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

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 2
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 5th February 2022

[Attempt Test No. 2 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

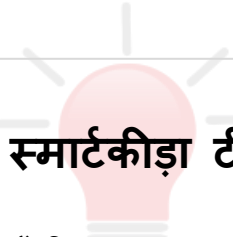
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial 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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International Affairs

51. In January 2022, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan launched the public version of the country's first-ever "National Security Policy (NSP)" for 2022-2026. The document emphasises the "non-negotiable" focus on defence and territorial integrity of Pakistan, strengthening space-based technology and its application, and combating hybrid warfare through enhancing information and cyber security. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pakistan – launched the public version of the country's first-ever "National Security Policy (NSP)" for 2022-2026
- [Pakistan – Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee](#) | [PM – Imran Khan](#) | [President – Arif Alvi](#)

52. On January 4, India and Japan established diplomatic relations on 28 April 1952. In 2022, the two countries celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations by launching special logos - a Peacock and a Green Pheasant, which are national birds of India and Japan respectively. The Green Pheasant forms the numeral 7 with its tail and the Peacock forms the numeral 0. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Japan & India – celebrated the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations
- Japan & India – launched special logos - Green Pheasant (7) & Peacock (0) (their national birds respectively)
- [Japan – Tokyo – Yen](#) | [PM – Fumio Kishida](#)

53. On January 4, a new variant of Covid-19 named 'IHU' (B.1.640.2) was discovered in France. This new variant was discovered by the academics at institute IHU Mediterranee Infection. According to the researchers, the new variant contains 46 mutations - more than Omicron. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new variant of Covid-19 named 'IHU' (B.1.640.2) – discovered in France
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)

54. On 1 January 2022, France, for the first time in 14 years, took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) from Slovenia. France will hold the presidency of the Council of the EU for 6 months from 1 January to 30 June 2022. French President Emmanuel Macron laid out France's priorities during its presidency by encapsulating the motto - "Recovery, Power and Belonging". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- France – took over the presidency of the 'Council of European Union' for 6 months (Jan to June 2022)
- France took over the Presidency – from Slovenia
- [France – Paris – Euro](#) | [President – Emmanuel Macron](#) | [PM – Jean Castex](#)

55. On January 5, Antigua & Barbuda became the 102nd country to join Gurugram-based International Solar Alliance (ISA). The ISA was launched by India & France in 2015 to facilitate energy access, security & transition. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Antigua & Barbuda – became the 102nd country to join the ISA
- High Commissioner of India to Antigua & Barbuda – K. J. Srinivasa
- [Antigua & Barbuda – Saint John's – Eastern Caribbean dollar](#) | [PM – Gaston Browne](#)
- ISA was launched in 2015 at COP21 – by India & France
- HQs of ISA – Gurugram, Haryana | [DG – Ajay Mathur](#) | [Member countries – 102](#)



Ranks, Reports & Surveys

56. The National Tiger Conservation Authority recorded 126 tiger deaths in 2021, the highest since it began collecting the data for the same a decade ago. Madhya Pradesh at 44, the maximum tiger deaths is followed by 26 in Maharashtra and 14 in Karnataka. Tigers are now globally listed as 'Endangered' on the International Union for the conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of threatened species. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- National Tiger Conservation Authority recorded 126 tiger deaths in 2021
- Highest deaths state-wise: 1st – Madhya Pradesh (44), 2nd – Maharashtra (26), 3rd – Karnataka (14)
- Tigers – listed as 'Endangered' on IUCN's Red List

57. In order to secure consumer internet of things (IoT) devices, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, released a report "Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)" as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices. As per the projections, there may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026. Out of this approximately 20% will be on cellular technologies. As per the 'National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018' released by Department of Telecommunications (DoT), an Eco-system is to be created for 5 billion connected devices by 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)" report – by Telecommunication Engineering Centre
- There may be 26.4 billion IoT devices in service globally by 2026

Appointments & Resignations

58. On January 3, Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announced his resignation amid political deadlock and widespread pro-democracy protests. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Abdalla Hamdok – resigned from the post of PM of Sudan
- Sudan – Khartoum – Sudanese Pound

59. Indian-origin Atul Keshap was appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) effective from January 5, 2022. Atul Keshap replaced Nisha Desai Biswal for this post. Keshap most recently served in New Delhi as United States Charge d'Affaires to India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Atul Keshap – appointed as the President of the US-India Business Council (USIBC)
- HQs of USIBC – Washington, D.C., US | President – Nisha Desai Biswal



Science & Technology

60. South Korea's first indigenously produced space launch vehicle namely "KSLV-II Nuri" rocket failed due to a loose helium tank. The mission failed because the third-stage engine stopped burning 46 seconds earlier than scheduled. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "KSLV-II Nuri" rocket – South Korea's first indigenously produced space launch vehicle (SLV)
- South Korea – Seoul – Korean Republic won | President – Moon Jae-in

61. On January 2, Researchers from SNM College Maliankara, the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, and the Payyanur College have reported two new plant species from the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats regions in Thiruvananthapuram and Wayanad districts of Kerala. They are christened 'Fimbristylis sunilii' and 'Neanotis prabhuii', and the findings were published in journal Phytotaxa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Fimbristylis sunilii' & 'Neanotis prabhuii' two new plant species – discovered in Western Ghats regions in Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Sports & Games

62. India won a record 8th Under-19 Asia Cup title in Dubai, UAE, by thrashing Sri Lanka by nine wickets. India's win was orchestrated by spinners Vicky Ostwal and Kaushal Tambe and opener Angkrish Raghuvanshi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – won a record 8th 'Under-19 Asia Cup' title in Dubai, UAE
- India U-19 Cricket Team Captain – Yash Dhull

63. In January 2022, Sri Lanka's opening batter, Danushka Gunathilaka, decided to retire from Test cricket at the age of 30 to focus on the white-ball formats. Before this, Bhanuka Rajapaksa had also announced his retirement from international cricket. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Danushka Gunathilaka (Sri Lanka) – retired from Test cricket
- Bhanuka Rajapaksa (Sri Lanka) – retired from Test cricket
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksaes Ltd"
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

64. In January 2022, the All India Sports Council of the Deaf (AISCD) got the approval from the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) to host the 1st "World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship" in Kerala from January 10 to 20, 2023. A minimum 8 countries are expected to take part in the championship. AISCD is the only Centre-recognised national sports federation for the deaf. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- AISCD will host the 1st “World Deaf T20 Cricket Championship” in Kerala in 2023
- HQs of IOC – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach | Established in – 1894
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

65. In January 2022, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of “Major Dhyan Chand Sports University” in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. The University will be established at Salawa and Kaili villages on the outskirts of the Sardhana town of the district at an estimated cost of about Rs 700 Cr. It will have the capacity of training 1,080 sportspersons including 540 female and 540 male ones. The sports university will be equipped with modern and state of the art sports infrastructure for football, basketball, volleyball, handball, kabaddi, shooting, squash, gymnastics, weightlifting, archery, canoeing and kayaking, among other facilities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Modi – laid the foundation stone of “Major Dhyan Chand Sports University in Meerut, UP (Cost – Rs 700 Cr)
- Capacity – to train 1,080 sportspersons (540 female & 540 male)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

66. On January 3, Union Minister of State (I/C) Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the “PM’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration” portal for the year 2021-2022. The Minister also added that the prize money for 2021 was also doubled from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization. The Period of consideration is April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021. The total number of Awards in 2021 would be 18. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – launched the “PM’s Award for Excellence in Public Administration” portal for 2021-2022
- 2021’s Prize money was doubled from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh | Total number of Awards in 2021 – 18
- Period of consideration – April 1, 2019 to Dec 31, 2021

17. On January 4, the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology and the first world record of 2022 was achieved by one of India’s top numerologists JC Chaudhry. The initiative was organised by CNPL (Chaudhry Numero Pvt Ltd) and the Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- JC Chaudhry – won the first-ever Guinness World Record in Numerology & the first World Record of 2022

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

68. On January 3, Goods & Services Tax (GST) collection of Odisha touched a collection of Rs 4080.14 Cr during December 2021 as against Rs 2860.20 Cr collected during December 2020 registering a growth of 43%. With this, Odisha topped among the major states in GST Collection for the 4th consecutive month. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Odisha – topped in GST Collection with a collection of Rs 4080.14 Cr in Dec 2021 (Growth of 43%)
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal

69. On January 4, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for ‘Small-Value Offline Transactions’ in the digital mode. Offline payments can be made using any channel or instrument like cards, wallets or mobile devices, but they shall be made in proximity, or in the face-to-face mode only. The upper limit of an offline payment transaction shall be Rs 200. The total limit for offline transactions on a payment instrument shall be Rs 2,000 at any point in time. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released a framework for ‘Small-Value Offline Transactions’ in the digital mode
- The upper limit of an offline payment transaction – Rs 200 | Total limit at any point in time – Rs 2,000
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

70. India’s merchandise exports in December 2021 surged 37% on an annual basis to \$37.29 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure, even as the trade deficit widened to \$21.99 billion. Imports in December also rose by 38% to \$59.27 billion. With \$300 billion in the first 9 months (from April to Dec) of FY2021-22, India is on track to achieve its target of merchandise exports of total \$400 billion in this fiscal year. India saw \$179 billion services exports in the first 9 months of this fiscal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India’s merchandise exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 37% to \$37.29 billion (highest-ever monthly figure)
- India’s imports exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38% to \$59.27 billion
- India’s target to achieve merchandise exports during FY2021-22 – \$400 billion (\$300 billion achieved in first 9 months)

71. On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are too big to fail. Private sector lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank fall under bucket 1, while SBI falls under bucket 3. They are classified into total 5 buckets, according to their importance to the National Economy. In order to be listed as a D-SIB, a bank needs to have assets that exceed 2% of the national GDP. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released a list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs): SBI, ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank
- Criteria for D-SIBs: Assets of the bank should be greater than 2% of National GDP
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935

72. On January 4, the RBI notified the “Market Making Scheme” to promote retail participation in Government Securities (G-Secs) by providing prices/quotes to Retail Direct Gilt Account Holders (RDGAH) enabling them to buy and sell securities under the ‘RBI Retail Direct Scheme’. PM Narendra Modi had launched the ‘RBI Retail Direct Scheme’ on November 12, 2021 to provide one-stop access to facilitate investment in government securities by retail investors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI introduced the “Market Making Scheme” to promote retail participation in G-Secs
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



73. On January 5, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that Airtel Payments Bank Ltd (APBL) has been included in the Second Schedule to the 'Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934' which means that APBL has been categorised as a Scheduled Bank. With this, APBL became the 4th payments bank after India Post Payments Bank Ltd (IPPBL), Fino Payments Bank Ltd (FPBL) and Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) to receive Scheduled Bank status. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Airtel Payments Bank – received status of 'Scheduled Bank' from the RBI (after IPPBL, FPBL & PPBL)
- Currently, Number of Payments Banks in India – 6 | Number of Scheduled Payments Banks in India – 4
- HQs of APB – New Delhi | CEO – **Anubrata Biswas** | **Founded in – 2017**
- Airtel Payments Bank – first to receive a Payments Bank license from the RBI

74. On January 5, the RBI released Eligibility Criteria for entities to be categorised as specified users of Credit Information Companies (CICs). A company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India, having a net worth of at least ₹2 Cr, will be eligible to be categorised as Specified User of CICs. Currently, there are four CICs - Credit Information Bureau (India) Ltd (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Pvt Ltd, Experian Credit Information Company of India Pvt Ltd and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Pvt Ltd. These companies are governed by the "Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI released Eligibility Criteria for entities to be categorised as specified users of **Credit Information Companies (CICs)**:
A specified user should be a company incorporated in India or a Statutory Corporation established in India
A specified user should have net worth of at least ₹2 Cr
- Currently, there are four CICs which are governed by "Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005"
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – **Shaktikanta Das (25th)** | **Established in – 1st April, 1935**

75. In January 2021, ICICI Bank launched the facility to pay Custom Duty online, to benefit both retail and corporate customers. Corporate customers can pay customs duty through the bank's "Corporate Internet Banking (CIB)" and "InstaBIZ" mobile app, while retail customers can do so through the bank's "Retail Internet Banking" platform. Customers can make online payment by selecting ICICI Bank from the list of banks on the website of the Indian Customs Electronic Gateway (ICEGATE). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Bank – launched the facility to pay Custom Duty online for Retail & Corporate customers
- HQs of ICICI Bank – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – **Sandeep Bakhshi** | Taglines – "Hum Hain Na!" & "Khayal Apka"

76. On January 4, the State Bank of India increased the limit on IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) transactions from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The motive behind the move was to encourage customers towards digital banking. However, the proposed service charges for this new slab (Rs 2,00,000 to Rs 5,00,000) is Rs 20 + GST. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – increased the IMPS transactions limit from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh (charges for new slab = Rs 20 + GST)
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – **Dinesh Kumar Khara**
- MDs – **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** | **Ashwani Bhatia** | **Ashwini Kumar Tewari** | **Swaminathan Janakiraman**



77. On January 4, State Bank of India (SBI) took its next major step in its ongoing digital transformation journey with an investment of \$20 million in Pine Labs. In the recent years, SBI has been heavily investing in digital transformation with large initiatives like SBI YONO, SBI InTouch, SBI Buddy, CRM, etc. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SBI – to invest \$20 million in Pine Labs
- HQs of Pine Labs – Noida, Uttar Pradesh | CEO – B. Amrish Rao
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

78. Effective January 1, Food aggregators like Swiggy and Zomato will have to collect and deposit tax at 5% rate when order is placed through these online platforms. Earlier, restaurants registered under GST were collecting and depositing the tax. Also, cab aggregators like Uber and Ola will have to collect 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) for booking 2 and 3 wheeler vehicles. Footwear irrespective of prices will attract 12% tax. The GST law has been amended to allow GST officers to visit premises to recover tax dues without any prior show-cause notice. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- As per amended GST law effective January 1,2022 :
Food aggregators will have to collect & deposit tax at 5% rate if order is placed through online platforms
Cab aggregators will have to collect 5% GST for booking 2 & 3 wheeler vehicles
Footwear will attract 12% tax

- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

79. GST revenue collected in December 2021 was over Rs 1.29 trillion or Rs 1.29 lakh Cr (CGST Rs 22,578 Cr, SGST Rs 28,658 Cr, IGST Rs 69,155 Cr) & cess Rs 9,389 Cr. December 2021 GST revenue was 13% higher than the same month last year. The average monthly gross GST collection for the third quarter (October-December) of the FY22 was Rs 1.30 lakh Cr against the average monthly collection of Rs 1.10 trillion and Rs 1.15 trillion in the first and second quarter, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- GST revenue collected in December 2021 – Rs 1.29 trillion (lakh Cr) | 13% higher than December 2020
- Average monthly gross GST collection of Q3 of FY22 – Rs 1.30 trillion (Rs 1.30 Lakh Cr)
- HQs of CBIC – New Delhi | Chairperson – Vivek Johri | Founded in – 1964

National & States Affairs

80. On January 3, Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), launched “Nippon India Nifty Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)”. The minimum investment amount required for the New Fund Offer (NFO) was ₹1,000. Nippon India Nifty Auto ETF which is the first Auto sector ETF to be launched in India, will provide a simple and low-cost (in terms of total expense ratio) portfolio building block to participate in the auto sector. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd – launched India’s first “Auto Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)”
- HQs of Nippon Life India AML – Mumbai, Maharashtra



81. On January 3, Azure Power successfully commissioned its largest project, 600 MW Interstate Transmission System (ISTS) connected Solar Project, allocated by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI). The project is located in Bikaner, Rajasthan. This is the largest solar power project in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Azure Power – commissioned “600 MW Interstate Transmission System connected Solar Project” in Bikaner, Rajasthan
- This largest solar power project in India is allocated by – SECI
- HQs of SECI – New Delhi | Chairman – Jatindra Nath Swain | MD – Suman Sharma | Founded on – Sep 9, 2011
- HQs of Azure Power Global Ltd – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Ranjit Gupta | Founded in – 2008

82. On January 4, Himachal Pradesh became the first LPG enabled and smoke-free state in India due to ‘Ujjwala Scheme’ of the Central government and ‘Grihini Suvidha Yojana’ of the state government. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – became the first LPG enabled & smoke-free state in India
- ‘Ujjwala Scheme’ – Central government | ‘Grihini Suvidha Yojana’ – Himachal Pradesh government
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

83. On January 2, Mumbai launched India’s first water taxi service. The service was formally launched in January by PM Narendra Modi. The project is a joint initiative of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – launched India’s first water taxi service – in Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

84. On January 5, Power Ministry successfully completed 7 years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship “UJALA” programme. Launched in 2015, the “Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)” programme succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from ₹300-350 a bulb to ₹70-80. With UJALA, the cost of LED bulb came by down by 85%. The initiative evolved into the world’s largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 Cr LEDs distributed across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Power Ministry – successfully completed 7 years of distributing & selling LED lights under its “UJALA” programme
- UJALA – Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All | Launched in – 2015
- Ministry of Power and Ministry New & Renewable Energy: Raj Kumar Singh | Constituency – Arrah, Bihar
- MoS in Ministry of Power: Krishan Pal

85. On January 5, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75th Platinum Jubilee year of CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi. The Minister also dedicated “LED Photometry Laboratory” to the nation at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory. The Minister also released “Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BNDs)” to support the testing and calibration laboratories for quality assurance at par with the international standards. He also launched Certification Process for Indian Made Low-Volume PM2.5 Sampler to fight pollution. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released a Special Postage Stamp commemorating the 75th Platinum Jubilee year of CSIR-NPL
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – dedicated “LED Photometry Laboratory” to the nation at CSIR-NPL, New Delhi
- Dr. Jitendra Singh – released “Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravya (BNDs)” to support the laboratories
- [HQs of CSIR-NPL – New Delhi](#) | [Director – Venu Gopal Achanta](#)

86. On January 3, Ministry of Civil Aviation released a draft “National Air Sports Policy 2022 (NASP 2022)” for public feedback. The vision of the policy is to make India one of the top Air Sports Nations by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation – released a draft “National Air Sports Policy 2022 (NASP 2022)”
- Vision: To make India one of the top Air Sports Nations by 2030
- [Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia](#) | [Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh](#)

87. Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched its mega bond sale to raise \$3-5 billion from offshore investors. This is the largest-ever foreign currency bond sale by an Indian company and the year’s first fundraising from. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Industries – launched its mega bond sale to raise \$3-5 billion from offshore investors
- This is the largest-ever foreign currency bond sale by an Indian company
- [HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Mukesh Ambani](#) | [Founded in – 1973](#)

88. On January 5, the Smart Cities Mission, under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched “Smart cities and Academia towards Action & Research (SAAR)” program, a joint initiative of MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and 15 leading Indian academic institutions of India. The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects distributed across 47 Smart cities in India under the Smart City Mission.

[{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoHUA + NIUA + 15 Indian Academic Institutions = launched “SAAR” program
- SAAR – Smart cities and Academia towards Action & Research

89. After becoming extinct in 1952, Cheetah is all set to return to India as the central government launched an action plan under which 50 Cheetahs will be introduced in the next 5 years. Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the action plan at the 19th meeting of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The minister also released a ‘Water Atlas’, mapping all the water bodies in the tiger-bearing areas of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Bhupender Yadav – launched an Action Plan to introduce 50 Cheetahs in India in the next 5 years
- Bhupender Yadav – released a ‘Water Atlas’ mapping all the water bodies in the tiger-bearing areas of India

90. On January 6, Delhi Assembly passed an amendment Bill to the “Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1971”, recognizing ‘Takht Damdama Sahib’ as the 5th Takht of Sikhs. There are five Sikh Takhts, three in Punjab and one each in Maharashtra and Bihar. Takht Damdama Sahib is located in Bathinda, Punjab. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Delhi Assembly – passed an amendment Bill recognizing ‘Takht Damdama Sahib’ as the 5th Takht of Sikhs
- Takht Damdama Sahib – Located in Bathinda, Punjab
- New Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Anil Bajjal | Chief Secretary – Vijay Dev

91. In January 2022, Telangana launched the first of its kind mobile app “Urban Forest Parks” that gives information about the nearest theme based urban parks and forest area. The app provides all the information about the parks, including entry ticket fee, special features of the park, distance from the app user, route app etc. The app has been developed by ‘PamTen Software Solutions Private Limited’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Telangana – launched “Urban Forest Parks” mobile app | Developed by – PamTen Software Solutions
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan

92. In January 2022, Honasa Consumer Pvt. Ltd. (HCPL), the parent company of ‘Mamaearth’ became the 1st unicorn of 2022 & the latest entrant to the coveted club after it closed a \$52 million funding round led by Sequoia Global. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Honasa Consumer Pvt Ltd, the parent company of ‘Mamaearth’ – became the 1st unicorn of 2022
- HQs of Honasa Consumer Pvt. Ltd. – New Delhi | CEO – Varun Alagh

93. On January 5, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated “Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology (KCCRSST)” at Chandigarh University, the first of its kind in North India. The Defence Minister also launched Chandigarh University’s Defence Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 Cr, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rajnath Singh – inaugurated “Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space S&T” – at Chandigarh University
- Rajnath Singh – launched Chandigarh University’s “Defence Scholarship Scheme” – worth Rs 10 Cr

Acquisitions & Mergers

94. On January 4, Biocon Ltd’s subsidiary Biocon Biologics Ltd (BBL) announced the merger with Serum Institute of India’s subsidiary Covidshield Technologies Pvt Ltd (CTPL). The Biocon subsidiary will get committed access to a 100 million doses per annum for 15 years, primarily from Serum’s upcoming vaccine facility in Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biocon Biologics + Covidshield Technologies = announced merger
- HQs of Biocon Biologics – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD – Arun Chandavarkar
- HQs of SII – Pune, MH | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966



Persons in News

95. On January 2, the parliamentary panel which is assigned to examine the bill on raising legal age of marriage, has only one woman. The bill titled “Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill” seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21. TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman among the 31 members. The Department-Related Standing Committees are permanent, while joint and select committees are constituted from time to time to deal with bills and relevant subjects of various ministries. These panels are constituted by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports is a Rajya Sabha administered Committee. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sushmita Dev – the only woman in 31-member parliamentary panel to examine Bill on raising legal age of marriage
- “Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill” seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21

Schemes & Initiatives

96. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE) launched an umbrella scheme called “SMILE” (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) for rehabilitation of persons engaged in begging and for providing support to transgender persons. The scheme will cover rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counselling, education, skill development and economic linkages. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MoSJE – launched “SMILE” scheme for transgender persons & beggars
- SMILE – Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise

Important Days & Dates

97. “National Bird Day” is celebrated on January 5 every year to create awareness or education about the physical and behavioral needs that need to improve the welfare of the millions of birds kept in captivity. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 5 – “National Bird Day”

98. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (S&T) Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the theme of National Science Day (NSD) 2022 - “Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future”. NSD is celebrated every year on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – launched the theme of ‘National Science Day 2022’ – to be observed on February 28
- 2022’s Theme – “Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future”



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

99. In January 2022, The Assam government & National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed an agreement to create a Rs 2,000 Cr joint venture for holistic development of the sector in the state. As per the MoU, a joint venture company will be set up with a target of processing 10 lakh litres of milk through 6 new units in 7 years. Two cattle feed & organic manure manufacturing units will also be set up as per the agreement. The foundation stone of Guwahati-based Purabi Dairy's expansion initiative under the World Bank-funded 'Assam Agribusiness & Rural Transportation Project' was also laid. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam + NDDB = an MoU to create a joint venture for holistic development of the dairy sector in the state
- Two cattle feed & organic manure manufacturing units will also be set up
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi
- HQs of NDDB – Anand, Gujarat | Chairman – Meenesh Shah | Established in – 1965

Obituaries

100. In January 2022, Sidney Poitier, the first Black winner of the best actor Oscar for his role in Lilies of the Field, died at age 94. He was the oldest surviving male Academy Award winner. He wrote three autobiographical books - This Life (1980), The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography (2000) and Life Beyond Measure: Letters to My Great-Granddaughter (2008) & in 2013 published Montaro Caine, a novel that was described as part mystery, part science fiction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sidney Poitier – a Bahamian-American Actor – passed away (the first Black winner of the Best Actor Oscar)
- His autobiographical books – This Life, The Measure of a Man & Life Beyond Measure





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