



JULY 2022

BAZOOKA

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Contents

NATIONAL AFFAIRS	3
STATES AFFAIRS.....	30
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.....	44
REPORTS & INDICES	53
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES.....	74
BUSINESS & ECONOMY	81
BANKING & FINANCE	96
RBI IN NEWS.....	111
AWARDS & RECOGNITION	119
BOOKS & AUTHORS.....	124
PERSON IN NEWS	125
OBITUARIES.....	130
SPORTS.....	131
IMPORTANT DAYS	142

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has launched the 2nd phase of the **Going Online As Leaders (GOAL) 2.0** program in collaboration with **Meta** (formerly known as Facebook). The second phase of the program will reach out to 10 lakh women and youth entrepreneurs and will also create a platform for more than 50,000 self-help groups and 10 lakh families associated with the *Tribal Co-operative Marketing Federation of India* (TRIFED) to take their products global.

- Under this programme, the identified GOAL participants will have access to Meta Business Coach, a WhatsApp-based learning bot, which will give the participants an opportunity to learn skills on how to build and expand their business using Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

Note: Tribal population constitutes about 8.6% of the total population in India.

2. A centralized pay system named '**Pay Roll Automation for Disbursement of Monthly Allowances (PADMA)**' has been launched for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). It has been inaugurated by Rajnish Kumar, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Ministry of Defence.

- PADMA is an automated platform leveraging the latest technology which will provide seamless and timely disbursement of Pay & Allowances to around 15,000 ICG personnel.
- This module has been developed under the aegis of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) and will be operated by the Pay Accounts Office Coast Guard, Noida.

3. **ABHYAS**, a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), has been successfully flight tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- ABHYAS has been developed by the **Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE)**, a Bengaluru-based facility of the DRDO.

4. The 28th edition of the **Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2022** has been held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH), a US military base on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii. The theme of RIMPAC 2022 is '*capable, adaptive, partners*'.

Participants:

- **26 nations:** Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, the United Kingdom and the United States.

- 38 surface ships, four submarines, 170 aircraft, and around 25,000 personnel have participated, including ground troops from 9 countries.
- **INS Satpura** and one **P8I** maritime patrol aircraft from the Indian Navy have participated in the exercise.

Note: India first participated in RIMPAC in 2014.

5. The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** and the **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a collaborative ecosystem for imparting skill development training in the capital goods sector.
 - This partnership will facilitate training in several engineering trades through **Qualification Packs (QPs)** developed by MHI related Sector Skill Councils (like Automotive, Infrastructure, Instrumentation and Capital Goods) under the Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Capital Goods Sector Phase II.
6. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently approved a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (**IRENA**). The agreement was signed in January 2022.
 - **Objective:** To drive ambition, leadership and knowledge on **green energy** transitions based on renewable energy in India.
 - This agreement will support India in achieving its ambitious target of 500 GW of installed non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by **2030**.
7. Union Cabinet has approved the categorization of the **Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** as an international organization. It has also approved signing of the Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with CDRI for granting it the exemptions, immunities and privileges under the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.
8. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C53**, which placed **three Singaporean satellites**, *DS-EO*, *NeuSAR* and *SCOOB-1*, in an intended orbit of 570km from the second launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This is the second dedicated commercial mission of NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO.
 - PSLV-C53 is a four-stage launch vehicle which is 44.4 m tall and has a lift-off mass of 228.433 tonnes.
 - This is the 55th mission of the PSLV and the 15th mission using the PSLV-core alone variant.

9. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has launched a report titled **“Take Home Ration-Good Practices across the State/Union Territories”**. The report has been released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman K. Bery.
- The report presents a set of good and innovative practices adopted in the implementation of the Take Home Ration value chain by the States and UTs.

Good practices adopted by States/UTs:

- **Mo-Chhatua** Management Information System (MIS): **Odisha**
 - **PuSHTI**– a Delivery Management System for THR: **Gujarat**
 - **YSR Sampurna Poshana** application: **Andhra Pradesh**
 - Procurement based on quality parameters: **Telangana**
 - Procurement through e-tendering: **Delhi, & Tamil Nadu**
 - Procurement through Non-Profit Organisation: **Chandigarh**
10. The **National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC)** has signed an agreement with **DB India**, a subsidiary of Deutsche Bahn AG, National Railway Company of Germany, to operate and maintain the *82-km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)* corridor for **12 years**.
- The agreement is linked to the Metro Rail Policy in 2017 issued by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to boost private sector participation in regional rail and metro rail projects.
11. **Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre of the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong** in New Delhi to promote the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern (NE) Region.
- The objective of this partnership is to encourage entrepreneurship, incubation, and startups in the North Eastern Region.
12. The Government of India (GoI) has made seven key amendments to the existing Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) rules 2011, which were renamed as the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2022**, with effect from 1st July 2022.
- The new amendment allows Indians to receive **Rs.10 lakh** in a year from relatives staying abroad without informing the authorities. The earlier limit was Rs.1 lakh. If the amount exceeds, the individuals will now have **90 days** to inform the government, instead of 30 days earlier.

13. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has recently approved the establishment of the **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** in place of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), which was established on 1st April 2016.
- FSIB will be the single entity for making recommendations for appointments of WTD (Whole-time Director) and NEC (Non-executive Chairman) in Public Sector Banks, India Private Limited Company and Financial Institutions.
 - It will select the chiefs of public sector banks and insurance companies.
 - It will have the clear mandate to issue guidelines and select general managers and directors of state-run non-life insurers, general insurers and Financial Institutions.
 - It will consist of **one chairperson** and **two members**.
 - The ACC has approved the appointment of **Bhanu Pratap Sharma** as Initial chairperson of FSIB for two years. He was the former Chairman of BBB.
14. Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has organized a three-day **“Grand Hackathon”** in collaboration with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**. It has been held in hybrid mode, at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Fort, Mumbai. It has been launched by **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry.
15. The **Vivek Express** covers India's longest railway route, traveling **4,273 kilometers** over rails in 80 hours and 15 minutes with roughly 55 scheduled stops. It runs from **Dibrugarh** in Assam to **Kanyakumari** in Tamil Nadu. It is currently the **24th** longest railway network in the world. The train goes through Assam, Nagaland, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, and Tamil Nādu.

Vivek Express:

The Vivek Express is a chain of Express trains on the Indian railway network. The railway budget of **2011-12** was announced about the Vivek Express by the then Railways Minister. These Express trains started to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of *Swami Vivekananda* which was held in 2013. There are *4 pairs* of Vivek Express in India. Dibrugarh to Kanyakumari Vivek Express, Okha-Tuticorin Vivek Express, Bandra Terminus Jammu Tawi Vivek Express, and Santragachi-Mangalore Central Vivek Express.

World's longest train route:

*The longest train route in the world is in **Russia**. The train journey takes six days and crosses multiple time zones. It runs between Moscow to Vladivostok. It covers a distance of 9,250 kilometers.*

16. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a digital portal named **'Pariksha Sangam'** to streamline board examination results, sample papers, and other details in one single window.

- Pariksha Sangam is another portal where students will be able to check Class 10th and Class 12th board results easily.
- The portal has been divided into three main sections: Schools (Ganga), Regional offices (Yamuna), and Head office (Saraswati).
- It is a one stop portal for all CBSE board exam activities.
- This portal will integrate all its other portals like e-message, IPS payment system, OASIS, board circulars, etc.

17. Bangalore-based **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** researchers have developed a design framework to build next-generation analog computing chipsets. Using this design framework, they have built a prototype of an analog chipset called **ARYABHAT-1**.

- 'ARYABHAT-1' stand for **Analog Reconfigurable technology And Bias-scalable Hardware for AI Tasks**.
- It has been designed by Pratik Kumar, who is a Ph.D. student at IISc.
- It is capable to be configured with several machine learning architectures.
- It will be faster and require less power than the digital chips found in most electronic devices.
- It will be helpful for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based applications like object or speech recognition e.g., Alexa or Siri.

18. National Commission for Women (NCW) has organized a one-day '**Capacity Building Training Programme**' for Women Traders of Manipur in collaboration with the State Commission for Women for holistic development of women traders and to create more entrepreneurial opportunities for them. This programme has been conducted for women traders of three Ima Keithels to improve their livelihood, social security, and overall quality of life.

Ima Keithel:

It is the largest all-**women market** in Asia with a large number of women manning the stalls in these markets. It is situated in Manipur.

19. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 8th edition of the "**Digital India Week 2022**" and a Digital Expo at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It has been organized from **4th July to 9th July 2022** under the theme 'Catalyzing New India's Techade'. The aim is to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. The event marks the seventh anniversary of the launch of the "Digital India" campaign, a flagship programme of the Central government.

Initiatives launched during the event:

- PM Narendra Modi has launched '**Digital India Bhashini**' to enable Indians an easy access to the internet and digital services in vernacular languages.
- He has also launched '**Digital India GENESIS**' - Gen-next Support for Innovative Startups- a national deep-tech startup platform.
- He has launched '**India Stack: indiastack.global**'. 'Indiastack. global' is a global repository of key projects implemented under India Stack like Aadhaar, UPI, Digilocker, Cowin Vaccination Platform, Government e Marketplace (GeM), DIKSHA Platform and Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission.
- He has launched '**Meri Pehchaan**'- National Single Sign On for One Citizen Login. National Single Sign-On (NSSO) is a user authentication service in which a single set of credentials provide access to multiple online applications or services.
- He has also dedicated '**MyScheme**', which will provide access to government schemes at a single place.
- The total budget of **Rs.750 crore** has been envisaged for these schemes.
- He has also unveiled an eBook '**Catalyzing New India's Techade**'.
- The first cohort of 30 institutions supported under the **Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme** have also been announced.

A three-day long orientation program '**India Stack Knowledge Exchange- Showcasing India Stack and India's Digital Products and Service**' has also been organized from 7-9 July 2022.

Note: Digital India Programme was launched on 1st July 2015.

20. Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first Autonomous Navigation facility '**TiHAN**' at the IIT Hyderabad campus. The TiHAN-IITH testbed on Autonomous Navigations (Aerial & Terrestrial) will allow to test the next generation autonomous navigation technologies accurately and allow faster technology development and global market penetration.

- TiHAN stand for '**Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation**'.
- It has been developed at a budget of **Rs.130 crores** by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology.

21. Indian Navy has commissioned the first Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 324 named "**KESTRELS**" on the Eastern Seaboard operating the **Advanced Light Helicopter MK III** in **Vishakhapatnam** to boost its maritime surveillance.

- These helicopters are indigenously designed and built by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Kestrels are birds of prey and have good sensory capabilities. The name symbolizes the envisaged role of the aircraft and the Air Squadron of the Navy.

- The INAS 324 Squadron is being commanded by Commander SS Dash, who is a highly experienced ALH Qualified Flying Instructor.
- 22.** Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, L Murugan, has laid the foundation stone of **2 MW** solar power plant at the **Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCOMMF)**, popularly known as Milma's Tripunithura, Ernakulam, Kerala to power its units under the Ernakulam Union, mainly in Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Idukki.
- The **Ernakulam Dairy** will become India's first fully solar-powered plant with an outlay of **Rs 11.5 crore** provided through the National Dairy Development Board.
 - It will be executed by the Agency of New and Renewable Energy Research & Technology (ANERT).
 - The solar power project will help save Ernakulam Dairy 90% of its power consumption, and make it the first dairy to be run entirely on solar power.
- 23.** The **47th Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council Meeting** has been held in **Chandigarh** under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and has made several recommendations to implement changes to the GST regime. These changes will be made effective from **18th July 2022**.

Key recommendations of 47th GST Council Meeting:

- GST on ink, lights, LED lamps and metal printed circuit board has been increased to **18%** from earlier 12%.
- GST rate on solar water heaters and systems has been increased to **12%** from 5%.
- Rate on job work associated with manufacturing of leather goods and footwear has been increased to **12%**.
- Rate on works contract for roads, railways, metro, bridges, crematorium effluent treatment plant is increased to **18%**.
- Rate on petroleum and coal bed methane is increased to **12%** from 5%.
- GST rate on E-waste has been hiked to **18%** from 5%.
- GST Council has proposed to levy 28% GST on casinos, horse racing, online gaming, and lottery was deferred.

Note: The 48th GST Council meeting is expected to be held in Madurai, Tamil Nadu during the first week of August 2022.

- 24.** The **Ministry of Steel** has joined the **PM Gati Shakti Portal** and uploaded the geo locations of key projects with an aim of identifying and bridging missing infrastructure connectivity gaps. The ministry has on-boarded itself on the National Master Plan portal with the

assistance of Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (**BiSAG-N**).

- The Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Infrastructure development was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2021 with the objective of bringing different ministries together for integrated planning of infrastructure connectivity projects.

25. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully carried out the maiden flight of the **Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator** from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka.

- The unmanned aerial vehicle is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, a premier research laboratory of DRDO.
- It is powered by a small turbofan engine.

26. Union Minister for Minority Affairs, **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi**, has inaugurated the **fifth Global Film Tourism Conclave (GFTC)** at Novotel Mumbai Juhu Beach in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It has been organized by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) in association with the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. The theme of the conclave is '*Unleashing the Power of Cinematic Tourism*'. This conclave provides a unique platform for Film Commissions, Tourism Boards and Production Houses to promote their locations, incentives and services to the vibrant Indian film industry.

27. Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has inaugurated India's first-ever **India Animal Health Summit 2022** held at NASC Complex, New Delhi for greater use of Ayurveda for ensuring better animal health. It has been organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and the Agriculture Today Group.

- **India Animal Health Awards 2022** has also been presented in different categories to individuals, and organizations, for outstanding contributions in their respective fields.

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28. India's first floating terminal for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is likely to be operational in the second half of 2022. It will be located in **Jaigarh** in Maharashtra. While another floating terminal at Jafrabad in Gujarat is also likely to begin operations in 2022.

- Both are floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs) which are cumulatively expected to add 11 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) of regasification capacity.
- The FSRU at Jaigarh is led by H-Energy Gateway Pvt Ltd while Jafrabad MTPA FSRU is led by Swan Energy.
- At present, India has six operational import terminals. They are Dahej, Hazira, Mundra at Gujarat, Dabhol at Maharashtra, Kochi at Kerala, and Ennore at Tamil Nadu.

29. India has added 540 species to its faunal database in 2021 taking the total number of animal species to 1,03,258. The country has also added **315 taxa** to the Indian flora during 2021, taking the number of floral taxa in the country to 55,048. Also **13** new genera have also been discovered.

- Out of the 540 faunal species, 406 are new discoveries and 134 new records to India.
- Among the new species discovered is one species from mammal, 35 reptiles and 19 species of pisces.
- The new mammal species discovered is **Crocidura narcondamica**, a white-toothed shrew, from Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands.
- Among the reptiles discovered in 2021, notable is **Boiga whitakeri**, or **Whitaker's cat snake**, from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
- The most number of new discoveries was from the faunal group Hymenoptera, an order of insects, comprising the sawflies, wasps, bees, and ants, in which 80 species, including one new genus, were discovered.
- With 1.03 lakh species of fauna, India contributes to **6.1%** of faunal diversity in the world.

30. The Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD) has constituted a '**National Advisory Committee for the Animal Husbandry and Dairying sector**' that includes several industry experts as well as business leaders.

- The newly formed committee will be chaired by **Parshottam Rupala**, Union Minister for FAHD, and co-chaired by Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, Minister of State FAHD.
- The **48-member committee** will meet **once** every quarter in a financial year to discuss, recommend, prescribe and advise policies regarding the sectors.
- Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy (DAHD), Dr O.P. Chaudhary, will act as Member Secretary of the Committee and plan coordination unit of DAHD.

31. GODI India has become India's first company to receive Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certification for its 21700 cylindrical NMC811 **lithium-ion cells**. As per the BIS requirement,

the Godi-designed and made-in-India cells were tested and qualified by TUV, the third-party testing agency.

- For the first time in Indian history, NMC811 21700, 3.65V-4.5Ah cylindrical cells were made-in-India & Made-for-India.
- The company will set up a giga-factory for lithium-ion cell manufacturing in India by 2024.

32. India has been elected to the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO's 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) for the **2022-2026** cycle. Earlier, India has served as a member of the ICH Committee twice, from 2006 to 2010 and from 2014 to 2018.

Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Heritage:

- It was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) in **2003** and entered into force in 2006. It comprises **24 members** and is elected in the General Assembly of the Convention according to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation. The members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years.

33. The Western Railway (WR) has opened its longest skywalk from the **Khar Road railway station** to the nearby **Bandra Terminus station** to allow passengers to reach the platforms to board trains easily.

- The skywalk spans 314 meters long and is 4.4 meters wide.
- The platform connecting the two stations is also connected to the other platforms of Bandra Terminus Station.
- It has been built at a cost of around Rs.14 crore.

34. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has virtually unveiled the '**Statue of Peace**' of **Swami Ramanujacharya** in Srinagar, located in a temple in the Sonwar region.

Saint Ramanujacharya:

- He is also known as Ramanuja. He is considered to be a great thinker, philosopher and social reformer, a south Indian Brahmin born in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- He propounded doctrine of ***Vishishtadvaita*** or qualified oneness.
- He is known to have revolted against the discrimination of untouchability and played a role in bringing a big change in society.
- He is a follower of ***Vaishnavism*** and taught people the principles of salvation.

- He wrote many books, including ***Sri Bhashya, Vedartha Sangraha and Bhagavad Gita Bhasya***, based on his belief that is different from the teachings of Adi Shankaracharya.

Note: This statue is different from Statue of Peace, unveiled by PM Narendra Modi in Rajasthan (2020), of Jain monk Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer.

- 35.** The Government of India (GoI) has decided to promote the cultivation of **Dragon Fruit**, known as a “super fruit” for its health benefits. It has been planned to increase the cultivation to **50,000 hectares** (from 3,000 hectare) in five years.
- 36.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** and the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** to eliminate **Tuberculosis (TB)** in India. The MoU will forge inter-Ministerial collaboration and strategic partnerships with the goal of eliminating TB in India by **2025**.
- Both the Ministries will take forward the “TB Harega, DeshJeetega” campaign in rural India. This campaign was launched in 2019.
- 37.** Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has honoured **Maha Metro** and National Highway Authority of India (**NHAI**) with the prestigious *Asia Book of Records* and *India Book of Records* certification for constructing the longest multi-layer viaduct in Asia and three metro stations under the **Nagpur Metro Rail** project.
- The Multi-Layer Via-duct over Wardha Road measuring **3.14 km** is longest in Asia.
 - The Multi-Layer Viaduct has three metro stations: Chhatrapati Nagar, Ujwal Nagar and Jai Prakash Nagar.
- Note:** A viaduct is a specific type of bridge that consists of a series of arches, piers or columns supporting a long elevated railway or road.
- 38.** The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, by exercising its powers under sections 3, 3A and 5 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957, has established a three-member commission for carrying out a fresh delimitation exercise of the **municipal wards** in **Delhi**.
- **Chairman:** Vijay Dev, State Election Commissioner, Delhi
 - **Other members:** Pankaj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary in the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Randhir Sahay, Additional Commissioner
 - The commission will present its report within 4 months of its formation.
- 39.** Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has said that the **Dwarka Expressway**, which is being developed as the first elevated urban expressway in India, will become operational in **2023**. This will ease traffic congestion on Delhi-Gurugram Expressway.

The Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road, is a part of Delhi-Jaipur-Ahmedabad-Mumbai arm of Golden Quadrilateral.

Dwarka Expressway:

- The expressway will connect **Dwarka** in Delhi to **Gurugram** in Haryana.
- It is being developed at a total cost of **Rs.9,000 crore**.
- It has a total length of **29 km**, out of which 19 km falls in Haryana and the remaining 10 km is in Delhi.

- 40.** The Government of India (GoI) has nominated **29 non-official members** from large and small enterprises and different sectors in the **Board of Trade (BoT)**. The BoT is chaired by the **Union Commerce & Industry Minister** (presently, Piyush Goyal).
- The board, which includes participants from states, union territories, senior officials from public and private sectors, provides a platform to discuss ways on boosting manufacturing and exports.
 - GoI had merged the Council of Trade Development and Promotion with the Board of Trade in **2019**.
- 41. Agnikul Cosmos**, Indian space-tech start-up, has launched '**Rocket Factory - 1**', India's first-ever rocket facility for 3D printed space engines at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Research Park.
- Rocket Factory - 1 consists of EOS M400 metal 3D printer, including other equipment for the end-to-end production of a rocket engine.
 - The factory is capable of producing 2 rocket engines per week.
 - Recently, the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad has announced to provide lending support to '**Abyom**', a start-up looking to develop 'Reignition Liquid Engine' for building India's first reusable sounding rocket.
- 42.** The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved '**Cervavac**', India's first Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (qHPV), to treat **cervical cancer** in women in an affordable and accessible manner. Cervical cancer, a malignant tumour of the cervix, is the second most common cancer among women in India, especially in the rural areas. It is caused by human papillomavirus (HPV).
- Recently, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras researchers have developed an artificial intelligence-based tool, called '**PIVOT**', that can predict cancer-causing genes in an individual. This tool aims to help in predicting and analysing personalised cancer treatment strategies.

43. Union Minister of State (MoS) Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Jitendra Singh has chaired the 320th meeting of the Executive Council of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in New Delhi. During the meeting, he has announced to set up **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award in public administration** in the field of academic excellence, in memory of the first President of India, Rajendra Prasad.
44. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted AOC (Air Operator Certificate) to Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed **Akasa Air**. It will begin flying by late July 2022.
45. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has launched '**Connecting through Culture**', an anthology of essays on various aspects of India's soft power strengths, at Sushma Swaraj Bhavan in New Delhi, India. The anthology in many ways is a very notable contribution to understanding India, appreciating India, and in many ways valuing India.
46. The **National Rail and Transport Institute (NRTI)** in Vadodara, which is a deemed university, will be upgraded to a central university and will be known as the **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya**. The Gati Shakti University will become the second central university in the state following the Central University of Gujarat. The objective is to support the vision and goals of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and provide the best possible education and training to the people of Gujarat and the country.
47. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved **Taranga Hill-Ambaji-Abu Road new rail line** to provide connectivity and improve mobility.
- The estimated cost of this project is **Rs.2798.16 crores** and will be completed by 2026-27.
 - The total length of the new rail line will be **116.65 km** and will be constructed by the Ministry of Railways.
 - The project will generate direct employment during construction for about 40 lakh man-days.

Ambaji & Taranga Hill:

- Ambaji (Gujarat) is one of the **51 Shaktipeeths** in India and a famous pilgrimage destination.
- Taranga Hill (Gujarat) houses the **Ajithnath Jain temple** (one of the 24 holy Jain Tirthankaras).

- 48.** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has announced that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has set a target of **Rs.1.75 lakh crores** in defence production by **2025**, which includes exports of **Rs 35,000 crores**. It has been announced during a workshop organized by the Department of Defence Production in New Delhi.
- The Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) will play a major role in achieving this goal with a contribution of 70 to 80 percent.
- 49.** The **National Conference of State Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers** has been organized in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. It has been organized by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in coordination with the Government of Karnataka to commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- During the conference, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, launched **e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) Platform of Platform (PoP)**. This platform will be used for promoting trade & marketing of agricultural produce, to get better prices of agriculture commodities to farmers. It will also create an efficient "One Nation One Market" ecosystem.
 - He has also released an equity grant of over **Rs.37 crore** to **1,018** Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme that will benefit about 3.5 lakh farmers.
 - National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal that networks the existing Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
- 50.** The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has formed a committee to develop a comprehensive framework on the '**Right to Repair**' in order to emphasize the LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment) movement through sustainable consumption.
- The committee will be chaired by **Nidhi Khare**, Additional Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs.
 - The aim is to empower consumers and product buyers in the local market, harmonize trade between the original equipment manufacturers and the third-party buyers and sellers, emphasize on developing sustainable consumption of products and reduction in e-waste.

The idea of LiFE was introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), 2021 at Glasgow. He launched the

concept of the **LiFE movement** (Lifestyle for Environment) in India in June 2022. This includes the concept of reusing and recycling various consumer products.

51. The '**First I2U2 (India, Israel, United Arab Emirates, and United States) Leaders' Virtual Summit 2022**' has been organized in July 2022. It has been hosted by Israel. It has been virtually attended by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, and the UAE's President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The objective is to discuss common areas of mutual interest, strengthen economic partnership in trade and investment in respective regions and beyond.

Key initiatives:

- The I2U2 group has announced to invest **USD 2 billion** to develop a series of integrated food parks across India that will incorporate state-of-the-art climate-smart technologies to reduce food waste and spoilage, conserve fresh water, and employ renewable energy sources.
- The I2U2 countries will advance a hybrid renewable project in **Dwarka, Gujarat**, consisting of **300 MW** of wind and solar capacity complemented by a battery energy storage system.

52. Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane has launched '**Repos Pay**', a 'Mobile Electric Charging' platform, and '**Phy-gital**', a Fintech Platform at the 'Fuelling India 2022' event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- 'Repos Pay' is a platform where one can order a Mobile Electric Charging Vehicle on the app and charge their vehicle.
- 'Phy-gital' is a **Fintech platform** that will bring credit to fuel consumers (Buy Now Pay Later) through Technology.

53. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched indigenously built '**Y- 3023 Dunagiri**', Project 17A frigates onto the River Hooghly in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- 'Dunagiri' is the **fourth ship** of Project 17A Frigates.
- It is named after a mountain range in the state of **Uttarakhand**.
- It is the reincarnation of the erstwhile 'Dunagiri', the Leander Class ASW Frigate.
- It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE)**.

There will be **seven frigates** built under P-17 A for the Indian Navy which will be equipped with advanced stealth capability, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai, and three at Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata. The first three ships under Project 17A are **INS Nilgiri, INS Himgiri, and INS Udaygiri**.

- 54.** The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has set up an **apex committee** to conduct performance and efficiency audits of capital procurements, logistics, inventory, and maintenance of assets of the armed forces.
- The committee will be headed by the **Defence Secretary (Presently, Ajay Kumar, IAS)**.
 - The committee comprises Vice Chiefs of the three services, Secretary Defence (finance), Chief of Integrated Staff Committee (CISC), Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) and Director General (acquisition), and other senior officials of the ministry, including representatives from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
 - The committee will advise Defence Minister on measures for overall improvement in the strengthening of internal oversight and risk management framework in various aspects of the functioning of the ministry.
- 55.** The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has launched "**Jagruti**", a mascot for empowering consumers and generating awareness of their rights.
- Jagruti will be projected as an empowered consumer who is spreading awareness about consumer rights & addressing solutions to the problems faced by the consumers.
 - It will be shown along with the tagline "**Jago Grahak Jago**" in all its media campaigns.
 - It will create awareness about various themes of the Department like provisions of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, Hallmarking, National Consumer Helpline toll-free number 1915, provisions of weights & measures Act, decisions of the Central Consumer Protection Authority, and testimonials by consumers on grievance redressal.
- 56.** Indian Navy has decommissioned **INS Sindhudhvaj**, the Russian-built **Kilo-class submarine**, after serving for about 35 years in Visakhapatnam.
- INS Sindhudhvaj was commissioned in June 1987.
 - It means flag bearer and its crest depicts the grey colour nurse shark.
 - The kilo-class boats are called **Sindhgosh class submarines** after the addition of lead vessels.
- Note:** Currently, India has 15 conventional diesel-electric submarines, 7 of which are of the Russian Kilo class.
- 57.** India's first AI-powered **Digital Lok Adalat** by the **Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA)** has been unveiled during the 18th All India Meet of State Legal Services

Authorities (SLSA) held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. It will be used to dispose of pending disputes or disputes that are at the pre-litigation stage.

- It has been launched by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Chairman **Uday Umesh Lalit**.
- It has been designed and developed by its technology partner Jupitice Justice Technologies.

58. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Centre (RGCI) has installed the first-ever Made-in-India **Surgical Robotic System, "SSI-Mantra"**, devised by new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations. The ingenious SSI Mantra, a brainchild of robotic cardiac surgeon **Dr. Sudhir P Srivastava**, will be signifying the beginning of a new era of surgical procedures in India.

59. The Union Minister of State for Science and Technology **Jitendra Singh** has inaugurated the '**ISRO System for Safe & Sustainable Operations Management' (IS4OM)** facility at Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) control centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for safeguarding space assets.

- IS4OM facility will perform a host of functions such as safeguarding India's space assets, protecting them from space debris, predicting the orbital movement of debris, predicting likely collisions and coordinating with global agencies for all of the above.
- This facility is a part of the Space Situational Awareness (SSA) program to identify space debris and monitor them.

60. The Central Government has declared "Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments" (ZCZP) as **securities** for the purposes of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

Securities:

They are fungible and tradable financial instruments used to raise capital in public and private markets. There are primarily three types of securities: equity, debt, and hybrids.

"Zero-coupon zero principal instrument" (ZCZP):

It refers to an instrument issued by a **Not for Profit Organisation (NPO)** which shall be registered with the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) segment of a recognised Stock Exchange in accordance with the regulations made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). These are meant for NGOs and on it, NGOs are not required to pay principal or interest after the completion of the project.

61. The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has formed a committee to make Minimum Support Price (MSP) more effective and transparent and to promote zero-budget-based farming.
- It is a **29-member** committee.
 - It will be chaired by **Sanjay Agarwal**, former Agriculture Secretary.
 - There is no mention about the tenure of the panel by which it should submit the report.
 - It will study the practicality of giving more autonomy to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACPC), and suggest measures to make it more scientific.

62. Union Minister of State Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions **Jitendra Singh** has launched the first unique model to standardize Civil Service training institutions. The **“National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutions” (NSCSTI)** has been launched at Capacity Building Commission (CBC) headquarters in New Delhi.

- NSCSTI is developed by CBC to create a baseline for Central Training Institutes on their current capacity, for elevating their quality and capacity of training delivery and to harmonise standards for training.
- It will also set aspirations for training institutions to strive toward excellence.

He has also inaugurated the web portal and approach paper for the National standards.

Recently, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has appointed former army training command Chief Lieutenant General **Raj Shukla** (retired) as a member. With his appointment, UPSC now has a Chairperson, and six members, against its sanctioned strength of 10.

63. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched **75** newly-developed Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Enabled Military products during the first **'AI in Defence' (AIDef) Symposium and Exhibition 2022**. AIDef has been organized by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence (MoD) in New Delhi.

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64. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the pilotless drone **“Varuna”**, India’s first human passenger drone during Naval Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar ‘Swavlamban’ at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- It has been developed by a start-up **‘Sagar Defence Engineering’**.

- It has the capacity of carrying one human inside.
- It has a range of **25 km**.
- It can carry 130 kg payload and has 25-33 minutes of flight time.

65. The Union Textile Secretary has unveiled the logo “**Jute Mark India**” which will act as a certification of authenticity for **Jute products** manufactured in India.

- The Jute Mark label will be attached with the jute products. It will contain a unique QR code.
- It will help in strengthening the domestic market and exports of jute products from India.

JMI scheme:

- JMI scheme will offer a collective identity and assurance regarding the origin and quality of jute and jute products.
- An outlay of **Rs 485.58 crore** has been allocated for the scheme, to promote jute sectors during the financial year **2022-2026**.
- Kolkata-based **National Jute Board** is the nodal agency, for the promotion of jute and jute products in Indian and global markets.

66. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the increase in the proportion of voting rights held by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (**CPPIB**) in ReNew Energy Global plc. (**ReNew**).

Other approvals by CCI:

- CCI has approved the proposed combination involving the indirect subscription of over **30%** of the total number of issued shares of CitiusTech by Bain Capital Investors, LLC (Bain Capital) and Bain Capital Credit Member, LLC and Bain Capital Credit Member II, Ltd. (Bain Credit), which represents approximately half the economic interest in CitiusTech (Proposed Combination).

CCI has also approved the acquisition of **Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (AFLI)** by its group company Ageas Insurance International NV. Ageas currently has 49 percent shareholding in AFLI and it jointly controls the operations of AFLI along with the other shareholders viz., IDBI and Federal Bank.

67. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled ‘**SPRINT Challenges**’, aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy. It has been unveiled during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar ‘Swavlamban’ in New Delhi.

- This collaborative project is named *SPRINT: Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), NIIO and TDAC (Technology Development Acceleration Cell)*.
- NIIO, in association with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least **75** new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.

68. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has become the first 100 percent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model. The port is presently handling 9000 TEUs capacity vessels and with the up-gradation, it can handle 12200 TEUs capacity vessels.

- Under the Landlord port model, the port authority acts as regulatory body and as landlord, whereas the port operations are carried out by private companies.

69. Droupadi Murmu has been elected as the **15th President of India** in the 16th Presidential Election of 2022. She is the **first tribal woman** and **second Indian woman** to be elected President of India. During the election, she has defeated former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha.

Profile of Droupadi Murmu (15th President of India):

- She was born on 20th June 1958 in **Mayurbhanj, Odisha**.
- She belongs to the **Santhal tribe** in Odisha.
- She served as the former **Governor of Jharkhand** between 2015 and 2021.
- She is the first President of India who hails from Odisha.
- She was awarded the prestigious '**Nilakantha Award for Best MLA**' in 2007 by the legislative assembly.

Santhal Tribe:

Santhal is the third largest scheduled tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhil. The word 'Santhal' is derived from two words; 'santha' meaning calm and peaceful and 'ala' meaning man. Their population is concentrated in West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha. The Santhals speak Santali, the most widely spoken of the Munda languages. Santhals are a Munda ethnic group native to South Asia.

70. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched a face authentication feature through a new mobile app called "**AadhaarFaceRd**". It will enable citizen to use face authentication for several other apps, including Jeevan Pramaan, Ration Distribution (PDS), Co-Win Vaccination App, Scholarship schemes, and Farmer welfare schemes like PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi).

- 71. The 17th Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Exim Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership** has been held in New Delhi in hybrid format. The conclave has emphasized upon the need for a trade and investment agreement between India and Africa. It has been organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in partnership with the **Ministry of Commerce & Industry**, and **Ministry of External Affairs**.
- The CII EBC on India-Africa Growth Partnership was launched in 2005.
 - **Note:** India has extended concessional loans of over USD 12.3 billion to Africa. In addition, India has granted USD 700 million of grant assistance.
- 72. India's 'first-of-its-kind' Brain Health Clinic (BHC)** has been unveiled at Jayanagar General Hospital, **Bengaluru** in **Karnataka**. It has been set up under the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (**KaBHI**) in association with National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS).
- The mental treatment will be available at all **243 'Namma' clinics** that will become functional soon.
 - It will serve as nodal centres to diagnose, treat, refer and follow-up patients with common neurological disorders and ensure that they receive multi-disciplinary care, including counselling, physiotherapy, rehabilitation and disability benefits.
 - Two more BHCs will be inaugurated soon in **Kolar and Chikkaballapura** districts of Karnataka.

Other launches:

- Cricketer **Robin Uthappa**, brand ambassador for Ka-BHI, has launched brain health activities, including a cricket match titled "Reflections with Robin: Morning Cricket".
- A '**Know Your PHC**' campaign has been launched, where trained Primary Health Centre (PHC) doctors will share information about brain health using various digital and in-person platforms.

KaBHI:

It is the first of its kind initiative in India with the objective to promote brain health in the community from PHCs to secondary level district hospitals and NIMHANS at the tertiary level. It was launched in January 2022 by the Karnataka government in association with NIMHANS and NITI Aayog.

- 73. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has launched the '**Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat**' to promote Indian language technology with the intention to create a societal

impact. This centre has been inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani. It is being supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani with a grant of Rs 36 crore through Nilekani Philanthropies.

AI4Bharat:

It is an initiative by IIT Madras. It has been started to build open-source language AI for Indian Languages. It has been aligned with objectives of Digital India Bhashini Mission.

74. SAP Labs India has partnered with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** to establish the **SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG)** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. The aim is to enhance digital government capabilities in India. The centre will cater to three broad pillars of activities: innovations in technology application for government service delivery, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, and thought leadership.

- National e-Governance Division (NeGD) was set up in 2009 as an independent business division under the Digital India Corporation by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- **President & CEO:** Abhishek Singh

75. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the **Flag Code of India 2002** to allow the tricolor to be displayed in open and on individual houses or buildings throughout the **day and night**. Earlier, the tricolour could be hoisted only between sunrise and sunset.

- In an earlier amendment dated 30th December 2021, the government had allowed the use of machine-made and polyester flags. Previously, such flags were not allowed to be used.

Flag Code of India:

It came into effect on **26th January 2002**. It states that a member of the public, private organisation, or educational institute is allowed to hoist the national flag on all days and occasions, ceremonial or otherwise, consistent with the dignity and honour of the flag. The code has been divided into three parts.

- **First part:** General description of the national flag.
- **Second part:** Display of the flag by members of the public, private organisations, and other institutions.
- **Third part:** Display of the national flag by central and state governments, and their organisations/agencies.

Before the 2002 code was introduced, the display of the national flag was governed by provisions of The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

- 76. Prasar Bharati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Kanpur** to develop Next Generation Broadcast Solution and Roadmap for Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting consistent with emerging standards such as 5G Broadcast.
- Presently, Doordarshan has 23 Digital Terrestrial Transmitters which are operational at 19 locations across India.
 - All India Radio (AIR) has 123 MW transmitters in its network, out of which there are 38 digital MW transmitters.
- Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament and comprises the Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio. It is the Public Service Broadcaster of the country.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **CEO:** Mayank Kumar Agrawal
- 77.** The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at **IIT Kanpur** has launched the **NIRMAN Accelerator Program**, supported by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The program will focus on the manufacturing startups engaged in healthcare and agriculture domains to help them overcome the challenges from their prototype-to-market journey.
- Under this program, **15 start-ups** will be selected and given the opportunity to accelerate their product journey from 'lab to market'.
 - The best-performing startups will receive a cash award of up to **Rs.1 million**.
 - The 6-month-long programme will be devised into four segments, namely Principles of Product Growth; Engineering Acceleration; Navigating the Compliance Puzzle; and Leading to Next-Stage Growth.
- 78.** The Government of India (GoI) has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to **15 percent** in **2030** from 6.3 percent currently. To achieve the target, various initiatives have been taken which include the following:
- Expansion of National Gas Grid to about 33,500 Km from current 21,715 km.
 - Expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network.
 - Setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals.
 - Allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) / Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) in no cut category.
 - Allowing marketing and pricing freedom to gas produced from high pressure/high temperature areas, deep water & ultra-deep water and from coal seams.
 - Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives to promote Bio-CNG.

79. Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has launched **NDDB MRIDA Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), for manure management.

- NDDB has established NDDB MRIDA Limited, an Unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on 1st July 2022 as with the paid-up capital of **Rs. 9.50 crore**.
- **Sandeep Bharti** is the newly appointed Managing Director of NDDB MRIDA Limited.

NDDB has also registered a trademark named **"SuDhan"** to provide common identity to dung based organic fertilisers.

80. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth **Rs.28,732 crore** under Buy (Indian IDDM) and Buy (Indian) categories to boost 'Aatmanirbharta' in Defence.

DAC:

It is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.

Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.

81. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently (July 2022) approved the following proposals:

4g mobile services:

The Union Cabinet has approved project for saturation of **4G** mobile services in **24,680** uncovered villages of the country through Universal Service Obligation Fund, at an estimated cost of **Rs 26,316 crore**. In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G. The project will be executed by BSNL.

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Signing of Guarantees for the hosting of the 7th edition of the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022**. The tournament is scheduled to be held from 11th to 30th October 2022 across three cities: Bhubaneswar, Goa and Mumbai.

BM-SEAL 11 Project:

The Union Cabinet has approved additional investment of USD 1,600 million (about Rs. 12,000 crore) by Bharat Petro Resources Ltd. (BPRL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), for the development of **BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project in Brazil**.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL):

The Union Cabinet has approved a **Rs.1.64-lakh crore** revival package for the government-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). The Cabinet has also approved the merger of **Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL)** with BSNL. BBNL is a Special Purpose Vehicle and has been mandated to create the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) in India to provide high-speed broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats.

MoU between NIRDPR & UoR:

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of MoU between **National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)** and **University of Reading (UoR)**, United Kingdom (UK) for collaboration in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries.

82. Indian Navy has received India's first indigenous aircraft carrier '**INS Vikrant**'. It is designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND), and the carrier has been built at **Cochin Shipyard Limited**, a public sector shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.

- It is named after the warship that played a crucial role in the 1971 war and was decommissioned in 1997.
- It is a 45,000-tonne warship, constructed at a cost of around Rs.20,000-crore.
- It is **262-meter** long and **62-meter** wide.
- It has an operational endurance of 7500 nautical miles, with cruising speed of **28 knots**.
- It will have a crew of 1,700, including women.

83. The **Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA)** and the **Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation between the two organisations to promote the use of palm oil. This MoU aims to help educate Indian consumers on the nutritional and health benefits of palm oil and improve their overall understanding of palm oil and its applications.

Note: Malaysia is the 2nd largest palm oil producer in the world.

84. The Indian Navy has received the first tranche of two **MH-60 R multirole helicopters** from the **United States of America (USA)** at Cochin International Airport, Kerala.

- India and the USA signed a USD 2.6 billion contract in 2020 for 24 MH-60R Romeo helicopters which will be built by Lockheed Martin Corporation.
- The third helicopter is scheduled to be delivered in August 2022.
- The delivery of all 24 MH 60R helicopters will be completed by 2025.

MH-60R helicopter manufactured by **Lockheed Martin Corporation** is an all-weather helicopter designed to support multiple missions with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors.

85. Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman S Somnath along with other senior scientists has inaugurated the **Human Space Flight Expo** in Bengaluru, Karnataka to commemorate the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav. The three-day expo has been launched in collaboration with the planetarium and the Bangalore Association for Science Education (BASE). The expo features a number of exhibits, including scaled models of various Indian satellites and launch vehicles as well as a scaled model of the proposed India Space Station.
86. The Indian Army has organised a **Motor Bike expedition** from **New Delhi** to the **Kargil War Memorial** at Dras (Ladakh) to commemorate the **23 years** of victory over Pakistan in Kargil War of 1999 and celebrate the spirit of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The 30-member rally has been flagged off by Lt Gen B S Raju, the Vice Chief of Army Staff from the National War Memorial, New Delhi. The bike rally has passed through Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. In order to cover maximum areas, the rally is split into two teams, who moved along two different axes; i.e. the Zojila Pass axis and Rohtang Pass axis, covering a distance of 1400 km and 1700 km respectively.
87. Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated **Vaccination Centre for children** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**. He has also launched the **Bal Raksha mobile app**, which is aimed at creating awareness of paediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents. The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.
88. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has made amendments to the environmental impact assessment rules for exempting highway projects related to defence and strategic importance within **100 km** of India's "**Line of Control (LoC) or border**" from the requirement of environmental clearance. Highway projects exempted from these clearances will be subject to specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- The notification also exempts from the environmental clearance for the projects related to expansion of airport terminal buildings without increasing its existing area.
89. The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has observed its **84th Raising Day** on **27 July 2022**. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation.
- CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is headquartered in New Delhi. It came into

existence as the 'Crown Representative's Police' on **27 July 1939**. After Independence, it became the CRPF on the enactment of the 'CRPF Act' on 28 December 1949, which constituted CRPF as an armed force of the Union.

- 90.** Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has chaired a seminar on **"Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace"**. The seminar has been organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- During the seminar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been between DCPC and ILO for adopting the **International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)**.
 - Under this MoU, employees working in the chemical industry will receive information and training on the safe use of chemicals.
- 91.** Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has launched the **Eleventh Agricultural Census (2021-22)** to collect data on a variety of parameters, including operating holdings. This is the first time that data collection for the agricultural census will be conducted on smartphones and tablets. It will commence in August 2022.

Agriculture Census:

It is organized by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture. It is conducted every 5 years in collaboration with the States and Union Territories as part of programme of World Census of Agriculture. The first Agriculture Census was launched in 1970-71.

- 92.** Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, has launched the Minister's **Dashboard for Animal Husbandry and Dairying** in New Delhi. This dashboard helps in monitoring, and reporting real-time scheme data, and in analysing the schemes' key performance indicators and parameters through a visual matrix.

This dashboard encapsulates the following schemes:

- Livestock Health and Disease Control Program (LHDCP)
- National Livestock Mission (NLM)
- Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF)
- National Program for Dairy Development Fund (NPDD)
- Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)
- Supporting Dairy Co-operatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (SDCFPO)
- Dairy processing & Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF)

STATES AFFAIRS

93. Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to connect **One District One Product (ODOP) mart** with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. The pilot phase of integration of ODOP Mart on ONDC has been inaugurated by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), **Dr. Navneet Sehgal**.

- The ONDC is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce & Trade (MoCI).
- ONDC collaborates with UP's Handicrafts Development & Marketing Corporation, to promote the spirit of One District One Product.

94. The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the renaming of Aurangabad city as '**Sambhajinagar**' after Sambhaji Maharaj, and Osmanabad city, which is named after the last ruler of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, as '**Dharashiv**'.

Historical Background:

Aurangabad was founded in 1610 by **Malik Ambar**, the Siddi general of the Nizamshahi dynasty of Ahmadnagar. The city was named Khirki or Khadki at the time, and its name was changed to Fatehpur by Malik Ambar's son Fateh Khan following Malik Ambar's death in 1626. In 1653, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb invaded the Deccan and set up his capital in the city, which he renamed Aurangabad. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son and successor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was tortured and killed in brutal fashion on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689.

95. NTPC Renewable Energy (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Rajasthan** for the development of **10 Gigawatt (GW)** Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Park in Rajasthan. The aim is to achieve the target of 60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032.

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96. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Singapore-based **IGSS Ventures** to build a 300-acre semiconductor high-tech park and a semiconductor fab unit in the state. The company will invest Rs.25,600 crore in the project in the next five years, generating direct employment for 1,500 people.

- IGSS Ventures has also planned to establish semiconductor fabrication unit under the 'India Semiconductor Mission' and Project Surya, both of which aim to lessen air pollution and global warming.

- 97. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** has inked a pact with the **West Bengal** government for the design and construction of an environment-friendly Next-Generation Electric Ferry.
- Under the green initiative and sustainable development of West Bengal, the zero-emission full-electric ferry is about **24 meter-long** and is powered by **210 kilowatt per hour (kwh)** liquid-cooled energy storage solution and ergonomically designed to carry 150 passengers with provision of air conditioning sitting arrangements.
- 98. Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has signed an Operation & Management (O&M) agreement for the operationalization and maintenance of **five airports** owned by the Government of **Uttar Pradesh** for **30 years**. These five airports are Aligarh, Azamgarh, Chitrakoot, Muirpur and Shravasti.
- This is the first time AAI is entering into an O&M Agreement with the State Government for Operationalization of State Government owned airports. As per the agreement, AAI will operate and manage the airports and provide all necessary services.
- 99.** The Bengaluru Electricity Company (BESCOM) has developed the '**EV Mitra**' mobile app to provide information about EV charging stations in **Bangalore**, Karnataka. The user-friendly app can be used by electric vehicle users to book in advance a slot in the station. The information on charges in each station for the electric vehicles to recharge is also mentioned in the App.
- BESCOM has started 136 charging stations in Bengaluru and another 152 such stations will be started soon.
 - Under the Public-Private Partnership model, tenders have been invited to establish 1000 charging stations across the state.
- 100. Rahul Narwekar**, a first-time MLA, has been elected as the **16th Speaker** of the **Maharashtra Legislative Assembly** by defeating Shiv Sena candidate Rajan Salvi. He has also become the youngest Speaker in India.
- Note: Article 178** of the Indian Constitution provides for a Speaker to preside over the sessions of the Legislative Assembly of an Indian state. Similarly, **Article 93** deals with the Speaker in the Lok Sabha.
- 101.** The state government of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched the '**Naari Ko Naman**' scheme to provide 50% concession on fares in Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC) buses to women commuters within the state boundaries. The scheme has been launched at the Government College Auditorium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.

- The government will also sanction 25 new posts of women drivers in the 'Ride With Pride' government taxi service, an initiative to ferry women passengers and senior citizens.

102. Shiv Sena leader **Eknath Shinde** has become the **20th Chief Minister (CM) of Maharashtra**. He has replaced Uddhav Thackeray, who resigned from the CM post after the Supreme Court refused to stay Maharashtra Governor's direction to Uddhav Thackeray led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government to take a floor test in the Assembly. While BJP **Devendra Fadnavis** has become the new Deputy CM of Maharashtra.

- Governor **Bhagat Singh Koshyari** has administered the oath of office to CM and Deputy CM at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- *The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly has 288 seats.*

103. The Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrashekar Rao has inaugurated '**T-Hub 2.0**', the world's largest innovation campus in **Hyderabad, Telangana**. The facility will support over 2,000 startups under one roof, with a total built-up area of 5,82,689 square feet, making it the world's largest innovation campus.

- Phase 1 of 'T-Hub' was launched in 2015 to promote entrepreneurship and innovation.
- In 2021, the startup ecosystem of Telangana was valued at USD 4.8 billion.

104. **India's largest floating solar plant** has become fully operational at **Ramagundam** in **Peddapalli** district of **Telangana**. It has been commissioned by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited.

- It is a **100 MW** floating solar plant spread over 500 acres of the NTPC's reservoir at Ramagundam.
- It has been built at a cost of **Rs.423 crore** through Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited on an EPC (engineering, procurement and construction) contract.

105. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a **30-feet** tall bronze statue of revolutionary freedom fighter **Alluri Sitarama Raju** in the Bhimavaram region of Andhra Pradesh. It has been unveiled to celebrate the **125th** birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju.

Alluri Sitarama Raju:

- He was born on 4th July 1897.
- He is remembered for his fight against the Britishers to safeguard the interests of local tribal communities.
- He is also referred to as '**Manyam Veerudu**' (Hero of the Jungles) by the local people.

- He had led the **Rampa rebellion**, which was launched in 1922. It was fought against British as a protest to the 1882 Madras Forest Act in Visakhapatnam. As per the Act, tribal people were restricted on the free movement in the forest areas and prevented them from engaging in their traditional Podu (shifting) cultivation and use of the forest firewood and toddy.

- 106.** The government of **Rajasthan will** introduce India's first '**Right to Health Bill 2022**' in the Rajasthan assembly. This will make Rajasthan the first state in India to propose a guaranteed right to healthcare to its residents. The objective is to provide quality and affordable healthcare services through government and private healthcare providers.
- In January 2022, the state government prepared a draft bill that defines the rights of patients, their attendants, and health care providers, as well as a system for addressing the grievances of the stakeholders.

- 107.** Women and Child welfare representatives from **six Indian States** (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana) have signed a first-of-its-kind **Inter-State Declaration of Intent to work in collaboration to combat human trafficking**. It has been signed during the two-day Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking, which was hosted by Telangana government in collaboration with non-profits Prajwala and Shakti Vahini.

Regional Consultation to Combat Human Trafficking:

The consultation included 36 senior officials from the Department of Women and Child Welfare/Social Welfare, the Home Department, the State Women's Commission, the State Children's Commission, and the State Legal Services Authority. It has been attended by State Ministers from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

- 108.** The **Delhi Government** has launched '**Mission Kushal Karmi**' to upgrade the skills of construction workers. This programme has been launched in collaboration with Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU) and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. Under this 15 days special training programme, workers will undergo upskilling which will boost their incomes in future.

- 109.** **Delhi** will host the 30-day **Mega Shopping Festival** from January 28 to February 26, 2023. This will be the biggest shopping festival in India. This festival is a part of the announcement in the 'Rozgaar Budget' of the Delhi government. The festival will have 200 concerts for entertainment, food walks and will also offer huge discounts on products. It will also have exhibitions on spirituality, games, and wellness.

- 110. Karnataka** will become the first state in India to have an exclusive Research and Development (R&D) Policy. The policy aims to allocate at least 0.1% of the state's Gross State Domestic Product towards R&D and innovation that would benefit the state in bringing more development. A state-level R&D council and foundation will be established to support the implementation of the proposed policy.
- 111. Uttar Pradesh** has become the first state in India to have **13** expressways. Of these 13 expressways having a total length of 3,200 kilometers, work is going on, on seven while six expressways are operational.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway** on 16th July 2022 and with its inauguration Bundelkhand will be directly connected to Delhi.
 - This will benefit the people of Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah districts.
 - Apart from this, Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, Gorakhpur Link Expressway, Ghazipur-Ballia-Manjhiat Expressway and Delhi-Dehradun Expressway are being constructed.
- 112. Kharchi Festival**, also known as the 'Festival of 14 Gods', is observed annually in **Tripura**. It is a tribal festival. This festival occurs after 15 days of Ambubachi mela (Assam).
- **Kharchi**: "Khar" or Kharta meaning sin and "Chi" or si meaning cleaning.
 - Kharchi Puja is performed during the months July-August on the eight day of the new moon.
 - It occurs during the month of 'Ashad' on the 'Shukla Ashtami' day.
- 113.** Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced that the **36th National Games** will be held for the first time in **Gujarat** from 27 September to 10 October 2022. The event will be held in six cities: Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar. The last edition of the National Games was organised in Kerala in 2015.
- 114.** The **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)** in Mumbai has become the first railway station in India to be equipped with Augmented Reality (AR) screens. This technology will allow passengers at the station to get real-time digitised time table with a dedicated scrolling screen and railway information for an engaging experience.
- Augmented reality magic mirrors create a virtual world around the person standing in front of the screen.
 - The passengers will also be able to meet animals, witness magic tricks and snowfall, and visit any place in the world virtually.

- 115.** Delhi Government has partnered with whatsapp to launch **whatsapp chatbot** for customer management on queries regarding Electric Vehicles (e-vehicles).
- 116. Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)** has collaborated with **YuWaah** at United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to enable access to employment opportunities for students of the DESU.
- 117.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has officially inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth more than **Rs.16,800 crore** at Deoghar in **Jharkhand**.
- He has inaugurated the **Deoghar Airport** to provide direct connectivity to Baba Baidyanath Dham, which is an important religious destination for devotees from all over the country. It has been constructed at an estimated cost of around **Rs.400 crore**. It is the second airport in Jharkhand.
 - He has also inaugurated the **AIIMS** Deoghar.
- 118.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated '**Shatabdi Smriti Stambh**' which has been built to commemorate 100 years of **Bihar Vidhan Sabha**. It has been built at a cost of about Rs.3 crore. The 40-foot structure has been built by the Building Construction Department (BCD) of the **Bihar** government.
- He has also laid the foundation stone of the **Vidhan Sabha museum**. The different galleries in the museum will demonstrate the history of democracy in Bihar and the evolution of the current civic structure. It will also have a Conference Hall with more than 250 people capacity.
- 119.** Bengaluru-based **Ola Electric** has launched India's first indigenously developed lithium-ion cell '**NMC 2170**' and the mass production of its cell will begin at its upcoming Chennai-based Gigafactory by 2023.
- Ola Electric launched its first electric vehicle in August 2021 and set up the world's largest 2W manufacturing facility in India. The Ola Electric is currently developing its first electric 4W.

Lithium-ion battery:

- It refers to rechargeable lithium batteries. It consist of single or multiple lithium-ion cells, along with a protective circuit board. China and Hong Kong are the biggest lithium battery suppliers to India.

- 120.** The Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand**, Pushkar Singh Dhami, has inaugurated '**Bal Vatikas**' at anganwadi kendras across the state to strengthen the pre-primary education system. The 'Bal Vatikas' will function at 4,457 anganwadi kendras in the state and will be equivalent to the nursery classes at a private school.
- With this, **Uttarakhand** has become the first state to implement the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 at pre-primary levels. The NEP 2020 will be fully implemented in Uttarakhand by 2030.
- 121.** Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai has announced the development of India's first e-waste eco-park in **Holambi Kalan** in North-West Delhi, Delhi, in an area of around 21 acres.
- An 11-member steering committee has been formed for the development of the park.
 - Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) will be the implementing agency.
 - Delhi is the fifth-largest producer of e-waste in India, after Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
 - The Delhi transport department has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology (IIIT-D)** to conduct research and develop technologies that can improve urban transportation in Delhi.
- 122.** The **Leh airport** in Ladakh is being constructed as India's first carbon-neutral airport. A "Geothermal system" in hybridization with Solar PV Plant will be provided in the New airport Terminal Building for heating and cooling purposes. It is estimated that 900 tons of carbon emissions per year will be reduced after adopting the geothermal system.
- 123.** **Sikkim** and **West Bengal** have signed a new **Reciprocal Transport Agreement (2022)** to boost the tourism industry after 15 years (2007). Under this agreement, 'All Bengal' permits and 'All Sikkim' permits (except for restricted and protected areas) will be issued to facilitate vehicular movement along both states.
- 124.** Jammu and Kashmir Sikkim government and Sikkim University have signed a tripartite agreement to collaborate on training, technology, capacity building and other activities to boost cultivation of saffron and other temperate crops. This will strengthen "Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat" initiative, which was launched on 31st October 2015.
- 125.** The **University of Hyderabad (UoH)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB)**, Hyderabad, Telangana, in fundamental areas of biological sciences. Under the agreement, Faculty/ Researchers and

Scientists/Visiting Faculties from both the institutions will collaborate on Animal Biotechnology or allied areas.

126. Ahmedabad city and the state of **Kerala** have been featured on TIME Magazine's List of World's Greatest Places of 2022. The two major tourist destinations in India have been listed among the top 50 extraordinary destinations to explore in the world.

- Kerala has been described as one of India's most beautiful states with spectacular beaches, lush backwaters, temples, and palaces. The state is known as "**God's own country**" for good reason.
- Ahmedabad is **India's first UNESCO World Heritage City**. The city is also known as Gujarat's Science City with an entertainment centre and theme park.

The list also includes Ras Al Khaimah, UAE; Park City, Utah; Seoul; Great Barrier Reef, Australia; The Arctic; Valencia, Spain; Trans Bhutan Trail, Bhutan; International Space Station; Bogota; Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia; Istanbul and Kigali, Rwanda.

127. The **Kerala Fiber Optic Network Limited (K-FON)** project has received an Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Union Department of Telecommunications. The Department of Telecommunication has issued an order granting ISP Category-B Unified License to K-FON to officially provide Internet services.

With this, **Kerala** has become the first & only state in the country to have its own internet service.

K-FON:

It is an initiative of the Government of Kerala which aims at eliminating the digital gap. It is a joint project of Kerala IT Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL) and Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd. It is supposed to make internet available in 30,000 government institutions, and 14,000 BPL families.

The objectives are:

- To create a core network infrastructure (information highway) with non-discriminatory access to all service providers so that they can augment their connectivity gap.
- To provide a reliable, secure, and scalable intranet connecting all government offices, educational institutions, hospitals, etc.

- To partner with Multiple System Operators, Telecommunication Service Providers, and Internet Service Providers for providing free internet to economically backward households.

128. The **Telangana** government has joined hands with the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** to add **Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture (DiCRA)** as the latest addition to the Digital Public Goods Registry. This is the first-of-its-kind digital initiative to drive climate action. DiCRA provides open access to both data as well as analytics derived through open software based on Artificial Intelligence (AI). It will help in strengthening food systems, food security, and Industries in India.

129. **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh has been named the first **“Cultural and Tourism Capital”** of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) for 2022-23 under a new rotating initiative that seeks to promote people-to-people ties and tourism among member countries. The title will be awarded during India’s SCO Presidency from September 2022 to September 2023.

The Samarkand Summit of SCO is scheduled to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from September 15-16 2022. After this initiative, India will take over SCO’s Presidency and will host the next Heads of the State summit.

Note: Kazakhstan has announced to launch a “visa-free policy for tourists from India and other countries”.

Additional Information:

SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and military organization aiming to maintain peace, security, and stability in the region. It was created in 2001. The SCO Charter was signed in 2002 and entered into force in 2003. Its secretariat is based in **Beijing, China**. The present Secretary-General is **Zhang Ming** of China. **Members:** Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, and Pakistan.

130. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Bundelkhand Expressway** at Kaitheri village in Orai tehsil of Jalaun district in **Uttar Pradesh**.

- The **296 kilometres** long four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway has been constructed at a cost of around **Rs.14,850 crore** rupees under the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
- The foundation stone of the expressway was laid by PM Narendra Modi in February 2020 and the construction was completed in 28 months.

- It passes through **seven districts** of UP. They are: Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah.
- It extends from **NH-35** at Gonda village near Bharatkoop in Chitrakoot district to near Kudrail village in Etawah district, where it merges with the **Agra-Lucknow** expressway.
- The expressway will have four railway bridges, 18 big bridges along with 286 small bridges.

131. India's first underwater metro train in **Kolkata** under the Hooghly River for establishing metro connectivity between Howrah and Kolkata is underway and will be made fully functional by **2023**.

- It will cover a distance of **16.34-km**-long east-west corridor.
- Out of the 16.34 km long east-west stretch, 520 metres will be under the river bed, and 10.8 km is underground.
- The tunnel corridor is built 33 meters below the riverbed and will connect Kolkata to Howrah.
- It is being constructed by Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRCL).

132. Chief Minister of Uttarakhand **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has launched the **Uttarakhand police app** and **e-FIR service** in Dehradun. The police app is an integrated version of five online services provided by the State police.

- e-FIR app will help in lodging the FIRs related to vehicle theft anywhere in the state.
- The Uttarakhand police app will have all of the online services including **Lakshya Nasha Mukh Uttarakhand, Meri Yatra, Gaura Shakti, traffic eye, and public eye** that the State police offers to the general public in the state.
- Cyber hotline number **1930** and the emergency number **112** have also been added to this app.

133. The **22nd edition** of the **Bharat Rang Mahotsav 2022** has been held in **New Delhi** to remember and pay tribute to Indian freedom fighters, under "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2022". The event has been organized by the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi from 16th July-14th August 2022.

- **Objective:** To raise awareness about unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle who have not made to India's history.
- 30 plays will be showcased in different cities of India.
- It will be organized in 5 other cities of the country namely **Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru, and Mumbai**.

134. The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has set up its first mountain-warfare training centre in North-East (NE) India, it's second overall, to skill its troops in high-altitude combat and survival tactics as part of their mandate to guard the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

- The new centre has been established in remote **Dombang**, abutting the LAC, and is located at a height of 10,040 ft in **Sikkim** which shares a 220 km front of the India-China LAC.

ITBP established the first school called **Mountaineering and Skiing Institute (M&SI)** during 1973-74 at Auli near Joshimath. The M&SI is located at a height of more than 9,000 feet in the Himalayan ranges of Uttarakhand and has trained thousands of ITBP, Army, Air Force, and other security personnel in this domain.

135. The **Andhra Pradesh** State Wildlife Department has launched the first-ever survey of blackbucks along a stretch of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam with the goal of drawing up a conservation plan to protect the endangered species.

- The Gowthami, Vasista, Vainteya and Vridha Gowthami, in Konaseema and East Godavari districts are a major habitat for blackbucks.
- Bobbarlanka, located downstream Dowleswaram barrage, is home to a huge number of blackbucks.

Blackbuck (Antelope cervicapra):

- It is a species of antelope native to India and Nepal.
- It is the State Animal of **Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- It is considered the fastest animal in the world next to Cheetah.
- It is found in Central- Western India (MP, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, and Odisha) and Southern India (Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu).
- **Status:** Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Least Concern (IUCN Red data book), and Appendix III (CITES).

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136. The Chief Minister of **Assam**, Himanta Biswa Sarma, has introduced '**Swanirbhar Naari**', a scheme to empower & financially support the indigenous weavers of Assam & their families. This scheme covers around 31 hand-woman items belonging to various other communities in

the state. Under this scheme after the products are bought, the government will sell them both inside and outside of the state.

137. Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in India to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS). This system has been launched by the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur at Peterhof, in Shimla.

- These vehicles can be tracked anywhere in India through VLTD.
- More than 9,423 vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS.
- Now it will be monitored by both the police and the transport department in the state.
- The Vehicle Location Tracking Device with Emergency Panic Button System and Command Control Center has been connected with ERSS 112.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS):

It is one of the key projects of the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Nirbhaya Fund. It is a Pan-India single number (112) based emergency response system for citizens in emergencies. It is capable of receiving emergency calls through voice call to 112, email, panic buttons activated calls and 112 India mobile App.

138. The Government of **Uttar Pradesh** has appointed **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India** as consultant to achieve the target of making the state a USD 1-trillion economy. The consultant will provide the required mission and departmental reforms will be made accordingly. The consultant will critically analyse the macro and micro-economic sectoral data around Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), trade, investment, expenditure, savings, workforce participation, inflation, import & export, etc. to identify the strengths and weaknesses of UP's economy.

139. The government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched "**Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme**", a scheme to provide cashless medical facility to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners and their dependents.

- With this, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state to start such scheme in the country.
- The scheme will provide insurance coverage of upto Rs.5 lakh annually to the employees.

140. Burhanpur (Madhya Pradesh), popularly known as the 'Darwaza of Dakhin' (Gateway of Deccan), has become the first Certified 'Har Ghar Jal' district in India under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). The people from each of 254 villages in Burhanpur have declared their villages as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabhas.

- As of July 2022, all the houses in the district 1,01,905 have access to tap water in 254 villages, including in 43,701 tribal households.
- Burhanpur, in north of the Tapti River, was founded in 1399 by Naşir Khan of the Faruqi dynasty of Khandesh. It was annexed by Akbar in 1601.

141. Hyderabad-based Indus International School has introduced **India's first Teaching robot** named "**Eagle**" to teach students. It has been developed by the school to assist teachers in teaching.

- The school has deployed 21 Eagle Robots in its branches located in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Pune.
- Eagle robot is capable of teaching students of Class 5 to 11.
- They are programmed to teach all the science and humanities subjects including languages.
- They can impart education in more than 30 different languages.

142. The state government of **Tripura** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), Shillong, for 21 projects including disaster management and resource mapping.

- The Indian Space Resource Organization (**ISRO**) and North Eastern Council (**NEC**) will fund to implement all the 21 projects within the next three years.
- An amount of **Rs.4.30 crore** has been sanctioned for disaster management as resource mapping.

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced to set up a grand statue of **Amar Shaheed Chandrashekar Azad** in **Bhopal**. At the base of the statue, soil brought from Bhabra, the birthplace of Azad, will be used and the statue site will be developed as a source of inspiration for the youth.

- The announcement has been made during the inaugural session of the first state-level **Youth Mahapanchayat** organized in Bhopal on the **116th birth anniversary** of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekar Azad.
- Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Sports and Youth Affairs **Anurag Thakur** has also addressed the programme virtually from New Delhi.

Chandrashekar Azad:

He was born on 23rd July 1906 in Bhabra village near Alirajpur district of Madhya Pradesh. He joined a Non-Cooperation Movement in December 1921. As a result, he was arrested. He joined

Hindustan Republican Association (HRA). HRA was later reorganised as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA) in 1928. He was involved in the 1925 Kakori Conspiracy. He died at Azad Park in Allahabad on 27th February 1931.

- 143.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between **Rajasthan** Grameen Aajeevika Vikas Parishad (Rajeevika) and Stree Nidhi, a government of **Telangana** organization to establish '**Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi (RMN)**, Rajasthan's **first** and **India's third** women's financial institution. It is being set up in the state on the lines of Telangana's Stree Nidhi model. It will be established with a total grant of **Rs.50 crore** from the Rajasthan government in 2 years.
- 144.** The National Institute of Speech and Hearing (**NISH**) and the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University (**KTU**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct innovative entrepreneurial development training projects for the differently-abled youth in **Kerala**.
- This unique project has been named the "**Innovation by Youth with Disabilities**" (**I-YwD**) project.
 - Initially, about 20 people in the age group of 15-40 will be given training and each participant will be given support for three years.
 - The representatives of 15 engineering colleges, affiliated with the KTU, will implement this project.
- 145. Haryana** Chief Minister, Manohar Lal Khattar, has launched an app-based '**Smart E-Beat**' **system** for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel in **Gurugram**.
- The app-based system has been introduced under the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI).
 - The system will cover the area of all the **33 police stations** located in the urban area of Gurugram.
 - As many as 119 motorcycle riders will be deployed, and 714 policemen will give duty on the rider in three shifts a day.
- 146. Bonalu Festival** is a traditional folk festival of **Telangana**. It is observed annually in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and some other parts of Telangana state. This annual month-long festival is usually observed during the **Ashada Masam** which falls in July or August. The festival involves the worship of **Goddess Mahakali** in various forms. The festival involves devotees offering the traditional 'bonam' (derived from Bhojanam, meaning meals) to the goddess Mahakali at 25 temples.

- In 2022, the Bonalu festival is observed in the month of July.

- 147. Gujarat** has become the first state in India to launch a semiconductor policy "**Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-2027**" with an aim to support the semiconductor and display manufacturing sector and to generate more than 2 lakh new employment opportunities during a period of 5 years.
- This policy is in line with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), an initiative under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which has an outlay of Rs.76,000 crore.
 - The eligible projects will get **75 percent** subsidy on first 200 acres land purchase and **50 percent** on additional land required for fab projects or upstream/downstream and other projects approved under ISM.
 - Gujarat government has also proposed to set up a '**Semicon City**' on 5,000-10,000 acres at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) where land, power and water will be provided at subsidised rates.
- 148.** The state government of **Punjab** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to become a member of the global network called '**Under2 Coalition**' to address the issues of climate change. With this MoU, Punjab has become a member of largest network of 221 states or provincial governments of 43 countries committed to reduce CO2 and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, adopted at a UN climate change summit in Paris in 2015.
- 149.** Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has unveiled the '**Mukhyamantri Mahtari Nyay Rath**' with the aim of making the women of the state aware of their constitutional rights and laws.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 150.** The **United States** and its allies, **Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the United Kingdom**, have launched a new initiative called '**Partners in the Blue Pacific**' for effective and efficient cooperation with the region's small island nations.
- It is a five-nation "informal mechanism" to support Pacific islands and to boost diplomatic, and economic ties in the region.
 - PBP aims to enhance cooperation in the areas of Climate crisis, Connectivity and transportation, Maritime Security and Protection, Health, Prosperity, and Education.
 - The initiative will be led by the USA.

- 151.** The government of **Poland** has honoured the maharajas of **Jamnagar** and **Kolhapur** and others who sheltered Polish refugees fleeing the Soviet Union invasion of Poland during World War II. The Indian government had sent a delegation of former royals and other representatives from Kolhapur and Jamnagar to attend the event. Indian Council for Cultural Relations President Vinay Sahasrabudhe, led the delegation, which included Yuvraj Sambhaji Raje and Sanyogetaraje Chhatrapati from Kolhapur and some representatives from Jamnagar.
- 152.** The National Institute of Urban Affairs (**NIUA**) Climate Centre for Cities (**NIUA C-Cube**), World Resources Institute India (**WRI India**), and their partners have launched India's first **National Coalition platform for Urban nature-based solutions (NbS)** at the 11th World Urban Forum (WUF) held in **Poland**.

The India Forum for NbS aims to create a collective of NbS entrepreneurs, government entities and like-minded organizations, to help scale urban nature-based solutions through:

- Defining a shared language and communicating benefits that inform actions at the local level including scaling up of existing NbS interventions.
- Driving investment and strengthening delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination.
- Mainstreaming urban ecosystem-based services and nature-based solutions in India through informing policy, plans and project interventions.

'India Forum for NbS' is led by the National Institute of Urban Affairs' Climate Centre for Cities (NIUA C-Cube) and anchored by World Resources Institute India (WRI India) under the Cities4Forests initiative. It is supported by Caterpillar Foundation, the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Govt. of the United Kingdom, and Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI).

Nature-based Solutions (NbS):

They are defined by IUCN as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits".

- 153.** A **Virgin Orbit's** fully mobile LauncherOne system has conducted its first ever evening flight from a bare concrete pad and a runway at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California which carried **7 United States (US) Defence Department Satellites**. This launch has been named "**Straight Up**", inspired by American singer Paula Abdul's debut studio album "Forever Your Girl," which was released through Virgin Records in 1988.

154. Spain has hosted the three-day **NATO Summit 2022** in Madrid. This is the 32nd edition of the summit, since the first summit meeting was held in Paris in 1957. The Summit has been chaired by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

Key highlights:

- During the Summit, 22 NATO members agreed to launch the **NATO Innovation Fund**. It is a multi-sovereign venture capital fund that will invest 1 billion euros (\$1.05 billion) in startups and other venture capital funds that develop emerging technologies for both civilian and military use.
- NATO members have signed the Accession Protocols for **Finland & Sweden**.
- NATO leaders have agreed to strengthen the alliance's forward defences, enhance the bloc's battlegroups on its eastern flank and increase the number of high readiness forces to more than 300,000.

155. The **8th session** of **India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation (IGC)** has been held in Yerevan, Armenia. The Indian delegation has been led by Sanjay Verma, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs whereas the Armenian delegation has been led by its Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ararat Mirzoyan.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Government of Armenia and the Government of India on High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) in Armenia which will be financially and technically funded by India.
- **Note:** The 7th IGC was held in 2016 in New Delhi.

156. The 2nd edition of the **United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC) 2022** has been co-hosted by **Kenya** and **Portugal** in Lisbon under the theme "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of **SDG Goal 14**: stocktaking, partnerships, and solutions."

- **Minister of Earth Sciences** led the Indian delegation at UNOC 2022.
- During the conference, **Lisbon Declaration** titled '**Our Ocean, Our Future: call for action**' on ocean conservation has been adopted by all the 198 members of United Nations.

Lisbon Declaration:

- To protect at least **30%** of national maritime zones by **2030**.
- To achieve carbon neutrality by **2040**.
- To allocate funds to research on ocean acidification, climate resilience and surveillance.
- To scale-up Science-based and innovative actions to address ocean emergency.

- To support implementation of SDG14 by empowering women and girls- recognising their participation is crucial to building a sustainable ocean-based economy.
- To protect biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, which lie outside the 200-mile (322-kilometre) exclusive economic zones of countries.

Sustainable Development Goal 14: Life Below Water:

It was adopted in 2015 as an integral aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its set of 17 transformative goals, Goal 14 stresses the need to conserve and sustainably use the world's oceans, seas and marine resources.

Note: The first UNOC was held in 2017 in New York.

157. The **10th edition** of the **World Peace Forum 2022** has been organised by Tsinghua University, in **Beijing, China**. It has been organised under the theme "Preserving International Stability: Commonality, Comprehensiveness and Cooperation". The forum comprises of topics including preservation of world peace, United Nations, European security order, and world order.

- India's Ambassador to China, Pradeep Kumar Rawat has attended the forum.

158. The **Madagascar** government and **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for participation in the Pan African e-network project named **e-VBAB** (e-VidyaBharti and e-AarogyaBharti).

- The Minister of Higher Education of Madagascar Elia Beatrice Assoumacou has signed the MoU at the premises of the Ministry of Higher Education in Antananarivo, Madagascar in presence of the Ambassador of India to Comoros and Madagascar Abhay Kumar.
- A total of 26 major Indian universities (including Andhra University, Chandigarh University, Amity University Indira Gandhi National Open University) will be a part of this project.
- Under this MOU, various online degree/diploma courses will be offered to Malagasy citizens free of cost.

159. A joint **Indo-US Counter Narcotics Working Group (CNWG) meeting** has been held to deliberate on drug law enforcement and increase in seizures of heroin from Afghanistan. The Indian delegation has been headed by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) director general **SN Pradhan**.

- An **Amended Letter of Agreement** in the field of cooperation for drug related matters between India and the US has been signed during the event. It has been signed on behalf of India by revenue secretary **Tarun Bajaj** and on behalf of the US by **Patricia Lacina**, Charge d'Affaires.

- Both nations has decided to establish a **CNWG Executive Group** and **three steering groups** on multilateral policy and regulatory coordination, law enforcement cooperation and drug demand.

160. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has tested a new waste disposal technology by releasing about **78 kg** of garbage from the International Space Station (ISS). The first-of-its-kind technology has been developed in collaboration with NASA's **Johnson Space Centre** and **Nanoracks**. The garbage bag was removed from the Nanoracks's commercial **Bishop Airlock** in ISS.

161. **Croatia** will become the **20th country** to join the **Eurozone** on **1st January 2023**. European Union finance ministers have given the final approval to adopt the euro single currency, replacing the Croatian Kuna.

- Lithuania joined the European single-currency regime in 2015.

162. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has introduced the **Paper Import Monitoring System (PIMS)** by amending the import policy of major paper products from 'free' to 'free subject to compulsory registration under PIMS'. The new policy will come into effect on **1st October 2022**.

- The PIMS shall be applicable on import by a Domestic Territory Area unit on a wide range of paper products covering **201 tariff lines**, such as newsprint, handmade paper, coated paper, uncoated paper, Litho and offset paper, tissue paper, toilet paper, cartons, labels, etc.
- Whereas, paper products like currency paper, bank bond and Cheque paper, security printing paper, etc. have been excluded from mandatory registration.
- As per PIMS, an importer will be required to obtain an automatic registration number through online system by paying a registration fee of **Rs 500** only, not earlier than 75th day and not later than 5th day before the expected date of arrival of import consignment.
- The automatic registration Number will remain valid for **75 days** and multiple consignments Bill of Entry (BoEs) shall be allowed in the same registration number within the validity period of registration, for the permitted quantity.

163. The Bangladesh Government has appointed **Mustafizur Rahman** as the next High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India. He is currently serving as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Offices in Geneva and the Ambassador to Switzerland. He will succeed Muhammad Imran as the new High Commissioner.

164. The United States has successfully tested two **Lockheed Martin hypersonic missiles** amidst the test carried out by China and Russia of their own hypersonic missiles.

Missile: 1- The Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has successfully carried out the first test of its Operational Fires hypersonic weapon. The test has been conducted at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.

Missile: 2 – The US Air Force has successfully tested an Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon (ARRW) booster off the California coast.

Hypersonic weapons travel in the upper atmosphere at more than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5), or about 6,200 km per hour. Presently, only US, Russia and China have hypersonic technology.

165. The **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has captured the distinct signature of water, along with evidence for clouds and haze, in the atmosphere surrounding a hot, puffy gas giant planet orbiting a distant Sun-like star. The observation, which is the most detailed of its kind to date, highlights Webb's unprecedented ability to analyze atmospheres hundreds of light-years away.

JWST has also released an astonishing view of Jupiter, its moons, and even its rings.

166. Sri Lankan politician and six-time Prime Minister, **Ranil Wickremesinghe** has been elected as the **9th President of Sri Lanka**. He secured 134 votes in the presidential election by the 225-member parliament. He will serve the remaining term of former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, which ends in 2024.

Recently, **Dinesh Gunawardena** has been appointed as the 15th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

167. Prime Minister of Italy **Mario Draghi** has submitted his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella after the withdrawal of support of key coalition parties. He will remain the caretaker Prime Minister of **Italy** until a new Leader is appointed.

168. Wall Street veteran **Marty Chávez** has joined the board of Google parent Alphabet. His appointment marks the first change to the Alphabet board since 2020, when former Google Chief Executive Officer Eric Schmidt departed.

169. A **SpaceX Dragon** resupply spacecraft has left for the International Space Station (ISS) carrying science experiments aiming to help carry out climate science research in space. The

Cargo Dragon spacecraft has launched the Falcon 9 rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and is transporting 5,800 pounds of science experiments, crew supplies, and other cargo. This is SpaceX's 25th commercial resupply services mission to the ISS for NASA.

170. National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) has selected **SpaceX** to launch the upcoming **Nancy Grace Roman Space telescope**, a next-generation space telescope scheduled to launch in 2026.

- The total cost for NASA to launch the Roman Telescope is approx. USD 255 million.
- The contract specifies that the Roman telescope will launch in **October 2026** from launch pad 39A at **Kennedy Space Center** atop a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.
- The telescope has a primary mirror that is **2.4 meters** (7.9 feet) in diameter.
- NASA Grace Roman was the first Chief of Astronomy at NASA's Office of Space Science and the first woman to hold an executive position in NASA.

171. China has successfully launched six new satellites into space with its new first and largest solid-propellant rocket '**ZK 1A**' from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-western China. The satellites included a new space technology test satellite and a test satellite for probing atmospheric density.

ZK 1A:

It has a length of 30 metres, a diameter of 2.65 metres and a lift-off weight of 135 metric tons. It is capable of sending satellites with a combined weight of 1.5 tons to a typical sun-synchronous orbit about 500 kms above the Earth. It has replaced the Long March 11 rocket which is 20.8 metres tall, with a diameter of 2 metres and a lift-off weight of 58 tons.

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172. Bangladesh has signed an agreement with **India** to effectively implement the Comprehensive Border Management Plan (CBMP) to control border crimes including smuggling of drugs and narcotics, arms and ammunition, fake currency and gold among other things.

- The decision has been taken during the **52nd DG Level Border Conference** between Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) which concluded in Dhaka, Bangladesh. It is a 5-day conference.

- The Indian delegation has been headed by BSF Director General **Pankaj Kumar Singh**, and the Bangladesh delegation has been headed by DG BGB Major General **Shakil Ahmed**.

173. European Commission has approved the **IMVANEX** vaccine to be marketed as protection against Monkeypox. Globally, over 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported from 75 countries. This vaccine is developed by Danish biotechnology company Bavarian Nordic. It can be used as active immunisation against smallpox, Monkeypox and disease caused by the vaccinia virus in adults.

Monkeypox:

It is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity. The infection was first discovered in 1958. This disease is caused by monkeypox virus. It involves fever for few days and lymph node swelling and a rash that can leave scars. It is transmitted from infected animals to humans via indirect or direct contact. Human-to-human transmission can occur through direct contact with infectious skin or lesions, including face-to-face, skin-to-skin, and respiratory droplets.

Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

174. India and the **United Kingdom** have inked a pact for mutual recognition of **educational degrees** of students of bachelor, masters and doctoral courses.

- Under this pact, UK degrees will be recognised as equivalent to Indian degrees.
- Indian senior secondary school or pre-university certificates will also be considered for entry into UK's higher education institutions, enabling mobility of students.

175. The International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), the global ports' forum for industry collaboration and excellence, has appointed **Ennarasu Karunesan** as its official representative in India. He currently serves as an advisor to Indian Ports.

IAPH	
Headquarters	Tokyo, Japan
Chairman	Patrick Verhoeven

176. India has contributed **USD 2.5 million** to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** in support of United Nations (UNs)

programmes including education, health care, relief, and social services for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

India has been a dedicated contributor to UNRWA by donating around **USD 20 million** in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.

177. A **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** has been conducted between **Japan** Maritime Self-Defence Force and the **Indian Navy** in the **Andaman Sea**. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.

Participants:

- **INS Sukanya**, an offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy.
- **JS Samidare**, a Murasame class destroyer of Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force.

Other Maritime Exercises between India & Japan:

- Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX)
- Malabar Exercise (India – US – Japan – Australia)

178. **China** has recently launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station 'Tiangong' that will be completed by the end of 2022. The module has been named '**Wentian**'. The giant Long March-5B Y3 carrier rocket, carrying Wentian, has blasted off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan, China.

- The Wentian module consists of a work cabin, an airlock cabin and a resource cabin.
- It features cutting-edge technologies, strong capabilities, and sophisticated design and represents a new milestone in China's space industry.

179. The **Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe** has launched **gold coin** named "**Mosi-oa-Tunya**" to be sold to the public in order to tackle inflation, and to boost confidence in the local currency.

- The "Mosi-oa-tunya" coin, named after Victoria Falls, can be converted into cash and be traded locally and internationally.
- The coins, each weighing one troy ounce have a purity of 22 carats.
- People holding the coins will only be able to trade them for cash after 180 days from the date of buying.
- Foreigners can only buy the coins in foreign currency.

REPORTS & INDICES

180. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has released the '**World Cities Report' 2022**. As per the report, India's urban population is estimated to rise to around **675 million** in **2035** and will become the 2nd highest country following China's 1 billion.

- India's urban population is projected to be 675,456,000 in 2035, growing from 483,099,000 in 2020 to 542,743,000 in 2025 and 607,342,000 in 2030.
- By 2035, the percentage of population in India at mid-year residing in urban area will be 43.2%.
- The global urban population is back on track to grow by another 2.2 billion people by 2050.
- China's urban population in 2035 is projected at 1.05 billion while the urban population in Asia will be 2.99 billion in 2035.
- The urban population is forecast to grow from 56 percent of the global total in 2021 to 68 percent by 2050.

181. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released the 3rd edition of "**States' Start-up Ranking 2021**". The main objective is to facilitate the ease of building a start-up and doing business across the country.

- The States and UTs were evaluated across 7 broad Reform Areas consisting of 26 Action Points including: Institutional Support, Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Access to Market, Incubation support, Funding Support, Mentorship Support to Capacity Building of Enablers.

For the Ranking; States and Union Territories are classified into **5 categories**:

Best Performers (Percentile: 100):

- **Gujarat and Karnataka** have emerged as the Best Performers in the States category.
- Meghalaya has topped among UTs and North-eastern States category.

Top Performers (Percentile: 60-99):

- Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa and Telangana have won the Top Performers award among states category.
- Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as the Top Performer among UTs and N-E states category.

Leaders (Percentile: 30-59):

- Assam, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have emerged as the winners in the Leaders states category.
- Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa have emerged as the winners among UTs and N-E states.

Aspiring Leaders (Percentile: 11-29):

- Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were declared Aspiring Leaders among the States.

Emerging Start-up Ecosystem (Percentile: Up to 10):

- Andhra Pradesh and Bihar from the States category and Mizoram and Ladakh from the UTs/NE States have topped under the Emerging Start-up Ecosystem.

This year's rankings were given based on the period from 1 October 2019- 31 July 2021.

182. Israel-based organization Startup-Blink has released the **Global Startup Ecosystem Index (GSEI) 2022**. The company ranks the startup ecosystems of top 1000 cities and 100 countries of the globe which works on a methodology by taking into account majorly three parameters- quality of startups, quantity of startups and business environment.

India's performance:

- India has been ranked **19th** in the country-wise rankings 2022.
- India has been ranked **4th** in the Asia-Pacific region, after Singapore, Australia, and China.
- **Bangalore** has been ranked first among Indian cities in the 2022 rankings. It is ranked first in Asia.
- Bangalore has ranked 8th globally with strongest start-up ecosystem in India.
- **Other Indian cities:** New Delhi at 13th, Mumbai at 17th, Pune at 90th, Hyderabad at 97th, Chennai at 102nd, Jaipur at 212 and Ahmedabad at 223rd.

183. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has recorded all-time high exports worth **USD 7.76 billion** with the volume of 13,69,264 MT of **seafood** in FY22, despite heavy odds. During FY22, the export improved in rupee term by 31.71%, in USD terms by 30.26% and in quantity terms by 19.12%. In FY21, India had exported 11,49,510 MT of seafood worth Rs 43,720.98 crore (USD 5,956.93 million).

- **Frozen shrimp** remained the major export item in terms of quantity and value. Its shipment stood at USD 5,828.59 million.
- **USA** continued to be the major importer of Indian seafood in value and volume term both with an import worth USD 3371.66 million, followed by China.

184. The **Asia Pacific Sustainable Index 2021** has been released by London-based global consultants Knight Frank. Four Indian cities have made it to the top 20 of the Asia Pacific (APAC) Sustainably Led Cities Index Ranking.

- In the index, the top five cities are Singapore, Sydney, Wellington, Perth, and Melbourne.
- **Bangalore** has been ranked 14th in the APAC region in the Gold standard category. It topped among the Indian cities.
- **Three other Indian cities:** Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai have been ranked 17, 18 and 20, respectively.

The APAC Sustainability Index 2021 has ranked 36 cities based on parameters like urbanisation pressure, climate risk, carbon emissions and government initiatives.

As per the Knight Frank's report, **India's Green Bonds** issuance had increased from **USD 1.1 billion** in 2020 to USD 6.8 billion in 2021.

185. NITI Aayog and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) have released a report titled '**Forecasting Penetration of Electric Two-Wheelers in India**'.

Key highlights:

- The report has predicted **eight scenarios** for analysing the future penetration of electric two-wheelers in the country. These are *Challenged Diffusion, Performance Driven, Low Battery Cost, Technology Driven, Incentive Driven, Battery Cost Challenged, Same Performance and Optimistic*.
- In an optimistic scenario, the report has predicted **100%** penetration of electric two-wheelers in the Indian market by **2027**.
- In another scenario, which is technology driven and where current incentives are withdrawn by 2024, the report predicts **72%** penetration by **2031**.
- **Four broad constraint levels** have also been identified for the eight scenarios, in terms of installed vehicle manufacturing capacity and available charging infrastructure: (i) Full constraint (where both vehicle production and charging infrastructure are constraints) (ii) Production constraint (where only vehicle production is a constraint) (iii) Charge constraint (where only the charging infrastructure is a constraint) (iv) No constraint.

186. The **QS Best Student Cities Ranking 2023** has been released by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). It ranks 140 cities around the world.

- **London (UK)** has topped the list, followed by Seoul (South Korea), Munich (Germany), and Zurich (Switzerland).

- India's highest-ranked student city is **Mumbai** at 103 spot which scored for affordability but struggles with student mix and desirability. It is followed by **Bangalore** at 114 ranks, **Chennai** at 125 ranks, and **New Delhi** at 129 ranks.
- The best student city in the Arab Region is **Dubai**, which ranks 51st globally.

187. According to Mercer's 2022 Cost of Living survey, **Mumbai (127)** is the most expensive city in India in terms of both living expenses and accommodation costs. This is followed by New Delhi (155), Chennai (177), Bengaluru (178), and Hyderabad (192), while Pune (201) and Kolkata (203) are the least expensive Indian cities in the ranking.

- Mumbai, the financial hub of India, is a popular place for multinational corporations to establish operations.
- Mumbai has some of the most costly rentals, followed by New Delhi and Bangalore.
- Mumbai has the highest ticket prices for movies, while Hyderabad has the lowest.

188. Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman has released the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2020** report. The aim is to boost investor confidence, foster a business-friendly climate and augment the Ease of Doing Business through a system of assessing states/UTs based on their performance in the implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan.

- The BRAP report includes 301 reform points that cover 15 business regulatory areas.
- **Sectoral reforms** were introduced for the first time in BRAP 2020 wherein 72 reforms were identified across nine sectors, namely, trade licence, healthcare, legal metrology, cinema halls, hospitality, fire NOC, telecom, movie shooting and tourism.
- States/UTs have been placed under the four categories viz. Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers and Emerging Business Ecosystems.

Top achievers (7 states): Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Achievers (6 states): Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh.

Aspirers (7 states): Goa, Assam, Kerala, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

Emerging Business Ecosystems (6 states/UTs): Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.

189. Rating agency CRISIL has lowered India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to **7.3%** from 7.8% for **FY23** due to the slowing of export demand and high inflation.

- According to the agency, inflation, which is pegged to average at 6.8% in FY23 as against 5.5% in FY22, reduces purchasing power and would weigh on the revival of consumption, which is the largest component of GDP.
- The global crude oil to average between USD 105-110 per barrel in FY23.
- Agency has estimated the current account deficit to widen to 3 percent of GDP in FY23 from 1.2 percent in FY22.

190. Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Piyush Goyal, has released the first edition of '**State Ranking Index for National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2022**' during the Conference of Food Ministers of States/UTs on 'Food Nutrition and Security in India', which was hosted by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.

- The State Ranking Index for NFSA highlights the reforms undertaken by States and UTs and create a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all states and union territories.
- The Index is built on three key pillars: Coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act; Delivery platform; and Nutrition initiatives.

- **General Category States:**

Odisha has topped the index with a score of 0.836. It is followed by Uttar Pradesh at the 2nd spot and Andhra Pradesh at 3rd spot.

- **Special Category states/UTs:**

Tripura has topped the category. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, respectively.

- **UTs Operating in DBT (Cash Transfer) Mode:**

Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu has topped the category. It is followed by Puducherry and Chandigarh, respectively.

- **Overall performance:**

Odisha has topped the index, followed by UP and Andhra Pradesh. While **Goa** has performed worst in the index, followed by Chhattisgarh, and Delhi.

Note: The National Food Security Act (NFSA) came into existence on 5th July 2013.

191. According to the **Hurun India Future Unicorn Index 2022** released by Hurun Research Institute, India will have **122 new unicorns** in the next two to four years. Startups like Shiprocket, Zepto, Turtlemint are at the top of the list of probable unicorns.

- **Bangalore** continues to be the start-up capital of India. The city is home to 46 probable Unicorns, followed by Delhi NCR (25) and Mumbai (16).
- E-commerce, FinTech, and SaaS comprise 43 percent of the Future Unicorn Index 2022.

The index has classified companies as **Unicorns** (those founded after 2000 and valued at least \$1 billion), **Gazelles** (those most likely to become unicorns in the following two years and these are projected to be worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion), and Cheetahs (start-ups that could go unicorn in the next four years).

- **Gazelles:** It is topped by Shiprocket, a five-year-old LogisticsTech startup, followed by Zepto, Turtlemint, Ather Energy and Vivriti Capital.
- **Cheetahs:** It is topped by Pepperfry, followed by Bengaluru-based Juspay and FinTech firm Mswipe Technologies.

192. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has released '**Mitigation and Management of COVID-19: Compendium of Ayush-Based Practices from Indian States and Union Territories**' which details information about various Ayush-based initiatives and practices adopted by the States and UTs in India for containing and managing the COVID-19 outbreak.

- The compendium has been released by Suman Bery, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, and Dr. Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, Minister of State for Ayush and Women and Child Development (WCD).
- The practices in the compendium have been disaggregated under 5 sections: (i) Overview and objectives of practices adopted by the States/UTs (ii) Ayush Human Resource and infrastructure (iii) Interventions and Initiatives (iv) Digital Platform and Tele-medicine (v) Issues occurred or addressed.
- The compendium has also included a summary of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India guidelines, and initiatives.
- The report indicates that traditional healthcare systems in the country to be strengthened further.
- The integration of evidence-based Ayush services with the modern system has the potential to significantly strengthen India's healthcare system.

193. **Jayshree V Ullal**, the president and CEO of Arista Networks, has been listed on the Forbes list of America's richest self-made women. She has a net worth of USD 1.9 billion. The other Indian-American women in the list are Neerja Sethi (Syntel co-founder), Neha Narkhede (Confluent co-founder), Indra Nooyi (former CEO of PepsiCo), and Reshma Shetty (cofounder of Gingko Bioworks). **Diane Hendricks**, co-founder and chairman of ABC Supply, has topped the list for the fifth year.

194. The National Monuments Authority (NMA) in a report called for the **Mangarh Hillock** in **Rajasthan** to be designated as a national monument in honour of 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters.

Mangarh Hillock:

It is situated at the **Gujarat-Rajasthan border**, and is a site of a tribal uprising where a massacre of over 1500 Bhil tribal freedom fighters took place in 1913. It is also known as the **Adivasi Jallianwala**. On 17th November, 1913, British forces opened fire on tribals gathered at the site who were holding a meeting in protest, led by a leader from the community Govind Guru.

195. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is India's nodal agency for Interpol matters, has joined Interpol's **international child sexual exploitation (ICSE)** database. With this, India has become the **68th** country to join the ICSE database.

- The ICSE database uses video & image comparison to analyse child sexual abuse material and make connections between victims, abusers and places.
- Detectives in all 68 countries can exchange information and notes with their colleagues across the world.

196. The United Nations has released a report titled "**Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022**". The report tracks the global and regional progress toward the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with in-depth analysis of selected indicators for each Goal.

Key highlights:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has put the SDGs in jeopardy means they are at risk of harm.
- About one in every 10 persons worldwide is suffering from hunger.
- Immunization coverage dropped for the first time in 10 years.
- Nearly 1 in 3 people lack regular access to adequate food.
- Deaths from TB and Malaria increased.
- More than 24 million learners, from pre-primary to university level, are at risk of never returning to school.
- Number of internet users surged by 782 million to reach 4.9 billion people in 2021 and 4.1 billion in 2019.
- In 2021, an estimated 17 million metric tonne of plastic entered the world's ocean.
- Around 91% of the world population gained access to electricity, leaving 733 million people in the dark in 2020 compared to 1.2 billion in 2010.
- The proportion of the global population using safely managed drinking water services increased from 70% in 2015 to 74% in 2020.

- The population practising open defecation decreased by a third, from 739 million people to 494 million.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

Goal 1: No Poverty; **Goal 2:** Zero Hunger; **Goal 3:** Good Health and Well-being; **Goal 4:** Quality Education; **Goal 5:** Gender Equality; **Goal 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation; **Goal 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy; **Goal 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth; **Goal 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; **Goal 10:** Reduced Inequalities; **Goal 11:** Sustainable cities and communities; **Goal 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production; **Goal 13:** Climate Action; **Goal 14:** Life Below Water; **Goal 15:** Life on Land; **Goal 16:** Peace, Justice and Strong institutions; **Goal 17:** Partnerships for the Goals.

197. Mumbai-based Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) in its latest data states that India's Unemployment rate has increased to **7.8%** of the total workforce in June 2022 from 7.12% in May 2022.

- Unemployment in rural areas: 8.03% (earlier 6.62%)
- Unemployment in urban areas: 7.30% (earlier 8.21%)
- **Haryana** has the highest unemployment rate in June (30.6%) among all states, followed by Rajasthan (29.8%) and Jammu and Kashmir (17.2%).
- **Madhya Pradesh** has the lowest unemployment rate (0.5%), followed by Puducherry (0.8%), Chhattisgarh and Odisha (1.2% each).

198. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Rural Development, **Jharkhand** has secured the first position in the Delta Ranking with a composite score of 76.19 for the month of June 2022 under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) scheme. It is followed by Puducherry and Assam. Jharkhand has also improved in overall performance and has earned 8th place in the country.

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199. According to the 27th edition of the United Nations' **World Population Prospects, 2022**, the global population will reach **8 billion** on **15th November 2022**, more than three times the population of 2.5 billion in 1950. The global population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.4 billion in 2100.

- The world's two most populous regions in 2022 were **Eastern** and **South-Eastern Asia**, with 2.3 billion people, representing 29 percent of the global population, and Central and Southern Asia, with 2.1 billion (26 percent).
- Central and Southern Asia is expected to become the most populous region in the world by 2037.
- **India** is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country during **2023**. In 2022, India's population will only be slightly lower (at **1.412 billion**) than China's (1.426 billion) and in 2050, India is projected to have a population of **1.668 billion**, way ahead of China's 1.317 billion.
- Pakistan will be the fifth most populous country in 2022, while Nigeria will be the fourth most populous country in 2050.
- More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries, including India. The other seven countries are the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and Tanzania.

Note: India's population was 1.21 billion in the 2011 Census.

200. As per the data released by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), India has consistently improved its position in the ranking of **International Economic Resilience (IER) 2022** of the top 10 countries, over the last 4 years.

- Indian economy has improved from 6th position in 2019 to 4th position in 2020, 3rd in 2021 and **2nd** in 2022 among the top ten leading economies.
- **Germany** and **Canada** both have gained the 1st Rank in the IER 2022.
- China has been ranked 3rd, followed by Italy (4th), Japan (5th), UK (5th), USA (6th), France (6th), and Brazil (7th).

201. The **World Bank** has released the 4th edition of '**The Global Findex Database 2021: Financial Inclusion, Digital Payments, and Resilience in the Age of COVID-19**'. The report surveys over 125,000 adults in 123 economies during Covid-19 to better understand how people use formal and informal financial services and digital payment.

- As per the report, **India** is among 7 countries home to half the world's **1.4 billion adults** without access to formal banking.
- Sub-Saharan Africa, young adults (ages 15–24) make up almost 40% of those without access to banking.
- India, China, Pakistan, Indonesia together with Bangladesh, Egypt and Nigeria, have **54 percent** or **740 million** people of the global unbanked population.
- Mobile money has become an important enabler of financial inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Distance is a barrier for 31 percent of unbanked adults.
- Globally, 30 percent of unbanked adults do not have an account because a family member already has one.
- Globally, 64 percent of unbanked adults have primary education or less.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, 74 percent of the unbanked have only primary education or less.

202. The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has released the 16th edition of the **Global Gender Gap (GGG) Index 2022**.

Global Gender Gap Report 2022

The Global Gender Gap Index was first introduced by the **World Economic Forum** in 2006.

The report this year covers **146 countries**, including for the first time *Comoros*.

The global gender gap Index framework consists of four main components (subindexes) of the index:

- *Economic Participation and Opportunity*
- *Educational Attainment*
- *Health and Survival*
- *Political Empowerment*

The Global Gender Gap Index Framework



Global performance:

- **Iceland** has retained its position as the world's most gender-equal country with a score of **0.908**.
- Iceland is followed by Finland (0.860), and Norway (0.845).

- **Afghanistan** is the worst-performing country in the report.
- The report states that it will now take 132 years to reach gender parity, with the gap reducing only by four years since 2021 and the gender gap closed by **68.1%**.

Top 10 Countries in Index:

- 1) Iceland
- 2) Finland
- 3) Norway
- 4) New Zealand
- 5) Sweden
- 6) Rwanda
- 7) Nicaragua
- 8) Namibia
- 9) Ireland
- 10) Germany

India's rank in Global Gender Gap Index 2022

- India has been ranked **135** among a total of 146 countries. In 2021, India ranked **140** out of a total 156 countries on the index.
- India ranks:
 - **146** in health and survival,
 - **143** in economic participation and opportunity,
 - **107** in educational attainment and
 - **48th** in political empowerment.

PRF

Economy Profile

India

Score
(irparity = 0, parity = 1)
0.629Rank
(out of 146 countries)
135thIndex Edition
2022

Global Gender Gap Index 2022 Edition



Economic Participation and Opportunity




Overview

Index and Subindex

Global Gender Gap Index

 Economic Participation and Opportunity

 Educational Attainment

 Health and Survival

 Political Empowerment

	2022		▼ 2021	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
Global Gender Gap Index	0.629	135th	0.625	140th
Economic Participation and Opportunity	0.350	143rd	0.326	151st
Educational Attainment	0.961	107th	0.962	114th
Health and Survival	0.937	146th	0.937	155th
Political Empowerment	0.267	48th	0.276	51st

- India also ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh (71), Nepal (96), Sri Lanka (110), Maldives (117) and Bhutan (126). Only Iran (143), Pakistan (145) and Afghanistan (146) perform worse than India in south Asia.

203. The United Nations has released the 2022 edition of **“The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World” (SOFI)**. The report is jointly presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP), U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

- The report states that **2.3 billion** people, an estimated 29.3% of the global population were moderately or severely “food insecure” in 2021, and 11.7% faced severe food insecurity.
- The number of people globally affected by hunger went up to 828 million in 2021, an increase of about 46 million since 2020.
- Nearly 670 million people, or **8 percent** of the world population, will still be facing hunger in **2030**.
- The gender gap in food insecurity has continued to rise in 2021, **31.9 percent** of women in the world were moderately or severely food insecure, compared with 27.6 percent of men.

- India has high undernourishment (about 16% of the population), wasting (about 17%), stunting (about 31%) and low exclusive breastfeeding practice (only 58%).

Note: Sustainable Development Goal 2 aims to achieve "zero hunger".

204. According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, **India's Retail inflation**, based on the consumer price index (CPI), has declined to **7.01%** in **June 2022** against 7.04% in May 2022. This happened due to easing prices in the "Food & Beverages" section. In June 2022, inflation in the food basket came at 7.56 percent, compared to 7.84 percent in May 2022. The inflation figure in vegetables has eased to 17.37 percent in June 2022 from 18.26 percent in May 2022.

Whereas, the annual rate of inflation based on all-India **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has declined marginally at **15.18 percent** in June 2022 against 15.88 percent in May 2022. The index for manufactured products for June 2022 has decreased to 143.7 from 144.8 in May 2022. However, the index for 'Manufacture of Textiles' sub-group has increased to 148.6 from 147.6 in May 2022, while the index for 'Manufacture of Wearing Apparel' has increased to 146.7 from 146.6 in May 2022.

The index for primary articles has increased to 182.4 in June 2022 from 179.8 in May 2022. The index for fuel and power has increased to 155.5 from 154.4 in May 2022.

205. The website of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has been ranked first under the Central Ministries Portal in National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment.

Digital Police portal of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has been ranked **2nd** in the assessment under the Central Ministries Services Portal.

- The National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment has been conducted by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in association with its knowledge partners NASSCOM and KPMG in 2021.
- **Objective:** To improve the effectiveness of states and Union Territories and Central governments in the delivery of online services to citizens.

All Government portals that were evaluated were divided into two main categories: States & Union Territories, and Central Ministry service portals.

Four main parameters of assessment:

- Accessibility
- Content Availability
- Ease of Use and Information Security

- Privacy for Central Ministry Portals

An additional three parameters were also used for the Central Ministry Services Portals: End Service Delivery, Integrated Service Delivery and Status and Request Tracking.

206. The Ministry of Education has released the **7th Edition of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2022**. It ranks colleges, universities, and research institutions and also provides an overall ranking of all of them combined. Institutes are ranked across seven subject domains, namely engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture and dental. It is based on five parameters: **Teaching, Learning and Resources (TLR), Research and Professional Practice (RP), Graduation Outcomes (GO), Outreach and Inclusivity (OI), and Peer Perception.**

Key Highlights:

- **Overall national ranking: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras**, is again the top higher educational institute in the country followed by the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, and **IIT Bombay**.
- **University:** IISc, Bengaluru tops the category.
- **Colleges:** Miranda College has achieved the 1st position amongst colleges for the 6th consecutive year, followed by Hindu College, Delhi and Presidency College Chennai.
- **Research Institution:** IISc, Bengaluru is ranked the best research institution followed by IIT Madras.
- **Engineering:** Among engineering institutions, IIT-Madras has remained number one.
- **Management:** Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad was ranked one followed by IIM Bengaluru.
- **Medical:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has topped the list in Medical for the fifth consecutive year.
- **Pharmacy:** Jamia Hamdard has topped the list in Pharmacy subject for the fourth consecutive year.
- **Architecture:** IIT Roorkee has topped for the second time in Architecture subject.
- **Law:** National Law School of India University, Bengaluru has retained its first position in Law for the fifth consecutive year.
- **Dental:** Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai has topped the list in Dental subject.

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was approved by the Ministry of Education (Erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development) in September 2015. It was first released in 2016.

207. Germany-based InterNations has released the **Expat Insider Rankings for 2022**. The Expat Insider 2022 survey report surveyed 11,970 respondents to evaluate their life abroad. These respondents represented 177 nationalities and lived in 181 countries or territories worldwide. A total of 52 countries have been ranked on the list.

- **Mexico** has topped the ranking, followed by Indonesia, and Taiwan.
- Kuwait (52) has been ranked as one of the least-preferred destinations by expatriates.
- **India** has been ranked **36** out of the 52 countries.

208. Indian industrialist **Gautam Adani** with a net worth of over **USD 114 billion** has secured the **fourth rank** on the Forbes' Real-Time Ranking of the World's Billionaires list. He has surpassed Microsoft founder Bill Gates, fifth rank with an estimated USD 102 billion net worth.

- **Elon Musk** has secured the first rank with USD 230 billion net worth, followed by Bernard Arnault of Louis Vuitton at the second spot and Amazon's Jeff Bezos at third on the list.
- India's Reliance Industries (RIL) Mukesh Ambani has secured the tenth rank on the list with a net worth of USD 88 billion.

209. London-based Henley & Partners has released the **Henley Passport Index 2022**. The **Japanese passport** is the world's most powerful passport with a visa-free score of 193. Singapore (192) & South Korea (192) have been ranked second, and Germany (190) & Spain (190) have been ranked third in the index.

- **Indian passport**, along with **Mauritius and Tajikistan**, has been ranked **87th** in the index with a visa-free score of 60.
- Pakistan's passport is the fourth-worst in the world, one rank below Yemen, and three ranks above Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information. It was launched in 2006.

210. The **third edition** of the **India Innovation Index 2021** has been released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery in the presence of Member VK Saraswat, CEO Parameswaran Iyer, and Senior Adviser Neeraj Sinha, and Institute for Competitiveness Chairman Amit Kapoor. It has been prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness.

India Innovation Index:

It is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance to build healthy competition amongst them. It was first released in 2019.

The number of indicators has increased from 36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020) to 66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021). The innovation index is based on 7 pillars: **Human capital; Investment; Knowledge workers; Business environment; Safety and legal environment; Knowledge output; and Knowledge diffusion.**

Highlights of India Innovation Index 2021:

'Major States' category:

- **Karnataka** has topped the index with a score of 18.01, followed by Telangana, and Haryana.

'North East and Hill States' category:

- **Manipur** has topped the index with a score of 19.37, followed by Uttarakhand, and Meghalaya.

'Union Territories and City States' category:

- **Chandigarh** has topped the index with a score of 27.88, followed by Delhi, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

211. NITI Aayog has released a report titled- '**Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing & Regulatory Regime for India**'. The report suggested setting up Digital Banks (DBs) and a licensing and regulatory framework for such Banks. The report assessment is based on an equal-weighted 'Digital Bank Regulatory Index' which comprises four factors, namely **Entry barriers; Competition; Business restrictions; and Technological neutrality**. The elements of these four factors are mapped against the five benchmark jurisdictions of Singapore, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Australia, and South Korea.

Digital Bank (DBs):

It will be defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and shall have its own balance sheet and legal existence. It will be different from the 75 Digital Banking Units (DBUs), announced by Finance Minister in Union Budget 2022-23. It will be subject to prudential and liquidity norms on a par with existing commercial banks.

Financial Inclusion (FI):

- India has made rapid strides in furthering Financial Inclusion (FI), catalysed by the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and India Stack.
- The FI has been furthered by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has witnessed extraordinary adoption.
- The FI has also resulted in Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) through apps such as PM-KISAN and extending microcredit facilities to street vendors through PM-SVANIDHI.

As per the report, Digital Business bank may be required to bring in **Rs.20 crore** of minimum paid-up capital in the restricted phase. Upon progression from the sandbox, a full-scale Digital Business bank will be required to bring in **Rs.200 crore**.

212. The **India BioEconomy Report 2022**, based on the data on biotech sector's contribution to the economy, has been prepared by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (**BIRAC**). The report has been released by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh.

He has also launched a special **Biotech Ignition Grant call for North East Region (BIG-NER)** with the financial support of up to Rs 50 lakhs each to 25 startups and entrepreneurs from NER to develop biotech solutions.

Key Highlights of the report:

- As per the report, India's bioeconomy is likely to touch **USD 150 billion** by **2025** and over **USD 300 billion** by **2030**.
- India's Bioeconomy has reached over **USD 80 billion** in 2021 recording **14.1%** growth over USD 70.2 billion in 2020.
- The number of Biotech Start-ups in the country have increased from 50 to over 5,300 in the last 10 years.
- India is among the top three countries of South Asia and top 12 destinations for biotechnology in the world, with approximately 3 percent share in the global biotechnology industry.
- India has 2nd highest number of USFDA approved manufacturing plants outside the US.

213. Airports Council International (ACI) has published its annual **World Airport Traffic Dataset 2021**, revealing the magnitude of the aviation industry's recovery and confirming global air traffic rankings for the full year 2021.

- **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)** has topped the 2021 Ranking with 75.7 million passengers in terms of passenger footfall in the year 2021. It is followed by Dallas Forth Worth (62.5 million passengers) and Denver (58.8 million passengers).

- From India, the **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi** has been ranked among the top 20, as the **13th busiest** airport. IGIA has witnessed 37.1 million passenger footfall in 2021, which is 30.3% more than 2.8 crore in 2020 when IGI was ranked 16th.
- The list of top 20 busiest airports represents 19% of global traffic (863 million passengers).

214. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the '**Youth in India 2022**' Report, which states that the population share of the youth has started declining whereas the share of the elderly is expected to increase during **2021-36 period**.

Key Highlights:

- The youth population is expected to increase initially but will start to decline in the latter half of **2011-2036** period. The total youth population increased from 222.7 million in 1991 to 333.4 million in 2011 and is projected to reach 371.4 million by 2021 and, thereafter, decrease to 345.5 million by 2036.
- The proportion of youth to the total population had increased from **26.6%** in 1991 to **27.9%** in 2016 and then projected to start a downward trend and to reach **22.7 %** by year 2036.
- The proportion of elderly population to the total population has increased from **6.8%** in 1991 to **9.2%** in 2016 and is projected to reach **14.9%** in 2036.
- The states such as **Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh** are projected to see a higher elderly population than the youth by 2036.
- **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh** experienced a rise in proportion of youth population to total population till 2021 and then it is expected to start declining. These two states, along with Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, are projected to have over half (52%) of the country's youth.

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215. According to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint report 2022 (10th edition), **Parle Products Limited** has topped the ranking of the most chosen brand among Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) in India in 2021. Parle has topped the list for the 10th year in a row with a Consumer Reach Points (CRP) score of 6531 million.

- Parle is followed by **Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products**.
- Haldiram's has joined the billion CRP club and entered the top 25 ranking at number 24. Anmol (biscuits and cake brand) has also joined the CRP club.
- The number of brands reporting growth in CRP has improved in 2021 over 2020.

- The overall CRPs have increased from 89 billion to 98 billion, with the growth rate increasing from 3% in 2020 to 9% in 2021.

216. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited (ABHICL), in collaboration with **Policybazaar.com**, has launched 'OPD Add-on' for customers to address their health & wellness needs. This product provides unlimited medical consultation at an affordable price.

Types of OPD Add-on Cover:

- **Option (1):** Rs. 599 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

- **Option (2):** Rs. 799 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

- **Option (3):** Rs. 999 per insured (excluding tax)

Unlimited Physical & Virtual Outpatient consultations by a General Medical Practitioner

217. NTPC Limited has been recognized as one of the **"Most Preferred Workplaces of 2022"** in the premier edition of "Most Preferred Workplaces 2022" organized by Team Marksmen in association with India Today.

218. Saugata Gupta, MD and CEO of India's Consumer Good company, Marico Limited, has emerged as the **highest-paid Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) CEO** as his total pay in FY22 jumped by 157% from Rs.14.03 crore in FY21 to Rs.36.1 crore in FY22. She is followed by Sanjiv Mehta (Hindustan Unilever Limited), Suresh Narayanan (Nestle), Mohit Malhotra (Dabur India), and Sanjiv Puri (ITC).

219. According to Times of India report, **HDFC Bank** will be among the world's top 10 most valuable banks after its merger with the parent, mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), at the current valuations and will also be the first Indian bank to make it to the Top 10 club.

- HDFC Bank, India's largest private lender, has a market capitalisation of about **USD 108 billion** and recently edged past Citigroup (over USD 100.5 billion), which was at the 17th position.
- The combined market cap of HDFC Bank and HDFC would be around **USD 160 billion**.
- In April 2022, RBI approved HDFC Bank's proposed merger with parent and mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corp Ltd (HDFC).

220. The **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, in its July 2022 update of the **Electricity Market Report**, has increased India's annual electricity demand from 6 percent to **7 percent** in **2022** due to exceptionally high summer temperatures, leading to a significant surge in consumption. Additionally, a 5% growth rate is forecasted for 2023.

Key Highlights:

- In Asia-Pacific, the growth in electricity demand is expected to be 3.4% in 2022, and is expected to reach 4% in 2023.
- In China, a 3% growth in demand is seen in 2022, while a 4% growth is expected in 2023.
- The growth in Europe is predicted to be less than 1% for 2022 with an uncertain forecast for 2023, growth in the Americas is expected to be 2% in 2022, and to drop below 1% in 2023.
- Demand in the Middle East is expected to rise up 2% in both 2022 and 2023, while demand in Africa is expected to rise up 4% in 2022 and 3% in 2023.

221. India has designated five new Ramsar sites, wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as The Convention on Wetlands. The new Ramsar sites in India include three wetlands in Tamil Nadu, one in Mizoram and one in Madhya Pradesh. The Ramsar sites have been increased from 49 to **54 Ramsar sites**.

Four New Ramsar sites:

- **Karikili Bird Sanctuary:** It is a 61.21-hectare protected area located in the Kancheepuram District of **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest:** It is a freshwater marsh located in Chennai, **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pichavaram Mangrove:** It is located in a village near Chidambaram in Cuddalore District of **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Pala wetland:** It is the largest natural wetland in **Mizoram**.
- **Sakhya Sagar:** It is an integral part of the Madhav National Park in Shivpuri district of **Madhya Pradesh**.

The Convention on Wetlands is also known as the Ramsar Convention. It is an intergovernmental environmental treaty established in **1971** by UNESCO and came into force in 1975. The convention got its name from Ramsar city in Iran on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed. It provides for international cooperation and national action regarding conservation of wetlands and sustainable use of their resources.

222. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change, India lost **329 tigers** in past 3 years. Poaching and other natural or unnatural causes are responsible for the loss.

Data on Tigers:

- In 2019, India lost 96 tigers; in 2020, India lost 106 tigers while **127 tigers** were lost in **2021**.
- Out of 329 deaths, 68 tiger died due to natural causes, 5 due to unnatural causes, 29 due to poaching and 30 due to seizure.
- Currently, 197 tigers have been put to scrutiny.
- Number of poaching cases has decreased from 17 in 2019 to 4 in 2021.
- 125 people got killed in tiger attacks in last three years. 61 deaths occurred in Maharashtra and 25 in Uttar Pradesh.

Data on Elephants:

- India lost **307 elephants** in the same period due to poaching, poisoning, train accidents and electrocution.
- 222 elephants lost their life to electrocution in past three years.
- 41 cases were reported in Odisha, 34 in Tamil Nadu and 33 in Assam.
- 45 elephants have died in train accidents.
- 12 train fatalities were reported in Odisha while 11 in West Bengal.
- 29 elephants lost life to poaching. Out of this number; 12 deaths occurred in Meghalaya and 7 in Odisha.
- 11 elephants died due to poisoning, of which 9 deaths occurred in Assam.

223. The 3rd edition of the **Kotak Private Banking Hurun-Leading Wealthy Women List 2021** has been released by Hurun Report in partnership with Kotak Private Banking.

- As per the list, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**, the chairperson of HCL Technologies, has emerged as India's richest woman with a total net-worth of Rs.84,330 crore.
- Roshni Nadar is followed by Falguni Nayar of Nykaa with a total net-worth of Rs.57,520 crore, and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon with a total net-worth of Rs.29, 030 crore.
- As per the list, **Falguni Nayar** is the richest self-made women in India.
- **Kanika Tekriwal** of Jetsetgo has become the youngest self-made woman on the list.

224. As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India has received the highest annual FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflows of almost **USD 84.835 billion** in FY 21-22, which exceeded the previous fiscal year by USD 2.87 billion.

- **Singapore** has the highest FDI inflow in India in FY22 with a contribution of 27.01 percent, followed by the USA (17.94%), Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%), and Switzerland (7.31%).
- The top five states receiving the highest FDI equity inflows during FY22 are **Karnataka (37.55%)**, Maharashtra (26.26%), Delhi (13.93%), Tamil Nadu (5.10%) and Haryana (4.76%).
- **Computer Software & Hardware sector** has bagged the highest FDI inflow in FY22 at 24.60 percent, followed by the Service sector at 12.13 percent and the automobile industry at 11.89 percent.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

225. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved a total of **314 applications** with proposed investments of **Rs 86,824 crore** under a **Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS)** till 31st May 2022.

- Among the approved proposals in May 2022, there is an investment of Rs.596 crore from Bosch Automotive Electronics Private Limited.
- As on May 31, 2022, incentives of Rs 1,774.47 crore have been disbursed to 114 applicants.

M-SIPS:

- It was introduced in **2012**.
- It envisages attracting investments in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Industries.
- It has been amended twice in August, 2015 and in January, 2017, and mainly provides a capex subsidy of **20-25 percent** for setting up electronic manufacturing units.
- **IFCI Limited** is a Verification Agency for verification of claim seeking incentives under the M-SIPS.

226. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the '**Udyami Bharat**' programme organized at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi. He has launched various key initiatives to develop the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector. The initiatives are:

'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme:

- It is a World Bank assisted central government programme, with an outlay of **Rs.6062.45 crore** for MSMEs.
- The five-year RAMP scheme will commence in the current fiscal year **2022-23**.
- **Objective:** To improve the implementation capacity and coverage of MSMEs in the states, with impact enhancement of existing MSME schemes.

'Capacity Building of First-Time MSME Exporters' (CBFTE) scheme:

- **Objective:** To encourage MSMEs to offer products and services of international standards for the global market.

New features of the 'Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme' (PMEGP):

- An increase in the maximum project cost to **Rs 50 lakhs** (from Rs 25 lakhs) for the manufacturing sector and **Rs 20 lakhs** (from Rs 10 lakhs) in the service sector.
- Inclusion of applicants from Aspirational districts & Transgender in the Special Category applicants for availing higher subsidies.
- The new features of the program will also offer handholding support to the applicants/entrepreneurs through the engagement of banking, technical & marketing experts.

227. The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME)

Scheme, launched under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, has completed 2 years (2020-2022).

- It was launched on **29th June 2020**.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI)**.
- It aims to empower the unorganized Micro Enterprises to fulfil the aim of formalizing the food processing sector in India.
- **Time Period:** Five years starting from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of **Rs. 10,000 crore**.

Achievements:

- It is currently being implemented in **35 States and Union Territories (UTs)**.
- Under the scheme, the digital GIS **One District One Product (ODOP)** map of India has also been developed to provide details of ODOPs of all States and UTs.
- Over **1 lakh** SHG members identified and seed capital amount of Rs.203 crore has been released so far.
- **75 Incubation Centres** have been approved.

228. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated '**Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam**' on the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh. During the three-day Shiksha Samagam, panel discussions on nine themes identified for Higher Education under NEP 2020 has been conducted.

- He has also inaugurated the Akshay Patra Mid-Day Meal Kitchen at LT College.

229. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has launched '**SVANidhi Mahotsav**', a cultural festival for celebrating the success of PM SVANidhi Scheme.

- It is being organized from **9th to 31st July 2022**.
- It is being held in 75 cities across 33 States and Union Territories.
- It will showcase a series of activities like Cultural activities, Digital transaction training, Loan mela, felicitation ceremony for distinguished street vendors, and experience sharing Nukkad natak to propagate the features and benefits of the Scheme.

PM SVANidhi:

- Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme was launched on **1st June 2020** to facilitate working capital loans up to **Rs.10,000** at subsidized rate of interest to street vendors to help them restart their businesses which were adversely impacted due to the lockdown imposed during COVID-19 pandemic.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It is administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- SIDBI is the implementing agency.

230. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM): It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). It was launched in 2016. It is being administered by the **Ministry of Rural Development**. The aim is to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas, which also include development of economic activities and skill development.

Note: The year 2022 marks the 121st birth anniversary of **Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee**, who served as India's First Minister of Industry.

231. The state government of **Tripura** has decided to revive the 'Vidyalaya Chalo Abhiyan' after 8,850 school students were found to have dropped out from schools across Tripura during the covid-19 pandemic. The government has launched a new scheme '**Earn with Learn**'. Under the scheme, the college students will be given a remuneration for identifying and convincing students to rejoin schools. They will get Rs.500 for each admission.

232. Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has launched **SAH-BHAGITA**, a scheme making Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) partners in optimal tax collection and waste management ecosystem. Under the scheme, the RWAs will receive 15% of the total collection of property tax for development works in their areas.

233. The **Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD)** has issued guidelines to states about the **Mission Vatsalya** child protection scheme.

Key guidelines:

- As per the guidelines, states cannot change the original name of the scheme in order to gain access to funding granted by the central government.
- Funds to states will be approved through the **Mission Vatsalya Project Approval Board (PAB)**, which will be chaired by the WCD Secretary, who will scrutinise and approve annual plans and financial proposals received from states and UTs for release of grants.
- It will be implemented as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** in partnership with state governments and UT administrations, with a fund-sharing pattern in a **60:40** ratio.
- However, for the eight states in the Northeast as well as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Centre and state/UT's share will be **90:10**.
- The Mission plans to establish cradle baby reception centres in at least one specialized adoption agency in each area for receiving abandoned and trafficked children.
- It will support **State Adoption Resource Agencies (SARA)**, which will further support the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) in promoting in-country adoption and regulating inter-country adoption.

Mission Vatsalya:

Prior to 2009, the MoWCD implemented three schemes for children in need of protection:

- Juvenile justice programme for children in need of care and protection as well as children in conflict with the law
- Integrated programme for street children
- Scheme for assistance to children's homes

These were merged into a single plan known as the Integrated Child Protection Scheme in 2010. In 2017, it was renamed "**Child Protection Services** scheme," and again in 2021-22 as Mission Vatsalya.

The aim is to secure a healthy and happy childhood for each and every child in the country. The nodal ministry of the scheme is the Ministry of Women & Child Development (MoWCD).

- 234.** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has authorized the continuation of the Scheme for **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL)** with the same rates as announced by the Ministry of Textiles for exports of apparel/garments and made-ups until **31st March 2024**. The aim is to increase exports and generate employment in the textile industry.

RoSCTL scheme:

- It was introduced in **March 2019** following the implementation of GST in 2017.

- It replaced the **RoSL (Rebate of State Levies)** scheme, a monetary incentive scheme under which Customs would deposit the rebate directly into the exporter's bank account.
- It aims to reimburse all embedded State and Central Taxes/Levies for exports of manufactured goods and garments.
- It compensates the State and Central Taxes and Levies in addition to the Duty Drawback Scheme on the export of apparel/ garments and Made-ups by way of rebate.

235. The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has issued detailed guidelines for the 'Mission Shakti' scheme. The norms of 'Mission Shakti' will be applicable with effect from **1st April 2022**.

Mission Shakti scheme:

- The Government has launched 'Mission Shakti', an integrated women empowerment programme as an umbrella scheme for the safety, security, and empowerment of women for implementation during the 15th Finance Commission period 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It has two sub-schemes: '**Sambal**' and '**Samarthya**'.
- The "Sambal" sub-scheme is for the safety and security of women. In this, 100% funding will be provided by Central Government.
- The "Samarthya" sub-scheme is for the empowerment of women. It will be implemented with 60:40 funding between Centre and State Governments and UTs with legislature except North East & Special Category States where the ratio is 90:10. For UTs without legislature, 100% funding will be provided by the central government.

236. The Central Government will launch a nationwide campaign "**Har Ghar Tiranga**". Under this campaign, citizens will be encouraged to raise the national flag at their residences. It has been launched as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- The nodal ministry of the campaign is the **Ministry of Culture**.
- As part of the campaign, the Indian national flag will be flown atop more than 20 crore houses across the country from **13th to 15th August 2022** through public participation while government and private establishments will also be involved.

237. The Government of **Delhi** has observed '**Happiness Utsav**' to commemorate the fourth anniversary of its Happiness Curriculum for schools. The 15-day event aims at taking the Happiness Curriculum to the communities and spreading awareness about ways to attain happiness.

Life coach **Gaur Gopal Das** taught the nuances of happiness in a special session for students on the occasion at Kautilya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya in Chirag Enclave.

238. Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched three schemes to strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the pharmaceutical sector. The schemes call for the establishment of clusters of Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs), Common Research Centres, and Technology Upgradation for pharma MSMEs.

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** will be the project management consultant for implementing the scheme.

Three schemes:

- **Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS):** It will facilitate pharmaceutical MSMEs with proven track record to upgrade their technology. The scheme has provisions for a capital subsidy of 10 percent on loans up to a maximum limit of Rs 10 crore with a minimum repayment period of three years or interest subvention of up to 5 percent (6 per cent in case of units owned by SC/ST) on reducing balance basis. Allocated amount: **Rs.300 crore.**
- **Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF):** It will strengthen the existing pharmaceutical clusters' capacity for sustained growth. It provides for an assistance of up to 70 percent of the approved project cost or Rs 20 crore, whichever is less. In case of Himalayan and north-east region, the grant-in-aid would be Rs 20 crore per cluster or 90 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less. Allocated amount: **Rs.178 crore.**
- **Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PMPDS):** It will involve preparation of study reports on topics of importance for the Indian pharma and medical device industry. Allocated amount: **Rs.21.5 crore.**

239. The **NITI Aayog** has unveiled two important initiatives: the **e-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation)** mobile application to spread awareness on electric mobility and the **Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India**. These initiatives have been implemented during the visit of COP 26 President Alok Sharma to India in July 2022.

Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India:

- India is among 42 leaders to back and sign up for the UK`s Glasgow Breakthroughs, launched at the COP26 climate summit.
- India is also a co-convenor of the Glasgow Breakthrough on Road Transport, together with the UK and the US.

- The Breakthrough on Road Transport aims to make Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) - including 2&3-wheelers, cars, vans and Heavy-Duty Vehicles the new normal by making them affordable, accessible and sustainable in all regions by 2030.
- India is the **fifth largest** and fastest growing vehicle market in the world, providing massive potential for electric vehicle uptake.

e-AMRIT:

The e-AMRIT app offers users key information like engagement tools that enable them to assess the benefits of electric vehicles, determine savings and get all the information on developments in the Indian electric vehicle market and industry at their fingertips.

240. Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as **Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)** as a holistic mission to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in India.

Key features of SD2.0:

- Development of benchmark and standards for generic and theme-specific (Culture and Heritage, Adventure tourism etc.) developments of tourism.
- Adoption of principles of sustainable tourism.
- Developing Tier-II & III destinations to promote domestic tourism.
- State Government to designate Implementing Agency (IA) for projects under SD 2.0 and inform MOT.
- SD 2.0 is 100% centrally funded and funds will be sanctioned and released to IA as per guidelines of scheme.

Note: Tourism sector in 2020 contributed USD 121.9 billion to India's GDP and accounted for 39 million jobs.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

It was introduced in **2014** by the Ministry of Tourism. It is a **Central Sector scheme** for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits (Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit etc.). Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.

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241. Department of Posts has launched a philately scholarship scheme **Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana** (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) for generating interest regarding Philately amongst students.

- **Aim:** To create interest among children related to stamp collection.
- Students of **class VI to IX** having good academic record and pursuing philately as a hobby will be awarded scholarship on the basis of Philately Quiz & Philately Project to be conducted by circle offices.
- It will provide an annual scholarship of **Rs. 6,000**.
- Around **920 scholarships** will be awarded to students in India.
- Each postal circle will award a maximum of **40 scholarships** to 10 students from Class VI to IX.
- There will be 5% relaxation for SC/ST students.

Note: Philately is the hobby of collecting and learning about postage stamps.

242. The Seekho Aur Kamao scheme has continued to surpass its target of earmarking **33%** of the total trained beneficiaries for female beneficiaries with **58.96%** female trainees in 2020-21.

Seekho Aur Kamao scheme:

- It is a skill development scheme for youth of 14 - 35 years age group.
- It aims at upgrading the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills depending upon their qualification, present economic trends and market potential, which can earn them suitable employment or make them suitably skilled to go for self-employment.
- It ensures 75% placement, out of which 50% should be in organized sector.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** since 2013-14.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

243. Bangalore-based **Pyse Fintech Pvt. Limited (PYSE)**, an investment platform, has launched India's first and largest fractionally-owned solar power plant in **Karnataka**. The platform helps retail investors to invest in sustainable projects that create social and environmental impacts from a ticket size as low as Rs 5,000.

- The plant is set to be commissioned by the end of July 2022 and is designed to offset 65 lakh kgs of carbon footprint every year for the next 25 years.
- The solar power plant is a **Rs 26 crore** project with an average investor ticket size of Rs 25,000.
- The project has been strategically divided into four tranches with the first three tranches worth Rs 16 crore.

- 244. IIT Hyderabad** has collaborated with **Greenko Group** to launch the **Greenko School of Sustainable Science and Technology (GSSST)**, India's first dedicated School for Sustainable Science and Technology. The aim is to enhance sustainable research, quality of education, and skill. GSSST will be completed by the end of year 2022.
- 245.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the new '**smart**' campus of **Bosch India**, a leading supplier of technology and services in Bangalore, Karnataka. This campus will take lead in developing futuristic products and solutions for India and for the world. It is noteworthy that German company Bosch is celebrating 100 years of its presence in India in 2022.
- 246.** The Ministry of Finance (MoF) has announced the completion of a strategic disinvestment transaction for **Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL)** with the transfer of **93.71%** shares of the joint venture partners to the strategic buyer **Tata Steel Long Products Limited (TSLP)**, a subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited (Tata Steel). TSLP has paid the Enterprise Value of Rs.12,100 Crores

Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited (NINL):

It is a Joint Venture of 4 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), namely MMTC (shareholding of 49.78%), NMDC (10.10%), BHEL (0.68%), MECON (0.68%) and 2 Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC (20.47%) and IPICOL (12.00%).

- It is based in Jajpur, Odisha
- **Chairman:** J. Ravi Shankar

- 247. ReNew Power** has launched '**Project Surya**' in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) and the Self-Employed Women's Association of India (**SEWA**). The project aims to train 1000 low-income women salt pan workers to work as solar technicians.
- Under 'Project Surya' initiative, women salt-pan workers, who work in the challenging and extreme temperatures at Rann of Kutch marshes, will be trained as solar panel and solar-pump technicians at Dhokavada village in the Patan district of Gujarat.
 - ReNew Power will provide financial support and familiarization with its renewable facility in the area, while SEWA is the lead implementation partner, UNEP will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the project.

248. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for the introduction of the **Demat Debit and Pledging Instruction (DDPI)** system by **2 months** from 1st July 2022 to **1st September 2022**. The aim is to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development and regulation of the securities market.

The guidelines are intended to prevent the misuse of Power of Attorney (PoA) granted by clients to stock brokers, and once implemented, PoA will be replaced with a DDPI document.

249. The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has signed an agreement with Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (**BSNL**) to fund the pilot projects under the **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**.

- DoT, BSNL, and ITI Limited will fund the pilot projects of E-band, LTE indigenous technologies including integration of 4G/5G prototypes with C-DoT core.
- The USOF, under its program for Induction of new technological developments in the telecom sector in rural and remote areas, is funding 4 pilot projects each of around Rs.10 crore enabling the development and hardening of these technologies.

250. The World Bank Board of Executive Directors has approved two complementary loans of **USD 500 million each** to support and enhance India's health sector. Through this combined financing of USD 1 billion, the Bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri - Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country. The loans will prioritize seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Note: According to World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy has improved to 69.8 in 2020 from 58 in 1990 which is higher than the average for the country's income level.

251. The gross GST revenue collected in the month of June 2022 is **Rs.144,616 crore** of which CGST is Rs.25,306 crore, SGST is Rs.32,406 crore, IGST is Rs.75887 crore and cess is Rs.11,018 crore. The revenues for the month of June 2022 are **56%** higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year of Rs.92,800 crore.

- The gross GST collection in June 2022 is the second highest collection next to the April 2022 collection of Rs.1,67,540 crore. This is the fifth time the monthly GST collection crossed Rs.1.40 lakh crore mark since inception of GST.

252. Salesforce, a US-based tech major, has announced **USD 2 million** in grants to over 22 Non-Profit Organisations (NPO) across India. These grants are expected to impact 40,000

individuals across India. Salesforce has partnered with institutions such as Meghshala Trust, Inquilab Foundation, and Learning Curve Foundation, and others for giving quality education to children.

- Mortgage lender **HDFC Limited** has also partnered with Salesforce to support the company's growth priorities.

253. Bangalore-based neobank **Fi Money** has launched '**The Ally Annexure**' initiative to empower **LGBTQ** (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community have better access to financial services.

- **Objective:** To educate institutions about being more accessible to the financial needs of LGBTQ customers.
- The initiative has been launched in partnership with Pride Circle, a diversity and inclusion firm.
- It will be supported by Fi Money's banking partner – Kochi-based Federal Bank.

254. Google has launched the '**Startup School India**' initiative, which aims to gather relevant information on startup building into a systematic curriculum to help 10,000 startups in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. It is a nine-week virtual programme that will involve fireside chats between Google leaders and collaborators from across the startup ecosystem.

Note: India is the third-largest startup hub in the world with close to 70,000 firms, after USA & China.

255. Power Finance Corporation (**PFC**), a state-owned and a leading NBFC, has inked a loan pact for **Japanese Yen (JPY) 30 billion** with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (**JBIC**). JBIC has provided this long-term facility to PFC under its initiative 'Global action for Reconciling Economic growth and Environmental preservation' (GREEN).

256. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and **France**-based **Safran Helicopter Engines** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a new joint venture (JV) to manufacture helicopter engines.

- Both the companies will establish a new aero-engine company in India, dedicated to the development, production, sales and support of helicopter engines.
- The main objective will be to meet the requirements of HAL and Ministry of Defence's future helicopters, including the 13-ton **Indian multi-role helicopter (IMRH)**.

HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines will also provide MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) services for TM333 and Shakti engines in service with Indian Armed Forces through

Helicopter Engines MRO Pvt Limited (HE-MRO) joint venture in Goa. It will be operational by the end of the year 2023.

- 257.** The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has collaborated with **Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies (JBIMS)** to co-create a Master's in Management Studies (MMS) programme in digital payments for its employees.
- The course is launched under NPCI's "**Learn while you Earn**" higher education programme.
 - The programme aims to integrate aspects of technology, finance, BFSI, and information system and management studies into a single Master's specialisation in digital payments.
 - NPCI employees have the opportunity to pursue super-specialization and further studies (Ph.D.) after the completion of the Master's program.
- 258.** **Nokia** has tied up with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to set up the **Nokia Centre of Excellence (CoE)** in networked robotics at **IISc Bengaluru**. The CoE will promote interdisciplinary research involving robotics and advanced communication technologies in 5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI). It will also develop use cases across industrial automation, agriculture and disaster management.
- 259.** Japanese brokerage Nomura has lowered India's GDP forecast for 2023 to **4.7 percent** from its earlier projection of 5.4 percent amid recession fears and rising interest rates. Nomura expects headline inflation in India to average 6.9 percent in 2022, and 5.9 percent in 2023.
- 260.** **ReNew Power**, India's leading renewable energy company, has successfully refinanced its 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds with amortising project debt from an Indian non-bank financial company.
- With this, ReNew has become the first Indian renewable energy company to refinance dollar-denominated bonds.
 - ReNew Power issued bonds worth **USD 525 million** in 2019, which were set to mature in 2024.
- 261.** The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has approved the establishment of an '**Interim Operational Hub**' in **Abu Dhabi**, UAE. The lender's first overseas office in Abu Dhabi will enable effective supervision of its growing investment portfolio, strengthen its project monitoring and implementation services across the globe.

- 262.** South Korea-based **Samsung** has developed a new graphics **Dynamic Random-Access Memory (DRAM) chip** with a faster speed and improved power efficiency.
- The 24-gigabit Graphics Double Data Rate 6 (GDDR6) adopts third-generation, 10-nanometer technology and boasts a data processing speed that is over 30 percent faster than existing products.
 - The new DRAM chip can process graphic images at a rate of up to **1.1 terabytes per second**, which Samsung claims is the **fastest** in the world and equivalent to processing 275 full HD movies in a second.
 - Graphics DRAMs are widely used in high-powered 3D games, personal computers, notebooks or devices that play videos with a high resolution.
- 263.** US-based GE Healthcare, a global medical technology, diagnostics, and digital solutions innovator, has launched its first "**5G Innovation Lab**" in India. The lab is situated at the John F. Welch Technology Centre (JFWTC) **Bengaluru**, GE Healthcare's largest R&D centre outside of the USA. It is also claimed as world's first 5G Innovation Lab in India.
- Note:** 5G in Healthcare was valued at an estimated \$215 million in 2021 and is projected to reach \$3,667 million by 2026.
- 264. Deutsche Bahn (DB)** will become the world's first intermodal partner of the **Star Alliance** from 1st August 2022 which allows customers and passengers of Star Alliance member airlines to connect the airline with rail, bus, ferry, and other modes of transport. Germany is the first market and DB is the world's first partner in the new Star Alliance program.
- 265. NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL)** in New Delhi to set up India's first commercial-scale Green Ammonia and Green Methanol projects.
- The MoU envisages collaborating in the field of Renewable Energy, Green Methanol & Green Ammonia and mutually exploring the opportunities for the supply of 100 MW RE-RTC (Round The Clock) power and synthesizing 75 TPD Green Methanol and 35 TPD Green Ammonia for captive use for the production of various chemicals by GACL at its Vadodara and Dahej complex in Gujarat.
- 266. REC Limited** has signed an agreement with **Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)** to improve the operational and financial sustainability of discoms through holistic deployment of smart meters, strengthening of power distribution networks and improved quality of service for electricity consumers.

- 267. Tata Power** has planned to invest over **Rs.75,000 crore** in renewables in the next five years and aims to have an electricity generation capacity of **30 GW** by **FY27** with more than half coming from clean energy sources. Currently, Tata Power has a generation capacity of 13.5 GW with 34 percent contributed by renewable energy sources. Tata Power has added renewable energy capacity of 707 MW in FY22.
- 268.** The **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** has collaborated with New South Wales government agency **Investment NSW** to organise a series of roadshows for Indian technology companies to highlight business and investment opportunities that exist in Australia.
- The roadshows, which will start from Delhi, will position New South Wales as a gateway for serving the broader Australian market.
 - The road show in six cities, aimed primarily towards the Indian Technology Small & Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).
- 269.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **Solenergi Power Private Ltd** (Target) by **Shell Overseas Investments B.V.'s** (Acquirer) from Actis Solenergi Limited under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002. CCI has also approved the acquisition by **Shrem InvIT** of equity in 10 road infrastructure projects (Target SPVs) from **Dilip Buildcon Limited (DBL)** and its associates.
- 270.** Arohan Financial Services has launched a digital lending app '**ApnaArohan**' for its existing customers having good repayment track record to provide them an experience equivalent to that of privilege banking and to raise collection efficiency ratio.
- 271.** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development and Authority (APEDA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam Agriculture University, Jorhat** to conduct various training programs on pre-harvest and post-harvest management and other research activities for the promotion of export from the region.
- 272.** The **Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare (DA&FW)** and **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on commencement of Phase -2 activities of IRRI South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC) to scale up the existing partnership for food and nutrition security in the South Asian region.

- In 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the establishment of ISARC at the campus of the National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.
- The Phase-1 of MoA was signed on 2nd August 2017 between the DA&FW and IRRI for 5 years from 2017-22 with a provision to extend for another 5 years.

273. Infosys, a global leader in next-generation digital services and consulting, has signed a definitive agreement to acquire Denmark-based **BASE life science**, a leading technology and consulting firm in the life sciences industry, for up to **€110 million** (about \$111 million). The acquisition is expected to close during the second quarter of FY23.

274. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has inaugurated a new **Census Workstation** at the Economics Lab of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India, Dr Vivek Joshi has inaugurated the Census Data Workstation. The new workstation seeks to facilitate access to census microdata for academicians and researchers.

Note: Recently, Registrar General of India (RGI) has extended the deadline for freezing administrative boundaries to **31st December 2022**. The **Census 2021 or 16th National Census survey** has now been postponed again to **2023-24**. It is noteworthy that 16th Census of India will be digital census.

275. NASSCOM Foundation has tied up with **Google** to set up “**DigiVaani Call Center**” in collaboration with a not-for-profit body **Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP)** to help women farmers scale up their businesses.

- The “DigiVaani Call Center” project is on a pilot basis currently and initially around 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs will be included across **six states** including *Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan*.
- This call center will act as one place where rural women entrepreneurs will be able to call and get information about various schemes available for them, which can help them scale up their businesses, be it government schemes or any other information that can be of help for them.
- The call center has been established at the Delhi and Lucknow offices of ISAP.
- The call center project is being funded by Google, through its philanthropic arm Google.org.

276. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched the **Knowledge Portal for Khadi** to provide design directions to the Khadi institutions. It has been developed by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Khadi.

- The portal has been inaugurated by **Preeta Verma**, CEO of KVIC.
- The CoE for Khadi has been set up by KVIC, Ministry of MSME at National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Delhi to support Khadi Institutions.

277. NHPC Limited has signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the development of **“Pilot Green Hydrogen Technologies”** in **Leh and Kargil** districts of Union Territory of Ladakh that is in line to reduce carbon footprint in the region.

- As per MOU signed for the Leh district, NHPC shall consider the development of Pilot Green Hydrogen fuel cell-based Microgrid including Hydrogen production to meet the power requirement of the NHPC guest house at Nimmo Bazgo Power Station (Leh) within NHPC premises.
- As per MOU signed for the Kargil district, the hydrogen generated in Kargil will be used in fuel cells for mobility which will be capable to run two buses for up to 8 hrs in the local area of Kargil.

278. Athletics Federation of India (AFI) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have signed a long-term partnership to provide world-class facilities to talented athletes, with a special focus on **women**. This partnership will have a special focus on girl athletes and aim to bridge the gender divide and enable them to achieve their dreams.

279. Syngenta India, a global agri-business major, has launched a unique biodiversity sensor project, claimed to be the first in the world, in partnership with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar**, Punjab, (IIT-R), to study the behaviour of insects around farms, particularly bees and butterflies. The biodiversity monitoring will be done by a modem-like sensor that has cameras to capture real-time images of the bees and butterflies.

- The entity has also flagged off the **Drone Yatra** which will cover 10,000 km across the country. It will cover 13 states and spread awareness about drone spraying.

280. Flipkart has signed a pact with the **Bihar State Skill Development Mission (BSDM)** to launch the initiatives of the Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) in the state.

- **Objective:** To create a pool of skilled supply chain operations talent and impart relevant industry training and knowledge.
- SCOA was launched in October 2021.
- The training programme under SCOA has been designed and created by the Flipkart team to offer a holistic experience and training to candidates.

- It provides 15 days of digital classroom training and 45 days of on-the-job apprenticeship at Flipkart supply chain facilities, for which the qualified candidates will be paid a stipend of Rs 17,500.

281. Morgan Stanley has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) forecast by 40 basis points (bps) to **7.2%** for FY23 from 7.6%, and by 30 bps to **6.4%** for FY24 from 6.7% amid slower global growth.

- The inflation forecast for FY23 for India has fallen to 6.5% from 7% earlier. It expects it to average 5.3% in FY24.
- It expects global growth to slow to **1.5%** Y-o-Y in the Quarter Ending (QE) December 2022 from 4.7% in QE December 2021.

Other GDP forecasts:

- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has lowered India's GDP forecast for **FY23** by 40 basis points to **7%** from 7.4% estimated earlier.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB), has also lowered India's GDP growth forecast to **7.2 percent** for **FY23** from 7.5% estimated earlier. It has also lowered **FY24** growth forecast to **7.8 percent**, from 8 percent estimated earlier.

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282. Snapdeal, an e-commerce platform based in New Delhi (Delhi), has become the first e-commerce marketplace to debut on the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform. Snapdeal has signed the onboarding agreement with the network and will debut in August 2022.

- Recently, ONDC has expanded its pilot to **15 more cities**. They are Noida, Faridabad, Lucknow, Bijnor, Bhopal, Chhindwara, Kolkata, Pune, Chennai, Kannur, Thrissur, Udipi, Kanchipura, Pollachi, Mannar and Ramnathpuram.
- The network first began its pilot in April 2022 in Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong.

ONDC:

It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It aims to create new opportunities, curb

digital monopolies and by supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and small traders and help them get on online platforms.

283. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** and **STPINEXT** to set up the Industry 4.0 Centre of Excellence (CoE) for the promotion of innovation and start up activities for RINL and other industries in and around Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- The CoE has been named "**Kalpataru**".
- The CoE will come up to over 6,000 square feet at Ukkunagaram.

284. JSW Steel has joined hands with US-based **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)** to meet its decarbonization goals. JSW Steel has an ambitious target of reducing its carbon emission by **42 percent** by **2029-30** versus the base year 2005. BCG will make use of its unique CO2 AI platform as well as its top-tier digital and analytics skills to help JSW Steel to achieve its target.

Note: The iron and steel industry globally accounts for around 8 percent of total carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions on an annual basis, whereas in India, it contributes 12 percent to the total CO2 emissions.

285. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI), the foreign direct investment (FDI) equity inflow in the **research and development (R&D) sector** has increased to **\$343.64 million** in Calendar Year (CY) 2021, rising **516%** from \$55.77 million in CY 2020.

- **Karnataka** is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D during 2021 followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- **Singapore** is the top investing country in R&D during 2021 with 40 percent share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Germany (35 percent) and the USA (11 percent).
- **Daimler Truck Innovation Center** is the top FDI Equity inflow recipient company in R&D during 2021 with 35 percent share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Aragen Life Sciences Private Limited (34 percent) and Stelis Biopharma Private Limited (21 percent).

Note: FDI is permitted under **100 percent** automatic route in **R&D sector** subject to applicable laws/regulations, security and other conditions.

286. Maldives has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **India** for judicial cooperation to accelerate court digitization and boost prospects for IT companies & start-ups

in both countries. Under this MoU, both sides will exchange knowledge, technology in judicial & other legal areas and further the objectives of 'Neighbouring First' policy.

287. India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Namibia** to promote Wildlife Conservation and Sustainable Biodiversity Utilization. The MoU seeks to promote the conservation and restoration of cheetahs in their former range from which the species went extinct.

The MoU has been signed by Minister of Environment Forests and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Namibia, **Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah**.

- As per the agreement with Namibia, India will get eight cheetahs in two batches of four.
- Cheetahs will be reintroduced into the **Kuno National Park** in Madhya Pradesh, with the first batch of cheetahs expected to arrive before **15th August 2022**.
- The translocation project is being managed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) as part of the Cheetah Translocation Project (CTP) under the Union Environment Ministry.

India is also expected to get 12 cheetahs from South Africa, for which a draft agreement has already been signed. In addition, 50 Cheetahs will be introduced in different National Parks in India over the course of 5 years.

288. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Technology Services has become the first technology company to publicly express its interest in the government's direct allocation of spectrum for captive 5G networks. The entity will obtain spectrum to set up a 5G non-public network to build use cases on the technology. It has also entered into a partnership with network software provider **Mavenir** to deliver 5G automation services and speedy integration of open radio access network products.

Recently, India issued rules for non-telecom enterprises to acquire spectrum directly from the telecom department for setting up private 5G networks.

289. Vedanta Group has tied up with **Detect Technologies**, an IIT Madras-incubated startup, to implement safety incident detection by deploying T-Pulse HSSE Monitoring System, based on artificial intelligence (AI), across all of its business units. The technological stack offered by T-Pulse is centralised, scalable, and intended for plug-and-play implementation.

290. CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) and **GODI** India have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to operate and maintain an advanced Lithium-ion cell manufacturing unit in **Taramani, Chennai**.

Hyderabad-based GODI India is the first Indian company to manufacture Made-in-India and Made-for-India Lithium-ion cells, which is certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards).

291. NHPC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)** to explore the formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for exploring and setting up hydropower and pump storage projects.

292. Indian Chamber of Commerce - North Eastern Initiative (ICC-NE) and **North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work jointly towards promoting investment in Assam and other states of the region.

293. Bajaj Healthcare Limited has become the first private player in India to be awarded a government contract for the highly-regulated opium processing sector. Now, the company can use opium to extract Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) used in medicines such as painkillers, cough syrups, and even cancer drugs.

- The company has been awarded two tenders for the supply of “opium-derived alkaloids & APIs” to the central government under long-term contracts and expects successive orders under similar tenders, to scale up to processing of 6,000 MT (metric tonnes) of poppy straw & opium gum in the next **5 years**.
- The company will execute both tenders at their API manufacturing unit in **Savli**, Gujarat.

294. BF Infrastructure, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bharat Forge, has collaborated with **Talgo India Pvt Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spanish manufacturer Patentes Talgo SL, to set up a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing high speed passenger trains in India.

295. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract worth over **USD 100 million** with **Honeywell Aerospace** for the supply and manufacture of 88 TPE331-12B engines/kits along with the maintenance and support services to power the Hindustan Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40), which will be used to train Army, Navy, and Indian Air Force pilots.

296. Microsoft has launched **‘Viva Engage’**, a new app in Teams that helps build community and connection, along with providing tools for personal expression. It is built on the

foundation of Yammer. It is designed to give employees across multiple roles and functions what they need to feel connected.

- In June 2022, Microsoft introduced the first of a new dimension of Viva named 'Microsoft Viva Sales'.

297. Wipro Ltd has signed a five-year contract with Finnish telecom equipment maker **Nokia** for digital transformation. The goal is to enable Nokia to win in the 5G world and beyond. Wipro will deliver global business services in support of Nokia's renewed operating model, focusing on process optimisation, touchless processing and enhanced user and customer experience across order management supply chain, finance, and accounting operations.

298. Google Maps has launched **Street View** in India in collaboration with **Tech Mahindra** and Mumbai-based **Genesis International** to show a 360-degree view of streets & landmarks.

- Initially, it will cover over 150,000 km across **ten cities**: Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.
- It has been planned to expand the service to more than 50 cities of India by the end of 2022.
- Google Street View is powered by images from third parties as per the National Geospatial Policy, 2021.

The 360-degree interactive panorama feature of Google Maps has been available in cities spread over 100 countries since 2007.

299. The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has launched a new scheme to insure up to **90 percent** of the credit risk in export finance, supporting small exporters by encouraging banks to provide more credit for export amid global economic uncertainty.

- Under the scheme, manufacturer-exporters will be able to secure fund-based export credit working capital limit up to **Rs 20 crore** excluding gems, jewellery and diamond sector and merchant exporters or traders.
- The risk cover is provided under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB- WTPC & PS).

300. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report has lowered India's growth forecast for 2022-23 (FY23) by **0.8%** to **7.4 percent** from 8.2 percent estimated earlier. It has projected India's economy to grow by 6.1% in FY23-24.

- IMF has also lowered growth forecast for global economy in 2022 to **3.2%**.

301. National Small Industries Corporation (**NSIC**) has signed an agreement with **LG Electronics** India Pvt Ltd and the Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (**ESSCI**) to set up a "Centre of Excellence" for MSME at NSIC – Technical Services Centre. The aim is to train underprivileged youth in the fields of consumer electronics and appliances. 600 youths will be served each year in the first year.

302. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Greenko ZeroC** (Greenko) to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, **Green Hydrogen**, Green Ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen.

- This MoU will be valid for 2 years.
- This MoU is in line with the National Hydrogen Mission, which was launched in 2021 to make India a global green hydrogen hub.
- The activities envisaged under this MoU will contribute towards India's target of producing of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen per annum by 2030.

303. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the '**India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)**', at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Gandhinagar, Gujarat. IIBX is India's first international bullion exchange.

- IIBX was announced by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the **2020-21** Union Budget and regulations for the same were notified in December 2020.

IIBX:

- It is the third exchange of its kind in the globe and will facilitate the transition of the Indian bullion market towards a more organised structure by granting qualified jewellers direct access to import gold directly through the exchange mechanism.
- The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** is the regulator of IIBX.
- It is promoted by five market institutional investors i.e., CDSL, India INX, NSDL, NSE and MCX.
- NRIs and institutes will also be eligible to participate in the exchange after registering with IFSCA.
- Initially, Gold 1 kg with 995 purity and Gold 100 grams with 999 purity will be traded with a settlement period of T+0. Further, the exchange is expected to extend the settlement period to T+2 days.
- **Ashok Gautam** will head IIBX as MD and CEO.

Other initiatives launched in GIFT City:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the **Headquarters Building** of the International Financial Services Centres Authority in Gandhinagar.

- He has also launched the **NSE IFSC-SGX Connect platform**. Connect is a framework between NSE's subsidiary in GIFT IFSC and Singapore Exchange. Under this platform, clients, investors and trading members of SGX who used to trade in NSE listed Indian securities through SGX would now trade in these securities through NSE IFSC.

304. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a **USD 96.3 million** (about Rs.770 crore) loan to fund safe drinking water and sanitation project in **Himachal Pradesh**. The loan has been provided under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project.

- The project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 370,000 residents across 10 districts.
- The project will upgrade water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services.

305. The **World Bank** has appointed **Indermit Gill** as the chief economist and senior vice president for development economics. His appointment will be effective from 1st September 2022.

- He will be the **second Indian**, after Kaushik Basu, to become the chief economist of the World Bank that grants loan to middle and lower-income countries.

306. NTPC Limited has signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) with **NITI Aayog** to develop the Net Zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions Roadmap for NTPC. This supports India's '**Panchamrit**' goals that was undertaken during COP 26 for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

- NTPC will help in reducing the carbon footprint for achieving the targets for emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modelling including development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047 and 2070.

307. Bharti Airtel has allotted **71,176,839 equity shares** of the face value of Rs 5 each fully paid up, on preferential basis to Google International LLC (**Google**) at an issue price of Rs 734 per equity share. The allotment is part of Google's commitment to invest USD 1 billion with Airtel, which included equity investment in the company worth USD 700 million, about Rs.5,224 crore. Google made the investment as part of its USD 10-billion India Digitization Fund.

BANKING & FINANCE

308. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance has launched '**Global Health Care**', a comprehensive health indemnity insurance product that provides cover to a policyholder for planned as well as an emergency treatment both in India and abroad.

- It has been launched in collaboration with Allianz Partners.
- It offers one of the widest sum insured in the Indian market, starting from Rs.37,50,000 to Rs.3,75,00,000 (\$100,000 to \$1,000,000).
- The product is available in two plans - 'Imperial Plan' and 'Imperial Plus Plan'

309. Star Health and Allied Insurance Company have signed a corporate agency agreement with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for the distribution of its health insurance products. Under this agreement, Star Health will offer its health insurance products to the bank's customers using the latter's digital platform and its wide distribution network.

310. Edelweiss General Insurance has launched **SWITCH**, a comprehensive motor insurance product under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority's (IRDAI) Sandbox initiative.

- SWITCH is a completely digital, mobile telematics-based motor policy. The app detects motion and automatically activates insurance when the vehicle is driven, making it convenient and hassle-free for customers.
- This usage-based model measures not only the quantity but also the quality of driving and calculates premium accordingly.
- The vehicle will be covered 24/7/365 against fire and theft.

311. SBI Cards and Payment Services has collaborated with **Aditya Birla Finance (ABFL)**, the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital for the launch of '**Aditya Birla SBI Card**'. The card has been designed to give customers significant reward points on their spending around telecom, fashion, travel, dining, entertainment, and hotels, among others. It has been launched in two variants, 'Aditya Birla SBI Card SELECT' and 'Aditya Birla SBI Card', on the Visa platform.

312. SBI General Insurance, an arm of the State Bank of India (SBI), has launched the '**Cyber VaultEdge**' insurance plan. It is a comprehensive cyber insurance cover for individuals that protects against financial losses arising from cyber risks and attacks. It also covers consultation expenses of psychologists to individuals for trauma or stress arising due to such incidents.

313. Max Life Insurance Company has launched '**Insta confirmation of insurance (Insta-COI)**', for the customers who buy the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan' (UIN: 104N123V01), a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan on Max Life website or Policybazaar platform.

- This feature enables intimation to the customer regarding the commencement of the risk cover pending release of the policy contract with a hassle-free onboarding.

314. The **Paschim Banga Gramin Bank** has collaborated with **SBI Life Insurance** for a bancassurance pact. The agreement has been signed by Arun Kumar Patra, General Manager of Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, and Jayant Pandey, Regional Director of SBI Life.

Bancassurance:

It is an arrangement between a bank and an insurance company, as a part of which the latter can sell its products to the lender's customers.

315. **Indian Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Haryana** to distribute mobile phones to consumers through e-unified payment interface (e-upi) system. Under this MoU, the Indian Bank in Haryana will organize the Mobile distribution melas.

316. Forest and Wildlife Department of Kerala has signed an agreement with **South Indian Bank** to enable digital collection of payments at eco-tourism centres, Vanasree shops, mobile Vanasree units and eco-shops across the State.

- This collaboration will commence by setting up **124 Point-of-sale (POS)** machines under 36 forest departments agencies across Kerala.
- Through this partnership, the digital collection system of South Indian Bank will now be available at all **124 tourist spots** that fall under the Forest Department.

317. **Edelweiss General Insurance** has collaborated with education sector-focussed NBFC **Avanse Financial Services** to provide travel insurance to Indian students going abroad for higher education. The plan will offer complete coverage against medical, stay, travel inconvenience-related covers, emergencies and losses.

318. **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with **Axis Bank** to digitize the **cash collection system** in small cities and semi-urban regions. Under this partnership, Airtel Payments Bank will support Axis Bank in digitisation of last mile cash collections through its digital-led neighborhood banking model.

319. **Axis Bank** has launched a dining experience programme for the bank's customers named '**Dining Delights**' in collaboration with **EazyDiner**, a table reservation, food discovery and restaurant payment platform. The program will offer benefits such as the option to choose

from over 10,000 premium restaurants across India and Dubai, instant confirmation on table reservations, and offers on dining reservations made through the EazyDiner app.

- 320. ICICI Securities (I-Sec)** has launched '**ICICIdirect iLearn**', a learning app for investors to easily access content curated around several financial products and stock market topics. Currently, the app has over 550 content pieces across various sections related to financial markets and the content will be updated at regular intervals.
- 321.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed penalties in a 2015 '**dark fibre**' case totalling Rs 11 crore on 8 entities, including **National Stock Exchange (NSE)** and its former chiefs Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain.
- SEBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 7 crore** on NSE and **Rs 5 crore** on former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chitra Ramkrishna.
 - It has also levied a fine of Rs 5 crore each on former Group Operating Officer Anand Subramanian and current Chief Business Development Officer Ravi Varanasi.
 - Internet service provider Sampark Infotainment has been asked to pay Rs 3 crore.
 - Online trading firms Way2Wealth and GKN Securities, too, have been asked to pay Rs 6 crore and Rs 5 crore, respectively.
- 322.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of a minority and non-controlling stake of **1.28%** in telecom major **Bharti Airtel** by **Google International LLC**.
- 323.** Agri finance company **Samunnati** has tied up with **State Bank of India (SBI)** for financing farmer producer organisations (FPOs). The initial outlay is **Rs.100 crore**. This helps in mainstreaming FPOs as an asset class and increase the awareness of farmer-owned institutions in the banking sector.
- 324.** The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has approved three private sector banks to provide financial services to it for overseas procurement of military hardware. The banks are **HDFC Bank Ltd, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank**.
- The selected banks may be allocated with a Letter of Credit (LC) business of Rs.2,000 crore, each on the capital and revenue side, for a period of one year on concurrent basis (Rs 666 crore for each bank under both capital as well as Revenue).
 - The performance of these banks will be monitored regularly so as to take necessary further action as required

Till now, only authorised public sector banks were utilised to provide services like issuance of letters of credit and direct bank transfers to the ministry for overseas procurement.

- 325.** US-based IT services firm **Cognizant** has been selected as a strategic technology provider by **National Insurance Company Limited (NICTL)** to accelerate and manage its digital transformation.
- NICTL has awarded the multi-year mandate to Cognizant to elevate its technology roadmap, help manage its centralised web-based core insurance solution comprising multiple applications, underlying technology infrastructure and security, and provide consulting services, among others.
- 326.** SBI General Insurance has announced the appointment of **Paritosh Tripathi** as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He has succeeded PC Kandpal, who has been posted as DMD (P&RE) at the Corporate Centre, SBI.
- 327.** **Max Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched '**Smart Capital Guarantee Solution**', a life insurance product solution that merges the benefits of 'Max Life Smart Wealth Plan' and 'Max Life Flexi Wealth Advantage Plan'. The product will offer wealth creation through market-linked returns along with a guarantee on premiums paid at maturity with additional financial protection.
- 328.** **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has partnered with **Women's World Banking (WWB)**, a global Non-Profit Organization (NPO), to launch the third and broader phase of the '**Baroda Jan Dhan Plus**' programme across 25 districts of **Uttar Pradesh** and all 13 districts of **Uttarakhand**.
- **Objective:** To enhance and promote the participation of low-income women with formal financial services.
 - The Phase 3 will cover the existing BoB Jan Dhan clients via financial literacy camps and business correspondents.
 - The programme will train and work with over **2000** business correspondents (BC) and **1000** BC Sakhis (women business correspondents) to empower them to help women customers in their regions.

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- 329.** **City Union Bank** has collaborated with **Shriram General Insurance** to distribute insurance products. Under this collaboration, Shriram General Insurance will offer personal lines of insurance products such as motor, accident, home and travel insurance along with

commercial lines of insurance products such as property, marine and engineering insurance to the lender's customers.

- **TATA AIA Life Insurance** has also joined hands with City Union Bank (CUB) to offer life and health insurance solutions to the lender's consumers.

330. Axis Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Air Force** to offer a defence service salary package with best-in-class benefits and features under its 'Power Salute' initiative.

- The lender will offer benefits to all ranks of Indian Air Force personnel including the veterans, cadets/recruits.
- It includes a personal accident cover of up to Rs.56 lakhs, total permanent disability cover benefit up to Rs.46 lakhs, air accident cover of Rs.1 crore among others.

331. The Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **State Bank of India (SBI)** to open India's first branch for startups named '**SBI Startup Hub branch**' in Koramangala. The collaboration will enable startups across the state to access banking facilities, funding, and credit facilities.

- The branch will be inaugurated in August 2022.
- **Rs 2 crore** collateral-free financial assistance will be given to startup entrepreneurs.
- SBI will open a start-up desk in the Innovation Tower at HSR layout, Bangalore, Karnataka to offer services to start-ups.
- SBI will start similar branches in Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Hubballi-Dharwad clusters in the next six months.
- KDEM will also establish a **Fintech Innovation Hub** at Mangaluru focusing on the Fintech area and SBI has agreed to be one of the partner organisations for the planned innovation hub.

332. The Union Bank of India (UBI) has launched a Metaverse Virtual Lounge & Open Banking Sandbox environment. This initiative has been launched in partnership with Tech Mahindra.

'Uni-verse': Metaverse Virtual Lounge:

- It will host product information and videos in the initial phase.
- It will deliver a unique banking experience to customers by providing them information on the bank's deposits, loans, government welfare schemes, digital initiatives etc. in a way as if they are in the real world.

Open Banking Sandbox environment:

- It will collaborate with fin-techs and start-up partners for developing and launching innovative banking products.

Note: 'nxt is the mobile banking app of UBI.

333. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to provide specially designed products to the defence personnel under the bank's flagship scheme of '**PNB Rakshak Plus**'. The scheme also covers BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, RAW, IB, CBI, Indian Coast Guard Personnel & Para Military Personnel, Gentlemen cadets and Special Forces at Central and State level.

334. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted the two task forces to resolve issues between insurers and re-insurers. These task forces will have to submit reports in three weeks.

- **First task force (Life-Insurance sector):** It has seven members and it will be headed by **Naveen Tahilyani**, MD & CEO, Tata AIA Life Insurance.
- **Second task force (Non-life insurers and re-insurers):** It has nine-members and it will be headed by **Bhargav Dasgupta**, MD & CEO, ICICI Lombard General Insurance.

335. Tata Mutual Fund has tied up with **CAMSPay** to introduce Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Autopay for immediate Systematic Investment Plan (SIPs).

- Using this, investors in mutual funds can use their virtual payment address (VPA)/UPI handle to mandate an Autopay facility for their SIP contributions.
- CAMSPay's UPI AutoPay offers real time Third Party Payment validation (TPV) and same-day settlement hence investors receive NAV benefits.

336. SBICAP Ventures Limited (SVL), a subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** for establishing the Trilateral Development Cooperation Fund (TDC Fund). Through the TDC Fund, India will contribute approx. **Rs.175 crore** to the Global Innovation Development Fund (GIP Fund). The TDC Fund will operate as a '*Fund of Funds*' under the SEBI AIF (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations.

TDC fund:

It has been recently launched by India to involve private sectors with the support of the state for investments in the Indo-Pacific region. This region comprises the Indian Ocean, the

central and western Pacific Ocean, and the seas that connect the two around Indonesia and beyond.

337. The **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)** has launched a mutual fund (MF) distributor recruitment campaign, "**Karein Shuru?**" (Can we start?). The campaign includes commercial films to reinforce the need and attractiveness of MF distribution as a career option with long-term earning potential for individuals with entrepreneurial aspirations.

338. Agri-tech startup **nurture.farm** has partnered with **SBI General Insurance** and **Future Generali India Insurance Company** to expand its insurance solutions for 1.9 million farmers. With this partnership, the nurture.farm aims to offer its insurance solutions to nearly 2 million farmers in 2022-23.

Recently, the nurture.farm received a corporate agency licence from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA).

339. NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT Limited, has collaborated with **HDFC Bank** to build new-age Digital Talent for the banking industry. It aims to nurture talent in the new-age tech field of data science and empower them to leverage data meaningfully and deliver useful business insights.

- The first learning program to be launched is the HDFC Bank Data Digits-Post Graduate Program in Data Engineering.
- This program is the first of planned initiatives to raise digital skills in the BFSI industry.
- The program will make learners job ready in 12 weeks.

340. Razorpay, Pine Labs, Stripe, and **1Pay** have received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for payment aggregator licences.

Payment aggregators (PA's):

RBI introduced the payment aggregator framework in March 2020. The framework mandates that only firms approved by the regulator can acquire and offer payment services to the merchants.

According to RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of **Rs 15 crore** as on March 2021, and a net worth of **Rs 25 crore** by on or before March 2023.

PA's are entities that enable e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers for completion of their payment obligations, without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.

- 341. Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.** and **Common Services Centres (CSC)**, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, have partnered to take health insurance to rural India. This partnership provides around **5 lakh** CSCs access to a select range of Star Health insurance products. These products have been designed to meet the needs of rural customers across the tier-II, tier-III cities, and rural markets pan India.
- 342. Jubilant Pharma Holdings** has signed an agreement with **Standard Chartered Bank** for a five-year loan of **USD 400 million**, about Rs 3,186 crore, for the repayment of existing term loans and debt bonds aggregating USD 350 million and an additional tranche of USD 50 million.
- 343. Indian Bank** has been awarded the Best Performing Bank Award in Tamil Nadu for the FY 2021-22 under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme category from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The lender has been felicitated during the 41st Foundation Day of NABARD.
- 344. Quantum Mutual Fund** has launched '**Quantum Nifty 50 ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) Fund of Fund (FoF)**', an open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in units of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF i.e. approximately equal to the price of 1/10th of the Nifty 50 Index.

Features of Quantum Nifty 50 ETF FoF:

- India's first-of-its-kind Nifty 50 ETF Fund of Fund
- No DEMAT account is required in this.
- SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) option is available.
- One-Stop-Shop for 12:20:80 Passive Asset Allocation.

- 345. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the first private sector lender to be fully integrated with the new e-filing portal of the Income Tax department after the completion of its technical integration with the new e-filing portal. Customers, both Individual and corporate can pay direct taxes through the portal's e-pay tax tab using Kotak net banking.

Note: In October 2022, Kotak Mahindra Bank became the first scheduled private sector bank to receive approval as a collections partner for taxes.

346. Yes Bank has signed a binding term sheet with **JCF ARC LLC** and **JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction** for strategic partnership in relation to the sale of identified stressed loans of the bank. The JC Flowers ARC will be the base bidder for a proposed sale of an identified stressed loan portfolio of the bank aggregating to up to **Rs.48,000 crore**.

347. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Singapore government** to promote greater investment in the Asia and Pacific region and to recognize the importance of private sector finance as well as catalysing public sector resources for sustainable and inclusive development.

348. DBS Bank has been recognized as the '**World's Best SME Bank**' by Euromoney for the second time since 2018. The lender has also clinched three first-time awards at Euromoney's Awards for Excellence 2022: World's Best "Financial Innovation of the year" 2022, Asia's Best Bank for Wealth Management 2022, and Asia's Best Bank for SME Award 2022.

Other winners:

- **Bank of America:** World's Best Bank 2022
- **Goldman Sachs:** World's Best Investment Bank 2022

349. Bank of India and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in association with K-fintech have launched a digital platform that allows customers to open National Pension System (NPS) accounts using mobile phones. K-fintech provides SaaS (Software as a Service) based end-to-end transaction management, channel management, and compliance solutions.

350. Federal Bank has launched its new online tax payment service in association with the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. With this partnership, Federal Bank has become registered under **Tin 2.0 platform** of Income Tax Department. Now, there is no requirement of PAN/TAN registration/verification for taxpayers.

351. Go Digit General Insurance has launched '**Pay as you Drive**' (PAYD), an add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies. With this, Digit Insurance has become India's first insurers to introduce the add-on for its customers.

- Those individuals who drive less than 10,000 kilometres per year on average will receive discounts of up to 25%.
- Go Digit will use odometer reading, telematics data and annual kilometre opted to give this discount.

352. Karnataka Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with **JCB India**, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India, to offer equipment finance to customers of JCB India.

Under this MoU, JCB India has nominated Karnataka Bank as its "preferred financier" where in Individuals/Contractors/Company /Partnership firms/LLP etc., can avail loans from the lender at competitive interest rates for purchasing a wide range of equipment from the product line of JCB India.

353. DBS Bank India has collaborated with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company** to provide life insurance solutions to the customers of DBS Bank. Under this collaboration, the new and existing customers from more than 550 branches of DBS Bank can choose from Bajaj Allianz Life's retail products including term, savings, retirement, and investment products.

354. Standard Chartered Bank has launched a co-branded credit card '**EaseMyTrip Standard Chartered Credit Card**' in association with the online travel tech platform **EaseMyTrip**.

- The credit card will provide a flat 20% instant discount on domestic and international hotel bookings.
- The card will provide a flat 10% instant discount on domestic and international flight bookings.

355. Recently, **IndusInd Bank** has collaborated with table reservation platform **EazyDiner** to launch a tailor-made co-branded credit card – '**EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit Card**'.

356. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), formerly Banks Board Bureau, has recommended **Rajkiran Rai G**, a former Managing Director (MD) of the Union Bank of India, for the position of MD at the **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID)**.

NaBFID:

It is a newly created Development Finance Institution (DFI) that aims to support the development of long-term non-recourse infrastructure financing. The Government of India (GoI) has infused Rs.20000 crore into NaBFID.

357. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has received approval from its Board of Directors to issue bonds to raise up to **Rs.11, 000 crore** in Basel III bonds in **FY23**. Of the total earmarked fund-

raise, the approval is for additional tier-1 (AT-1) capital up to Rs 7,000 crore, subject to concurrence from the Government of India (GoI). The remaining Rs 4,000 crore will be in the form of tier-2 capital.

AT-1 bonds:

AT-1 bonds are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms. They have no maturity date but contain a call option at the end of 5 years. They are regulated by RBI.

358. The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has approved 5 new projects totalling **USD 875 million** for water, sanitation, ecotourism, and transport. This investment will support commitments by Brazil, China and India toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Brazil: NDB has approved **USD 300 million** that will contribute to connecting 592 thousand households to water supply and 727 thousand to sewage collection networks in the state of Sao Paulo.

China: NDB has approved **EUR 265 million** for the expansion of the Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport and **RMB 805 million** for the expansion of the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport.

India: NDB has approved **USD 79 million** for the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project which will lead to the establishment of 5 ecotourism circuits. The project includes the construction of 114km of roads and bridges.

359. The Government of India (GoI) will provide a financing facility worth about **Rs.1600 crore (USD 200 million)** through the **World Bank** for the **Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Program**.

- The total cost of the HP Power Sector Development Program will be estimated as approx. **2000 crores** along with state equity.
- The project will be completed in 5 years from 2023-2028.

360. The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** has joined India-led **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** to limit the destruction caused by climate change.

- The EIB will help CDRI to develop the research and knowledge-management capabilities of its members.

- The EIB will offer advisory and financial support to CDRI members and ensure they can benefit from all relevant EU initiatives.

CDRI:

It was launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 at the initiative of India and allows its members to share knowledge and resources. It help countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) and expand universal access to basic services.

- 361. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has launched an add-on motor insurance cover, called '**Pay As You Consume**' (PAYC). It has been launched under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI's) Sandbox Regulations. The PAYC add-on cover can be opted by the customer along with the basic Own Damage (OD) plan under Package Product, Bundled and Standalone OD cover.
- 362. Canara Bank** has launched its mobile banking app namely, '**Canara ai1**', which is a one-stop solution with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers. It is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language. The app has advanced features such as an intuitive user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) with multiple themes and menus that can be personalised as per the user's choice.
- 363.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **Citibank**, N.A.'s (Citi) and Citicorp Finance India Limited's undertakings comprising their consumer banking activities by **Axis Bank** under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act 2002. The approval has been given for **Rs. 12,325 crore** Axis Bank-Citi deal, which is payable after the entire Citi Bank's business is transferred to Axis Bank.
- CCI has also approved the acquisition of up to **11.43% stake** in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (Greenforest).
- 364.** The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Company (LIC) Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL) has approved the appointment of **Ravi Kishan Takkar**, former MD & CEO of UCO Bank, an additional Director (Independent) on the LIC HFL's Board. He will hold the office as Independent Director for 5 years effective from the date of appointment (25th July 2022).
- 365. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has collaborated with **Tata AIG General Insurance Company** for providing TATA Accidental Guard Policy to IPPB customers. A special drive has

commenced from 15th July in all post offices in Goa for covering the citizens of the state under this policy.

366. HDFC Securities Limited has tied up with **Equitas Small Finance Bank** to provide its clients with a demat account and its broking or investment services. With this partnership, Equitas Small Finance Bank will be able to offer its customers a 3-in-1 account that helps them access the services of HDFC Securities.

367. Bandhan Bank has opened its first currency chest in **Deedargunj** in Patna, Bihar. This will help in cash management for bank branches and ATMs. This will particularly help public, MSMEs, and small traders with supply of currency notes to the branches and ATMs.

Currency Chest:

A currency chest is a depository of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) where the excess money meant for the banks and ATMs is stored. The currency chests are located in the premises of the selected branches of the banks and are administered by RBI.

- **Note:** As per the RBIs 2020-21 Annual Report, there are 2,878 currency chests in India.

368. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has reduced its shareholding in **Sun Pharmaceuticals** by selling a **2.002%** stake in the company for around Rs.3882 crore, decreasing its shareholding from 7.026% to **5.024%** of the paid-up capital. LIC's shareholding in Sun Pharma has diluted from 16,85,66,486 to 12,05,24,944 equity shares.

369. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has collaborated with legal education startup **LawSikho** to bring world class skill development programs resonating with the vision of NSDC. The objective is to fulfill the growing need in India for skilled manpower and narrow the existing gap between demand and supply of skills. It will benefit over 10,000 learners over a period of three years.

370. Union Bank of India (UBI) has planned to develop an automated solution '**Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution**' (**SARAS**) for the early resolution of stressed assets through a bad loan management system.

371. The automated solution will cover recovery actions under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act (SARFAESI), Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT), and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

372. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued new norms on **settlement of running accounts** of clients' funds lying with stock brokers. The new guidelines will be effective from **1st October 2022**.

- Under the guidelines, the settlement of the running account of funds of the client will be done by the trading member after considering the End of the day (EOD) obligation of funds as on the date of settlement across all the exchanges on the first Friday of the quarter for all the clients.
- The running account of funds will be settled on the first Friday of October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023, and so on for all the clients.
- If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.
- For clients, who have opted for monthly settlement, running accounts will be settled on the first Friday of every month.

The process of transferring back the unused funds of the clients to their accounts by stock brokers is known as **Running Account Settlement**.

373. Kotak General Insurance has joined hands with **Inspektlabs** to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology to automate the vehicle inspection process. This will replace humans in repetitive work and save costs and increase customer satisfaction by reducing time in the policy renewal process.

374. Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) has signed a loan agreement with the government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of **100 billion Japanese Yen (JPY)** or **Rs.6000 crore** as the third tranche for the construction of **Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) Project (III)**.

- **Objective:** To develop a high-frequency mass transportation system by constructing the High-Speed Rail between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, using Japan's *Shinkansen* technology (also known as the "Bullet Train").
- The loan agreement has been signed after the **JPY 250,000 million** (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package of JICA's commitment in 2017.
- National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.

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- 375.** The **City Union bank (CUB)** has formed a bancassurance partnership with **Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, and Royal Sundaram General Insurance** to provide its customers with health, life, and general insurance options.
- In total CUB has collaborated with 8 insurers: three each in life (LIC, TATA AIA, and Bajaj Alliance) and health (Star Health, Aditya Birla, and Care Insurance) and two in general insurance (Shriram General and Royal Sundaram).
- 376.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for commencing the validation of all KYC (Know Your Customer) records by KYC Registration Agencies (KRAs) by three months to **1st November 2022**.
- KYC records of all existing clients, who have used Aadhaar as an Officially Valid Document (OVD), will be validated within a period of 180 days from 1st November 2022.

RBI IN NEWS

- 377.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the 58th round of **Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey (OBICUS)** of the **manufacturing sector**. The survey is for the reference period April - June 2022 (Q1:2022-23). The results of the survey will provide valuable inputs for monetary policy formulation.
- RBI has been conducting the OBICUS of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008. The RBI has also launched the 2021-22 round of its Survey on **International Trade in Banking Services (ITBS)**.
- 378.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the latest data on **'Deposits with Scheduled Commercial Banks - March 2022'**.
- Key highlights:**
- As per the report, bank deposits fell year-on-year (y-o-y) to **10 percent** in March 2022 from 11.9 percent a year ago, even as current, savings and term deposits increased by 10.9 percent, 13.3 percent and 7.9 percent, respectively, during FY22.
 - The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits have been increased to **44.8 percent** in March 2022 as compared to 41.7 percent three years ago.
 - Low-cost deposits accounted for 60.9 percent and 55.6 percent of incremental deposits during 2020-21 and 2021-22, respectively.
 - As of March 2022, female depositors accounted for **19.8 percent** of total deposits.
 - Metropolitan branches of banks, which account for over half of total deposits, accounted for more than half of incremental deposits during 2021-22, at 51.5 percent.

- The government and financial corporations together accounted for over a fourth of the incremental deposits during 2021-22 as compared to 5.8 percent share in the previous year.
- Large-size deposits (i.e., Rs.1 crore and above) accounted for nearly **40 percent** share of the total term deposits.
- The **seven states** of Maharashtra, National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Gujarat have accounted for **63.3 percent** of bank deposits in FY22.

379. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed penalties of around **Rs.1.05 crore** on **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and **Rs.1 crore** on **IndusInd Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. RBI has also imposed penalties on four co-operative banks:

- Rs.2 lakh on Nav Jeevan Co-operative Bank, Ulhasnagar
- Rs.1 lakh on Balangir District Central Cooperative Bank Limited, Balangir, Odisha
- Rs.2 lakh on Dhakuria Cooperative Bank Ltd, Kolkata
- The Palani Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Palani

380. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released a report titled '**Benchmarking India's Payment Systems – Follow-on exercise**'. The report states that India has shown a significant progress, and emerged as leader in large-value digital payment systems i.e. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS).

Key points:

- The benchmarking exercise undertaken with respect to the position in 2020 revealed that there is a need to enhance the spread of ATMs and point of sale (PoS) terminals.
- The number of PoS terminals in India increased to 4.59 million in 2020 from 3.08 million in 2017, and has grown at a compound annual growth rate of 14%.
- India's performance in terms of currency in circulation (CIC) per capita has raised to \$288 in 2020 from \$218 in 2017.
- Out of the 40 indicators used in the exercise, India was categorised as a 'leader' or 'strong' in respect of 25, up from 21 in the previous round of the exercise, and 'weak' in respect of eight indicators, down from 12 earlier.

381. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a series of measures to prevent a Rupee fall, and support foreign reserves.

Key measures:

- RBI has decided to temporarily permit banks to raise fresh **Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) (FCNR (B))** and **Non-Resident (External) Rupee (NRE)** deposits without reference to the extant regulations on interest rates, with effect from 7th July 2022. This relaxation will be available for the period up to **31st October 2022**.
- It has been decided that with effect from the reporting fortnight beginning 30th July 2022 incremental FCNR (B) and NRE deposits with reference base date of 1st July 2022 will be exempt from the maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). This relaxation will be available for deposits mobilised up to **4th November 2022**.
- Investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** in government securities and corporate debt made till 31st October 2022 will be exempted from this short term limit till maturity.
- FPIs will be provided with a limited window till 31st October 2022 during which they can invest in corporate money market instruments viz., commercial paper and non-convertible debentures with an original maturity of up to one year. FPIs can continue to stay invested in these instruments till their maturity / sale.
- RBI has increased the maximum limit under the automatic route for **External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs)** from USD 750 million per financial year to **USD 1.5 billion**. The all-in cost ceiling under the ECB framework is also being raised by 100 basis points.
- **Authorised Dealer Category I (AD Cat-I) banks** can utilise overseas foreign currency borrowing (OFCBs) for lending in foreign currency to entities for a wider set of end-use purposes, subject to the negative list set out for external commercial borrowings (ECBs). This is available till **31st October 2022**.

382. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of former RBI executive **Meena Hemchandra** as part-time chairman of Karur Vysya Bank for a period of 3 years with effect from the date of taking charge.

383. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a mechanism to settle international trade payments in **Indian rupee**. The aim is to promote growth of global trade with emphasis on exports from India and to support the increasing interest of global trading community in Indian rupee.

- Under the new guidelines, all exports and imports under this arrangement may be denominated and invoiced in Rupee (INR).
- The exchange rate between the currencies of the two trading partner countries may be market determined.
- Rupee surplus balance may be used for capital and current account transactions.
- Balance in Special Vostro Accounts can be invested in govt. securities.

- Authorized Dealer (AD) banks in India have been permitted to open rupee Vostro accounts. Accordingly, for settlement of trade transactions with any country, AD bank in India may open special rupee Vostro accounts of correspondent banks of the partner trading country.
- Letter of Credit (LC) and other trade-related documentation may be decided mutually between banks of the partner trading countries under the overall framework of Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits (UCPDC) and incoterms.

384. Recently, RBI has allowed all eligible current account transactions including trade transactions with **Sri Lanka** may be settled in any permitted currency outside the **Asian Clearing Union (ACU)** mechanism until further notice. The new system will come into force with immediate effect.

- The ACU was established on **9th December 1974** at the initiative of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP), for promoting regional cooperation.
- Central banks and monetary authorities of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are currently members of the ACU.
- **Asian Monetary Unit (AMU)** is the common unit of account of ACU and is denominated as 'ACU dollar', 'ACU euro' and 'ACU yen', which is equivalent in value to one US dollar, one euro and one Japanese yen respectively.
- Settlement of such instruments is made by **Category-I banks** through the ACU dollar accounts, ACU euro accounts and ACU yen accounts.
- It is headquartered in **Tehran, Iran**.

385. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of **Shri Anand Co-operative Bank**, Chinchwad, Pune as the lender does not have adequate capital and cannot pay its present depositors in full. The bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from 7th July 2022.

RBI, in exercise of powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has also cancelled the **Certificate of Registration** of four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). They are:

- **Kanva Shree Credit Private Limited (formerly known as MCI Leasing Private Limited)**
- **Williamson Magor & Co. Ltd**
- **Galaxy Capital Finance Limited**
- **SRS Finance Limited**

386. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed various restrictions on **four cooperative banks**. The restrictions have been imposed for six months and it includes cap on withdrawals for the depositors. These restrictions have been put under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The four banks are:

- **Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank**, New Delhi; (Cap is Rs.50,000 per depositor)
- **Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank**, Mumbai; (Cap is Rs.50,000 per depositor)
- **Sangli Sahakari Bank**, Mumbai; (Cap is Rs.45,000 per depositor)
- **Sharada Mahila Co-operative Bank Limited**, Tumkur, Karnataka (Cap is Rs.7,000 per depositor)

RBI has also imposed a penalty of **Rs.5.72 crore** on **Federal Bank** for deficiencies in regulatory compliance. A penalty of **Rs 70 lakh** has also been imposed on **Bank of India** for non-compliance with certain provisions of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and instructions on 'compliance function in banks'. A fine of **Rs 7.6 lakh** has been imposed on **Dhani Loans and Services Limited**, Gurugram for non-compliance with KYC norms.

RBI has also imposed a fine of **Rs.1.67 crore** on **Ola Financial Services Pvt Ltd** for non-compliance with know your customer (KYC) guidelines.

387. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty on three cooperatives banks. They are:

- **Nasik Merchant's Co-operative Bank Ltd** in Nashik (Penalty: Rs.50 lakh)
- **Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank Ltd** in Mumbai (Penalty: Rs. 37,50,000)
- **National Central Cooperative Bank Limited** in Bettiah (Penalty: Rs.2 lakh)

388. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and **Bank Indonesia (BI)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expand cooperation in payment systems, digital financial innovation, and anti-money laundering, and combating the financing of terrorism (AML-CFT). It has been signed in Bali on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting to improve mutual cooperation.

389. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted the fifth round of the **Survey on Remittances for the year 2020-21**. As per the survey, the share of remittances from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region to India has declined from more than 50 percent in 2016-17 to around **30 percent** in 2020-21 amid COVID-19-induced economic stress.

- The US, the UK, and Singapore have emerged as important sources for the country for remittances, accounting for 36 percent of the total payments in 2020-21.
- The **USA** has surpassed the UAE as the top source country, accounting for 23 percent of total remittances in 2020-21.

- The share of the traditional remittance recipient states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, which had strong dominance in the GCC region, has almost halved in 2020-21, accounting for only 25 percent of total remittances since 2016-17.
- **Maharashtra** has emerged as the top recipient state surpassing Kerala.
- The majority of the remittances are routed through **private sector banks**, followed by public sector banks, and foreign banks, particularly from Singapore.
- India is the second cheapest remittance receiving market in the G20 group after Mexico.

India has remained the top recipient country, accounting for 12 percent of total global remittances, recording a marginal decline of 0.2 percent in 2020 and a growth of 8 percent in 2021.

Note: Remittances are the second major source of external financing for low and middle-income countries after foreign direct investment (FDI).

390. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to adopt a **four-tier** regulatory framework with differentiated regulatory prescriptions aimed at strengthening the financial soundness of the existing **Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)**.

Four-tier framework:

- **Tier I:** All unit UCBs and salary earners' UCBs, irrespective of deposit size, and all other UCBs with deposits of up to Rs.100 crore.
- **Tier II:** UCBs with deposits of more than Rs.100 crore and up to Rs.1000 crore.
- **Tier III:** UCBs with deposits of more than Rs.1000 crore and up to Rs.10,000 crore.
- **Tier IV:** UCBs with deposits of over Rs.10,000 crore.

Net-worth:

RBI has stipulated a minimum net worth of **Rs.2 crore** for **Tier 1 UCBs** operating in single district and

Rs.5 crore for all other UCBs (of all tiers).

Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR):

- RBI has retained the minimum CRAR requirement for Tier 1 UCBs at the present level of **9 percent**.
- For Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4 UCBs, RBI has revised the minimum capital adequacy ratio of over 12 percent as on 1st March 2021.

391. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has signed its renewed Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the **FX (Foreign Exchange) Global Code ("Code")**. The code aims to facilitate effective transactions at competitive prices which reflect available market information for a diverse set of market participants.

FX Global Code:

It was initially launched on **25th May 2017**. It was subsequently reviewed holistically and the updated Code was published by the Global FX Committee on 15th July 2021. It has been developed under the auspices of the *Bank for International Settlements (BIS)*, Basel, Switzerland. It is being implemented across the world by the **Global FX Committee** in coordination with Local FX Committees in each jurisdiction.

RBI, along with the *Bank of Korea, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and the Reserve Bank of Australia*, jointly welcomed the publication of the code in 2017.

392. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has restricted **three cooperative banks** from conducting banking activity due to poor liquidity position. These include two banks from Maharashtra, the Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank Limited and the Raigad Sahakari Bank besides Karnataka-based Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank. The restrictions will remain in force for a period of **six months**.

393. The **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments index (DPI)** has increased to **349.30** in **March 2022**, compared to 304.46 for September 2021. The index stood at 270.59 in March 2021.

Key highlights:

- Among the digital modes of payments, the number of transactions using Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) has increased by 30.5 percent during 2021-22. In terms of value, RTGS transactions registered an increase of 21.8 percent.
- Transactions through the National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system has witnessed an increase of 30.6 percent and 14.3 percent in volume and value, respectively.
- Payment transactions carried out through credit cards has increased by 27 percent and 54.3 percent in terms of volume and value, respectively.
- Transactions through debit cards has decreased by 1.9 percent in terms of volume, though in terms of value, it has increased by 10.4 percent.

Digital Payments Index (DPI)

Digital payments in India have been growing rapidly. Therefore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constructed a composite Digital Payments Index (DPI) to capture the extent of digitisation of payments across the country.

The RBI- Digital Payments Index (DPI) comprises of **5 broad parameters** that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.

These parameters are:

1. Payment Enablers (weight 25%),
 2. Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10%),
 3. Payment Infrastructure – Supply-side factors (15%),
 4. Payment Performance (45%), and
 5. Consumer Centricity (5%).
- The RBI-DPI has been constructed with **March 2018** as the base period, i.e. DPI score for March 2018 is set at **100**.

394. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as perceived by the Union Government and Life Insurance Companies (LIC), has accepted the Government of India (GoI) request to permit non-financial institutions and unregulated entities to own more than **40 percent stake** in **IDBI Bank** and to sell between 51 and 74 percent of the lender through a strategic divestment process.

395. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, has allowed Ajay Piramal-led **Piramal Enterprises Ltd (PEL)** to start a **non-banking finance company (NBFC)** without accepting public deposits. Earlier, the company had acquired Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL) for Rs 34,250 crore.

396. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given another window to **Payment Aggregators (PAs)** existing as of March 2020 to apply to the central bank for a licence. PAs could now apply for a licence by **30th September 2022**, and should have a minimum net worth of **Rs.15 crore** as on 31st March 2022.

- 397.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions, including on fund withdrawals, on two Uttar Pradesh-based cooperative banks in view of their deteriorating financial position. The two lenders are **Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank** and **Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Sitapur**. The restrictions will remain in force for six months. The withdrawal limit in the case of Urban Co-operative Bank is Rs.50,000 per customer and Rs.30,000 per customer of Lucknow Urban Co-operative Bank.
- 398.** RBI has also imposed various restrictions on three cooperative banks including on the withdrawal of funds in view of their deteriorating financial condition. These banks are **Durga Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd., Vijayawada** (withdrawal limit Rs.1.50 lakh), **Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Basmatnagar** (No amounts can be withdrawn), **The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Solapur** (withdrawal limit Rs.10000). The restrictions imposed under Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 will remain in force for six months.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 399. Ashok Soota**, founder and Executive Chairman of Happiest Minds Technologies, has been conferred with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Quality Ratna Award 2021. He has been awarded for his significant contribution in building the competitiveness of Indian industry through quality initiatives.

CII Quality Ratna Award:

The Annual CII Quality Ratna Award was instituted in 2019. The award is given in the recognition of outstanding leadership, contribution, and distinguished service to the Quality Movement in India.

- 400. Tanuja Nesari**, Director of All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), has been honoured with the Ayurveda Ratna Award 2022 by the **UK Parliament**. She has been honoured for her contribution to furthering the growth of Ayurveda in India and abroad. The award has been conferred by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Indian Traditional Sciences (ITSappg).
- 401. HCL Technologies** has won the **2022 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award** for Healthcare and Life Sciences (global winner) and the 2022 UK Microsoft Partner of the Year Award (country winner). The company has been honoured for innovation and implementing customer solutions based on Microsoft technology.
- 402.** The International Mathematical Union (IMU) has announced the winners of the **2022 Fields Medals**, widely considered equivalent to a Nobel Prize in mathematics, in Helsinki, Finland. The four awardees of the prestigious prize include:

- **Hugo Duminil-Copin (France)**- Institute des Hautes Études Scientifiques
- **June Huh (USA)** – Princeton University
- **James Maynard (Britain)** – University of Oxford
- **Maryna Viazovska (Ukraine)** – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

Note: Maryna Viazovska (Ukraine) has become the second woman to win the 2022 Fields Medal after Maryam Mirzakhani (Iran).

403. Michelle Poonawalla, well-known artist, businesswoman and philanthropist, has received the **Shiromani Award** at NRI World Summit 2022 in the United Kingdom for her contribution in the field of art. In addition to her, the Shiromani Award has also been awarded to *Shri Sadhu Bhramvihari, Lord Rami Ranger, Rita Hinduja Chhabria, Dr. Kamel Hothi OBE and Falguni Shane Peacock*.

- Michelle Poonawalla has also unveiled her artwork '**Reserve**', which highlights the scarcity of water as a global crisis and accentuated pollution and contamination of water reserves.

404. The government of Japan has conferred the '**Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star**' award on **Sanmar Group** Vice Chairman **Narayanan Kumar** in recognition of his contribution towards strengthening economic relations between Japan and India.

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405. Hyderabad-based **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)**, established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance.

Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, has received the award from the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh, a citation, and a plaque for SAUs, DUs, and for other ICAR institutes.

Other winners:

- Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has won 2 ICAR Awards.
- CMFRI has won the Best Annual Report Award (2020) in the category of ICAR large institutes.

- Anusree M, a PhD scholar at CMFRI, has won the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for PG outstanding doctoral thesis in research in agricultural & allied services for 2021.

406. Malayalam filmmaker **KP Kumaran** has been honoured with **Kerala's** highest film award, the JC Daniel Award 2021. He has won the award for his contribution to the Malayalam film industry. The award comprises of a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh, a citation, and a plaque.

JC Daniel Award:

It was instituted in 1992. It is Kerala's highest award in Malayalam cinema. It is presented annually by the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy, a non-profit institution under the Department of Cultural Affairs, to commemorate the contribution of Indian filmmaker J. C. Daniel, who is often regarded as the "father of Malayalam cinema".

407. Raksha Niryat Ratna Awards 2020-21:

The award has been instituted in consonance with the MoD's vision to achieve Defence exports of **Rs.35,000 crores** by **2025** and provide a boost to the domestic industry. The following firms are awarded for achieving the highest exports in the defence segment in India for 2020-21.

- **Public-sector category:** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- **Private-sector category:** Indo-MIM, a leading global supplier of Metal Injection Molded (MIM) products, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

408. Viktor Orlov (Russia), Mercuri Kanatzidis (Greece) and Kaushik Rajashekara (India) from the United States have won the Global Energy Prize 2022.

- Kaushik Rajashekara has won the award for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.
- Victor Orlov has won the award in the "Traditional Energy" category and Mercuri Kanatzidis has won the award in the "Unconventional Energy" category.

The prize bestowed by the Global Energy Association will be awarded during the ceremony which will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on 12-14 October 2022.

409. Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has announced the winners of the **68th National Film Awards** in New Delhi. The event is organised by the

Directorate of Film Festivals, which comes under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

68th National Film Awards 2022:

- Best Feature Film: **Soorarai Pottru**
- Best Director: **Sachidanandan KR**, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: Tanhaji
- Best Actor: **Suriya** for Soorarai Pottru and **Ajay Devgn** for Tanhaji
- Best Actress: Aparna Balamurali, Soorarai Pottru
- Best Supporting Actor: Biju Menon, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Supporting Actress: Lakshmi Priya Chandramouli, Sivaranjaniyum Innam Sila Pengallum
- Best Action Direction Award: AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Choreography: Natyam (Telugu)
- Best Lyrics: Manoj Muntashir for Saina (Hindi)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Rahul Deshpande for Mi Vasantrya and Anish Mangesh Gosavi for Taktak
- Best Female Playback Singer: Nanchamma, Ayyappanum Koshiyum
- Best Music Direction: Ala Vaikunthapurramuloo, S Thaman
- Best film on Social Issues: 'Justice Delayed but Delivered & Three Sisters
- Best Choreography: Natyam
- Best Cinematography: Avijatrik
- Best Audiography: Dollu, **Mi Vasantrya, and Malik**
- Best Costume Design: Tanhaji
- Best Production Design: Kappela
- Best Editing: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- Best Make-up: Natyam
- Best Screenplay: Soorarai Pottru, Sudha Kongara, and Mandela, Madonne Ashwin
- Best Stunt Choreography: Ayyappanum Koshiyum

Special Jury Award:

- Best Feature Film in Hindi: **Toolsidas Junior**
- Best Feature Film in Kannada: Dollu
- Best Feature Film in Malayalam: Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam
- Best Feature Film in Tamil: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengalum
- Best Feature Film in Telugu: Colour Photo
- Best Feature Film in Haryanvi: Dada Lakhmi
- Best Feature Film in Dimasa: Samkhor
- Best Feature Film in Tulu: Jeetige

Non-Feature Films:

- Best Film on Family Values: **Kumkumarchan, Abhijeet Arvind Dalvi**
- Best Direction: Oh That's Bhanu, RV Ramani
- Best Music Direction: 1232 kms – Mareng Toh Wahin Jaakar, Vishal Bhardwaj
- Best Cinematography: Sabdikunna Kalappa, Nikhil S Praveen
- Best Audiography: Pearl of the Desert, Ajit Singh Rathore
- Best Editing: Borderlands, Anadi Athaley
- Best Narration Voiceover: Rhapsody of Rains – Monsoons of Kerala, Shobha Tharoor Srinivasan
- Best On-Location Sound: Jadui Jangal, Sandeep Bhati, and Pradeep Lekhwar
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation
- Best Book on Cinema: The Longest Kiss by Kishwar Desai
- Best Book on Cinema (Special Mention): MT Anunahvangelude Pusthakam, Anoop Ramakrishnan, and Kali Paine Kalira Cinema by Surya Deo
- Best Film Critic: No winner this year.
- Most Film Friendly State: Madhya Pradesh

Feature Film Awards:

- Best Hindi Film: **Toolsidas Junior**
- Best Malayalam Film: Thinkalazcha Nishchayam
- Best Telugu Film: Colour Photo
- Best Bengali Film: Avijatrik
- Best Assamese Film: Bridge
- Best Tulu Film: Jeetige
- Best Tamil Film: Sivaranjaniyum Innum Sila Pengallum
- Best Marathi Film: Gostha Eka Paithanichi
- Best Kannada Film: Dollu
- Best Dimasa Film: Semkhor
- Best Haryanvi Film: Dada Lakhmi

Other Awards:

- **Madhya Pradesh** (Rajat Kamal & Certificate) has won the Most Film Friendly State award while Uttarakhand (Certificate) and Uttar Pradesh (Certificate) get Special Mention.
- **'The Longest Kiss'** by Kishwar Desai wins Best Book on Cinema for the year while Malayalam book 'MT Anunahvangelude Pusthakam' and Odia book 'Kali Paine Kalira Cinema' win special mention.

The National Film Awards are the most precious and prominent film award ceremony in India which was established in 1954.

410. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has presented Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy** with the **Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award 2022**, drawing comparisons between the two leaders in times of crises. He has been honoured for standing against Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022 and fighting back. He has received the award in virtual mode.

Winston Churchill Leadership Award:

It was first given in 2006. It has been presented to Prince Charles, former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major in the past.

Sir Winston Churchill was a British statesman, writer and soldier. He also served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during Second World War, as well as from 1951-1955.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book	Author	Remark
The Life and Times of George Fernandes	Rahul Ramagundam	
Ganga: Reimagining Rejuvenating Reconnecting	Puskal Upadhyay and Rajiv Ranjan Mishra	Published by Rupa Publications India
The McMahon line: A century of discord	General JJ Singh	
Getting the Bread: The Gen-Z Way to Success	Prarthna Batra	
Mind Master: Winning Lessons From A Champion's Life	Viswanathan Anand (co-authored by sports journalist Susan Ninan)	Published by Hachette India
The Dharma of Justice in the Sanskrit Epics	Ruth Vanita	Published by Oxford University Press
The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed the Party	Ajay Singh	Published by Penguin eBury Press
The Resilient Entrepreneur - Strategies to set you up for Success	Dhruti Shah	

Beyond the Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand	Aradhana Johri	
In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar	Faisal Farooqui	

PERSON IN NEWS

411. President of India Ram Nath Kovind has re-appointed Senior Advocate **K.K. Venugopal** as the Attorney General (AG) of India for a period of 3 months (July-September) or until further orders with effect from 1st July 2022.

- He was appointed as the 15th Attorney General for India in July 2017, succeeding Mukul Rohatgi.
- His first term as AG ended in 2020, and he was reappointed for one year. In June 2021, his term was again extended by one year until 30th June 2022.

Attorney General (AG) of India:

AG is a part of the Union Executive. He is the highest law officer in the country. **Article 76** of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of AG of India. He is appointed by the President on the advice of the government. There is no specified tenure of an AG in the Indian Constitution.

412. Asit Rath has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of Aviva Life Insurance Company India. The appointment will come into effect on 11th July 2022. He will succeed Amit Malik.

413. Ketanji Brown Jackson has been sworn as the 116th Supreme Court justice and the first Black woman to join US Supreme Court bench.

414. PokerBaazi.com, a poker platform, has appointed Bollywood actor **Shahid Kapoor** as its Brand Ambassador. PokerBaazi aims to create a robust ecosystem for Poker in India, and Shahid Kapoor's association with the brand comes in line with its commitment to popularise and create awareness amongst the masses about Poker.

415. Insecticides India, a crop protection and Nutrition company, has roped in Bollywood actor **Ajay Devgn** as their brand ambassador. With this, the company intends to spread the message of judicious use of agrochemicals by communicating about their products and boosting farmer awareness in India at the grassroots level.

416. Garmin India, a unit of Garmin, has appointed Indian triathlete, **Kaustubh Radkar** as a brand ambassador of its fitness segment. He has also been involved with Garmin Limited as

coach. He will now be the face of the fitness segment like running, cycling and swimming and devices like smartwatches, bike computers, etc.

417. Narendra Singh, former Bihar agriculture minister and one of the key political leaders who emerged from the 'JP movement' in the state in the 1970s, has recently passed away in Patna, Bihar. He began his political career as an MLA from Chakai in Jamui in the 1980s and represented the constituency several times.

418. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has announced the appointment of Lieutenant General **Mohan Subramanian** of India as his new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). He has succeeded Lt General Shailesh Tinaikar of India.

419. President Ram Nath Kovind has nominated 4 Rajya Sabha members. These members are:

- Music maestro **Ilaiyaraaja** (Tamil Nadu)
- Sports icon **P T Usha** (Kerala)
- Screenwriter **V Vijayendra Prasad** (Telangana)
- Philanthropist and spiritual leader **Veerendra Heggade** (Karnataka)

Ilaiyaraaja, Usha, Prasad, and V Heggade will serve until July 2028. With this, Rajya Sabha now has nine nominated members, the other five being lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani, dancer Sonal Mansingh, politician Ram Shakal, author and columnist Rakesh Sinha, and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. Three nominated positions are currently vacant.

Nominated members of Rajya Sabha:

Article 80 of the Indian Constitution states that "The Council of States shall consist of (a) 12 members to be nominated by the **President** in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and (b) not more than 238 representatives of the States and of the Union territories."

Clause (3) states that these persons should have special knowledge or practical experience in the field of *Art, Science, Literature and Social Service*. Nominated members of Rajya Sabha enjoy all the powers and privileges to which the elected MPs are entitled. They are not allowed to vote in the election of the President. However, they do have the right to vote in the election of the Vice-President.

420. Sini Sadanand Shetty (Karnataka) has won the 58th edition of **Femina Miss India 2022**.

Miss India 2020, Manasa Varanasi from Telangana has crowned her successor Sini Shetty Miss India 2022. She will now represent India at the prestigious 71st Miss World pageant. The event has been hosted at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- **1st Runner-up:** Rubal Shekhawat (Rajasthan)

- **2nd Runner-up:** Shinata Chauhan (Uttar Pradesh)

- 421.** Former team India coach and cricketer **Ravi Shastri** has been appointed as the new brand ambassador for FanCode, a live content, sports statistics, and e-commerce marketplace. FanCode has exclusive rights to India's tour of the West Indies and England and Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) The Hundred.
- 422. Pinterest**, a visual inspiration platform, has announced the appointment of **Bill Ready**, Google Executive, as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the platform. He has succeeded Ben Silbermann, who will be transitioning to the newly created role of Executive Chairman.
- 423.** The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) has selected **Sandeep Kumar Gupta** for the post of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of **GAIL (India) Limited**. He will replace **Manoj Jain**, who is scheduled to retire on 31st August 2022. He is currently serving as the Director for Finance, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- 424. T. Raja Kumar of Singapore** has been appointed as the President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the anti-money laundering watchdog. He has replaced Marcus Pleyer.
- 425.** Union Women and Child Development Minister **Smriti Irani** has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, in addition to her existing portfolio. Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** has been given the additional charge of the Ministry of Steel. This has been done after the President accepted the resignations of the Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Steel Minister Ram Chandra Prasad Singh from the Union Council of Ministers.
- 426.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of **Ashish Kumar Chauhan** as the managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) of the National Stock Exchange (NSE). He has been appointed for a period of 5 years. He has succeeded **Vikram Limaye**.
- 427.** President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar who has been named as the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the vice presidential election. He has appointed **La Ganesan, Governor of Manipur**, to discharge the functions of the Governor of West Bengal, in addition to his own duties from the date he assumes charge of the office of the Governor of West Bengal until regular arrangements are made.

Note: Article 153 of the Indian Constitution states that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.

428. Union Minister for Labour & Employment **Bhupender Yadav** has represented India in the **8th BRICS**

Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2022 held under the Chinese Presidency in Beijing, China. The Labour & Employment Ministers of the member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) have participated in the meeting.

- During the meeting, the ministers discussed promoting Green Jobs for sustainable development, developing Skills for resilient recovery, and protecting Worker's Rights in new forms of employment.
- The Labour & Employment Ministers adopted the "Declaration of the Eighth BRICS Labour and Employment Ministers' Meeting 2022" during the meeting.

Additional Information:

BRICS is an acronym for the grouping of the world's leading emerging economies, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. It represents 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP and 16% of the global trade. It is based in Shanghai, China.

429. Former Supreme Court judge, **Vineet Saran**, has been appointed to serve as the Ethics Officer and Ombudsman of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He has succeeded Justice (Retd) D. K. Jain, whose term ended in June 2022.

430. Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has appointed the Additional Chief Secretary (Power & Industry) **R.D. Dhiman** as the new Chief Secretary of the state. He is a 1988 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre. He has succeeded Ram Subhag Singh.

431. V K Singh, Executive Director, Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd, has been appointed as Director (Technical), REC Limited with effect from 12th July 2022. REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited, is a public Infrastructure Finance Company in India's power sector. It was established in 1969.

432. The Centre Government has appointed **Jayanti Prasad** as a Whole time Member of **the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post i.e. with effect from the 5th July, 2022 or upto the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

433. Brijesh Gupta has been appointed as the new Managing Director of **RattanIndia Power Limited**. Earlier, he held leadership positions in Adani Enterprises, Essar Group, Welspun and Atha Group.

RattanIndia Power is a private power generation company, with an installed capacity of 2,700 MW thermal power plants at Amravati and Nashik (1,350 MW at each location) in Maharashtra, with investments of Rs.18,615 crores (US\$ 2.5 billion).

434. Seif Ahmed of Egypt has been appointed as the Acting President of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** after **Narender Dhruv Batra (India)** has resigned as FIH president. He has also quit as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief.

435. Rajarshi Gupta has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of **ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)**, the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). He has succeeded Alok Gupta.

436. One97 Communications, the parent entity of Paytm, has appointed Standard Chartered Bank executive **Nakul Jain** as CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL). He has succeeded **Praveen Sharma**, who has been promoted to oversee the organisation's commerce vertical in addition to his other duties.

1. Paytm Payments is a unit through which Paytm operates its payment gateway and payment aggregator businesses.

437. Indian cricketer **Karuna Vijaykumar Jain** has announced her retirement from all forms of **cricket**. She hails from Bengaluru, Karnataka. She holds the record for the 3rd highest number of dismissals as a wicketkeeper for India in One Day Internationals (ODI), totalling 58. She featured in 5 tests, 44 ODIs, and 9 T20Is from 2005 to 2014.

438. Pranay Kumar Verma, presently Ambassador of India to Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of **Bangladesh**. He is an IFS officer from the 1994 batch.

Whereas, **Sandeep Arya**, an IFS officer from the 1994 batch, has also been named as India's new ambassador to the Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**. He is presently employed by the Ministry of External Affairs as an Additional Secretary.

439. Infrastructure entity TATA Projects Limited has appointed **Vinayak Pai** as its Managing Director. He has succeeded Vinayak Deshpande.

440. Coca-Cola has signed Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra** for Limca Sportz promotion. Neeraj Chopra has recently become the first-ever Indian to win a silver medal at World Athletics Championships with his best throw of 88.13 m.

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OBITUARIES

Person	Associated Field	Remark
Peter Brook (UK)	Film & Theatre Director	Padma Shri (2021)
Tarun Majumdar	Film Director (Bengali)	Padma Shri (1990)
Ambika Rao	Actress and Assistant director (Malayalam)	
EN Sudhir	Football	
Narendra Singh	Politician (Bihar)	
P.P. Gopinathan Nair	Freedom Fighter	Padma Shri (2016)
Mohammad Barkindo (Nigeria)	Politician	He served as the Secretary-General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
Jose Eduardo dos Santos	Politician	Former President of Angola
Luis Echeverria Alvarez	Politician	Former President of Mexico
James Edmund Caan	American Actor	He is best known for playing the Sonny Corleone character in "The Godfather" film.
Avdhash Kaushal	Social Worker	Padma Shri (1986)
Barry Sinclair	New Zealand Cricketer	
Monty Norman	British composer	He was the man behind the iconic James Bond theme.
Shinzo Abe (former PM of Japan)	Politician	Padma Vibhushan (2021) Netaji Award (January 2022)

Brijendra K Syngal	Businessman	Known as the Father of the Indian Internet
Enamul Haque	Archaeologist	Padma Shri (2020)
Pratap Pothen	Actor and filmmaker (Malayalam)	
Nirmal Singh Kahlon	Politician	Former Speaker of Punjab
Dr Ajay Parida	Biologist & Researcher	Padma Shri (2014)
Bhupinder Singh	Ghazal singer	
Achuthan Kudallur	Artist (Abstract paintings)	
William David Trimble (Northern Ireland)	Politician	
Anant Yashwant Khare	Writer (Marathi)	
Paul Sorvino (USA)	Actor	
Atulananda Goswami	Writer (Assam)	Sahitya Academy Award (2006) for his novel 'Seneh Jorir Ganthi'
Bob Rafelson	Film Director, Writer, and Producer (USA)	
Sushovan Banerjee	Doctor	Known as 'One Rupee Doctor' Padma Shri (2020)
James Lovelock	Environmentalist & Scientist (British)	Proposed 'Gaia hypothesis' in 1972.
Balwinder Safri	Singer (Punjabi)	

SPORTS

441. Ferrari driver **Carlos Sainz Jr. (Spain)** has won the **Formula 1 Lenovo British Grand Prix 2022** at the Silverstone circuit, in Silverstone, England. It is his first career Formula 1 race victory. Mexico's Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing team) has finished second and Britain's Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes team) has finished third in the race.

442. Former Indian football team goalkeeper and Keralite **EN Sudhir** has recently passed away in Mapusa, Goa. He made his international debut against Indonesia in Rangoon (currently Yangon) in the Olympic qualifiers in 1972. He represented India in 9 matches. He was also part of the national team in the 1973 Merdeka Cup and the Asian Games squad in 1974. He

played for three different states in the Santosh Trophy Kerala (1969 and 1970), Goa (1971, 1972, 1973), and Maharashtra in 1975.

443. The first edition of the **Elorda Boxing Cup 2022** has been held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The tournament has hosted boxers from India, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Cuba, China and Mongolia.

India has won a total of **14 medals (2 gold, 2 silver, and 10 bronze)**.

Indian medal winners:

Gold: Alfiya Pathan (+81kg), and Gitika (48kg).

Silver: Kalaivani Srinivasan (48kg), and Jamuna Boro (54kg)

Bronze: Jyoti Gulia (52kg), Sakshi (54kg), Sonia Lather (57kg), Neema (63kg), Lalita (70kg), Babita Bisht (81kg), Kuldeep Kumar (48kg), Ananta Chopade (54kg), Sachin (57kg), and Jugnoo (92kg).

444. England cricket team led by **Ben Stokes** has defeated the Indian cricket team led by **Jasprit Bumrah** in the 5th Test match (Rescheduled) and drawn the 5-match series 2021/2022 (2-2) and the Pataudi Trophy has been shared between two teams. The 5th test has been played in the Edgbaston Cricket Ground in Birmingham, England.

- **Player of the Series:** Joe Root
- **Player of the Match:** Jonny Bairstow

Records in the 5th Test:

- **Jasprit Bumrah** has scored 35 runs in an over against Stuart Brad and breaks Brain Lara's (West Indies) world record of 29 runs in an over.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** partnered with **Rishabh Pant** script history with 222-run partnership for the sixth wicket against England which was the highest partnership by an Indian team in England.

Note: India won the first Pataudi Trophy in England in 2007.

Additional Information:

The Pataudi Trophy, associated with cricket, is awarded to the winner of each Test cricket series between England and India. It was first awarded in 2007 to commemorate the 75 years since the first Test match between the two sides.

445. The **2022 Malaysia Open**, a badminton tournament, has been held in the Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It has a total prize of USD 675,000. It has been organized by the Badminton Association of Malaysia with sanction from the BWF.

Category	Winner
Men's singles title	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Women's singles title	Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)
Men's doubles	Takuro Hoki / Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
Women's doubles	Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti (Indonesia)
Mixed doubles	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)

446. Ukraine's Grandmaster **Vitaly Syyuk** has won the 2nd edition of La Plagne International Chess Festival – Masters Tournament 2022. It has been organized in La Plagne-Tarentaise in France. India's teenage Grandmaster P Iniyam has finished second while International Masters (IM) Sayantan Das has finished third in the tournament.

447. The **U-20 Asian Wrestling Championship 2022** has been held at the Khalifa Sports City arena in Manama, Bahrain. India has won **22 medals** including 4 gold, 9 silver, and 9 bronze medals.

Indian medallist:

Gold: Priyanka (65kg), Aainrju (68kg), Antim (53kg), Sujeet (65kg)

Silver: Sweety (50kg), Reena (55kg), Bipasha (72kg), Priya (76kg), Mulaym Yadav (70kg), Ashish (97kg), Mohit Kumar (61kg), Jaideep (74kg), Mahendran Gaikwad (125kg)

Bronze: Sito (57kg), Tanu (59kg), Sarika (62kg), Aman (57kg), Deepak (79kg), Jointy Kumar (86kg), Akash (92kg), Rohit Dahiya (82kg), Ankit Gulia (67kg)

Additional Information:

The Indian freestyle wrestlers has won the **2022 U-15 Asian Wrestling Championship** title held in Bahrain. The Indian wrestling team has bagged **4 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze** medal in freestyle wrestling.

448. International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the ICC Player of the Month awards for June 2022. **England's** in-form batter **Jonny Bairstow** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month while **South Africa's** power-hitting batter **Marizanne Kapp** has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month.

449. Bhagwani Devi Dagar, a 94-year-old Indian sprinter, has won the gold medal in the **100m sprint** event with a timing of 24.74 seconds at the World Masters Athletics Championships held in Tampere, Finland. She has also won a bronze medal in shot put.

- World Masters Athletics Championships is an event for athletics (track and field) for athletes aged 35 years and over.

450. The 135th edition of the **2022 Wimbledon Championships**, a Grand Slam tennis tournament, has been held in London, United Kingdom. It usually takes place in Grass Outdoor Courts.

Novak Djokovic (Serbia) has won the Gentlemen's Singles title by defeating Nick Kyrgios (Australia). This was his 7th Wimbledon title and his 4th straight Wimbledon men's singles title.

Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) has won the Ladies Singles title by defeating Ons Jabeur (Tunisia). She is the first player representing Kazakhstan to win a Grand Slam singles title. She was born in Russia but switched nationalities in 2018.

Other winners:

- **Gentlemen's doubles:** Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell (Australia)
- **Ladies doubles:** Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková (Czech Republic)
- **Mixed doubles:** Neal Skupski (UK), and Desirae Krawczyk (USA)

451. Indian cricketer, **Shikhar Dhawan** has collaborated with **Web3 fintech startup, Bliv.Club**, and Web3 metaverse startup, **WIOM** to launch the first sports city in the metaverse. The launch is scheduled for September 2022. The Sports city will be home to cricket stadiums, a sportsplex for watching games, a sports cafe, a gym, an e-sports area, cottages, running tracks, a first-of-its-kind 3D immersive sports museum, a sports library, an arena for other sports, and more.

Note: The global sports market is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 41.3 percent, from USD 354.96 billion in 2021 to **USD 501.43 billion** in 2022. At a CAGR of 9%, the sports market is anticipated to reach **USD 707.84 billion** in 2026.

- 452.** Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc (Monaco)** has won the **2022 Austrian Grand Prix** held in Spielberg, Austria. Red Bull's Max Verstappen has finished second and Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton has finished third in the event.
- 453.** The NMDC Limited, formerly known as National Mineral Development Corporation, and Hyderabad Runners Society along with IDFC First Bank and the Government of Telangana have launched the logo and unveiled the race t-shirt for the **2022 edition** of the **NMDC Hyderabad Marathon**. The NMDC has taken up the Title Sponsorship of the Hyderabad Marathon to be held on 27th and 28th August 2022. The Face of NMDC Hyderabad Marathon 2022 is Indian boxer **Ms. Nikhat Zareen**, who won the gold medal at the 2022 IBS Women's World Champion Boxing Championships.

- 454. P.V. Sindhu (India)** has won the women's singles title at the **2022 Singapore Open**, a badminton tournament, by defeating Wang Zhiyi (China) in the final match held at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore.

Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia) has won the men's singles title at the tournament.

Other winners:

- **Men's doubles:** Leo Rolly Carnando & Daniel Marthin (Indonesia)
- **Women's doubles:** Apriyani Rahayu & Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti (Indonesia)
- **Mixed doubles:** Dechapol Puavaranukroh & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)

- 455.** Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** has won the Paracin Open 'A' chess tournament 2022 in Serbia. He has defeated Alexandr Predke, a Russian player in the competition. Alisher Suleymenov has finished third with 7 points after a tie with Al Muthaiah (India).

- 456.** Recently, Indian Grandmaster **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open** held in Spain. He has defeated Robert Hovhannisyan (Armenia) and compatriot Raunak Sadhwani on the basis of a tie-break score here.

457. The **World Athletics Championships 2022** has commenced at Hayward Field in Eugene, **Oregon, USA**, from July 15–24, 2022. It is the eighteenth edition of the World Athletics Championships.

The World Athletics Council has selected the host country for 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.

- **2023:** Budapest, Hungary
- **2024:** Medulin and Pula, Croatia
- **2025:** Tokyo, Japan
- **2026:** Tallahassee, Florida

458. England all-rounder **Ben Stokes** has announced his retirement from the One Day Internationals (ODI) cricket. He played his 105th and final ODI against South Africa in Durham. He made his ODI & T20 International debuts in 2011 and his Test debut in 2013. He has scored 2919 runs in 104 ODIs and taken 74 wickets.

Other announcements:

- Bangladesh ODI captain **Tamim Iqbal** has announced his retirement from T20 Internationals.
- West Indies cricketer **Denesh Ramdin**, wicketkeeper & former West Indies captain, has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- West Indies batter **Lendl Simmons** has announced his retirement from international cricket.

459. Perodua Malaysia Masters 2022, a badminton tournament, has been held in Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. It is categorized as one of the 7 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 500 events.

Category	Winners
Men's Singles	Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	An Se-young (South Korea)
Men's Doubles	Fajar Alfian, and Muhammad Rian Ardianto (Indonesia)

Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen, and Jia Yifan (China)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei, and Huang Yaqiong (China)

460. The United States of America (USA) will host the **2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games** in **Los Angeles**. The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will take place from **14th July to 30th July 2028**. The Paralympic Games will take place from **15th August to 27th August 2028**.

- The LA28 (Los Angeles 2028) will feature more than 3,000 hours of live sport across 800 events in more than 40 sports.
- 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Los Angeles.
- This will be the first time that Los Angeles will be hosting the Paralympic Games.
- Earlier, Los Angeles had hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932.

Note: The 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Paris, France.

461. Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) has won the men's singles title at the **Petronas Malaysia Open 2022** by defeating Kento Momota (Japan) in the final match held in Axiata Arena, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.

- **Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)** has won the women's singles title in the badminton tournament.

462. Tennis-player **Lleyton Hewitt (Australia)**, a two-time Grand Slam champion and former world number one, has been inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame 2021**. He won his first ATP title in Adelaide in 1998. He won the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon title.

463. Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver **Max Verstappen** has won the **2022 French Grand Prix** held at Paul Ricard racetrack in Le Castellet, France. This marks his **seventh** win of the season. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (British) has finished second and Mercedes driver George Russell (British) has finished third.

464. The **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** has started a new initiative to cheer for Team India participating in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with the campaign "**Create for India.**" A 215-member Indian athlete contingent across 16 disciplines will participate in the Commonwealth Games beginning on 28th July 2022.

Sports Authority of India (SAI) was set up in 1984 to carry forward the legacy of the IXth Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982 under the Department of Sports.

465. Indian Grandmaster **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **41st Villa De Benasque International Chess Open** in Spain. He scored eight points from 10 rounds along with 10 others, but finished first on tie-break rules. Grandmaster Robert Hovhannisyan (Armenia) has finished second while India's Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani has finished third.

466. Adani Sportsline, the sports arm of the Adani Group, has become an official partner with the **Indian Olympics Association (IOA)** for the upcoming Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022, Hangzhou Asian Games 2022, and Paris Olympic Games 2024. This is the second time that the Adani Group has come on board with IOA.

467. Reliance Industries (RIL) has collaborated with **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to establish the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024. The aim is to boost the performances of Indian athletes, and support the national sports federations.

Note: In the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics, India will also be hosting the 140th prestigious IOC Session in June 2023 at the state-of-the-art Jio World Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

468. Four-time world champion and current Aston Martin driver, **Sebastian Vettel (Germany)**, has announced his retirement from F1 at the end of the 2022 season. He made his debut in F1 in 2007 with Toro Rosso. He achieved the peak of his career with Red Bull where he won every F1 championship between 2010 and 2013. He joined Ferrari in 2015, and Aston Martin in 2021.

469. The Organising Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games Paris 2024 has unveiled the new motto for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Paris 2024. The new motto is "**Games Wide Open**".

- Paris will host the Summer Olympics for the third time in 2024, which also marks the centenary of the last Paris Games in 1924.
- The Olympic Games will take place from 26th July to 11th August 2024.

- The Paralympic Games will take place from 28th August to 8th September 2024.

470. The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has announced that the Asia Cup 2022 has been shifted from Sri Lanka to **UAE**. However, the hosting rights of the game will still remain with Sri Lanka.

- The tournament will be held from August 27 to September 11, 2022, in the **T20 format**.
- This is the second consecutive time that the tournament will be played in the UAE.
- It is the **15th edition** of the Asia Cup cricket tournament.
- The Asia Cup was last played in 2018 and India are the defending champions.

471. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has introduced a new **A+ category** for its **umpires** and Nitin Menon, along with ten other officials, have been grouped in the category. Umpires in A+ and A categories are paid **Rs. 40,000** a day for a first-class game while **Rs.30,000** a day are paid in the B and C category.

- The others in the A+ category include four international umpires: Anil Chaudhary, Madangopal Jayaraman, Virender Kumar Sharma and K N Ananthapadmabhanan.
- Rohan Pandit, Nikhil Patwardhan, Sadashiv Iyer, Ulhas Gandhe and Navdeep Singh Sidhu are also part of the A+ category.
- Twenty umpires including C Shamshuddin form the A group, 60 are in Group B, 46 in Group C and 11 in Group D which falls in the 60-65 age bracket.

472. The 54th edition of the **Swiss Open Tennis Tournament 2022** has been held in Gstaad, Switzerland. Norway's **Casper Ruud** has won the men's singles title after defeating Italy's Matteo Berrettini in the final match.

- **Doubles title:** Tomislav Brkic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Francisco Cabral (Portugal)

473. Leicester Cricket Ground in England has been named after India's legendary cricketer, **Sunil Gavaskar**. The Leicester Cricket Ground, the ownership of which lies with Bharat Sports and Cricket Club, has decided to name the ground after him to acknowledge his immense contribution to uplifting Indian Cricket to a certain height. It is a 5-acre sports field.

- Sunil Gavaskar already has stadiums named after him in Kentucky (USA), and Zanzibar (Tanzania).
- He is the first Indian cricketer to have a ground named after him in England or anyplace else in Europe.

Sunil Gavaskar was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs and once held the record for most number (34) of centuries. He was also part of the Indian team that won the 1983 World Cup. He also became the first-ever batter in the history of test cricket to cross the tally of 10,000 runs.

474. The 18th edition of the **2022 World Athletics Championships** has been held at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, United States. The highest number of medals have been won by the **United States of America (USA)** with 13 gold, 9 silver, and 11 bronze medals (total 33). It is followed by **Ethiopia and China**.

India's performance:

- India has ranked at 33rd place, and 4th best in Asia only behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan.
- India has won only one medal (silver) in the championship.
- India's **Neeraj Chopra** has won the **silver medal** in the men's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships 2022 with a best throw of 88.13m. With this, he has become the *second Indian*, and first Indian man to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships, after long jumper Anju Bobby George, who won bronze in 2003.
- **Anderson Peters (Grenada)** has won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.

475. The Indian Olympic Association (**IOA**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gujarat State Government and the Gujarat Olympic Association (**GOA**) for the joint conduct of the **36th National Games, Gujarat 2022**.

- A logo has also been launched which depicts the Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the Gir Asiatic Lion.
- The tagline of the event is **"Celebrating Unity Through Sports"**.
- The 36th National Games is scheduled between 27th September – 10th October 2022 in six cities of Gujarat.
- The six cities include Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar.

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476. The **Yonex Taipei Open 2022**, a badminton tournament, has been held at Taipei Heping Basketball Gymnasium in Taipei, Taiwan. It is the 15th tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and also part of the Taipei Open championships.

Category	Winners
Men's Singles	Chou Tien-chen (Taiwan)
Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan)
Men's Doubles	Man Wei Chong, and Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)
Women's Doubles	Ng Tsz Yau, and Tsang Hiu Yan (Hong Kong)
Mixed Doubles	Lee Chun Hei, and Ng Tsz Yau (Hong Kong)

477. The 15th edition of the **Women's FIH Hockey World Cup 2022**, the quadrennial world championship for women's national field hockey teams, has been organized at the Estadi Olímpic de Terrassa in Terrassa, Spain and at the Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen, the Netherlands. It has been organized by the International Hockey Federation.

- **Netherlands** has won the 2022 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup for the 9th time by defeating Argentina. Australia has finished third.

Other Awards:

- **Best Player:** María José Granatto (Argentina)
- **Best Young Player:** Charlotte Englebert (Belgium)
- **Best Goalkeeper:** Belén Succi (Argentina)
- **Top scorer(s):** Agustina Gorzelany (Argentina)

478. India, Bangladesh, England and Sri Lanka have been named as the four hosts for the International Cricket Council (ICC) women's white-ball events from 2024-27.

- **India** will host the **2025** Women's ODI World Cup, for the first time since 2013.
- **Bangladesh** will host the **2024** Women's T20 World Cup, while the **2026** edition will be held in **England**.

- **Sri Lanka** has secured hosting rights for the Women's T20 Champions Trophy **2027**, provided it qualifies for the event.

The ICC has also awarded membership status to three countries during the ongoing ICC Annual Conference in Birmingham, England.

- **Cambodia** and **Uzbekistan** from Asia, and **Cote D'Ivoire** from Africa have been awarded Associate membership status, taking ICC's total members to **108 countries**, including 96 Associates.
- The two Asian teams take the total count of Asian countries to 25 while Cote D'Ivoire is the 21st country from Africa.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Important Day	Date/Month	Theme for 2022	Remark
National Chartered Accountants Day	1 st July		The day commemorate the foundation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on 1 st July 1949.
Goods and Services Tax (GST) day	1 st July		Goods and Services Tax (GST) was launched on 1st July 2017.
National Doctor's Day	1 st July	Family Doctors on the Front Line	The day commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.
International Sports Journalists Day	2 nd July		The day was first observed in 1994.
International Day of Cooperatives	First Saturday of July (2022: 2 nd July)	Cooperatives Build a Better World	
World Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) Day	2 nd July		
International Plastic Bag Free Day	3 rd July		The day was first observed in 2008.

World Zoonoses Day	6 th July		
World Chocolate Day	7 th July		The day was first observed in 2009.
World Kiswahili Language Day	7 th July	Kiswahili for peace and prosperity	Kiswahili language is widely spoken in Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.
National Students Day	9 th July		The day commemorate the foundation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), a student organization.
National Fish Farmers Day	10 th July		The day was first observed in 2001.
World Population Day	11 th July	A world of 8 billion: Towards a resilient future for all – Harnessing opportunities and ensuring rights and choices for all	The day was first observed in 1990.
International Malala Day	12 th July		The day celebrates the birth anniversary of the Nobel Laureate Malala Yousafzai, who works for women's right to education across the globe.
World Paper Bag Day	12 th July		
World Youth Skills Day	15 th July	Transforming youth skills for the future	The day was first observed in 2015.
World Day for International Justice	17 th July		
Nelson Mandela International Day	18 th July	Do what you can, with what you have, where you are	
World Chess Day	20 th July		
International Moon Day	20 th July	Lunar Exploration Coordination & Sustainability	The year 2022 marks the observance of the first International Moon Day.

World Brain Day	22 nd July	Brain Health for All	
Pi Approximation Day	22 nd July		
National Broadcasting Day	23 rd July		
Income Tax Day	24 th July		
World Drowning Prevention Day	25 th July	Do One Thing-to Prevent Drowning	The day was first observed in 2021.
World In Vitro Fertilization Day	25 th July		The day is observed to commemorate the birth of Louise Joy Brown, the World's first IVF baby.
Kargil Vijay Diwas	26 th July		The day marks victory in Operation Vijay in 1999.
International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem	26 th July		
World Hepatitis Day	28 th July	Bringing Hepatitis Care Closer to You	
World Nature Conservation Day	28 th July	Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature	
International Tiger Day	29 th July		
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons	30 th July	Use and Abuse of Technology	
International Friendship Day	30 th July		
World Ranger Day	31 st July	Diversity	

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