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

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 6
(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 14th February 2022

[Attempt Test No. 6 Here!](#)



An important message from Team Smartkeeda

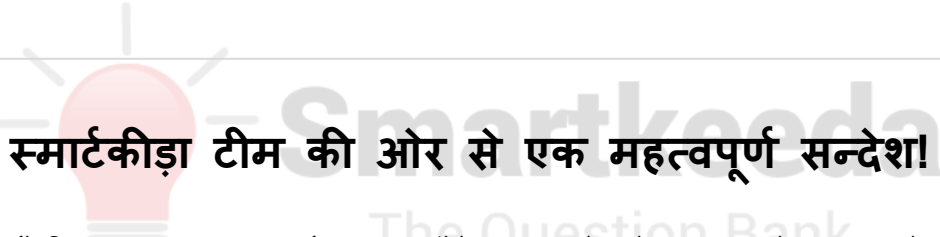
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

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

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda



स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF जनवरी 2022 माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill Test में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

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

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा



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National & States Affairs

251. On January 15, Tamil Nadu government will install a statue of Col. John Pennycuick in Camberley, United Kingdom, the birthplace of the British Army Engineer/Architect. He was instrumental in constructing the Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Tamil Nadu – to install a statue of Col. John Pennycuick in Camberley, UK
- Mullaperiyar Dam (over Periyar river) – in Kerala
- Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi

252. On January 16, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh L. Mandaviya released a commemorative Postal Stamp on COVID-19 Vaccine to mark the 1st anniversary of India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program', which was rolled out in India on 16th January, 2021. It is the world's largest and most successful vaccination drive. The commemorative stamp design features a healthcare worker inoculating a senior citizen with COVID-19 vaccine, along with an image of 'COVAXIN' vial. The denomination of Postal Stamp is Rs 5. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mansukh L. Mandaviya – released a commemorative Postal Stamp of Rs 5 to mark the 1st anniversary of India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program'
- India's 'National Covid-19 Vaccination Program' – launched on 16th January, 2021

253. On January 15, Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated India's first BHEL-built "Coal to Methanol (CTM)" pilot plant to the nation. It is built in the Hyderabad unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Mahendra Nath Pandey – dedicated India's first "Coal to Methanol (CTM)" plant to the nation – located in Hyderabad
- CTM plant is built by – BHEL
- HQs of BHEL – New Delhi | Chairman & MD – Nalin Shinghal

254. On January 11, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the 'Jagananna Smart Township' website to give land with clear and litigation-free titles in a transparent manner and at a reasonable price below the non-profit market. The Jagananna Smart Townships (MIGs) are being set up by the state government. Those citizens with an annual income of up to Rs 18 lakh are eligible to apply for plots in Jagananna Smart Townships. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- YS Jagan Mohan Reddy – launched 'Jagananna Smart Township' website to give land to the middle-class families
- Citizens with annual income of up to Rs 18 lakh are eligible to apply for plots
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan



255. The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the 1st such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022. It is being set up by Aequus Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequus Pvt. Ltd. KTC is being set up on a spread of over 400 acres of land. The cluster is also estimated to attract an investment of over ₹4,000 Cr & create over 25,000 direct jobs (mostly for women in North Karnataka) & over a lakh indirect jobs. Educational toys are a sizable part of this market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Koppal Toy Cluster (Karnataka) – being set up by Aequus Infra, will be operational in March 2022
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot
- HQs of Aequus Pvt Ltd – Belagavi, Karnataka | CEO & chairman – Aravind Melligeri
- HQs of Toy Association of India – New Delhi | President – Ajay Aggarwal

256. On January 11, Kerala launched ‘The Citizen Constitution Literacy Campaign’ in Kollam district jointly with the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee, & the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). Its target is to declare Kollam a totally Constitution literate district on August 14 midnight. The entire population of Kollam above the age of 10 will be briefed on the preamble of the Constitution, its historical background & the basic principles of the Constitution. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kerala – launched “The Citizen Constitution Literacy Campaign” to make Kollam a totally Constitution literate district
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

257. On January 13, the Indian Railways decided to redesignate the post of ‘Train Guard’ as ‘Train Manager’. Also, assistant guard will now be ‘assistant passenger train manager’, goods guard will be ‘goods train manager’, a senior passengers’ guard will be ‘senior passenger train manager’ and mail or express train guard will be mail/express train manager. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Railways decided to redesignate the post of ‘Train Guard’ as ‘Train Manager’
- HQs of Indian Railways – New Delhi | Chairman & CEO – Vinay Kumar Tripathi

258. To strengthen the Cyber Security Ecosystem in India, the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) conducted a 6-day Deep Dive Training Program for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs). The 26th CISO Deep Dive Training Program was organised under the ‘Cyber Surakshit Bharat’ initiative from January 17 to 22, 2022. MeitY had initiated the Cyber Surakshit Programme in January 2018. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NeGD (MeitY) – conducted the 26th Deep Dive Training Program for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs)
- The program was organised under – ‘Cyber Surakshit Bharat’ initiative

259. On January 14, the Defence Ministry launched “Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal” to resolve pension-related grievances of ex-servicemen (ESM) and their dependents. The portal will allow them to lodge grievances directly with the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW). Also, DESW allotted ₹320 Cr to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) to clear all backlog of pending applications for welfare schemes. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Defence Ministry – launched “Raksha Pension Shikayat Nivaran Portal” to resolve pension-related grievances
- DESW – allotted ₹320 Cr to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund
- Ministry of Defence: Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Defence: Ajay Bhatt

260. On January 13, The State government notified Andhra Pradesh Mahila Police (Subordinate Service) Rules, 2021, facilitating the creation of separate women police cadre under the Police Department. The special uniformed (khaki) women wing consists of inspectors (non-gazetted), sub-inspectors, assistant sub-inspectors, senior Mahila police & Mahila police personnel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Andhra Pradesh – notified “Mahila Police Rules 2021” & created a separate ‘Women Police Cadre’
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati (LC), Visakhapatnam (EC) & Kurnool (JC)
- CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

261. On January 11, Lakshadweep became the 1st among UTs & states to vaccinate all 3,469 eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years. Vaccination of children began from January 3 in all the 10 inhabited islands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Lakshadweep – 1st among UTs & states to vaccinate all eligible children in the age group of 15 to 18 years
- Lakshadweep: Kavaratti | Administrator – Praful Patel

262. On January 12, CtrlS announced deployment of Asia’s largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai. It is currently equipped with a 300MW & can scale up to 700MW and backed by 3 different sources and diversified paths ensuring 100% availability of power at all times. It is highly corrosion resistant, seismic resistant, having operating life of greater than 50 years, with no maintenance requirement for 25 years & protected against aggressive environmental conditions. The Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) technology originally began in Japan in the 60’s. In comparison, the total space required for a GIS is roughly 10% of that needed for a conventional AIS (Air-Insulated Substation) facility. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CtrlS – announced deployment of Asia’s largest Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) in Mumbai (equipped with 300MW)
- HQs of CtrlS – Hyderabad, Telangana | Chairman – Sridhar Pinnapureddy

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

263. On January 14, Axis Bank and CRMNEXT were awarded the “Best CRM System Implementation” at “IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021”. The bank has implemented CRMNEXT for sales and service modernisation. CRMNEXT is the World’s most powerful banking CRM platform. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Axis Bank + CRMNEXT = awarded for 'Best CRM System Implementation' at "IBS Intelligence Global FinTech Innovation Awards 2021"
- HQs of Axis Bank – Mumbai | MD & CEO – Amitabh Chaudhry | Tagline – "Badhti ka Naam Zindagi"

264. On January 14, ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company collaborated with the US-based First Trust Advisors to launch a slew of Global Fund of Funds (FoF). Under the agreement, ICICI Prudential AMC will first launch a strategic metal & energy equity fund of funds. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- ICICI Prudential AMC + First Trust Advisors (US) = collaboration to launch Global Fund of Funds (FoF)
- HQs of ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Nimesh Shah

265. On January 14, Indifi Technologies collaborated with Google Pay to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay platform. Indifi already has an existing partnership with many digital companies including Amazon, Zomato, Swiggy etc, under which MSMEs present on these platforms can avail credit through embedded lending offerings. Eligible merchants on the Google Pay for Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi & submit an application online. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indifi Technologies + Google Pay = collaboration to offer instant loans to eligible small merchants on the Google Pay
- HQs of Google – California, US | CEO – Sundar Pichai | Founded in – 1998
- HQs of Indifi – Gurgaon, Haryana | MD & CEO – Alok Mittal

266. On January 13, IIM Kozhikode's Business incubator, Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) and Indian Bank signed an MoU to launch a startup funding scheme "IndSpring Board". The agreement aims to support early stage startups by providing loans up to Rs 50 Cr. The loan amount can be used by startups to meet their operational expenditure and capital expenditure including working capital, purchase of fixed assets and other expense. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LIVE (IIM Kozhikode) + Indian Bank = an MoU to launch a startup funding scheme "IndSpring Board"
- Aim: To support early stage startups by providing loans up to Rs 50 Cr
- HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain | Tagline – "Your Own Bank"

267. On January 13, e-commerce platform Snapdeal partnered with Bank of Baroda subsidiary BOB Financial Solutions & NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card. The Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless card will be equipped with contactless features. The partnership aims to popularise the adoption & usage of credit cards among the growing number of online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Snapdeal + BOB Financial + NPCI = partnered to launch Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless RuPay credit card
- HQs of Snapdeal – New Delhi | CEO – Kunal Bahl | Founded in – 2010
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008
- HQs of BOB Financial Solutions – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Shailendra Singh



Defence Affairs

268. On January 14, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard launched a "Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket" into space. It marked the first time Iran used a solid-fuel rocket rather than a liquid-fuel one. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Iran's Paramilitary Revolutionary Guard – launched its first "Solid-fuel Satellite Carrier Rocket" into space
- Iran – Tehran – Rial | President – Ali Khamenei

269. On January 16, Philippines confirmed to acquire 3 batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile from India in a deal worth \$375 million. This missile is jointly developed by India and Russia. The Philippines is the first country to buy the BrahMos missile system from India. This development will boost India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware. India has targeted to achieve defence exports of \$5 billion by 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Philippines – to acquire 3 batteries of the BrahMos cruise missile from India at a deal worth \$375 million
- Philippines – the first country to buy the BrahMos missile system from India
- India's target to achieve defence exports of \$5 billion – by 2024
- Philippines – Manila – Peso | President – Rodrigo Duterte

270. On January 15, the occasion of Army Day, Indian Army unveiled a Monumental National Flag of size 225 feet by 150 feet at Jaisalmer Military Station as a tribute to the Indian heritage, as it is completely made of Khadi material. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army – unveiled a Khadi made Monumental National Flag at Jaisalmer Military Station
- Size: 225 feet long & 150 feet wide
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

271. Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kadmatt undertook "Maritime Partnership Exercise" with Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Hirado in the Bay of Bengal on 13 January 2022. The entire exercise was planned and conducted in a non-contact mode, thereby adhering to COVID safety norms. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Maritime Partnership Exercise" – conducted between the Ships of Indian Navy & Japanese Navy
- INS Shivalik & INS Kadmatt – participated in the exercise
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

272. Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, undertook the international "PASSEX" (Passage Exercise) with Russian Federation Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- International “PASSEX” (Passage Exercise) – conducted between the Ships of Indian Navy & Russian Navy
- INS Kochi – participated in the exercise
- Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble | PM – Mikhail Mishustin | President – Vladimir Putin

Sports & Games

273. On January 16, India’s Lakshya Sen beat World Champion Loh Kean Yew to clinch Men’s Singles Title at the “India Open 2022” held in New Delhi. It was Lakshya's maiden Super 500 title. While Women’s Singles Title was won by Thailand’s Busanan Ongbamrungphan. India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty won Men’s Doubles title. And Thailand’s Benyapa Aimsaard & Nuntakarn Aimsaard won Women’s Doubles title by defeating Indian pair. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “2022 India Open Badminton Championships” or “Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022” – held in New Delhi
- Lakshya Sen (India) – won Men’s Singles title (his maiden ‘Super 500’ title)
- Busanan Ongbamrungphan (Thailand) – won Women’s Singles title
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty (India) – won Men’s Doubles title
- Benyapa Aimsaard & Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand) – won Women’s Doubles title

274. On January 15, Virat Kohli stepped down as India’s most successful Test captain of all time. With this, he has stepped down as captain of India in all 3 formats. He led the team to 40 wins from 68 test matches. He ended his captaincy career as the 4th most successful Test skipper of all time in terms of wins behind Graeme Smith (53), Ricky Ponting (48), and Steve Waugh (41). His 1st Test as captain was against Australia during 2014-15 series. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat Kohli – stepped down as India’s Test captain (4th most successful Test skipper of all time)
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

275. On January 12, Goalkeeper Savita Punia named captain of Indian Women’s Hockey Team. She will lead India in Asia Cup 2022, which is scheduled to be held between January 21-28 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex, Muscat. India is placed in Pool A along with Japan, Malaysia & Singapore. The top 4 teams will qualify for the ‘2022 World Cup’, to be held in Spain & Netherlands. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Savita Punia – named captain of Indian Women’s Hockey Team for Asia Cup 2022 to be held in Muscat
- ‘Hockey World Cup 2022’ – to be held in Spain & Netherlands
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam



Persons & News

276. On January 12, Maya Angelou, the African American author and activist, became the 1st Black woman to appear on the currency of the US government. She gained international fame after the publication of her autobiography "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings". The coin is part of the African Women Quarters program, which was signed into law in January 2021. The program directs the US Mint to issue quarters each year between 2022 & 2025 featuring five different female trailblazers who have contributed to the country. The other women to receive the honour in 2022 are: Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren and Anna May Wong. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Maya Angelou – 1st Black woman to appear on the currency of the US under 'African Women Quarters Program'
- The other women to be featured in 2022: Sally Ride, Wilma Mankiller, Nina Otero-Warren & Anna May Wong
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Arts & Cultural Affairs

277. On January 14, the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi celebrated 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with "Kala Kumbh" artist workshops for painting scrolls measuring approximately 750 metres, representing the tales of valor of unsung heroes of India's freedom movement. Kala Kumbh was organized by Ministry of Culture along with Ministry of Defence. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Kala Kumbh" - artist workshops was organized by = Ministry of Culture + Ministry of Defence

Science & Technology

278. On January 15, North Korea test launched two 'tactical guided ballistic missiles' from a train. North Korea in recent months has been ramping up tests of new missiles designed to overwhelm missile defenses in the region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- North Korea – test launched two "Tactical Guided Ballistic Missiles" from a train
- North Korea – Pyongyang – North Korean won | President – Kim Jong-un

279. On January 19, Israel Missile Defense Organization (IMDO), together with the US Missile Defense Agency (MDA), conducted a successful flight test of the Arrow Weapon System (AWS) and the Arrow 3 interceptor, which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside of the Earth's atmosphere. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IMDO (Israel) + MDA (US) = conducted a successful flight test of "Arrow 3 Ballistic Missiles Interceptor"
- Israel – Jerusalem – Israeli Shekel | President – Isaac Herzog | PM – Naftali Bennett
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris



280. On January 15, Jonathan, a 190-year-old tortoise has been named as the world's oldest living land animal by Guinness Book of World Records. He is the "oldest chelonian" – a category which encompasses all turtles, terrapins and tortoises. The previous record was held by another tortoise named Tu'i Malila who lived to be at least 188. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Guinness Book of World Records – named 'Jonathan' - a 190-year-old tortoise as the world's oldest living land animal

Appointments & Resignations

281. On January 12, Australian wine brand, Jacob's Creek appointed captain of the Indian women's cricket team, Mithali Raj as its ambassador. She is the highest run-scorer in women's international cricket & is the only woman to score 7,000 ODI runs in cricket. According to research firm Technavio's recent report published in 2021, the wine market in India is estimated to grow by \$274.00 million from 2021 to 2026. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Jacob's Creek (Australian wine brand) – appointed Mithali Raj as ambassador
- Research firm Technavio's report – wine market in India is estimated to grow by \$274.00 million from 2021 to 2026

282. The US nominated Eric Garcetti as its new ambassador to India. He is a former communications director to Los Angeles Mayor. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Eric Garcetti – nominated as new ambassador of the US to India
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

283. On January 17, the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia elected Social Democrat technocrat Dimitar Kovacevski as the Prime Minister, after more than 2 months of political turmoil in India. Dimitar succeeded Zoran Zaev, who stepped down in December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dimitar Kovacevski – appointed as the PM of North Macedonia
- North Macedonia – Skopje – Macedonian Denar | President – Stevo Pendarovski | PM – Dimitar Kovacevski

284. On January 18, Founder and Managing Director of 'Texport Industries' Narendra Kumar Goenka took over as the Chairman of the Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC). He has replaced A. Sakthivel. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narendra Kumar Goenka – appointed as the Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (APEC)
- HQs of APEC – Gurgaon, Haryana | Chairperson – Narendra Kumar Goenka | Established in – 1978

285. On January 15, Rear Admiral K. P. Arvindan took charge as the Admiral Superintendent of the naval dockyard in Mumbai. He replaced Rear Admiral B. Sivakumar. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Rear Admiral K. P. Arvindan – took charge as the Admiral Superintendent of the naval dockyard in Mumbai
- HQs of Indian Navy – Delhi | Chief – Admiral R. Hari Kumar | VC – S. N. Ghormade | Founded in – 26th Jan, 1950



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

286. On January 15, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal presented the 2nd edition of the “National Startup Awards 2021” to 46 Startups, along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator. Repos Energy was awarded in ‘Energy Distribution’ category for their door-to-door delivery of fuel at the ‘National Startup Award 2021’. Department of Fisheries in association with Startup India inaugurated the “Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge”. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – presented the 2nd edition of the “National Startup Awards 2021” to 46 Startups
- Repos Energy – received “National Startup Award” in ‘Energy Distribution’ category
- Department of Fisheries + Startup India = inaugurated the “Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge”

287. On January 18, Bayern Munich's Polish striker Robert Lewandowski won the ‘FIFA Best Men's Player’ award for 2021, while Barcelona's Spanish midfielder Alexia Putellas won the ‘FIFA Best Women's Player’ award. Chelsea FC won both the awards for ‘Best Coach’, with Thomas Tuchel winning the men's award and Emma Hayes named the Best women's coach. Chelsea FC's Edouard Mendy won the ‘Best Men's Goalkeeper’ award. Christiane Endler was named the ‘Best Women's Goalkeeper’. Denmark National Team and their medical staff won the ‘Fair Play’ award. ‘Puskas Award for Best Goal’ of the year was won by Argentine Erik Lamela of Sevilla FC. Moreover, Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo received ‘FIFA Special Best Men's award 2021’. While Canada's Christine Sinclair won the ‘FIFA Special Best Women's award 2021’. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Best FIFA Football Awards 2021” – held at Zurich, Switzerland

Award	Winner
Best Men's Player award	Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich FC)
Best Women's Player award	Alexia Putellas (Barcelona FC)
Best Men's Coach award	Thomas Tuchel (Chelsea FC)
Best Women's Coach award	Emma Hayes (Chelsea FC)
Best Men's Goalkeeper award	Edouard Mendy (Chelsea FC)
Best Women's Goalkeeper award	Christiane Endler (Olympique Lyonnais FC)
Puskas Award for Best Goal	Erik Lamela (Sevilla FC)
FIFA Special Best Men's award	Cristiano Ronaldo (Manchester United FC)
FIFA Special Best Women's award	Christine Sinclair (Portland Thorns FC)
Fair Play award	Denmark National Team

Important Days & Dates

288. On January 15, the government decided to commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary as part of the Republic Day celebrations. So, the celebrations will be started from January 23 instead of January 24 every year. This is in line with the PM Narendra Modi government's focus to commemorate important aspects of our history and culture. Last year, the Centre announced that January 23 will be celebrated as “Parakram Diwas” or “Day of Valour”. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- In 2022, Government started Republic Day celebrations from January 23 (Netaji's birth anniversary)
- January 23 – "Parakram Diwas" or "Day of Valour" (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary)

289. On Tiruvalluvar Day, PM Narendra Modi, Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi and Chief Minister M. K. Stalin paid rich tributes to Tiruvalluvar, the author of Tamil classic and didactic literature, "Tirukkural". 'Tiruvalluvar Day' is observed on the second day of Tamil month ('Thai') by the state government and other Tamils. It is observed either on January 15 or 16. And this year, it is celebrated on January 15. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 15 – "Tiruvalluvar Day" observed by Tamil Nadu or Tamils
- "Tirukkural" - a classic Tamil language text – authored by Thiruvalluvar

290. Smart Cities Mission (SCM), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) launched the "Open Data Week" to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem. It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022. The Event saw participation from all 100 Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SCM (MoHUA) – launched the "Open Data Week" – to be observed from January 17 to 21, 2022
- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore



Books & Authors

291. Researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji', Chandrachur Ghose authored a new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose with untold stories titled "Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist". The book is published by Penguin Random House India. The book is scheduled to be released in February, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist" book – authored by Chandrachur Ghose
- Publisher – Penguin Random House India

Obituaries

292 On January 17, Padma Vibhushan awardee & Kathak legend Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away. He was 83. He was also a prolific singer, poet and painter. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Pandit Birju Maharaj – Padma Vibhushan awardee & Kathak legend – passed away



293. In January 2022, Saoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality and daughter of legendary actor Sombhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra, passed away at the age of 73 due to heart ailments. She was a gifted actor, director and playwright. Mitra was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Saoli Mitra – an Actor, Director & Playwright – passed away
- Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi (2003) | Padma Shri (2009) | Banga Bibhusan (2012)

294. In January 16, Padma Shri awardee and social activist Shanti Devi passes away. She worked selflessly to remove suffering and create a healthier as well as just society. She received Padma Shri for her social work in the Maoist-hit Rayagada region. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shanti Devi – Social Activist – passed away (Padma Shri in ‘Social Work’)

295. On January 9, former Japanese Prime Minister ‘Kaifu Toshiki’ passed away at the age of 91. He served as prime minister from August 10, 1989 to November 5, 1991, in the middle of the turmoil of the 1990 Gulf Crisis & the 1991 Gulf War. In the history of Japanese politics, Kaifu is regarded as a symbol of Japan’s changing diplomacy in the post-Cold War period in terms of Japan’s contribution to international peace & security. In 1965, Kaifu founded the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), the Japanese equivalent to the U.S. Peace Corps. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Kaifu Toshiki – former Japanese Prime Minister – passed away
- Kaifu Toshiki is regarded as a symbol of Japan’s changing diplomacy in the post-Cold War period
- Japan – Tokyo – Yen | PM – Fumio Kishida

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

296. Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) organised the 16th India Digital Summit on 11th & 12th January 2022. The theme for this year’s summit is “Supercharging Startups”. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal virtually addressed the Summit. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 16th India Digital Summit – organised by IAMAI | Theme – “Supercharging Startups”
- HQs of IAMAI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | President – Subho Ray | Chairman – Sanjay Gupta

297. In January 2022, Piyush Goyal chaired a Review Meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) where he highlighted India's target to achieve exports of \$650 Billion within the current financial year. 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’s Merchandise Exports in December 2021 surged 38.91% on an annual basis to \$37.81 billion, the highest-ever monthly figure. Imports in December 2021 also increased by 38.55% to \$59.48 billion. Even as the trade deficit widened to USD 21.68 billion during December 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Piyush Goyal – chaired a Review Meeting of all major Export Promotion Councils (EPCs)
- India’s merchandise exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38.91% to \$37.81 billion (highest-ever monthly figure)



- India's imports exports in Dec 2021 – increased by 38.55% to \$59.48 billion
- India's target to achieve merchandise exports during FY2021-22 – \$400 billion (\$300 billion achieved in first 9 months)

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

298. Global Unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022. This is 21 million more than in 2019 before Covid-19 pandemic began, according to the “World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022” released by the International Labour Organization (ILO). While the global unemployment rate is projected to reach 5.9% in 2022, higher than 6.2% in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends 2022” – released by ILO
- Report's projections for 2022: Global Unemployment – 207 million | Global Unemployment Rate – 5.9%
- HQs of ILO – Geneva, Switzerland | DG – Guy Ryder | Founded in – 1919

Amount & Agreements

299. On January 14, India announced a USD 900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports, amidst a shortage of almost all essential commodities in Sri Lanka. These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over USD 509 million & currency swap of USD 400 million. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – announced \$900 million loan to Sri Lanka to overcome Forex Crisis
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

300. On January 18, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) partnered with the Canada Running Series (CRS) as the new Title Sponsor and official IT services and technology consulting partner of the Toronto Waterfront Marathon and Virtual Race through November 2026. The partnership is aimed to modernize marathon running in Canada through a new official race app. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- TCS – became the title sponsor & technology partner of “Toronto Waterfront Marathon & Virtual Race” in Nov 2026
- HQs of TCS – Mumbai, Maharashtra | MD & CEO – Rajesh Gopinathan | Founded in – 1968





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