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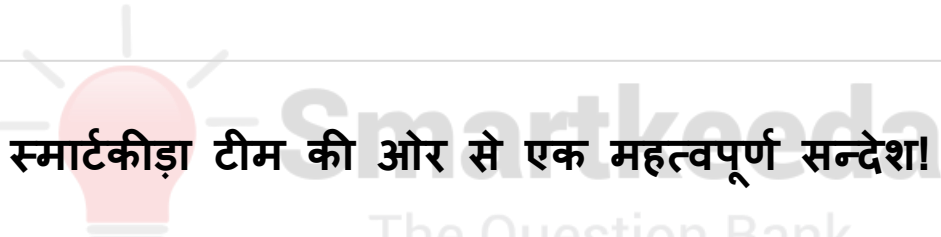
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrillTest of January 2021 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जनवरी माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढ़ना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

701. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved closure of Lucknow-based loss-making state-owned firm Scooters India Limited and shutting down the operations of its units. It has also cleared seeking a loan (with interest) of ₹ 65.12 Cr required for the closure from the Government of India. The firm has around 100 employees. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CCEA approved closure of loss-making firm 'Scooters India Ltd'
- HQs of Scooters India Ltd – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Renati Sreenivasulu

702. January 28, Microsoft has launched its new India Development Center (IDC) facility at the National Capital Region. The facility will serve as a premier hub for driving cutting-edge engineering and innovation. IDC NCR is Microsoft's third Development Center in India after Bengaluru and Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft launched its new & 3rd India Development Center (IDC) facility at – Noida, NCR
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, USA | CEO – Satya Nadella

703. The Beating Retreat ceremony which marks the culmination of the 4-day long Republic Day celebrations, took place on January 29 at the historic Vijay Chowk with as many as 26 performances by the bands by the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). For the very first time, a special new composition 'Swarnim Vijay' was played which was composed to commemorate the 50 years of India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Beating Retreat ceremony took place on January 29 at 'Vijay Chowk'
- For the very first time, a special new composition 'Swarnim Vijay' was played

704. Starting on January 29, Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) is stepping up its digital campaign "#ChupNaBaitho" to scrub digital platforms clean with a fresh initiative that encourages audiences to report objectionable ads. The 3-month pilot will focus on New Delhi and Mumbai and mainly target finance portals and technology sites. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Advertising Standards Council of India launched a digital campaign "#ChupNaBaitho" to report objectionable ads
- 3-month pilot will focus on New Delhi & Mumbai
- HQs of ASCI – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Subhash Kamath



705. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has set up an “Innovation Sandbox” web portal where fintech firms and individuals may use the environment for offline testing of their applications in a test environment. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- BSE – set up an “Innovation Sandbox” web portal
- BSE is Asia’s 1st Stock Exchange Company
- HQs of BSE – Mumbai, MH | Chairman – Sethurathnam Ravi | MD & CEO – Shri Ashishkumar Chauhan

706. The first indigenously built Metro Rake to be deployed for Metro 2A (Dahisar-DN Nagar) and Metro 7 (Dahisar-Andheri via Western Express Highway) arrived in Mumbai from the Bengaluru facility of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML). The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) plans to commence indigenously designed “driverless” Metro cars services from May 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- The first indigenously built Metro Rake deployed in Mumbai
- The Metro Rake was built by – Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BEML)
- HQs of BEML – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Deepak Kumar Hota

707. The UP Metro Rail Corporation has taken inspiration from the New York Metro's experiment to sanitise trains with UV lamp rays. The Lucknow Metro has become the first metro project in India to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lucknow Metro – became the first metro project in India to use ultraviolet (UV) rays to sanitise train coaches
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

708. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has busted wildlife trafficking syndicates in Jammu and Kashmir. In an unprecedented intelligence operation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), two epicentres of illegal wildlife poaching and trade were identified in Anantnag area of Srinagar valley and Manwal in the Jammu region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau – busted wildlife trafficking syndicates in Jammu & Kashmir
- HQs of WCCB – New Delhi | Additional Director – Tilotama Varma
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



709. On January 29, Infrastructure firm Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has received an up to Rs 2,500 Cr contract for the upcoming and country's first high speed rail corridor project connecting the financial capital, Mumbai and the city of Ahmedabad. This high speed rail corridor project is being implemented by National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), based on Japanese E5 Shinkansen technology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Larsen & Toubro – received an up to Rs 2,500 Cr contract for Mumbai - Ahmedabad Bullet Train project
- HQs L&T – Mumbai | CMD – SN Subrahmanyam

710. On January 29, In a bid to encourage people to drink only tap water, instead of running after branded and packaged drinking water, the Telangana government has come up with this unique idea of creating its own brand and calling it “Mission Bhagiratha”. Mission Bhagiratha, a flagship programme of the Telangana government, is aimed at providing safe drinking water to every household. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Mission Bhagiratha” – a flagship programme of the Telangana to provide safe drinking water
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

711. On January 31, ASUS Republic of Gamers (ROG) has launched “ROG Academy” - India's 1st virtual Academy program for gamers. The initiative is meant to provide mentorship to gamers in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ASUS – launched “ROG Academy” - India's 1st virtual Academy program
- HQs of ASUS – Taipei, Taiwan | CEO – Samson Hu

712. On January 31, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has sought urgent intervention of the Union Ministry of Tourism and Culture for protection and preservation of the ancient heritage structures that have surfaced during the demolition drive conducted by the State government as part of its ‘Ekamra Kshetra’ beautification project. In a letter to the Union Culture Minister Pralhad Singh Patel, Dharmendra Pradhan has urged him to send an expert team to Bhubaneswar to conduct a detailed study. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dharmendra Pradhan urged Tourism Ministry to protect ‘Ekamra Kshetra’ heritage in Bhubaneswar
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- Dharmendra Pradhan – Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Minister of Steel (Constituency – MP)
- Pralhad Singh Patel – Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture (Constituency – Damoh, MP)



713. On January 31, Fashion e-tailer Myntra has changed its logo following a complaint by a Mumbai-based activist who alleged that the brand's signage was offensive towards women. The complaint had been lodged in December with the cyber cell in Mumbai by Avesta Foundation's Naaz Patel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Myntra – changed its logo following a complaint that the brand's signage was offensive towards women
- HQs of Myntra – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amar Nagaram

International Affairs

714. Japan has raised concerns about British proposals to invite Australia, India and South Korea to a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) foreign ministers. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is hosting this year's G-7, has invited South Korea, India and Australia to attend the leaders' summit in Cornwall in June. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan raised concerns about British proposals to invite Australia, India & South Korea to G-7 meeting
- G-7 is hosted by the UK in 2021
- G7 member countries – US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada | Founded in – 1975

715. U.S. President Joe Biden has signed an order reversing a Trump-era Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender individuals from serving in the military. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- U.S. President Joe Biden signed an order to allow Transgender persons to serve in Military
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

716. Puerto Rico has declared a state of emergency over gender-based violence, after a wave of killings targeting women and transgender people. The state of emergency will be in effect until June 30, 2022. At least 60 direct and indirect femicides were reported in Puerto Rico in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Puerto Rico – declared a state of Emergency over gender-based violence
- Puerto Rico – San Juan – US Dollar | President – Joe Biden (It is an unincorporated U.S. territory)



717. Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli vening has awarded the contract for construction of 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam. The project cost for Lower Arun is estimated at over NRs. 100 billion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal – awarded 679 MW Lower Arun Hydropower Project to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam
- HQs of SJVN Ltd – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

718. On January 30, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced plans to grant citizenship to a select group of foreigners to this oil-rich nation home to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, part of efforts to stimulate its economy amid the coronavirus pandemic. The offer could apply to artists, authors, doctors, engineers and scientists, as well as their families. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UAE – announced plans to grant citizenship to a select group of foreigners in Abu Dhabi & Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

719. Pakistan has received the Geographical Indicator (GI) tag for its Basmati, paving the way for creating a local registry for the particular strain of rice. Pakistan is fighting a case in the 27-member European Union against India's move to get Basmati rice registered as its product. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – received the GI tag for its Basmati rice
- Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee | PM – Imran Khan | President – Arif Alvi
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | President – Ursula von der Leyen | Member Countries – 27

Banking & Economic Affairs

720. The Indian Economy has recorded lower growth of 4% in 2019-20, as against 4.2% growth estimated earlier, the First Revised Estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on January 29 showed. The NSO also revised up the GDP growth rate for 2018-19 to 6.5% from 6.1%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Economy recorded GDP of 4% in 2019-20 – as per the First Revised Estimates released by the NSO
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

721. On January 30, Singapore-based neobanking startup StashFin and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid cards. With its enhanced safety and security features, the prepaid card acts like a personal overdraft facility, allowing the customer to take loans up to Rs 5 lakh. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- StashFin (Singapore) + SBM Bank India = partnership to launch of their co-branded contactless prepaid cards
- Personal overdraft loans up to – Rs. 5 lakhs
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI

722. On January 29, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has presented the Economic Survey that details the state of the economy ahead of the government's Budget for fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021. The “Economic Survey 2020-21” is authored by a team led by Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian. This year's Economic Survey is dedicated to ‘COVID warriors’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nirmala Sitharaman presented the “Economic Survey 2020-21” – dedicated to ‘COVID warriors’
- India’s Chief Economic Adviser – Krishnamurthy Venkata Subramanian
- Nirmala Sitharaman – Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Corporate Affairs | Constituency – Karnataka

723. The RBI has cancelled the license of Maharashtra-based Shivam Sahakari Bank as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 29, 2021. As per the RBI, On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000 from the DICGC as per the DICGC Act, 1961. The Section 5(b) under the Banking Regulation (BR) Act, 1949 deals with accepting and repaying deposits by a bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI cancelled the license of Shivam Sahakari Bank due to inadequate capital
- Bank’s depositor will receive deposit insurance claim amount up to Rs 5 lakh as per the ‘DICGC Act, 1961’
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April 1935

Defence Affairs

724. The third batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets landed in India after flying 7000Km non-stop from France, in a further boost to the strike capability of the Indian Air Force. Rafale is India’s 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after Russia’s Sukhoi jets. The Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) of the United Arab Emirates provided mid-air refuelling to the three Rafale jets. With the arrival of the new batch, the number of the Rafale aircraft has increased to 11. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- The third batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets landed in India after flying 7000Km non-stop from France
- Rafale is India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes after Russia's Sukhoi jets
- Total number of Rafale jets as present – 11 (including this 3)
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

725. Tejas Mark II Multirole Combat Jet is likely to be launched by August-September of 2022. The first high-speed trial of the jet will start in 2023 and its production is likely to start somewhere around 2025. The new variant will be much superior to Tejas Mark-IA, 73 of which are being procured by the Indian Air Force from the HAL under a ₹48,000 Cr deal that was approved by the government on January 13. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Tejas Mark II” – to be launched by August-September of 2022 – by HAL
- The first high-speed trial of the jet will start in – 2023 | Its production is likely to start around – 2025
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt



Sports & Games

726. On January 31, Tamil Nadu has won the 12th Edition of the “Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21”. This was Tamil Nadu's second Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph. Baroda team was the runners-up. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu team – won the 12th Edition of the “Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2020-21”
- Runners-up – Baroda team
- “Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy” – associated with Cricket

Important Days & Dates

727. The “World Leprosy Day” is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. This year, it was observed on January 31 to raise public awareness of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease. World Leprosy Day was established in 1954. The theme this year is “Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being”. According to the World Health Organisation, India has the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world annually, followed by Brazil and Indonesia. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 31 (last Sunday of January) – World Leprosy Day (since – 1954)



- Theme – “Beat Leprosy, End Stigma and Advocate for Mental Well-Being”
- India has the highest number of new cases of leprosy in the world – according to the WHO

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

728. The 51st World Economic Forum annual meeting called “Davos Agenda” was kickstarted on January 25 and continued till January 29. There were 15 special addresses from G20 heads of state and government and international organisations during the summit from January 24-29. PM Narendra Modi addressed the meeting virtually on January 28. Theme of Davos Agenda was “A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 51st World Economic Forum annual meeting called “Davos Agenda” – held during January 25 to 29
- Theme – “A Crucial Year to Rebuild Trust”
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

729. Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum-2021 was organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in a virtual format, with live sessions on January 14, 21 and 28, 2021. The NCAVES Project, funded by EU, has been jointly implemented by the UNSD, UNEP & Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD). India is one of the five countries taking part in this project - the other countries being Brazil, China, South Africa and Mexico. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “NCAVES India Forum-2021” – organised by the Ministry of MoSPI
- NCAVES Project – is funded by the European Union
- MoS I/C for Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation – Rao Inderjit Singh

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

730. The Jat Regimental Centre marching contingent has been adjudged as the best one among the 3 Services and the Delhi Police marching unit chosen as the best among the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary forces during the Republic Day parade of 2021. Among the tableaux of States and UTs, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura and Uttarakhand were chosen 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Mount Abu Public School and Vidya Bharti School Rohini, Delhi won the best cultural performance award. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jat Regimental Centre marching contingent – adjudged as the best one among the 3 Services



- Delhi Police marching unit – adjudged as the best among the CAPF and other auxiliary forces
- Uttar Pradesh – adjudged as the best among the tableaux of States & UTs | 2nd – Tripura | 3rd – Uttarakhand
- Mount Abu Public School & Vidya Bharti School Rohini (Delhi) – the best cultural Performance Award

Appointments & Resignations

731. On January 29, Democratic Republic of the Congo's Prime Minister, Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba has resigned. The dismissal came after the majority of the lawmakers passed a vote of no-confidence to the Premier alleging his inability in the management of the country. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sylvestre Ilunga Ilunkamba – resigned from the post of Prime Minister of Congo
- Congo – Kinshasa – Franc | President – Felix Tshisekedi

732. On January 30, SBI Card, the country's largest pure play credit card issuer, has appointed Rama Mohan Rao Amara as a new Managing Director and CEO for 2 years. He has come in the place of Ashwini Kumar Tewari, who was recently appointed as Managing Director of SBI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rama Mohan Rao Amara – appointed as a new MD & CEO for 2 years
- HQs of SBI Card – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Rama Mohan Rao Amara
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MD – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman
- CFO of SBI – Charanjit Singh Attra | MD & CEO of SBI General Ins. – Prakash Chandra Kandpal

733. The National Health Authority (NHA) has appointed Ram Sewak Sharma as the new Chief Executive to head its health insurance scheme – Ayushman Bharat or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) - a flagship programme of the government. RS Sharma will be replacing Indu Bhushan. Sharma is the former Chairman of the TRAI. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NHA appointed R. S. Sharma as the new CEO of NHA or 'Ayushman Bharat' or 'PMJAY' scheme
- HQs of NHA – New Delhi | CEO – R. S. Sharma

734. On January 30, BCCI secretary Jay Shah was unanimously elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). He will replace Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) chief Najmul Hasan Papon. The 2020 edition of the Asia Cup was postponed to June this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jay Shah – elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)
- HQs of ACC – Colombo, Sri Lanka | New President – Jay Shah

735. On January 31, the Tamil Nadu government has named senior IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Secretary. His predecessor is K. Shanmugam. He has done Ph.D. in management from the Anna University. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – named senior IAS officer Rajeev Ranjan as Chief Secretary (by replacing - K. Shanmugam)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Thiru Edappadi K. Palaniswami | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

Amount & Agreements

736. On January 29, Agreement for the financial support of the implementation of “Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)” project of Ministry of Education was signed between Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) and World Bank along with Ministry of Education. The total project cost of STARS project is Rs 5718 Cr with the financial support of World Bank amounting to \$500 million (approx Rs. 3700 Cr) and rest coming as State share from the participating States, over a period of 5 years. The project covers 6 States - Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World Bank + Dept of Economic Affairs + Ministry of Education = an agreement for “STARS project”
- STARS – Strengthening Teaching-Learning And Results for States
- “STARS project” – belongs to Ministry of Education | Total Cost of the project – Rs 5718 Cr
- Financial assistance from World Bank for this project – \$500 million (approx Rs. 3700 Cr)
- World Bank HQs – Washington D.C., USA | Member Countries – 190
- President – David Malpass | MD & CFO – Anshula Kant

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

737. The “Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020 Status Review” released by the UNEP, provides an overview of the current state of climate change litigation globally, as well as an assessment of global climate change litigation trends. It finds that a rapid increase in climate litigation has occurred around the world. The report



also outlines how cases are forcing greater climate disclosures and ending “corporate greenwashing” on the subject of climate change and the energy transition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Global Climate Litigation Report: 2020 Status Review” – released by the UNEP
- HQs of UNEP – Nairobi, Kenya | Executive Director – Inger Andersen

738. On January 28, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched the “Global AI Action Alliance (GAIA)”, an initiative to accelerate the adoption of inclusive, transparent and trusted artificial intelligence. It brings together over 100 leading companies, governments, international organisations, non-profits and academics united in their commitment to maximising AI's societal benefits while minimising its risks. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- WEF – launched the “Global AI Action Alliance (GAIA)”
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

739. On January 29, Reliance Jio has entered the ranking for the first time this year and claiming the title of the world’s 5th strongest brand, as per the “Brand Finance Global 500” 2021 Ranking with a BSI score of 91.7 out of 100 and the elite AAA+ brand strength rating. Despite only being founded in 2016, Jio has quickly become the largest mobile network operator in India and the third largest mobile network operator in the world, with almost 400 million subscribers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Jio – claimed the title of the world’s 5th strongest brand as per the “Brand Finance Global 500” 2021 Ranking
- HQs of Reliance Jio – Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Pravir Kumar

740. Global tourism has suffered its ‘Worst Year On Record’ in 2020, with international arrivals dropping by 74% and destinations worldwide welcomed 1 billion fewer international arrivals than in the previous year (2019), according to the latest “World Tourism Barometer” by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Tourism Barometer” released by UNWTO – has listed the year 2020 as ‘Worst Year On Record’
- International arrivals dropped by – 74%
- HQs of UNWTO – Madrid, Spain | Secretary-General – Zurab Pololikashvili



741. On January 31, India will emerge as the most resilient economy after Germany in 2021 exhibiting a strong 'economic resurgence' to the global economic turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Germany ranks first in the "PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank - 2021" followed by India and South Korea at second and third positions, respectively, according to the report released by industry body PHDCCI (PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – to emerge as the most resilient economy after Germany in 2021
- "PHDCCI International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank": 1st – Germany | 2nd – India | 3rd – South Korea

742. As per the report, "Upskilling for Shared Prosperity" released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), Investment in upskilling has potential to boost the global GDP by \$6.5 trillion by 2030, including by \$570 billion (over Rs 40 lakh Cr) in India alone - the third highest after China and the US. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Upskilling for Shared Prosperity" report – released by WEF
- Investment in upskilling has potential to boost the global GDP by \$6.5 trillion by 2030 (\$570 billion in India)
- HQs of WEF – Cologny, Switzerland | Executive Chairman & Founder – Klaus Schwab

743. On January 30, NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) has released the report "Mobilising Finance for EVs (Electric Vehicle) in India". The report highlights the role of finance in the India's transition to EVs and analyses that the transition will require a cumulative capital investment of \$266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh Cr) in EVs, charging infrastructure, and batteries over the next decade. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Mobilising Finance for EVs (Electric Vehicle) in India" report – released by NITI Aayog + Rocky Mountain Institute
- India's transition to EVs will require a cumulative capital investment of – \$266 billion (Rs 19.7 lakh Cr)
- NITI Aayog HQs – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar
- HQs of Rocky Mountain Institute – Colorado, USA | CEO – Jules Kortenhorst

Acquisitions & Mergers

744. On January 29, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Indo Gulf Fertilisers by Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. Indo Gulf Fertilisers is a fertiliser division of Grasim Industries Limited (GIL). [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- CCI – approved the acquisition of ‘Indo Gulf Fertilisers’ – by Indorama India Private Limited (IIPL)
- Acquisition approved under – Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002
- HQs of CCI – New Delhi | Chairman – Ashok Kumar Gupta | Established in – 2003
- HQs of Indo Gulf Fertilisers – Mumbai, MH | Director – Rajesh Jain
- HQs of Indorama India Pvt. Ltd – Haldia, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Ashvini Hiran

Books & Authors

745. A Canadian-American actor-writer Seth Rogen is set to make his book debut with “Yearbook”, which will be released on May 11. Billed as a collection of “true stories and essays”, the book is published by Penguin Random House. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yearbook” a book – written by Seth Rogen (Canadian-American)

746. Pavan C Lall’s “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” is an attempt to trace Kapoor’s rise and quell some of this curiosity, especially for readers who may not be well versed with the myriad twists that led to the bank’s troubles, and his own. Rana Kapoor is the co-founder and former Managing Director and CEO of YES Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Yes Man: The Untold Story of Rana Kapoor” book – authored by Pavan C Lall
- Rana Kapoor – is the co-founder & former MD and CEO of YES Bank
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”

Obituaries

747. On January 31, PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of ‘Prabuddha Bharata’, a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order. Its publication was started from Chennai (erstwhile Madras), where it continued to be published for 2 years, after which it was published from Uttarakhand's Almora. The ‘Prabuddha Bharata’ journal was started by Swami Vivekananda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:



- PM Narendra Modi has addressed the 125th anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal on January 31
- Swami Vivekananda – started the 'Prabuddha Bharata' journal

748. Paul Jozef Crutzen has passed away on January 28. He was 87. He received a Nobel in Chemistry and revealed threats to the ozone layer and also developed the concept of "Nuclear Winter". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Paul J. Crutzen (Netherlands) – a Meteorologist and atmospheric Chemist – passed away

Science & Technology

749. Scientists boring more than a mile deep into Antarctic ice have unearthed a yellow-brown mineral, called "Jarosite" which is rarely seen on the Earth but found in abundance on Mars. The Opportunity rover first discovered Jarosite on Mars in 2004. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Scientists in Antarctica have unearthed a yellow-brown mineral called "Jarosite"
- "Jarosite" is rarely seen on Earth but found in abundance on Mars (It was first discovered on Mars in 2004)

Ordinance, Bills and Acts

750. On January 27, Democratic Senator Tom Carper of Delaware has introduced a bill to make Washington, D.C. as the 51st state, continuing the years-long campaign to grant statehood to the nation's capital. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- USA introduced a bill to make Washington, D.C. as the 51st state
- USA – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris





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