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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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Full-Length Current Affairs Mock
Test Series Month-wise

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 7
(PDF in English)



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Test Launch Date: 16th February 2022

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An important message from Team Smartkeeda

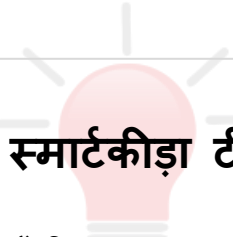
Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill Test of January 2022 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial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



INDEX

National & States Affairs	5
International Affairs	8
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	8
Defence Affairs	10
Sports & Games	10
Arts & Cultural Affairs	11
Science & Technology	11
Appointments & Resignations	11
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes	12
Important Days & Dates	13
Books & Authors	13
Obituaries	14
Meetings, Conferences and Summits	14
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	15
Amount & Agreements	16
Acquisitions & Mergers	16
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships	17



National & States Affairs

201. On January 15, University Grants Commission (UGC) brought all Higher Education Institutions, irrespective of their accreditation or rankings, on the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) platform. The ABC framework is part of 'National Education Policy (NEP) 2020'. ABC platform enables students to switch between institutions and multiple entries and exits to and from the programme. Under the "UGC (Establishment and Operation of Academic Bank of Credits in Higher Education) Regulations, 2021", now any university or college, irrespective of ranking, can participate and register to come under the ABC framework. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- UGC brought all Higher Education Institutions on the **Academic Bank of Credit (ABC)** platform
- **HQs of UGC – New Delhi | Chairman – Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar | Founded in – 1956**

202. On January 17, Legendary 'Collarwali' Tigress died in Madhya Pradesh at after living for 17 years. The tigress, who had earned the title of 'Supermom', died in Pench Tiger Reserve due to old age. She gave birth to total 29 cubs. Her contribution is immense in restoring back the ecological balance by improving the tiger population. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 'Collarwali' (Supermom) tigress died – in Pench Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh
- **Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel**

203. In January 13, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (Moi&B) asked television monitoring agency Broadcast Audience Research Council India (BARC) to release viewership ratings of news channels with immediate effect. The ministry also announced the formation of a Working Group under the chairmanship of Prasar Bharti CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati to study different aspects of capturing data, including return path data (RPD) capabilities, to improve television rating point (TRP) services. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ministry of I & B – asked 'BARC' to release viewership ratings of news channels
- Ministry of I & B – formed a Working Group to improve TRP services – headed by Shashi Shekhar Vempati
- **HQs of BARC – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – Nakul Chopra | Chairman – Punit Goenka**

204. India's Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC) signed an agreement with the International Co-Operative Alliance Asia and Pacific (ICAAP) intending to assimilate and develop further on the core strengths, experience, and institutional objectives in the interest of advancement of research in on Cooperative Sector. ICAAP president Dr. Chandra Pal Singh Yadav and National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) president Dileep Sanghani jointly released a policy recommendation handbook "Sahakar Pragya: Good Practices for Cooperatives". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- LINAC + ICAAP = an agreement on Cooperative Sector
- Chandra Pal Singh Yadav + Dileep Sanghani = released a policy recommendation handbook "Sahakar Pragya: Good Practices for Cooperatives"
- LINAC (**Gurugram, Haryana**) – functions under National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)



205. On January 16, the “National Startup Day 2022”, Flipkart announced the evolution of its flagship startup accelerator programme, “Flipkart Leap”, to identify wider and relevant market opportunities for its selected startups. After the successful completion of the first cohort of the programme, Flipkart Leap will now evolve into two new programmes - Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Flipkart – launched its flagship startup accelerator programme “Flipkart Leap”
- ‘Flipkart Leap’ is evolved into 2 new programmes: Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) & Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN)
- HQs of Flipkart – Bangalore, Karnataka | Chairperson – Binny Bansal | CEO – Kalyan Krishnamurthy

206. On January 15, union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated ‘Power MAP’ medical analytics application developed by Madhavbaug (Vaidya Sane Ayurved Labs Ltd). Power MAP is built for doctors to help them get necessary medical intelligence regarding a patient’s clinical parameters to reverse their chronic diseases effectively. Madhavbaug is a unique medical service institution that treats chronic ailments like cardiac disease, diabetes, hypertension and obesity with the distinctive outlook of amalgamating technology with traditional healing of Ayurveda. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Nitin Gadkari – inaugurated medical analytics application ‘Power MAP’ developed by Madhavbaug
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

207. On January 15, Chhattisgarh launched an employment mission called ‘Rojgar Mission’. Around 12-15 lakh employment opportunities will be created in the state through the mission in the next 5 years. The ‘Chhattisgarh Rojgar Mission’, headed by the chief minister, will have chief secretary Amitabh Jain and principal secretary Alok Shukla as the vice chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chhattisgarh – launched “Rojgar Mission” to create around 15 lakh job opportunities
- Chhattisgarh: Capital – Raipur | CM – Bhupesh Baghel | Governor – Anusuiya Uiker

208. On January 14, the India Meteorological Department (IMD), on its 147th Foundation Day, launched operations of 4 new Doppler Weather Radars (DWR), one each in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, and Leh, to further improve the weather forecast system in these cities/region. It also announced to use ‘Drone-based Observation Technology’ in a big way in the future for strengthening the localized forecasting across. Besides, Minister of Earth Sciences, Jitendra Singh launched the Crowd source mobile app “Public Observation” for different weather services. Jitendra Singh also launched India’s 1st Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas based on the 13 most hazardous meteorological events. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 14 – 147th Foundation Day of IMD
- IMD – launched operations of 4 new Doppler Weather Radars (DWR) – in Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai & Leh
- Jitendra Singh – launched the Crowd source mobile app “Public Observation”
- Jitendra Singh – also launched India’s 1st Climate Hazard & Vulnerability Atlas
- HQs of IMD – New Delhi | Director General – Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra | Founded in – 1875



209. The UK-based Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) has listed 5 sites with unusual features in the world. These sites are associated with World War I and World War II. In India, the CWGC listed Kohima War Cemetery as the site with unusual features. Kohima War Cemetery is one of 23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC. Nagaland's capital Kohima probably has the only cemetery on the Earth that sports a Tennis Court. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- CWGC listed 5 sites (associated with 'World War I & II') as the 'sites with unusual features' in the world
- Kohima War Cemetery (Nagaland) – one of 23,000 World War graves across the continents maintained by the CWGC
- Kohima (Nagaland) – has the only cemetery on the Earth that sports a Tennis Court
- HQs of CWGC – Maidenhead, UK | DG – Claire Horton

210. Ministry of Science & Technology, through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), had launched "Aroma Mission" which led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India. "Purple Revolution" is Jammu & Kashmir's contribution to "Start-ups India". [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- "Aroma Mission" – launched by Ministry of S&T – led to the well-known "Purple Revolution" in India
- "Purple Revolution" – J&K's contribution to the 'Start-ups India'
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

211. On January 19, the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) launched a new project called the "Digital Government Mission" to speed up delivery of citizen services through the help of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) in line with the Prime Minister's vision of accelerating the digitalisation of government. With this, benefits will be offered to citizens without them having to apply for it. Citizens will also have easier access to subsidised food grains through ration cards. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MeitY – launched "Digital Government Mission" project to speed up delivery of citizen services
- 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

212. On January 18, the KIMSHEALTH Medical Devices Testing and Calibration Lab (KMDTCL) won 'NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) recognition' & became the country's 2nd & Kerala's 1st hospital group to receive the honour. The NABL recognition enables the KIMS hospital to bypass the tedious procedure of sending its equipment to other labs for certification in proceeding with urgent treatments for critical diseases. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- KMDTCL – became India's 2nd & Kerala's 1st hospital group to win 'NABL recognition'
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

213. On January 17, Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi launched a new Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy applicable to landowners of Neyveli Lignite Corporation India Ltd's (NLCIL) mines area. The minister ensured that compensation to the affected villagers will be based on the fair and transparent process. The new policy has provisions for enhanced amenities to the project-affected families. NLC India Limited, a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Coal and has been playing a pivotal role in ensuring India's energy security during the last 6 decades of performance. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Pralhad Joshi – launched a new “Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) Policy” of NLCIL
- Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

International Affairs

214. On January 19, Indonesia passed a bill replacing its capital Jakarta with Nusantara, a city of East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo Island. Nusantara is an old Javanese term that means ‘archipelago’. The transfer of the status will take place in 2024. Jakarta has been Indonesia’s capital since the country became independent in 1949. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indonesia – announced to move capital city from Jakarta to ‘Nusantara’
- Indonesia – Jakarta – Rupiah | President – Joko Widodo

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

215. On January 19, Federal Bank & Equirus Wealth in collaboration with Singapore-based SCUBE Capital, launched a “US dollar Offshore Fund” for their customers. NRI and resident customers of Federal Bank can invest in this fund that offers a portfolio return (IRR) guidance of ~ \$6.50% per annum with a fund tenure of 3 years. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Federal Bank + Equirus Wealth + SCUBE Capital = launched a “US dollar Offshore Fund” for their customers
- Portfolio return (IRR) guidance of ~ \$6.50% per annum | Tenure – 3 years
- HQs of Federal Bank – Aluva, Kerala | MD & CEO – Shyam Srinivasan | Tagline – “Your Perfect Banking Partner”

216. On January 18, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) sanctioned financial assistance of ₹650 Cr to AU Small Finance Bank & Jana Small Finance Bank. An amount of ₹530 Cr has already been released to these SFBs. This is to reach out to small-sized non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) & microfinance institutions (MFIs) who in turn provide financial assistance to the small businesses & micro entrepreneurs. This financial assistance is extended out of the Special Liquidity Facility of ₹16,000 Cr sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to SIDBI to meet the challenges being faced by the MSMEs due to the prevailing covid-19 pandemic situation. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SIDBI – sanctioned financial assistance of ₹650 Cr to AU SFB & Jana SFB to reach out to small-sized NBFCs & MFIs
- RBI – sanctioned Special Liquidity Facility of ₹16,000 Cr to SIDBI to support MSMEs during covid-19 pandemic
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935
- HQs of SIDBI – Lucknow, UP | MD & Chairman – Sivasubramanian Ramann | Established in – 1990
- HQs of AU SFB – Jaipur, Rajasthan | MD & CEO – Sanjay Agarwal
- HQs of Jana SFB – Bengaluru, Karnataka | MD & CEO – Ajay Kanwal | Chairman (part-time) – S. C. Khuntia



217. On January 18, MobiKwik launched 'ClickPay' for its customers, in collaboration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India. This feature enables MobiKwik customers to pay recurring online bills (such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance, & loan EMIs) with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates. ClickPay was also launched by Tata Power, PhonePe & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance in partnership with NBBL prior to this collaboration. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NPCI Bharat BillPay + MobiKwik = launched 'ClickPay' for customers to allow them to make payments easily
- 'ClickPay' was earlier launched by – Tata Power, PhonePe & ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- HQs of MobiKwik – Gurugram, Haryana | Founder, MD & CEO – Bipin Preet Singh
- HQs of NPCI – Mumbai | Chairman – Biswamohan Mahapatra | MD & CEO – Dilip Asbe | Established in – 2008

218. On January 18, Fintech company Lendingkart entered into a co-lending partnership with Canara Bank to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs to enhance financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank's Priority Sector initiative. The loans will be powered by "Lendingkart 2gthr" platform using 'zero touch' technology. Canara Bank will leverage Lendingkart platforms 'xlr8' to originate and distribute MSME loans & 'cred8' to underwrite these loans. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Canara Bank + Lendingkart = partnership to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to MSMEs
- HQs of Lendingkart – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | CEO & Co-founder – Harshvardhan Lunia
- HQs of Canara Bank – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
- Tagline of Canara bank – "Together We Can"

219. On January 17, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended Settlement Proceedings norms. The SEBI reduced the timeline for filing settlement applications to just 60 days from the current 180 days in its effort to make the system more efficient. However, an additional 120 days can be availed by the applicants in case they pay an additional 25% over the settlement charges. Moreover, the SEBI rationalised the proceeding conversion factor (PCF) values range as 0.40 to 1.50. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – reduced the timeline for filing the applications to 60 days from 180 days
- SEBI – rationalised the proceeding conversion factor (PCF) values range as 0.40 to 1.50
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

220. On January 18, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) crossed the mark of 5 Cr customers which made it 3rd largest entity in the segment after Paytm and Airtel Payments Bank. IPPB opened these 5 Cr accounts in digital and paperless mode, out of which 1.20 lakh are in rural areas. IPPB claims to have achieved the world's largest Digital Financial Literacy Programme by building a financially aware and empowered customer-base. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- IPPB – became the 3rd largest entity to cross the mark of 5 Cr customers (after Paytm & Airtel Payments Bank)
- IPPB – achieved the world's largest Digital Financial Literacy Programme
- HQs of IPPB – New Delhi | MD & CEO – Venkatram Jayanthi | Established on – 1st Sep, 2018



221. On January 19, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched Saa᳚thi - a mobile app on investor education. The app will create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of securities market, KYC (Know Your Customer) process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, recent market developments and investor grievances redressal mechanism, among others. SEBI last year had published the “Investor Charter” to help investors to improve their ease of investing in Indian securities market. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- SEBI – launched Saa᳚thi mobile app on investor education
- HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Ajay Tyagi | Established in – 1992

Defence Affairs

222. On January 19, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract with the Mauritius government to export 1 advanced light helicopter (ALH Mk-III) for the country’s police force. ALH Mk-III is a multi-role, multi-mission versatile helicopter in 5.5 tonne category. The Mauritius government already operates HAL-built ALH & Do-228 aircraft. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- HAL + Mauritius = contract to export 1 advanced light helicopter (ALH Mk-III)
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth
- HQs of HAL – Bengaluru, Karnataka | CEO – Amitabh Bhatt | Chairma & MD – R. Madhavan



223. On January 15, Russian Aslan Karatsev won the title of Men’s Single at the Sydney Tennis Classic tournament. Andy Murray lost to Aslan Karatsev in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Aslan Karatsev (Russia-Tennis) – won the title of Men’s Single at the “Sydney Tennis Classic Tournament”

224. On January 21, the Ladakh women’s team won the 9th National Women’s Ice Hockey Championship. The championship was organised by the ‘Ice Hockey Association of India’ in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15 - 21. It was inaugurated by the chief minister Jai Ram Thakur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ladakh – won the 9th “National Women’s Ice Hockey Championship”
- Organised by Ice Hockey Association of India (IHAI) – in Himachal Pradesh
- HQs of IHAI – New Delhi | President – Surinder Mohan Bali | General Secretary – Harjinder Singh Jindi
- Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar



Arts & Cultural Affairs

225. On January 16, Lavni Artist Sumit Bhale from Maharashtra won a gold medal in the International Folk Art Festival held in Dubai. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Sumit Bhale – won a gold medal at the “International Folk Art Festival” in Dubai
- Sumit Bhale (Maharashtra) – associated with ‘Lavani’ folk music
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Science & Technology

226. On January 13, the World’s largest fish breeding area discovered in Antarctica near Weddell Sea. The 240 square km of regularly spaced icefish nests, east of the Antarctic Peninsula, has astonished marine ecologists. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- World’s largest fish breeding area (240 square km wide) – discovered in Antarctica near Weddell Sea

Appointments & Resignations

227. On January 19, Dileep Sanghani was elected as the 17th chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO). The elections for the same were held due to the demise of incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai in October 2021. He is also the chairman of Gujarat State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd and President of the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), the apex body of the Cooperatives in India. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Dileep Sanghani – elected as chairman of IFFCO (succeeding – Balvinder Singh Nakai)
- HQs of IFFCO – New Delhi | Chairman – Dileep Sanghani

228. On January 19, global internet body ICANN-supported ‘Universal Acceptance Steering Group’ roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador. Universal Acceptance Steering Group is an Internet panel on languages that works on developing and recommending standards for languages script that are not currently used to access the internet. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Universal Acceptance Steering Group – roped in Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as UA Ambassador

229. On January 19, Roberta Metsola, a Maltese politician was elected president of the European Parliament & became the youngest person to hold the position. She succeeds former EU Parliament president David Sassoli, who passed away recently. She is also the 3rd woman to be elected president of the EU parliament. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- Roberta Metsola – became the youngest person to be elected President of the European Parliament (3rd woman)
- HQs of EU – Brussels, Belgium | Member Countries – 27
- President of European Parliament – Roberta Metsola
- President of European Council – Charles Michel
- President of European Commission – Ursula von der Leyen

230. On January 19, the Ministry of Civil Aviation appointed IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt as Air India's new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). He will get the rank & pay of an Additional Secretary. He succeeded Rajiv Bansal, who is currently the Union Civil Aviation Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Vikram Dev Dutt – appointed as Chairman & MD of Air India (Succeeding – Rajiv Bansal)
- HQs of Air India – New Delhi | CMD – Vikram Dev Dutt
- Ministry of Civil Aviation: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | Constituency – Guna, Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Civil Aviation: V. K. Singh

231. On January 19, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways appointed IAS officer Chanchal Kumar as the Managing Director of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL). He will get the rank & pay of an Additional Secretary. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Chanchal Kumar – appointed as the Managing Director of NHIDCL
- HQs of NHIDCL – New Delhi | MD – Chanchal Kumar
- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: Nitin Gadkari | Constituency – Nagpur, Maharashtra
- MoS in Ministry of Road Transport & Highways: V. K. Singh

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

232. Shaylyn Ford from the US is the winner of "Mrs. World 2022" event which was held in Las Vegas, Nevada, US. Debanjali Kamstra, who was representing the UAE for the first time in the pageant's history, was named second runner-up, with Mrs Jordan Jaclyn Stapp finishing as first runner-up. The winner of the Best Costume went to India's Navdeep Kaur. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Shaylyn Ford (US) – the winner of "Mrs. World 2022" held in Las Vegas, Nevada, US (8th American woman to win)
- First runner-up – Jaclyn Stapp | Second runner-up – Debanjali Kamstra



233. In January 2021, Jammu & Kashmir IAS officer, Dr. Shahid Choudhary was given the “National Award 2020-21” for outstanding efforts in Covid-19 management as Deputy Commissioner (DC), Srinagar. He won Gold registering 1st position among 231 finalist districts and organisations in the category of Covid-19 management with effective use of Information and Communication Technology. The award was presented by Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS, PMO and Ministry of Personnel at the 24th “National Conference on e-Governance” held in Hyderabad. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- 24th “National Conference on e-Governance” – held in Hyderabad
- Shahid Choudhary ([Srinagar](#)) – won Gold medal in the “National Award for e-Governance 2020-21”

234. Virat, Darmi and Heena were awarded the ‘Chief of the Army Staff Commendation’ on the eve of Army Day on January 15 for their exemplary service. Virat is a horse with the President’s Bodyguard (PBG), while Darmi and Heena are Army dogs. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Virat + Darmi + Heena = awarded the ‘Chief of the Army Staff Commendation’ for their exemplary service
- Virat – Army Horse | Darmi & Heena – Army Dogs

Important Days & Dates

235. On January 19, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated 17th Raising Day. The NDRF came into existence on 19th January 2006. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the parent body of the NDRF. Also, the NDRF inducted the 1st batch of 100 women disaster combatants and rescuers. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 19 – 17th Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force
- HQs of NDMA – New Delhi | Headed by – Prime Minister of India | Established in – 2005
- NDMA functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs
- HQs of NDRF – New Delhi | DG – Atul Karwal | Founded in – 2006 | Functions under – Ministry of Home Affairs

236. The 44th “Kokborok Day”, also known as “Tripuri Language Day” was celebrated across Tripura on January 19, 2022. This day is chosen to commemorate its initial recognition of ‘Kokborok’ as an official language in 1979. Kokborok is a native language of the people in Tripura. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- January 19 – 44th “Kokborok Day” or “Tripuri Language Day”
- Kokborok – a native language of the people in Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

Books & Authors

237. On January 20, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari released the book “The Legend of Birsa Munda” authored Tuhin A. Sinha and Ankita Verma at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- “The Legend of Birsa Munda” book – authored by Tuhin A. Sinha & Ankita Verma (Co-author)
- The book was released by – Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Obituaries

238. On January 18, Cartoonist Narayan Debnath, the creator of Bengali comic characters ‘Bantul The Great’, ‘Handa Bhonda’ & ‘Nonte Phonte, passed away. He was 97. He was awarded Padma Shri award in 2021 for arts. He was also conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013. The West Bengal government also honoured him with ‘Banga Bibhushan’. He was 1st & only comic artist in India to receive honorary D.Litt degree which was given to him by Rabindra Bharati University in 2015. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Narayan Debnath – Cartoonist & Padma Shri awardee for Arts – passed away
- He also received – Sahitya Akademi award (2013) & Honorary D.Litt degree (only comic artist to receive)

239. On January 14, Major H P S Ahluwalia, the founder of Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), passed away. He was 85. He was a retired Army officer, professional mountaineer, & a social worker. He was one of the first Indians to conquer Mount Everest. Also, he had written over 13 books, including the widely-acclaimed autobiography, Higher Than Everest. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2002, Padma Shri in 1965 & Arjuna award in 1965. He was also awarded with Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in 2009. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Major H P S Ahluwalia – Founder of ISIC, Retired Army officer, Mountaineer, Social Worker & Writer – passed away
- Awards: Padma Bhushan (2002), Padma Shri (1965), Arjuna (1965), Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award (2009)
- His autobiography – “Higher Than Everest”

240. On January 16, the ousted President of Mali, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, passed away. He was 76. He led Mali for 7 years until 2020, when he was ousted in a coup after huge anti-government protests over his handling of jihadist unrest. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Ibrahim Boubacar Keita – ousted President of Mali – passed away
- Mali – Bamako – CFA franc | Transitional President – Col. Assimi Goita | Transitional PM – Choguel Maiga

Meetings, Conferences and Summits

241 World Economic Forum’s summit titled ‘Davos Agenda’, was held virtually from 17th January, 2022. It was addressed by several heads of state including Prime Minister Narendra, Scott Morrison, Naftali Bennett, and Xi Jinping. The WEF has been hosting its annual meeting in the Swiss ski resort town of Davos for 50 years but it could not take place in 2021 due to the pandemic. [{Read more}](#)



Key Points:

- World Economic Forum's summit – 'Davos Agenda' held virtually from 17th January, 2022
- HQs of WEF – Cologne, Switzerland | Exe Chairman – Klaus Schwab | President – Borge Brende | Founded in – 1971

242. On January 17, PM Narendra Modi addressed the World Economic Forum's "Davos Agenda" via video conferencing. During the address, he proposed the 'P-3' approach. The P-3 approach stands for "Pro-Planet People". The 3 main areas of concern at the WEF's "Davos Agenda Virtual Summit" were - Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic & Social Resilience. PM also stated that India contributes 5% of global carbon usage but its commitment to phasing out non-renewable energy is 100%. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi – proposed the 'P-3' approach at the WEF's "Davos Agenda" | P3 = **Pro-Planet People**
- 3 main areas of concern at the Summit: Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic & Social Resilience
- PM Modi's 5 Big Goals for India:
 - Achieving Net-zero by 2070
 - Reducing total projected Carbon Emissions by 1 billion tonnes starting now till 2030
 - Increasing Renewable Energy component to 50% of our total Energy requirements by 2030
 - Reducing Carbon Intensity by 45% by 2030
 - Increasing Non-fossil Energy capacity to reach 500 GW by 2030



243. The RBI witnessed a 22.27% rise in the volume of complaints under various Ombudsman Schemes during April 2020-March 2021. The volume of complaints stood at 4,04,143 during the period on an annualised basis. ATM and debit cards, mobile banking and credit cards account for the most of the complaints. North zone accounted for the maximum share of complaints/grievances (43.10%). In terms of growth of complaints, the West zone registered the highest year-on-year growth at 13.51%. The banking ombudsman scheme accounted for 90.13% of the total complaints (2,73,204) received under the RBI's three Integrated Ombudsman Schemes. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- RBI witnessed 22.27% rise in the volume of complaints under 'Ombudsman Schemes' during April 2020-March 2021
- Total volume of complaints – 4,04,143 complaints
- North Zone – accounted for the maximum share of complaints/grievances (43.10%)
- West Zone – registered the highest year-on-year growth of complaints (13.51%)
- 3 Ombudsman schemes of RBI:
 - Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 2006
 - Ombudsman Scheme for NBFC, 2018
 - Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, 2019
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established in – 1st April, 1935



244. According to “Electricity Market Report”, released by International Energy Agency (IEA), Power demand in the country is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5% between 2022 & 2024. India clocked the highest 10% Y-o-Y growth in power demand during the calendar year 2021. Power consumption in India declined by more than 2% during 2020. However, in 2021, demand witnessed a rebound with growth of estimated 10%. Also, renewable generation is expected to increase by 30% by 2024 relative to 2021. The majority of supply growth in the years between 2021 & 2024 is expected in China, followed by India (12%), Europe (7%) and the United States (4%). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- “Electricity Market Report” – released by the IEA
- Power demand in India is expected to grow at an annual rate of 6.5% between 2022 & 2024
- India clocked the highest 10% Y-o-Y growth in power demand during 2021
- HQs of IEA – Paris, France | Executive Director – Dr. Fatih Birol | Member countries – 30

Amount & Agreements

245. On January 18, India announced a \$500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products amid a massive fuel and energy crisis. Earlier, India had also announced a \$900 million loan to Sri Lanka to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- India – announced a \$500 million credit line to Sri Lanka for purchasing petroleum products
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Acquisitions & Mergers

246. On January 18, Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL) acquired 54% stake in Addverb Technologies for \$132 million. Addverb will continue to operate independently and will use the funds received from RIL to expand business overseas as well as set up one of the biggest robotic manufacturing facilities in Noida. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd – acquired 54% stake in Addverb Technologies for \$132 million
- HQs of RRVL – Mumbai, MH | CEO – V. Subramaniam

247. On January 19, Microsoft announced to acquire Activision Blizzard for \$68.7 billion to boost its competitiveness in mobile gaming and virtual-reality technology. Activision Blizzard is the maker of Candy Crush and Call of Duty. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Microsoft – to acquire a video game holding company ‘Activision Blizzard’ for \$68.7 billion
- HQs of Microsoft – Washington, US | Chairman & CEO – Satya Nadella | Founded in – 1975
- HQs of Activision Blizzard – California, US | CEO – Bobby Kotick



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

248. On January 18, To achieve self-reliance in the defence sector, The Indian Army signed its 1st contract worth Rs 96 Cr with Anadron Systems Pvt Ltd under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target for Army Air Defence & Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- Indian Army + Anadron Systems = Rs 96 Cr contract under Make-II for Maneuverable Expendable Aerial Target
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Chandi Prasad Mohanty

249. On January 18, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) & National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) signed an MoU to promote inclusive good governance, strengthening of local institutions and effective implementation of government programmes. The MoU will help in application of good governance principles & also ensure their effective implementation in terms of transparency and accountability in utilisation of public funds in intended manner for delivering services to benefit rural communities. [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- NIRDPR + NCGG = MoU to promote inclusive good governance & effective implementation of government programmes
- HQs of NIRDPR – Hyderabad | Director General – Dr G. Narendra Kumar
- HQs of NCGG – New Delhi | Director General – V. Srinivas

250. On January 18, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed an MoU for a period of 10 years with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) to link vocational education & training with higher education. The beneficiaries of the programme include trainees attached to the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) and Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS). [{Read more}](#)

Key Points:

- MSDE + IGNOU = MoU to link vocational education and training with higher education for 10 years
- Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Dharmendra Pradhan | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh
- MoS in Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Rajeev Chandrasekhar





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