



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. 6

(PDF in English)



Smartkeeda

Test Launch Date: 1st February, 2023

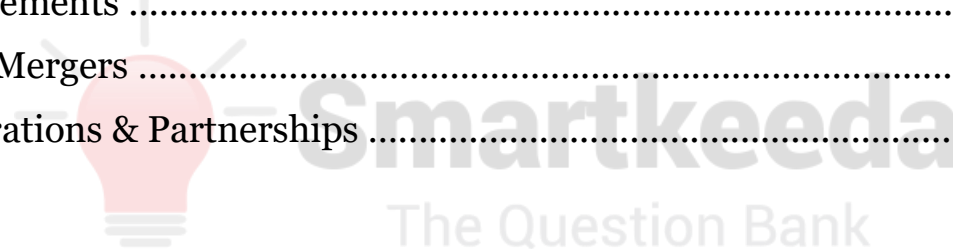
[Attempt Test No. 6 based on this PDF!](#)

DOWNLOAD:

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

INDEX

National & States Affairs	6
International Affairs	9
Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs	10
Defence Affairs	12
Sports & Games	12
Persons in News	14
Science & Technology	14
Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes	16
Schemes & Initiatives	16
Obituaries	18
Meetings, Conferences and Summits	18
Ranks, Reports & Surveys	20
Amount & Agreements	21
Acquisitions & Mergers	21
MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships	22



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

251. On January 11, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with Dr Manik Saha, Chief Minister, Tripura inaugurated the School of Logistics, Waterways and Communication in Agartala. The Centre for Logistic, Communication and Waterways would facilitate in conducting studies/research, training, workshops/seminars for stakeholders like businesses, exporters/importers, Chambers of Commerce and Industries, local entrepreneurs, tourist operators etc. It has been set up under State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (SIPARD). SIPARD is an autonomous body funded by the Government of Tripura and partially by the Ministry of Rural Development. Under the PM Gati Shakti initiative, multi-modal connectivity, Tripura is to be connected through IBP route 9 & 10 with Kolkata/Haldia Port and then on to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh & Sittwe Port in Myanmar. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Sarbananda Sonowal – inaugurated ‘School of Logistics, Waterways & Communication’ in Agartala set up under SIPARD
- SIPARD – an autonomous body funded by the Government of Tripura + partially by Ministry of Rural Development
- Tripura: Capital – Agartala | CM – Manik Saha | Governor – Satyadev Narayan Arya
- Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Sarbananda Sonowal | Constituency – Majuli, Assam
- MoS in Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways: Shripad Yesso Naik & Shantanu Thakur

252. On January 13, Kollam was officially declared India’s first Constitution literate district. Thousands of neo-literates were educated on the Indian Constitution as part of The Citizen, a Constitution literacy campaign jointly launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA). The training involved 2,200 trainers were called ‘senators.’ During the seven-month campaign, the senators visited schools, offices, auto stands and tribal councils to spread awareness. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Kollam district (Kerala) – officially declared as India’s first Constitution literate district
- People were educated on the Indian Constitution as part of Constitution literacy campaign “The Citizen”
- The campaign was jointly launched by = Kollam district panchayat + District Planning Committee + KILA
- Kerala: Capital – Thiruvananthapuram | CM – Pinarayi Vijayan | Governor – Arif Mohammad Khan

253. On January 10, Indian Skimmers were sighted in the Godavari estuary in Kakinada district during the Asian Waterbird Census-2023. The Godavari estuary in Andhra Pradesh has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*). The bird has been included in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list of endangered species. Indian Skimmer migrates to the Godavari estuary for feeding. Great Knot and Caspian Terns have been sighted in good numbers during the census. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Indian Skimmers – sighted in the Godavari estuary in Kakinada district during the ‘Asian Waterbird Census-2023’
- Godavari estuary (Andhra Pradesh) – has become a prime and safe habitat for the Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)
- Andhra Pradesh: Capital – Vishakhapatnam | CM – YS Jaganmohan Reddy | Governor – Biswabhusan Harichandan

254. On January 10, Amit Shah inaugurated the 'Jai Hind - The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort in New Delhi. The rich history and heritage of India was presented very well in this one-hour show. He called upon the people to make collective efforts to make the country number one in the world in the coming 25 years during the Amrit Kaal. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Amit Shah – inaugurated the 'Jai Hind - The New Light and Sound Show' at Red Fort in New Delhi

255. On January 12, for the first time in the country, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated the identity standards for Basmati Rice as part of efforts to ensure fair trade practices and check adulteration. These standards will be effective from August, 2023. The FSSAI has come out with these standards through "Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) First Amendment Regulations, 2023". [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- FSSAI – formulated the identity standards for 'Basmati Rice' for the first time in India
- These standards will be effective from August, 2023
- HQs of FSSAI – New Delhi | Chairperson – Rita Teotia | CEO – Arun Singhal

256. On January 13, the government in Himachal Pradesh cleared the decision for its employees to revert to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). Himachal becomes the third Congress-ruled state after Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to announce such a move. Under this scheme, the pension was fixed at 50% of one's last drawn basic pay. DA hikes are announced twice a year, generally in January and July. The main problem with the scheme was that the pension liability remained unfunded, that is, there was no corpus specifically for pension, which would grow continuously and could be dipped into for payments. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Himachal Pradesh – decided for its employees to revert to 'Old Pension Scheme (OPS)'
- Himachal Pradesh – third Congress-ruled state after Rajasthan & Chhattisgarh to revert to OPS
- Under OPS, the pension was fixed at 50% of one's last drawn basic pay
- HP: Capital – Shimla & Dharamshala | CM – Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu | Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

257. On January 4, Patna circle of the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas near Sarai Tila mound within the premises of 'Nalanda Mahavihara', a world heritage site in Nalanda district in the state. The stupas, carved from stone, depict Buddha figures. The Nalanda Mahavihara site comprises the archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution dating from the 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone and metal. The Nanda dynasty ruled Magadha in northern India between 343 and 321 BCE (Before Common Era) with its capital at Pataliputra (modern-day Patna). [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- ASI – discovered two 1200-year-old miniature votive stupas within the premises of Nalanda Mahavihara, Bihar
- The stupas are carved from stone & depict Buddha figures
- Nalanda University & Mahabodhi temple – located in Bihar (UNESCO World Heritage Sites)
- Bihar: Capital – Patna | CM – Nitish Kumar | Governor – Phagu Chauhan



258. On January 13, Vidisha, an aspirational district of Madhya Pradesh became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups. It is a joint initiative by Vidisha District Administration and Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), Department of Telecommunications (DoT). DoT facilitates collaborations under 5G use case promotional pilots of startups & SMEs to accelerate Digital Transformation across socio-economic verticals. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Vidisha district (Madhya Pradesh) – became the first ever district in India for on ground deployment of innovative 5G use cases offered by startups
- [Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel](#)

259. On January 14, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced that Digital India Startup Hub, through the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), will set up India's first Centre of Excellence for Online Gaming in Shillong, Meghalaya by March 2023. It is expected to catalyse startups and entrepreneurs to build the Next Gen Online Gaming ecosystem. The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) recently circulated Draft amendments to the 'IT Rules, 2021' in relation to online gaming for public consultation. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Digital India Startup Hub – will set up India's 1st Centre of Excellence for Online Gaming in Shillong by March 2023
- [Meghalaya: Capital – Shillong | CM – Conrad Kongkal Sangma | Governor – B. D. Mishra \(addi. charge\)](#)

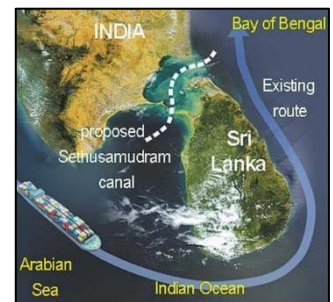
260. On January 13, Commerce & Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, launched the "MAARG" platform (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth), which would facilitate mentorship between startups and entrepreneurs across sectors, stages, and functions. The matchmaking phase of the portal will allow startups to connect with mentors and discuss their mentorship needs. Goyal also announced the results of National Startup Awards 2022 which invited applications across 17 sectors which were further divided into 50 sub sectors, and 7 special categories. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Piyush Goyal – launched the "MAARG" platform to facilitate mentorship between startups & entrepreneurs
- MAARG – **Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience & Growth**
- National Startup Awards 2022 invited applications across 17 sectors (50 sub sectors & 7 special categories)

261. On January 14, Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution nudging the Union Government to revive the Sethusamudram Shipping Canal project that envisages connecting the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait to create a continuous navigable channel around the India peninsula without having to circumnavigate Sri Lanka. The project was originally conceived in the 19th century by the then British regime. The project aims at creating a shipping canal by linking the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar between India and Sri Lanka. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Tamil Nadu – adopted a resolution to revive the 'Sethusamudram Shipping Canal project'
- 'Sethusamudram Project' aims to create a shipping canal by linking Palk Bay & Gulf of Mannar between India & Sri Lanka
- [Tamil Nadu: Capital – Chennai | CM – Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin | Governor – Ravindra Narayan Ravi](#)

262. On January 13, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has listed 'Neelakurinji' (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the 'Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972', including it on the list of protected plants. Those who uproot or destroy the plant will invite a fine of ₹25,000 and 3 years' imprisonment. The cultivation of Neelakurinji and its possession is not allowed. Eravikulam National Park, in Kerala, is known for widespread blooming of the kurinji, with the next flowering season expected in 2030. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- MoEFCC listed 'Neelakurinji' (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) under Schedule III of the 'Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972', including it on the list of 'Protected Plants'
- [Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Bhpender Yadav](#) | [Constituency – Rajasthan](#)
- [MoS in Ministry for Environment, Forest & Climate Change: Ashwini Kumar Choubey](#)

International Affairs

263. Australia announced to teach Punjabi Language in its public schools. The move comes after a 2021 census showed that Punjabi was the fastest growing language in Australia with more than 2,39,000 people using it at home, an increase of over 80% from 2016. The syllabus for pre-primary to year 12 will be developed this year. Earlier, Australian Sikh history was included in the Humanities and Social Sciences subjects in WA schools for years 5, 6 and 9. The decision to teach the Punjabi language follows an announcement in 2021 of the development of syllabuses for Hindi, Korean and Tamil. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Australia – announced to teach Punjabi Language in its public schools
- [Australia – Canberra – Australian Dollar](#) | [PM – Anthony Albanese](#)

264. On January 12, Swedish state-owned mining company, LKAB, announced that it has discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides at Kiruna mine in Sweden. This is the largest known deposit in Europe. Currently, no rare earths are mined in Europe and it mostly imports them from other regions. According to a report in the BBC, 98% of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China. Rare earth elements or rare earth metals are a set of 17 chemical elements in the periodic table. In recent years, rare earths have become even more important because there has been an increase in demand for green energy. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- LKAB (Swedish company) – discovered more than one million tonnes of rare earth oxides at Kiruna mine, Sweden
- It is largest known deposit in Europe | 98% of rare earths used by the European Union were sent by China
- [Sweden – Stockholm – Krona](#) | [PM – Ulf Kristersson](#)

265. On January 12, India and the United States have established a new working group to build Sustainable Supply Chains and boost Bilateral Trade. The working group will initially focus on trade facilitation, digitization of customs procedures, issues related to mobilization of sustainable finance and scaling up of innovative clean technologies. The Trade Policy Forum, revived in 2021 after a gap for 4 years, will reconvene on a ministerial level before end of 2023. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India + US = established a new working group to build Sustainable Supply Chains & boost Bilateral Trade
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

266. On January 11, Uganda declared an end to an Ebola virus outbreak that emerged in September 2022. Uganda's outbreak was caused by the Sudan Ebola virus, one of six species of the Ebola virus and for which there is currently no confirmed vaccine. Three candidate vaccines, one developed by Oxford University and the Jenner Institute in Britain, another from the Sabin Vaccine Institute in the United States, and a third from the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), are being trialled in Uganda. Under the WHO's criteria, an outbreak of the disease officially ends when there are no new cases for 42 consecutive days, twice the virus's incubation period. Two districts at the epicentre of the epidemic, Mubende and Kassanda, were placed under lockdown for two months until mid-December. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Uganda – declared an end to an Ebola virus outbreak
- Uganda's outbreak was caused by – Sudan Ebola virus
- Uganda – Kampala – Ugandan shilling | President – Yoweri Museveni

267. On January 13, European Union officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex, during a visit to Sweden by members of the European Commission. The new facility is located at Esrange Space Center near Kiruna city in Sweden. The first satellite launch is expected in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- European Union's first mainland orbital launch complex – inaugurated near Kiruna city in Sweden
- Sweden – Stockholm – Krona | PM – Ulf Kristersson
- 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



Banking, Finance, Insurance & Economic Affairs

268. On January 17, Garuda Aerospace has partnered with the Union Bank of India for a loan under the Kisan Pushpak Scheme to 150 Garuda Agri Kisan drones. The drone loan will help farmers to digitise land record operations for crop production, and spraying of fertilisers, chemicals and pesticides, with the help of drones. The Agri Infrastructure Fund Scheme will finance 150 drone applications that will benefit the farmer community and create 150 skilled pilots who will engage to become entrepreneurs and improve farmers income. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Garuda Aerospace + UBI = partnered for a loan under "Kisan Pushpak Scheme" to 150 Garuda Agri Kisan drones
- HQs of UBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra | CEO – A. Manimekhalai | Tagline – "Good People to Bank With"
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash



269. On January 13, VTB bank, Russia's second largest bank, launched direct payments in rupees, which would boost bilateral trade and investments. Russian SME clients can now make transfers without double conversion, which simplifies the work on foreign trade contracts with India. Nine Russian banks, including VTB, opened special vostro accounts in India to facilitate Russian-Indian trade in November 2022. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- VTB bank (Russia's second largest bank) – launched direct payments in rupees to boost bilateral trade & investments
- [Russia – Moscow – Russian Ruble](#) | [PM – Mikhail Mishustin](#) | [President – Vladimir Putin](#)

270. On January 8, Indian Bank received the regulatory approval to hold special rupee vostro accounts of three banks from Sri Lanka which is struggling to tide over a serious foreign exchange crunch. A vostro account in local currency would enable Lanka to import from India without dipping into its dwindling dollar supply. The INR vostro facility is part of a special trade settlement mechanism which was finalized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in July 2022. The arrangement allows Indian importers to deposit rupees in vostro accounts that overseas banks open with banks in India and clearing of dues to Indian exporters from the surplus balances in the vostro accounts. India's annual exports to Lanka is about \$5 bn with oil, pharmaceutical products, sugar, ships, iron and steel, cotton and machinery being the main cargoes. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Indian Bank – received the regulatory approval to hold 'Special Rupee Vostro Accounts' of 3 banks from Sri Lanka
- INR vostro facility is part of a special trade settlement mechanism finalized by the RBI in July 2022
- [Sri Lanka – Colombo/Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan Rupee](#)
- [PM – Dinesh Gunawardena](#) | [President – Ranil Wickremesinghe](#)
- [HQs of Indian Bank – Chennai, Tamil Nadu](#) | [MD & CEO – Shanti Lal Jain](#) | [Tagline – "Your Own Bank"](#)

271. On January 12, the SEBI allowed Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to participate in the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market as protection buyers and sellers in a bid to facilitate deepening of the domestic corporate bond segment. The new norms allow business entities to hedge risks associated with the bonds market. CDS is a specific kind of counter-party agreement which allows the transfer of third-party credit risk from one party to another. Under the new norm, Category-I and Category-II AIFs can buy CDS on underlying investment in debt securities only for the purpose of hedging, while Category-III AIFs can purchase CDS for hedging or otherwise. Besides, the SEBI also allowed Mutual Funds (MFs) with active Equity-Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS) to launch passively managed open-ended ELSS schemes. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- SEBI – allowed AIFs to participate in the Credit Default Swaps (CDS) market as protection buyers & sellers
- SEBI – allowed MFs with active Equity-Linked Savings Schemes to launch passively managed open-ended ELSS schemes
- [HQs of SEBI – Mumbai, Maharashtra](#) | [Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch](#) | [Established in – 1992](#)

272. On January 15, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of Department of Financial Services for extending the term of Sanjiv Chadha as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for about 5 months till June 30, 2023, when he attains 60 years, the retirement age. His three-year tenure ends on January 19, 2023. Meanwhile, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), recommended elevation of Executive Director (ED) Debadatta Chand as managing director of Bank of Baroda. Besides, the FSIB also recommended Union Bank of India ED Rajneesh Karnatak for the position of MD & CEO in Bank of India. The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the ACC. FSIB is headed by former secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Bhanu Pratap Sharma. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Sanjiv Chadha – tenure extended as MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda for about 5 months till June 30, 2023
- FSIB recommended:
 - Debadatta Chand as MD of Bank of Baroda
 - Rajneesh Karnatak as MD & CEO in Bank of India
- FSIB is headed by – Bhanu Pratap Sharma
- HQs of BOB – Vadodara, Gujarat | MD & CEO – Sanjiv Chadha | Tagline – “India’s International Bank”

Defence Affairs

273. On January 10, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for three capital acquisition proposals, amounting to Rs 4,276 Cr. All the three proposals are under the Buy (Indian-IDD) category. The DAC accorded AoN for procurement of HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles which will be integrated to the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH). This missile is an essential part of weaponisation of ALH for countering enemy threat. The DAC also accorded AoN for procurement of VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system under design and development by DRDO. Procurement of VSHORAD, as a robust and quickly deployable system, will strengthen the Air Defence capabilities. Further, the DAC granted approval for procurement of Brahmos Launcher and Fire Control System (FCS) for the Shivalik class of ships & Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs) for Indian Navy. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- DAC – accorded AoN for following three capital acquisition proposals, amounting to Rs 4,276 Cr
 - ‘HELINA Anti-Tank Guided Missiles’ which will be integrated to ALH
 - ‘VSHORAD (IR Homing) missile system’ under design and development by DRDO
 - ‘Brahmos Launcher and FCS’ for the Shivalik class of ships & NGMVs for Indian Navy
- DAC – chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- HQs of DRDO – New Delhi | Chairman – Samir V. Kamat | Established in – 1958

Sports & Games

274. On January 13, the Hockey World Cup 2023 started in Odisha’s Cuttack’s Barabati Stadium in Odisha with a breathtaking and scintillating extravaganza. Over 50, 000 people and several ministers were present along with Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik. The CM visited the Olly Land, which is the official mascot of the FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup to be held at Kalinga stadium. The Olly Land has been set up at Kalinga stadium, Birsamunda stadium at Rourkela and Puri beach to take the hockey World Cup fervour across the state. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- ‘Hockey World Cup 2023’ started in Barabati Stadium, Cuttack, Odisha
- Olly – the official mascot of the ‘FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023’
- Odisha: Capital – Bhubaneswar | CM – Naveen Patnaik | Governor – Ganeshi Lal
- HQs of FIH – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Mohammad Tayyab Ikram | CEO – Thierry Weil | Founded in – 1924





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।

Persons in News

275. On January 13, 1,171 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have been honoured with the prestigious UN medals at an award ceremony where the parade was led for the first time by a woman officer of the Indian Army, Major Jasmine Chattha. India is among the largest troop-contributing countries to UN peacekeeping missions and its peacekeepers are lauded for their outstanding work and for going above & beyond their duties while serving in the missions. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- 1,171 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan – honoured with the prestigious UN medals
- The parade of Indian Peacekeepers was led (for the first time) by woman officer of Indian Army, Major Jasmine Chattha
- [South Sudan – Juba – South Sudanese Pound](#)

276. In January 2023, Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva announced that Sonia Guajajara will head up a new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, with a mandate to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care. She is widely known as the leader of the main umbrella group for Brazil's many Indigenous tribes and is a member of the Amazon Guajajara. According to local Indigenous organizations, some 20,000 illegal gold miners now operate illegally in Yanomami tribal territory alone. Guajajara fiercely opposed attempts to legalise these policies, and that opposition was largely successful. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Sonia Guajajara – will head up a new Ministry of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil
- The ministry mandates to oversee policies ranging from land demarcation to health care
- [Brazil – Brasilia – Brazilian Real | President – Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva](#)

277. January 15 marked the 97th birth anniversary of Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav, the first individual athlete to win an Olympic medal for independent India. The Google Doodle honored the wrestler, who is fondly known as the 'Pocket Dynamo'. At the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, Jadhav earned a bronze medal. The Maharashtra government posthumously awarded the Chhatrapati Puraskar after his death in 1984. The wrestling venue for the Delhi Commonwealth Games in 2010 was also named in his honour. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Google Doodle – honored Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav (KD Jadhav) on his 97th birth anniversary on January 15, 2023
- KD Jadhav (a wrestler aka 'Pocket Dynamo') – the 1st individual athlete to win an Olympic medal for independent India

Science & Technology

278. On January 16, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved market authorisation for the Covid-19 vaccine "Covovax" as a heterologous booster dose for adults who have been administered two doses of Covishield or Covaxin. The DCGI's approval came following recommendations by the Subject Expert Committee of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). This vaccine has been developed by Serum Institute of India (SII). Covovax is manufactured through technology transfer from Novavax. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- DCGI approved market authorisation for the Covid-19 vaccine “Covovax” as a heterologous booster dose for adults
- This vaccine has been developed by – Serum Institute of India
- HQs of SII – Pune, Maharashtra | Chairman – Cyrus S. Poonawalla | CEO – Adar C. Poonawalla | Founded in – 1966
- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) – V. G. Somani

279. On January 12, Mahendra Singh Dhoni and drone market Garuda Aerospace have launched a surveillance drone named ‘Droni’. Dhoni is an ambassador-cum-investor in the Garuda Aerospace. Dhoni had unveiled the camera drone called ‘Droni’ at the Global Drone Expo in Chennai in 2022. Droni is a battery-operated quadcopter surveillance drone. Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO. MS Dhoni and Garuda had also launched a short film ‘Kheton Ke Kaptan’, aimed at encouraging youth and farmers to lead in their respective farms. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- M. S. Dhoni + Garuda Aerospace = launched a surveillance drone named ‘Droni’
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni – ambassador-cum-investor in the Garuda Aerospace
- M. S. Dhoni + Garuda Aerospace = also launched a short film ‘Kheton Ke Kaptan’
- Garuda Aerospace – 1st ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO
- HQs of Garuda Aerospace – Chennai, Tamil Nadu | CEO – Agnishwar Jayaprakash

280. On January 11, Startup firm IG Drones has developed a 5G-enabled drone named ‘Skyhawk’ that is capable of VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing). This drone can be used in defence and medical applications, among other sectors. The drone can carry a 10 kg payload and has an endurance of around 5 hours. IG Drones was born out of Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) campus in Odisha’s Sambalpur. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- IG Drones – developed a 5G-enabled drone named ‘Skyhawk’ that is capable of VTOL (Vertical Take-off and Landing)
- Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology – Sambalpur, Odisha
- HQs of IG Drones – New Delhi | CEO – Bodhisattwa Sanghapriya

281. On January 15, South Africa launched the world’s first agri-focused satellite named “AgriSAT-1 (ZA 008)”. The satellite was launched by Dragonfly Aerospace on a ‘Space X Falcon 9’ rocket. This satellite is expected to generate over USD 100 million in revenue. The satellite is the first of a seven-satellite constellation in low Earth orbit for customer EOSDA (EOS Data Analytics). The remaining six satellites of the constellation will be deployed over the next three years. It is the world’s first agriculture-focused satellite constellation providing the agriculture and forestry industry with high-quality data to support efficient and sustainable practices. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- South Africa – launched the world’s first agri-focused satellite named “AgriSAT-1 (ZA 008)”
- The satellite was launched by Dragonfly Aerospace on a ‘Space X Falcon 9’ rocket
- South Africa – Cape Town – South African Rand | President – Cyril Ramaphosa



Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

282. On January 15, R'Bonney Gabriel from the USA was crowned "Miss Universe 2022" at the grand finale of the 71st Miss Universe contest. Miss Universe 2021 Harnaaz Sandhu crowned the diva. In the 71st edition of the competition, Venezuela's Amanda Dudamel took second place (first runner-up), followed by Dominican Republic's Andreina Martinez as the second runner-up. Divita Rai of India reached the top 16, but she was unable to advance further. [{Read more}](#)



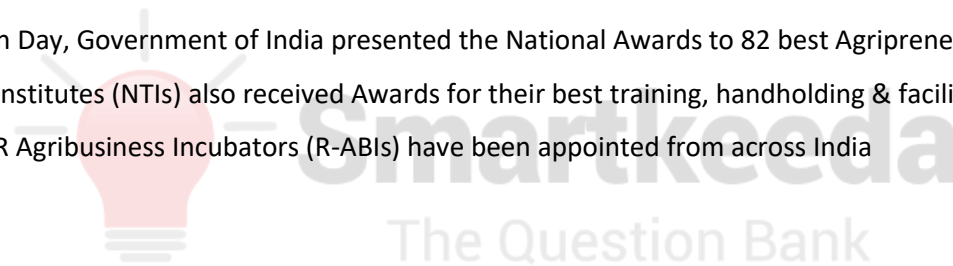
Smart Points:

- R'Bonney Gabriel (US) – crowned "Miss Universe 2022" at the 71st Miss Universe contest
- First runner-up – Amanda Dudamel (Venezuela) | Second runner-up – Andreina Martinez (Dominican Republic)

283. The government of India presented the National Awards to 82 best Agripreneurs on January 12, the occasion of National Youth Day. 8 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) who imparted Agri-Clinics and Agri-Business (AC & ABC) training also received Awards for their best training, handholding and facilitation activities. AC & ABC is a Central Sector Scheme and has significantly contributed to farmers through agri-clinic and agribusiness services. 173 women led startups have been supported under the "Innovation and AgriEntrepreneurship Development" programme. 24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) from across the country have also been appointed. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- On National Youth Day, Government of India presented the National Awards to 82 best Agripreneurs
- 8 Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) also received Awards for their best training, handholding & facilitation activities
- 24 RKVY-RAFTAAR Agribusiness Incubators (R-ABIs) have been appointed from across India



Schemes & Initiatives

284. Narendra Modi approved new integrated food security scheme for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries. New scheme has been named as "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana" (PMGKAY). The Central Government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh Cr in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA and other welfare schemes, to remove the financial burden of the poor and the poorest of the poor. For effective and uniform implementation of NFSA 2013, PMGKAY will subsume the two subsidy schemes of Department of Food & Public Distribution - (a) Food Subsidy to FCI (b) Food Subsidy for decentralized procurement states dealing with procurement, allocation and delivery of free foodgrains to the states under NFSA. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Narendra Modi – approved new integrated food security scheme named as "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana"
- The scheme is for providing free foodgrains to Antodaya Ann Yojna (AAY) & Primary Household (PHH) beneficiaries
- The Central Government will spend more than Rs 2 lakh Cr in 2023 as food subsidy under NFSA & other welfare schemes
- PMGKAY will subsume the two subsidy schemes of Department of Food & Public Distribution

285. On January 6, Centre approved the continuation of schemes of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) with an outlay of Rs 12,882 Cr for the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission (2022-23 to 2025-26). Based on the Expenditure Finance Committee's (EFC) recommendations, the outlay for the North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) will be Rs 8,139.5 Cr. The outlay for the "Schemes of NEC" will be Rs 3,202.7 Cr. The outlay for special packages for the Bodoland Territorial Council, the Dima Hasao Autonomous Territorial Council (DHATC) and the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council (KAATC) in Assam is Rs 1,540 Cr. The five pillars of the "Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" for a self-reliant India (economy, infrastructure, system, vibrant demography and demand) will get a push through the schemes. Recently, an amount of Rs 6,000 Cr has been sanctioned for the development of the National Waterway 2 and the National Waterway 16. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

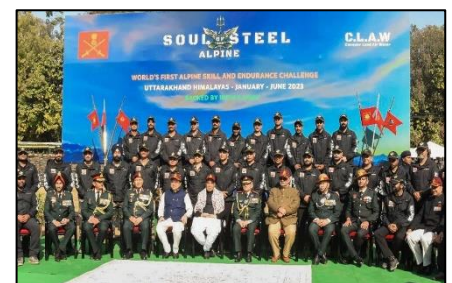
- Centre approved the continuation of schemes of the Ministry of DoNER with an outlay of Rs 12,882 Cr
- The schemes have been approved for the remaining period of the 15th Finance Commission
- The outlays for various schemes:
 - North East Special Infrastructure Scheme (NESIDS) – Rs 8,139.5 Cr
 - Bodoland Territorial Council, DHATC and KAATC schemes of Assam – Rs 1,540 Cr
 - Schemes of NEC – Rs 3,202.7 Cr
 - Development of the National Waterway 2 & 16 – Rs 6,000 Cr

286. On January 11, Ministry of tourism included 36 destinations spread across 19 States and Union Territories in the first list (Phase 1) of the revamped Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme. These 36 destinations are picked up based on the State Perspective Plans submitted by respective States to the Central ministry. Out of these 36, some of the destinations selected were also part of the ambitious Iconic Tourist Destination development project of the ministry of tourism. These include Hampi, Kumarakom, Mamallapuram, Dholavira, Colva beach, etc. Under the revamped scheme, projects will be selected and implemented in such a way that "minimises the negative impacts and maximises the positive impacts of tourism". In the SD 2.0, the states have to designate an Implementing Agency for the project and the funds will be transferred only to the implementing agency as per the guidelines. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- Ministry of tourism – included 36 destinations in the Phase 1 of the revamped 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0' scheme
- These include Hampi, Kumarakom, Mamallapuram, Dholavira, Colva beach, etc.
- [Ministry of Tourism: G. Kishan Reddy | Constituency – Secunderabad, Telangana](#)
- [MoS in Ministry of Tourism: Shripad Yesso Naik & Ajay Bhatt](#)

287. On January 14, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched an initiative called 'Soul of Steel' that seeks to promote high-altitude endurance and adventure in Uttarakhand's Garhwal Himalayas. The 'Soul of Steel' is being organised by CLAW Global, an entity comprising a group of veterans. Soul of Steel is a unique blend of specialised skills including high-altitude mountaineering, extreme cold survival, psychological endurance and physical toughness. The challenge opens the domain of niche military skills to an average youth who wishes to challenge his physical and psychological limits. It also aims to ensure tourism and boost the economy in the mountainous region of Uttarakhand. A total of 12 Indian participants and six international teams are going to participate in the around-three-month challenge. Singh also flagged off the 'Road to the End', a 460-km-long car rally, as part of the initiative. [{Read more}](#)

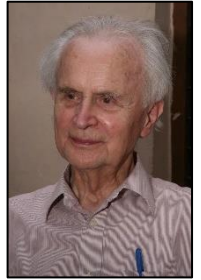


Smart Points:

- Rajnath Singh – launched ‘Soul of Steel’ initiative to promote high-altitude endurance & adventure in Uttarakhand
- The 3-month challenge is being organised by – CLAW Global
- Rajnath Singh – also flagged off the ‘Road to the End’, a 460-km-long car rally
- Uttarakhand: Capital – Dehradun & Gairsain | CM – Pushkar Singh Dhami | Governor – Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh

Obituaries

288. On January 11, Ronald E. Asher, renowned linguist and ambassador of Tamil and Malayalam to the world passed away. A linguist who specialised in Dravidian languages, Prof. Although Prof. Asher is known to Malayalis as the man who discovered and exposed Vaikom Mohammed Basheer as a “universal writer”. He was the most popular linguist in India from Europe and he popularised modern literature of Tamil and Malayalam in English. Prof. He was the first occupant of Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Chair at Mahatma Gandhi University. He received the Basheer Memorial Award in 2010 instituted by the Pravasi Trust. Moreover, he was a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and an Honorary Fellow of the Sahitya Akademi. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Ronald E. Asher – Linguist & Ambassador of Tamil and Malayalam to the world – passed away
- He exposed Vaikom Mohammed Basheer as a “Universal Writer” | He received Basheer Memorial Award in 2010
- He was the first occupant of Vaikom Mohammed Basheer Chair at Mahatma Gandhi University

289. On January 15, Indian National Congress (INC) MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary died of heart attack while taking part in the Bharat Jodo Yatra. He was a Lok Sabha MP (Member of Parliament) from Jalandhar constituency of Punjab. He won Indian general elections in 2014 & 2019. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Santokh Singh Chaudhary – a Politician – passed away (Party - Indian National Congress)

Meetings, Conferences & Summits

290. On January 12, Union minister of petroleum and natural gas, Hardeep Singh Puri addressed the 11th edition of Confederation of Indian Industry’s flagship event ‘Bio Energy Summit 2023’ held in New Delhi. The theme of the summit was “Energy Transition - Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow”. The bio energy summit discussed solutions to challenges facing the world including climate change and sustainable development. During the summit, the minister said that India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol from 1.53% in 2013-14 to 10.17% in July 2022. Moreover, setting up 2G refineries to make ethanol from Parali (Panipat) and Bamboo (Numaligarh) with the twin objective of reducing pollution along with achieving energy security goals is another milestone in this direction. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- Hardeep Singh Puri – addressed the 11th ‘Bio Energy Summit 2023’ by CII
- Theme of the summit – “Energy Transition – Solution for a Sustainable Tomorrow”
- India has increased the ethanol blending in petrol to 10.17% in July 2022 (from 1.53% in 2013-14)
- 2G refineries will be setup to make ethanol from Parali (Panipat) and Bamboo (Numaligarh)
- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Hardeep Singh Puri | Constituency – Uttar Pradesh
- MoS in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas: Rameswar Teli
- HQs of CII – New Delhi | President – Sanjiv Bajaj | VC – Sanjiv Puri | DG – Chandrajit Banerjee | Founded in – 1895

291. On January 17, the first G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG) meeting under G20 India Presidency was concluded in Pune. The G20 IWG discussed the 2023 Infrastructure Agenda under the Indian G20 Presidency. The meeting discussed the flagship theme of “Financing Cities of Tomorrow - Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable”, amongst others. It also discussed other important themes, such as exploring ways to collate the data on Infrastructure spending and make the data useful for the private sector. On the side-lines, the Pune meeting was also complemented by a High-Level Workshop on “Financing of Cities of Tomorrow” wherein over 15 international experts discussed the issues related to financing of the cities. The second meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group is scheduled to be held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 28th and 29th of March, 2023. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- 1st ‘Infrastructure Working Group Meeting’ under India’s G20 Presidency – held in Pune, Maharashtra
- The meeting discussed flagship theme of “Financing Cities of Tomorrow - Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable”
- On the side-lines, a High-Level Workshop on “Financing of Cities of Tomorrow” was also held in Pune
- 2nd meeting of IWG is scheduled to be held on March 28-29 – in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- 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

292. On January 18 to 20, India hosted its first Health Working Group (HWG) meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala after assuming its G20 presidency on December 1, 2022. The second health working group meeting will be held on April 17-19 in Goa, third meeting from June 4-6 in Hyderabad, Telangana, and the fourth meeting G20 health ministerial meeting will take place on August 17-19 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India is currently part of the G20 Troika which refers to the top grouping within the G20 comprising countries like Indonesia, Brazil and India. It is the first time three developing nations are a part of this Troika. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- India – hosted its first HWG meeting in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala after assuming its G20 presidency
- Upcoming HWG meetings: 2nd – Goa (April 17-19) | 3rd – Hyderabad (June 4-6) | 4th – Gandhinagar (August 17-19)
- India is currently part of the G20 Troika in which other two countries are Indonesia & Brazil
- 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

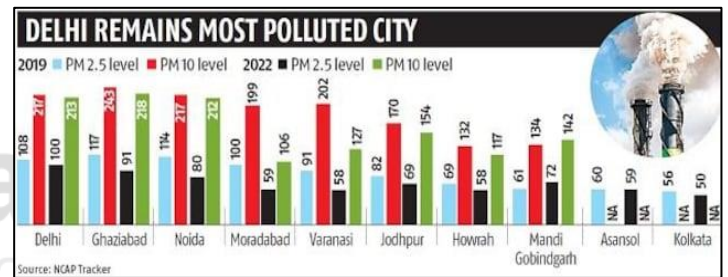
293. On January 12-13, India hosted two-day virtual “Voice of Global South Summit”. The inaugural Leaders’ Session was led by PM Narendra Modi. The theme of the Summit was “Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose”. During the summit, PM Narendra Modi announced the “Aarogya Maitri” project under which India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crises. The PM also highlighted India’s “Vaccine Maitri” initiative that supplied vaccines to more than 100 countries during Covid-19. He also announced that India will establish the ‘Global South Center of Excellence’ to carry out research on development solutions. Moreover, PM Modi also proposed a “Global South Young Diplomats Forum” to connect young officers of foreign ministries for synergising our diplomatic voice. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- India – hosted the virtual “Voice of Global South Summit” | Theme – “Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose”
- The inaugural Leaders’ Session was led by – PM Narendra Modi
- During the summit, PM Narendra Modi announced the “Aarogya Maitri” project
- India will establish the ‘Global South Center of Excellence’ to carry out research on development solutions
- PM Modi also proposed a “Global South Young Diplomats Forum” to connect young officers of foreign ministries

Ranks, Reports & Surveys

294. On January 11, a report by the Centre’s National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Tracker was released. NCAP addresses air pollution in 131 non-attainment cities, so called for not meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the period of 2011-15 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Program (NAMP). According to the report, Delhi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) was the India’s most polluted for the last four years. Noida and Ghaziabad, Varanasi in east UP, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Howrah and Kolkata in West Bengal are also among the 10 worst polluted cities and they have not shown any improvement in air quality. National Clean Energy Program (NCAP) was started in 2019. India’s annual average safe limits for PM 2.5 (ultra-fine particulate matter) and PM 10 are 40 micrograms/per cubic metre (ug/m3) and 60 micrograms/per cubic metre. The NCAP has set a target of reducing key air pollutants PM10 and PM2.5 by 40% in these cities by 2026. Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and Kohima in Nagaland are among the cleanest cities in India for PM 2.5 and PM 10 respectively. Gorakhpur, in Uttar Pradesh, also features in the clean cities list for both PM 2.5 and PM 10. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- NCAP Tracker report:
 - Delhi is the most populated city in India
 - Other populated cities in top 10 – Noida, Ghaziabad, Varanasi, Jodhpur, Howrah & Kolkata
 - Cleanest Cities – Srinagar (for PM 2.5) & Kohima (for PM 10)
- NCAP target – to reduce air pollutants PM10 & PM2.5 by 40% by 2026 | NCAP was started in 2019

295. According to the “World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World” released by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the number of people aged 65 years or older worldwide is projected to more than double, rising from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050. By the end of the 21st century, the world could have nearly 2.5 billion older people. In 2021, one in 10 people worldwide were aged 65 or above. Moreover, by 2050, the world will have an estimated 459 million persons aged 80 or more, almost triple the number in 2021 at around 155 million. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “World Social Report 2023: Leaving No One Behind In An Ageing World” – released by UNDESA
- Number of people aged 65 or older is projected to more than double from 761 million in 2021 to 1.6 billion in 2050
- In 2021, one in 10 people worldwide were aged 65 or above
- The world could have nearly 2.5 billion older people by the end of the 21st century
- [HQs of UNDESA – New York, US](#) | [Under-Secretary-General – Liu Zhenmin](#)

296. On January 11, a report titled “Never Forgotten: The Situation of Stillbirth Around the Globe” released by UNICEF revealed that around 1.9 million stillbirths (babies born with no sign of life at 28 weeks of pregnancy or later) occurred worldwide in 2021. The global stillbirth rate in 2021 was 13.9 stillbirths per 1,000 total births. According to the data released, one stillborn baby is born every 16 seconds in 2021. Most child deaths occur in the first five years, of which half are within the first month of life. Besides, the United Nations Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) released the “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality” report. An estimated 5 million children died before their fifth birthday and another 2.1 million children and youth aged between 5-24 years lost their lives in 2021. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “Never Forgotten: The Situation of Stillbirth Around the Globe” – released by UNICEF
- Around 1.9 million stillbirths occurred worldwide in 2021 (global stillbirth rate - 13.9 stillbirths per 1,000 total births)
- “Levels & Trends in Child Mortality” report – released by UNIGME
- Around 5 million children died before their fifth birthday
- Another 2.1 million children & youth aged between 5-24 years lost their lives in 2021
- [HQs of UNICEF – New York, US](#) | [Executive Director – Catherine Russell](#) | [Established in – 1946](#)

297. Global growth is slowing sharply in the face of elevated inflation, higher interest rates, reduced investment, and disruptions caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, according to the World Bank’s latest “Global Economic Prospects” report. The global economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 and 2.7% in 2024. Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023. In South Asia, growth is projected to slow to 5.5% in 2023 before picking up to 5.8% in 2024. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- “Global Economic Prospects” report – released by World Bank (on January 10)
- Global Economy is projected to grow by 1.7% in 2023 & 2.7% in 2024
- Growth in advanced economies is projected to slow from 2.5% in 2022 to 0.5% in 2023
- In South Asia, growth is projected at 5.5% in 2023 & 5.8% in 2024
- [HQs of World Bank – Washington D.C., US](#) | [Members – 189](#) | [President – David Malpass](#) | [MD & CFO – Anshula Kant](#)

Amount & Agreements

298. On January 10, United States Charge d’ Affaires to India, Elizabeth Jones visited the Paigah Tombs Complex in Hyderabad and announced a \$250,000 project to support the conservation and restoration of its six tombs constructed in the 18th and 19th centuries. She stated the restoration of Paigah Tombs is Fifth Ambassador’s Fund for Cultural Preservation project implemented by the US Consulate General in Hyderabad. Paigah Tombs Complex is a protected complex of the Department of Archaeology, Government of Telangana. About two to three years back, the government of Telangana had given the responsibility to Aga Khan Trust for the conservation of the Complex. [{Read more}](#)



Smart Points:

- US – announced a \$250,000 project to support the conservation and restoration of Paigah Tombs Complex in Hyderabad
- Paigah Tombs Complex – constructed in the 18th-19th centuries
- United States Charge d’Affaires to India – Elizabeth Jones
- Telangana – had given the responsibility for the conservation of the Complex to Aga Khan Trust
- Telangana: Capital – Hyderabad | CM – K. Chandrashekar Rao | Governor – Tamilisai Soundararajan
- US – Washington, D.C. – US Dollar | 46th President – Joe Biden | 49th VP – Kamala Harris

Acquisitions & Mergers

299. On January 14, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) allowed the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to take over Jet Airways. The airline was originally promoted by Naresh Goyal and had operated its last flight on April 17, 2019. The airline was originally promoted by Naresh Goyal and had operated its last flight on April 17, 2019. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- NCLT allowed the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to take over Jet Airways
- Jet Airways closed its operations in April 2019
- HQs of NCLT – New Delhi | President – Ramalingam Sudhakar | Established in 2016 – by Eradi Committee



MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

300. On January 9, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board signed MoUs with chapters of eight countries of the Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) at the MP Tourism Pavilion of Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore at the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) Convention. These MoUs were signed with France Metropole Paris, Mauritius, Reunion Island, Martinique, Sri Lanka, GOPIO International, Malaysia, and Mauritius. These MoUs have been executed with the aim of boosting cooperation in the development of the Tourism sector of the State, and promotion, and publicity of tourist places. [{Read more}](#)

Smart Points:

- MP Tourism Board – signed MoUs with chapters of 8 countries of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)
- MoUs were signed at – MP Tourism Pavilion of Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore at 17th PBD Convention
- Madhya Pradesh: Capital – Bhopal | CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel





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 **FEST22**

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

Buy Now

Testzone.smartkeeda.com

