 1,000 runs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- JSW Sports signed an exclusive talent management contract with – Rishabh Pant
- HQs of JSW Sports – Mumbai, MH | CEO – Mustafa Ghouse

## **Important Days & Dates**

**450.** The Union Culture Ministry has announced that birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose would be celebrated as “Parakram Diwas” (Day of Courage) every year on January 23. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ministry of Culture – to celebrate the Birth Anni. of Subhas Chandra Bose as “Parakram Diwas” – on January 23





**451.** The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Raising Day is celebrated on January 19 to mark its formation. This year, the NDRF observed its 16<sup>th</sup> NDRF Raising Day. The NDRF came into existence on January 19, 2006. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 19 – 16<sup>th</sup> Raising Day of NDRF
- HQs of NDRF – New Delhi | DG – SN Pradhan | Founded in – 2006

**452.** On January 19, Tripura has observed the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of “Kokborok Day” for the recognition of Kokborok dialect as an official language of the state with a series of programs and colourful events. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 19 – 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of “Kokborok Day” – observed by Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais

**453.** India Smart Grid Forum is organising the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of their annual flagship event - India Smart Utility Week (ISUW 2021) from March 2 to 5, 2021. It is an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Smart Mobility for Smarter Cities on Digital Platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- March 2 to 5 – the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of “India Smart Utility Week-2021” – to be organised by India Smart Grid Forum
- HQs of ISGF – New Delhi | Executive Director – Reena Suri

**454.** On January 20, Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti was celebrated. It marked the 354<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the 10<sup>th</sup> Guru of Sikhism- Guru Gobind Singh and is considered as one of the most auspicious festivals among Sikhs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 20 – 354<sup>th</sup> Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti (10<sup>th</sup> Guru of Sikhism- Guru Gobind Singh)

**455.** Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura have celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day on January 21. Tripura and Manipur, the former princely states were blended into the Indian Union in October 1949 and became full states on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya, which was part of Assam, also received its own full statehood under the North Eastern Region (Re-Organisation) Act, 1971. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 21 – 49<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day of Meghalaya, Manipur & Tripura
- Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – Satya Pal Malik
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – Najma Heptulla
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Ramesh Bais



# Meetings, Conferences and Summits

**456.** On January 18, Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan has digitally chaired the 148<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) through video conference. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Dr. Harsh Vardhan – digitally chaired the 148<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board of the WHO
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

**457.** IIT Guwahati has hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> “Annual Entrepreneurship Summit Udgam 2021” from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 2021. UDGAM is the Annual Entrepreneurship Summit of IIT Guwahati where people interested in entrepreneurship meet, discuss, explore, share, debate, and have fun to spread the idea and spirit of entrepreneurship. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- IIT Guwahati – hosted its 13<sup>th</sup> “Annual Entrepreneurship Summit Udgam 2021” – from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of January

**458.** The 1<sup>st</sup> India-EU IPR dialogue between the European Union (EU) Commission and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) was held on January 14 through a virtual platform. The India Co-Chair provided an overview of various Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) developments. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> India-EU IPR dialogue was held between = EU + DPIIT (India)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27
- DPIIT works under – Ministry of Ministry of Commerce & Industry (Piyush Goyal – Maharashtra)
- HQ of DPIIT – New Delhi | Secretary – Guruprasad Mohapatra

**459.** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa have reviewed the preparations for “Aero India -2021” in Bengaluru from February 3 to 5. Aero India 2021 will be held simultaneously as a physical exhibition and a virtual exhibition. The theme of the event is “Runway to a Billion Opportunities”. Rajnath Singh also launched an application for “Aero India-2021” developed by EventEdge. [{Read more}](#)

## Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh + B S Yediyurappa = reviewed the preparations for “Aero India-2021” to be held in Bengaluru
- Theme – “Runway to a Billion Opportunities”



**460.** On January 20, India and Singapore have signed the implementing agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and cooperation between the two Navies. This was signed at the 5<sup>th</sup> Defence Ministers Dialogue held virtually between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Singapore counterpart Dr. Ng Eng Hen who virtually participated. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Defence Ministers Dialogue – between India & Singapore
- India + Singapore = signed the implementing agreement on Submarine Rescue Support
- Defense Minister of Singapore – Dr. Ng Eng Hen
- Singapore – Singapore – Dollar | PM – Lee Hsien Loong | President – Halimah Yacob

**461.** On January 22, “India-Africa Trade Council” was inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai to build up business relations between both the countries of India and African Region. India Africa Trade council will open 13 Trade offices in Major Metro cities of India to facilitate Indian Businessmen wanting to do Trade in African countries. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “India-Africa Trade Council” – inaugurated in Hotel Crowne Plaza, Chennai
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit



## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**462.** ITC Limited has been adjudged ‘Best Governed Company’ at the 20<sup>th</sup> ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance, 2020 in the ‘Listed Segment: Large Category’. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ITC Ltd – adjudged ‘Best Governed Company’ at the 20<sup>th</sup> ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance
- HQs of ITC Limited – Kolkata, West Bengal | CEO – Sanjiv Puri

**463.** On January 16, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has been honoured with the “Sahitya Gaurav Samman” by the Hindi Writers Guild, Canada for his literary work. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' – honoured with the “Sahitya Gaurav Samman” by the Hindi Writers Guild (Canada)
- Ministry of Education – Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ (Constituency – Haridwar, Uttarakhand)



**464.** On January 15, Incumbent Chief Controller Amresh Kumar Chaudhary has been awarded the prestigious “Chief of Army Staff Commendation” for his outstanding contribution to the Armed Forces during the critical period of the COVID-19 pandemic and its various operations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amresh Kumar Chaudhary – awarded the prestigious “Chief of Army Staff Commendation”

**465.** Ravi Gaikwad is a multifaceted personality known for paving his way through all walks of life. Just recently, he got awarded the “Nelson Mandela” World Humanitarian Award for his absolute spirit and professionalism. Ravi Gaikwad is a go-getter academician, sportsman and philanthropist, born in Pune City. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ravi Gaikwad – received the “Nelson Mandela” World Humanitarian Award

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**466.** On January 18, PM Narendra Modi was unanimously chosen as the new Chairman of the trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district, becoming the second PM to hold the post. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi – chosen as the new Chairman of the famous “Somnath Temple” – at Prabhas Patan, Gujarat
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Vijay Rupani | Governor – Acharya Devvrat

**467.** On January 18, the board of directors of RBL Bank has approved the re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank for 3 years with effect from June 30, 2021 to June 29, 2024. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBL Bank – approved the re-appointment of “Vishwavir Ahuja” as the MD & CEO – for 3 years
- HQs of RBL Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Vishwavir Ahuja

**468.** The government has appointed KIC Housing Finance CEO Siddhartha Mohanty as the managing director of Life Insurance Corp. (LIC) with effect from February 1. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Mohanty till his superannuation on June 30, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Siddhartha Mohanty – appointed as new MD of LIC
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – M R Kumar | MD – Siddhartha Mohanty | Founded in – 1956



**469.** On January 20, Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has been temporarily assigned the additional charge of the Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of AYUSH. The move was necessitated as Shripad Yesso Naik was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Goa after he met with an accident. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kiren Rijiju – assigned the additional charge of the Minister of State (MoS) for the Ministry of AYUSH
- [MoS for AYUSH – Kiren Rijiju \(addi. Charge\) | Constituency – Arunachal West](#)

**470.** Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his entire Cabinet have resigned to take political responsibility for a scandal involving investigations into child welfare payments that wrongly labeled thousands of parents as fraudsters. [{Read more}](#)

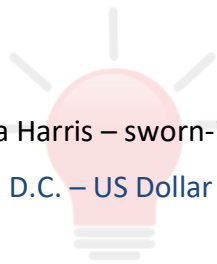
**Key Points:**

- Mark Rutte & his entire Cabinet – resigned to take political responsibility
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro | PM – Mark Rutte](#)

**471.** On January 20, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were sworn-in as the 46<sup>th</sup> President and 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the United States of America, respectively. Joe Biden (78) is the oldest person to assume US presidency. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Joe Biden & Kamala Harris – sworn-in as the 46<sup>th</sup> President and 49<sup>th</sup> Vice President of the USA
- [USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris](#)



Smartkeeda  
The Question Bank

**472.** On January 19, Lt General Chandi Prasad Mohanty, presently serving as General Officer Commanding in chief of Southern Command, has been appointed as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chief of Army Staff. Lt General Mohanty is the first Odia officer to be appointed the Vice Chief of Army, second only to the Chief of Army Staff. He will take over from Lt S K Saini after he retires on January 31. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Chandi Prasad Mohanty – appointed as 42<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chief of Army Staff (1<sup>st</sup> Odia officer on this Post)
- [HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty](#)

**473.** Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam has received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC Tenzin Lekphell. Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Md. Shahriar Alam received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC Tenzin Lekphell. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Bangladesh – received the newly appointed Secretary General of BIMSTEC ‘Tenzin Lekphell’
- [Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | PM – Sheikh Hasina | President – Abdul Hamid](#)
- [BIMSTEC member countries: 7 – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar & Thailand](#)



## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**474.** Karnataka has retained its leadership position in the major States category in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “India Innovation Index” released by NITI Aayog on January 20. It was followed by Maharashtra. Delhi topped among Union Territories, and Himachal Pradesh among North-Eastern and Hill States. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “India Innovation Index” – released by Niti Aayog
- Major States: 1<sup>st</sup> – Karnataka | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Maharashtra | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tamil Nadu
- UTs: 1<sup>st</sup> – Delhi
- North-Eastern and Hill States: 1<sup>st</sup> – Himachal Pradesh

**475.** The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Global Risks Report-2021” which is released virtually by World Economic Forum (WEF) on January 19 has added 12 new risks to the previous list. Five of the top 10 global risks in terms of impact and likelihood remain from the environmental category. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the “Global Risks Report-2021” – released by WEF
- The report has added 12 new risks to the previous list
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

**476.** India has stood the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Global Firepower defense review, as per the “Military Strength Ranking-2021” released on January 19. There are currently 138 countries considered for the Global Firepower (GFP) annual defense review. India is preceded by USA, Russia & China. India has 542 combat aircraft, 37 attack helicopters, 17 submarines, and 4,730 tanks. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – stood the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Global Firepower defense review – as per the “Military Strength Ranking-2021”
- 1<sup>st</sup> – USA | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Russia | 3<sup>rd</sup> – China | 4<sup>th</sup> – India | 5<sup>th</sup> – Japan

**477.** Around 3 billion people across the world cannot afford a healthy diet and 1.9 billion of them are in the Asia-Pacific region, according to a report titled “Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition” jointly published by the FAO, UNICEF, WFP & the WHO on January 20. At the same time, an estimated 14.5 million children under 5 were overweight or obese in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:



- “Asia and the Pacific Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2020: Maternal and Child Diets at the Heart of Improving Nutrition” report – jointly published by FAO + UNICEF + WFP + WHO
- HQs of FAO – Rome, Italy | DG – QU Dongyu
- HQs of UNICEF – New York, United States | Executive Director – Henrietta H. Fore
- HQs of UNWFP – Rome, Italy | ED – David Muldrow Beasley | Countries – 36
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194

## **Acquisitions & Mergers**

**478.** On January 19, Total SE of France has decided to acquire 20% stake in Adani Green Energy (AGEL) and 50% stake in a 2.35 GW portfolio of operating Solar Assets owned by AGEL for \$2.5 billion. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Total SE – to acquire 20% stake in Adani Green Energy & 50% stake in its operating Solar Assets (for \$2.5 billion)
- HQs of Total SE – Paris, France | CEO – Patrick Pouyanne
- HQs of Adani Green Energy – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Vneet S. Jaain

**479.** On January 19, J&K Bank has given in-principle approval to transfer 8.23% stake to UT of Ladakh. It is to be noted that the state was divided into UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. So, this 8.23% was held by J & K government which will be transferred to Ladakh government. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- J&K Bank – gave in-principle approval to transfer 8.23% stake to UT of Ladakh
- HQs of J&K Bank – Sri Nagar | CEO – R K Chhibber
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – R K Mathur

**480.** Google has finally completed its acquisition of Fitbit, in a huge boost for the tech giant in its attempt to enter the wearable devices market. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Google – completed its acquisition of Fitbit
- HQs of Fitbit – California, USA | CEO – James Park
- HQs of Google – California, United States | CEO – Sundar Pichai



**481.** On January 21, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved acquisition of Future Group's retail assets by Reliance Retail. Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL) is acquiring the retail and wholesale business and the logistics and warehousing business from the Future Group for ₹24,713 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SEBI – approved the acquisition for ₹24,713 Cr of Future Group's retail assets – by Reliance Retail
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | ED – G P Garg
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam
- HQs of Future Group Business – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Kishore Biyani

**482.** On January 21, Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved up-to 20% stake acquisition in Max Life Insurance Company by Axis Bank, Axis Capital and Axis Securities. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CCI – approved up-to 20% stake acquisition in Max Life Insurance – by Axis Bank, Axis Capital and Axis Securities
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhrys

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**483.** On January 18, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) and Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) have signed an MoU to work together for Tribal Livelihood Generation. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- TRIFED + IFFDC = an MoU to work together for Tribal Livelihood Generation
- TRIFED works under – Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Arjun Munda – Khunti, Jharkhand)
- HQs of TRIFED – New Delhi | MD – Pravir Krishna
- HQs of IFFDC – Gurgaon, Haryana





**484.** On January 19, BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has signed an MoU with the Maharashtra government to create awareness about benefits of listing among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) of the state. BSE had launched its SME platform in March, 2012. So far 331 companies got listed on the platform. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BSE + Maharashtra = an MoU to create awareness about benefits of listing among SMEs of the state
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

**485.** On January 21, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed an MoU with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to strengthen collaboration in the field of Technical Exchange and co-operation on sustainable Geo-hazard Management. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- DRDO + MoRTH = an MoU for Technical Exchange & Geo-Hazard Management
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – G. Satheesh Reddy
- Nitin Gadkari – Ministry of Road Transport and Highway, Ministry of MSMEs (Nagpur, Maharashtra)

**486.** On January 19, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the establishment of a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS). The move will give select researchers, scientists access to Amazon's Braket cloud-based quantum computing service. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Amazon Web Services + MeitY = partnership to set up the World's 1<sup>st</sup> Quantum Computing Applications Lab in India
- Ravi Shankar Prasad – Ministry of Communications, MeitY, Law and Justice (Patna Sahib, Bihar)
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | Founder & CEO – Jeff Bezos

**487.** In the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the department of Skill Development has inked an MoU with IIT Jammu to enhance skill and employment of students and staff with exposure to latest technologies. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- J&K dept of Skill Development + IIT Jammu = an MoU to enhance skill and employment of students and staff
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



**488.** On January 20, Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) Ltd has signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board for utilisation of 500 km of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) telecom network. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- PGCIL + Himachal Pradesh = an agreement for utilisation of 500 km of Optical Ground Wire telecom network
- HQs of PGCIL – Gurgaon, Haryana | CMD – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Bandaru Dattatreya

**489.** On January 20, the Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in solar energy. The main area of work is to identify research, demonstration and pilot projects between the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the International Solar Energy Institute (ISEI), Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the signing of MoU between India & Uzbekistan for cooperation in Solar Energy
- Uzbekistan – Tashkent – So'm | President – Shavkat Mirziyoyev

**490.** On January 22, a tripartite agreement is signed among Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL), Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Ltd (RSMML) and the Department of Mines and Geology (DMG) of Rajasthan for taking up feasibility studies of solution mining of potash in Rajasthan. Rajasthan has huge potash and halite resources spread across 50,000 sq kms in the Nagaur - Ganganagar basin in the northwest. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MECL + RSMML + DMG = a Tripartite Agreement for solution mining of Potash in Rajasthan
- HQs of MECL – Nagpur, Maharashtra | CMD – Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

## **Books & Authors**

**491.** The book “Abdul Kalam-Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai” (Immortal Memories) has been penned by A P J M Nazema Maraikayar, the niece of the former President of India, Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. The book has been released by M. Venkaiah Naidu. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Abdul Kalam-Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai” book – written by Dr. A. P. J. M. Nazema Maraikayar
- The book is released by – M. Venkaiah Naidu



**492.** On January 16, Historian-author Audrey Truschke's new book "The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts" will analyse a hitherto overlooked group of histories on Indo-Muslim or Indo-Persian political events through a few dozen Sanskrit texts that date from the 1190s until 1721. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "The Language of History: Sanskrit Narratives of Muslim Pasts" book – Audrey Truschke

**493.** On January 20, the Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled "A textbook of Urban Planning and Geography" written by Dr. Sameer Sharma, Director General and CEO of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. Venkaiah Naidu – released a book titled "A textbook of Urban Planning and Geography"
- The book is written by – Dr. Sameer Sharma

## **Obituaries**

**494.** On January 19, Senior Oncologist and chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute Dr V Shanta has passed away. She was 93. She received Padma Shri (1986) and Padma Bhushan (2006). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Dr V Shanta – Oncologist & Chairperson of the Adyar Cancer Institute – passed away
- Awards: Padma Shri (1986) & Padma Bhushan (2006)

**495.** On January 19, Former Arunachal Pradesh Governor and senior Congress leader Mata Prasad has passed away due to multiple organ failure. He represented the party as an MLA from Shahganj (reserved) seat for five terms (1957-1974) and was a member of the legislative council from 1980 to 1992. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Mata Prasad – a Politician – passed away (Party – Congress | Former Governor of Arunachal Pradesh)
- Arunachal Pradesh: Capital – Itanagar | CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B D Mishra



## Person in News

**496.** Kamala Harris made history by becoming the first female, first Indian American and first Black vice president-elect of the US. Her husband, Douglas Emhoff has also made history by becoming the first-ever second gentleman of the US. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Douglas Emhoff – made history by becoming the first-ever second gentleman of the US
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden | VP – Kamala Harris

## Science & Technology

**497.** On January 17, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has entered into Technology Transfer Agreements with the Pune-based Biorad Medisys for 2 biomedical implants - an Atrial Septal Defect Occluder and an Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent. India's 1<sup>st</sup> Indigenous stent has been developed by the institute in collaboration with National Aerospace Laboratories, Bangalore, using superelastic Nitinol alloys. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- SCTIMST + Biorad Medisys (Pune) = for Atrial Septal Defect Occluder & Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent
- India's 1<sup>st</sup> Indigenous Intracranial Flow Diverter Stent – developed by National Aerospace Laboratories (Bangalore)
- HQs of SCTIMST – Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala | Director – Asha Kishore

**498.** On January 20, Pakistan has successfully test-fired “Shaheen-III”, a Nuclear-capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile which can strike targets up to 2,750 kilometres. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Pakistan – successfully test-fired “Shaheen-III” - a Nuclear-capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
- Strike range of this missile – 2,750 km
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi

**499.** Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit has reached space for the first time with a successful test of its air-launched rocket namely a modified 'Boeing 747' nicknamed “Cosmic Girl” delivering 10 NASA satellites to orbit. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Virgin Orbit's modified 'Boeing 747' (nickname: Cosmic Girl) air-launched delivering 10 NASA satellites to orbit
- HQs of Virgin Orbit – California, USA | President & CEO – Dan Hart | Founder – Richard Branson



**500.** On January 19, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has laid foundation stone of 'Science City' at Tepesia for popularising science and technology at the grassroots with an expenditure of Rs 184 Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Assam laid foundation stone of 'Science City' at Tepesia, in Guwahati, Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Sarbananda Sonowal | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi





# SmartKeeda

The Question Bank

Presents

## TestZone

India's least priced Test Series platform

JOIN

### ALL BANK EXAMS

2020-2021 Test Series

@ Just

# ₹ 599/-

300+ Full Length Tests

- Brilliant Test Analysis
- Excellent Content
- Unmatched Explanations

JOIN NOW

[www.smartkeeda.com](http://www.smartkeeda.com) | [testzone.smartkeeda.com](http://testzone.smartkeeda.com)

SBI | RBI | IBPS | IRRB | SSC | NIACL | EPFO | UGC NET | LIC | Railways | CLAT | RJS



Join us