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

**January**  
**MockDrill**  
**PDF No. 8**  
**(PDF in English)**



**Smartkeeda**

**Test Launch Date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

[Attempt Test No. 8 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

**351.** On January 19, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the tenure of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) for 3 years beyond March 31, 2022. The NCSK was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the 'NCSK Act 1993'. The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from February, 2004. After that the tenure of the NCSK was extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Union Cabinet – approved the extension of the tenure of the 'NCSK' for 3 years beyond 31.3.2022
- NCSK – functions under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

**352.** On January 20, Jammu & Kashmir administration declared Jerri Settlement (Jerri hamlet) in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the Union Territory and sanctioned 57 more dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) for the hamlet. Under the IDDS, dairy units of 5 animals are provided with a 50% subsidy. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- J & K declared Jerri settlement (Jerri hamlet) in Reasi district as the first 'Milk Village' of the UT
- J & K: Capital – Srinagar | Lt. Governor – Manoj Sinha

**353.** On January 20, Karnataka, which was the first in India to bring an AVGC policy in 2012, also became the first state to set up the "AVGC Center of Excellence" (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics) in Mahadevapura, Bengaluru. Karnataka accounts for a 20% share of the Indian Entertainment & AVGC industry. While India commands around 10% of the global AVGC market and has the potential to reach 20-25% by 2027. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- India's first "AVGC Center of Excellence" (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming & Comics) – set up in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Karnataka accounts for 20% share of the Indian Entertainment & AVGC industry
- India commands around 10% of the global AVGC market
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thawarchand Gehlot

**354.** On January 20, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh launched a Mobile Covid testing facility, a first of its kind Mobile Diagnostic Laboratory (I-LAB) for Northeast India, beginning with Mizoram. The mobile lab has bio-safety facility and is capable of performing both RT-PCR and ELISA tests. It has been developed by the AMTZ (Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone). [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Jitendra Singh – launched a Mobile Covid testing facility for Northeast India, beginning with Mizoram
- Mizoram: Capital – Aizawl | CM – Zoramthanga | Governor – B. D. Mishra (addi. charge)

**355.** In January 2022, Telangana Health Minister T. Harish Rao inaugurated a 100 Bedded MCH (Mother & Child Health Care) Hospital and 20 Bedded SNCU (Special Newborn Care Units) at Wanaparthy under the 'KCR Kit' scheme. [{Read more}](#)

## **Key Points:**

- Telangana – inaugurated 100 Bedded MCH Hospital & 20 Bedded SNCU at Wanaparthy under the 'KCR Kit' scheme
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan



**356.** Tripura is now home to India's first Bamboo Park that has been set up to boost industries in the Northeast region, whereas the first-of-its-kind multi-purpose Bashgram (Bamboo Village) also came up in the state to boost eco-tourism in the region. The goal is to turn bashgram into a world-class medical-cum-eco tourism hub, using the locally available resources. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India's first 'Bamboo Park' & 'Bamboo Village' (Bashgram) – set up in Tripura
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Biplab Kumar Deb | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya

**357.** "Miss Kerala" (Denison barb), a native freshwater fish species, commonly found in parts of Karnataka and Kerala, has been included in 'Schedule I' of the 'Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021'. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December last. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "Miss Kerala" (Denison barb), a fish species – included in 'Schedule I' of 'Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021'
- This species is commonly found in parts of Karnataka & Kerala
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

**358.** On January 17, Common Services Centers (CSC) launched the "Yogyata" mobile app to provide vocational education and skill enhancement opportunities to youth and citizens in rural areas across India. The enrolments under the app will be carried out by the Village Level Entrepreneurs, managing the CSCs across India. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- CSC launched "Yogyata" mobile app to impart skill-based Vocational Education to rural youth across India
- HQs of CSC – New Delhi | Chairman – Ajay Prakash Sawhney | MD – Dinesh Kumar Tyagi

**359.** On January 21, Coal Secretary Dr. Anil Kumar Jain launched "Koyla Darpan" portal to share Key Performance Indicators related to the Coal Sector. The portal is accessible through the website of the Ministry of Coal for maximum public outreach. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Anil Kumar Jain – launched "Koyla Darpan" portal to share Key Performance Indicators related to Coal Sector
- Ministry of Coal: Pralhad Joshi | Constituency – Dharwad, Karnataka
- MoS in Ministry of Coal: Danve Raosaheb Dadarao

**360.** On January 17, Justice DY Chandrachud virtually inaugurated a 'Justice clock' that has been set up in Gujarat High Court along with its e-version on its website, as well as an e-court fees system for all the courts in the state. Gujarat High Court became the 1<sup>st</sup> in India to have a 'Justice clock', which is an outdoor display LED wall within the court premises to display disposal and pendency of cases, etc. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Gujarat High Court – 1<sup>st</sup> high court in India to have a 'Justice clock', virtually inaugurated by Justice DY Chandrachud
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Devvrat
- Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court – Vikram Nath



**361.** On January 18, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organized 'Streets for People Challenge' & 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge'. The event was chaired by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA. The ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change. A book titled "Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field" was also launched. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- MoHUA – organized 'Streets for People Challenge' & 'Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge'
- The event was chaired by – Manoj Joshi (Secretary in MoHUA)
- MoHUA – launched a book titled "Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field"
- [Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs: Kaushal Kishore](#)

**362.** On January 18, Andhra Pradesh government banned 100-year-old 'Chintamani Natakam' over objectionable dialogues & characters in the play. The objections were raised by the Arya Vysya community. The play was written by the famous reformer, playwright and cinematographer 'Kallakuri Narayana Rao' nearly 100 years ago. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Andhra Pradesh – banned 100-year-old 'Chintamani Natakam' written by 'Kallakuri Narayana Rao'
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Amravati \(LC\), Visakhapatnam \(EC\) & Kurnool \(JC\)](#)
- [CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan](#)

**363.** On January 18, cabinet approved the "Mana Ooru Mana Badi" Programme. The programme will be implemented in 3 years with a budget of ₹7,289 Cr. The amount will be spent on setting up digital classrooms, construction of additional classrooms & taking up repairs to schools. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Telangana – launched the "Mana Ooru Mana Badi" Programme for development of basic infrastructure in schools
- [Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan](#)

**364.** On January 20, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur launched "Apna Kangra" app to promote local handicrafts through tourism in Kangra. The motive of the app is to empower rural women & provide job opportunities to youth through tourism, while facilitating hospitality services such as hotels, homestays & transport to travellers. He also virtually inaugurated Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary at Luthan in Jawalamukhi Vidhan Sabha area of Kangra. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Himachal Pradesh – launched "Apna Kangra" app to promote local handicrafts through Tourism
- 'Radhe Krishna Cow Sanctuary' – inaugurated at Luthan, Himachal Pradesh
- [Himachal Pradesh: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Jai Ram Thakur | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar](#)



## International Affairs

**365.** On January 20, China has built an “Artificial Moon” research facility in the city of Xuzhou. It simulates low-gravity conditions using magnetism. The facility could provide valuable research for China’s lunar exploration activities. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- China – built an “Artificial Moon” research facility in Xuzhou
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**366.** On January 18, Yemen’s Houthi rebels carried out a drone attack on 3 petroleum tankers in Abu Dhabi near Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) facilities as a warning to the UAE to stop interfering in Yemen. Houthi rebels, who have been fighting the Yemeni government, are backed by a Saudi-UAE coalition. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Yemen’s Houthi rebels – carried out a drone attack on 3 petroleum tankers in Abu Dhabi, UAE
- Yemen – Sana’a – Yemeni Rial | President – Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi
- UAE – Abu Dhabi – Dirham | President – Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

## Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

**367.** On January 19, the Cabinet approved the payment of ₹973.74 Cr to State Bank of India (SBI) under the ‘Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment’ of difference between compound interest and simple interest for 6 months to borrowers. A Budget allocation of ₹5,500 Cr was made for the scheme in FY21. Whole amount of ₹5,500 Cr was disbursed to SBI for consequent reimbursement to lending institutions. Education loans, MSME loans, Housing loans & Personal loans up to Rs 2 Cr are the eligible borrowers under the ‘Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment’. [{Read more}](#)

### **Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved the payment of ₹973.74 Cr to SBI under the ‘Scheme for Grant of Ex-Gratia Payment’
- Education loans, MSME loans, Housing loans & Personal loans up to Rs 2 Cr are the eligible borrowers
- HQs of SBI Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- MDs – Challa Sreenivasulu Setty | Ashwani Bhatia | Ashwini Kumar Tewari | Swaminathan Janakiraman

**368.** On January 19, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved an equity infusion of Rs 1,500 Cr in the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), which would raise its additional lending capacity by Rs 12,000 Cr. The enhanced lending capacity will enable IREDA to finance addition Renewable Energy capacity of up 4000MW. Present loan book size of IREDA is around Rs 27,000 Cr. As per the RBI lending norms, a lender can lend up to 20% of its net worth. Thus, IREDA would now be able to lend up to Rs 900 Cr in an RE project as its net worth is increased to Rs 4,500 Cr from existing Rs 3,000 Cr. IREDA, a ‘Mini Ratna’ company under the administrative control of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy. [{Read more}](#)





**Key Points:**

- Cabinet approved an equity infusion of Rs 1,500 Cr in the IREDA (raising its additional lending capacity by Rs 12,000 Cr)
- As per the RBI lending norms: a lender can lend up to 20% of its Net Worth
- Net worth of IREDA increased from Rs 3,000 Cr to Rs 4,500 Cr (its lending capacity - up to Rs 900 Cr)
- [HQs of IREDA – New Delhi](#) | [CMD – Pradip Kumar Das](#)

**369.** On January 20, the RBI's Digital Payment Index rose by 39.64% to 304.06 in September 2021 against 217.74 in the year-ago month, as per the "RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2021" released by the RBI. Constructed with March 2018 as the base period, DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100. The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in India over different time periods. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- "RBI - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for September 2021" – released by the RBI
- In September 2021: RBI's Digital Payment Index rose by 39.64% to 304.06 score
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25<sup>th</sup>\)](#) | [Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935](#)

**370.** On January 19, the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) signed an MoU with the 'Insurance Institute of India' for capacity building in insurance sector. The Insurance Institute of India (III), which functions under the Ministry of Finance, would undertake a study to make changes to the academic curriculum in meeting the current needs of the insurance industry participants in IFSCA. The Institute is also the member of the Institute of Global Insurance Education (IGIE). [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- IFSCA + Insurance Institute of India = an MoU for capacity building in Insurance Sector
- [Insurance Institute of India – functions under Ministry of Finance](#)
- [HQs of IFSCA – Gandhinagar, Gujarat](#) | [Chairman – Injeti Srinivas](#)

**371.** On January 18, UBS bank won right to sell Vijay Mallya's London home. Under the May 2019 order, UBS had been granted an 'immediate right to possession' and Mallya was not permitted to make any further applications to postpone or suspend the date for giving up possession. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- UBS bank – granted an 'immediate right to possession' to sell Vijay Mallya's London home
- [HQs of UBS bank – Zurich, Switzerland](#) | [CEO – Ralph Hamers](#)

**372.** On January 20, Kotak Mahindra Bank signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ Limited (GIFT SEZ), enabling both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system in GIFT IFSC for Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Global Custody Services. In May 2021, Kotak Mahindra Bank had issued the first-ever FPI license to a GIFT IFSC AIF, marking a new beginning in the journey of the fund business in GIFT IFSC. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Kotak Mahindra Bank + GIFT SEZ = an MoU to improve customers' overall financial services offerings
- [HQs of Kotak Mahindra Bank – Mumbai, MH](#) | [MD & CEO – Uday Kotak](#) | [Tagline – "Let's make money simple"](#)



**373.** On January 21, the RBI conducted a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operation to infuse liquidity, instead of its usual Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) operations to suck out cash. The central bank proposed to lend the banking system Rs 50,000 Cr under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF). Rs 50,000 Cr auction drew bids worth Rs 65,700 Cr from the banking system at the cut-off rate of 4.06%. The lowest call money rate was 2.80%, while the highest rate paid as call money was 4.65%. [{Read more}](#)

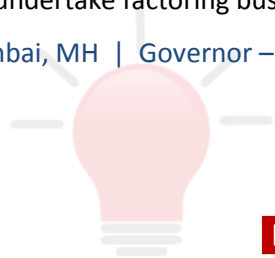
**Key Points:**

- RBI – conducted a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) operation to infuse liquidity
- RBI – proposed to lend the banking system Rs 50,000 Cr under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935

**374.** On January 21, the RBI amended the “Factoring Regulation Act, 2011”. In exercise of the powers conferred under the Act, the RBI issued some regulations. Under the provisions of the regulations, all existing Non-deposit taking NBFC-Investment & Credit Companies (NBFC-ICCs) with asset size of Rs 1000 Cr & above will be permitted to undertake factoring business. This will increase the number of NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business significantly from 7 to 182. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- RBI amended the “Factoring Regulation Act, 2011”
- Non-deposit taking NBFC-ICCs with asset size of Rs 1000 Cr & above are permitted to undertake factoring business
- NBFCs eligible to undertake factoring business will be increased from 7 to 182
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, MH | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25<sup>th</sup>) | Established in – 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1935



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**Defence Affairs**

**375.** On January 20, Swedish Defence Company ‘Saab AB’ has been given a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour weapon “AT4” to the Indian armed forces. AT4 will be used by Indian Army and Indian Air Force. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Saab AB (Sweden) – given a contract to supply single-shot anti-armour weapon “AT4” to the Indian Armed Forces
- ‘AT4’ will be used by – Indian Army & Indian Air Force

**376.** In January 2022, China unveiled world’s largest ‘Quadruped Military Robot’. This yak-like appearance robot is strong enough to carry 160 Kgs and can sprint at 10 Kph. The robot can deal with all sorts of road and weather conditions. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- China – unveiled world’s largest ‘Quadruped Military Robot’ with yak-like appearance
- China – Beijing – Renminbi | President – Xi Jinping

**377.** The Border Security Force conducted “Operation Sard Hawa” from January 23 to 28 along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan. All personnel and officers of the headquarters were on the border during this period and monitored the situation 24 hours. The BSF conducts “Operation Garam Hawa” in summer & “Operation Sard Hawa” in winter every year. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- BSF – conducted “Operation Sard Hawa” from January 23 to 28 along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan
- Every year, BSF – conducts “Operation Garam Hawa” in summer & “Operation Sard Hawa” in winter
- HQs of BSF – New Delhi | DG – Pankaj Kumar Singh | Established on – Dec 1, 1965 | Motto – “Duty Unto Death”

## Sports & Games

**378.** On January 19, Sania Mirza announced her retirement by the end of 2022 season. She is winner of 6 Grand Slam titles, including 3 mixed doubles trophies. She made the retirement announcement after losing the Australian Open women’s doubles first round with partner Nadiia Kichenok. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Sania Mirza (Tennis) – announced her retirement

**379.** She is the only Indian to win the award twice in her career, having earlier been awarded the trophy in 2018. The only other Indian to receive the award was Jhulan Goswami in 2007. Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry remains the only player to win the award three times. Indian women’s team played their maiden pink-ball Test in Australia. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- Smriti Mandhana – became only Indian to win “ICC Women’s Cricketer of the Year 2021” twice in her career
- Ellyse Perry (Australia) – the only player to win the award 3 times
- HQs of ICC – Dubai, UAE | Chairman – Greg Barclay | CEO – Geoff Allardice | Members – 106 countries

**380.** There are no Indian players in the “ICC Men’s T20I team of the Year 2021” while Pakistan skipper Babar Azam named as the Captain of the “ICC Men’s T20I Team of the Year 2021” in the 11, announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC). Babar’s opening partner, Mohammad Rizwan was also included in the team & named as the Wicketkeeper of the team. Besides, Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) & Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh) were also included. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- ICC announced the names of players included in the “ICC Men’s T20I team of the Year 2021”
- Captain – Babar Azam (Pakistan) | Wicketkeeper – Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
- Other players – Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan), Wanindu Hasaranga (Sri Lanka) & Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)

**381.** India hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup from 20 January to 6 February, 2022. India hosted the tournament for the second time after 1979. Mumbai and Pune hosted the matches in India. Total 12 teams participated in the tournament. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India – hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the “AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2022” (2<sup>nd</sup> time after 1979)
- Venues in India – Mumbai & Pune



**382.** On January 13, Lilima Minz, midfielder in hockey, announced her retirement from the sport. She hails from the Sundargarh district of Odisha. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lilima Minz (Odisha) – retired from Hockey
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Narinder Batra | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924
- HQs of Hockey India – New Delhi | President – Gyanendro Ningombam

## **Science & Technology**

**383.** In January 2022, a former Naval Officer, Tom Jacobs of Washington discovered a Jupiter-sized planet dubbed “TOI-2180 b”. Located about 379 light-years from Earth, this new planet takes 261 days to complete one revolution around its Sun. The planet was discovered hiding in the signatures captured by NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS). The discovery was published in the Astronomical Journal. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Tom Jacobs (US) – discovered a Jupiter-sized planet dubbed “TOI-2180 b” (located about 379 light-years from Earth)
- The discovery was published in ‘Astronomical Journal’

## **Appointments & Resignations**

**384.** On January 25, the central government approved to appoint Lieutenant General Manoj Pande as the next Vice-Chief of Army Staff. He succeeded Lt Gen CP Mohanty superannuated on 31 January, 2022. Prior to this appointment, he was the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande – appointed as the Vice-Chief of Army Staff (succeeding - Lt Gen CP Mohanty)
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane | Vice Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande

## **Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes**

**385.** On January 22, Rhapsody Music Foundation won the prestigious “Reimagine Education Award”, the ‘Oscars’ of Education and ranked Number 1 in Asia and Number 1 worldwide in the Arts and Humanities category. The Reimagine Award is given by Wharton School’s Alfred West Jr. Learning Lab and QS Quacquarelli Symonds. Rhapsody Music Foundation, which was founded by Anil Srinivasan in 2013, has reached over 4 lakh schoolchildren in south India and uses music to teach them science and mathematical concepts. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Rhapsody Music Foundation – won “Reimagine Education Award” also dubbed as the ‘Oscars’ of Education
- Award given by = Wharton School’s Alfred West Jr. Learning Lab + QS Quacquarelli Symonds
- Rhapsody Music Foundation – founded by Anil Srinivasan



**386.** On January 19, Albert Bourla, chairman & chief executive of Pfizer Inc, was awarded the prestigious ‘Genesis Prize’ or ‘Jewish Nobel’ for his efforts in leading the development of a COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer’s vaccine was the 1<sup>st</sup> to win U.S. approval for emergency use. The prize was inaugurated in 2014 & is usually awarded in Jerusalem each year by the President of Israel. The award is granted each year to a person for his professional achievements, contributions to humanity and commitment to Jewish values. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Albert Bourla (Chairman of Pfizer Inc) – awarded the ‘Genesis Prize’ also dubbed as ‘Jewish Nobel’
- The prize will be presented to him by the President of Israel

## **Obituaries**

**387.** Noted Ecologist/Environmentalist M. K. Prasad passed away at the age of 89. He served as Pro-Vice Chancellor of Calicut University. He led the Silent Valley campaign in the 70s. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- M. K. Prasad (Kerala) – Noted Environmentalist (Ecologist) – passed away



**388.** India will host 5 events in 2022 as decided by in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee on 17 January 2022. During this event, India handed over the chairmanship to China from January 2022. The theme for BRICS 2022 is “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”. DPIIT is the main executing agency for BRICS startups Forum and creation of innovation Knowledge Hub. China also proposed to host the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS S&T Ministerial meeting and Senior Official Meeting in September 2022. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- BRICS STI Steering Committee meeting decided: India will host 5 events in 2022
- India handed over the BRICS chairmanship to China from January 2022
- Theme for BRICS 2022 – “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”
- BRICS Member Countries: 5 – Brazil, Russia, India, China & South Africa | Chairship in 2022 – China

**389.** On January 20, at the India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation, India and Sri Lanka extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 years more, with focus on new areas like waste-water technologies, biotech, sustainable agriculture, aerospace engineering, robotics, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence. Indian delegation was led by Mr. S. K. Varshney at the India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- S. K. Varshney – led Indian delegation at the “India-Sri Lanka 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Committee on S&T Cooperation”
- India + Sri Lanka = extended the existing S&T cooperation for 3 years more
- Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee
- PM – Mahinda Rajapaksa | President – Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- MoS (I/C) in the Ministry of Science & Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh | Constituency – Udhampur, J&K

**390.** PM Narendra Modi hosted the first “India-Central Asia Summit” in a virtual format on January 27. The summit was held with the participation of the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Narendra Modi (India) – hosted the first “India-Central Asia Summit”
- Participated Countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan

## **Ranks, Reports & Surveys**

**391.** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to India dropped 26% in 2021 as compared with the previous year as large mergers and acquisitions deals recorded in 2020 were not repeated, according to the UNCTAD’s “Investment Trends Monitor” published on 19 January. Global FDI flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77% to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- “Investment Trends Monitor” report – released by the UNCTAD
- FDI flows to India dropped 26% in 2021 | Global FDI flows increased by 77% to \$1.65 trillion in 2021 (from \$929 bn)
- HQs of UNCTAD – Geneva, Switzerland | Secretary-General – Rebeca Grynspan

**392.** On January 19, according to the ‘Futures Industry Association’ (FIA), the National Stock Exchange of India emerged as the world’s largest derivatives exchange for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in 2021 in terms of the number of contracts traded. As per ‘World Federation of Exchanges’ (WFE), it was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the number of trades in cash equities for 2021. NSE recently announced the launch of derivatives on the Nifty Midcap Select index. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- NSE – emerged as the world’s largest derivatives exchange for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year in 2021
- NSE – ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the number of trades in cash equities for 2021
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi | MD & CEO – Vikram Limaye

**393.** On January 21, ‘Anxiety’ was chosen as “Children’s Word of the Year 2021”, according to new research from Oxford University Press (OUP). ‘Anxiety’ was the top choice, voted by 21% of children, it was followed by ‘Challenging’ (19%), ‘Isolate’ (14%) and ‘Well-being’ (13%). In comparison, teachers had chosen ‘Resilience’. Almost 8,000 children aged between 7-14, from 85 UK schools were surveyed by the OUP. [{Read more}](#)



### Key Points:

- Oxford University Press (OUP): 'Anxiety' word was chosen as "Children's Word of the Year 2021" (by 21% of children)
- Teachers chose 'Resilience' word

## Amount & Agreements

**394** On January 21, PM Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the India-assisted Social Housing Units project and virtually laid the foundation stone for the Civil Service College and 8 MW Solar PV Farm project which will help Mauritius mitigate the effects of climate change. They also signed an agreement for the extension of \$190M Line of Credit by India to Mauritius for the Metro Express project. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India + Mauritius = an agreement for the extension of \$190M LoC for the Metro Express project
- Narendra Modi & Pravind Kumar Jugnauth jointly:
  - inaugurated the India-assisted Social Housing Units project
  - laid the foundation stone for the Civil Service College
  - laid the foundation stone for 8 MW Solar PV Farm project
- Mauritius – Port Louis – Mauritian rupee | PM – Pravind Kumar Jugnauth



## Acquisitions & Mergers

**395.** On January 19, India Energy Exchange (IEX) announced divesting 4.93% equity stake in its subsidiary Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to oil marketing company Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). IEX & NSE are promoters of IGX and other strategic investors include GAIL, ONGC, Torrent Gas and Adani Total Gas. [{Read more}](#)

### Key Points:

- India Energy Exchange – announced divesting 4.93% equity stake in its subsidiary IGX to Indian Oil Corporation
- HQs of IEX – New Delhi | Chairman & Managing Director – Satyanarayan Goel
- HQs of IGX – Ahmedabad, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Rajesh Kumar Mediratta | Chairman – R. Vaidyanathan
- HQs of IOCL – New Delhi | Chairperson – Shrikant Madhav Vaidya | Founded in – 1959

## MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

**396.** On January 19, Amazon India signed an MoU with the NIF Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council (NIFientreC), a technology business incubator hosted by National Innovation Foundation (NIF), to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy, and livelihoods across rural India. NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST). Amazon and NIFientreC will collaborate with key players to conduct training programmes and accelerate grassroots innovation. [{Read more}](#)



**Key Points:**

- Amazon India + NIFientreC = MoU to accelerate grassroots innovation, local economy & livelihoods across rural India
- HQs of Amazon – Seattle , USA | CEO – Andy Jassy | Incorporated in – 1994
- HQs of Amazon India – Hyderabad, Telangana | Country Head – Amit Agarwal

**397.** On January 14, India & Denmark agreed to initiate joint research and development on green fuels including green hydrogen, during the Joint S&T Committee meeting. They also adopted the Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. S. K. Varshney. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- India + Denmark = agreed to initiate joint R&D on Green Fuels
- They also adopted the “Green Strategic Partnership - Action Plan 2020-2025”
- The meeting was co-chaired by – Mr. S. K. Varshney
- Denmark – Copenhagen – Danish krone | PM – Mette Frederiksen

**398.** On January 20, Jio Platforms (JPL) signed a pact with the University of Oulu, Finland, for undertaking research and standardization related activities in 6G technology. JPL and University of Oulu will collaborate in R&D of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- Jio Platforms + University of Oulu (Finland) = partnership to accelerate 6G research & standardization
- HQs of Jio Platforms – Mumbai, MH | President – Anish Shah

**399.** On January 20, ReNew Power formed a Joint Venture (JV) with US-based Fluence to form a new entity which will provide BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solutions in India. The 50:50 JV will target India's storage market which is estimated to grow to 27GW by 2030. The first project the JV will cater to is a 50MWh BESS for ReNew Powers’ 300 MW Peak Power Project in Karnataka. In 2019, Fluence delivered India’s first BESS project. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- ReNew Power + Fluence (US) = formed a JV to offer BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) solutions in India
- HQs of ReNew Power – Gurugram, Haryana | MD & Chairman – Sumant Sinha

**400.** On January 20, Agritech company ‘AgNext Technologies’ collaborated with NAFED to organise a virtual training and awareness programme on quality assessment of pulses for Maharashtra’s 5 biggest Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). The programme aimed to train FPOs about the different market quality standards for Tur. AgNext also showed its physical quality assessment device ‘SpecX Visio’ that can instantly analyse tur dal samples and conduct a physical quality check in less than a minute. [{Read more}](#)

**Key Points:**

- AgNext + NAFED = organised a training programme on quality assessment of Pulses for Maharashtra’s FPOs
- AgNext’s physical quality assessment device – ‘SpecX Visio’ to analyse tur dal samples
- HQs of NAFED – New Delhi | MD – Sanjeev Kumar Chadha | Chairman – Bijender Singh
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor – Bhagat Singh Koshyari







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