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

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 10
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 23rd February 2022

[Attempt Test No. 10 Here!](#)



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 2022 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 2022 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

451. On January 22, In a move aimed at making drones more accessible to the farmers, the Agriculture Ministry decided to provide 40-100% subsidy until March 2023 in purchasing drone by revising guidelines of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM). The guidelines have been amended which envisages a grant up to 100% of the cost of agriculture drone or ₹10 lakh, whichever is less. But, this 100% grant will be limited to only Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras & State Agriculture Universities. Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs) will be eligible to receive 50% of the basic cost of a drone or up to ₹5 lakh in grant for drone purchases. The FPOs would be eligible to receive a subsidy of 75% of the cost of drone if used only for demonstration purpose. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Agriculture Ministry – to provide 40-100% subsidy for drone purchases until March 2023
- 100% grant (₹10 lakh): To Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes & Krishi Vigyan Kendras
- 50% grant (₹5 lakh): To Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centers (CHCs)
- 75% grant: To FPOs

452. On January 26, Andhra Pradesh government issued a draft notification for creating 13 new districts bringing the total figure to 26 districts from existing 13 districts. The two new tribal districts will be Manyam and Alluri Sitarama Raju. The other new districts are Anakapalli (out of the existing Visakhapatnam district), Konaseema and Kakinada (out of East Godavari), Eluru (out of West Godavari), NTR (out of Krishna), Bapatla and Palnadu (out of Guntur), Nandyal (out of Kurnool), Sri Satya Sai (out of Anantapuramu), Annamayya (out of Kadapa) and Sri Balaji (out of Chittoor). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh issued a draft notification for creating 13 new districts (Total districts 26 after addition)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

453. On January 26, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched “Grama One” in 12 districts of the state. The services will be extended to all districts across Karnataka by the end of March, 2022. ‘Grama One’ aims to provide 100 government services under a single platform in rural areas. Earlier, ‘Grama One’ had been run on a trial basis in four districts. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai – launched “Grama One” in 12 districts to provide services at doorstep
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

454. On January 23, Delhi Police launched the 1st episode of its podcast, titled ‘Kissa Khaki Ka’ to establish communication with the masses through its unheard stories of crimes, investigations, heart and humanity. The podcast will be narrated by media educator Vartika Nanda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Delhi Police – launched the 1st episode of its podcast, titled ‘Kissa Khaki Ka’
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Baijal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev



455. On January 24, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched the revamped Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) website and mobile app, “MyCGHS”. The website has been developed in accordance with Guidelines for Indian Government Websites and has user friendly features including aid for visually impaired persons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh Mandaviya – launched the revamped CGHS website and “MyCGHS” mobile app
- [Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Mansukh L. Mandaviya](#) | [Constituency – Palitana, Gujarat](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Health & Family Welfare: Bharati Pravin Pawar](#)

456. On January 24, the Gujarat government named an under-bridge in Rajkot after General Bipin Rawat to honour the India’s 1st Chief of Defence Staff who died in a chopper crash in December. His military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Gujarat government – named an under-bridge located in Rajkot after ‘General Bipin Rawat’
- [Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar](#) | [CM – Bhupendra Patel](#) | [Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat](#)

457. On January 28, Decommissioned Indian naval ship (INS) Khukri was handed over to the Diu administration so that it can be developed as a full-scale museum. The missile corvette was decommissioned on December 23, 2021 after 32 years of service. The recently decommissioned vessel is the second ship of the Navy to carry the name INS Khukri, the first was lost during the 1971 India-Pakistan War off the coast of Diu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Decommissioned INS Khukri was handed over to the Diu Administration & will be converted to a Museum

458. On January 24, the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha approved 15% reservation for women in Non-gazetted posts of Jammu and Kashmir Police. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- J & K – approved 15% reservation for women in Non-gazetted posts of Jammu & Kashmir Police
- [J & K: Capital – Srinagar](#) | [Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha](#)

International Affairs

459. In January 2022, India and Israel launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The logo features the ‘Star of David’ and the ‘AshokaChakra’ - the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries. The logo forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations. Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29 January 1992. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- India + Israel = launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties
- India + Israel = established diplomatic relations on 29 January, 1992
- The logo features: 'Star of David' & 'AshokaChakra' | The logo forms the numeral '30' (3 - Israel & 0 - India)
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

460. On January 22, Peruvian government declared a 90-day “Environmental Emergency” in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea. It was caused by the eruption of a volcano in Tonga. [{Read more}](#)

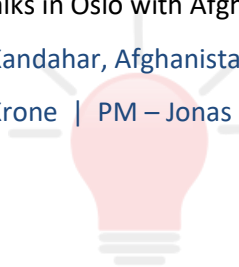
Key Points:

- Peru – declared a 90-day “Environmental Emergency” after oil spill caused by the eruption of a volcano in Tonga
- Peru – Lima – Sol | President – Pedro Castillo

461. On January 23, the first Taliban delegation to visit Europe since returning to power in Afghanistan began talks in Norway’s capital Oslo, with Afghan Civil Society members focused on Human Rights. The delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Taliban – began talks in Oslo with Afghan Civil Society members focused on Human Rights
- HQs of Taliban – Kandahar, Afghanistan | Present Supreme Leader – Hibatullah Akhundzada
- Norway – Oslo – Krone | PM – Jonas Gahr Store



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Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

462. On January 24, India crossed the \$200 million mark of export of agricultural processed product - pickling cucumber, which is globally referred as ‘gherkins’ or ‘cornichons’. India emerged as the largest exporter of gherkins in the world with outbound shipments worth \$114 million from April-October 2021 compared to \$200 million of exports in full FY21. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India is largest exporter of ‘gherkins’ in the world with shipments worth \$114 million from April-October 2021
- India – crossed the \$200 million mark of export of ‘gherkins’ which is an agricultural processed product

463. On January 25, Pencilton, a teen-focused fintech company, launched PencilCard in partnership with Transcorp. It is an NCMC-compliant (National Common Mobility Card) RuPay debit card specially designed for the teenager segment. A single PencilCard will serve multiple needs and will work as an all-in-one card. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pencilton + Transcorp = launched “PencilCard”, an NCMC-compliant RuPay debit card for the teenager segment
- HQs of Pencilton – Hyderabad, Telangana | Co-founder and CEO – Vishwajit Pureti



464. On January 25, fintech company Lendingkart Finance partnered with the Bank of Maharashtra to co-lend business loans to MSME borrowers across India at low interest rates. Through this partnership, credit will be made available to MSME borrowers at their doorstep powered by the 'zero touch' technology platform Lendingkart '2gthr'. The MSMEs will be eligible for loans up to ₹10 lakhs. The Bank will leverage Lendingkart's platform 'xlr8' to distribute MSME loans sourced through multi-channel strategies supporting its vision of financial inclusion. Lendingkart had announced a similar partnership with Canara Bank too. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lendingkart + BoM = partnered to co-lend business for loans up to ₹10 lakhs to MSME borrowers
- HQs of BoM – Pune, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – A S Rajeev | Tagline – “One Family One Bank”
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia

465. On January 24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) offered the banking system Rs 75,000 Cr of overnight liquidity through variable rate repo (VRR) auction. The central bank offered Rs 75,000 Cr of liquidity to the banking system against which banks bid for up to Rs 1.38 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI – offered the banking system Rs 75,000 Cr of overnight liquidity through variable rate repo (VRR) auction
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

466. On January 24, City Union Bank, in association with GOQii, the smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform, and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched “Rupay-on-the-go” payment solution through their debit card in a 'fitness watch'. For payments above ₹5000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN. This fitness watch enables the wearer to monitor their oxygen level (SpO2), body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and 18 exercise modes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CUB + GOQii + NPCI = launched “Rupay on the go” payment solution through debit card in a 'fitness watch'
- HQs of CUB – Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Dr. N. Kamakodi
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

467. On January 21, India paid \$29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for the year 2022. Only 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full. India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – paid \$29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

468. On January 25, Swiggy raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding which made it a decacorn, almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion. Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato. Zomato was valued at \$5.4 billion before its IPO. Bengaluru-based Swiggy has overtaken budget hospitality company 'Oyo' and sports technology company 'Dream Sports'. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Swiggy – raised \$700 million in Invesco-led new funding & reached its valuation to \$10.7 billion
- HQs of Swiggy – Bangalore, Karnataka | Founder & CEO – Sriharsha Majety | Founded in – 2014



469. On January 27, Max Life Insurance partnered with Policybazaar to offer its “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on Policybazaar’s platform as an independent cover to homemakers. The housewife with an annual household income of over ₹5 lakh in the age group of 18-50 can buy the independent cover from ₹25 lakhs to ₹49 lakhs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Max Life Insurance + Policybazaar = partnership to offer “Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan” on Policybazaar’s platform
- Criteria: Household income – ₹5 lakh | Age Group – 18-50 years
- HQs of Max Life Ins. – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Prashant Tripathy
- HQs of Policybazaar – Gurgaon, Haryana | CEO – Yashish Dahiya

470. On January 27, Central government approved the amalgamation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) with Unity Small Finance Bank (USFBL) which is the 12th SFB in India. The scheme of amalgamation envisages takeover of the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Central government approved the amalgamation of = PMC Bank + Unity SFB
- Central government gave approval to Unity SFB to takeover the assets & liabilities of PMC Bank
- Unity SFB – a joint venture between Centrum Group & Bharatpe
- HQs of Unity SFB – New Delhi | interim CEO – Inderjit Camotra



Defence Affairs

471. In January 2022, NATO members conducted a 12-day maritime exercise “Neptune Strike '22” in the Mediterranean Sea. The exercise was led by US Navy. This exercise is designed to demonstrate NATO’s ability to integrate the high-end maritime strike capabilities of an aircraft carrier strike group. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NATO members conducted a 12-day maritime exercise “Neptune Strike '22” in the Mediterranean Sea
- The exercise was led by – US Navy
- HQs of NATO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Jens Stoltenberg | Member Countries – 30

472. On January 26, Indian Navy started conducting a 20-day joint maritime exercise Paschim Lehar in Arabian Sea to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Navy, Air Force, Army and Coast Guard. The exercise called ‘XPL-22’ was concluded. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Navy – conducted a 20-day joint maritime exercise ‘Paschim Lehar (XPL-22)’ in Arabian Sea
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950



Sports & Games

473. On January 19, With the aim to improve India's medal prospects at the 2024 Paralympics, the country's first state-of-the-art, High-performance Para-Badminton Academy with advanced equipment and facilities was set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The centre was launched by Dronacharya awardee and head national coach of Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance. Khanna also unveiled the Ageas Federal 'Quest for Fearless Shuttlers' programme to spot and nurture new talent for the 2028 and 2032 Paralympics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India's first High-performance Para-Badminton Academy – set up in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- The centre was launched by = Gaurav Khanna + Ageas Federal Life Insurance
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

474. On January 25, as part of the 2021 edition of the ICC Awards, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced Indian opener Smriti Mandhana as the recipient of the "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy" for the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021. ICC Cricketer of the Year award was received by Shaheen Afridi in men's category. ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year award was given to Joe Root. ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year award was given to Babar Azam and Lizelle Lee in men's and women's category respectively. Mohammad Rizwan and Tammy Beaumont received ICC T20I Cricketer of the Year award in men's and women's category respectively. Janneman Malan and Fatima Sana are the recipients of ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year in men's and women's category respectively. Moreover, ICC Umpire of the Year award was given to Marais Erasmus. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Smriti Mandhana – received "Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy" for 2021
- ICC Awards 2021:

Award	Recipient
ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)
ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tammy Beaumont (England)
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year	Janneman Malan (South Africa)
ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year	Fatima Sana (Pakistan)
ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus (South Africa)

475. On January 25, Aslan Karatsev of Russia won Men's Single title in the 2022 Sydney Tennis Classic or 2022 Sydney International. It was the 3rd title of his career. He defeated former world No 1 Andy Murray of Great Britain in the final to win this title. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Aslan Karatsev (Russia - Tennis) – won Men’s Single title in the “2022 Sydney Tennis Classic” (defeating - Andy Murray)
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Science & Technology

476. On January 25, Meta (previously Facebook) unveiled the “AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)”, which is among the fastest AI supercomputers. RSC will help build technologies for the next major computing platform - the ‘Metaverse’. Also, Meta’s newly unveiled artificial intelligence supercomputer will be the fastest in the world by the middle of 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meta – unveiled the world’s fastest supercomputer “AI Research SuperCluster (RSC)”
- HQs of Meta – California, US | CEO – Mark Zuckerberg | Founded in – 2004

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

477. On January 26, the President approved awards of 384 gallantry and other defence decorations on the eve of 73rd Republic Day celebrations, which includes 12 Shaurya Chakras. The parade was held at Rajpath in New Delhi and the tableaux of 12 States were selected on this occasion. Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was bestowed the “Param Vishisht Seva Medal”. The PVSM is usually accorded to three-star officers for distinguished service to the nation. Chopra is a Subedar in the Rajputana Rifles. Out of 12 Shaurya Chakras, six were awarded to Army personnel while the rest of six were awarded to CRPF personnel. Moreover, Ashoka Chakra, the country’s highest peacetime gallantry award, was conferred on Assistant Sub-Inspector of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Babu Ram, posthumously. On the same occasion, Squadron Leader Suraj Nair was conferred with the award of “Vayu Sena Medal” for his act of exceptional courage and disregard to personal safety. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Neeraj Chopra – received the “Param Vishisht Seva Medal” on the 73rd Republic Day celebrations
- Neeraj Chopra is a Subedar in ‘Rajputana Rifles’
- Babu Ram (Assistant Sub-Inspector of J&K) – posthumously awarded the “Ashoka Chakra”
- Suraj Nair (Squadron Leader) – conferred with the “Vayu Sena Medal”

478. On January 24, 29 children were conferred the ‘Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar’ this year by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The children were selected from all regions of India for their exceptional achievements in 6 different categories. The function was held on the occasion of ‘National Girl Child Day’ as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The cash prize of Rs 1,00,000/- was given to the awardees of PMRBP 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Modi – conferred “Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022” to 29 children in 6 different categories



479. On January 21, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which conducts the Academy Awards (also known as the Oscars), released the list of 276 films eligible for the awards this year. Tamil drama Jai Bhim and Malayalam action-adventure film Marakkar are the only two Indian feature films on the list. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, on March 27. Only three Indian feature films have ever been nominated for an Oscar - Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jai Bhim (Tamil) + Marakkar (Malayalam) = only two Indian feature films eligible for the 'Oscars 2022'

480. In January 2022, the President approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo cases (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one). The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. 34 of the total awardees are women. The 17 Padma Bhushan include Ghulam Nabi Azad (Public Affairs), Cyrus Poonawalla Natarajan (Trade & Industry), Chandrasekaran (Trade & Industry), Sundar Pichai (Trade & Industry), Satya Narayana Nadella (Trade & Industry), Rashid Khan (Art), Rajiv Mehrishi (Civil Service) and Pratibha Ray (Literature & Education). The 107 Padma Shri Awardees include Neeraj Chopra (Sport), Sumit Antil (Sport), Sonu Nigam (Art) and Avani Lekhara (Sport). The 4 Padma Vibhushan awardees are mentioned below. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Total 128 Padma Awards in 2022 = 4 Padma Vibhushan + 17 Padma Bhushan + 107 Padma Shri
- 4 Padma Vibhushan awardees:

Awardees	Field	State/Country
Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

481. On January 24, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) emerged as the first Indian PSU to win the "Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021" in the 'Large Scale Industry' category. The award was announced during the "9th Global Healthy Workplace Summit". The award was presented by Global Centre for Healthy Workplaces. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IOCL – won "Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021" in 'Large Scale Industry' category (1st Indian PSU)
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

482. On January 24, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR) in Erode district of Tamil Nadu won the prestigious "TX2 Award 2022" after its tiger numbers doubled to 80 since 2010. Apart from the STR, the Bardia National Park in Nepal won this year's TX2 award for doubling the population of tigers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Winners of "TX2 Award 2022":
 - Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode, Tamil Nadu)
 - Bardia National Park (Nepal)
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi



Schemes & Initiatives

483. On January 25, NIMHANS in association with NITI Aayog launched the 'Karnataka Brain Health Initiative', a first-of-its-kind programme in India. Under this programme, doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients. The initiative was rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chickballapur districts on a pilot basis. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIMHANS + NITI Aayog = launched the "Karnataka Brain Health Initiative" to train doctors
- HQs of NIMHANS – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – Pratima Murthy
- HQs of NITI Aayog – New Delhi | CEO – Amitabh Kant
- Chairperson – Narendra Modi | Vice Chairperson – Rajiv Kumar

Important Days & Dates

484. On January 25, the Election Commission of India (ECI) celebrated 12th National Voters' Day (NVD) on the theme "Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative". Since 2011, this day is celebrated to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, 25 January 1950. ECI recently launched a new initiative to deliver the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC). A national voter awareness contest "My Vote is my Future- Power of One Vote" was also launched on social media. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 25 – 12th National Voters' Day – by ECI (since 2011)
- Theme – "Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative"
- HQs of ECI – New Delhi | Chief Election Commissioner – Sushil Chandra (24th) | Formed on – 25th Jan, 1950

485. On January 25, 'National Tourism Day' was celebrated across the country to spread awareness about the importance of tourism & its impact on the economy. This year's theme for National Tourism Day was "Rural and Community Centric Tourism". Pochampally was selected as one of the Best Tourism Villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in November 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 25 – National Tourism Day
- 2022's Theme – "Rural and Community Centric Tourism"
- Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt

486. On January 27, the United Nations marked the 'International Holocaust Remembrance Day' in honour of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust, and millions of other victims of Nazism. The theme of this year's Holocaust remembrance and education was "Memory, Dignity and Justice". This day was first observed in 2006. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- January 27 – ‘International Holocaust Remembrance Day’ – by UN (since 2006)
- 2022’s Theme – “Memory, Dignity and Justice”
- HQs of UN – New York, United States | Secretary-General – Antonio Guterres | Formed in – October 24, 1945

487. The International Customs Day (ICD) is celebrated on 26 January to commemorate the inaugural session of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), which was held on this day in 1953. This year, the theme of International Customs Day was “Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 26 – International Customs Day
- 2022’s Theme – “Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation”
- HQs of WCO – Brussels, Belgium | Secretary General – Kunio Mikuriya

Books & Authors

488. On January 25, “Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India” was authored by Rohan J. Alva, a counsel practising in the Supreme Court. The new book provides a comprehensive and fascinating account of the origins and evolution of the most important fundamental right as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process & the Constitution of India” – authored by Rohan J. Alva

489. On January 25, Ruskin Bond in his latest book, “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence”, pays homage to the country that has been his home for 84 years. The book is an amalgamation of the “physical and spiritual” attributes of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence” book – authored by Ruskin Bond

Obituaries

490. On January 25, Captain of India’s 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning hockey team, Charanjit Singh, passed away at the age of 90 at his home in Una, Himachal Pradesh. Charanjit was also part of the 1960 Games silver-winning and 1962 Asian Games silver-winning team. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Charanjit Singh – a Hockey Player – passed away
- He was Captain of India’s 1964 Tokyo Olympics gold medal-winning Hockey Team



491. On January 27, foreign student of one of the initial batches of the Kerala Kalamandalam Milena Salvini died in France. She was 84. The Italian-born French art researcher was an ambassador of Kathakali & other Indian classical art forms in France. In 2019, she was honoured with Padma Shri, to recognise her contributions to the field of Kathakali in 2019. She played a crucial role in getting UNESCO recognition for Koodiyattam as an ancient art form and to include it in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity Programme in 2001. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Milena Salvini – French Art Researcher & former Ambassador of Kathakali in France – Passed away
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

492. According to findings from a study published by Washington-based Brookings Institution, India is among the top 10 nations in the world in terms of technological advancements and funding in artificial intelligence. India ranked 6th in terms of spending and investments on Artificial Intelligence (AI) made by public, governmental initiatives, as well as private institutes and organisations. The nations leading in the top 10 AI adopters list are the US, China & UK respectively. India stands at 7th position globally in AI adoption. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India ranked 6th in terms of spending & investments on AI
- India ranked 7th in AI adoption globally | 1st – US, 2nd – China, 3rd – UK

493. The World Economic Forum's "Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022" report showed that ransomware attacks rose 151% in 2021 with an average of 270 cyber-attacks per organisation being faced during the year as connected devices proliferated amid the COVID pandemic. Each successful cyber breach cost a company \$3.6 million, the report noted. It is the first Global Cybersecurity Outlook flagship report released by the WEF. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- First "Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2022" report – released by the WEF
- Ransomware attacks rose 151% in 2021 (average - 270 cyber-attacks per organisation)
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

494. On January 22, Union Minister of Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah released India's first "District Good Governance Index", prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The DGGI represents Next Generation Administrative Reform in benchmarking governance at district level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Amit Shah – released India's first "District Good Governance Index" in J&K (prepared by DARPG + J&K Govt)
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

495. On January 24, Transparency International ranked India at 85 in its "2021 Corruption Perception Index" report. The index ranks 180 countries uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index (CPI), where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Transparency International gave India a CPI score of 40. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Corruption Perception Index – released by Transparency International ([Berlin, Germany](#))
- India – 85th (score - 40) | 1st – Denmark, Finland & New Zealand (score - 88)

496. On January 25, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) released volume-2 of a 5-year roadmap and vision document for the electronics sector titled “\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026”. Mobile manufacturing is expected to cross US \$100 billion annual production - up from the current US \$30 billion. Also, the government committed nearly US \$17 billion over the next 6 years across four PLI Schemes - Semiconductor and Design, Smartphones, IT Hardware and Components. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY + ICEA = released a vision document titled “\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026”
- HQs of ICEA – New Delhi | Chairman – Pankaj Mohindroo
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

497. On January 24, Apple achieved the top spot with a total valuation of \$355.1 billion, according to Brandirectory. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the “Brand Finance Global 500” ranking. With this, Apple became the world’s most valuable brand for 2022. The report mentions that Apple’s brand value increased by 35% over last year. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Brand Finance Global 500” ranking – released by Brandirectory
- 1st – Apple (\$355.1 billion) | 2nd – Amazon (\$350.27 billion) | 3rd – Google (\$263.43 billion)

Amount & Agreements

498 On January 26, Dr. Ajai Chowdhry (HCL Founder & Chairman of FICCI Start-up Committee) announced the India-UAE VC Fund of \$150 million from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai. The VC Fund is a first of its kind to be set up in the UAE and it will bring investment opportunities to startups in India and the UAE. The Fund will also act as a catalyst for providing a process for developing early-stage startups in India and the UAE into viable global ventures and making them attain the unicorn level. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Ajai Chowdhry – announced India-UAE VC Fund of \$150 million from the India Pavilion at EXPO2020 Dubai
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

499. On January 25, The Digital University Kerala (DUK) joined hands with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), Thrissur, to set up India's 1st graphene innovation centre in the state. The Ministry of Electronics & IT sanctioned ₹86.41 Cr for this project. Tata Steel Ltd will be the industrial partner. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Digital University Kerala + C-MET = partnership to establish India's 1st graphene innovation centre in Kerala
- MeitY – sanctioned ₹86.41 Cr for this project
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

500. On January 28, India and France signed an MoU with a scope for cooperation in Health Research. The MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Institut Pasteur (France). CSIR and Institut Pasteur will jointly research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CSIR (India) + Institut Pasteur (France) = an MoU for cooperation in Health Research
- France – Paris – Euro | President – Emmanuel Macron | PM – Jean Castex



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