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The Question Bank

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Kriti Advani
IBPS PO 2020, Clerk, RRB Clerk



Kola Murali Krishna Sai
SBI PO & IBPS PO 2020



Abhishek Raj
IBPS PO & RRB PO 2020



Rahul Jha
All IBPS 2020 Exams



Nimish Mishra
IBPS RRB PO & IBPS Clerk 2020



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

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 5
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 12th February 2022

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

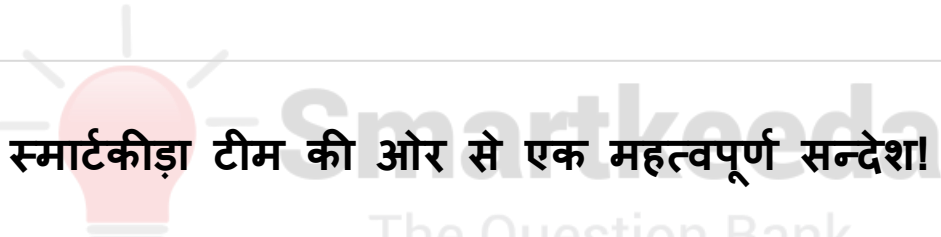
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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

201. On January 10, the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) gave 'Category I' licence to SJVN Ltd for the inter-state trading of power in the entire country. If the licensee fails to undertake trading in electricity within one year from the date of licence, the licence will be liable for revocation in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Trading Licence Regulations. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CERC gave 'Category I' licence to "SJVN Ltd" for the Inter-state Trading of Power in India
- HQs of CERC – New Delhi | Chairman – P. K. Pujari
- HQs of SJVN – Shimla, Himachal Pradesh | MD & Chairman – Nand Lal Sharma

202. On January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day. The Technology Centre is set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 Cr. This Centre will boost skill development & inculcate entrepreneurial spirit among the youth. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry at Puducherry
- Ministry of MSME: Narayan Rane | Constituency – Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of MSME: Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma
- Puducherry: CM – N. Rangasamy | Governor – Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge)

203. On January 11, India's oldest sloth bear, named Gulabo, died at the age of 40 at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo in Bhopal. The female sloth bear was rescued from a Madaari or street performer in May 2006 at the age of 25 years. The Van Vihar National Park is located on the banks of Bhopal's Upper Lake. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Gulabo" - India's oldest sloth bear – died at Van Vihar National Park (Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh)
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

204. On January 8, Assam government issued a notification for adding 200.32 sq. km to the Orang National Park. It will make Orang National Park more than thrice of its existing size. This expansion is for the conservation of the gharials (*Gavialis gangeticus*) that were wiped out from the Brahmaputra River system in the 1950s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Assam – to make "Orang National Park" more than thrice of its existing size for the conservation of the 'gharials'
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi

205. On January 12, Subhas Sarkar, Minister of State for Education launched "Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) 2021-2022". In order to create self-motivation & awareness about sanitation the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP) was 1st instituted by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2016-17. At the National level, 40 schools will be selected for awards this year under the overall category. Schools shall be awarded at the District, State and National level. The award money for the schools has been enhanced this year from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per school, under Samagra Shiksha scheme. Also, 6 sub-category wise awards have been introduced for the 1st time, with award money of Rs. 20,000/- per school. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Subhas Sarkar (Mini. of Education) – launched “Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22”
- Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar – instituted by the Department of School Education & Literacy in 2016-17
- Award money – enhanced from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 60,000/- per school under ‘Samagra Shiksha Scheme’
- Ministry of Education: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Education: Subhas Sarkar

206. On January 03, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stone for the Heartfulness International Yoga academy at Hyderabad. The Heartfulness Academy (Shri Ram Chandra Mission) will have a recording Yoga hall for Live online Yoga Classes. It will also have a Yoga library with books from every Yoga Institutions and access to Yoga research articles. The 75 Cr Suryanamaskar Initiative, a tribute to 75 years of India’s independence, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav was also inaugurated by him to create the largest Surya Namaskar event. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – laid the foundation stone for the ‘Heartfulness International Yoga Academy’ at Hyderabad
- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated 75 Cr Suryanamaskar Initiative to create the largest Surya Namaskar event
- Ministry of AYUSH: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of AYUSH: Munjapara Mahendrabhai

207. On January 12, Supreme Court appointed former judge Indu Malhotra as chairperson of a panel to investigate Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s security lapse in Punjab. The committee will look into the causes of the security breach that left PM Modi’s convoy stuck on a flyover for 15-20 minutes. The Ministry of Home Affairs also constituted a 3 member committee for the same which will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Judge Indu Malhotra – will head the panel set by Supreme Court to investigate Narendra Modi’s security lapse in Punjab
- Sudhir Kumar Saxena – will head a 3-member committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs for the same
- Present Chief of Justice of the Supreme Court of India – Justice N. V. Ramana (48th)

208. On January 15, the 10th century stone idol of Goat Head Yogini that had been illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari village in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh, was handed back to India from the UK. The Ministry of Culture informed that the stone idol had been stolen in sometimes the 1980s. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 10th century stone idol of ‘Goat Head Yogini’ – handed back to India from the UK
- It was illegally removed from a temple in Lokhari, Banda, Uttar Pradesh
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

209. On January 10, Uttar Pradesh government declared 4 villages located near the Nepal border in the district as revenue villages. These 4 villages are Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia & Bichhia located in Mihinpurwa tehsil of the district. A revenue village is a small administrative region with defined borders. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – declared 4 villages located near Nepal as Revenue Villages (Bhavanipur, Tedhia, Dhakia & Bichhia)
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

International Affairs

210. On January 16, Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov ordered experts to find a way to extinguish a massive five-decade old fire in a giant natural gas crater in the country, dubbed the “Darvaza gas crater”. Darvaza gas crater also known as “Gateway to Hell” is in the middle of the vast Karakum desert. The crater was created in 1971 during a Soviet drilling accident that hit a gas cavern. To prevent the dangerous fumes from spreading, the Soviets decided to burn off the gas by setting it on fire. The pit has been ablaze ever since and previous attempts to put it out have been unsuccessful. In 2018, the president officially renamed it to the “Shining of Karakum”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Turkmenistan – to extinguish “Darvaza gas crater” or “Gateway to Hell” located in the Karakum desert
- Darvaza Gas Crater – was created in 1971
- Turkmenistan – Ashgabat – Manat | President – Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow

211. On January 13, the UK government launched Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with India and describes it as a ‘golden opportunity’ to put British businesses at the front of the queue of the Indian economy. An India-UK FTA is billed in the UK as creating huge benefits for both countries, with the potential to boost bilateral trade by up to GBP 28 billion a year by 2035. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UK – launched a “Free Trade Agreement (FTA)” negotiations with India in January 2022
- ‘India-UK FTA’ has potential to boost bilateral trade by up to GBP 28 billion a year by 2035
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

212. On January 10, Axis Bank successfully executed industry-first blockchain-enabled domestic trade transaction with Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India and Lalit Pipes & Pipes Ltd on Secured Logistics Document Exchange (SLDE). SLDE is a government-backed platform which provides a seamless experience to all participants involved in the trade transaction. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank – executed industry-1st blockchain-enabled domestic trade transaction on SLDE
- Axis Bank executed it along with = Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India + Lalit Pipes & Pipes Ltd
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”



213. On January 11, Lazypay, a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance, partnered with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard, a payment instrument backed by a credit line. Consumers can avail the card at zero joining fee & zero annual fee. It also offers users multiple transactional benefits and rewards-earning potential such as welcome rewards, retention rewards & Visa Platinum Rewards in the form of cashbacks. LazyCard's 'Booster' feature lets users set up a fixed deposit with SBM Bank India in a fully digitized two-minute app flow. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lazypay + SBM Bank India = partnered to launch LazyCard
- Lazypay – a Buy Now Pay Later solution by PayU Finance
- HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, MH | MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking licence from the RBI
- HQs of PayU Finance – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Prashanth Ranganathan

214. On January 12, Axis Bank partnered with MinkasuPay to offer the smoothest net banking payment experience for its customers through a biometric authentication solution. MinkasuPay's biometric authentication solution is a 2-Factor-Authentication as mandated by RBI, helps increase the security of all digital transactions. Transaction time will reduce from the current 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds with Fingerprint or Face ID authentication without the need of usernames, passwords, and OTPs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Axis Bank + MinkasuPay = to offer net banking payment through a biometric authentication solution
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – “Badhti ka Naam Zindagi”
- HQs of MinkasuPay India – Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Anbu

215. On January 11, UCO Bank launched a RuPay Select contactless debit card for its premium customer segment in association with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). All RuPay Select contactless debit cardholders are eligible for the insurance cover of up to ₹10 lakh in case of death due to personal accident and permanent disability. The card also offers a purchase of up to ₹2 lakh at PoS or e-commerce. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UCO Bank – launched RuPay Select contactless debit card for its premium customer in association with the NPCI
- HQs of UCO Bank – Kolkata, West Bengal | MD & CEO – Soma Sankara Prasad | Tagline – “Honours your Trust”
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

216. Yes Asset Management's name has been changed to “White Oak Capital Asset Management” with effect from January 12. GPL Finance & Investments, a subsidiary of White Oak Capital group, had received capital markets regulator SEBI's approval to acquire Yes Asset Management from Yes Bank in September. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes Asset Management – acquired by GPL Finance & Investments, a subsidiary of White Oak Capital group
- After acquisition, Yes Asset Management – renamed as ‘White Oak Capital Asset Management’
- HQs of White Oak Capital Management – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Aashish P. Sommaiya
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – “Experience our Expertise”
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992



217. On January 13, CDSL Ventures Ltd (CVL) received SEBI's approval to set up an accreditation agency for a period of 3 years with effect from February 1, 2022 for accreditation of eligible Investors. SEBI introduced a concept of 'Accredited Investors (AI)' in the Indian securities market in August-2021. Persons desirous of being reckoned as AIs can approach an accreditation agency for accreditation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CDSL Ventures – received SEBI's approval to set up an Accreditation Agency
- HQs of CVL – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Sunil Alvares | Chairman – Rakesh Kumar Kakkar
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

218. In June 2021, HDFC Bank announced plans to become Carbon Neutral by 2031-32. After HDFC, now Yes bank announced to do so by 2030. The Bank's Net Zero Emissions target covers its absolute Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions. Net zero refers to a condition in which the Greenhouse Gases produced are balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Yes bank – announced to become Carbon Neutral by 2030
- HDFC bank – announced to become Carbon Neutral by 2031-32
- HQs of Yes Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Prashant Kumar | Tagline – "Experience our Expertise"

219. Paytm Payments Bank emerged as the biggest receiver of UPI payments with 926.17 million transactions, while public sector bank State Bank of India topped the chart of being the biggest remitter in December 2021, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). With this, Paytm became the most preferred beneficiary bank for UPI payments. SBI followed PPBL as the second-largest UPI beneficiary bank with 664.89 million transactions. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Biggest receiver of UPI payments: 1st – PPBL (926.17 million transactions) | 2nd – SBI (664.89 million transactions)
- Paytm Payments Bank – became the most preferred beneficiary bank for UPI payments (in Dec 2021)
- SBI – the biggest remitter (in Dec 2021)

220. On January 13, Marwadi Financial Services partnered with NSDL Payments Bank to offer Integrated 3-in-1 Savings Account that combines the features of savings, Demat and trading accounts. This strategic partnership will help Marwadi to boost customer experience while allowing NSDL Payments Bank to access Marwadi's clients and expand its customer base. NSDL Payments Bank is a subsidiary of NSDL, the first and the largest depository in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Marwadi Financial Services + NSDL Payments Bank = partnership to offer Integrated 3-in-1 Savings Account
- HQs of Marwadi Financial Services – Rajkot, Gujarat | MD & Chairman – Ketan Marwadi
- HQs of NSDL Payments Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Abhijit Kamalapurkar



221. On January 13, Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC signed an MoU with BSE's India International Exchange (India INX) to launch India's first Bitcoin and Ethereum Futures ETF and Metaverse US-listed Large-cap Discount Certificates. Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC is a 50:50 joint venture Cosmea Financial Holdings (CFH) and Kling Trading India. Torus Kling Blockchain targets \$1 billion Assets Under Management (AUM) in the first 2 years from customers participating in blockchain backed products through ETFs and Discount certificates. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC + India INX = an MoU to launch India's first Bitcoin & Ethereum Futures ETF at Gift City
- Torus Kling Blockchain IFSC – will also launch Metaverse US-listed Large-cap Discount Certificates
- Torus Kling Blockchain – targets \$1 billion Assets Under Management (AUM) from customers in the first 2 years
- HQs of India INX – GIFT City, Gujarat | MD & CEO – V. Balasubramaniam

Defence Affairs

222. On January 13, Russia's defence forces unveiled the new 'Tupolev Tu-160M' strategic missile bomber also known as 'White Swan' which has 80% of equipment upgraded & modernised. This development comes Amid Russia's tensions with Ukraine at the border. Tu-160M is the world's heaviest supersonic military aircraft. It is designed to strike targets in remote areas with nuclear and conventional weapons. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Russia – unveiled "Tupolev Tu-160M", world's heaviest Supersonic Missile Bomber also known as 'White Swan'
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin



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Sports & Games

223. In January 2022, Vinisha Umashankar, a student innovator turned environmentalist was selected as a 'Changemaker' & 'Baton-bearer' for the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay in India. The Relay began at the Buckingham Palace in London on October 7, 2021 and will conclude on July 28, 2022 at the Opening Ceremony of the "Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games". Vinisha is famous for her mobile ironing cart, which uses solar panels to power a steam iron box. She also bagged the "Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Awards" instituted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vinisha Umashankar – selected as a 'Changemaker' & 'Baton-bearer' for the 16th official Queen's Baton Relay in India
- 2022 Commonwealth Games – to take place in Birmingham, England (from July 28)
- UK – London – Pound Sterling | PM – Boris Johnson

224. Boxing Federation of India (BFI) decided to pull out of the "Asian Under-22 Championships" for men and women due to the global surge in Covid-19 cases. The event was scheduled to be held from January 20 to 30, 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- BFI – withdrew from the “Asian Under-22 Championships” – to be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- HQs of BFI – New Delhi | President – Ajay Singh

Arts & Cultural Affairs

225. On January 13, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Meenakshi Lekhi launched a Bike Expedition called “North East on Wheels (NEW) Expedition” in New Delhi. The event will jointly be organized by Culture Ministry and Amazing Namaste foundation which works to promote the Culture of India’s North Eastern States. The expedition is scheduled between April 8-16, 2022 to mark the celebrations of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Meenakshi Lekhi (MoC) – launched a Bike Expedition called “North East on Wheels (NEW) Expedition” in New Delhi
- The Expedition will jointly be organized by = Ministry of Culture + Amazing Namaste foundation

Science & Technology

226. On January 13, Astronomers have confirmed the discovery of a new potato-shaped exoplanet named “WASP-103b”. Astronomers had initially discovered this unusually shaped planet back in 2014. The planet is located in the constellation “Hercules”, at a distance of about 1,800 light-years from the solar system. The study was published in Astronomy and Astrophysics. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Astronomers discovered a new potato-shaped exoplanet named “WASP-103b”
- The planet is located in the constellation “Hercules” (1,800 light-years away from the solar system)

227. On January 15, a new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, was named after Swedish Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg. The species has been named as ‘Pristimantis Gretathunbergae’ or popularly known as ‘Greta Thunberg Rainfrog’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- A new species of rainfrog, discovered in the Panama jungle, was named after – Greta Thunberg

228. In January 2022, South Africa launched its third satellite mission called “MDASat” (Marine Domain Awareness) into space from the Cape Canaveral rocket launch site in Florida in the US. This is the first constellation of satellites developed and designed in entirely Africa. The nanosatellite constellation consists of three satellites. ‘ZACUBE-1’ (TshepisoSat) and ‘ZACUBE-2’ are the two other nanosatellites of South Africa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- South Africa – launched its 3rd satellite mission called “MDASat” (Marine Domain Awareness) from Florida, US
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa



229. On January 11, Union minister Jitendra Singh launched an artificial intelligence (AI) driven start-up by IIT alumni for water purification through innovative technology, to provide clean drinking water at a price much lesser than the market price. An MoU was also signed between Technology Development Board (TDB), a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, and Swajal Water Private Limited, a tech start-up company founded by ex-IITians based in Gurgaon. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jitendra Singh – launched an AI driven start-up by IIT alumni for water purification through innovative technology
- Technology Development Board + Swajal Water Private Limited = signed an MoU for water purification technology
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K
- MoS in the Department of Atomic Energy and Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Appointments & Resignations

230. On January 11, V. Kamakoti was appointed as the new director of IIT Madras. He designed India's 1st indigenously-developed microprocessor "Shakti". He will take over from Bhaskar Ramamurthi. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- V. Kamakoti – appointed as director of IIT-Madras (succeeding – Bhaskar Ramamurthi)
- V. Kamakoti – designed India's 1st indigenously-developed microprocessor "Shakti"
- Director of IIT Madras – V. Kamakoti

231. On January 12, S. Somanath was appointed as 10th chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 3 years. He assumed the charge as the Secretary of the Department of Space and the Chairman, Space Commission, after the superannuation of K. Sivan. Moreover, the ISRO successfully conducted the qualification test of 'Cryogenic Engine' for the "Gaganyaan" programme for duration of 720 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- S. Somanath – appointed as 10th Chairman of ISRO (succeeding - K. Sivan)
- ISRO – conducted the qualification test of 'Cryogenic Engine' for "Gaganyaan" program for 720 Secs – in Tamil Nadu
- HQs of ISRO – Bengaluru, Karnataka | Director – S. Somanath | Formed on – August 15, 1969

232. On January 3, Vini Mahajan assumed the charge as secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Prior to this, she was serving as Punjab Chief Secretary. She was also the first woman to be posted as Deputy Commissioner in Punjab in 25 years. The government had formed the new ministry, Jal Shakti, to address all water issues in the country In July 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vini Mahajan – appointed as Secretary in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- Ministry of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Sekhawat | Constituency – Jodhpur, Rajasthan
- MoS for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries – Prahlad Singh Patel



233. In January 2022, Raghuvendra Tanwar, professor emeritus, Kurukshetra University (KU) was appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi, for a period of 3 years by the Government of India (GOI). Prof Tanwar was awarded the prestigious UGC National Fellowship (Research Award) 2002-2005. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Raghuvendra Tanwar – appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)
- [HQs of ICHR – New Delhi](#) | [Chairman – Raghuvendra Tanwar](#)

234. In January 2022, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced the appointment of Rakesh Anand and Bhupender Singh Bajwa as India’s Chef de Mission for the Commonwealth Games 2022 and Asian Games 2022, respectively. Commonwealth Games 2022 is scheduled to be held in Birmingham, UK from July 28 to August, 2022. While Asian Games 2022 is scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 10 to 25, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rakesh Anand – appointed as India’s Chef de Mission for ‘Commonwealth Games 2022’ (Birmingham, UK)
- Bhupender Singh Bajwa – appointed as India’s Chef de Mission for ‘Asian Games 2022’ (Hangzhou, China)

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

235. On January 13, West Indies veteran cricketer Clive Llyod received Knighthood at Windsor Castle from the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William. Sir Clive Llyod is famous for leading the West Indies to 27 Test matches without defeat, including 11 wins in a row. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Clive Llyod (West Indies Veteran Cricketer) – received “Knighthood” from the Duke of Cambridge, Prince William
- [HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE](#) | [Chairman – Greg Barclay](#) | [CEO – Geoff Allardice](#) | [Members – 106 countries](#)

236. On January 13, Japan’s tennis champion Naomi Osaka with \$57.3 million earning, was named as world’s highest-paid female athlete, in a list published by business magazine Forbes. She was followed by Serena Williams (45.9 million) & Michael Venus (\$11.3 million). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Naomi Osaka ([Japan](#)) – Forbes’ world’s highest-paid female athlete | 2nd – Serena Williams | 3rd – Michael Venus
- [HQs of FORBES – Jersey City, New Jersey](#)

237. Mrs. Navdeep Kaur, crowned “Mrs. India World 2021”, is representing India at “Mrs. World 2022” held in Las Vegas, US. She won the Costume Round and bagged the ‘Best National Costume Award’ at Mrs. World 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mrs. Navdeep Kaur – bagged the ‘Best National Costume Award’ at “Mrs. World 2022”
- She is representing India at “Mrs. World 2022” held in Las Vegas, US



238. At 20th Dhaka International Film Festival in Dhaka, Indian movie “Koozhangal” won the Best Film award in the “Asian Film Competition” category. The film was directed by P. S. Vinothraj. Indian actor Jayasurya won the Best Actor award for the Ranjith Sankar-directed film “Sunny”. While Best Actress award was given to Sussan Parva for the film “Botox”. Nepal’s director Sujit Bidari won the Best Director award for the film “Aina Jhyal Ko Putali”. The slogan/motto/theme for the festival was “Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 20th Dhaka International Film Festival – held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from January 15-23
- Theme/Slogan/Motto of the festival – “Better Film, Better Audience and Better Society”
- Awards given in the “Asian Film Competition” category:
- Best Film – “Koozhangal” (India) | Best Director – Sujit Bidari (Nepal)
- Best Actor – Jayasurya (India) | Best Actress – Susan Parvar (Iran)

Schemes & Initiatives

239. On January 14, Kerala’s Kumbalangi became 1st sanitary-napkin free village of India. Under an initiative, titled ‘Avalkayi’ (for her), around 5,000 menstrual cups will be distributed to women aged 18 & above. HLL Management Academy through their ‘Thingal’ scheme & Indian Oil Corporation are the other partners in the scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kumbalangi (Kerala) – 1st sanitary-napkin free village of India
- Kerala – launched “Avalkayi” scheme to distribute 5,000 menstrual cups to women aged 18 & above
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

Important Days & Dates

240. Interacting with over 150 startups in “Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem” even as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, PM Narendra Modi has declared that January 16 will be celebrated as “National Start-up Day”. The event marks the 6th anniversary of the launch of the ‘Startup India’ initiative which was launched in August 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 16 – declared as “National Start-up Day” – by PM Narendra Modi
- ‘Startup India’ initiative launched in August 2015

241. The 74th Indian Army Day was celebrated in India on 15 January 2022 to honour each soldier in the armed forces of our country for their selfless service. Indian Army was officially established on 1 April 1895 under the British rule. However, the first Indian to head the forces was Lieutenant General KM Cariappa, who was appointed to the post on 15 January 1949. In 2022, new ‘Camouflage Uniform’, designed in partnership with the Indian Army and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), was showcased during the Indian Army Day parade. Besides, the 6th Armed Forces Veterans’ Day is commemorated on January 14 each year as a mark of respect to and in recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 15 – 74th Indian Army Day
- January 14 – 6th Armed Forces Veterans' Day
- New 'Camouflage Uniform' = designed by Indian Army + NIFT
- Indian Army – established on 1 April, 1895
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

Obituaries

242. On January 15, Award-winning journalist Kamal Khan died of a heart attack at his home in Lucknow at the age of 61. He was associated with news channel NDTV for over 30 years. He had received the "Ramnath Goenka Award" in 2010 and the "Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award" from the President of India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kamal Khan – a Veteran Journalist – passed away
- Awards: "Ramnath Goenka Award" & "Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award"

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

243. On January 13, Forest Survey of India, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), released the biennial India "State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021". ISFR 2021 tracked the forest cover in tiger reserves for the first time. ISFR 2021 found that there is an increase of 1,540 sq km of forest cover and 721 sq km of tree cover compared to the 2019 report. The states with the highest increase in the forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km). The Forest Survey of India classifies India's forests into 3 categories - Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest & Open Forest. As per report, Pakke Tiger Reserve has the highest forest cover among all the tiger reserves across India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021" – published by Forest Survey of India (under MoEFCC)
- There is an increase of 1,540 sq km of forest cover & 721 sq km of tree cover (compared to 2019)
- States with the highest increase in the forest cover: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Odisha (respectively)
- India's forests into 3 categories by FSI: Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest & Open Forest
- Tiger Reserve with the highest forest cover – Pakke Tiger Reserve or Pakhui Tiger Reserve (Arunachal Pradesh)
- HQs of Forest Survey of India – Dehradun, Uttarakhand | DG – Pankaj Agarwal

244. On January 16, Tasnim Mir from Gujarat became the 1st Indian to grab the world No. 1 ranking in the under-19 girls singles in the latest BWF junior rankings. She is supported by OGQ & currently ranked 602 in the women's singles. She was also part of India's campaign at the Thomas & Uber Cup held late last year in Denmark. Her father, Irfan Mir, is a badminton coach and also ASI in Mehsana police. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Tasnim Mir (Gujarat) – 1st Indian to get world No. 1 ranking in ‘U-19 Girls Singles’ in the latest “BWF Junior Rankings”
- HQs of BWF – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | President – Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

245. On January 11, Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh ranked as the Most Polluted City out of the 132 non-attainment cities with highest levels of PM 2.5 and PM 10, according to the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)’s report. Delhi was the 2nd most polluted city in the list of cities with the highest PM 2.5 level & 4th in cities with the highest PM 10 level. Cities are declared non-attainment if they consistently fail to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) over a 5-year period. The Centre’s NCAP was implemented across India in 2019 to reduce particulate matter (PM) levels in 132 cities by 20-30% by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NCAP’s report: Ghaziabad (UP) – the Most Polluted City out of 132 non-attainment cities | 2nd – Delhi
- NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- ‘NCAP’ introduced in 2019 – with an aim to reduce PM levels in 132 cities by 20-30% by 2024

246. The number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 (40 new billionaires), while 84% of households in India suffered a decline in their income in 2021, according to the “Inequality Kills” report published by Oxfam. The report indicates that the collective wealth of India’s 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 trillion in 2021. In India, during the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30th, 2021) the wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 trillion to Rs 53.16 trillion. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Inequality Kills” report – published by Oxfam
- Number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 (40 new billionaires) in 2021
- Wealth of billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 trillion to Rs 53.16 trillion during pandemic (March 2020 - Nov 2021)

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

247. On January 11, During the “Nepal Power Market Summit 2022” which was held in Kathmandu, Nepal Power Exchange Ltd signed a trading agreement with India’s Manikaran Power Ltd to sell electricity produced by the domestic private sector to India. This is for the 1st time that the private sector of Nepal & India signed an agreement to facilitate power trading between the two countries. The agreement will allow Nepal to sell 500 MW of electricity to India in the initial phase. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nepal Power Exchange Ltd + Manikaran Power Ltd (India) = 1st agreement between both sides to facilitate power trading
- Nepal – to sell 500 MW of electricity to India
- “Nepal Power Market Summit 2022” – held in Kathmandu
- Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee | President – Bidhya Devi Bhandari | PM – Sher Bahadur Deuba

248. On January 13, Adani Group & South Korean steel company POSCO signed an agreement to set up a “Green, Environment-friendly Integrated Steel Mill” at Mundra, Gujarat. The MoU intends to further collaborate at the group business level in various industries such as renewable energy, hydrogen, and logistics in response to carbon reduction requirements. The Adani group aims to make its port business a net-zero carbon emitter by 2025. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Adani Group + POSCO (South Korea) = agreement to set up a “Green Steel Mill” at Mundra, Gujarat
- Adani group aims to make its port business a Net-zero Carbon Emitter – by 2025
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat
- HQs of Adani Group – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | Chairman – Gautam Adani | MD – Rajesh Adani

249. On January 12, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (POWERGRID) signed a joint development agreement with Africa50, a pan-African infrastructure investment platform to develop the Kenya Transmission Project on a public-private partnership basis. Once completed, the project will be the 1st independent power transmission (IPT) in Kenya. Power Grid will provide technical and operational expertise to the project, while Africa50 will bring its project development and finance expertise and will act as a bridge between the Kenyan government and private investors. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- POWERGRID + Africa50 = a joint development agreement to develop the Kenya Transmission Project
- HQs of POWERGRID – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Kandikuppa Sreekant
- Kenya – Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling | President – Uhuru Kenyatta

250. On January 14, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) signed an MoU with Gujarat government for a total investment of Rs 5.955 lakh Cr over the span of 10 to 15 years to set up 100 GW Renewable Energy Power Plant and Green Hydrogen Eco-System in the state. This is part of the Investment Promotion Activity for Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RIL + Gujarat = an MoU for a total investment of Rs 5.955 lakh Cr on Green Energy
- RIL – to set up ‘100 GW Renewable Energy Power Plant’ & ‘Green Hydrogen Eco-System’ in Gujarat
- HQs of Reliance Industries Ltd – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Mukesh Ambani | Founded in – 1973
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat





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