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

**January**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 12**

**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 12 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 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

**551.** On January 28, the Centre decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from the Israel government. Already, the Israel government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 States. Out of these 150 villages, 75 villages will be taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence. Also, recently 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel were completed. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Centre decided to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from Israel
- India & Israel – 30 years of diplomatic relations were completed recently
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett

**552.** On January 28, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the "AP Seva Portal 2.0" (Citizen Service Portal). This Portal is a one-stop digital platform for grievance redress and over 540 services can be used through this portal directly. All the applications can be approved online and the officials can also provide certificates and documents online with digital signature. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy – launched the "AP Seva Portal 2.0" (Citizen Service Portal)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

**553.** On January 27, The drug regulator granted Serum Institute of India's Covishield & Bharat Biotech's Covaxin Covid-19 vaccines "Conditional Market Authorisation" for India's adult population. Since January 2021, these vaccines are available under "Emergency Use Authorisation" (EUA), under which 140.89 Cr doses of Covishield & 22.95 Cr doses of Covaxin have been administered so far. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Covishield & Covaxin – were given "Conditional Market Authorisation" for India's adult population
- Covishield – manufactured by SII | Covaxin – manufactured by Bharat Biotech
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V G Somani

**554.** On January 30, One of the most successful franchises of Indian Premier League (IPL), Chennai Super Kings (CSK), became India's first Sports Unicorn with its market cap having touched a high of Rs 7,600 Cr and its share in the Grey market trading in the Rs 210-225 price band. The Mahendra Singh Dhoni-led CSK, which won its 4<sup>th</sup> IPL title in Dubai last year, now has a market cap more than its parent entity, India Cements. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- CSK – became India's first Unicorn Sports Enterprise with its market cap of Rs 7,600 Cr
- CSK Captain – MS Dhoni | Owner – India Cements | Head Coach – Stephen Fleming

**555.** In January 2022, South Maubuang village of Aizawl district in Mizoram was declared a model ODF Plus village, having fulfilled all the criteria as per 'SBM-G Phase II' guidelines. This village emerged as the first ODF Plus village in the State of Mizoram. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- South Maubuang – became the first ODF Plus village in Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

**556.** On January 31, Punjab Chief Electoral Officer unveiled its poll mascot Shera depicting a lion to spread voter awareness among voters on the importance of their votes. The mascot is dressed in traditional Punjabi attire and represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab. The mascot is promoted under the 'Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project' to increase voter awareness and promote ethical voting. The mascot was developed by Jasvinder Singh and Rahul Attreja, the designers engaged from C-DAC, Mohali, for the SVEEP project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Punjab – unveiled its poll mascot 'Shera' to spread voter awareness among voters under "SVEEP" project
- SVEEP – Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation
- Punjab: Capital – Chandigarh | CM – Charanjit Singh Channi | Governor – Banwarilal Purohit

**557.** On January 31, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin administered the pledge against untouchability to Ministers, senior officials and staff to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The pledge is taken every year by the officials as a mark of respect to Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on January 30. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tamil Nadu – the pledge against untouchability to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

**558.** On January 31, Madhya Pradesh tourism department will construct a geo park in Lamheta. It will be India's 1st geological park. Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 Cr. GSI sanctioned Rs 1.30 Cr for the formation of Geopark. UNESCO has also recognised Lamheta as geo heritage site. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's 1st geological park – will be developed in Lamheta, Madhya Pradesh
- GSI sanctioned Rs 1.30 Cr for the formation of Geopark
- HQs of GSI – Kolkata, West Bengal | Director General – Rajendra Singh Garkhal
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

**559.** In January 2022, Manipur received freight train connectivity for the first time in 75 years. It will enhance the state's commerce and connectivity across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manipur – received freight train connectivity for the first time in 75 years
- Manipur: Capital – Imphal | CM – N. Biren Singh | Governor – La. Ganesan



## International Affairs

**560.** On January 27, Netherlands' King Willem-Alexander officially opened the "Ijmuiden Sea Lock" (Zeesluis Ijmuiden), which is claimed to be the world's largest sea or canal lock system. It is 500-metre long and 70-metre wide. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Netherlands – opened the world's largest sea or canal lock system called "Ijmuiden Sea Lock" (Zeesluis Ijmuiden)
- [Netherlands – Amsterdam – Euro](#) | [PM – Mark Rutte](#)

**561.** On January 31, World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat named "The Jet" is all set to be manufactured and launched in Dubai. Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate "The Jet". Dubai launched the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050, under which it aims to produce 75% of its energy requirements from clean sources by 2050. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat named "The Jet" – to be manufactured & launched in Dubai, UAE
- "The Jet" will be manufactured & operated by = THE JET ZeroEmission + Zenith Marine Services + DWYN
- [UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham](#) | [President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

**562.** On January 28, Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) 9-year plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef to prevent the vast network of corals from being removed from UNESCO's World Heritage list. A recent study found bleaching had affected 98% of the reef since 1998, leaving just a fraction of it untouched. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Australia – announced the Aus\$1 billion (US\$700 million) 9-year plan to protect the Great Barrier Reef
- World's largest Coral Reef system – Australia's Great Barrier Reef – a UNESCO World Heritage
- [HQs of UNESCO – Paris, France](#) | [Director-General – Audrey Azoulay](#) | [Founded in – 1945](#)
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Scott Morrison](#)

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**563.** On January 28, Banks have finalised plans to transfer 15 Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts worth ₹50,000 Cr to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. (NARCL), or the 'bad bank' set up to help resolve the stress by the end of this financial year 2021-22 (March 2022), announced by Dinesh Khara, Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI). [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Banks finalised plans to transfer 15 NPA accounts worth ₹50,000 Cr to NARCL or Bad Bank



**564.** On January 31, the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), released the (i) First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving and Capital Formation for FY 2020-21, along with (ii) Second Revised Estimates for FY 2019-20 and (iii) Third Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19 (with Base Year 2011-12). The Indian economy contracted by 6.6 % in 2020-21 as compared to growth of 3.7% during 2019-20. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSO (under Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation) released: (with Base Year 2011-12)
  - First Revised Estimates of National Income, Consumption Expenditure, Saving & Capital Formation for FY 2020-21
  - Second Revised Estimates for FY 2019-20
  - Third Revised Estimates for FY 2018-19
- Indian Economy (GDP): -6.6% in 2020-21 | 3.7% in 2019-20
- NSO comes under – Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoS I/C – Rao Inderjit Singh)
- HQs of NSO – New Delhi | Chairperson – Bimal Kumar Roy

**565.** On January 31, State Bank of India (SBI) entered into an agreement with Tata Power Solar Systems for financing of solar projects. The SBI also set up a dedicated centralized processing cell - “Surya Shakti Cell”, at the Ballard Estate in Mumbai with an objective to provide a new direction to solar projects financing in India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- SBI + Tata Power Solar Systems = an agreement for financing of Solar Projects
- SBI also set up a dedicated centralized processing cell - “Surya Shakti Cell”
- HQs of Tata Power Solar Systems – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Ashish Khanna
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**566.** On January 31, Metal and mining giant Vedanta Ltd tied up a facility of ₹8,000 Cr with Union Bank of India to take over majority of the syndicated facility. During 2020 amidst COVID pandemic, Vedanta Limited had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10,000 Cr with SBI at a running cost of 10.5%. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Vedanta Ltd + UBI = tied up a syndicated facility of ₹8,000 Cr (in Jan 2022)
- Vedanta Ltd + SBI = tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10,000 Cr (in 2020)

**567.** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) plans to add 30 Cr users to its Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and increase the number of transactions to 100 Cr a day in 3-5 years. This is more than a doubling of the current base of 25 Cr users and a manifold increase in the number of transactions from the current level of 450 Cr a month. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NPCI plans to add 30 Cr users to its UPI & increase the number of transactions to 100 Cr a day in 3-5 years
- Current base of Users – 25 Cr | Current number of transactions – 450 Cr a month



**568.** On January 31, Banks' non-food credit increased to 9.3% in December 2021 from 6.6% in December 2020, according to the RBI's Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit data for December 2021. Credit to Agriculture and Allied activities continued to perform well, registering a robust growth of 14.5% in December 2021. Moreover, Loans to industry improved noticeably to 7.6% in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI's Sectoral Deployment of Bank Credit data for December 2021:
  - Banks' non-food credit increased to 9.3%
  - Credit to Agriculture and Allied activities registered a growth of 14.5%
  - Loans to industry increased to 7.6%
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

## **Sports & Games**

**569.** On January 27, Tata Motors extended its partnership with the Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament for the fourth year, and will be this year's title sponsor. The tournament is South Asia's only ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) tournament and India's oldest international sporting event. It is scheduled from 31 January to 6 February at the Balewadi stadium, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Motors – will be the title sponsor for tennis tournament "Maharashtra Open 2022"
- 'Maharashtra Open' – India's oldest International Sporting Event
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- HQs of Tata Motors – Mumbai, MH | Non-Executive Director & Chairman – Natarajan Chandrasekaran

**570.** In January 2022, Odisha hosted "2022 Odisha Open", the inaugural edition of a BWF international badminton tournament. Over 300 players from 18 countries will participate in the tournament. The 2022 Odisha Open is a "BWF Super 100" tournament and it will take place at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack from January 25 to January 30. 14-year-old badminton player Unnati Hooda became the youngest-ever Indian to win a BWF Super 100 tournament by winning the Odisha Open 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Odisha – hosted 1<sup>st</sup> "Odisha Open Badminton Tournament" at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Cuttack
- Unnati Hooda – became the youngest-ever Indian to "BWF Super 100" tournament
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

**571.** On January 29, Netherlands batter Ben Cooper (Benjamin Nicolas Cooper) announced his retirement from International Cricket at the age of 29. The left-hand batter has featured in 70 international matches for the Netherlands, since making his debut back in 2013. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Ben Cooper (Netherlands) – retired from International Cricket



**572.** On January 30, Rafael Nadal beat Daniil Medvedev in the “Australia Open” final to win a men’s record 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Slam title. While Men’s Double title was won by Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis and Nicholas Hilmy Kyrgios. Recently, Ashleigh Barty won Women’s Single title at the “Australian Open 2022” by defeating Danielle Collins. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rafael Nadal ([Spain - Tennis](#)) – won men’s single title at the “Australian Open 2022” (his 21<sup>st</sup> Grand Slam title)
- Ashleigh Barty ([Australia - Tennis](#)) – won women’s single title at the “Australian Open 2022”

**573.** On January 28, Veteran India hockey goalkeeper P. R. Sreejesh won the prestigious “World Games Athlete of the Year” for his performances in 2021, becoming only the second Indian to receive the accolade. In 2020, Indian women’s hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win this honour. Sreejesh was the only Indian nominated and was recommended by the International Hockey Federation (FIH). In the FIH Stars Awards in October 2021, Sreejesh was named the “Goalkeeper of the Year 2021”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- P. R. Sreejesh ([Hockey](#)) – became 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian to win the prestigious “World Games Athlete of the Year Award”
- 1<sup>st</sup> Indian – Rani Rampal ([Hockey](#))
- P. R. Sreejesh – also named the “Goalkeeper of the Year 2021” at ‘FIH Stars Awards’ (in Oct 2021)

**574.** On January 30, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana to clinch the title at the “Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022”. It was Magnus' 8<sup>th</sup> title. While Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12<sup>th</sup> and penultimate round. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Magnus Carlsen ([Norway - Chess](#)) – won his 8<sup>th</sup> title at “Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022” (defeating Fabiano Caruana)

## Science & Technology

**575.** On January 28, IIT Jodhpur researchers developed an automated Artificial Intelligence (AI) solution for COVID-19 prediction from chest X-rays. It is a deep learning-based algorithm called ‘COMiT-Net’, which learns the abnormalities present in the chest X-ray images to differentiate between a COVID-19 affected lung and a non-COVID affected lung. The research is part of the ‘RAKSHAK’ project under NM-CPS DST and iHuB Drishti at IIT Jodhpur. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Jodhpur – developed an algorithm called COMiT-Net for COVID-19 prediction from chest X-rays
- [Rajasthan: Capital – Jaipur | CM – Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra](#)
- [Director of IIT Jodhpur – Santanu Chaudhury](#)

**576.** In January 2022, California-based Roswell Biotechnologies developed the first scalable Molecular Electronics Chip in peer-review paper. The molecular electronics platform consists of a programmable semiconductor chip with a scalable sensor array architecture. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Roswell Biotechnologies ([US](#)) – developed the first scalable Molecular Electronics Chip

**577.** On January 31, Scientists from IIT Kharagpur developed a portable, user-friendly, and non-invasive device for detecting oral cancer in resource-constrained clinical settings. The research has been published recently in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), USA. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IIT Kharagpur – developed a portable, user-friendly & non-invasive device for detecting Oral Cancer
- Director of IIT Kharagpur – Virendra Kumar Tewari

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**578.** On January 27, G. Balasubramanian was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- G. Balasubramanian – appointed the next High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Nigeria – Abuja – Naira | President – Muhammadu Buhari

**579.** On January 30, Italian President Sergio Mattarella was elected to a second term in the office. Mattarella gained a broad majority of 759 votes in favor from a total of 983. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Sergio Mattarella – re-elected as the President of Italy (2<sup>nd</sup> term)
- Italy – Rome – Euro | President – Sergio Mattarella | PM – Mario Draghi

**580.** On January 30, the tenure of M. R. Kumar, the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), was again extended by 1 year till March 2023. In June 2021, his tenure was extended for a period of 9 months till March 13, 2022. The extension is aimed at a smooth rollout of the LIC's proposed IPO. The government owns a 100% stake in LIC. Once listed, it is likely to become India's biggest company by market capitalisation with an estimated valuation of Rs 8-10 lakh Cr. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. R. Kumar – tenure extended as Chairman of LIC – by 9 months (till March 2023)
- HQs of LIC – Mumbai | Chairman – M. R. Kumar | Founded in – 1956 | Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”

**581.** On January 31, Antonio Costa was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Portugal with majority of 41.7% of the vote & gained 117 seats in the 230-seat parliament. He has been associated with Socialist Party. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Antonio Costa – re-elected as the Prime Minister of Portugal
- Portugal – Lisbon – Euro | President – Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa



# Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

**582.** On January 29, Telugu short film, 'Street Student' by Akula Sandeep was selected for the first prize in the 7<sup>th</sup> Short Film Award Competition organised by the National Human Rights Comments (NHRC). The film shows the story of a street urchin to send across a strong message on right to education. 'Karfew' by Romi Meitei was selected for the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize. It is in Meiteilon language. Marathi short film, 'Munghyar' by Nilesh Ambedkar was selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- NHRC's 7<sup>th</sup> Short Film Awards: 1<sup>st</sup> – Street Student (Telugu) | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karfew (Meiteilon) | 3<sup>rd</sup> – Munghyar (Marathi)
- HQs of NHRC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Arun Kumar Mishra | Established in – 1993

# Schemes & Initiatives

**583.** In January 2022, Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) notified the "Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector - Phase-II" for providing assistance to Common Technology Development and Services Infrastructure. The scheme has a financial outlay of Rs 1207 Cr (Budgetary support of Rs 975 Cr & Industry Contribution of Rs 232 Cr). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Heavy Industries Mini. – notified "Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in Indian Capital Goods Sector - Phase-II"
- Financial outlay of the scheme – Rs 1207 Cr (Rs 975 Cr Budgetary support + Rs 232 Cr Industry Contribution)
- Ministry of Heavy Industries: Mahendra Nath Pandey | Constituency – Chandauli, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Heavy Industries: Krishan Pal

# Important Days & Dates

**584.** 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (WNTDD) was celebrated on January 30. To mark this event, WHO organized a virtual event. The day provides an opportunity to focus on the millions of people who have limited or no access to prevention, treatment and care services. NTDs are a group of preventable diseases which include Lymphatic Filariasis (Hathipaon), Visceral Leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar), leprosy (Kusht-Rog), dengue, chikungunya, snakebite, rabies etc. The theme for 2022 was "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases". [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- January 30 – World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day – by WHO
- 2022's theme – "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases"
- HQs of WHO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Tedros Adhanom | Member Countries – 194 | Founded in – 1948



**585.** The “World Leprosy Day” is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. This year, it was observed on January 30 to raise public awareness of leprosy. World Leprosy Day was established in 1954. The theme this year is “United for Dignity”. Leprosy is a disease that is caused by bacillus Mycobacterium leprae. A Norwegian physician named ‘Gerhard Henrik Armauer Hansen’ proved that the disease is caused by bacteria and is not hereditary. Hence, it was also named “Hansen’s Disease”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 30 (last Sunday of January) – World Leprosy Day (since – 1954)
- 2022’s theme – “United for Dignity”

**586.** PM Narendra Modi addressed the 30<sup>th</sup> National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022. The theme of the programme is “She The Change Maker”, aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- January 31 – 30<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of National Commission for Women (NCW)
- Theme of the programme – “She The Change Maker”

**587.** 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**

**588.** On January 24, Kiran Bedi, India’s first woman IPS officer and former Lt Governor of Puducherry, has written a book. The book is titled “Fearless Governance”. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Fearless Governance” book – authored by Kiran Bedi

**589.** On January 18, Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha released a book titled “Prakrtik, Vaidik avam Jaivik Kheti- Graameen Udyamita Ka Naya Swaroop”. The book is published by ‘Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan’ as a souvenir after the successful conduct of the Annual Festival and foundation day celebrations. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Manoj Sinha – released a book titled “Prakrtik, Vaidik avam Jaivik Kheti- Graameen Udyamita Ka Naya Swaroop”
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha



## Obituaries

**590.** On January 30, Padma Shri Baba Iqbal Singh, who was 96-years-old, passed away. His name was listed for receiving the 2022 Padma Shri award for his social work. In 2018, he was also awarded with Shiromani Panth Ratan by Takht Sri Harmandar Ji Patna Sahib, a title of honour and distinction for the excellent services to the Sikh community. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Baba Iqbal Singh – Padma Shri awardee 2022 (Social Work) – passed away

**591.** On January 31, senior advocate and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Rupinder Singh Suri passed away. He was appointed the ASG in June 2020. He also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association. He also served as standing counsel in the Supreme Court for Punjab. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Rupinder Singh Suri – Senior advocate & Additional Solicitor General – passed away
- Solicitor General of India – Tushar Mehta

## Meetings, Conferences & Summits

**592.** On January 28, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) co-chaired the meeting. The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries and dialogue partner countries. ADGMIN Meeting approved the 'India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022'. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Devusinh Chauhan – co-chaired the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting with India
- Chairmanship of ASEAN 2022 – Cambodia | Secretariat of ASEAN – Jakarta, Indonesia | Members – 10
- Ministry of Communications: Ashwini Vaishnaw | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Communications: Devusinh Chauhan

## Ranks, Reports & Surveys

**593.** On January 28, World Gold Council released 'Gold Demand Trends 2021' report. According to the report, global gold demand rose 10% in 2021. In the October-December quarter in 2021, demand for gold reached its highest quarterly level since the second quarter in 2019 and an increase of almost 50% year-on-year. The use of gold in the technology sector in 2021 increased 9%. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- "Gold Demand Trends 2021" report – released by World Gold Council
- Global gold demand rose 10% in 2021
- HQs of WGC – London | CEO – David Tait | MD (India) – Somasundaram PR



**594.** On January 28, Maharashtra topped India's list of the number of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) owned by Entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes with as many as 96,805 enterprises. Tamil Nadu & Rajasthan occupied second and third position, according to the data provided by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Ministry of MSME regarding the number of SC-owned enterprises covered under the Udyam system of registration. The proportion of enterprises owned by SC entrepreneurs in the overall national tally of MSMEs is 6%. The Udyam system of registration came into force on July 1, 2020 and the last date to register on Udyam was extended up to March 31, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Maharashtra – topped India's list of MSMEs owned by SC Entrepreneurs | 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tamil Nadu, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rajasthan
- Udyam system of registration came into force on – July 1, 2020 | last date to register on Udyam – March 31, 2022

## Amount & Agreements

**595.** On January 31, Tata Steel Long Products will buy 93.71% stake of Neelachal Ispat Nigam for ₹12,100 Cr. NINL is a joint venture of 4 CPSEs – MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and 2 Odisha government PSUs – OMC and IPICOL. NINL has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 MT, at Kalinganagar, Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tata Steel Long Products – to buy 93.71% stake of Neelachal Ispat Nigam for ₹12,100 Cr
- HQs of Tata Steel Ltd – Mumbai | MD & CEO – T. V. Narendran



## Ordinance, Bills and Acts

**596.** In January 2022, the United States House of Representatives unveiled the ambitious “America Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology, and Economic Strength Act of 2022”, or the “America COMPETES Act of 2022”, which proposes to open up new vistas for talented individuals from across the world with a new start-up visa. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- US – unveiled the “America COMPETES Act of 2022” for talented individuals from across the world
- COMPETES – Creating Opportunities for Manufacturing, Pre-Eminence in Technology & Economic Strength
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46<sup>th</sup> President – Joe Biden | 49<sup>th</sup> VP – Kamala Harris

## Acquisitions & Mergers

**597.** On January 31, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd, acquired a 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL). NVVN was formed by NTPC Ltd in 2002, as its wholly owned subsidiary. NVVN holds Category ‘I’ power trading license in terms of latest Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations. The PXIL was incorporated on February 20, 2008. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN) – acquired a 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)
- NVVN – a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd
- HQs of NTPC – New Delhi | CMD – Gurdeep Singh | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of PXIL – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Prabhajit Kumar Sarkar

## **MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships**

**598.** On January 27, the Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA) signed an MoU with IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) to explore opportunities for the recruitment of naval veterans within the company. Through the MoU, the INPA will identify a pool of ex-servicemen/dependents candidates for relevant roles as per standards of IIFL HFL. The primary aim of the INPA is to enhance second career opportunities for retired Indian Navy personnel in private sector. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- INPA + IIFL HFL = an MoU for the recruitment of Naval Veterans within the company
- HQs of IIFL Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Nirmal Jain | MD – Venkataraman Rajamani

**599.** On January 29, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) inked an MoU with Goa Shipyard to provide its techno-financial expertise to set up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarters of GSL in Vasco da Gama, Goa. IREDA and GSL are under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Defence, respectively. The Government of India aims to produce 40 GW of solar power through rooftop solar by the end of 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IREDA + Goa Shipyard = to set up a rooftop solar power project at the headquarters of GSL
- HQs of Goa Shipyard – Vasco da Gama, Goa | CMD – Bharat Bhushan Nagpal
- HQs of IREDA – New Delhi | CMD – Pradip Kumar Das

**600.** On January 27, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Hyperion Global Group, LLC, a United States based infrastructure telecommunication distribution company, entered into a contract to develop, manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for the US market. BEL will manufacture and supply IoT devices to Hyperion and Hyperion will provide advanced connectivity solutions to the customers. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BEL + Hyperion Global Group = a contract to manufacture & supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for US market
- HQs of BEL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CMD – Venkateswara Gowtama Mannava







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