



Smartkeeda

The Question Bank

TestZone

PRESENTS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MOCKDRILL SERIES

- Excellent Content
- Unmatched Explanation
- Brilliant Analysis

UNIQUE FEATURES

- Monthly 700+ Important News
- 13 to 15 PDFs per Month
- Free Mock Tests based on Each PDF
- Unlimited re-attempt option
- Monthly Topic-wise PDFs

www.smartkeeda.com | testzone.smartkeeda.com



Friends!

We used **TESTZONE** and cracked Bank Exams

बैंक परीक्षाओ के लिए निश्चित रूप से
सर्वश्रेष्ठ मॉक टेस्ट सीरीज



Tanu Singh
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Debasish Kumar Nayak
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Kalyan Singh
RRB Clerk 2022



Sakshi Kumari
RRB PO 2022



Shrastha Das
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Saurav Sikdar
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Tawang Singh
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Koushik Samanta
RRB PO & Clerk 2022



Sonali Thakur
RRB Clerk 2022



Rajesh Khichar
RRB PO 2022

It's Your Turn Now
Take A FREE Mock Test

A Crucial Piece of Advice!

We find several students discussing the issue of lack of time and digging out content regarding how to use every second of your time efficiently. Some of you must be thinking, we have 86400 seconds each day, so why should we worry about just a single one? **Does a single second hold that much importance? YES!** When it comes to competition, each & every second is very crucial.

The first question that might come to your mind is “Is that even possible to use each second of your time effectively?” or “Do I even have that much spare time?” Let's help you by looking over the top time drainers of your daily routine:

- On an average, a person spends 67 minutes per day eating and drinking beverages while watching their favorite TV series.
- Travelling is one of the most overlooked time drainers. CNBC claims that the average commute is a little over 50 minutes per day.
- 44% of people waste tons of time just sitting in the traffic, while others keep scrolling through their feeds.
- Digital Information World suggests that people spend 2 hours and 22 minutes on social media.
- More often unproductive chats on WhatsApp are the major time drainers where you waste your time on without even knowing how much time is spent.

Adding up all these, you spend nearly **4 hours** daily or 1/6th of your day doing a whole lot of **NOTHING!** Over the course of a week that amounts to over **28 hours** of wasted time, and more than **1460 hours** or **52,560,000 seconds** annually!! Scary! Isn't it?

But what if you could effectively utilize this time to validate the knowledge you just gained during your study sessions? How about competing with your friend in a live Current Affairs battle instead of just sitting and listening to the traffic horns? How about dominating the English language leaderboard instead of searching for a filter on Snapchat?

Time and tide wait for none! Team Smartkeeda perceived the importance of time and practice in your test preparation journey. We understood how each second can make a huge difference to your career. Therefore, we were determined to build an application that has the competence to save each second of your preparation time making you 100% productive. We worked diligently for 3-4 years to build an application with the single aim of making each second of your test preparation time, efficient.

Folks! We feel thrilled to present you the **Qudoo App**, India's first Education-Gaming-Social platform (EGS) for all major competitive Exams, which has the unique capability of making your breaks extremely productive and refilling.

If you use the **Qudoo App** for 11-21 days during your preparation, in between your breaks, like while travelling, having meals, or instead of using any other social media app, within a few days, you'll feel like you've developed a mechanism inside your head that has the capability to answer the questions within a fraction of seconds. Timer-based points in Qudoo quizzes will create a cognitive reserve inside your brain that will automatically let you develop strategies to solve the questions within seconds to beat the opponent.

We, team **Smartkeeda**, promise that with the effective use of the Qudoo app, you will be able to see a drastic change in your performance at exams including your **speed, accuracy, and percentile** within a couple of weeks with minimum effort. “KYUKI MAA-BAAP KI FIKRA KO FAKRA ME BADALNA HAI”, so every second counts!!

 **DOWNLOAD QUDOO APP: [Click Here!](#)**



Testzone presents
Full-Length Current Affairs Mock Test Series

January
MockDrill
PDF No. 13

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 21st February, 2023

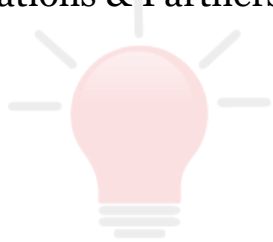
[Attempt Test No. 13 based on this PDF!](#)

DOWNLOAD:

[Other PDFs of Jan 2023](#) | [Dec 2022 Monthly Combo PDF](#)

INDEX

National & States Affairs	6
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	9
Defence Affairs	12
Sports & Games	14
Arts & Cultural Affairs	14
Science & Technology	14
Appointments & Resignations	15
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes	16
Schemes & Initiatives	18
Obituaries	19
Meetings, Conferences & Summits	19
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	19
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership	21



Smartkeeda
The Question Bank

If you are a CA Mockdrill Series User,

Use coupon code - “MockDrill”

to get 10% discount on all plans available at testzone.smartkeeda.com

Warning: Smartkeeda possesses all copyrights on its content. This doesn't allow anyone to use its content for commercial purposes. If any infringement is found, legal action will be taken against the individual or entity. If you want to use the content for commercial purposes, kindly write to us at admin@smartkeeda.com.

National & States Affairs

601. On January 26, Govind Mohan, the Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, announced to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the private sector for their upkeep under the 'Monument Mitra Scheme'. Corporate entities will take over these monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The government has set the target to hand over 500 sites under the revamped 'Monument Mitra Scheme' by the end of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav on 15 August, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Culture – announced to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the ASI to the private sector for their upkeep under the 'Monument Mitra Scheme'
- Government targets to hand over 500 sites under the revamped 'Monument Mitra Scheme' by 15 August, 2023
- Minister of Culture: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana
- MoS in Minister of Culture: Arjun Ram Meghwal & Meenakashi Lekhi

602. Visakhapatnam will be declared the new capital of Andhra Pradesh in the coming days, announced by Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy at the 'International Diplomatic Alliance Meeting' in New Delhi. He also announced that state government is organizing the 'Global Investors Summit' in Visakhapatnam on March 3 and 4, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- International Diplomatic Alliance Meeting – held in New Delhi
- Visakhapatnam – will be declared the new capital of Andhra Pradesh
- Global Investors Summit – to be organised in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer

603. Broadcasters in India will have to set aside at least 30 minutes of air time daily for public service programming (PSB) of national importance and social relevance from March 1, 2023, according to the "Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels in India, 2022" released by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. All broadcasters will have to submit a report on the government's Broadcast Seva Portal by the 7th of the following month. The broadcaster shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- The Centre issued Public Service Broadcast (PSB) guidelines, effective from March 1, 2023:
 - Broadcasters will have to show PSB of national importance & social relevance for at least 30 minutes in a day
 - Broadcaster will have to submit a report on the government's Broadcast Seva Portal by the 7th of the next month
 - Broadcaster shall keep the record of the content telecast for a period of 90 days

604. On January 31, Maharashtra government officially adopted 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' as the State song. The decision to adopt the song was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Eknath Shinde. The song was set to be adopted on February 19, the birth anniversary of the 17th century Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji. The song, translated into English as 'Glory to Maharashtra', was composed/written by Marathi poet Raja Badhe and sung by renowned folk artiste Krishnarao Ganpatrao Sable, affectionately known as 'Shahir' Sable. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Maharashtra Govt – officially adopted 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha' (Glory to Maharashtra) as the State song
- Composed by – Raja Badhe | Sung by – shnarao Ganpatrao Sable ('Shahir')
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

605. On January 31, Ministry of Law and Justice constituted a working committee for the drafting of rules and standards for mediation in India under the chairmanship of former Law Secretary P. K. Malhotra. The committee would also provide a method for the active dissemination of the benefits of the provisions of the Mediation Bill/Act and give wide publicity to the said provisions amongst the stakeholders and the citizens. The Bill also provides for the establishment of the Mediation Council of India. The Mediation Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on December 20, 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Law & Justice – constituted a working committee for the drafting of rules & standards for mediation in India
- It is headed by – P. K. Malhotra (Former Law Secretary)
- Ministry for Law & Justice: Kiren Rijju | Constituency – Arunachal West
- MoS in Ministry of Law & Justice – S. P. Singh Baghel

606. On January 29, Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) organised a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi government schools at Thyagaraja stadium. Nearly 4,000 teachers from Delhi government schools were expected to participate in this workshop between January 28 to February 1. Jeevan Vidya Shivir is a co-existence workshop based on the Coexistential philosophy of A Nagraj. This Shivir was held to help teachers in building their capacity to find those gaps present in the education system and fill them. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SCERT (Delhi) – organised a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi Govt schools at Thyagaraja stadium
- Delhi: CM – Arvind Kejriwal | Lt. Governor – Vinai Kumar Saxena | Chief Secretary – Naresh Kumar

607. On January 27, during the US-India Alliance Shatter Summit, Mukesh Aghi, President & CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), announced the launch of the "US-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment (STEM Collaborative)". Under this Alliance, one of the key priorities has been to accelerate women in STEM education and the workforce. This alliance is a public-private partnership between the State Department, USAID, USISPF, and George Washington University. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- "US-India Alliance for Women's Economic Empowerment (STEM Collaborative)" – is launched to increase number of women in STEM Education & Workforce in India
- The alliance is a public-private partnership between = USAID + USISPF + George Washington University
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

608. On January 28, Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid the foundation stone for a campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharwad in Karnataka. The University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, has agreed to hand over 50 acres to set up the new campus. Courses will be offered here in forensic sciences to boost capability in gathering scientific evidence from crime scenes in Karnataka. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Amit Shah – laid foundation stone for a campus of National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) at Dharwad, Karnataka
- Karnataka: Capital – Bangalore | CM – Basavaraj Bommai | Governor – Thaawarchand Gehlot

609. On January 28, PM Narendra Modi inspected the Guard of Honour and reviewed the march-past by National Cadet Corps (NCC) contingents, demonstrating their skills, microlight flying, parasailing. Cultural programmes were also held. The rally is the culmination of NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) and is held on January 28 every year at Delhi's Cariappa Parade Ground. A total of 196 officers and cadets from 19 foreign countries were invited to be a part of the celebrations. During the event, PM Modi also released a special day cover and a commemorative and specially minted coin of ₹75 denomination, marking the 75 successful years of the NCC. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- PM Modi released a specially minted coin of Rs 75 denomination commemorating 75 successful years of the NCC
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh | Founded on – 16 April, 1948 | Motto – 'Unity & Discipline'

610. Ministry of Science and Technology published the 'National Geospatial Policy, 2022'. The policy seeks to establish a high-resolution topographical survey and mapping and a high-accuracy digital elevation model for the entire country by 2030, in addition to developing geospatial infrastructures, skills and knowledge, standards, and enterprises. The policy describes the creation of 14 National Fundamental Sectoral Geospatial Data Themes. India's geospatial economy is expected to surpass Rs. 63,000 crores by 2025, with the growth of 12.8%. The initiative would create a 'National Geospatial Data Framework' and make data affordably available to enterprises and the general public. By 2025, the government plans to implement a legal framework that supports geospatial sector liberalisation and data democratisation for improved commercialisation with value-added services. The government intends to create an Integrated Data and Information Framework (IDIF) through which a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) will be built by 2030. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Science & Technology – published the 'National Geospatial Policy, 2022'
- The policy seeks to establish a high-resolution topographical survey & mapping and a high-accuracy digital elevation model for the entire country by 2030
- Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure (GKI) will be built by 2030 through an Integrated Data and Information Framework
- India's geospatial economy is expected to surpass Rs. 63,000 Cr by 2025, with the growth of 12.8%
- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Ashwini Vaishnav | Constituency – Odisha
- MoS in Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology: Rajeev Chandrasekhar

611. The Justice G. Rohini-led commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) has been given 6-month another extension in its tenure by the President, according to a gazette notification issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on January 29, 2023. This is the 14th extension in tenure. The commission, formed in October 2017, was initially given 12 weeks to finish the task of sub-categorizing the nearly 3,000 castes within the OBC umbrella and recommend division of the 27% OBC quota among them equitably. The commission decided to divide all OBC communities into 4 broad categories. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Commission for the sub-categorisation of OBC is given 6-month another (14th) extension in its tenure by the President
- The commission is led by – Justice G. Rohini | The commission was formed in – October, 2017

Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

612. On January 30, Infibeam Avenues Ltd's flagship brand, CCAvenue, became India's First payment gateway player to process Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee transactions for online retail merchants. It is an industry first where CCAvenue has facilitated CBDC online transactions with an aim to strengthen India's digital payments ecosystem further. The aim of the Indian government and the RBI in launching the Digital Rupee is to reduce the ₹32 Lakh Crore of cash in circulation. The RBI has identified 8 banks for phase-wised participation in the retail pilot project for CBDC. The first phase includes 4 banks, namely the SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank and IDFC First Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- CCAvenue – became India's 1st payment gateway to process 'CBDC or Digital Rs' transactions for online retail merchants
- The first phase of the retail pilot project for CBDC includes 4 banks: SBI, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank
- HQs of Infibeam Avenues – Gandhinagar, Gujarat | CEO – Vishal Mehta (Infibeam Avenues owns CCAvenue)

613. On January 31, IDFC FIRST Bank has partnered with ToneTag, a global proximity and voice tech solution provider, to enable acceptance of digital rupee at merchant outlets. This follows a pilot launch of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) for retail users by the RBI. In December 2022, the RBI launched a pilot for retail digital rupee (e₹-R) with 4 banks in 4 cities, including IDFC FIRST Bank, a month after testing the wholesale CBDC. The CBDC will be mainly used for retail payments just like "cash". It will be a digital rupee (e₹-R) signifying legal tender in the form of digital token and issued in the same denominations as paper currency and coins and will be distributed through intermediaries, i.e., banks. As per RBI, users will be able to transact with e₹-R through a digital wallet offered by the participating banks and stored on mobile phones or hardware wallets to facilitate person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions. As in the case of cash, it will not earn any interest and can be converted to other forms of money, like deposits with banks. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- IDFC FIRST Bank + ToneTag = partnered to enable acceptance of digital rupee (e₹-R) at merchant outlets
- In Dec, RBI launched a pilot for retail digital rupee with 4 banks in 4 cities
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao
- HQs of IDFC First Bank – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – V. Vaidyanathan | Established in – 2018

614. On January 31, Reserve Bank of India appointed V. Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of the two Srei Group companies undergoing insolvency proceedings - Srei Infrastructure Finance and Srei Equipment Finance. The appointment followed the resignation of Farokh N. Subedar from the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee now comprises Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, former deputy MD at State Bank of India, TT Srinivasaraghavan, former MD of Sundaram Finance, and V Ramachandra, former Chief General Manager at Canara Bank. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI – appointed V. Ramachandra as a member of the Advisory Committee of two Srei NBFCs
- Other two members: Venkat Nageshwar Chalasani, TT Srinivasaraghavan
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

615. On January 27, Edelweiss Asset Management (EAM) Limited launched 'Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund', India's first passive short-duration index fund. The new fund offer was open for subscription from January 27 to February 10. Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund will replicate CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index by investing in a diversified portfolio of Indian Government Bonds and SDLs, subject to tracking errors. Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund will invest in 50% Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) and 50% State Development Loans (SDLs). The G-Sec portion will be constructed by selecting most liquid Government Bonds with a minimum outstanding of Rs 10,000 Cr falling in duration buckets starting from 1 year to 5 years. The lower cost will add up in the returns. This cost-effective index fund can be an ideal option for investors looking to include fixed income in their portfolio as a component of their asset allocation strategy. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- EAM Ltd – launched “Edelweiss CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index Fund”, India's 1st passive short-duration index fund (It will invest in 50% IGBs & 50% SDLs)
- The Fund will replicate 'CRISIL IBX 50:50 Gilt Plus SDL Short Duration Index'
- [HQs of Edelweiss Asset Management – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [CEO – Radhika Gupta](#)

616. On January 24, SBM Bank (India) raised ₹99 Cr from Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through the issue of tier-II bonds. This is the second tranche of tier-II bond issues by the bank, which had earlier raised ₹125 Cr in its maiden such issue in April 2022 at a rate of 9.75%. With this fresh round, SBM Bank India has now cumulatively raised ₹224 Cr via tier-II bonds. SBM Bank India is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Mauritius-based SBM Group. The bank has a network of 12 branches across the country, including the recently opened branch in Kolkata. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SBM Bank (India) – raised ₹99 Cr through the issue of tier-II bonds from LIC (2nd tranche by the bank)
- SBM Bank India is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Mauritius-based SBM Group
- [HQs of SBM Bank India – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [MD & CEO – Sidharth Rath](#)
- SBM Bank India – the 1st foreign bank in India to obtain a banking license from the RBI
- [HQs of LIC – Mumbai](#) | [Chairman – M. R. Kumar](#) | [Founded in – 1956](#) | [Tagline – “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham”](#)

617. In January 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) of 2021 based on the data from March 31, 2022. In line with the 2020 list of D-SIBs, SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank are still categorized as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for DSIBs was phased in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. On July 22, 2014, the Reserve Bank published the Framework for handling D-SIBs. D-SIBs are also known as 'too-big-to fail' banks. They are interconnected entities, whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank will be in the 1st bucket with an Additional CET-1 requirement as a percentage of RWAs of 0.20%. While SBI will be in the 3rd bucket with an Additional Common Equity Tier (CET)- 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) of 0.60%. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI – issued its list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2021 (based on data from March 31, 2022)
- At present, D-SIBs include 3 banks: SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank (aka 'too-big-to fail' banks)
- ICICI Bank & HDFC Bank will be in the 1st bucket, while SBI will be in the 3rd bucket
- [HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Governor – Shaktikanta Das \(25th\)](#) | [Established on – 1st April, 1935](#)
- [Total Deputy Governors \(4\) – Mahesh Kumar Jain](#) | [T. Rabi Sankar](#) | [Michael D. Patra](#) | [M. Rajeshwar Rao](#)



618. The gross non-performing asset (GNPA) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) fell to a 7-year low of 5% in September 2022 (Q2 FY23), as per the 26th Financial Stability Report (FSR) released by the RBI in January 2023. The net non-performing assets (NNPA) dropped to 10-year low of 1.3% in September 2022. India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened to 4.4% of GDP in Q2 FY23, the highest since the June quarter of 2013. India's foreign exchange reserves on BoP basis recorded a deficit of USD 30.4 billion in Q2 FY23, compared to a USD 31.2 billion surplus in the Q2 FY22. The system-level Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) in September 2023, under baseline, medium and severe stress scenarios, is projected at 14.9%, 14% and 13.1%, respectively. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- RBI released the 26th Financial Stability (FSR) in January 2023
- GNPA ratio of SCBs fell to a 7-year low of 5% in Sep 2022 (Q2 FY23)
- NNPA ratio of SCBs fell to a 10-year low of 1.3% in Sep 2022 (Q2 FY23)
- India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) widened to 4.4% of GDP in Q2 FY23 (highest since June 2023)
- India's Foreign Exchange Reserves on BoP basis recorded a deficit of \$30.4 billion in Q2 FY23
- CRAR in Q2 FY23 under scenarios - Baseline, Medium & Severe Stress – 14.9%, 14% and 13.1% (respectively)

619. In January 2023, Department of Economic Affairs, under Ministry of Finance, hiked the interest rate on various Small Savings Schemes for Q4 of the current FY 2022-23 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023). The interest rate of 5-year National Saving Certificate (NSC) has been increased to 7% from 6.8%. The interest rate on the Senior Citizen Saving Scheme (SCSS) increased to 8% from 7.6%. The Monthly Income Account Saving has also been increased to 7.1% from 6.7%. The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) will now be 7.2% and will mature in 120 months. The interest rate of a Small Savings Deposit of 1-year time period has been increased to 6.6% from 5.5%. The Interest Rate of 2-year time deposit has changed to 6.8% from 5.7%. However, the interest rate on the Public Provident Fund (PPF) scheme, Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) and Saving Deposit have been kept unchanged. The Shyamala Gopinath Committee provided the formula to calculate the interest rates for the small savings scheme. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Finance – hiked the interest rate on various 'Small Savings Schemes (SSS)' for the Q4 of FY 2022-23
- Public Provident Fund (PPF) – 7.1% | National Savings Certificate (NSC) – 7%
- Senior Citizens Savings Scheme – 8% | Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana – 7.6%
- Kisan Vikas Patra – 7.2% (maturity - 120 months) | Post Office Monthly Income Scheme – 7.1%
- Small Savings Deposit of 1-year – 6.6% | Savings Deposit of 2-year – 6.8%
- The Small Savings Schemes include – 12 Schemes
- Shyamala Gopinath Committee provided the formula to calculate the interest rates for the SSS

Defence Affairs

620. Under the Reserve Bank of India's Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS), about 2,09,196 complaints were received between April 1 and November 11, 2022. The complaints related to ATM/Debit Cards were the highest at 14.65%, followed by complaints related to Mobile/Electronic Banking at 13.64%. Under NBFC Ombudsman Scheme (OSNBFC), about 20,439 complaints were received, of which the highest 61.89% of complaints were relating to 'Non-adherence of Fair Practices Code (FPC)' were the highest, followed by complaints regarding 'Non-observance of RBI directions' and 'Levy of Charges without prior notice'. Under Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions, of the total 2,281 complaints received between April 1 and November 11, a majority of 44.76% were related to fund transfers/UPI/BBPS/Bharat QR Code. The volume of complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes/Consumer Education and Protection Cells during FY 2021-22 increased by 9.39% at 4,18,184 as compared to FY 2020-21. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- About 2,09,196 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's the Banking Ombudsman Scheme (BOS)
- Under BOS, maximum complaints were related to ATM/Debit Cards (14.65%)
- About 20,439 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's NBFC Ombudsman Scheme (OSNBFC)
- Under OSNBFC, maximum complaints were related to Non-adherence of Fair Practices Code (61.89%)
- About 2,281 complaints were received between April-Nov'22 – under RBI's Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions
- Under OSDT, maximum complaints were related to fund transfers/UPI/BBPS/Bharat QR Code (44.76%)
- Volume of complaints received under the Ombudsman Schemes during FY 2021-22 increased by 9.39% at 4,18,184
- HQs of RBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Governor – Shaktikanta Das (25th) | Established on – 1st April, 1935
- Total Deputy Governors (4) – Mahesh Kumar Jain | T. Rabi Sankar | Michael D. Patra | M. Rajeshwar Rao

621. On January 29, the annual firepower demonstration and training exercise, "TOPCHI", was conducted by the School of Artillery in Devlali Field Firing Ranges in Nashik, Maharashtra. The event was conducted under the stewardship of Lieutenant General S. Harimohan Iyer, AVSM, Commandant School of Artillery and Colonel Commandant Regiment of Artillery. This year's exercise showcased the integrated employment of firepower and surveillance assets to include guns, mortars, rockets, drones and aviation assets. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- "TOPCHI", annual firepower demonstration & training exercise – conducted by the School of Artillery in Devlali, MH
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais

622. In January 2023, Indian military concluded exercise 'Trishakti Prahar', a joint training exercise, in North Bengal. The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the security forces, using latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs. The exercise concluded with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise at the Teesta Field Firing Ranges. The exercise also witnessed participation of newly-inducted weapons and equipment made in India as a part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 'Trishakti Prahar', a joint training exercise, in North Bengal – conducted by Indian Army, IAF & CAPF
- HQs of Indian Army – New Delhi | Chief – Lt. Gen. Manoj Pande | Vice Chief – Lt. General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh





SCAN TO
DOWNLOAD APP

Smartkeeda प्रस्तुत करता है

भारत का पहला

EGS

Education-Gaming-Social-Platform



Play Quizzes in

QUANT | REASONING | ENGLISH | GS | CURRENT AFFAIRS | LAW

Useful for Exams

- BANK & INSURANCE
- SSC & RAILWAYS
- TEACHING EXAMS
- LAW EXAMS
- UPSC
- DEFENCE EXAMS
- STATE EXAMS
- CUET

इस खेल में कोई वित्तीय जोखिम नहीं है और इसकी आदत लग जाए तो अच्छा है।

Sports & Games

623. On January 30, Sports For All, a competition organiser, has been signed by Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) as one of its sponsors for the next 5 years. Through this strategic partnership, SFA will invest ₹12.5 Crore over the next 5 years to contribute to developing India's sporting DNA. The firm provides statistics and data to players in competitions for coaches to understand their strengths and weaknesses. It was also a partner of the Indian Olympic Association for the Tokyo Olympics 2020, Commonwealth Games 2022 & Asian Games 2022. Moreover, Star Sports has bagged the broadcast rights of the Sports Ministry's flagship Khelo India School Games (KISG) for a period of five years from 2018 to 2022. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Sports For All – signed by Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) as one of its Sponsors for the next 5 years
- Star Sports – bagged the broadcast rights of the Sports Ministry's 'Khelo India School Games' for 5 years

Arts & Cultural Affairs

624. On January 30, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair at Salt Lake. The book fair, one of the biggest in eastern India, was held from January 31 to February 12 at the Central Park Mela ground. Spain was the theme country at the fair. 6 books of Shri Mamata Banerjee were launched at the fair. There were around 700 stalls and 200 Little Magazine stalls at the fair. Moreover, Jose Maria Ridaó, the Ambassador of Spain, announced that India will be invited as the Theme Country at the Madrid International Book Fair in 2025. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Mamata Banerjee – inaugurated the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair at Salt Lake | Theme Country – Spain
- India – will be invited as the Theme Country at 'Madrid International Book Fair' in 2025
- West Bengal: Capital – Kolkata | CM – Mamta Banerjee | Governor – CV Ananda Bose

Science & Technology

625. On January 31, Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a Bengaluru-based lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), developed an UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA), a major subsystem for a space radar. UFRA system consists of a rim truss-based deployable mechanism, primary arm, reflector mesh, tension ties, nets, and motor. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- LRDE-DRDO (Bengaluru) – developed an 'UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA)', a major subsystem for a space radar
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958



626. On January 30, Eminent Air, a drone start-up, showcased its first-ever, one-of-its-kind drone, a parachute integrated system as part of an event to mark its inaugural flight. It can cover a maximum distance of over 60 kms in about 60 mins in a single mission. It provides environmentally friendly transportation options with no carbon footprint. The payload compartment of the drone is equipped with an 'Insulated Vaccine Carrier' that keeps temperature-sensitive items like vaccines and medicines, safe. Eminent Air specializes in providing safe and reliable transportation solutions for making the fastest, most efficient contact-free deliveries. Eminent Air was founded with the vision to leverage and operate Drone Technology in accordance with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Gati Shakti and Atmanirbhar Bharat leaving zero carbon footprint. Eminent Air specialises in 'On Demand Logistics' through the medium of Drones. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Eminent Air – showcased its first-ever, one-of-its-kind drone, a parachute integrated system
- It provides environmentally friendly transportation options with no carbon footprint
- HQs of Eminent Air – New Delhi | Founder & CEO – Priyank Varshney

Appointments & Resignations

627. On January 31, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh is appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), succeeding incumbent Air Marshal Sandeep Singh. AP Singh was awarded the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' by the President of India on Republic Day in 2019 for his 'distinguished' services. Before taking charge of the prestigious Central Air Command (CAC), he was a Senior Air Staff Officer at the Eastern Air Command. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh – appointed as the new Vice Chief of the IAF (succeeding - Air Marshal Sandeep Singh)
- HQs of IAF – New Delhi | Chief – Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari | Vice Chief – Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh

628. On January 30, Puma announced Indian women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur as its latest brand ambassador in a commitment to back women in the sports ecosystem. As part of the partnership terms, Kaur will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories through multiple activities and campaigns throughout the year. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Harmanpreet Kaur – appointed as the brand ambassador of Puma
- HQs of Puma – Herzogenaurach, Germany | CEO – Arne Freundt

629. On January 28, IPS officer Gyanendra Pratap Singh, a 1991-batch Assam-Meghalaya cadre officer, is appointed as the next Director General of Police (DGP) of Assam. Mr. Singh, currently a special DGP in the State Police Force, took over from Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta. He was serving as the NIA's IGP in New Delhi before being rushed back to the State. He was also a part of the Special Protection Group (SPG) earlier. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Gyanendra Pratap Singh – appointed as the next DGP of Assam
- Assam: Capital – Dispur | CM – Himanta Biswa Sarma | Governor – Jagdish Mukhi



630. On January 31, Unilever announced the appointment of Hein Schumacher as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), following an extensive, global search process. Hein will replace Alan Jope. Hein is currently CEO of the global dairy and nutrition business Royal FrieslandCampina and became a Non-Executive Director of Unilever in October last year. He will begin as Unilever CEO on 1 July 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Hein Schumacher – appointed as CEO of Unilever (replacing - Alan Jope)
- HQs of Unilever Plc – London, UK | CEO – Alan Jope (From July'23 – Hein Schumacher)

631. On January 30, Morgan Stanley named Arun Kohli as the new India head to replace Sanjay Shah, a veteran of 26 years at the firm. Kohli, currently the chief operating officer for EMEA, will head the US bank's business in the country. The Wall Street bank had been operating in India for 29 years and provides a variety of services from investment banking, fixed income, commodities and derivative products. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Arun Kohli – named as India Head of Morgan Stanley (replacing - Sanjay Shah)
- HQs of Morgan Stanley – New York, US | CEO – James P. Gorman

632. On January 30, Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited appointed Madhvendra Singh as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster. The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards. The GMC intends to host a wide array of maritime, shipping and logistics services providers in GIFT City at Gandhinagar. Gujarat Maritime Board established GMC through its subsidiary, Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Madhvendra Singh – appointed as the first CEO of Gujarat Maritime Cluster
- GMC – established by Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited (subsidiary of Gujarat Maritime Board)
- Gujarat: Capital – Gandhinagar | CM – Bhupendra Patel | Governor – Acharya Dev Vrat

Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

633. On January 29, Maharashtra contingent of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate has won the prestigious Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2023 event for the second year in a row. Twenty-two cadets from the Maharashtra NCC directorate walked the Kartavya Path as part of the All India NCC contingent. Cadet Pujari Shivananda Ashok commanded the Republic Day parade contingent. Number 2 Maharashtra Naval NCC Unit was adjudged 'The Most Enterprising Naval Unit (MENU)' and Cadet Astha Singh was awarded for as the best Senior Wing Cadet (Navy). [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Maharashtra contingent of NCC Directorate – won Prime Minister's Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2023
- HQs of NCC – New Delhi | DG – Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh | Founded on – 16 April, 1948 | Motto – 'Unity & Discipline'
- Maharashtra: CM – Eknath Shinde | Governor – Ramesh Bais



634. Union Minister of State for Defense Ajay Bhatt presented the awards for the 74th Republic Day parade. Uttarakhand's 'Manskhanda' tableau, which showcased religious places and the progressive developments of the state, was awarded the first position under Best Tableaux of State/UTs. Notably, the 'Manaskhand' theme for the tableau was proposed by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami. Maharashtra's tableau, with the theme Sade Tin Shaktipithe & Nari Shakti, and Uttar Pradesh's tableau, featuring the 3-day Deepotsav, won the second and third prizes respectively. Gujarat's tableau, on the theme of "Clean-Green Energy Efficient Gujarat", achieved the first ranking in the category of People's Choice Awards. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra won the second and third prize respectively. Gujarat's tableau displayed the world's largest Hybrid Renewable Energy Park at Khawda in Kutch; Modhera village-country's first 24x7 solar-powered village through BESS (Battery Energy Storage System), prosperity of farmers under PM-KUSUM yojana through solar rooftop and canal rooftop energy system. Moreover, the Marching Contingent of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was declared as the Best Marching Contingent among Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)/other auxiliary forces under both categories. There were 17 states and 6 Ministries which presented their respective tableaux at the national level celebration and parade of the 74th Republic Day. For the first time, all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) like CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP & Assam Rifles, showcased a common tableau for the 2023 Republic Day Parade. Assistant Commandant Komalpreet Kaur was the team leader of this tableau. Moreover, other winners are mentioned below in detail.



[{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ajay Bhatt – presented the awards for the 74th Republic Day parade
- Total 23 tableaux (17 states/UTs + 6 Ministries/Depts) – participated at Kartavya Path for the Republic Day parade
- **Winners declared by the Panel of Judges:**
 - Best 3 Tableaux (State/UTs): 1st – Uttarakhand | 2nd – Maharashtra | 3rd – Uttar Pradesh
 - Best Tableau (Ministries/Depts): Ministry of Tribal Affairs (for Eklavya Model Residential Schools)
 - Best Marching Contingent among 3 services: Punjab Regiment
 - Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces: CRPF
 - Special Prize: Central Public Works Department & 'Vande Bharatam' Dance Group
- **Winners under People's Choice Awards (on MyGov Portal):**
 - Best 3 Tableaux (State/UTs): 1st – Gujarat | 2nd – Uttar Pradesh | 3rd – Maharashtra
 - Best Tableau (Ministries/Depts): Ministry of Home Affairs (for CAPF)
 - Best Marching Contingent among 3 services: IAF
 - Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/Other Auxiliary Forces: CRPF

635. On January 26, an agriculturist-turned-craftsman, C. V. Raju, has been conferred 'Padma Shri 2023' for his work in the Etikoppaka toy craft. Mr. Raju is among the seven persons from Andhra Pradesh who have been selected for the Padma awards announced by the Union Home Ministry. Mr. Raju has his origins in Etikoppaka, a traditional craftsman village in Visakhapatnam district in coastal Andhra Pradesh. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- C. V. Raju (Andhra Pradesh) – conferred 'Padma Shri 2023' for his work in the Etikoppaka toy craft
- Etikoppaka – a traditional craftsman village in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- [Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – S. Abdul Nazeer](#)



636. On January 31, Former prime minister Dr Manmohan Singh was conferred a 'Lifetime Achievement Honour' by the India-UK Achievers Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life. The India-UK Achievers Honours by NISAU UK, in partnership with the British Council in India and the UK's Department for International Trade (DIT), celebrate the achievements of Indian students who studied at British universities and the Lifetime Achievement Honour is a nod to Dr Singh's academic achievements at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. To mark 75 years of India's independence, the first-ever India UK Achievers Honours covered 75 high achievers and some key Outstanding Achievers who bolster the India-UK diaspora living bridge. British Indian peer Lord Karan Bilimoria received the 'Living Legend Honour' at the awards ceremony on January 25. Opposition Labour Party MP Virendra Sharma, another a patron of NISAU UK, was also conferred the Living Legend Honour. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Dr Manmohan Singh – conferred a 'Lifetime Achievement Honour' at the India-UK Achievers Honours in London
- The honour is given by = NISAU UK + British Council in India + UK's Department for International Trade
- Karan Bilimoria & Virendra Sharma – received the 'Living Legend Honour'

Schemes & Initiatives

637. On January 29, Uttar Pradesh government launched a campaign titled "Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan" to make daughters of the underprivileged classes capable and self-reliant. The campaign, 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' will work in association with an NGO, under the 'Aarohini Initiative Training Program' for the safety and security of girls in all 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in the state. The Campaign will be implemented in three phases. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Uttar Pradesh – launched a campaign titled "Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan"
- The campaign will work in association with an NGO, under the 'Aarohini Initiative Training Program'
- UP: Capital – Lucknow | CM – Yogi Adityanath | Governor – Anandiben Patel

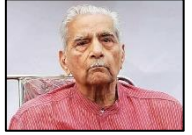
638. In January 2023, the cabinet approved continuation of Schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, with an outlay of Rs 12882.2 Cr, for the balance period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). Based on the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) recommendations, the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) will be Rs 8139.5 Cr including committed liabilities of ongoing projects. The outlay for 'Schemes of NEC' will be Rs 3202.7 Cr including committed liabilities of ongoing projects. Moreover, the Ministry's new scheme "Prime Minister's Development initiative for the North Eastern Region - PM-Devine" (with an outlay of Rs 6, 600 Cr), was approved separately in October 2022. North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project of Rs 9,265 Cr is underway and will improve economy in NER. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Cabinet approved continuation of Schemes of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (Outlay – Rs 12882.2 Cr)
- Outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme – Rs 8139.5 Cr | Outlay for 'Schemes of NEC' – Rs 3202.7 Cr
- Outlay of 'Prime Minister's Development initiative for the North Eastern Region - PM Devine' – Rs 6, 600 Cr
- Outlay of North East Gas Grid (NEGG) project – Rs 9,265 Cr

Obituaries

639. On January 31, Former Union Law Minister and Eminent Jurist, Shanti Bhushan, passed away at the age of 97. Bhushan, who was also a senior advocate, served as the law minister from 1977 to 1979 in the Morarji Desai cabinet. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Shanti Bhushan – Former Union Law Minister and Eminent Jurist – passed away

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

640. On January 31, the first G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group meeting under the G20 Indian Presidency was held in Chandigarh. International Financial Architecture Working Group is one of the important workstreams under the G20 Finance Track with a focus on strengthening the international financial architecture. It also aims to address multiple challenges faced by vulnerable countries. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- First G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group Meeting – held in Chandigarh
- Presidency of G20 Summit: 2023 – India (Dec 1, 2022 to Nov 30, 2023) | 2024 – Brazil
- India's G20 motto – 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' | Theme – 'One Earth One Family One Future' | Sherpa – Amitabh Kant

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

641. On January 31, Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) released the ranking of Top Management and Business School, called "MBA Ranking 2023". IIM Ahmedabad has taken over the first position followed by IIM Bengaluru and IIM Kolkata in second and third position respectively. The UK's London Business School tops among the Business Schools globally. The top three position has been attained by the public institutions while among only private institutions, Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur topped the list, followed by Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon & Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Pune. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- "MBA Ranking 2023" – released by Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF)
- Overall Rankings in India: 1st – IIM Ahmedabad, 2nd – IIM Bengaluru, 3rd – IIM Kolkata
- Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur – topped among only private institutions
- London Business School (UK) – tops among the Business Schools globally

642. On January 29, National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) emerged as the 3rd largest exchange in the world in the equity segment by the number of trades (electronic order book) in 2022 as per statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). In 2021, it was ranked at 4th position. NSE has also maintained its position as the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022 by the number of contracts traded based on statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA), a derivatives trade body. The calendar year witnessed the benchmark equity index - the Nifty 50 touching lifetime high of 18,887.60. Significant strengthening in liquidity was witnessed in most of the product categories, including equity, equity derivatives, and currency derivatives. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- WFE Data: NSE – 3rd largest exchange in the world in the equity segment by the number of trades in 2022
- FIA Data: NSE was the world's largest derivatives exchange in 2022 by the number of contracts traded
- Nifty 50 reached lifetime high of 18,887.60 in 2022
- HQs of NSE – Mumbai, Maharashtra | Chairman – Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

643. In January 2023, the report titled “Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security and Nutrition 2022: Urban Food Security and Nutrition”, the 5th annual assessment of food insecurity and hunger, was released by UN agencies - the FAO, UNICEF, World Health Organisation and World Food Programme. Growing numbers of people in Asia lack enough to eat as food insecurity rises with higher prices and worsening poverty. The prevalence of undernourishment as measured by the UN agencies was 9.1% in 2021. Nearly a half-billion people, more than 8 in 10 of them in South Asia, were undernourished in 2021 and more than 1 billion faced moderate to severe food insecurity. The Asia-Pacific region imports nearly USD 2 trillion of food a year.

[{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “Asia-Pacific Overview of Food Security & Nutrition 2022: Urban Food Security & Nutrition” (5th annual assessment):
 - released by FAO + UNICEF + WHO + WFP
 - prevalence of undernourishment as measured by the UN agencies was 9.1% in 2021
 - Nearly a half-billion people, more than 8 in 10 of them in South Asia, were undernourished in 2021
 - Asia-Pacific region imports nearly USD 2 trillion of food a year

644. 52 avian species were observed in the “Asian Waterbird Census-2023” conducted in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The GoI-UNDP Himalaya project and Department of Wildlife Protection Ladakh in collaboration with the Ladakh Biodiversity Council had organised the census between January 17 and January 19 in collaboration with Ladakh biodiversity council. The observations were recorded on the eBird app, which is an online database of bird observations providing scientists, researchers, and amateur naturalists with real-time data about bird distribution and abundance. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 52 avian species – observed in the “Asian Waterbird Census-2023” conducted in Ladakh
- Organised by = GoI-UNDP Himalaya Project + Department of Wildlife Protection Ladakh + Ladakh Biodiversity Council
- Ladakh: Capital – Leh | Lt. Governor – B. D. Mishra

645. On January 31, India's solar module manufacturing capacity is expected to reach approximately 95 GW by the end of 2025, according to “State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India” report by Mercom Capital Group. The solar module manufacturing capacity as of September 2022 was 39 GW. In September 2022, the Cabinet approved a Rs 19,500-crore production linked incentive (PLI) scheme on ‘national programme on high efficiency solar PV modules’ with an aim to attract Rs 94,000 crore investment in the sector. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India” report – by Mercom Capital Group (US)
- The solar module manufacturing capacity as of Sep 2022 – 39 GW
- India's solar module manufacturing capacity is expected to reach approx 95 GW by 2025
- Cabinet approved a Rs 19,500 Cr PLI scheme on ‘national programme on high efficiency solar PV modules’ (in Sep'22)



646. Ministry of Defence was the top procuring ministry of goods and services from MSME sellers in the calendar year 2022, according to the Government eMarketplace (GeM). The ministry has purchased products and services worth Rs 16,747 Crore in the calendar year 2022 from the portal. Financial year-wise, the defence ministry had procured Rs 15,047.98 Crore worth of goods and services from MSMEs in FY22. Meanwhile, in terms of state, Uttar Pradesh ranked top buyer of MSME goods worth Rs 9,642 Crore through GeM in 2022. The marketplace had recorded Rs 1,06,647 Crore turnover in FY22 and is aspiring to double it in FY23, said GeM CEO Prashant Kumar Singh. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of Defence – the top procuring ministry of goods & services from MSME sellers at GeM in the CY 2022
- MoD's purchase in CY22 – Rs 16,747 Cr | MoD's purchase in FY22 – Rs 15,047.98 Cr
- Uttar Pradesh – ranked top buyer of MSME goods worth Rs 9,642 Cr through GeM in 2022
- GeM recorded Rs 1,06,647 Cr turnover in FY22 | CEO of GeM – Prashant Kumar Singh

647. According to the latest data, Japan-based Toyota Motor Corp continues to be the world's top-selling automaker in 2022, defending its title for a third straight year. The company recently said it sold 10.5 million vehicles in 2022. At the number 2 position is the Volkswagen Group with the sale of 8.3 million vehicles in 2022. According to a report by Bloomberg, S&P Global Mobility predicts that Toyota will continue to widen its lead over Volkswagen in 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Toyota Motor Corp – continues to be the world's top-selling automaker in 2022 (3rd consecutive year)
- Toyota Motor Corp sold 10.5 million vehicles in 2022 | 2nd – Volkswagen Group (8.3 million vehicles)
- HQs of Toyota Motor Corp – Japan | CEO – Akio Toyoda



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnership

648. On January 28, the United States and European Union signed an agreement to speed up and enhance the use of artificial intelligence to improve agriculture, healthcare, emergency response, climate forecasting and the electric grid. The officials called it the first sweeping AI agreement between the United States and Europe. AI modeling, which refers to machine-learning algorithms that use data to make logical decisions, could be used to improve the speed and efficiency of government operations and services. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- US + EU = a first-of-its-kind agreement to speed up and enhance the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris
- 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



649. On January 31, Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) has entered into an MoU with Nalsoft for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation. TSRTC is the first among all the State Road Transport Corporation undertakings in the country to commission and implement it. In order to integrate all the departments and front office systems, TSRTC has decided to implement the Oracle ERP project and Nalsoft will be the implementation partner. It is expected to go live in record a 9 months time. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- TSRTC + Nalsoft = an MoU for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) implementation
- TSRTC – 1st State Road Transport Corporation to commission & implement ERP
- TSRTC – to implement the Oracle ERP project with Nalsoft as the implementation partner
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- HQs of Nalsoft – Hyderabad | MD – V C Sajjanar | CEO – CA Venkata Nalluri

650. On January 31, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) signed an MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to collaborate on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes. The MoU aims to focus on Australian training standards and delivery in sectors ranging across automotive, allied health, mining, IT, cyber security, renewable energy, logistics, supply chain and water management. The Australia-India Future Skills Initiative is the Australian Government's flagship programme which aims to support India's workforce and skills development through partnerships with Australian vocational education, training and skills providers. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Austrade (Australia) + CII (India) = an MoU to collaborate on Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) programs
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895
- Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar | PM – Anthony Albanese





Smartkeeda

The Question Bank

Presents

Testzone

India's Leading Test Series Platform

All Banks Exams

2022-2023

12 Months Plan

@Just

Rs. **629**

To get 10% Off use code **MockDrill**

- ✓ Brilliant Test Analysis
- ✓ Excellent Content
- ✓ Unmatched Explanation

Buy Now

Testzone.smartkeeda.com

