

PRACTICE **MOCK**

SEPTEMBER 2022

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has recently conducted the **10th** National Maritime **Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2022)** in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu. It has been inaugurated by **Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar**.
 - The theme of this edition of the biennial exercise is *"Capacity Building Towards Marine Passenger Safety"*.
 - 52 participants have joined the exercise from the ICG, the Navy, and the State police, and 24 foreign observers from 16 countries (Australia, Maldives, Thailand, Indonesia, and China).
 - The Exercise SAREX 2022 has been conducted under the aegis of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board (**NMSARB**).

Note: The 9th edition of SAREX-20 was conducted at Goa for 3-days.

2. **Indian Railways** have installed '**Meghdoot**' machines at Dadar, Thane and other stations of Mumbai Division. This unique 'Meghdoot' machines use innovative technology to convert water vapour in the air into potable water.
- The Meghdoot machines are research-driven and it does not need source water.
 - The technology is environmentally-friendly with zero maintenance.
 - The technology allows operating in a wide variety of ambient temperatures (18°C-45°C) and relative humidity conditions (25 percent – 100 percent).
 - It produces water within hours of being switched on, hence it can be used as an instant solution for potable water.
 - The technology utilizes the science of condensation to extract water vapour from the surrounding atmosphere.

A contract for setting up 17 'MEGHDOOT', Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG) Kiosks' over Mumbai Division of Central Railway under NINFRIS policy for a period of 5 years has been awarded to **Maithri Aquatech Pvt Ltd**.

The company has also collaborated with the **CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad** to produce water of the highest quality.

3. Union Minister of Chemical and Fertilizers, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has addressed the Silver Jubilee (25 years) Celebrations of **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** in New Delhi.

During the session, he has also launched the **Integrated Pharmaceutical Database Management System 2.0 (IPDMS 2.0)** and **Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App**.

IPDMS 2.0:

It is an integrated responsive cloud based application developed by NPPA with technical support from Centre for Advance Computing (C-DAC). It is intended to optimize synergies in operations in order to promote Government's thrust on 'Ease of Doing Business'. It will also enable paperless functioning of NPPA and facilitate the stakeholders to connect with National Pharma Pricing Regulator from across the country.

Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App:

The app will have updated features like speech recognition; availability in Hindi and English; share button and bookmarking medicines. This version of Pharma Sahi Daam also has facility for launching complaints by consumer through the consumer complaint handling module.

A publication titled '**An overview of Drug Pricing @ NPPA 25 year Odyssey**' has also been launched at the inaugural session. The publication highlights the evolution of the drug regulatory system in the country with special emphasis on pricing regulation.

4. The Cyber Security Exercise "**Synergy**" has recently been conducted by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (**CERT-In**), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, in collaboration with the **Cyber Security Agency of Singapore**.
- The exercise is a part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative- Resilience Working Group, led by India under the leadership of National Security Council Secretariat.
 - The theme of the exercise is "*Building Network Resiliency to counter Ransomware Attacks*".
 - Around **13 countries** have participated in the exercise.
 - The exercise is hosted by CERT-In on its exercise simulation platform.
 - The objective is to Assess, Share and Improve strategies and practices among Member-States to build network resiliency against ransomware & cyber extortion attacks.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commissioned India's first indigenous aircraft carrier '**INS Vikrant**' at the Cochin Shipyard Limited in Kochi, Kerala. The 45,000-tonne warship has been built at a cost of Rs. 20,000 crore. It will be based in the Eastern Naval Command in **Vishakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh.

INS Vikrant:

- It is India's largest ship ever built in India's maritime history.
- It is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**.
- It is a **262 metres** long and **62 metres** wide.
- The flight deck is as big as 2 Football fields.
- It consist of **specialized cabin** that are designed for women.
- It has the capacity to generate **88 MW** electricity which can illuminate 5,000 houses.
- The cables used can cover the distance between **Kochi to Kashi**.
- It can have **30 aircraft** on board, including MiG-29K fighter jets and helicopters.
- The warship can accommodate a crew of nearly 1,600.
- It is named after its predecessor, which played a key role during the 1971 war against Pakistan for the liberation of Bangladesh.

Naval Ensign:

PM Narendra Modi has also unveiled the new Naval Ensign (Nishaan). Naval Ensigns are flags that naval ships or formations bear to denote nationality. The new Naval Ensign has Tiranga on the upper left corner, and Blue & Octagon at the centre of fly side. The octagon has **twin golden borders** that take inspiration from the seal of *Chhatrapati Shivaji*. The National Emblem is superimposed on a shield. It also represents the Motto of Navy '**Sam No Varunah**'. The octagon shape represents Good Fortune, Eternity, Renewal & Positive Energy.

Earlier, the Indian Naval Ensign consists of a St. George's Cross, a red cross with white background. In one corner of the cross, the Indian flag is placed when the country attained freedom, replacing the Union Jack in that place.

6. The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has recently announced to set up **India's first Dark Sky Reserve** at **Hanle** in **Ladakh**. It will be located as part of **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary**. It will be one of the world's highest-located sites for optical, infra-red, and gamma-ray telescopes. It will promote astronomy-tourism, giving a boost to local tourism and economy through science.

Hanle:

It is located in Ladakh's cold desert region. Cloudless skies and low atmospheric water vapour make it one of the best sites in world for astronomical observations. **Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO)**, high-altitude station of Indian Institute of Astrophysics, is also located atop Mt. Saraswati in Nilamkhul Plain in the Hanle Valley.

The Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT), High Energy Gamma Ray telescope (HAGAR), the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment Telescope (MACE) and GROWTH-India are prominent telescopes located at the Hanle observatory.

Dark Sky Reserve:

It is a place that has policies to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial light interference.

The International Dark Sky Association, a U.S.-based non-profit, designates places as International Dark Sky Places, Parks, Sanctuaries and Reserves, depending on the criteria they meet.

Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary:

It is located in the Ladakhi Changthang plateau in the Leh district of Ladakh. It is home to the highest lake on earth, Lake Tso Moriri. It is also believed to include the world's highest

village, Korzok village. It is considered to be the second largest nature reserve after Northeast Greenland National Park.

7. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved **Tejas Mark-2** Project. The CCS has sanctioned **Rs.6,500 crore** for designing and developing of Tejas Mark-2 fighter jet with prototypes, flight testing, and certification. The allocation comes in addition to the existing Rs.2500 crore sanctioned to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Key features of Tejas MK-2:

- It will be equipped with **GE-414 engine** in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class.
 - The payload capacity of the Tejas Mark-2 jet will be **4 tonnes**.
 - It will be equipped with an indigenously developed Active Electronically Scanned Array (**AESA**) radar.
 - It will replace fighters like the Mirage-2000s, Jaguars and MiG-29s in the IAF's combat fleet.
 - It will perform both **offensive and defensive operations**.
8. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted test of an **Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD)** that will be used for landing payloads on Mars and Venus in future. It has been successfully test flown in a 'Rohini' sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- IAD is designed and developed by ISRO's **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.
 - The IAD is made out of Kevlar fabric, coated with Polychloroprene.
 - The IAD is developed for aerodynamically decelerating an object descending through the atmosphere.
 - IAD technology can be used in spent stage recovery and planetary entry.
 - During the test, IAD systematically reduced the velocity of the payload.
9. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently extended the tenure of the **Company Law Committee (CLC)** by one more year i.e. till **16th September 2023**. The tenure has already been extended twice in September 2020 and September 2021 which was originally formed in September **2019**.
- The Government has set up the **11-member CLC** under the Chairmanship of corporate affairs secretary **Tarun Bajaj**.
 - The committee has the mandate for examining and making recommendations to the government on various issues related to implementation of the Companies Act 2013 and Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008.

10. The Indian cities, **Nilambur** and **Thrissur** in **Kerala**, and **Warangal** in **Telangana** have become India's first entrants in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) **Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC)**.

As per UNESCO, 77 cities from 44 countries across the globe have joined the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2022. With this, the total number of cities within the UNESCO GNLC is **294**.

Thrissur:

It is popularly known as the cultural capital of Kerala. It is home to academic and research institutions. It is also known for its jewellery industry, especially gold.

Nilambur:

It is an eco-tourism destination in the Kerala. It is a city with various socio-economic patterns marked by an urban and rural mix. The majority of the population depends on agriculture and allied industries. It aims to ensure employment opportunities and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, 'zero hunger'.

Warangal:

It is Telangana's second largest city, next to Hyderabad, the state capital. It is Telangana's first archaeologically significant site to be listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC):

The UNESCO GNLC is an international policy-oriented network providing inspiration, know-how, and best practice. It is coordinated by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL). It was launched in 2013 to promote social cohesion, economic development, and sustainability in urban areas.

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11. The **Indian Army** is set to possess advanced **Quantum Communication Technology**, thereby joining an elite list of nations with indigenous quantum tech. The new technology will equip troops with a high-end secured defence system.

The technology has been developed by **QNu Labs**, a Bengaluru-based deep tech start-up, and under the aegis of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX), a Defence Innovation Organization (DIO).

This technology will help in modern-day war fare as the communication channel created using the Quantum Key Distribution (QDK) system is **non-hackable**.

12. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has recently launched a new online portal '**CAPF e-Awas**' for the purpose of allocating residential quarters to the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel, in New Delhi. This portal will promote transparency and accountability, and will abolish the 'caste system' in the allocation of residential quarters to jawans.

Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):

It refers to the uniform nomenclature of seven central armed police organizations in India that are administered by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Their mission is primarily to defend the national interest against internal threats.

The seven organizations under the CAPF are the *Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)*, *Border Security Force (BSF)*, *Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)*, *Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)*, *National Security Guard (NSG)*, *Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)*, and *Special Protection Group (SPG)*.

13. Union Minister for Road, Transport, & Highways (MoRT&H) **Nitin Gadkari** has unveiled India's **first** prototype of drone transportation of human organs to facilitate quick organ transplants in hospitals. This is an initiative by Chennai-based **MGM Healthcare**. These 'human organ transporting drones' will be able to cover a distance of a maximum of **20 kilometres**.
14. I-STEM (Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map) has launched a new initiative called "**Women in Engineering, Science, and Technology (WEST)**". The initiative has been launched by Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.
- The WEST programme will cater to women with a STEM background and empower them to contribute to the science, technology, and innovation ecosystem.
 - I-STEM will provide a separate platform to scientifically inclined women researchers, scientists, and technologists for pursuing research in basic or applied sciences in frontier areas of science and engineering.
 - The Skill Development programme will provide training for women with Science & Technology (S&T) backgrounds to brush up on their abilities.
15. In addition, a digital consortium "**Connect Quickly**" for an online discussion and immediate support has also been established through the I-STEM WhatsApp and Telegram platforms.

I-STEM:

It is a national web portal for sharing research equipment/facilities and for promoting collaborations in R&D and technological innovation among and between academia and industry, especially startups. It is an initiative of PSA under Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC) mission.

- 16.** The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** (MoPR), Government of India and the **Institute of Rural Management Anand** (IRMA), Gujarat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in Gram Panchayat Development Planning for Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (**LSDGs**) through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). This MoU has been signed at the IRMA Campus in Anand, Gujarat.
- 17.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first of its kind two-day '**Centre-State Science Conclave**' at Science City in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat. He has addressed the event via video conferencing, and highlighted the importance of 'Sabka Prayas' in the 'Centre-State Science Conclave'.
- The conclave aimed to build robust science, technology, and innovation ecosystems. It has been organized to strengthen the coordination between Centre and state governments and collaboration mechanisms in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - **Note:** India ranked 46th on the Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2021. In 2015, India ranked 81 in GI.
- 18.** Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has constituted a **47-member** National-level committee for drafting a new **National Cooperation Policy Document**. The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of former Union cabinet minister **Suresh Prabhu**.
- The new National Cooperative Policy will realise the vision of '**Sahakar Se Samriddhi**', and will have a holistic approach from PACS upwards.
 - The committee comprises experts from cooperative sector, representatives of national/state/district & primary cooperative societies, secretaries (Cooperation) & Registrars of Cooperative Societies of States / UTs, and officers from central ministries and departments.
 - The new policy document is being formulated to strengthen the cooperative movement in the country and deepen its reach, promote cooperative-based economic development model, create an appropriate policy, legal and institutional framework to help cooperatives realise their potential.

The existing National Policy on Cooperatives, was formulated in 2002 with the objectives of facilitating all round development of cooperatives and providing necessary support, encouragement and assistance to them.

- 19.** The **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**, India and the **United Kingdom (UK)** Government, in collaboration with **BAE Systems**, have successfully designed and conducted a Cyber Security Exercise, a virtual ransomware drill for 26 countries. The aim is to simulate a large, wide-spread cyber security incident affecting organisations within a country.
- The exercise is being conducted as part of the International Counter Ransomware Initiative (**CRI**) - Resilience Working Group which is being led by India under the leadership of NCSC.
 - The exercise has been facilitated by BAE Systems via the Immersive Labs platform.
 - The theme of the exercise is based on **Energy Sector** in which the respective National Cyber Crisis Management Teams of the CRI Partner Nations will have to deal with a ransomware attack on multiple electricity distribution companies.
- 20.** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** have recently unveiled Unit-1 of the **Maitree Super Thermal Power Project**. It is located at Rampal in Bagerhat district of Khulna division of Bangladesh.
- The **1320 MW** coal-fired power plant is being set up at a cost of approximately \$2 billion.
 - It is being built by **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** for Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company Private Limited (BIFPCL).
 - It is being set-up as Indian Development Assistance under Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS).
 - Unit-II of the power plant, also known as the Rampal coal-fired power project, is expected to be commissioned early next year.

Other key inaugurations/announcements:

- Both nations have inaugurated the 5.13 kilometre long **Rupsha rail bridge** built under the concession Line of Credit (LOC) provided by India. The bridge is a key part of the 64.7 kilometre long Khulna-Mongla port single track broad gauge rail project.
- The **Khulna Darshana railway line link project** which involves upgradation of the existing infrastructure linking the current cross border rail link at Gede-Darshana to Khulna has also been announced. The project cost is estimated at USD 312.48 million.
- Another railway project estimated to cost USD 120.41 million for the conversion of the existing Metre Gauge line to Dual Gauge line between **Parbatipur and Kaunia** has also been announced. The project will connect to the existing cross border rail at Birol (Bangladesh)-Radhikapur (West Bengal) and will enhance bilateral rail connectivity.

- 21.** The Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has launched the US Startup **SETU - Supporting Entrepreneurs in Transformation and Upskilling** programme in the Bay Area of **San Francisco**, USA.
- The initiative will connect start-ups in India to US-based investors and start-up ecosystem leaders with mentorship and assistance in various areas including funding, market access and commercialization.
 - The initiative will be supported through the mentorship portal under the Startup India initiative **MAARG** (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) program, which is a single-stop solution finder for startups in India.
 - The MAARG portal has been developed with the idea to be accessible from every corner of the country to connect with a mentor. A mentor will offer human intelligence in guiding the startups.
- 22.** The Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully test fired an enhanced Range **Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL)** at Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Pinaka Rockets:

- It is a multi-barrel rocket launcher produced in India for the Indian Army, and comprises a free-flight artillery rocket.
- It is designed by the Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (**ARDE**).
- Munitions India Limited and Economic Explosives Limited manufactured the system.
- Pinaka Mark-I has a maximum range of **40 km** while the Pinka Mark-I enhanced version has a maximum range of **60 km**.

Recently, DRDO and the Indian Army have successfully completed 6 flight tests of the **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM)** system from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha, and is now ready for induction into the Army.

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- 23. AgriBazaar**, a private electronic Agri mandi, has introduced the '**Agribazaar Kisan Safalta Card**' to help farmers meet their pre and post-harvest farm requirements and allied expenses.
- In Phase-I, the card will be available to farmers in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Delhi National Capital Region (NCR).

- The card has a **12-month** repayment period, and the repayment can also be rescheduled.
- The card amount is adjustable for marginal farmers, ranging from **Rs.10,000** to **Rs.50,000**.
- The maximum limit of the card can be increased annually following an annual review based on the recent crop yield and farmer repayment history.

24. The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a committee to **review the pricing formula for locally produced gas** to ensure "*fair price to the end consumer*". The committee, headed by Energy Expert **Dr Kirit Parikh**, will include members from the fertiliser ministry, gas producers and buyers. The committee aims to lower inflation and promote the use of cleaner fuel.

- The committee will also recommend a market-oriented, transparent, and reliable pricing regime for India's long-term vision for ensuring a gas-based economy.
- The committee will submit its report to the government by the end of September 2022.

25. The Union Cabinet has recently approved a policy on the long-term leasing of **Railway Land** for implementing the **PM Gati Shakti framework**. As per the new policy, the land can now be leased for a longer period of up to **35 years** (earlier 5 years) at **1.5%** of market value of land per annum, down from 6% earlier. Additionally, 300 cargo terminals will be developed in five years and will generate 1.25 lakh jobs.

Other Cabinet approvals (September 2022):

- The Cabinet has approved the implementation of the Phase-II of **Kochi Metro Rail project** from Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium to Infopark through Kakkanad. Over 11 Kilometer long metro route will have 11 stations and the project cost will be over Rs.1957 crore.
- The Cabinet has approved the launch of a new centrally sponsored scheme for setting up of Prime Minister Schools for Rising India, (**PM-SHRI Schools**). The scheme will be implemented with a total project cost of **Rs.27,360 crore** for five years (2022-23 to 2026-27), of which the central share will be **Rs 18,128 crore**.
- Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation between **India and Maldives** in the field of disaster management.
- Cabinet has approved an MoU signed between Ministries of Education in **India and UAE** on cooperation in the field of education. It will be valid for 5 years.
- Cabinet has approved an MoU between **India, the UK and Northern Ireland** on mutual recognition of academic qualifications to promote academic collaboration and student mobility. Professional degrees like Engineering, Medicine, Nursing and Para-Medical Education, Pharmacy, Law, and Architecture are **out** of the purview of this MoU.

26. **NITI Aayog**, in partnership with World Resources Institute (**WRI**), India, has launched India's first national electric freight platform, **e-FAST India** (*Electric Freight Accelerator for Sustainable Transport – India*) to enable road based electric freight transition.
- The platform is supported by the World Economic Forum (**WEF**), **CALSTART** and Rocky Mountain Institute (**RMI**) India to bring different stakeholders together, from across the freight ecosystem.
 - The platform also aims to raise awareness on freight electrification bolstered by on-ground demonstration pilots and evidence-based research.

During the event, NITI Aayog and RMI India & WRI have released a report **titled 'Transforming Trucking in India: Pathways to Zero-Emission Truck Deployment'**. The report states that the number of trucks in India is expected to more than quadruple, from 4 million in 2022 to roughly 17 million trucks by 2050. India's trucking market is expected to grow over four times by 2050

*As per the report, transportation costs are a major driver (62%) of overall logistics costs in India, accounting for **14%** of India's GDP.*

Note: India is the 3rd largest truck market, after China and the USA.

27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the '**Kartavya Path**', stretching from Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, in New Delhi. It will include the entire stretch and the area from the Netaji statue under the Grand Canopy to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The name symbolizes '*public ownership and empowerment*'.
- It should be noted that Kartavya Path is the first of the **Rs.13,450 crore** Central-Vista Projects to be completed.
 - **Note:** Rajpath was called Kingsway during British rule. It is a three-km stretch built as a ceremonial boulevard by Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker.
 - He has also unveiled the statue of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** under the canopy at India Gate that previously featured a bust of Britain's King George V, which was removed in 1968. The statue is also a part of the Central-Vista project.
 - It is a **28 feet** tall statue that is a little taller than a two-storey building.
 - It has been carved out of a monolithic block of granite weighing 280 tonnes.
 - The statue stands at the same place where a hologram statue of Netaji was unveiled earlier this year on Parakaram Diwas (23rd January) by the Prime Minister to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji.

28. The Kharga Corps of the Indian Army and the Air Force has conducted a joint exercise '**Gagan strike**' in **Punjab**. The exercise has showcased precision firepower of the attack helicopters in coordination with ground forces' mechanised columns. The exercise has

been held for 4 days. Lt Gen **Pratik Sharma**, General Officer Commanding, Khagra Corps spearheaded this exercise.

- Kharga Corps, also known as II Corps, is a corps of the Indian Army. It is based in Ambala. It is a part of Western Command. It was raised in 1971.

29. An Empowered Committee chaired by Parameswaran Iyer, CEO of **NITI Aayog**, has approved **32 beneficiaries** under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for **Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing**.

- This is the first-ever disbursement under any PLI scheme, and 10 (5 global and 5 domestic companies) of the 32 beneficiaries have been approved for mobile manufacturing.
- Padget Electronics Private Limited in Noida, Uttar Pradesh is the first beneficiary approved by the Empowered Committee.

PLI scheme for Large-Scale Electronics Manufacturing:

It was approved on 1st April 2022 with a total outlay of Rs.38,645 crores. The objective is to make domestic manufacturing globally competitive and to create domestic Champions in manufacturing. This scheme will provide eligible companies with an incentive of 4% to 6% on net incremental sale of manufactured goods.

30. The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, has virtually launched the '*Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan*' and the *Nikshay 2.0* portal to eliminate TB (Tuberculosis) by 2025.

'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan':

Under this campaign, any person, any representative or organization can adopt TB patients and the adopted patients will be taken care of. More than 66 percent TB patients currently undergoing treatment in the country have given their consent for adoption under this campaign.

Ni-kshay 2.0 Portal:

The portal provides a platform for **community support to TB patients**. Under this initiative, individuals, organisations, corporates, cooperative organisations, elected leaders and NGOs can provide support to persons suffering from TB by adopting them.

- The people and institutions who come forward to take care of the patients will be called "**Nikshay Mitras**".
- Around 13.5 lakh TB patients are registered in the NIKSHA portal, out of which 8.9 lakh active TB patients have given their consent for adoption.

- 31. 'Taragiri', the third stealth frigate** of the Indian Navy's **Project 17A**, has been launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (**MDL**) and is designed by the Indian Navy's in-house design organisation viz. **Bureau of Naval Design**.
- Taragiri is named after a hill range in Himalayas located at Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
 - The vessel has an approximate launch weight of 3510 Tons.
 - The 149.02 metre long & 17.8 metre wide ship, is propelled by a combined diesel or gas (CODOG) combination of two Gas Turbines and 02 Main Diesel Engines which are designed to achieve a speed of over 28 knots at a displacement of approx. 6670 Tons.
 - It will have state-of-the-art weapons, sensors, an advanced action information system, an integrated platform management system, world-class modular living spaces, sophisticated power distribution system and a host of other advanced features.
 - It will be fitted with supersonic surface-to-surface missile system.
 - The keel of Taragiri was laid on the 10th September 2020 and the ship is expected to be delivered by August 2025.

Project 17A:

Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019 to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.

- A total of seven ships are being constructed, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL), Mumbai and three at Garden Reach Ship Builders Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.
- The first stealth ship launched under Project 17A was the **Nilgiri**, which was launched in 2019.
- **Udaygiri**, the second ship, was launched in May 2022, and will likely be commissioned in 2024.

- 32.** The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (**CCRAS**) will offer research fellowship to young undergraduate (UG) students enrolled in recognized Ayurveda colleges across India under the **Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)**.
- The SPARK program will support the innovative ideas of young UG students and will promote evidence based scientific research in the field of Traditional Medicine. The selected fellows will be offered a financial support of Rs.50,000 under the fellowship.

- 33. All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, under the Ministry of AYUSH, has launched the **Ayurveda Day 2022** programme. AIIA has been chosen as the nodal agency for driving the Ministry's mandate for Ayurveda Day this year.
- The six-week programme will be held from 12th September to 23rd October 2022.
 - The theme for the celebration is **"Har Din Har Ghar Ayurveda"**.

34. The Ministry of AYUSH celebrates Ayurveda Day every year on **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and this year it will be celebrated on **23 October**. This year the day will be observed in collaboration with all the Ministries and Departments of Government of India so that every person of the nation is made aware of traditional system of medicine.
35. The Ministry of Finance has constituted a **six-member expert committee** to suggest measures to boost Venture Capital and Private Equity (VC/PE) investments. The committee will be chaired by **M. Damodaran**, former Chairman of SEBI.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union Budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on February 1, had stated that the government was considering to form a committee that will encourage PE/VC investments and address the industry's concern.
 - **Members of the committee:** G. Mahalingam, D.P. Nagendra Kumar, Ashish Verma, Poonam Gupta, and P.R. Acharya.
 - The committee will also suggest measures to further accelerate investments into start-ups and sunrise sectors, and to suggest forward looking measures and future ready regulatory practices, in addition to studying and emulating global best practices.
36. The first inter-modal digital **TIR (International Road Transports)-based pilot transport** along the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) corridor between **India and Iran** has been flagged off from Nhava Shewa (Jawaharlal Nehru Port), Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The aim is to facilitate paperless cross-border transit under the customs guarantee of TIR systems.

TIR:

The TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers' or International Road Transports) system plays an important role in facilitating cross-border trade, and prevents delay in operations by minimizing transportation costs. This system provides many benefits by simplifying the movement of national and international transport, giving access to over 64 TIR operational countries.

37. The Technology Development Board (**TDB**), a statutory body under Department of Science and Technology (DST), has signed an agreement with M/s Ghaziabad Precision Products Private Limited, (**GPP**), Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh to support manufacturing of indigenous components critical to SU-30MK1 Aircraft & 1500 HP Battle Tank Engine.
- **Objective:** To set up a facility for the development and supply of critically machined accessory components of '**SUKHOI-30MKI**' to Hindustan Aeronautic Ltd (HAL) and valve train components of **1500 HP 12V**, 25 Litres capacity diesel engine of Armoured Fighting

Vehicle (AFV) being developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development establishment (CVRDE), Avadi an

- d regular Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) engine to BEML.
- TDB has approved assistance of **Rs.5.5 crores** out of Rs.14.2 crores of the total project cost.

Achievements under SRIJAN Portal:

The portal was launched by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) in **2020**. The portal provides information about **defence equipment and items** that can be taken up for indigenisation by private sector companies.

- The portal has received a total of **19, 509** defence products for indigenization that were previously imported.
- From 2018-19 to 2020-21, the import burden has decreased largely due to the government's measures, which have resulted in the reduction of the expenditure on defence procurement from foreign sources has reduced from 46% to **36%**.
- The value of production of public & private sector defence companies have increased from Rs. 79,071 crores to **Rs. 84,643 crores** in last two years i.e., 2019-20 and 2020-21.

38. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and The Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**) have jointly collaborated to launch the **"Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP)"**.

- The programmes provides financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing the lives of local communities.
- The programme aims to study and work on the themes of biodiversity, climate change and land degradation through NGOs.
- The year 2022 marks the 7th operational phase of the programme.
- **Virudhunagar & Ramanathapuram** are selected as two districts representing the Indian coastal region in Tamil Nadu.

Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP):

It was established in 1992, which is also the year of the Rio Earth Summit. It is implemented by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**. It is specifically designed to mobilize bottom-up actions by empowering local civil society organizations, and poor and vulnerable communities, including women and Indigenous Peoples. The programme funds grants up to a maximum of USD 50,000.

39. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has planned to build a **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** at the site of the Indus Valley civilization in **Lothal**, Gujarat. This complex will showcase India's rich and diverse maritime heritage.

The foundation stone for the NMHC project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

The project is planned to be completed in different phases.

- **Phase 1A:** A museum will be built with 5 galleries and a naval gallery on 35 acres of land at an investment of Rs.774.23 crore.
- **Phase 1B:** Remaining portions of the museum will be built, including galleries, light house, 5D dome theatre, Bagicha Complex and other infrastructure.

Total cost of the NMHC project including Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode is Rs.3,500 Crores. The commissioning of NMHC Phase 1A is targeted to be completed by March 2024.

Architecture firm Hafeez Contractor has been appointed as the principal management consultant of the project. The EPC contract for Construction, Testing and Commissioning of NMHC Phase 1A is awarded to Tata Projects.

Lothal:

Lothal is one of the southernmost cities of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization located in Gujarat. It was first excavated in 1957 by S R Rao.

The notable structures at Lothal include an artificial dockyard, warehouse, workshop for manufacturing of stone beads, evidence of shell working, rice husk, and a cemetery.

- 40.** The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has extended the deadlines for **Thermal Power Plants (TPPs)** to install pollution control technologies and comply with new emission norms.
- The deadline for the power plants within a 10-km radius of Delhi-NCR and cities with a population of more than 10 lakh has been extended from 31st December 2022 to **31st December 2024**.
 - For the power plants in a 10-km radius of critically-polluted areas or non-attainment cities, the deadline has been pushed from 31st December 2023 to **31st December 2025**.
 - For all other power plants across the country, the deadline has been pushed from 31st December 2024 to **31st December 2026**.
- 41.** The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (**NIESBUD**) and the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (**IIE**), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), individually have signed a Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) with the Indian School of Business (**ISB**), a top-ranked global business school, to provide world class management education through entrepreneurial programmes targeted towards youth, job seekers and budding entrepreneurs.

42. The Ministry of Home Affairs has granted a one-year extension to the ceasefire agreement with **National Socialist Council of Nagaland (K) Niki group**, a split-off faction of the Naga insurgency organization NSCN, with effect from 8th September 2022 to 7th September 2023.
43. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Family Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the **Project Management Unit (PMU)** on Public-Private Partnership (**PPP**) in **Agriculture** in New Delhi.
- The PMU is a joint initiative of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**).
 - **Objective:** To enhance the income of small farmers by creating additional value, from provisioning of quality inputs, technology extension to market linkages, and value addition.
 - This will accelerate large scale PPP projects in Agriculture by leveraging the private sector investments and bring convergence of Government schemes and subsidies.

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44. The **Ministry of Coal** has aimed to enhance coal production to **1.23 billion tonnes** by **2024-25** to ensure the energy security of the country. In order to support the vision, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has adopted an integrated planning approach by strengthening evacuation infrastructure for one billion tonne production and seamless transportation of coal to the end users.
45. Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal, during the fourth Governing Council Meeting of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), has released a handbook on the subject **"Safety in Electrical Installations – A way forward to Safety by National Electrical Code of India"** and **Guide for Using National Building Code of India 2016**.

The handbook on Safety in Electrical Installations is jointly developed by BIS and International Cooper Association (ICA) India. This handbook will create awareness about Electrical Safety and provides technical guidance for wiring installations in buildings.

Three pamphlets for awareness of general public about their rights and duties while constructing their own home or buying one from a builder have also developed. These pamphlets have been published in both Hindi and English and are titles as:

- Guide for Homeowners – Series 1 Building Permit Process
- Guide for Homeowners – Series 2 Constructing your Independent House
- Guide for Homeowners – Series 3 Buying an Apartment from a Developer/Builder

46. The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has introduced a new digital publication '**BLO e-Patrika**' to establish direct communication with Booth Level Officers (BLOs).

- The bimonthly 'BLO e-Patrika' is being introduced with an aim to ensure a cascading information model for a more informed and committed BLO.
- The magazine will be available in English, Hindi and regional languages.
- The themes of the bimonthly e-Patrika will include subjects like EVM-VVPAT training, IT applications, Special Summary Revision, Minimum SVEEP Activities at polling booths, Postal Ballot facility, accessible elections, Electoral Literacy Clubs, unique voter awareness initiatives and National Voters' Day.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs):

The institution of BLO was set up by ECI in 2006. A BLO is a Local Government/ Semi-Government official who is familiar with the local electorate and is typically a voter in the same polling area.

47. Union Minister of State (MoS) Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, has launched the "**Swachhata**" Portal for the Special Campaign 2.0, which is scheduled to begin on 2nd October to 31st October 2022. It will focus on Swachhata and reduce the pendency of work in government offices.

- The portal has been developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, & Pensions.
- The Special Campaign 2.0 has been expanded to include all regional offices apart from all Ministries/ Departments and all Attached/ Subordinate and Autonomous Bodies of Government of India.

He has also released three reports of DARPG, the Special Campaign July Progress Report, the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 7.0 Brochure and the CPGRAMS Monthly Progress Report for August, 2022.

- 48.** The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash** has recently participated in a Joint Maritime Exercise with Nigerian Navy Patrol Ships (NNS) which is currently mission deployed in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) for anti-piracy operations.
- During the exercise, Nigeria has been represented by its NNS Kano, Osun, Sokoto and Nguru.
 - The exercise marks the first joint operational deployment by India and Nigeria, in support of Anti-piracy operations, in the GoG.

INS Tarkash:

It is the second Talwar-class frigate constructed for the Indian Navy. It was built at the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia. It was commissioned to Indian Navy service in 2012 at Kaliningrad and joined the Western Naval Command on 27 December 2012.

- 49.** Minister of Defence of India, Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Defence of Japan, Mr. HAMADA Yasukazu, have held the **second India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting in Tokyo**, Japan.

Key highlights:

- India and Japan agreed to uplift the security and defence cooperation, including holding the first **Air Force fighter exercise** at the second 2+2 Dialogue.
- Both nation's ministers concurred to launch the **Joint Service Staff Talks** between the Japan Joint Staff and the Indian Integrated Defence Staff.
- The Ministers also welcomed the participation of Japan, for the first time, in the "MILAN" multilateral naval exercise organised by the Indian Navy.
- The Ministers also reaffirmed their firm support for ASEAN's unity and centrality and their full support for the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)".

Note: India & Japan celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2022.

- 50.** The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) along with its National Agricultural Higher Education Project (**NAHEP**) and Crop Science Division has organized a hackathon '**KRITAGYA 3.0**' to *promote speed breeding for crop improvement*.
- KRITAGYA is: KRI for Krishi meaning Agriculture, TA for Taknik meaning Technology and GYA for Gyan meaning Knowledge.
 - This will give opportunities for students, faculties, entrepreneurs, innovators and others to demonstrate innovative approaches and technological solutions for the crop improvement.

- In this hackathon, students can collaborate with local start-ups, students from technology institutions and can win a maximum of Rs.5 lakhs.
- It is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):

ICAR commenced NAHEP with the assistance of World Bank (WB) in **November 2017**. The objective of NAHEP is to support participating Agricultural Universities (AUs) and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to the students. It was set up with a total outlay of USD 165 million for five years from 2017-18.

- 51.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** in New Delhi. The policy aims to promote smooth movement of goods across India and boost competitiveness of the Indian goods in the domestic and international markets.

It also aims to bring down the logistics cost, which in turn would improve efficiency of various sectors of the economy, boosting value addition and economic growth.

The policy was announced for the first time in Union Budget 2020. It was again announced by the Finance Minister in the 2022-23 Union Budget.

The National Logistics Policy (NLP) sets the following targets:

- (a) To reduce costs of logistics in India to be comparable to global benchmarks by 2030.
- (b) To improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking and bring India in the top 25 countries by 2030.
- (c) Create a data driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem.

Key elements of the National Logistics Policy (NLP):

- **Integration of Digital System (IDS):** It will integrate data from several ministerial departments to smooth cargo movement.
- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** It will display all modes of transport available to facilitate cargo movement.
- **Ease of Logistics (ELOG):** It will simplify rules for logistics business.
- **System Improvement Group (SIG):** Officers from ministries will monitor all logistics projects regularly to remove bottlenecks in a time-bound manner.

NLP also focuses on areas such as process re-engineering, digitisation, and multi-modal transport. An Empowered Group of Secretaries (**EGoS**) has been constituted under the PM Gati Shakti to monitor and review the implementation of the NLP.

- 52.** Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Lea Wermelin, Minister of Environment, Denmark and Flemming Møller Mortensen, Minister of Development Co-operation, Denmark along with the Indian Delegation have launched a Whitepaper on

'Urban Wastewater Scenario in India' during the **International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress & Exhibition 2022** in **Copenhagen**, Denmark.

- The whitepaper is prepared by the Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**), NITI Aayog, Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Mission for Clean Ganga (**NMCG**), Innovation Centre Denmark (**ICDK**) and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (**IITB**).
- This whitepaper is an outcome of **Green Strategic Partnership** between India and Denmark with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management between India and Denmark and their bilateral ties.
- This whitepaper holistically captures the current status of wastewater treatment in India and potential pathways for future treatment structures, co-creation and collaborations.

Note: India has committed investments of more than USD 140 billion by 2024 in the water sector.

53. The Ministry of Textiles, under Union minister Piyush Goyal, has approved **23 strategic research projects** worth Rs.60 crore under its flagship programme National Technical Textiles Mission (**NTTM**). These projects have been launched in the areas of Specialty fibres, Sustainable Textiles, Geotextiles, Mobiltech and Sports textiles.

This includes 12 projects of Speciality fibres having application areas in agriculture, smart textiles, healthcare, strategic application and protective gears were cleared, 4 projects from sustainable textiles having application area in agriculture and healthcare sector, 5 projects from Geotextile, 1 from Mobiltech, and 1 from Sportech.

National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):

The NTTM was launched by the Ministry of Textiles for positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles and improving their penetration level in the country. It will be implemented from FY 2020- 21 to 2023-24. The focus of the Mission is for developing the usage of technical textiles in various flagship missions, programmes of the country including strategic sectors. It has four components:

- **Research, Development and Innovation**
- **Promotion and Market Development**
- **Export Promotion**
- **Education, Training and Skilling**

54. The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has recently revised the definition of **"small companies"** under the Companies Act 2013 by increasing the thresholds for paid up capital from "not exceeding Rs. 2 crore" to "not exceeding Rs. 4 crore" and turnover from "not exceeding Rs. 20 crore" to "not exceeding Rs. 40 crore".

The revisions will allow more entities to come under the category of small companies.

| Criteria | Prior to 2021 | Old (2021) | New (2022) |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Paid-Up Capital | Rs.50 lakh | Rs.2 crore | Rs.4 crore |
| Turnover | Rs.2 crore | Rs.20 crore | Rs.40 crore |

Key benefits of reduction in compliance burden as a result of the revised definition for small companies are as under:

- No need to prepare cash flow statement as part of financial statement.
- Advantage of preparing and filing an Abridged Annual Return.
- Mandatory rotation of auditor not required.
- An Auditor of a small company is not required to report on the adequacy of the internal financial controls and its operating effectiveness in the auditor's report.
- Holding of only two board meetings in a year.
- Annual Return of the company can be signed by the company secretary, or where there is no company secretary, by a director of the company.
- Lesser penalties for small companies.

55. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently attended the **22nd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2022** in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**. The summit has been chaired by the President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

Key highlights:

- **Samarkand Declaration** has been signed by the member states, which contained a decision on the **Comprehensive Action Plan for 2023-2027** for friendship and cooperation among the SCO member states.
- The Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-CoHS) started the process to include Iran and Belarus as Members and granting the Maldives, Bahrain, Myanmar, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait the status of SCO dialogue partner.
- Member states have to prepare a single list of terrorist, separatist and extremist groups whose activities are banned on the territories of the member states.
- Creating a transparent international energy market and reducing the existing trade barriers and for more effective World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- **Iran** has been admitted as a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit. Iran will attend the SCO as a full member from the Summit to be hosted by India in 2023.

India at Samarkand:

- **Varanasi** was nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2022-23 at the SCO Summit.

- Uzbekistan has handed over the rotating presidency of the SCO to India. India will hold the post for one year till September 2023. India will also host **SCO Summit 2023**.
- India will take an initiative for a new SCO working group on traditional medicines and Start-ups & Innovation.
- India called upon the SCO members to give transit access to each other to boost connectivity to ensure resilient supply chains in the region.

56. The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ajay (P34)**, an Abhay class anti-submarine warfare corvette of **Western Naval Command**, has recently been decommissioned after rendering 32 years of glorious service to the nation. The ceremony has been conducted at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.

- INS Ajay was commissioned on 24th January 1990, in the then USSR's Poti port, Georgia.
- It is a part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron under the Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area.
- INS Ajay (1960) was the first indigenously built ship in Independent India, delivered in 1961 by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (**GRSE**), Kolkata, West Bengal.

57. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Satpura** and **P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft** have arrived in Darwin in Australia to participate in a multinational naval **Exercise Kakadu 2022**. This two week-long Exercise, both in harbour & sea, is being conducted in Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise area (NAXA) from 12th to 24th September 2022.

Around 19 vessels, 34 aircraft and more than 3000 personnel from 25 countries have participated in the exercise.

Theme: *Partnership, Leadership, Friendship*

58. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has onboarded **76 startups** under the '*India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge*' in New Delhi.

- The shortlisted start-ups will be provided financial support of up to Rs.20 lakh each to work in the fields of water supply, used water management, water body rejuvenation and ground water management etc.
- The start-ups have been shortlisted by MoHUA through a challenge process launched in March, 2022 under **AMRUT 2.0 Mission**.
- In this regard, a '**Startup Gateway**' has also been launched wherein the start-ups can apply and be shortlisted by MoHUA for financial support.
- The MoHUA has also launched a Toolkit for '**Pey Jal Survekshan**' in 485 cities. Pey Jal Survekshan, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, will assess cities with respect to the quality of water and the quality of water delivery to the citizens, along with sewerage, septage management, grievance redressal, water body conservation, ground water management etc.

59. General Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff, has reviewed Exercise Parvat Prahar, on his 2-day visit to Ladakh. The exercise comes as India and China are undertaking disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in eastern Ladakh.

Exercise Parvat Prahar:

- The exercise has been conducted in the **Ladakh plateau** at an altitude of 14,000 feet, by the Mathura-based 1 strike Corps of the Indian Army.
- This exercise used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by Chinook heavy lift helicopters and K9-Vajra howitzers.
- The exercise featured a display of operational capabilities by artillery guns and other key weapon systems.

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60. The Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the **SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees)** app during his visit to Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The SCALE App is developed by the **Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC)**.
- The App provides a one-stop solution for the skilling, learning, assessment, and employment needs of the leather sector.
- It will allow people from all age groups interested in leather craft to access online live streamed classes from the state-of-the-art studio at its office.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), CLRI and LSSC will collaborate to set up Common Facility and Skilling Centre across India.

61. Saudi Arabia has beaten Russia to become India's second-largest oil supplier in August 2022. India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, shipped in 863,950 barrels per day (bpd) of crude from Saudi Arabia, up 4.8% from July 2022, while purchases from Russia fell 2.4% to 855,950 bpd. Iraq remained the top oil supplier to India in August 2022.

62. Union Minister of MSME, **Narayan Rane**, has recently chaired the 18th meeting of the **National Board of MSME (NBMSME)**. During the meeting, he has inaugurated the portal for the scheme for promotion of MSMEs in North East Region (NER) and Sikkim.

- He has also launched the integration of Udyam and National Career Service (NCS) portals, which was announced in Budget 2022.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between the Ministry of MSME and Common Service Centre (CSC) in connection with Udyam Registration Portal.
- 63.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the **Dashboard of Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, for countrywide monitoring and feedback to ensure effective implementation of projects, schemes, scholarships and fellowships funded by DST.
- This Dashboard is an institutional mechanism of the DST to drive the process of building, harnessing as well as augmenting and monitoring the statistical and data analytical capabilities of the Department.
- 64.** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted 'Samarth' to strengthen the coastal security mechanism. The ship has been based at **Kochi** from Goa under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala & Mahe), Kochi.

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samarth:

- It is a 105 meter-long ship and can attain a maximum speed of 23 knots (approx 43 Kmph).
 - The ship is equipped with an integrated bridge management system (IBMS), integrated platform management system (IPMS), power management system (PMS) and a high power external fire fighting (EFF) system.
 - The ship is designed to carry a twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats, including two inflatable boats for boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol.
 - The ship has a modern surveillance system and has the power to contain oil spills in the sea.
- 65.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested a **30 kN hybrid motor** at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in **Tamil Nadu**. The test has been conducted by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** with support from the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).
- This test paves the way for a new propulsion system for the forthcoming launch vehicles.
 - The motor used Hydroxyl-terminated polybutadiene (**HTPB**) as fuel and liquid oxygen (LOX) as the oxidiser.
 - The use of liquids facilitates throttling, and the control over the flow rate of LOX enables the re-start capability.

- 66.** Indian Navy has launched two **Diving Support Vessels (DSVs)**, '**Nipun**' and '**Nistar**', in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The two vessels have been manufactured indigenously by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**.
- DSV Nistar and Nipun have a displacement of 9,350 tonnes with 118.4 metres long and 22.8 metres breadth.
 - The DSVs can conduct submarine rescue operations when required with its Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV).
 - These vessels will also be able to perform sustained patrolling, search and rescue missions, and Helicopter Operations on the high seas.
- 67.** The Government of India (GoI) has formed a 5-member high-level committee to review the marketing practices of pharmaceutical companies in India. The committee will be chaired by **V K Paul**, member (health) of NITI Aayog.

Members:

S Aparna, Secretary in Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP); Rajesh Bhushan, Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW); Nitin Gupta, Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT); and a joint secretary (policy) from the Department of Personnel (DoP) are the four other members of the committee.

The committee is expected to submit its report in **90 days**.

Currently, publicity and promotion by pharma companies is supervised under the Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), the Indian Medical Council Regulations, 2002, and also by CBDT.

- 68.** The Government of India (GoI) has approved the setting up of an **Exports Promotion Council (EPC)** for Medical Devices under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (**DoP**), which is a part of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- **Objective:** To boost exports of medical devices.
 - The EPC will be headquartered in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (**YEIDA**), **Greater Noida**, Uttar Pradesh and will have regional offices in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Hyderabad (Telangana).
 - The council will help exporters in promoting their products in international markets.
 - The council will be overseen by a committee of administration, which will have both nominated and elected members from the government and medical devices industry.

An initial funding of Rs.3 crore will be provided by the government for setting up the headquarters at the upcoming Medical Devices Park Common Facility Centre (CFC).

Note: Indian medical devices market is the fourth largest in Asia. India had exported **Rs.23,766 crore** worth of medical devices in FY22. This is an increase from the previous year's figure of **Rs.19,736 crore**.

69. The five palm oil importing countries of South Asia, **India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal** have announced the setting up of **Asian Palm Oil Alliance (APOA)** during the 25th Globoil Summit 2022 held in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. The aim is to strengthen collective bargaining power and make oil imports sustainable.

Chairman: Atul Chaturvedi, Director of Adani Wilmar Limited, and the President of Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA), has been appointed as the first chairman of the APOA.

Headquarters: APOA secretariat will be initially managed by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA).

The alliance will work towards ensuring that palm oil is recognised as a high-quality, economical, and healthy vegetable oil and to change the negative image of palm oil.

The next meeting of the APOA is expected to be held in **Indonesia** early 2023.

Note: India is the largest importer of palm oil in Asia and in the world, accounting for 15% of global imports, followed by China (9%), Pakistan (4%) and Bangladesh (2%).

70. The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has developed the **Microprocessor-Controlled Knees (MPKs)**, an intelligent artificial limb, which will benefit above-knee amputees to walk with a comfortable gait.

- Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**), ISRO, has developed these MPKs under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute for Locomotor disabilities (NILD), Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya National Institute for Persons with Physical Disabilities (Divyangjan) (PDUNIPPD (D)), and Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO).
- A **1.6 kg** MPKs will offer extended capabilities for the amputee than those offered by the passive limbs that do not use the microprocessors.
- An MPK consists of a microprocessor, hydraulic damper, load & knee angle sensors, composite knee-case, Li-ion battery, electrical harness, and interface elements.

71. The Government of India (GoI) has launched an Indian Sign Language (ISL) dictionary mobile application called '**Sign Learn**' with 10,000 words. The app has been launched by Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Pratima Bhoumik.

- Sign Learn is based on the Indian sign language dictionary of the **Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)**.
- The app is available in Android as well as iOS versions, and all the words in the ISL dictionary can be searched through Hindi or English medium.

e-content of NCERT with ISLRTC:

- On 6th October 2020, ISLRTC had signed an MoU with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**) for converting NCERT textbooks from Classes 1 to 12 into the Indian Sign Language (digital format) to make the textbooks accessible to children with hearing disabilities.
- This year, ISL e-content of NCERT textbooks of Class 6 was launched.

- Under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Centre had launched ISL versions of selected books of National Book Trust's '**Veergatha**' series.
- With the joint effort of ISLRTC and NCERT, 500 academic words in Indian Sign Language were launched. These academic words are used at the secondary level which are often used in history, science, political science and mathematics.

72. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a two-day **National Conference of Ministers of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** held in **Ekta Nagar**, Gujarat.

The conference has six thematic sessions with topics focusing on LiFE, Combating Climate Change (Updating State Action Plans on Climate Change for Mitigation of Emissions and Adaptation to Climate Impacts); PARIVESH (Single Window System for Integrated Green Clearances); Forestry Management; Prevention and Control of Pollution; Wildlife Management; Plastics and Waste Management.

During the conference, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has announced to launch the '**Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan**' programme to promote the ranking of **131 cities** in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for reducing air pollution upto **40%** by **2025-26**.

The ranking will be based only on the *actions* taken by the cities to improve the air quality in different domains and not on the measurement of the air quality parameters to rank the cities.

131 cities are categorized into three groups based on population.

- **First group:** 47 cities having population more than 10 lakh
- **Second group:** 44 cities having population between 3 to 10 lakh
- **Third group:** 40 cities having population less than 3 lakh

Annual self-assessment by cities as per the framework provided on PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities) online portal.

Cities have to report implementation of activities and measures taken in respect of solid waste management, road dust management, management of construction and demolition waste, control of vehicular emissions and industrial pollution.

Three best-performing cities in each group will be given cash awards in spirit of *competitive federalism*

73. Union Science and Technology Minister, **Dr Jitendra Singh** has recently led a high-level Joint Indian Ministerial Delegation of Ministry of Power, New & Renewable Energy and Ministry of Science & Technology to participate in the first-ever "**Global Clean Energy Action Forum 2022**", a joint convening of the 7th Mission Innovation and 13th Clean Energy Ministerial 2022, at **Pittsburgh**, Pennsylvania in USA.

He has also addressed the Roundtable on "**Net Zero Built Environment with Connected Communities**".

During the 1st Roundtable on “Sustainable Bioenergy and Bio-refineries” at the Global Clean Energy Action Forum 2022, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the **“Innovation Roadmap of the Mission Integrated Bio refineries”** developed by co-leads and active inputs from Brazil, Canada, EC and the UK.

Dr Jitendra Singh has also declared that India had created a Roadmap and Strategy for A Bio-Based Economy that is expected to reach **USD 150 billion** by **2025**.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an alliance of 121 signatory countries, has established a **Corporate Advisory Group (CAG)** on the sidelines of the 13th Clean Energy Ministerial at Pittsburgh.

- **Pranav R. Mehta** will serve as Chairman of CAG.

It has been announced that **India** will host the **14th Clean Energy Ministerial** in July 2023.

74. India as an **observer** has attended the Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP) **Foreign Ministers meeting** to support the Pacific region in the United States (US).

- Six prospective Lines of Effort and initial projects for PBP have been discussed, aligned with the thematic areas of the Forum's 2050 Strategy.
- The Lines of Effort discussed include: Climate Change Resilience, Adaptation, and Disasters.
- Other attendees included representatives from Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Japan, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vanuatu, as well as Canada, France, Germany, Republic of Korea, the Pacific Islands Forum, and the European Union.

Partners in the Blue Pacific (PBP):

It is the initiative of the **United States** and allied countries namely **Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom**. It seeks to enhance “prosperity, resilience, and security” in the Pacific by closer cooperation among the member nations.

75. Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the Vice President of CSIR, has launched **‘One Week One Lab’** theme-based campaign to showcase the technological breakthroughs and innovations in each of the **37** Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories/institutes across India.

CSIR breakthroughs in areas like Drone, Heliborne technology, state of the art Sewage cleaning machines, Aroma Mission has opened up huge opportunities for developing meaningful and equal stake partnership among Research, Academia and Industry.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR):

CSIR was incorporated by the Government of India in 1942 as an autonomous body. It is the largest research and development organisation in India. The President of CSIR is **Prime Minister of India**, and Vice President is Minister of Science & Technology. The Director General is the head of the governing body.

- **Director-General:** Dr. N Kalaiselvi

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

76. Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri, has launched **"AVGAS 100 LL"**, special aviation fuel meant for piston engine aircrafts and Unmanned Ariel Vehicles (UAV), at an event organized at Hindan Airforce Station, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- **Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL)** has become the first oil marketing company to produce and market "AVGAS 100 LL" in India.
- IOCL provides AVGAS 100 LL in its flagship refinery in Vadodara, Gujarat.

At present, India is importing AVGAS 100 LL from European countries.

AVGAS 100 LL:

- Principal grade of Aviation Gasoline, AVGAS 100 LL is designed for use in turbo charged reciprocating piston engines aircrafts, mainly used by Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) and defence forces for training pilots.
- It is certified by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the statutory body of the Government of India to regulate civil aviation in India.
- It is a higher-octane Aviation fuel meeting the product specifications with superior performance quality standards, as compared to imported grades.

Note: AV Gas market is expected to grow from the current USD1.92 billion to USD 2.71 billion by 2029.

77. Union Minister of State for Rural Development and Steel, Fagga Singh Kulaste has launched the **"JALDOOT App"** and JALDOOT App e-brochure at a function in New Delhi.

JALDOOT App:

- JALDOOT app has been jointly developed by **Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj**.
- This app will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected 2-3 wells in a village.
- The app will enable Gram Rojgar Sahayak (**GRS**) to measure the water level of selected wells twice a year (pre-monsoon (1st to 31st May) and post-monsoon (1st to 31st October)).
- The app will facilitate panchayats with robust data, which can be further used for better planning of works.
- The ground water data could be utilised as part of the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA planning exercises.

78. The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sunayna**, a 2nd Saryu-class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), has recently participated in the capacity-building exercise Operation Southern Readiness conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) at Seychelles. The joint training exercise is being attended by representative delegations from USA, Italy, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and ship participation from UK, Spain & India.

79. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the following proposals:

(a) Redevelopment of 3 major railway stations:

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal for the redevelopment of 3 major railway stations with an approximate total investment of nearly **Rs.10,000 crores**. The stations will be equipped with modern infrastructure and better facilities to tackle heavy foot traffic of passengers. These stations will be redeveloped using Green Building Techniques with solar energy, water conservation/recycling and improved tree cover. They will be integrated with other modes of transportation like metro, bus, etc.

Following three railway stations to undergo redevelopment are:

- 1) New Delhi Railway Station
- 2) Ahmedabad Railway Station
- 3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Mumbai

(b) MoU with Bangladesh on water withdrawal from Kushiara River:

Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **Bangladesh** on withdrawal of upto **153 cusecs** of water each by India and Bangladesh from common border **River Kushiara**.

This MoU will enable Government of **Assam** to withdraw upto 153 cusecs of water from the common stretch of Kushiara River during dry season (1st November to 31st May) for their consumptive water requirement.

(c) Extension of PMGKAY Scheme:

Cabinet has approved the extension for the **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**, a free food handout scheme launched as a COVID-19 relief scheme in March 2020, for three months i.e. **October to December 2022**.

- The government will distribute 122 lakh metric tonnes of food grains under the **seventh phase** of this scheme.
- **Rs.44,762 crore** will be spent as subsidy for this phase.

This scheme provides every individual covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) with an additional 5 kg of grains (rice or wheat) free of cost, along with the 5 kg of subsidized food grain that is already being provided through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(d) 4% hike in DA for Central Government Employees:

Cabinet has approved the release of additional instalment of **Dearness Allowance (DA)** and **Dearness Relief (DR)** under 7th Pay Commission @ **4%** to central government employees and pensioners due from 1 July 2022 based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for the period ending June 2022.

The 4% increase in DA and DR is over the existing rate of 34% of basic pay/pension. Thus, the effective rate of DA and DR will be **38%**.

Dearness Allowance is a cost of living adjustment paid to central government employees, while Dearness Relief is paid to central government pensioners.

80. The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) has extended the existing **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20** by another six months till **March 2023**, with effect from 1st October 2022, due to unstable global economic and geo-political circumstances and currency fluctuations.

The existing FTP was set to expire on 30th September 2022, after being extended in April 2022. This is for a second time that the current policy has been extended since its launch in 2015.

FTP: It is a set of guidelines and instructions in matters related to the import and export of goods in India. It is formulated by the Director General of Foreign Trade under Ministry of Commerce and Industry every 5 years.

Key statistics:

- India's merchandise exports during April-August 2022 stood at **USD 192.59 billion** up by 17.12% from USD 164.44 billion in the same period in 2021.
- In the first five months of FY23, merchandise imports grew by 45.64% to **USD 317.81 billion** from USD 218.22 billion in the corresponding period last year.
- The trade deficit more than doubled to **USD 125.22 billion** (April - August 2022) compared to USD 53.78 billion in the same period in 2021.

81. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, has issued clarifications on how to recruit under the 10% reservation provided for **Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)**.

- As per DoPT, people belonging to Other Backward Classes (**OBC**) communities in the State list but not in the Central list will be eligible to apply for posts and services of the Government of India under the EWS quota criteria, provided they fulfill all other requirements.
- The DoPT has clarified that unfilled EWS vacancies for a particular recruitment year cannot be carried over to the next and that successive attempts to fill these vacancies with EWS candidates should be made.
- The unfilled vacancies may be filled up, treating them as unreserved provided it does not result in excess representation in the general category beyond the number added on account of non-availability of EWS candidate.
- The DoPT has made it clear that members of the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes will not be eligible to apply for Central government positions irrespective of where they reside (even if the State of residence does not recognise their community as an SC or ST).
- The DoPT has also clarified that "family" as defined for qualification of the EWS criteria will not include grandparents, or any siblings or children above the age of 18.

82. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested the two flights of **Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS)**, from a ground-based portable launcher from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.

VSHORADS is an indigenously designed and developed Man Portable Air Defence System (**MANPAD**) by DRDO's **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)**, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners.

83. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has extended the deadline for implementation of the new battery testing standards, which were enforced amid rising cases of **EV (Electric Vehicle)** fires across the country. The standards, which were earlier supposed to be implemented by 1st October 2022 will now be implemented in two phases. Phase-1 will begin on **December 1, 2022**, and Phase-2 will begin on **March 31, 2023**.

The new safety rules will cover key components of the battery system. They are battery cells, onboard charger, battery pack design, and thermal propagation, which can lead to internal cell short circuits causing a fire in the vehicle.

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84. The **50th All Manipur Shumang Leela Festival 2021-2022** has been held at Iboyama Shumang Leela Shanglen in Palace Compound, Imphal.

During the festival, the Manipur Governor La Ganesan has distributed medals to the winners of the 49th All Manipur Shumang Leela Mahotsav 2020-21.

Shumang Leela:

'Shumang' means '*open courtyard*' and 'leela' means '*play*' and literal meaning of Shumang leela is "*play of the open courtyard*". It is a **traditional form of theatre** in Manipur. In this, the roles of female artists are all played by male actors and male characters are played by female artists in case of female theatre groups. The activities are done in the open air. It focuses on issues of moral values, unity and integrity.

85. The Education Department of **Uttarakhand** has launched an e-governance portal "**Samarth**" to provide all administrative and educational updates including information

about entrance exams, salary structures, appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools.

- 86.** The **Jammu & Kashmir Police** has launched the online Mobile application "**JK Ecop**", an easy way to use interface to facilitate common people. The Mobile App enables the citizens to use a host of services ranging from registering a complaint to downloading a copy of FIR.

A citizen can make requests like obtaining a character certificate, employee verification, or tenant verification through this App. Details about missing persons, unidentified dead bodies, traffic police, Highway status, etc. can also be obtained through this portal.

- 87.** **Delhi Police** has become the **first police force** in the country to make the collection of **forensic evidence mandatory** in crimes punishable by more than six years.

Delhi Police has already integrated the criminal justice system (ICJS) with forensic science investigation and have also collaborated with National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar to train and guide investigating officers to make watertight cases against accused persons.

- IPS Officer **Sanjay Arora** is the current Commissioner of Delhi Police.

- 88.** **Nua Khai**, an agricultural festival, is observed annually in the state of **Odisha** on Panchami tithi of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada, the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi. This year this festival is being celebrated on 1st September. It is observed to welcome the new crops of the season. **Goddess Samaleshwari** is worshipped during the festival.

- The festival was first started by **Raja Ramai Deo**, the founder of Patna State, in the **14th century**.

- 89.** The Central Government through the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) has allowed the state of **Uttar Pradesh** to launch the **Family ID Plan or Parivar Kalyan Card** for its residents. Under this, the benefits of various welfare schemes running in the state can be availed.

- Through this card, the government will issue an identity card to each family in the state, which will be a unique **12 digit card** like the Aadhar card, which will have complete information about all the members of that family.
- This card will be generated with the help of ration card data, with the help of which this process can be simplified and all government schemes can be integrated.

90. The Government of **Karnataka** has launched the Global Startup Challenge "**VentuRISE**" to recognize, reward, and support growth stage startups in manufacturing and sustainability-related sectors.
- The challenge is a part of the flagship event Global Investors Meet, "Invest Karnataka 2022", that will be conducted from 2nd to 4th November 2022 at the Bangalore Palace.
 - The **Department of Industries and Commerce** has partnered with **The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TiE)** to initiate this Global Startup Challenge.
 - E-commerce giant Amazon is sponsoring the initiative.
 - The Startup Challenge will be a 3-round challenge that will be conducted over a span of 2 months.
91. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, has given 'in-principle' approval to the proposals of the three states, **Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh**, under the Scheme for 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks', an initiative to support drugs manufacturing in India.

The Bulk Drug Parks (BDPs) will be set up in 1402.44 acres of land at Tehsil Haroli, District Una, Himachal Pradesh, 2015.02 acres of land at Tehsil Jambusar, District Bharuch, Gujarat and 2000.45 acres of land at K.P. Puram & Kodhada of Thondagi Mandal of East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

- The financial assistance to the proposed BDPs in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh will be **70%** of the project cost.
- In case of Himachal Pradesh, being categorised as a 'hilly state', the financial assistance will be **90%** of the project cost.
- Maximum assistance under the scheme for one Bulk Drug Park will be limited to **Rs.1000 crores**.

'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks' scheme:

It was notified in 2020. It has a financial outlay of Rs.3,000 crores. It aims to provide financial assistance to three states for establishing Bulk Drug Parks and aims to bring down the cost of manufacturing bulk drugs by creating world-class common infrastructure facilities.

Note: Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume.

92. **India's 1st 3D-printed Post Office** will be set up in Cambridge Layout in Halasuru, **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. The Post Office building is being constructed by **Larsen & Toubro**

(L&T). The construction of the Post Office in the 1,000-square-foot building three floors from the ground will cost Rs.25 lakh, reducing the final cost by 25%.

Note: India's 3D house was built by IIT Madras in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2021.

- 93.** NITI Aayog has recently declared **Haridwar**, the holy city of Uttarakhand, as the **Best Aspirational District** in India on the basis of five parameters. Haridwar has secured first position in Basic Infrastructure theme. With this, an additional allocation of Rs 3 crore will be made to this city.

Aspirational District Programme:

The programme was launched in January 2018. It aims to quickly and effectively transform some of most underdeveloped districts of India. Aspirational Districts are those districts in India, which are affected by poor socio-economic indicators. This scheme has been implemented along with the central and state schemes.

The parameters for Best Aspirational District are as follows:

- **Health and Nutrition**
- **Education**
- **Financial inclusion and skill development**
- **Agriculture and water resources**
- **Basic infrastructure**

- 94.** The **Institute of Integrated Learning in Management (IILM University)** in **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh** has launched the **first** National Education Policy 2020 (**NEP 2020**) Compliant Law School in India. It aims to elevate the legal education system of India.

- The school has been launched with the approval of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the recognition of the Bar Council of India (BCI).
- The school also has **Legal Aid and Advice Centre** as required by the Constitution of India, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the multiple directives of the Supreme Court of India.

- 95. Uttar Pradesh** has secured the first rank in terms of the number of disposal and entry of cases through the **e-Prosecution portal**, which is managed by the Central Government of India under its **Digital India Mission**. As per the data, the number of disposal and entry of cases in UP via e-Prosecution portal stood at 9.12 million cases till August 2022.

- Uttar Pradesh is followed by Madhya Pradesh with 2.31 million, Bihar with 859,000, Gujarat with 487,000 and Chhattisgarh with 383,000 cases.
- UP has also ranked at the top in disposal of online cases on this portal, with about 470,000 entries, followed by 170,000 for MP and 125,000 for Gujarat.

- UP has also topped in convictions related to crime against women and in cases related to cybercrime as well as convictions of arrested people in cases related to Indian Penal Code (IPC) incidents, and in the seizure of illegal firearms, as per the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

e-Prosecution Portal:

It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, and Ministry of Law & Justice. It was launched by Indian states in 2020 to support courts and the prosecution system in accelerating criminal trials in heinous crimes.

The portal provides for e-communication between the police department and the prosecution directorate under the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) that enables transfer of data among courts, police, jails and forensic science laboratories.

96. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has passed a proposal to rename the iconic '**Rajpath**', which runs from Rashtrapati Bhavan on Raisina Hill to National Stadium in New Delhi, as "**Kartavya Path**".
- The entire stretch and the area from the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose statue at India Gate to the Rashtrapati Bhawan will be known as "Kartavya Path".
 - It has 16 permanent walkway bridges among other features.
 - It is a part of the larger Central Vista project, where a new triangular Parliament building, along with the Central Secretariat and several other Government offices are being rebuilt.

During the British rule, Rajpath was known as '**Kingsway**', named after **King George V**. It was built as a ceremonial boulevard by **Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker**, the architects of New Delhi, in around 1920.

97. **Alappuzha** has recently become the **5th fully Digital Banking District** in **Kerala**. This declaration was made by Thomas Mathew Regional Director (Kerala & Lakshadweep) Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Thrissur (August 2021), Kottayam (February 2022), Palakkad, and Kasaragod have already become fully digital banking districts in Kerala.

98. The **Chief Minister of Delhi**, Arvind Keriwal, has launched **First Virtual School-Delhi Model Virtual School (DMVS)**, affiliated with the Delhi Board of School Education, and claimed that this school was India's first virtual school. The virtual school offers online

classes, provides skill-based courses, and training for competitive exams, JEE MAIN, NEET, CUET, in association with **Google & Schoolnet India**. The school is for Classes 9-12.

However, the National Institute of Open Schooling (**NIOS**) has *denied the above claim* and informed that **India's first virtual school** was already launched by NIOS in **August 2021**.

99. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various projects of **Kochi Metro** and Indian Railways worth around **Rs.4500 crore** in Kochi, Kerala. He has also visited Shri Adi Shankara Janmabhoomi Kshetram at Kalady village in Kochi.

100. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated **Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki** as the 29th district of the state. It has been carved out of Rajnandgaon district.

He has also inaugurated **Sarangarh-Bilaigarh** and **Khairagarh-Chhuikhadan-Gandai** as the 30th and 31st districts of the state.

101. Tripura has become the first state in India to have the **first modified Bio-Village**. 10 bio villages are completed, and the first bio village has been set up at Daspara in Charilam constituency of Sepahijala district.

The **Daspara village** of Tripura is converted into a nature-based lifestyle and livelihood and reduced the use of chemical fertilizers.

Notably, Tripura Government has aimed to set up a total of 100 bio villages in the state.

Bio village project:

It aims to promote green technology, and provide sustainable livelihood and food security to ensure holistic socio-economic development among rural communities. The project supports the development of solar-powered agricultural equipment, energy-saving electrical devices, biogas, and bio-fertilizers at the local level.

102. The Government of Odisha has launched the '**Community Harnessing and Harvesting Rainwater Artificially from Terrace to Aquifer (CHHATA)**' scheme with an investment of Rs.270 crore to implement the Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System (RRHS) in order to improve the groundwater table.

- A target has been set to harvest **373.52 crore litres** of water in five years. The scheme will be implemented in 52 water-stressed blocks and 27 urban local bodies of the state, including five municipal corporations.

- 103.** The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma has launched an online portal of the **“Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA)”** in Shillong. The online portal will provide a digital platform to ensure the safety and security of the residents and act as a strong intelligence gathering system for authorities. It will also assist in the health care sector and critical areas.
- This web-based online portal is first being rolled out in seven localities of Shillong- Nongrim Hills, Lapanlang, Nongmynsong, Nongrah, Pohkseh, Riat Laban, and Wahdienglieng.
- 104. Sikkim** will host three **Ranji trophy** matches for the first time in December 2022. The state will welcome three northeast teams: **Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh**, at the Mining Cricket Ground near Rangpo. Along with Ranji Trophy matches, Sikkim will also play two Cooch Behar Trophy matches, and three Col CK Nayudu Trophy matches at Mining.
- 105.** The state government of **Rajasthan** has launched the **‘Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Scheme’** at the Ambedkar Bhawan in Jaipur, Rajasthan to provide **100 days** of employment in a year to families residing in urban areas.
- The state government has allocated Rs.800 crore for the scheme.
 - The scheme is open for people in the 18-60 age group.
 - Unskilled labour will be provided a wage Rs.259 per day, skilled workers will be given Rs.283 each day and mates will be given Rs.271 per day.
- 106.** The Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a five-star rating to **Fatehgarh central jail**, Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh, for the quality of food it serves to inmates. A third-party audit, empanelled by the FSSAI, provided the five-star **‘Eat Right Certificate’** to the jail.
- 107.** The city of **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the firm **Pataa Navigations** to implement a fully digital addressing system. With this, Indore will become **India’s First ‘Smart City’** with **‘Smart Addresses’**.
- Pataa is working with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to develop a digital addressing system, and it also developed patented technology for smart city upgradation.
 - Under this MoU, **Patta app** can be used by government agencies and emergency services including police, fire department, and ambulance for providing services like E-KYC and geotagging.
 - The Pataa App is a free service and aims to help delivery providers find a specific geotagged location.

- 108.** The fourth edition of **Cybercrime Investigation and Intelligence Summit 2022** has been organized by the **Madhya Pradesh Police** through the State Cyber Police and Parimal Labs from 12th September to 22nd September, in collaboration with Softclicks Foundation, Cleartel Technology, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The summit has been held in **Bhopal**, Madhya Pradesh.
 - Ten-day summit, of which a three-day offline summit has been hosted at RSVP Noronha Academy of Administration in Bhopal.
 - The objective of this summit is to improve the knowledge and abilities of police sub-inspectors and senior investigating officers in order to effectively prevent cybercrimes.
- 109.** The **Kibithu** military camp in **Arunachal Pradesh** and the 22 km-long road stretch from Walong to Kibithu have been named in honour of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat, who was killed in a chopper crash in December 2021.
- The Kibithu military camp has been renamed as "**Gen. Bipin Rawat Military Garrison**" and the road has been renamed as "**Gen. Bipin Rawat Marg**".
 - **Note:** Kibithu is a small hamlet on the banks of the Lohit Valley in the eastern most part of India.
- 110.** The Government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched a new scheme '**Mukhyamantri Govansh Mobile Chikitsa Yojana**' to provide mobile healthcare facilities for cattle. The scheme aims to deploy Mobile Veterinary Units (MVU) in every district.
- 111.** The first-ever **Naga Mircha (Naga King Chilli) Festival 2022** has been organised at Seiyhama Village under Kohima district of **Nagaland**. The festival has been sponsored by the Department of Horticulture.
- Naga Mircha was the first product to receive a GI tag from Nagaland in **2008**.
 - **Other GI products from Nagaland:** Naga Tree Tomato, Chakhesang shawls, and Nagaland Sweet Cucumber.

Naga Mircha:

It is among the top five hottest chillies in the world based on Scoville Heat Units. It has a distinct flavour as well as aroma. It belongs to the kind Capsicum of the family Solanaceae. It is also called 'Raja Mircha', 'Bhoot Jolokia' or 'Ghost Pepper'.

Note: Scoville Heat Units is the measurement that is done to measure hotness of a pepper or a hot sauce.

- 112.** The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance scheme titled '**Pudhumai Penn**'. Under this

scheme, girl students, who studied from Class V to Class XII in state government schools will be paid monthly assistance of **Rs.1,000** till they complete their graduation or diploma. The scheme aims to benefit 6 lakh girls every year and Rs 698 crore has been allocated in the budget for its implementation.

113. The Government of **Tamil Nadu** has issued a Government Order (GO) to establish the **17th Bird Sanctaury** at **Nanjarayan Tank** in Tirupur district, Tamil Nadu. Around Rs.7.5 crore have been allocated for its development.

Nanjarayan Tank:

It is a protected birding hotspot in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu. It is spread over 125.86.5 hectares of land. It was built by King Nanjarayan as a source for irrigation. It is also known as Sarkar Periyapalayam Reservoir.

114. The Government of **Maharashtra** has started the e-registration of properties to be sold by realty developers to digitise the process, which will also involve the usage of Blockchain technology.

- The portal launched for e-registration is called '**Self Help**', this helps homebuyers to upload their own template for the agreement, which once approved can be used by the developers for several such transactions.
- With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to enable e-registrations of properties.

115. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the inclusion of several communities in the **Scheduled Tribes (STs) list** of the Constitution across 5 states, as a part of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022.

The 5 states include, are Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Chattisgarh.

Communities included in STs List:

- '**Hatti**' community of the Trans-Giri region of Sirmaur district, **Himachal Pradesh** has been granted the status of ST.
- '**Narikoravan**' and '**Kurivikkaran**' community from **Tamil Nadu**.
- '**Binjhia**', who were listed as ST in Jharkhand, and Odisha, has now been listed in **Chhattisgarh**.
- '**Betta-Kuruba**' as a synonym for the Kadu Kuruba tribe In **Karnataka**.
- The Cabinet approved a proposal to bring the Gond community residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, under the ST list from the Scheduled Caste list. This includes the five subcategories of the Gond community (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, and Rajgond).

Other cabinet approvals:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a **Value-Added Agriculture Mission (VAAM)** aimed at increasing the farmers' income in **Kerala**. The mission envisages the branding of ethnic Kerala foods so that they find markets in West Asian countries.

116. The 15th edition of **Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2022** will be held at India Exposition Mart, **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh** from 28-30 September 2022. It will be organized by the Indian Biogas Association (IBA). The expo is expected to bring in investment opportunities worth Rs.800 crore for the biogas sector.

117. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's longest rubber dam '**Gayaji Dam**' built on the **Falgu (Phalgu) River**, near Vishnupad temple in Gaya, Bihar. The banks along the Falgu River have also been developed and a steel bridge has been built for pilgrims to visit Sita Kund.

Gayaji Dam:

- The Gayaji Dam has been constructed by Rubina Company of Austria in collaboration with Nagarjuna Construction Company of Hyderabad on the advice of experts from IIT Roorkee.
- It is **three meters** high and **411 meters** long. It has six spans of 60-65 meters in length.
- The dam has a bulletproof structure with rubber sheets laid at the bottom that does not allow it to deteriorate for almost 100 years.
- This rubber dam, built at a cost of about 312 crores, will keep water throughout the year in the Falgu River.

Falgu River:

It originates in the Palamu district of Jharkhand, and passes through the holy city of Gaya in Bihar. The length of the Falgu River in Bihar is about 135 km. This river starts near Gaya at the confluence of Lilajan River and Mohana River and finally joins Punpun River.

118. The "**Food Security Atlas of Rural Jharkhand 2022**" has been launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand. With this, **Jharkhand** has become the third state after Bihar and Odisha in eastern India to have Food Security Atlas for its rural areas.

The Atlas has been prepared by the Delhi-based Institute for Human Development (**IHD**) as part of the research initiative of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

Note: Odisha and Bihar had their Atlas launched in 2018.

119. The Telangana Legislative Assembly and Council has recently approved the **University of Forestry (UoF) Act, 2022**, opening the way for the transformation of FCRI (Forest College and Research Institute) Hyderabad into a full-fledged "University of Forestry (UoF)". The university will be the first of its kind in India to provide forestry education.

The main campus of UoF will be in **Mulugu, Telangana**.

The University aims to develop Agro-Forestry models suitable for different Agroecological situations, apart from conventional forestry operations so as to reduce pressure on natural forests, economic upliftment of farming communities and enhance ecological conditions. Globally, it will be the third University of Forestry after Russia and China.

120. The Government of **Delhi** has collaborated with the Government of **Punjab** to use **Pusa bio-decomposer**, a microbial solution that can decompose paddy straw in 15 to 20 days, on 5,000 acres of land in the agrarian state to prevent stubble burning.

- Stubble burning is a major cause of air pollution in the northern region of India.
- As part of a pilot project to be implemented with the help of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), bio-decomposer will be sprayed over 5,000 acres or 2,023 hectares of land in Punjab.

121. The Chief Minister of **Manipur** N. Biren Singh has recently launched a web portal in Imphal to receive complaints and grievances from the general public. The name of the web portal is '**CM Da Haisi**' (English translation- Inform to CM). The portal enables people to quickly rectify their grievances and provides a platform to raise corruption-related issues.

122. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently reintroduced wild **Cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus)** in **Kuno National Park** in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, as part of "Project Cheetah", the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.

- India has brought **8 Cheetahs** (five females and three male cheetahs) from Namibia.
- The Kuno National Park being home to other cats like leopard and lions have abundant prey and grasslands to support cheetahs.
- Reintroduction of Cheetah holds significance as it is a keystone species (organism that helps define an entire ecosystem) of dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
- It will revive grasslands and its biomes and habitat and also enhance local community livelihoods through eco-tourism prospect.

The cheetah was officially declared extinct by the Indian government in 1952 due to issues of over-hunting, decimation of its relatively narrow prey base species and the loss of its grassland-forest habitat.

Cheetah:

The Cheetah, widely regarded as the planet's fastest land animal, is also the least deadly big cat. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened

Species classifies **African Cheetah** as “**Vulnerable**”, and **Asiatic Cheetah** as “**Critically Endangered**”.

Cheetah has been protected under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1 July 1975.

123. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** as *India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh*. With this, all villages on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received the Har Ghar Jal certification and have been verified as ODF plus open defecation free.

Three important components of Sujal and Swachh state:

- (a) Safe and secure drinking water supply and management;
- (b) ODF Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and
- (c) Cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC, action planning, etc.

On World Water Day, 22 March 2021, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were declared to have achieved 100% coverage of rural households with tap water connection. It became the third State/UT in the country to achieve 100% coverage of rural households with tap water supply after Goa and Telangana.

124. The U.S. Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) have formally launched the Doordarshan and YouTube series titled ‘**Duur Se Namaste**’ (“Greetings from a distance!”) at an event held in **New Delhi**.

- Duur Se Namaste is a new television series which promotes healthy behaviours in a post-pandemic world.
- It is a fictional Hindi series developed in an entertainment education format highlighting the challenges of a post-pandemic world and promotes the adoption of healthy behaviour and practices.
- The series is produced by National Film Award winner and Padma Shri, Nil Madhav Panda's production house, Elleenora Images Pvt. Ltd.

125. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has recently inaugurated the **9th Session of Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)** in **New Delhi**. It has been organized from 19 to 24 September 2022 under the theme “*Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*”.

- During the event, Union Agriculture Minister has highlighted the importance of the protection of plant genetic resources, which are currently threatened because of habitat loss and climate change. Plant genetic resources are critical to solve breeding challenges.

- India has also proposed an Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building Programme that will promote farmers' rights across the globe.

ITPGRFA:

It is also known as seed treaty. It is a major international agreement to conserve, use and manage Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) around the world for benefit of people everywhere.

It is a legally binding agreement that was adopted by 31st session of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2001 in Rome, Italy and entered into force in 2004. It currently has 149 contracting parties, including **India**. It was created in lines with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

126. The Chief Minister of **Gujarat** Bhupendra Patel has unveiled the state's first '**Cinematic Tourism Policy 2022-27**' to promote and develop an ecosystem for film production industries and to stimulate the tourism economy.

- Four Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth **Rs.1,020 crore** have been signed between organisations and individuals with the department for the development of film infrastructure and film production.
- The policy will be effective for five years and will help in strengthening the film infrastructure in the state.

127. The Government of **West Bengal** has approved a proposal for issuing a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (**APSEZ**) for the development of a greenfield deep sea port at **Tajpur** in East Midnapore district. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 25,000 crore.

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128. The **World Bank (WB)** has approved a loan of **USD 150 million** to **Punjab** for the management of its financial resources and improve access to public services. The loan has a maturity of **15 years** including a grace period of 6 months.

- This new project will support the implementation of the state's new data policy, which aims to bring together various social protection initiatives and reduce potential leakages while delivering essential services.
- The project will pilot two initiatives: (a) To introduce a performance-based grants system for incentivising municipal corporations to improve service delivery, and (b) To demonstrate 24x7 water supply in select areas in Amritsar and Ludhiana.

129. The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated **International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022** organised at India Expo Centre & Mart, **Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh.

- The summit has been held for four days from 12th September to 15th September under the theme “Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood”.
- The summit provides a forum to industry experts to share knowledge and ideas on how the sector can contribute to nourish the world with safe and sustainable dairying.

The last such Summit was held in India in 1974.

Dairy Sector in India:

- India's dairy sector is characterized by '*production by masses*' more than 'mass production'.
- India is ranked first in milk production contributing **23%** of global milk production followed by the United States of America, China, Pakistan and Brazil.
- Top 5 milk-producing states: Uttar Pradesh (14.9%), Rajasthan (14.6%), Madhya Pradesh (8.6%), Gujarat (7.6%), and Andhra Pradesh (7.0%).

130. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has launched multiple projects for the development of the Bogibeel region near Dibrugarh in **Assam**.

Two Floating Jetties:

- The Two floating jetties at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district and Guijan in Tinsukia district have been inaugurated.
- Both the jetties are being constructed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) over the National Waterways - 2 (NW-2), popularly known as River Brahmaputra.
- The work has been awarded to Coastal Consolidated Structures Pvt. Ltd on an EPC contract mode (engineering, procurement, construction).
- The two jetties are estimated to be built at a cost of Rs.8.25 crores and scheduled to be completed by February, 2023.

Bogibeel Riverfront Passenger Jetty:

- It has been developed by the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) as part of Riverfront Development near the Bogibeel Bridge.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs.2.5 crores.

131. A joint exercise named “**Abhyas-01/22**” between the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) and the United States Coast Guard (**USCG**) has been conducted in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.

The exercise focused towards acquainting the Coast Guards with each other's capabilities and strengthen their working level relationship towards enhancing inter-operability in the

field of maritime search and rescue, boarding operations and other maritime law enforcement duties.

It should be noted that the United States Coast Guard cutter **Midgett** has participated in the exercise.

The Chief Minister of **Telangana** K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to name the State's new Secretariat, which is under construction, after **B R Ambedkar**. The seven-story Secretariat building with a built-up area of seven lakh square feet is being built at a cost of Rs 650 crore.

132. According to the latest data shared by Law Minister Kiren Rijju with the chief justices of the High Courts, **Uttar Pradesh** accounts for more than 70 percent of the 13.81 lakh pending trials in **Fast-Track Courts (FTCs)** in cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens.

- More than 9.33 lakh cases are pending in FTCs of Uttar Pradesh, followed by over 1.4 lakh cases in Maharashtra, 1.06 lakh cases in Tamil Nadu, 71,260 cases in West Bengal and 12,538 cases in Telangana.
- Uttar Pradesh also tops the list of the states where trials in rape cases and matters under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are yet to be concluded, with more than 60,000 cases pending in the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSC).
- As many as 3,28,556 cases are pending currently in the FTSCs across 28 states and Union territories.

133. The Government of Tamil Nadu has notified **India's first 'Dugong Conservation Reserve'** in the **Palk Bay** region, covering the coastal waters of Thanjavur and Pudukkottai Districts of Tamil Nadu with an area of 448 square kilometres.

Dugong

- It is also called '**Sea Cow**'.
- It is a herbivorous mammal.
- They live in groups, grazing on seagrass and coming to the surface to breathe.
- They are found in over **30 countries**.
- **Australia** has the highest Dugong population due to coral reefs.
- Conservation Status: IUCN Red List Status: *Vulnerable*; CITES: Appendix I; and Wildlife Protection Act: Schedule 1.
- In India, they are seen in the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kutch, Palk Bay, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

134. Nagaland Prison Department has recently introduced mobile attendance application for Prison staff at the District Jail Kohima. The **Prison Staff Attendance** is a mobile app that aims to provide a comprehensive attendance management system that can make

processes hassle-free and provide a seamlessly integrated system for monitoring and tracking the employee's attendance.

The mobile app has been launched by the State Prison Department in collaboration with Excellogics Technology Solution Private Limited.

135. The Government of India (GoI) has accorded the status of '**Maharatna**' Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to **REC Limited**, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), specialized in financing for energy sectors. Earlier, REC Limited was a Navratna company under the control of the Ministry of Power.

- REC Limited has become the **12th company** to join Maharatna CPSE club.
- The company can now make investments upto Rs.5000 crore or 15% of its web price, in a single mission after its Maharatna standing.

Maharatna Status:

Maharatna status is accorded to a company that has recorded more than net profit of Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years or average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years. In order to get the status, company should have the average annual net worth of Rs 15,000 crore for three years. Company should also have global footprints or operations.

Significance of this status:

- To make quality investments
- To form financial joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidiaries
- To oversee mergers & acquisitions within India as well as abroad

Note: India has 12 Maharatna, 13 Navratna, and 74 Miniratna CPSEs.

136. The Government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched an innovative campaign '**Hamar Beti-Hamar Maan**' towards women's safety, especially for the safety of daughters, protection of their dignity, their convenience and providing them necessary services.

- Under the campaign, special women patrolling of police will be installed in girls' schools-colleges and prominent places with the presence of women and young women.
- A mobile number will also be issued for the 'Hamar Beti-Hamar Maan' helpline.

137. The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has released the five edited volumes of '**Encyclopaedia of Tribes in Odisha**', published by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute and Odisha State Tribal Museum. It has 418 research articles on the tribals, including 13 particularly vulnerable groups.

- With this, **Odisha** has become the first state of India to publish encyclopaedia on tribal communities.
- Odisha is the third largest tribal populated state in India. The state has 62 tribal communities.

- As per the 2011 Census, tribal people constitute 22.85% of Odisha's total population.

138. "ALS 50", an indigenous loitering munition (also known as a suicide drone), has been successfully tested by demonstrating its strike capability tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan.

- It is developed by **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL)**.
- It is an autonomous system that is designed for Vertical Take Off and Landing (**VTOL**).
- This munition is capable of operating from challenging terrain and high-altitude zones.
- It can accurately identify and target pre-set targets.

Loitering munition:

It is also known as a *suicide drone* or *kamikaze drone*. It is an aerial weapon system category in which the munition loiters (waits passively) around the target area for some time and attacks only once a target is located.

139. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has inaugurated the **Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility (ICMF)** of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (**HAL**) in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. She has also laid the foundation stone for the Zonal Institute of Virology (South Zone) virtually on the occasion.

- The ICMF facility is set up over an area of 4,500 square metres houses over 70 hi-tech equipment and testing facilities for manufacturing cryogenic (CE20) and semi-cryogenic (SE2000) engines of Indian rockets.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between HAL and ISRO in 2013 to establish the facility for manufacturing cryogenic engine modules at HAL, Aerospace Division.

140. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has recently approved the **Ranipur Tiger Reserve** in **Chitrakoot** as the fourth tiger reserve of **Uttar Pradesh**, after Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Lakhimpur, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve in Pilibhit, and Amangarh Tiger Reserve in Bijnor.

- The UP cabinet has also approved the notification of Ranipur Tiger Reserve under Section 38(v) of the Wild life (Protection) Act of 1972, which had previously been notified as Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary in the Chitrakoot district.
- The tiger reserve will span across 529.89 square kilometres (sq km), with a 299.58 sq km buffer zone and 230 sq km core area.
- This will be the **first** Tiger Reserve in the **Bundelkhand region**.
- This Tiger Reserve has tropical dry deciduous forests and is home to fauna such as tigers, leopards, sloth bears, etc.
- A Ranipur Tiger Conservation Foundation will also be established for the protection and conservation of tigers in the region.

- 141.** The Maharashtra Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has approved to name the **Chipi airport** in Sindhudurg district after a prominent socialist leader, freedom fighter and former MP **Barrister Nath Pai**.
- The Chip Airport was formally inaugurated on 5th March 2019. The commercial flights started at the airport from 9th October 2021.
 - The year 2022 marks the birth centenary year of Nath Bapu Pai. He was born on 25th September 1971 in Vengurla, Maharashtra.
- 142.** Lt General of Delhi V K Saxena has inaugurated the '**We Care**' initiative at an event organised at Kartvaya Path at India Gate on the occasion of 'Sewa Diwas', which is being celebrated to mark 72nd birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The aim is to spread awareness among people about different schemes of the **Delhi Police** to maintain coordination and establish a police-public interface.

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- 143. Exercise Vostok - 2022** has been held from 1st September to 7th September 2022 at seven firing ranges in the Far Eastern Federal District of **Russia**, the **Sea of Okhotsk**, and the **Sea of Japan**.
- The Indian Army has been represented by the contingent of troops from **7/8 Gorkha Rifles**.
 - The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers.
 - More than 50,000 troops and over 5,000 weapons units, including 140 aircraft and 60 warships have participated in the exercise.
 - The exercise has involved troops from several ex-Soviet nations, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.
- 144. China** has launched a new remote sensing satellite '**Yaogan-33 02**' into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite has been launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully. It will be used for scientific experiments, land resources surveys, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and relief.

- 145.** The city of Markham in Ontario, Canada has honoured the music maestro from India **A.R. Rahman** by naming a street after him. He is one of the most loved musicians worldwide. He is known as the '*Mozart of Madras*'. Some of his hit and award-winning compositions include Dil Se, Jai Ho, Ek Ho Gaye Hum Aur Tum, Rang De Basanti, and Ay Hairathe among many more.
- 146.** Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** has participated in the **G20 4th Education Working Group Meeting & Education Ministers' Meeting** in Bali, Indonesia. He has delivered the welcome address at the G20 Education Ministers' meeting under the theme "*Recovery, Re-imagine, and Rebuild Stronger*".

G20:

It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union (EU), founded in 1999, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Its members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.

- **2022 G20 Presidency:** Indonesia
- **G20's current chairman:** Joko Widodo, President of Indonesia

- 147.** India has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Madagascar** for the training of diplomats between India and Madagascar. The MoU has been signed between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) and the Foreign Affairs Minister of Madagascar. This MoU will encourage the exchange of information and content of training programmes for diplomats.

The Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service is the civil service training institute in New Delhi where Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers are trained.

- 148.** The **6th edition** of Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022 (**JIMEX 22**) has been held in the Bay of Bengal. The exercise has been hosted by Indian Navy.

JIMEX 2022:

- The Indian Navy is being represented by three indigenously designed and built warships; **INS Sahyadri**, a multi-purpose stealth frigate and Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes **INS Kadmatt** and **INS Kavaratti**.
- JIMEX 22 involves two Phases: Exercises at sea, and Harbour phase at Visakhapatnam.
- This edition marks the **10th anniversary** of JIMEX, which began in Japan in 2012.

- It also coincides with the **70th anniversary** of establishing of diplomatic relations between India and Japan.
- JIMEX 22 seeks to consolidate the high degree of interoperability that exists between maritime forces of the two countries, through complex exercises in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

149. United States (US) Air Force has successfully tested an unarmed **LGM-30G Minuteman III** Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) equipped with three test re-entry vehicles, armed with nuclear warheads from the Vandenberg Space Force Base in California, USA.

- The objective of the ICBM test launch program is to demonstrate the readiness of U.S. nuclear forces and provide confidence in the security and effectiveness of the nation's nuclear deterrent.

150. The **14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** has been co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of UAE H.H. Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- Both nations reiterated commitment to achieving the goal of **USD 100 billion** of bilateral trade in the next 5 years. They also noted the possibility of linking instant payment platforms in either country, such as through the United Payment Interface (UPI) of India.

During the meeting, the two Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) have been signed:

- MoU between Wildlife Institute of India (**WII**) and the International Fund for Houbara Conservation (**IFHC**) for the conservation of the **Great Indian Bustard** and the **Lesser Florican**.
- Another MoU between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Cooperation of UAE and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on the Establishment of the **India-UAE Cultural Council Forum**.

Note: India-UAE bilateral trade in FY22 was about USD 72 billion.

151. China has successfully tested its first fully solar-powered Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) drone '**Qimingxing-50**' or '**Morning Star-50**' with all onboard systems functioning optimally.

Qimingxing-50:

- It is a large machine powered entirely by solar panels and has wingspan of **164-ft** (50 m).
- This High-Altitude, Long-Endurance (**HALE**) UAV can stay airborne for long durations.
- It flies above **20-km** altitude where there is stable airflow with no clouds.
- The drone can operate in near-space, 20 km to 100 km above the Earth's surface, making it capable of carrying out satellite-like functions.

- It can be used in the field of renewable energy, new materials, and aeronautical engineering.
- It is capable of conducting high-altitude reconnaissance, apart from monitoring forest fires, providing communication and environment relay.

152. The **7th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)** has been held in **Vladivostok, Russia**. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the meet.

- The Prime Minister emphasised the necessity to resolve the Ukrainian problem through diplomatic channels.
- India is eager to strengthen its cooperation with Russia on Arctic issues.
- India made a pledge to an "**Act Far-East**" policy public in 2019. This policy is a crucial component of a unique and privileged strategic alliance with Russia.
- Connectivity projects like the International North-South Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor or the Northern Sea Route, will play an important role in the development of India and Russia.
- Russia can become an important partner for the Indian steel industry through coking coal supply.

153. The **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**, along with UK-based charity **Reef-World Foundation**, has recently introduced the "**Green Fins Hub**", a global digital platform for diving and snorkelling operators worldwide.

- The Green Fins Hub is the first-ever global marine tourism industry platform.
- It is expected to scale up to reach a potential 30,000 operators worldwide from about 700 operators across 14 countries.
- The platform will help diving and snorkelling operators worldwide to make simple, cost-efficient changes to their daily practices by utilising tried and tested solutions.
- It is intended to catalyse a seismic shift towards sustainability in the marine tourism sector, by hosting two types of Green Fins membership:

(a) **Digital membership** that will be available to dive, snorkel and liveaboard operations globally.

(b) **Green Fins Certified Members** will continue to be assessed annually and trained in person at their operation. The assessment process will continue to be based on set criteria using a scoring system (0-330 point system, with a low score implying low impact of a business on coral reefs).

154. The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has signed constitutional amendments that extended the nation's Presidential term to 7 years from 5 years, and brought back the old name of **Kazakhstan's** capital to **Astana** from the current Nur-Sultan.

- The amendment bar any President from running for a second term in office.
- It should be noted that Astana became the capital of Kazakhstan in 1997. The capital was renamed Nur-sultan in 2019 in honour of outgoing president Nursultan Nazarbayev.

155. The **Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE)**, a lunchbox sized instrument operated by NASA, has successfully generated **oxygen (O₂)** by carrying out the work of a tiny tree on Mars.

- MOXIE is a technology demonstration on the NASA Mars 2020 rover Perseverance investigating the production of oxygen on Mars.
- On April 20, 2021, MOXIE produced oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere by using solid oxide electrolysis.
- In each experimental run, MOXIE produced **6 grams** of O₂ per hour, which roughly equals the O₂ produced by a small tree on Earth.

156. The European Parliament has declared in a non-binding but highly symbolic report, that **Hungary** is no longer a fully functioning democracy. The declaration states that Hungary will be considered a **"hybrid regime of electoral autocracy"**, in which elections will be held regularly without following basic democratic norms.

This is the first time an EU institution has declared that its member state is not a proper democracy, an essential prerequisite to join the European Union (EU).

157. A first-of-its-kind database for tracking the world's fossil fuel production, reserves, and emissions named **"Global Registry of Fossil Fuels"** has been launched. The inventory includes data from more than 50,000 oil, gas and coal fields in 89 countries, covering 75 percent of global production.

The database has been developed by **Carbon Tracker**, a non-profit think tank, along with the **Global Energy Monitor**, an organization that tracks a variety of energy projects around the globe.

158. Chinese Scientists have successfully created the world's first cloned Arctic Wolf named **'Maya'**. The cloning of the Arctic wolf, also known as the white wolf or polar wolf, which is native to the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands, is considered a milestone achievement in conserving rare and endangered species through cloning technology.

Cloning:

It is the process of creating copies of living organisms, including cells, tissues, etc. It was first used to create an animal in 1996 by a Scottish scientist. The animal, a sheep named **Dolly**, was made using an udder cell from an adult sheep.

- 159.** The **Israeli Navy** has successfully tested the newest generation of anti-ship missiles namely '**Gabriel V**' which is the 5th generation of the anti-ship missile developed by the Israeli Aerospace Industries and the Defence Ministry's Research and Development (MAFAT).
- It is a surface-to-surface missile, also known as the Blue Spear, and ANAM (Advanced Naval Attack Missile).
 - The missile is installed in Sa'ar 6 corvettes (INS Oz).
 - It is an advanced long-range sea-launched missile system capable of flying hundreds of kilometers in varying sea and air conditions.
 - It has a range of 290 kilometres.
 - It is equipped with an active radar seeker with superior anti-jamming capabilities and all-weather capabilities.
- 160.** **China** has successfully launched two new Experimental satellites '**Shiyan-14**' and '**Shiyan-15**' using the **Kuaizhou-1A** carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern province of Shanxi, China. This marks the 18th flight mission of the Kuaizhou-1A series rocket.
- The name '**Shiyan**' means '**experiment**' in Chinese language.
 - Shiyan-14 will be used for scientific experiments and new technology verification.
 - Shiyan-15 will be used for land survey, urban planning, and disaster prevention, and mitigation.
- 161.** A classified satellite for the **U.S.** National Reconnaissance Office has launched into orbit aboard a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Delta 4 Heavy rocket. The '**NROL-91**' spy satellite lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California's Santa Barbara County. This is the last launch of a Delta 4 from the West Coast.
- The Deltas are replaced by ULA's next-generation Vulcan Centaur rockets.
 - The Delta IV Heavy configuration first launched in December 2004.
 - This is the 387th flight of a Delta rocket since 1960 and the 95th and final launch from Vandenberg.
- 162.** The **Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)**, the world's first planetary defence technology demonstration, of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (**NASA**) has successfully smashed into the asteroid **Dimorphos** 6.8 miles from Earth.
- DART targeted the asteroid moonlet Dimorphos, a small body with just 530 feet in diameter that orbits a larger asteroid Didymos which is 2,560 feet.
 - The mission has been controlled at the John Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) in Laurel, Maryland, USA.

Note: Dimorphos is an asteroid that was discovered in 1996 and is about 9.6 million kilometres from Earth.

163. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a **USD 14 billion** funds to fight the food security crisis in the Asia Pacific, threatened by adverse climate and exacerbated by Russia-Ukraine war choking supply lines, triggering soaring food prices. The announcement has been made during the 55th annual meeting of ADB held in Manila, Philippines.

- USD 3.3 billion of the total funding is earmarked for 2022, the rest of USD 10.7 billion will be spread over 2023-25.
- The assistance from the funding programme seeks to leverage an additional USD 5 billion in private sector co-financing for food security.

ADB has lowered the economic growth forecast for Asia and the Pacific for 2022 to **4.3 percent** from its April projection of 5.2 percent. For 2023, it has been lowered to **4.9 percent** from 5.3 percent.

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164. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (**EAC-PM**) has released the '**Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100**'. The roadmap is a collaborative endeavour between the EAC-PM and The Institute for Competitiveness and is developed by Dr Amit Kapoor, Chair, Institute for Competitiveness, Professor Michael E. Porter and Dr Christian Ketels of Harvard Business School.

'Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100':

It is based on the Competitiveness framework developed by **Professor Michael E. Porter**.

This roadmap guides the way for India to become a high-income country by **2047** through sector-specific and region-specific policies based on the '**4 S**' principles.

The '**4 S**' guiding principles redefine the approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by **social** progress, to be **shared** across all regions within India, to be environmentally **sustainable**, and to be **solid** in the face of external shocks. Thus, the '**4 S**' guiding principles will pave the way for resilient and holistic development.

The roadmap forecasts that Indian economy will reach **USD 20 trillion** by 2047, assuming average annual growth between 7-7.5% over the next 25 years.

- 165.** Forbes Asia has released the second edition of the list titled '**Forbes Asia-100 to Watch**'. The list highlights small companies and start-ups on the rise across the Asia-Pacific region.
- The list 2022 has featured **11 start-up companies** from India.
 - **Singapore** has topped the list with 19 companies, followed closely by 16 start-ups from Hong Kong, 15 from South Korea, and 13 from China.
 - According to Forbes, 15 countries and territories are represented across 11 categories that include biotechnology and healthcare, e-commerce and retail, and finance.

| Indian start-ups 'Forbes Asia-100 to Watch' 2022 | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Company | CEO | Establishment Year | Category |
| TartanSense | Jaisimha Rao | 2015 | Agriculture |
| Pocket FM | Rohan Nayak | 2018 | Entertainment & Media |
| Park+ | Amit Lakhotia | 2019 | Logistics & Transportation |
| Gramheet | Pankaj Prakash | 2020 | Agriculture |
| GoKwik | Chirag Taneja | 2020 | E-commerce & Retail |
| FRND | Bhanu Pratap Singh Tanwar | 2018 | Consumer Technology |
| Euler Motors | Saurav Kumar | 2018 | Logistics & Transportation |
| Bijnis | Siddharth Vij | 2015 | E-commerce & Retail |
| Bijak | Nakul Upadhye | 2019 | Agriculture |
| Animall | Neetu Yadav | 2019 | Agriculture |
| Agrostar | Shardul Sheth | 2013 | Agriculture |

- 166.** Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, has released a report titled '**Globalise to Localise: Exporting at Scale and Deepening the Ecosystem are Vital to Higher Domestic Value Addition**'.
- The report investigates how India can reach its goals of **USD 300 billion** in electronics production and **USD 120 billion** in exports by **2025-26**.
 - The report is prepared by the India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (**ICRIER**), in collaboration with the India Cellular and Electronics Association (**ICEA**).

Key highlights:

- As per the report, **China and Vietnam** have adopted the mantra of '**first globalize, then localize**', which means in the initial years they were determined to achieve global scale in exports, and then shifted their emphasis to greater use of local contents.
- The report analyses the empirical relationship between exports and the share of domestic value addition in successful nations.
- Immediate objectives should be to export at scale to global markets, and thereafter to increase the share of local content.
- India has a manufacturing economy worth **USD 76 billion** with USD 16 billion of exports, with a target of **USD 21 to USD 25 billion** of exports in next year.
- Mobile phones are the single largest component of India's electronics exports.

ICRIER:

ICRIER is an autonomous economic policy think tank, in operation since 1981. The goal is to help Indian policymakers make informed decisions, facilitated through its rigorous analytical research, objective policy advice and extensive networking events.

Director & Chief Executive of ICRIER: Deepak Mishra

ICEA:

ICEA is the apex industry body for the mobile and electronics industry comprising manufacturers, brand owners, technology providers, VAS application & solution providers, distributors, and retail chains of mobile handsets and electronics.

Chairman of ICEA: Pankaj Mohindroo

- 167.** As per the recent data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has expanded **13.5%** in the first quarter of FY22-23 (**Q1 FY23**). This is less than Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) projection of 16.2%. India's GDP growth in Q1 FY22 was 20.1%.
- Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of **Rs 36.85 trillion**, as against Rs 32.46 trillion in Q1 2021-22.
 - As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by **12.7%** to Rs 34.41 trillion in April-June 2022.
 - Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated at **Rs 64.95 trillion** against Rs 51.27 trillion in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 26.7% compared to 32.4% a year ago.
- 168.** Rating-agency **Moody's** Investors Service, in its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for 2022 to **7.7%** from 8.8% estimated earlier in May 2022. It has also lowered India's GDP forecast for 2023 to 5.2% from 5.4%.

Other agency forecast:

Goldman Sachs has lowered India's full-year 2022 GDP growth forecast to **7%** from 7.6% and has also lowered the current fiscal year (FY23) estimates by 20 basis points from 7.2%.

- 169.** The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released the quarterly bulletin of the **15th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** for **April-June 2022**.

Unemployment Rate (UR):

It is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

As per the survey, the Unemployment Rate (UR) for people aged 15 and above in urban areas has lowered to **7.6%** in April-June 2022 from 12.6% in 2021. It was 8.2 percent in January-March 2022.

UR among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas has declined to **9.5 percent** in April-June 2022 from 14.3 percent a year ago. It was 10.1 percent in January-March 2022.

UR among male in urban areas has declined to **7.1 percent** in April-June 2022 from 12.2 percent a year ago. It was 7.7 percent in January-March 2022.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):

It is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

As per the survey, LFPR in CWS (Current Weekly Status) in urban areas for persons aged 15 years and above has increased to **47.5 percent** in April-June 2022, from 46.8 percent in the same period a year ago. It was 47.3 percent in January-March 2022

Worker Population Ratio (WPR):

It is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

As per the survey, WPR (in percent) in CWS in urban areas for persons aged 15 years and above has increased at **43.9 percent** in April-June 2022, from 40.9 percent in the same period a year ago. It was 43.4 percent in January-March 2022.

- 170.** As per the latest Bloomberg report, which has cited GDP figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), **India** has become the world's **fifth-largest economy** after surpassing the **United Kingdom**. A decade ago, India ranked 11th among the largest

economies, while the UK was 5th. Indian economy is likely to grow by more than 7% this year.

According to the report, the size of the Indian economy in 'nominal' cash terms in the quarter through March was \$854.7 billion while the UK was \$816 billion.

UK's ranking has slipped to 6th spot due to increase in the cost of living.

Top 4 world economies: USA (1st), China (2nd), Japan (3rd), and Germany (4th).

171. The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has topped among all Ministries and Departments in resolving Public Grievances in the ranking report published by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances for the month of August 2022. UIDAI has been a top performer in the resolution of cases received through the *Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)*.

In addition, UIDAI will launch State-of-the-art Open Source new **Customer Relationship Management (CRM)** solution. The new CRM solution will have the capability to support multi-channels like Phone Calls, Emails, chatbots, Web portals, Social Media, letters, and walk-ins through which the grievances can be lodged, tracked and resolved effectively.

CPGRAMS:

It is an online platform developed by *National Informatics Centre*. It is available to citizens 24x7 to lodge their grievances to public authorities on any subject related to service delivery. It is a single portal connected to all Ministries/Departments of Government of India and states. It is launched under *Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions*.

172. As per the 'Global Economic and Insurance Outlook' report published by the Swiss Re Institute, India will become the sixth largest insurance market in the world by 2032, supported by regulatory push and rapid economic expansion.

- Total insurance premiums in India will grow by an average 14 percent per annum in nominal local currency terms over the next decade, making India the 6th largest in terms of total premium volume by 2032 from 10th largest in 2021.
- The Indian life insurance industry will grow at an exceptional rate of 6.6 percent (in real terms) in 2022 and further grow at 7.1 percent in 2023.
- The life insurance premiums in India are set to cross USD 100 billion for the first time in 2022.
- The non-life insurance market has returned to a growth of 5.8 percent (in real terms) in 2021 after a slight contraction in 2020.

173. NITI Aayog has released the **4th progress report on the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyan**, titled '*Preserving Progress on*

Nutrition in India: Poshan Abhiyan in Pandemic Times'. The report covers the period from January to December 2020.

Key highlights of the report:

Larger States:

- As per the report, **Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat** have been ranked as the top three states among larger states in terms of the overall implementation of the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The report states that 12 out of 19 large states had an implementation score of over 70 percent.
- Top-5 Larger states: Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Punjab and Bihar were the lowest performers among larger states.

Smaller States:

- Among the smaller states, **Sikkim** is the best performer.
- Sikkim is followed by Meghalaya, Tripura, Goa, and Nagaland.

Union Territories:

- **Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu** has topped among Union Territories (UTs), followed by Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Jammu & Kashmir, and Lakshadweep.

The report highlights that only 17 states and UTs had more than 75 percent of children 12-23 months of age who were fully immunised, while 11 states and UTs had less than 25 percent fully immunised children.

In terms of Women & Child Development (WCD) programme coverage, many states and UTs have distributed take-home rations (THR) to all beneficiaries.

POSHAN Abhiyan:

It is a flagship programme of the Government of India. It was launched in 2018. It draw national attention to and take action against malnutrition in a mission mode. It is a scheme under the ICDS umbrella which converge with other programs and service delivering nutrition interventions during the first 1,000-day period.

Targets of the mission: To deliver a high-impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life; Strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management; Improve the capacity of frontline workers (FLWs); Facilitate cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition, and Enhance behaviour change and community mobilisation.

- 174.** As per the new study published in the scientific journal **Nature Climate Change**, India's updated climate pledge to the Paris Agreement has been ranked **fifth** in compliance and **fourth** in ambition.

The study included eight countries: India, the US, China, Australia, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Australia and Brazil, and the European Union.

Key facts from the study:

- **European Union (EU)** has topped overall while the United States has been ranked last in compliance and second to last in ambition.
- In the compliance category, the EU is followed by China, Australia, South Africa, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and the US.
- In the ambition category, the EU is followed by China, South Africa, India, Australia, Brazil, Russia, the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Paris Agreement/Paris Accords:

It is a global treaty wherein some 200 countries agreed to cooperate to reduce GHG (Green House Gases) emissions and rein in climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on **12 December 2015** and entered into force on **4 November 2016**. The agreement seeks to limit global warming to well below **2°C**, preferably to **1.5°C**, compared to pre-industry levels.

- 175.** The total Goods & Services Tax (GST) revenue collected in the month of August 2022 is **Rs. 1,43,612 crore** of which CGST is Rs. 24,710 crore, SGST is Rs.30,951 crore, IGST is Rs.77,782 crore (including Rs. 42,067 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs.10,168 crore (including Rs.1,018 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenues for the month of August 2022 are 28% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year of Rs. 1,12,020 crore.

- 176.** The 28th edition of **'India's External Debt: A Status Report 2021-22'** has been published by the External Debt Management Unit (EDMU) under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF).
- As per the report, India's external debt has increased from USD 573.7 billion at the end-March 2021 to **USD 620.7 billion** at the end-March 2022, an increase of **8.20%**.
 - U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt.
 - External Debt as a ratio of GDP declined to **19.9%** at the end-March 2022, down from 21.20% at end-March 2021.
 - At the end-March 2022, the ratio of foreign currency reserves to external debt was 97.8%, down from 100.6% at end-March 2021.

- Due to the increased grant of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the IMF during 2021-22, Sovereign External Debt (SED) stood at **USD 130.7 billion** by the end-March 2022, an increase of 17.1% over end-March 2021.
- Non-Sovereign External Bond has increased by **6.1%** from end-March 2021.

External debt refers to money borrowed from outside the country and has to be paid back in currency in which it is borrowed. It can be obtained from foreign commercial banks, international financial institutions like IMF, World Bank etc. and from foreign governments.

177. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has released the **2021 Human Development Index (HDI)**. The report states around 90 percent of countries registered a decline in their HDI value in 2020 or in 2021. For the first time on record, the global Human Development Index (HDI) has dropped for two years in a row, taking the world back to just after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement.

The highest contributor to the HDI's recent decline is a global drop in **life expectancy**, down from 72.8 years in 2019 to **71.4 years** in 2021. Globally, Expected years of schooling was recorded at **12.8 years**, Mean years of schooling at **8.6 years** and Gross National Income per capita at **\$16,752**.

In the index, **Switzerland** has topped with 0.962 HDI value, followed by Norway and Iceland.

| HDI rank | Country | HDI Value 2021 |
|------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Switzerland | 0.962 |
| 2 | Norway | 0.961 |
| 3 | Iceland | 0.959 |
| 4 | Hong Kong | 0.952 |
| 5 | Australia | 0.951 |
| 21 | United States | 0.921 |
| 79 | China | 0.768 |
| 191 | South Sudan | 0.385 |

India's performance:

- India has been ranked **132nd** with the HDI value of **0.633** among 191 countries and territories.
- In the 2020 report, India had ranked 131st (HDI value: 0.645) among 189 countries and territories.
- The index has placed the country in the **medium human development category**.

- In 2021, India's life expectancy at birth was recorded at **67.2 years**; expected years of schooling at **11.9 years**; mean years of schooling at **6.7 years**; and gross national income per capita at **\$6,590**.

India's neighbours: Sri Lanka (73rd), China (79th), Bangladesh (129th), and Bhutan (127th) are ranked above India, while Pakistan (161st), Nepal (143rd), and Myanmar (149th) are ranked below India.

Human Development Index (HDI):

Pakistani economist **Mahbub -ul-Haq** developed Human Development Index (HDI) as a measure to track progress on three key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to education, and a decent standard of living in 1990 with the objective "people are the real wealth of nations".

It is calculated using the following four parameters:

- Life expectancy at birth
- Mean years of schooling
- Expected years of schooling
- Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

178. According to the Ecowrap report published by the State Bank of India (SBI's) Economic Research Department (ERD), **India** will become the world's **3rd largest economy** by **2029**. It is likely to surpass Germany in 2027, and Japan by 2029 at the current growth rate.

- The report is authored by Soumya Kanti Ghosh, Group Chief Economic Adviser, SBI.

Key points:

- In Q1 FY23, India registered GDP growth at 13.5%.
- In August 2022, SBI Ecowrap projected India's GDP in Q1FY23 at 15.7%.
- India's current share of nominal GDP (2022) is 3.5% with USD 3894 million, as against 2.6% in 2014 and is likely to cross 4% in 2027, the current share of Germany in global GDP.
- The report suggested updating the IIP (Index of Industrial Production) basket of India which is currently composed of 2021 products.

179. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report titled "**G20 GDP Growth-Second Quarter of 2022**", India's gross domestic product (GDP) in Q2 (June-August 2022) has declined by **1.4 percent** when adjusted for seasonality. The main reasons for the slowdown were decreases in government spending and net trade (exports minus imports).

- India was the second worst performer among the G20 nations, after only China.
- However, India remained the fastest growing economy among G20 nations in the June quarter, when growth was calculated on a year-on-year basis.

- The G20 GDP contracted **0.4%** quarter on quarter in the Q2 of 2022.
- **Saudi Arabia** (2.2 percent) and **Turkiye** (2.1 percent) have registered the highest growth in the quarter.

180. According to the annual report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural (UNESCO), India has faced an acute shortage of **pupil-teacher ratio** over the last **10 years**.

- According to Ministry of Education, in Primary Schools, the pupil teacher ratio which was at 43 in 2010-11 has come down to **26.3** in **2020- 21**.
- While in Upper Primary schools, the pupil-teacher ratio has reduced from 33 in 2010-11 to **18.9** in **2020-21**.

181. The **6th National Health Account (NHA) estimates for India 2018-19** has been prepared by the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHSRC), designated as National Health Accounts Technical Secretariat (NHATS) in 2014 by the Union Health Ministry.

- The NHA estimates are prepared by using an accounting framework based on the internationally accepted standard of System of Health Accounts, 2011, developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Key highlights:

- The NHA estimates for 2018-19 show that there has been an increase in the share of government health expenditure in the total GDP of the country. It has increased from 1.15% in 2013-14 to **1.28%** in 2018-19.
- The share of Government Health Expenditure in Total Health Expenditure has also increased from 28.6% (2013-14) to **40.6%** (2018-19).
- Government's health expenditure as a percentage of Current Health Expenditure has increased from 23.2% in 2013-14 to 34.5% in 2018-19.
- The per capita government spending on healthcare has increased by **74%** since 2013-14, i.e., Rs. 1042 to **Rs. 1815** in 2018-19.
- The social safety net for healthcare expenditure has increased to 9.6 percent in 2018-19 from 9 percent in the 2017-18.
- Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (**OOPE**) as percentage of total health expenditure has declined substantially by **16%** points, from 64.2% to **48.2%**.
- Out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of current health expenditure has also declined over time from 69.1% in 2013-14 to 53.2% in 2018-19.
- Per capita out-of-pocket expenditure in the country has decreased by 8% since 2013-14, from Rs. 2,366 to Rs. 2,155 currently.

- 182.** Inflation based on the **wholesale price index (WPI)** has declined to **12.41 percent** in **August 2022** as against 13.93 percent in July 2022. The WPI in August 2021 was 11.64 per cent.
- Food inflation has increased to 12.37 percent in August 2022, as prices of wheat, vegetables, fruits and protein-rich items shot up, compared to their level a year ago.
 - Inflation for fuel (33.67 percent) and manufactured (7.51 percent) items have declined.
 - The wholesale inflation rate for **June 2022** has been revised to **16.23%** from 15.18% estimated earlier by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- 183.** As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's inflation based on the **consumer price index (CPI)** has increased to **7%** in **August 2022** as against 6.71% in July 2022 mainly due to higher food prices. This has been above RBI's upper tolerance limit of 6% for eight consecutive months.

Inflation in food basket was 7.62% in August 2022, up from 6.69% in July 2022 and 3.11% in August 2021.

Industrial growth, as measured by the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, eases to **2.4%** in **July 2022** as compared to 12.3% in June 2022.

- The manufacturing sector's output grew 3.2% in July 2022.
- The mining output contracted 3.3% while power generation increased 2.3% during the same period.
- Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investments, rose 5.8% in July 2022.
- The consumer durables segment grew 2.4% compared to 19.4% growth a year ago.
- The primary goods segment, which accounts for nearly 34% of the index, expanded 2.5% in July 2022 as compared to 12.4% growth in the year-ago period.

- 184.** As per the list released by the Central Zoo Authority, the **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZA)** in Darjeeling, West Bengal has been recognized as the best zoo in India. The PNHZA was established on 14th August 1958. The zoological park is internationally recognised for its breeding and conservation programmes of endangered animal species of the eastern Himalayas, including the Snow Leopard and the Red Panda.

A zoo directors' conference has been held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where the Central Zoo Authority released the ranking list. There are around 150 zoos across the country.

- As per the list, the **Arignar Anna Zoological Park** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu has secured the second position, followed by the **Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens** in Mysore, Karnataka.
- Kolkata's Alipore Zoological Garden has secured the fourth position.

185. As per the Kantar Brandz Top-75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2022 report, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has emerged as India's most valuable brand, with a brand value of **USD 45.5 Billion**.

- TCS has replaced HDFC Bank, which held the number one spot since 2014. HDFC Bank (USD 32.7 billion) has ranked number two on the 2022 rankings.
- HDFC Bank is followed by Infosys (USD 29.2 billion), and Airtel (USD 17.4 billion).

The combined value of India's top-75 brands are worth USD 393 billion, that is equivalent to 11 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

186. Fitch Ratings, a global ratings agency, has slashed India's economic growth forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to **7 percent** from its June 2022 estimate of 7.8 percent in its Global Economic Outlook-September 2022 special report.

It now forecasts a further slowdown in India's GDP in FY24 to **6.7 percent** as compared to its earlier forecast of 7.4 percent.

187. India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) has recently lowered India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 by 10 basis points to **6.9%** from 7.0% earlier. As per Ind-Ra, the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** has increased from USD 13.4 billion (1.5% of GDP) in the January-March quarter (Q4 FY22) to USD 28.4 billion (3.4% of GDP) in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY23).

188. According to the Verite Research, a Colombo-based independent interdisciplinary think-tank, **India** has become the top lender to Sri Lanka in 2022, disbursing **USD 377 million** in loans to the island nation as it faced political crisis and economic unrest.

- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) follows India with USD 360 million in loans. They account for 76 percent of total disbursements from January to April 2022.
- Between 2017 and 2021, China has been the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka.

189. Blockchain analysis platform Chainalysis published its 3rd edition of the **2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index**. The report ranks 154 countries on the basis of the following five sub-indexes:

- (a) On-chain cryptocurrency value received at centralized exchanges, weighted by purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita.
- (b) On-chain retail value received at centralized exchanges, weighted by PPP per capita.
- (c) Peer-to-peer (P2P) exchange trade volume, weighted by PPP per capita and number of internet users.
- (d) On-chain cryptocurrency value received from DeFi protocols, weighted by PPP per capita.

(e) On-chain retail value received from DeFi protocols, weighted by PPP per capita

Key points:

- **Vietnam** has topped the index for the second consecutive year with an overall index ranking of 1.
- It is followed by Philippines (0.753), and Ukraine (0.694).
- **India** has secured the **4th rank** with an index score of 0.663.

In the index, **Ten are lower middle income countries:** Vietnam, Philippines, Ukraine, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Morocco, Nepal, Kenya, and Indonesia; **Eight are upper middle income countries:** Brazil, Thailand, Russia, China, Turkey, Argentina, Colombia, and Ecuador; and **Two are high income countries:** United States and United Kingdom.

190. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, in its September 2022 update of the report titled “Asian Development Outlook 2022: Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age” has lowered India's GDP Growth forecast for **FY23** by **0.2 percent** i.e. from 7.2% to **7%** due to high inflation and monetary tightening.

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191. Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the “**Swachhta Pakhwara 2022**” and has also released the Annual report on Environment Sustainability 2020-21 in New Delhi.

- Ministry of Railways is observing Swacchata Pakhwara from **16th September to 2nd October 2022**.
- Its focus is **Seva, Sushasan, and Gareeb Kalyan**.
- The participating ministries will focus on an intensive cleanliness campaign, service for TB (Tuberculosis) patients, and Mega Blood Donation Drive.

The annual report on Environment Sustainability 2020-21 is a comprehensive document highlighting the steps taken by Railways to promote green and clean energy. This report brings out Railways' effort towards net zero emission.

192. According to the **Global Wealth Report 2022** by Credit Suisse, India witnessed a **12 percent** year-on-year (YoY) jump in total household wealth in FY21, at **\$14,225 billion**. The report also forecasts the number of millionaires in the country to more than double from 796,000 in 2021 to 1.6 million in 2026. Wealth per adult also saw an increase of 9% in 2021 to stand at \$15,535.

- The report highlighted that India's Gini coefficient has steadily increased from 74.7 in 2000 to 82.3 in 2021.
- India houses about **1 percent** of the world's millionaires.

193. According to a report (July 2022) released by the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), **Andhra Pradesh** has emerged as India's top investment destination, attracting investments worth Rs 40,361 crore between January-July 2022. Andhra Pradesh is followed by Odisha with Rs 36,828 crore.

- India's actual industrial investment between January and July stood at Rs.1,71,285 crore.
- Both Andhra Pradesh and Odisha accounted for 45% of total investment inflows to India during this period.

194. The Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, has released a report titled "**India Tourism Statistics 2022**" on World Tourism Day 2022 (27th September) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, The report is prepared by the Ministry of Tourism.

Key highlights of the report:

- **Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu** have emerged as the top destination for foreign tourists in 2021, with 1.26 million and 1.23 million foreign tourist visits, respectively, in 2021.
- India has received **677.63 million** domestic tourist visits in 2021, an increase of 11.05% from 610.22 million in 2020.
- The total number of foreign visitors in 2021-22 was **3,18,673**, a 23.4% decline from 4,15,859 in 2020-21.
- UAE was the leading source country for Indian National Departures (INDs), followed by the US, Qatar, Oman, the UK, the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Bahrain, and Kuwait.
- The top countries from which foreign tourists arrived in India included the U.S., the U.K., Bangladesh, Canada, Nepal,
- Afghanistan and Australia.

Top-5 Most popular Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments for "Domestic Visitors" in 2021-22:

- 1) Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh
- 2) Red Fort, Delhi
- 3) Qutub Minar, Delhi
- 4) Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu
- 5) Agra Fort, Uttar Pradesh

Top-5 Most popular Centrally Protected Ticketed Monuments for "Foreign Visitors" in 2021-22:

- 1) Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu
- 2) Taj Mahal, Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Tiger headed Rock cut temple & two other monuments, Saluvankuppam, Tamil Nadu

- 4) Agra Fort, Uttar Pradesh
- 5) Gingee Fort, Tamil Nadu

195. S&P Global Ratings, in its Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, has retained India's economic growth at **7.3 percent** in the current fiscal 2022-23 (FY23), stating a low impact of the global slowdown on its domestically-driven economy. It had earlier forecasted 7.8 percent growth for FY23.

- As per agency, India's headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation will be **6.8 percent** in FY23.
- It further forecasts 6.5% real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in 2023-24, 6.7% in 2024-25, and 6.9% in 2025-26.

Other agency growth forecasts:

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (**OECD**) has retained its forecast of **6.9%** GDP growth for India for FY23. It forecasts growth of 5.7% for FY24.
- Rating agency **ICRA** has maintained its forecast of **7.2%** growth in India's GDP for FY23.
- **Moody's Analytics** has reduced its **Global Real GDP** forecast to **2.7 percent** in 2022 from 4.2 percent estimated earlier. The global growth is projected to decline to 2.3% in 2023 from the earliest forecast of 3.6%.
- **World Bank** has lowered its growth forecasts for East Asia and Pacific to **3.2 percent** in 2022 from 7.2 percent in 2021.

196. Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav, has released report on **Fourth Round (January-March, 2022) of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)** part of All India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES).

AQEES has two components:

- The "Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)" relates to the establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organised segment in 9 sectors. The nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation & Restaurant, IT / BPO and Financial Services.
- The "Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES)" relates to the establishments employing 9 or less workers.

Key findings of QES 2022:

- The estimated employment has increased from 3.14 crore of the third quarter (September-December, 2021) to **3.18 crore** of 4th Quarter (January-March, 2022).
- **Manufacturing sector** employed the largest percentage (38.5%) of the total number of workers, followed by Education sector with 21.7%, IT/BPO sector with 12% and Health sector 10.6%.

- In terms of number of workers, an estimated 80% of the establishments engaged 10 to 99 workers. The figure increases to 88% if establishments with 10 or more workers are considered. About 12% of the establishments reported less than 10 workers.
- Only 1.4% of the establishments reported at least 500 workers. Such large establishments were mostly in the IT/ BPO sector and in the Health sector.
- The participation of female workers has increased from 31.6% in the third quarter to **31.8%** in the 4th quarter report.
- Female workers constituted about 52 % of the workforce in the Health sector, 44% in Education, 41% in Financial Services and 36% in IT/ BPO sector.
- It is noteworthy that in Financial Services, females far outnumber males among self-employed persons.

Note: The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) provides a demand-side picture, the National Sample Survey or Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) gives the supply side picture of the labour market.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

197. The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma has launched the ambitious flagship programme for the welfare of farmers, "**Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme**" under National Livestock Mission at Byrnihat in **Ri-Bhoi** district, **Meghalaya**.

- Under this scheme, 4 piglets, 3 female and 1 male piglet will be distributed to farmers to promote pig breeding to provide regular income to farmers. This livestock package is worth Rs 25,000 per beneficiary.
- Under Phase 1 of the scheme, the government has earmarked **Rs 15.18 crore** under which four high-yielding improved varieties will be distributed to 6000 families.
- An additional Rs 25 crore will be earmarked to roll out the second phase of the programme.

198. 75 tribal districts have been selected by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and the Central TB Division of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to become **Tuberculosis (TB)** free in the next few months.

Tribal TB Initiative:

It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Central TB Division of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, supported by USAID as the technical partner and by Piramal Health as the implementing partner.

Under this initiative, **Aashwasan Campaign** was launched in January 2022 from Nandurbar district of Maharashtra to detect active cases of TB in 174 tribal districts of

India. Official data showed that 3,82,811 people were identified for presumptive TB after a verbal screening of over 1.03 crore people in over 68,000 villages.

Note: India has set a target to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) by 2025, five years ahead of the World Health Organization's (WHO) global target i.e. 2030.

Tuberculosis:

It is a serious infection of the lungs. It is caused by a **Mycobacterium Tuberculosis bacterium** that spreads through tiny droplets released in the air when one coughs or sneezes. It is the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious killer disease after COVID-19. It is spread from person to person through the air.

199. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana** on the occasion of Teacher's Day (5th September). It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for upgradation and development of 14500 Schools across the country.

Key highlights:

- It aims at strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies.
- The aim of these schools will not only be qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development, but also creating holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st century skills.
- PM-SHRI schools will follow the **National Education Policy 2020** and act as exemplar schools and also offer mentorship to other schools in their vicinity.
- Pedagogy adopted in these schools will be more experiential, holistic, integrated, play/toy-based, inquiry-driven, discovery-oriented, learner-centred, discussion-based, flexible and enjoyable.
- These schools will be developed as green schools with water conservation, waste recycling, energy-efficient infrastructure and integration of organic lifestyle in curriculum.

200. Sangeet Natak Akademi has organized '**Rang Swadheenta**', a festival to cherish the memories of freedom fighters who laid down their lives to free the country. The festival has been held at Meghdoot Auditorium in New Delhi. This year's festival focused on folk singing styles from across the country.

Key folk-songs performed:

Panduan Ke Kadde: It can be traced to 17th century Mewat. It is very specific and significant art form of the Meo community of **Mewat** region (Haryana). It was traditionally performed by the Jogi Muslims. It usually centres around episodes from the Mahabharata.

Oggukatha: It is a traditional folk theatre form which is an ancient narrative form of **Telugu speaking regions**. It comes from the compound 'oggu' meaning a damarukam (pellet drum) and 'katha' meaning tales. It usually centres around Myths and Gods.

Dhadi: It is a singing tradition of **Punjab**. It was begun by **Guru Hargobind** to inspire bravery among armed men in the battlefield.

Dastangoi: It is a 13th century Urdu oral storytelling art form. It is a compound of Persian words 'dastaan' meaning a long tale and 'goi' meaning to narrate.

Powada: It is a rich traditional style of singing ballads popular in **Maharashtra**. It has also played an important role in the socio-cultural and political development of the region. Its origin is considered to be from the time of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Alha Gayan: It is a folk-song of the **Bundelkhand** region. It symbolizes the firmness of character and elimination of pessimism from life.

Dhimaryai: It is a traditional folk song of the **Bundelkhand** region of Madhya Pradesh. A Dhimaryai dancer usually plays a handheld Sarangi, who is also accompanied by other musicians. Dhimaryai songs touch upon religious, mythical, social and patriotic themes.

Ragini: It is a Kauravi folk song form which is very popular throughout northern India, particularly western **Uttar Pradesh** and **Haryana**.

201. The **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** has completed its **2nd year** anniversary on 10th September 2022. To commemorate the auspicious day, Department of Fisheries, Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has held an event in New Delhi. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry is the Chief Guest at the event.

PMMSY:

It was launched in **2020** as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' package. It is a flagship scheme for the focussed and sustainable development of the fisheries sector. The main motto of PMMSY is '**Reform, Perform and Transform**' in the fisheries sector.

- **Period:** 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25
- **Coverage Area:** All States/ Union Territories.

- **Implementing Agency:** Department of Fisheries

Accomplishments of PMMSY:

- From 2019-20 to 2021-22, the Fisheries sector had an incredible growth of 14.3%.
- Fish production has increased from 141.64 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 to 161.87 lakh tonnes in 2021-22.
- So far PMMSY has supported 31.47 lakh farmers under insurance coverage from 22 state and 7 UTs.
- The sector achieved all-time high exports of 13.64 lakh tonnes valuing Rs 57,587 crores (USD 7.76 bn) dominated by exports of shrimps.

202. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) along with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW), has jointly launched a '**Convergence Portal**' between the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (**AIF**) scheme, Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Enterprises Upgradation Scheme (**PMFME**) and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (**PMKSY**).

The portal will prove to be very important for the Food Processing Enterprises of the country, benefiting different sections of the country, including farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs of the processing industry.

Under this portal, the eligible beneficiaries under PMFME and PMKSY schemes availing credit-linked subsidies will be able to avail an additional benefit of Interest Subvention at 3% on the interest rate being charged by the banks.

Pradhan Mantri Micro Food Industry Upgradation Scheme (PMFME):

Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched a centrally sponsored PPMFME scheme with an outlay of Rs.10,000 crore on 29th June 2020 to enhance the competitiveness of individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment & promote the formalization of this sector.

Under this scheme, the credit-linked subsidy at 35% for the establishment of a micro food processing unit with a maximum limit of Rs.10 lakh and common infrastructure with a maximum limit of Rs.3 crore are provided for upgradation or setting up of a new unit.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sampada Yojna (PMKSY):

It is a Central Sector Scheme of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** to develop modern infrastructure and effective supply chain management from the farm gate to the retail outlet. It is an umbrella scheme, having sub-schemes like:

- (i) Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters (APC)
- (ii) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities (CEFPPC or UNIT)
- (iii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (CCI)
- (iv) Food Testing Lab (FTL)
- (v) Operation Greens (OG)

(vi) Research & Development Scheme (R&D)

Under the scheme, there is a provision of 35% grant of the eligible project cost for general and 50% for SC/ST/Difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs.5 crores to Rs.15 crores in terms of the respective sub-scheme guidelines.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF):

It is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**. It is a medium to long-term debt financing facility that started on 8th July 2020 for the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and building of community farming assets. Benefits under the scheme include 3% interest subvention and credit guarantee support.

203. The Government of India has launched a Scheme **“Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2022-23”**. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States Governments in the form of **50-year interest free loan** for capital investment projects. An amount of **Rs.1 lakh crore** has been allocated for the scheme.

The loan under the scheme would be over and above the normal borrowing ceiling allowed to states for the FY 2022-23 and should be spent in the same year. Funds not used by a state within a reasonable time period may be allocated to another state.

The scheme has seven parts:

Part-I (Capital works)

Part-II (PM Gati Shakti related Expenditure)

Part-III (PM Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY))

Part-IV (Incentives for Digitization)

Part-V (Optical Fibre Cable)

Part-VI (Urban Reforms)

Part-VII (Disinvestment and Monetization)

Under Part V (Optical Fibre Cable) of the Scheme, an amount of Rs.3000 crore is earmarked and will be available to States for capital projects on Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) network.

On the recommendation of Department of Telecommunications, Department of Expenditure has recently approved proposals of four states namely Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Haryana and Karnataka with allocation as 50 crore, 84 crore, 65 crore and 156 crore respectively.

204. The Government's flagship programme **‘Make in India’** has completed **8 years** on 25th September 2022. The Make in India initiative was launched in **2014** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to facilitate investment, foster innovation, enhance skill development, and build best-in-class manufacturing infrastructure.

The initiative is being implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI).

Make in India has substantial accomplishments across **27 sectors** which include strategic sectors of manufacturing and services as well.

Key achievements:

- The import of toys in 2021-22 have reduced by **70 percent** to USD 110 million.
- FDI inflows in India which stood at USD 45.15 billion in 2014-2015 reached record FDI inflows for eight years. The year 2021-22 recorded the highest ever FDI of **USD 83.6 billion**.
- **Production Linked Incentive** scheme across 14 key manufacturing sectors was launched to strengthen domestic manufacturing, boosting export potential etc.
- **National Single Window System** to improve Ease-of-doing-business (EODB). As per World Bank, India's rank in EODB has improved from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020.
- **Prime Minister's Gati Shakti** programme for providing multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.
- **One District, One Product** initiative to help districts by identifying, promoting, and branding a product.
- Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order 2017 promote manufacturing and production of goods and services in local industry to enhance income and employment.

205. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the two days long **Arogya Manthan 2022** programme to commemorate **4 years** of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**AB PM-JAY**) and **1 year** of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (**ABDM**).

The Union Health Minister has also awarded the **Ayushman Utkrishtata Puraskaar** (Ayushman Excellence Awards) 2022 to felicitate the following:

- Top performing state: **Andhra Pradesh**
- Top performing district: **Parvathipuram Manyam** in Andhra Pradesh
- Top performing government facility: **District Hospital Dharwad**, Karnataka
- Best performing states: **Uttar Pradesh** (28782 Healthcare facilities), **Karnataka** (23832), **Andhra Pradesh** (13335), Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Gujarat.
- Best performing UTs: **Chandigarh and Jammu and Kashmir**

The winner of ABDM Hackathon Series Round 1 i.e. **Bajaj Finserv Health-Team Excalibur** has also been awarded.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY):

- The scheme was launched in **September 2018** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and component of Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- It provides yearly medical insurance of **Rs. 5 lakhs** per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Funding pattern is in ratio of 60:40 for States and UTs with legislature; 90:10 for North Eastern States and three Himalayan States (J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand), and 100% for UTs without legislature.
- Beneficiary identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census, 2011.
- No cap on family size and age in the scheme.

- The scheme covers pre-existing diseases and benefits are available across country.
- It is being implemented by the National Health Authority (**NHA**).

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):

It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in **2021** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for 5 years. It is being implemented by the National Health Authority (**NHA**).

Components of ABDM:

- ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers could be generated by citizens to which their digital health records can be linked.
- ABHA App allows patient to maintain and manage their health information (and that of others for whom they are authorized) in a private, secure, and confidential environment.
- Health Facility Registry is a comprehensive repository of all the health facilities of the country across different systems of medicine.
- Unified Health Interface to enable a wide variety of digital health services between patients and health service providers.

ABDM has crossed the landmark of 1 crore digitally linked health records with over 27 lakh records linked in a day.

206. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the "**Swachh Toycathon**" competition under the Swachh Amrit Mahotsav. It is a competition that involves making toys from waste.

- The competition is being hosted on **MyGov's** Innovate India portal and the knowledge partner of this initiative is **Center for Creative Learning, IIT Gandhinagar**.
- This competition integrates the National Action Plan for Toys (**NAPT**) and **Swachh Bharat Mission Phase II** to explore solutions to make toys using waste materials.
- This competition is open to groups and individuals capable of providing innovative toy designs using dry wastes.
- The focus will be on efficient designs that can be replicated for mass production.
- These toys must comply with minimum safety standards and aesthetics.
- The objective of this competition is to promote innovation and circularity in design and packaging of games and toys.
- Winning start-ups will be provided with incubation support from **IIT Kanpur**.
- Innovative designs will be given links to local urban bodies and toy industry for scaling up.

National Action Plan for Toys 2020:

It was introduced to boost the Indian toy industry including traditional handicrafts and handmade toys. The plan has the objective of establishing India as a global Toy hub. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade along with 14 Ministries of Central Government is currently implementing several aspects of the National Action Plan for Toys.

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- 207.** The **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC)** has signed an Implementation Agreement with the Government of **Himachal Pradesh** for 500 megawatt (MW) **Dugar Hydroelectric Project** located in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh. The project will generate 1,759.85 million units in a 90% dependable year with 95% machine availability.
- 208.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (**PCIM&H**), Ministry of Ayush, and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (**IPC**), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in New Delhi for Inter-Ministerial cooperation for promotion and facilitation of **"One Herb, One Standard"**.
- The primary objective is to promote public health by facilitating the development of harmonized Herbal drug standards.
 - Under this MoU, each monograph will have Indian Standards along with the international quality requirements.
 - The sole authority of publication of monographs categorized under the "one herb one standard" will lie with PCIM&H only.
 - The technical content of the monographs will be jointly developed by PCIM&H and IPC.
- 209.** **Reliance Industries** will build **India's first** and one of the **world's largest Carbon Fibre plants** at **Hazira, Gujarat**. The plants will have a capacity of 20,000 MTPA based on Acrylonitrile feedstock. The first phase of the plant will be completed in **2025**.
- The company has announced **Rs 75,000 crore** investment for the oil-to-chemicals (O2C) or petchem segment to expand capacities in existing and new value chains. These value chains are - Polyester value chain, Vinyl chain, and New Materials.
 - In the polyester value chain, the company will build one of the world's largest single-train **PTA plant** of 3 MMTPA capacity at **Dahej**.
- 210.** The World Resources Institute (**WRI**) India has launched an online, open-source, and interactive geospatial platform for Assam in partnership with **Assam Energy Development Agency (AEDA)**.

- The Geospatial platform named **Energy Access Explorer (EAE)** has been inaugurated in **Guwahati**, Assam.
- The platform helps to visualize the extent of energy access at Assam's health, education, and livelihood infrastructures.
- It will assist policy-makers, renewable energy industry entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers from the development sector to expand energy access in the state.

211. The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has partnered with **Adobe** to accelerate digital creativity skills across India. The partnership aims to empower over 75,000 faculty in 10,000 colleges and universities over the next two years with access to Adobe Express.

Under this partnership, Adobe will offer courses and expertise for upskilling educators and integrate digital creativity into the curriculum, to prepare students with the essential creative and digital literacy skills.

212. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a **Rs.1,200 crore** scheme for disposal of **Chana (pulses)** to states at a discounted rate, which will be utilised for various welfare schemes from the stock of pulses procured under the **Price Support Scheme (PSS)** and **Price Stabilization Fund (PSF)**.

- The committee also approved the enhancement of the ceiling on the quantity of procurement under PSS from the existing 25% to **40%** in respect of tur, urad and masur lentils.
- Under this approved scheme, states are offered to lift 15 lakh metric tonnes of chana at a discount of **₹8 per kg** over the issue price of the sourcing state on a first-come-first-serve basis.
- This will be a one-time dispensation for a period of 12 months or till the complete disposal of the 15 lakh metric tonnes stock of chana, whichever is earlier.

Other Cabinet approval:

Cabinet has also approved the proposal of the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Nepal** on biodiversity conservation.

213. **PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)** has tied up with US-based **Coursera** to address India's current and future skill gap in the taxation space.

- Under this collaboration, two entry-level professional certificates, **GST Tax Executive and Direct Tax Executive**, aimed at achieving skilling at scale and creating greater employment opportunities will be developed.
- The entry-level professional certificates will take 24 weeks to finish.

- The certificates will provide learners with a foundational understanding of the GST and direct tax practices, equipping them with the knowledge required for a beginner role in the field.
- These programs will be launched in September 2022 and early 2023.

Additionally, PwC will also be working with Coursera to establish a '**Tax Academy**', a data hub that will be equipped India's taxation professionals.

- 214. Japan-based USD 170 million Drone Fund (DF)**, one of the world's largest dedicated Venture Capital (VC) for promoting unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) ecosystem, has planned to invest up to **USD 40 million** in Indian companies working in the sector.
- Japan's largest drone manufacturer, **ACSL**, has also tied up with **Aerodyne India**.
 - Currently, DF has a manufacturing unit in **Tamil Nadu**.
 - The key focus of DF is to invest in agro drones to increase crop yield through scientific methods that can help drones to enable.
- 215. German -based Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG (Daimler Truck), has joined hands with **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC)** to set up a technology epicenter to identify mid to long term solutions necessary for the future of Mobility.
- The partnership coined as DICV-IITMIC has been inaugurated at IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
 - Under this, DICV will partner with IITMIC to identify, mentor and provide opportunities to Indian technology start-up companies who will work towards finding futuristic solutions for the Indian Mobility Space.
 - DICV is the first and only Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) from the Indian automotive space that has partnered with an academia like IITMIC for future mobility solutions.
- 216. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)** has conducted its **45th Annual General Meeting 2022** via video conferencing for the third consecutive year. Various announcements and agreements have been signed during the meeting.

Key announcements and partnerships:

Jio True 5G:

Reliance Jio will launch the world's largest 5G Services 'Jio True 5G' by **October 2022**. It will be first available in the metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

Partnership with Meta: Meta and Jio Platforms have announced the launch of the first-ever end-to-end shopping experience on **WhatsApp**, which will allow consumers to shop from JioMart right within their WhatsApp chat.

Partnership with Qualcomm: Reliance Jio has partnered with USA-based chipmaker company **Qualcomm** to develop 5G solutions in India.

Partnership with Google: Reliance Jio has collaborated with Google to introduce “**ultra-affordable 5G smartphone**” in India as part of the USD 25 billion strategy to roll out the next-generation wireless services.

Battery Packs: RIL has announced to manufacture Battery Packs by **2023** and scale up to a fully integrated 5 GWh annual cell to pack manufacturing facility by 2024, and further scale up to 50 GWh annual capacity by 2027.

Green Hydrogen: RIL has planned to convert from grey hydrogen production to Green Hydrogen production by **2025**.

Jio Air Fiber: RIL has announced the launch of the Jio Air Fiber 5G hotspot device with the new high-speed 5G. It will provide access to high-speed Fiber like connectivity for multiple use cases.

FMCG business: Reliance Industries has announced to enter the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) business in **2022** through its retail venture Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL).

217. Bharti Airtel has recently launched a pilot project in collaboration with **Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution** to provide a Bill payment solution to over 2 million registered customer. The initiative will mobilise the 4,000 banking points of Airtel Payment Banks (APB) in north Odisha to facilitate bill payments.

218. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** have bagged a **Rs.860-crore** contract to build **5 Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLVs)** rockets, the versatile workhorse launch vehicle of India, and the contract has been signed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

NewsSpace India Limited (NSIL), under the Department of Space (DoS) and ISRO, has signed a service legal agreement with the industry for production.

Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

It is the third generation launch vehicle of India. It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages. It was first launched in 1994. The vehicle successfully launched two spacecraft – Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and Mars Orbiter Spacecraft in 2013.

219. Fuelflip Energy, a leading impact technology startup, has developed **India's first Air Gas Mixer** after the complete research and development with the use and installation of the Dual Fuel Systems for over 6 years. At present, the Air Gas Mixer component is functioning optimally and has been able to serve customers efficiently.

The company has also developed its **Retrofit Emission Control Devices (Feve RECD)** in a joint venture to ensure the reduction of Particulate Matter 2.5 from the exhaust emissions of diesel gensets.

220. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has approved an **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** to be set up in **Pune**, Maharashtra at a cost of **Rs.500 crore**. It will come up in Ranjangaon Phase III and will be set up over an area of 297 acres.

- The central government assistance for the project will be nearly **Rs.208 crore**.
- It will attract investments of up to Rs.2000 crore.

Modified Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) scheme:

The Modified EMC 2.0 scheme was announced in 2020 to set up electronics manufacturing companies to create a robust ecosystem. The objective is to provide financial assistance for setting up EMC projects as well as common facility centres (CFCs).

Until 2023, interested electronics manufacturing companies can seek financial support from the central government.

EMC 2.0 requires applicants to make a minimum investment commitment of Rs 300 crore, with financial assistance from the central government capped at 50 percent and a ceiling of Rs 70 crore per 100 acres of land.

221. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of various projects worth **Rs. 3,800 crore** at Goldfinch city in Mangaluru, Karnataka and has also approved the New **Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)** for Karnataka.

- **Karnataka** has become the **first state in southern India** and only the **second state** in the country to get the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) prepared and approved as per the 2019 Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) notification which has been approved by Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change.
- This Plan will give boost to the economy and tourism in the coastal region of Karnataka.

Key highlights:

- The Government has given approval for the development of **Maajali Port** in Karwar at a cost of Rs 350 crore.
- Under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada scheme, the Central Government has given approval to supply 100 high speed boats to help deep sea fishing.
- Under Sagar Mala project, 18 projects have been completed and 14 schemes worth Rs 950 crore are approved by Union Ministry of Inland Transport and Ports.
- The Inland and Fishery Institute will be established in **Karwar**.

222. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of **Aditya Marketing and Manufacturing Private Limited** into **Umang Commercial Company Private Limited**. The proposed combination involves merger of Aditya Marketing into Umang Commercial in accordance with the Scheme of Amalgamation under Sections 230 and 232 of the Companies Act 2013.

Other approvals by CCI:

- CCI has also approved the acquisition of shares in **Olam Agri Holdings Private Ltd.** by **SALIC** International Investment Company. The proposed combination pertains to acquisition of **35.43% stake** in Olam Agri Holdings Pte. Ltd. (Olam Agri / Target) by SALIC International Investment Company (SIIC / Acquirer).
- CCI has also approved the acquisition of approximately **7.49%** shareholding in **Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Limited** on a fully diluted basis by the **Caladium Investment Private Ltd (GIC Investor)** by way of preferential issuance of equity and warrants.

223. NHPC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **PTC India Limited** at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad for sale of power to be generated from upcoming **West Seti & Seti River-6 Projects** in **Nepal**.

Under this MoU, PTC India will purchase the Contracted Capacity from NHPC from the date of commercial operation of above Projects for onward sale to the State Utilities/Discoms/Bulk Consumers on long term basis in India and neighbouring countries. PTC will also endeavour to sell any untied capacity on medium/short term basis or on power exchanges.

224. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Smiths Detection**, a global firm in threat detection and security inspection technologies, to provide advanced, high-energy scanning systems to the Indian market. The MoU is for a period of five years and can be extended further.

225. London-based **Tony Blair Institute (TBI)** for Global Change and Canadian NGO Children Believe have jointly launched a '**Generation Global Programme**' for school & colleges in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. The program has been launched by TBI for Global Change Director Lucy Hayter. The aim is to transform the mindset of school and college students between the age of 13 and 17 years to make them 'global citizens'. The program has been organized by the Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES).

226. India's largest airline **IndiGo** and British carrier **Virgin Atlantic** have signed a new codeshare agreement to widen the network of the airline. Under this agreement, Virgin Atlantic will be allowed to sell seats to passengers connecting onto IndiGo flights.

- The initial codeshare destinations under IndiGo-Virgin Atlantic partnership include: Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Goa, Delhi and Mumbai.
- The additional destinations will include: Kochi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Pune, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Vadodara, Indore and Visakhapatnam.

IndiGo already has codeshare partnerships with five airlines: Turkish Airline, Qatar Airways, American Airlines, Air France-KLM and Qantas Airline.

227. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **100%** of the equity share capital of Indialdeas.com Limited (IIL) (**BillDesk**) by PayU Payments Private Limited (**PayU India**) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002. The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of 100% of the equity share capital of IIL by PayU India.

CCI has also approved the acquisition of stake in **Apraava Energy Private Limited** by **CDPQ Infrastructures Asia II Private Limited**.

228. Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) has recently acquired a majority stake of **79.4 percent** in US-based **SenseHawk Inc** through primary infusion and secondary purchase, for a cash consideration of USD 32million.

229. **Tata Power** has launched **India's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) truck** in the Medium and Heavy Commercial Vehicle (**M&HCV**) segment with Advanced Driver Assistance System (**ADAS**) in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The company has launched 5 CNG-powered trucks in the 28- and 19-tonne nodes.

- Tata Motors has also launched a fleet of seven trucks in the Intermediary and Light Commercial Vehicle (I&LCV) segment.

- 230.** Thomas Kurian, CEO of Google Cloud, has announced the **USD 5.4 billion** acquisition of **Mandiant Inc.**, the California-based cybersecurity company by **Google LLC** to help organizations improve their threat, incident, and exposure management.
- 231.** Flipkart cofounder Sachin Bansal-led fintech startup **Navi Technologies** has received the nod from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for its **Rs.3,350 crore** Initial Public Offer (IPO).
- Sachin Bansal had founded Navi Technologies in 2018 along with Ankit Agarwal.
 - The company provides personal loans, home loans, general insurance, and mutual funds. It also offers microfinance loans through a wholly-owned subsidiary, under the Chaitanya brand.
- 232.** Indore-based **EKI Energy Services (EKI)**, a leading Carbon credit developer and supplier, has listed a **Plastic Project** from India under a Global Accreditation Standard. With this, EKI has become the first ever firm to list a plastic project from India with an aim to generate India's first-ever international plastic credits.
- The project has been listed under the Plastic Waste Reduction Standard of Verra, a Washington-based accreditation.
 - The project ensures that plastic waste, predominantly Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) waste, PET flakes and chips, is duly sourced and recycled to produce Recycled Polyester Staple Fibre (RPSF) that can be further used in the textile industry for garments and other fabric-based utility products.
- 233. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-Madras)** has become the first Indian institution to join the New York-based **IBM Quantum Network** to promote and advance quantum computing skills development and research in India. With this partnership, IIT Madras joins over 180 members of the IBM Quantum Network globally.
- The Centre for Quantum Information, Communication and Computing (CQIICC) at IIT Madras aims to advance core algorithms in research areas like Quantum Machine Learning, Quantum Optimisation, and Applications research in Finance.
- 234.** London-based **Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC)** has committed **Rs 125 crore** over the next five years to support green causes like wetland conservation and energy transition projects in India. Under this commitment, HSBC has divided the works into two broad themes, including Energy transition and Nature-based solutions.

Other HSBC commitment:

- HSBC will partner with government and expert institutions to enhance its learning and create innovative solutions and opportunities.
- It has partnered with the non-profit **WWF India** and India Resources Trust (**WRI India**) to roll out actions across eight states, focusing on energy transition in the healthcare and dairy cold chain sectors, conservation of wetlands and mangroves and landscape restoration.
- The partnership with the civil society organisations aims to deliver integrated clean energy solutions of 300 Kilowatt at healthcare facilities, covering Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam.
- It has also launched a dialogue platform titled '**CEOs on Sustainability**' for exchanging ideas and sharing best practices.

Note: CEO of HSBC India is Hitendra Dave.

235. CySeck, Karnataka government's centre of excellence (CoE) for cybersecurity and the nodal agency for promoting cyber-safe environment for industry collaboration, has partnered with **Dell Technologies India** to strengthen cyber-security in **Karnataka**.

- Under this partnership, Dell Technologies through its "*Tech for Social Good*" initiative will roll out interactive courses on cyber hygiene best practices for school students.

236. Chennai-based **Agnikul Cosmos**, one of India's private space startups, has secured its first patent for the design and manufacturing of its Single Piece 3D printed rocket engine. The patent has been rewarded to the company for its Agnilet rocket engine, which will power the company's Agnibaan rocket that is scheduled to launch later in 2022.

237. Indian conglomerate Vedanta and Taiwanese electronics manufacturing giant Foxconn have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Gujarat** to set up a semiconductor and display FAB manufacturing unit in the state with an investment of Rs.1.54 lakh crore.

- Under this MoU, Vedanta will hold 60 percent of the equity in the Joint Venture (JV), while Foxconn will own 40 percent.

238. The **7th edition** of the **Bengaluru Space Expo (BSX) 2022** has been held at the Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, Karnataka. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized BSX 2022 in association with ISRO, Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACE) and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

International Conference on Space 2022:

It has been held alongside the exclusive exhibition under the theme '*Nurturing the NewSpace in India*'. It has been held with Australia serving as a Country Partner, UK as a Focus Country, and the Netherlands as a Guest Country.

Six Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between India and Australia:

- The Bengaluru-based Aerospace and Defence manufacturer **Ananth Technologies** has signed an MoU with Space Machine Company in developing product integration, testing, technology development and joint space programmes.
- Bengaluru-based **SatSure** has signed an MoU with QL Space to work on building satellites and AI solutions to support mining, defence and agriculture industries, and also to explore applications in space.
- HEX20, an Australian Startup, has signed an MoU with Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** to provide launch services, spacecraft avionics and components to Australian Space Initiatives.
- Perth-based QL Space has signed an MoU with **Skyroot Aerospace** to develop launch facilities in Australia and support joint mineral exploration missions in space.
- QL Space has also collaborated with Chennai-based **GalaxEye** to develop a hybrid optic and radar payload in order to reduce the adverse environmental impact of critical mineral exploration in Australia.
- Australian firm SABRN Health, Altdata and **India's DCube** have collaborated to work on the development and integration of hardware, sensor technology, and software to provide health support to astronauts.

239. The **Western Command** of the Indian Army has inked a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with **NTPC Limited** to draw **25MW** solar power directly from the National Solar Grid of the country for the next **27 years**. The solar energy for the Western Command will be sourced from Sholapur, Maharashtra.

Other agreements signed:

NTPC Limited has also signed an agreement to supply Renewable Energy Power to the armed forces (Military Engineering Services). This is the first-ever agreement by the Indian armed forces for sourcing power from Renewable Energy sources.

240. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (**HPCL**) has collaborated with the **Indian Army** for implementing a CSR project to coach and mentor less-privileged girl students in Kargil, Ladakh. The project named '**Kargil Ignited Minds**' aims to prepare 50 girl students for various national-level engineering and medical entrance examinations. The project aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and personality of the students.

241. Gurugram-based **Hughes** Communications India, a joint venture entity of US-based Hughes Network Systems and Indian telecom operator Bharti Airtel, has launched India's first **High Throughput Satellite (HTS)** broadband internet service to link remote areas.

- Hughes will use the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Geosynchronous Satellite (**GSAT**)-11 and **GSAT-29** satellites to offer the service.
- Initially, the service will begin with internet speeds between **2-10Mbps**.

HTS refers to satellite connectivity that offers a higher bandwidth which in turn increases the amount of data that could be transferred between a satellite and a ground station.

242. MeitY Startup Hub (MSH), an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), has collaborated with **Meta** to launch the "**XR Startup Program**" to support and accelerate Extended Reality (XR) technology startups across India.

- XR Startup Program focuses on skilling and building technological capabilities for the metaverse, and also includes emerging technologies such as Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR).
- The program will support **40 early-stage start-ups** working in XR technologies with a grant of Rs 20 lakhs each.
- It is supported by Meta's **XR Programs and Research Fund**, a 2-year USD 50 million investment in programs and external research with industry partners, civil rights groups, governments, non-profits and academic institutions.
- The program will be implemented by four institutions: International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana (**CIE IIIT-H**); AIC SMU Technology Business Incubation Foundation (**AIC-SMUTBI**), Rangpo, Sikkim; Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (**GUSEC**), Ahmedabad, Gujarat and Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (**FITT**), IIT Delhi, New Delhi.

243. Rattan India Enterprises has launched its first anti-drone product '**Defender**' that can work both manually and via Artificial Intelligence (AI) which helps it to adjust its position.

- The anti-drone has been developed by Throttle Aerospace Systems, a step-down subsidiary of RattanIndia Enterprises.
- The Defender will be a 70% indigenous product with a 30% import component of BLDC motor and batteries.

244. Bharti Airtel has collaborated with **IBM** to deploy Airtel's edge computing platform which will enable large enterprises across multiple industries including manufacturing and automotive to accelerate innovative solutions.

- **Maruti Suzuki**, India's largest passenger car maker, intends to use the edge platform to increase accuracy and efficiency for quality inspections on the factory floor.
- Airtel's edge computing platform in India includes 120 network data centres across 20 cities, under its data centre arm Nxtra Digital.

245. NTPC Limited and **REC Limited**, two major Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Ministry of Power, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Sports Development Funds (**NSDF**) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) to promote sports in India by committing **Rs. 215 crores**.

- NTPC Limited has committed **Rs.115 crore** in 5 years for development of **Archery Sports**.
- REC has committed an amount of **Rs.100 crore** over 3 years to support **Women's hockey, Boxing and Athletics**.

National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):

It was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890. It was notified by Government of India in November 1998. The purpose is to impart momentum and flexibility to assisting the cause of sports. The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government. Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.

246. The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** to collaborate on strengthening the safe migration of Indian citizens. The main objective is to create an opportunity for these two internationally reputed entities to collaborate on a range of initiatives related to the safe, orderly, and regular migration of Indian skilled professionals and youth internationally.

CII has recently decided to adopt over **35,000 tuberculosis (TB)** patients by providing nutritional support. It has committed over Rs.25 crore for the same. In this regard, it is working closely with the Central TB Division, to catalyse private sector participation and involvement in this critical mission.

Tata group-owned **Air India** has unveiled a comprehension transformation plan '**Vihaan.AI**' to establish itself, once again, as a world-class global airline of India origin.

- The plan aims to focus on growing both its network and fleet, revamping its customer proposition, enhancing reliability and on-time performance, taking a leadership role in technology, sustainability, and innovation, and investing in the best talent in the industry.
- Air India will also strive to increase its market share to at least 30% in the domestic market.

247. The **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** and the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** have signed a FinTech Co-operation Agreement to facilitate regulatory collaboration and partnership in FinTech technology.

- Under this agreement, both entities will utilize their respective Regulatory Sandboxes (RS) to support experimentation of technology innovations.
- This co-operation agreement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding on Supervisory Co-operation signed between MAS and IFSCA in July 2022.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is Singapore's central bank and integrated financial regulator.

248. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Indian Navy** and **Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AUUP)** to establish a long-term symbiotic relationship for Academic Cooperation.

Under this MoU, Amity University will conduct customised courses for the Indian Navy in niche domains, such as, 5G Technology and IoT, Control System Integration, AI, Blockchain, Machine Learning, Cryptology, Data Science, Big Data Analysis, Digital Marketing, Computer Networks, Anti Drone Warfare, Cyber Warfare Security, Automation, Surveillance and Tracking etc.

249. The **Israel embassy** in India in collaboration with **Khushi Foundation** has launched a special project "**Saaras**" to promote women's empowerment, menstrual hygiene, and awareness in Arthala, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

- Ambassador of Israel to India **Naor Gilon** along with Anirudh Khaitan President Khushi Foundation has inaugurated a centre under this project to produce eco-friendly cost-effective sanitary napkins.
- This manufacturing unit has been established with the help of MASHAV- the Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. The machine can produce 10,000 pads per day.

250. The Government of **Meghalaya** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Tamil Nadu** to support Meghalaya in the recruitment and training of medical professionals.

This is a first-of-its-kind medical partnership between the two Indian states for collaboration on knowledge sharing, capacity building and improving health service delivery.

251. Clean energy firm **ENGIE** has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) through its arm Solaire Direct Energy India to train **600 youths** in solar module programmes. The project is part of Engie's corporate social responsibility (CSR) for 2022-23.

- The goal is to impart knowledge, skills, and training which young graduates need to enter the employment market.
- The training will be provided in Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), Kadappa (Andhra Pradesh), and Bikaner (Rajasthan).

The training programs will be in line with the Qualification Pack (QP)/National Occupation Standards set by the Sector Skill Councils (SSC).

252. The Government of India (GoI) and **Assam Government** has signed a tripartite peace accord with eight armed tribal groups of Assam, in the presence of Amit Shah, Union Ministry of Home Affairs for bringing peace in the areas.

The tribal groups that signed the agreement include Birsas Commando Force (BCF), Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam (ACMA), Santhal Tiger Force (STF), Adivasi People's Army (APA), and All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA).

A special development package of **Rs.1000 crore** will be provided to improve the tribal areas of Assam.

253. **Adani Group** has recently completed the acquisition of **Ambuja Cements & ACC Ltd** through their special purpose vehicle Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd. With this, Adani Group has now become *India's second largest cement manufacturer*. Currently, Ambuja Cements and ACC have a combined installed production capacity of 67.5 MTPA.

254. **Google Cloud** in collaboration with FutureSkills Prime, a Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and **NASSCOM** Digital Skilling Initiative, has launched the first cohort of its computing foundations with Kubernetes course.

- The beginner-level course aims to provide participants an opportunity to experience cloud computing, cloud basics, big data and machine learning (ML).
- The course will be offered free to students at higher education Institutions and freshers seeking to skill themselves on emerging technologies.

255. Canada-based Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board (**OTPP**) will buy a **30%** stake in Mahindra Group's renewable energy firm **Mahindra Susten Private Limited**. The value of a stake is Rs.2,371 crore.

256. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of **Jio Cinema OTT** with **Viacom18 Media**, following an investment by BTS Investment and Reliance Projects & Property Management Services. Under this partnership, Reliance's popular Jio Cinema OTT app will be transferred to Viacom18.

257. The United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Cadet Corps (**NCC**) to deal with the issue of **plastic pollution** and achieve the universal goal of clean water bodies through 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' and 'Tide Turners Plastic Challenge programme'.

The MoU, which will be in effect for three years, aims to consolidate, develop, and detail their cooperation and effectiveness in achieving common environmental goals.

Puneet Sagar Abhiyan:

The NCC launched 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' on **1st December 2021**. It is a nationwide flagship campaign to clean Sea Shores/Beaches and other water bodies including rivers & lakes, of plastic & other waste and increase awareness amongst the local population about importance of keeping the beaches and river fronts clean. The purpose of the Abhiyan is to educate locals and sensitise them about 'Swachh Bharat'.

258. **Hero MotoCorp**, a two-wheeler company, has collaborated with **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** to establish charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers in India.

In the first phase, the charging stations will be set up in select cities. The entire user charging experience will be controlled by a Hero MotoCorp Mobile-App, based on a cashless transaction model.

259. Tata Group-owned airlines-**Air India, AirAsia India, and Vistara** (Tata SIA airlines) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP)** to collaborate and work together on the research, development and deployment of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAFs).

The focus of the MoU will be on Single Reactor HEFA (Hydro processed Esters and Fatty Acids) Technology for Drop-in Liquid Sustainable Aviation and Automotive Fuel (DILSAAF).

Note: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) member states have agreed to support global net zero emission target by 2050.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAFs):

SAF is a jet fuel created from sustainable resources like forestry, agricultural waste, and used cooking oil which has the potential to reduce emissions by 80%. It is a 'drop-in' fuel, meaning it can be added with no changes needed to the aircraft.

260. Netherland-based **TerraPay**, a leading global payments infrastructure group, has tied up with the NPCI International Payment Limited (**NIPL**) to enable merchants in India with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) ID to make & accept cross-border payments. This association will enable around 350 million bank accounts to transact at QR locations enabled by TerraPay.

261. The **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)**, a Public Sector Enterprise of Ministry of MSME, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone Limited (AMTZ)**, on cooperation in the healthcare sector.

Under this MoU, both organizations will leverage their expertise and create excellent opportunities for MSMEs in healthcare sector to form global alliances and get access to latest medical technologies along with creating skilled manpower for this sector.

262. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with BrahMos Aerospace (BAPL) for the acquisition of additional dual-role capable **Surface-to-Surface BrahMos missiles** at an approximate cost of **Rs.1,700 crore** under the "Buy-Indian" Category. The induction of these dual-role capable Missiles will enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy (IN) fleet assets.

BAPL:

It is a Joint Venture (JV) between **India and Russia** making crucial contribution to augment the new generation Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks.

- **Established:** 1998
- **MD & CEO:** Atul Dinkar Rane

263. The Electronics Sector Skill Council of India (**ESSCI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Samsung India** to empower the youth with industry relevant skills in emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Big Data and Coding & Programming. It will be a part of the government's 'Skill India' initiative.

- The programme, '**Samsung Innovation Campus**' aims to upskill over 3,000 unemployed youth from 18-25 years of age in future technologies, in partnership with 'Skill India' initiative.
- The programme will be executed by ESSCI, which is a National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) entity.

The MoU has been signed between Ken Kang, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia and Abhilasha Gaur, COO, ESSCI.

264. Vitamin Angels India has joined hands with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (**UNICEF**) India for '**Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022**' to combat under-nutrition in India.

The objective is to implement a comprehensive, unified outreach and awareness program to enhance nutritional content, delivery, outreach, and outcomes with a renewed focus on fostering health, wellness, and immunity to disease and under-nutrition.

The collaboration will extend into the launch of the Poshan Innovation Platform (**PIP**) in January 2023 with the same aim.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah:

It is annually observed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in the month of September (1 to 30). It was first launched in 2018.

265. The Indian Army and the Defence Geoinformatics and Research Establishment (DGRE) have jointly installed the **Avalanche Monitoring Radar**, first of its kind in India, at an altitude of 15,000 feet in **North Sikkim**.

- This radar has the capability to detect avalanches within three seconds of their triggering and will assist in saving valuable life of troops and civilians as also vehicles in super high altitude areas.
- This radar can also be used to detect landslides.
- The radar can see through snow, fog as well as in the night, making it an all-weather solution.
- The radar is also linked to an alarm system, enabling automatic control and warning measures in case an avalanche is triggered.

266. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Petrobras**, the national oil company of **Brazil**, to diversify crude oil sourcing for energy security in India.

- The MoU has been signed by **Arun Kumar Singh**, Chairman BPCL and Caio Paes de Andrade, CEO Petrobras, in Brazil.
- India for the first time, signed a long term crude oil supply agreement with Petrobras.

Bharat PetroResources Limited (**BPRL**), a production subsidiary of BPCL, has planned to invest USD 1.6 billion to develop an oil block in Brazil in an attempt to procure equity oil overseas.

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PRACTICE MOCK

267. Amazon has collaborated with **Amp Energy India**, a producer of renewable energy (RE), to set up its first solar power projects in India. Amazon will establish three solar power projects with a capacity of **420 megawatt (MW)** in **Rajasthan**.

- Amp Energy India has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) to sell RE to Amazon from a 100 MW solar power facility in Rajasthan as part of Amazon's plans for India.
- By the end of 2023, the facility at Bhadia, Rajasthan, will be completely operational. Amp is also developing a 1 gigawatt (GW) of utility scale projects. This solar plant will help mitigate 1,13,645 tonnes of harmful CO2 emissions.

Besides Amp Energy, Amazon has also signed a pact with **ReNew Power** for a 210 MW project, and another with **Brookfield Renewable** for a 110 MW project.

Additionally, Amazon has announced 23 new solar rooftop projects on its fulfillment centres across 14 cities in India, which have the capacity to generate an additional 4.09 MW of renewable energy.

268. JMC Projects Limited has inked an agreement with the **Government of Maldives** to develop the Hanimaadhoo International Airport Project. The total contract value is around USD 136 million.

- It is the first ever major infrastructure project to be undertaken outside Greater Male' region.
- It is funded under the USD 800 million concessional Line of Credit (LoC) extended by India to the Maldives.
- The project will see the construction of a new 2.46km runway and a terminal with a capacity of 1.3 million passengers per annum.
- The project will be completed in 2024.

269. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD)** for cooperation in various areas of Telecom, including Internet of Things (IoT)/Machine-to-Machine (M2M), Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML), Cyber Security and 5G & Beyond technologies.

This MoU aims to evolve a mutually productive framework for collaboration between R&D and academia to promote the design & development of wholly indigenous Telecom solutions.

270. Samsung India has inked a pact with **Axis Bank** to launch a co-branded Samsung Axis Bank credit card, powered by a Visa platform. The card is available in two variants - *Visa Signature* and *Visa Infinite*.

- The card offers 10 percent cashback across all Samsung products and services round the year. Additionally, the 10 percent cashback offer through the card will be over and above existing Samsung offers, on both EMI and non-EMI transactions.
- There is no minimum transaction value.
- The key partner merchants include bigbasket, Myntra, Tata 1mg, Urban Company and Zomato.

Recently, **Axis Bank** has signed a non-binding term sheet to invest an amount between Rs.49.9- Rs.69.9 crore for a **9.94% stake** in Initial Public Offering (IPO) bound **Go Digit Life Insurance**, a firm backed by Canada-based Fairfax Group.

271. Amazon India has launched '**AmazeWIT Circles**', a dedicated networking virtual event to educate women and prepare them for careers in technology. It is a cohort-based connection that helps women to hone their skills and address the challenges faced by working women.

The 'AmazeWIT Circles' is designed for seasoned software development engineers, which cover topics relevant to technical upliftment and sustained career development.

272. Haryana, NCT-Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have signed the Status of Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement, Contract Carriage and Stage Carriage, (**CRCTA**) for State Contract Carriage and Stage Carriage among these governments. The agreement will ensure seamless movement of passenger vehicles in the NCR.

Under CRCTA, there will be single point taxation for all motor cabs/taxis/auto rickshaw; all Stage carriage buses, all State Transport Undertakings (STUs) of NCR, including city bus services.

273. Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) has announced to acquire an additional 21,14,349 equity shares constituting **17.41% stake** in **Swaraj Engines Ltd** from Kirloskar Industries Ltd (KIL) for a cash consideration Rs.296 crore.

274. The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Council for Industry and Scientific Research (CSIR)** to support an outreach programme designed to promote the chemical sciences in schools and universities.

Under this MoU, both the organizations will work together on the CSIR's Jigyasa programme, an India-wide outreach programme aimed at school children and researchers. The MoU will be a non-financial one and will be time-bound for at least three years with an option of renewal.

About 2000 students across the country participated in RSC's Global Coin experiment organised across over 30 CSIR laboratories.

275. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (**DEPwD**), Sector Skill Council for Persons with Disabilities (**SCPwD**) and **Amazon Internet Private Limited** have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide skill training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The International Civil Aviation Organization (**ICAO**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) to check the growth of CO₂ emissions in the aviation sector, and also to reduce carbon emissions. It has been signed during the 42nd Session of the ICAO Assembly in Montreal, Canada.

276. **Coromandel International, Chambal Fertilizers** and **Indian Potash Ltd** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canada-based **Canpotex** for the import of **15 lakh tonnes of potash** annually for three years.

- Potash, which is a source of potassium, is used both for direct application as MOP (Muriate of Potash) as well as in combination with 'N' & 'P' nutrients in NPK fertilizers.
- India meets 100 percent of its potash requirement through imports. It imports approximately 40 lakh tonnes of MOP annually.

277. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) and The Embassy of The Kingdom of The **Netherlands** has officially signed the Joint Statement to formalize the bilateral **Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM)** between India and The Netherlands.

- **Invest India**, the national investment promotion and facilitation agency, is the executing body of the bilateral FTM.
- The bilateral FTM aims to serve as a platform for faster resolution of investment cases of Dutch companies operating in India.

Note: The Netherlands is the 4th largest Foreign Direct Investor (FDI) in India.

278. Union Minister of Defence **Rajnath Singh** has made an official visit to **Egypt** from 18 to 20 September 2022, during which he met with Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah El-Sisi** in Cairo, Egypt. The purpose is to strengthen defence collaboration and the unique friendship between Egypt and India.

During his visit, India and Egypt have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to enhance cooperation in the field of defence. Both the nations have decided to expand

military cooperation and focus on joint training, defence co-production, and equipment maintenance.

BANKING & FINANCE

279. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has granted financial assistance of **Rs.4000 crore** to the Government of **Maharashtra** to set up medical colleges in 12 districts of the state that now lack a single medical college. These districts include Jalgaon, Satara, Alibaug, Sindhudurg, Usmanabad, Parbhani, Amravati, Ratnagiri, Gadchiroli, Bhandara and Ambernath.

280. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has been replaced by Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission on the list of top ten companies by market capitalization in India.

- LIC now holds **11th spot** in the list, whereas Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission have taken 10th and 9th spot, respectively, in the overall ranking.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is the top valued Indian company with a market capitalisation of Rs.17.8 lakh crore, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever (HUL), ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and HDFC.

281. The State Bank of India (SBI) Chief Economist **Soumya Kanti Ghosh** has lowered India's full-year GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to **6.8%** for **FY23** from the earlier 7.5%. The reason behind this downward revision is statistical adjustments.

For Q1FY23, the economist had forecasted GDP growth at 15.7%. In the remaining quarters, GDP growth will be at 6.9% in Q2 FY23, further dropping to 4.1% in Q3 followed by a 4% rate in Q4.

282. **SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited (SBI Card)** has launched the '**CASHBACK SBI CARD**', the industry's first and most comprehensive cashback credit card in India, to boost online spending.

- The card enables cardholders to earn 5 percent cashback on all online spending without any merchant restrictions.
- Consumers across India, including tier 2 and 3 cities, can easily apply for the card through the digital application platform 'SBI Card SPRINT'.
- The card is free for the first year till March 2023.
- Cardholders can avail of four complimentary domestic airport lounge visits per year (one visit per quarter) on the card.
- The annual renewal fee of the card is Rs 999 plus applicable taxes.

283. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its 4-member high-level panel on cyber security that suggests measures to safeguard the capital markets from cyber-attacks.

The committee, which has now expanded to **six members**, will be chaired by **Navin Kumar Singh**, DG at National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC).

The other members of the panel include: Sanjay Bahl, H Krishnamurthy, Sandeep Shukla, Debdeep Mukhopadhyay, and Sugata Gangopadhyay.

284. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd has collaborated with **IME India Pvt Ltd** (erstwhile IME Forex India) to expand its money remittance services between **Indo-Nepal** corridors.

- Under this collaboration, Muthoot FinCorp will be able to serve a larger mass of Nepalese diaspora living in India.
- Muthoot FinCorp has been assisting the Nepali community in India in remitting money through their existing partner, Prabhu Money Transfer Pvt Ltd.

285. IndusInd Bank has collaborated with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to support and promote *Supply Chain Finance (SCF)* solutions in India. Under this collaboration, the lender has signed a partial guarantee programme with ADB with an initial outlay of **USD 70 million** (Rs 560 crore) to grow its presence in MSME financing.

Recently, IndusInd Bank has also launched a state-of-the-art digital portal for SCF - '**earlyCredit**' to enable 24*7 seamless processing of SCF transactions for corporates, suppliers & dealers.

286. Veteran banker **Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** for a period of three years. He has succeeded K V Rama Moorthy. He also served as MD & CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank.

287. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has levied fines on **Aadhaar Ventures India Ltd (AVIL)** and its directors, Jils Raichand Madan, Somabhai Sunderbhai Meena and Jyoti Munver (to be paid jointly and severally), for violating insider trading rules and listing conditions. The total fines levied on AVIL is **Rs.25 lakh**.

288. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and **Snapdeal** in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and **JCB International Co. Ltd.** have launched the '**Snapdeal BoB JCB RuPay Credit Card**'.

- The co-branded card will offer up to 5% cashback on spends done on the Snapdeal app and website
- Cardholders can also get benefits worth up to Rs. 500 by activating their credit card within 30 days of issuance

289. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has directed the payment apps to stop charging a platform fee for payments enabled on the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

These directives came after PhonePe, which has the largest share of UPI transactions in India, had started taking payment charges on some of its recharges and other payments. Similarly, in July 2022, Paytm also started charging Rs.1 for various bill payments.

290. Reliance General Insurance has launched one of its flexible and popular product '**Reliance Health Gain Policy**' on **Policybazaar's** online platform to ensure insurance accessibility for all.

- The policy was launched in May 2022. It is available in three different plans, *Plus, Power and Prime*, and an array of features to facilitate customisation of policy.
- **Note:** The non-life insurance penetration in India is about 1% of GDP whereas the global average stands at 4.1%.

291. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given in-principle approval to Singapore-based **Helios Capital** to launch a mutual fund business. The company has joined entities like Zerodha, Samco Securities and Bajaj Finserv that received SEBI's approval to launch mutual fund operations.

292. Nippon Life India Asset Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited, has collaborated with **DWS Group** to provide portfolio management and investment advisory services to the European-listed Indian Government Bond ETF. Under this collaboration, clients of DWG Group will get access to the attractive Indian bond market.

293. Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, and **Square Yards**, India's largest integrated Real Estate platform, have launched a co-branded first-of-its-kind unified platform, a home buyer ecosystem namely "**Open Door**". It is an integrated platform that

makes the entire process of finding and purchasing a house a hassle-free and effective process for clients.

294. State Bank of India (SBI) has joined the **Rs. 5.03 trillion** market capitalization for the first time after its shares reached a record high of Rs.564.45 on the BSE Index. With this, SBI stood on the **seventh position** in the market capitalisation ranking.

- SBI has become the *third lender* in India to cross the market cap of Rs 5 trillion.
- **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender holds first rank in this list, with a market cap of Rs 8.38 trillion, followed by **ICICI Bank**, which has a market cap of Rs 6.33 trillion.

295. Lord's Mark Insurance Broking Private Limited, the insurance division of Lord's Mark Industries, has recently received direct insurance broking licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) for selling life and general insurance products. The company will penetrate the under-served market segments in tier-2 and tier-3 towns in addition to metro cities.

296. As per the latest data, **Insurance ombudsman** disposed of **32%** more complaints i.e. **40,527 complaints** against insurance firms across the country during the year, compared with 30,596 in 2020-21.

- The Delhi office settled 3,830 complaints in 2021-22, or 9.4 percent of the all India figure. Of this, almost 30 percent, or 1,129 complaints, related to health insurance.
- 60 percent of the complaints resolved by ombudsman in 2021-22 were through conciliation and the remaining through awards.
- 81 percent of the complaints were against private insurers and the rest against LIC and PSU general insurers.

297. Mastercard has tied up with the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) on **Mastercard's Lighthouse MASSIV program** which is a free startup partnership program to assist in safe the lives of over 1 billion individuals by 2025.

- The full form of MASSIV is *Make and Scale Social Impact Vision*.
- It aims to help impact tech firms on their impact measurement and administration, and connect them to the UN network and initiatives.
- Mastercard and UNDP will focus on the sustainability, financial inclusion, and social impact of targeted firms to achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Objectives (SDG).

Mastercard Lighthouse MASSIV:

It was launched in 2019. It aims to solve complicated international challenges, including climate change, poverty, and social and economic exclusion. The program mainly focuses on the Nordic and Baltic regions.

- 298. ICICI Lombard General Insurance**, a private non-life insurance company, has collaborated with **Skit.ai**, an AI-based SaaS (Software as a Service) voice automation platform, to introduce an AI-powered digital voice agent. Under this partnership, ICICI Lombard will be able to help customers seeking the status of their health and motor insurance claims using an AI-powered Digital Voice Agent.
- 299. Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched **"iSelect Guaranteed Future"**, an individual, non-linked, non-participating, savings and protection life insurance plan in digital platform. The product is specifically targeted at new-age customers. The plan comes with "Guaranteed Maturity Benefit" and offers "Boost your Maturity" under which Guaranteed additions accrue during the last five policy years to enhance the policy's benefits to the customers.
- 300. Karnataka Bank** has become a part of the **Khajane-II (K2)**. K2 is an Integrated Financial Management system (IFMS) of the Treasury Department, Government of Karnataka for implementing a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) account system for Centrally-sponsored schemes.
- The lender will help the Government for disbursement of cash benefits to the targeted beneficiaries through direct credit to their bank accounts in a safe, secure, and speedier manner.
- 301. HDFC Bank**, India's largest private sector bank, has become the first bank in India to issue an **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)**, in association with National E-Governance Services Ltd (**NeSL**). This will eliminate the lengthy, paper based procedure, and enables faster processing, instant delivery, instant verification, and better security.
- e-BG:**
- It has been developed in consultation with NeSL, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)-Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) committee and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to simplify the process and eliminate the possibility of fraud and manipulation. e-BG will be issued on the NeSL portal through an API-based digital workflow.
- HDFC Bank has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Economic Growth (IEG)** to fund the *"HDFC Bank Chair of Banking and Finance"*.

302. HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited has introduced “**Click2Protect Super**”, a term insurance plan that allows clients to customize their protection needs and only pay for the benefits/plan options that they have chosen.

- Click2Protect Super is a non-linked, non-participating, individual, pure risk premium/savings life insurance plan that offers extensive flexibility options.
- Customers can choose a cover as per requirement from among three plan options – **Life, Life Plus & Life Goal**

Other collaboration:

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has collaborated with **Google Cloud** to develop a technology platform that will aid in the digitization of insurance purchasing and servicing in India.

303. Max Life Insurance has launched a 3-in1 market-linked solution called '**Smart Flexi Protect Solution**' that provides health and enhanced life cover, along with market-linked investment returns.

- This is designed for earning individuals, especially for self-employed profiles. It is a combination of Max Life Flexi Wealth Plus, and Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Secure Rider to offer wealth creation along with comprehensive protection against death, disability and critical illness.

304. DBS, a leading financial services group in Asia, has collaborated with **The Sandbox**, a leading decentralised gaming virtual world and a subsidiary of Animoca Brands, to launch “**DBS BetterWorld**”, an interactive metaverse experience.

- This collaboration makes DBS the first Singapore Company to seal an alliance with The Sandbox and the first bank in Singapore to make a foray into the metaverse.
- Under this collaboration, DBS will acquire a 3x3 plot of Land, a unit of virtual real estate in The Sandbox metaverse - which will be developed with immersive elements.

305. Bank of India has become the first Public Sector Bank (PSB) to go live with the new Direct Tax Collection System-**Tax Information Network (TIN 2.0)**. With this, taxpayers will now get a single platform for their tax payment as well as e-filing of tax returns.

TIN 2.0 (e-filing):

It is the official portal of Income Tax Department, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The portal has been developed by Income Tax Department as a Mission Mode Project under the National E-Governance Plan. The objective of this portal is to provide the

taxpayers, with a single window access to income tax-related services including tax payments.

306. IDFC FIRST Bank has joined the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**), an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to enable early adoption of the network among its customers.

- ONDC, a section 8 company, has been set up to democratise e-commerce and will transition ecommerce from a platform centric model to an open network model, similar to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for payments.
- IDFC FIRST Bank was founded by the merger of Erstwhile IDFC Bank and Erstwhile Capital First on **18th December 2018**.

307. ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched a '**Rainbow Savings Account**' for the transgender community to promote a trans-friendly or inclusive labour culture. The account offers a host of features, including high savings rate and advanced debit card facilities. The account also provides a default credit of interest.

308. The Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited (**HDFC**) **Bank** has introduced its rural banking business, '**Bank on Wheels**' in the village of Koteswar, near Ahmedabad, in **Gujarat**. This initiative is part of a pilot project to offer banking services in unbanked locations, in an around Ankleshwar. The 'Bank on Wheels' van will be operational at each location for a specific period and will cover 3 villages in a day.

- **Note:** HDFC bank is the first bank to translate Financial Literacy Material into the Gujarati Language.

309. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a new Individual Pension Plan namely '**LIC's New Pension Plus (NPP)**' during the function of the Insurance Week Celebration (1 to 7 September 2022). This new pension plan came into effect from 5th September 2022.

Key features:

- The plan is suitable for young persons to make provisions for post-retirement life.
- The plan can be purchased either as a single premium payment policy or regular premium payment. Under the regular payment option, the premium shall be payable over the term of the policy.
- Its Unique Identity Number (UIN) is **512L347V01**.

- This is a non-participating, unit-linked, individual pension plan.
- The policyholder will have the choice to select a fund from a total of four, and each premium shall be subject to a 'Premium Allocation Charge'.
- Guaranteed additions offered by LIC shall be payable as 5% to 15.5% on regular premium, and up to 5% on single premium.
- The plan can be purchased **offline** through agents, other intermediaries as well as **online** from the LIC website.
- The minimum entry age is **25 years**, and maximum age is **75 years**.
- The minimum policy term is **10 years** and maximum is **42 years**.

310. WAAREE Energies Limited, India's largest Solar Panel manufacturer, has collaborated with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to obtain unsecured financing for solar projects through SBI's Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme and to provide working capital for Channel Partners under EDFs (Electronic dealer finance scheme).

- WAAREE intends to leverage over **Rs.500 crore** of a credit line through **Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme** and provide a digital platform for hassle-free journey to loan applicants for financing solar projects.

311. Axis Bank has partnered with **PayNearby** Technologies Private Limited, a technology-based company, to boost credit growth in meeting the lender's priority sector lending (PSL) targets segment. With this partnership, Axis Bank can reach the customers in remote regions and provide banking solutions digitally.

- As per the RBI guidelines, **40 percent** of net bank credit is to be extended to the priority sector, which include loans to agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

312. The Ministry of Finance has issued draft guidelines for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to raise funds from capital market, private placements with select investors such as large banks and insurance companies, and Initial Public Offerings (IPO).

Key guidelines:

- Prior to issuing shares to the public through the IPO route, the RRBs should consider issue of bonus shares (to reward existing shareholders who so far have not been paid dividends and have first claim on the existing reserves) and a Rights Issue in consultation with the merchant bankers and the sponsor bank.
- The entire value of the issue may first be placed through rights offer with the provision to facilitate promoter shareholders to subscribe/renounce the offer.
- Large banks and insurance companies like LIC may be granted equity shares.
- Other private insurance companies, pension funds and mutual funds may be approached to subscribe in a book building process.

- The Department of Financial Service may consult the concerned State Government (SG) if the level of shareholding in the RRB of such SG can be reduced below 15 per cent (in compliance of the section 69 (b) of RRBs Act, 1976, after amendment).

Parameters for selecting RRBs for capital raising include:

- Net worth of at least **Rs. 300 crore** in each of the preceding three years.
- Minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio above the regulatory requirement of **9 percent** in each of the preceding three years.
- A track record of profitability - pre-tax operating profit of minimum **Rs.15 crore** for at least three out of previous five years, excluding extraordinary times.
- RRBs should have return on equity of minimum **10 percent** in three out of preceding five years, and return on assets of minimum **0.5 percent** in three out of preceding five years.
- RRBs should not have accumulated losses.
- RRBs should adhere to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and RBI Act, 1935, and they should not be under prompt corrective action by RBI/NABARD.

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):

RRBs are jointly owned by the Government of India (GoI), the respective State Governments (SGs), and the Sponsor Banks (SBs), with equity contribution in the ratio (GoI: SG: SB :: 50:15:35).

Currently, there are **43 RRBs** sponsored by 12 Scheduled Commercial Banks with 21,892 branches across the country.

As of March 2022, RRBs had deposits and loans and advances (net) aggregating Rs. 5,62,538 crore and Rs. 3,42,479 crore, respectively.

313. IndusInd Bank has approved the re-appointment of **Sumant Kathpalia** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank for a further period of three years with effect from March 24, 2023 up to March 23, 2026. He was appointed as MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank in March 2020.

The re-appointment is subject to approval from the lender's shareholders and the Reserve Bank of India.

314. Reliance General Insurance has collaborated with **Paytm**, a digital payments and financial services company, to offer the **Reliance Health Gain policy**, a customizable health cover, to customers through the Paytm app.

- Reliance Health Gain policy was launched in May 2022.
- The policy aims to enhance insurance penetration among people of India.
- It offers three different plans, **Plus, Power and Prime**, with features that provide customisation to customers.

315. SOVA Android Trojan, a new type of mobile banking malware, has now reached India. This malware encrypts an Android phone for ransom and is hard to uninstall. It has the ability to harvest user names and passwords via keylogging, stealing cookies, and adding false overlays to a range of famous apps.

- SOVA is essentially a banking malware but is capable of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), and man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks.
- CERT-In has issued an advisory for SOVA malware to be active in India.

Note: SOVA means Owl in Russian.

316. The Tata Memorial Centre (**TMC**), Mumbai, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Vedanta** Medical Research Foundation's flagship initiative, BALCO Medical Centre (BMC), Raipur, Chhattisgarh, to drive excellence in **cancer** care across India.

- With this MoU, the TMC will empanel the BMC as a referral centre for patients from Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states.
- The BMC will also take part in the National Cancer Grid Virtual Tumour Boards to drive excellence in patient care.

317. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **CSB Bank**. He has been appointed for a period of three years from September 15, 2022 up to September 14, 2025.

318. Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI) has tied up with Chennai-based **Repco Home Finance Ltd (RHFL)** to offer insurance solutions to all home loan customers of RHFL. Under this, EGI will offer property insurance cover and loan protection cover to RHFL's customers through their branches spread across India.

319. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** special fixed deposit scheme "**WECARE**" for senior citizens has been extended upto **31st March 2023**. The scheme was initially launched in 2020 to secure senior citizens' income by paying additional interest on term deposits. The scheme is offered for new deposits as well as the renewal of maturing accounts.

Period of Deposit: Minimum 5 years & Maximum 10 years

Interest Rate: Additional premium of 30 bps (over & above the existing 50 bps as detailed in the above table) over card rate for Public i.e. 80 bps over card rate for Public.

320. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has collaborated with **Remitly** to enable Non Residents Indians (NRIs) to send money through SBI via Remitly to their family members, using mobile and web applications. Under this collaboration, NRIs can now transfer money to 17 Remitly nations.

- 321.** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) to launch the “**Kotak IITM Save Energy Mission**”, which has been inaugurated by the Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the IITM Campus, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- KMBL and IITM will establish five satellite centres across India to promote energy efficiency for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector under Kotak’s CSR Project on the Environment and Sustainable Development.
 - Kotak IITM Save Energy Mission will offer assistance and training to MSMEs for periodic audits.
- 322.** Recently, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched a special type of **Everyday Savings Account** (Daily Savings Account) to help customers in spending and saving every day. This account includes a power-packed Everyday RuPay Platinum Debit Card.
- With this account, the customers can make 30 transactions of any value in a month and get minimum balance charges waived or choose to maintain an average monthly amount of Rs 20,000. It offers a higher daily limit of Rs.3 lakhs within India and abroad for transactions along with higher ATM withdrawal limits of Rs.1 lakh.
- 323.** Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) has cut its stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (**GSK Pharma**) from 6.402 percent to **4.357 percent**. LIC has sold about 34.20 lakh shares or 2.045 percent of its holding in the global pharma major during September 2018-22 period.
- 324.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the investment of **Rs 665 crore** in primary capital insurance by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (**ADIA**) in Aditya Birla Health Insurance (**ABHI**) in exchange for a **9.99%** equity.
- 325.** The State Bank of India (**SBI**) has acquired the **13.82%** equity of existing shareholders, that is 2,20,98,780 equity shares, of **SBI Global Factors (SBIGFL)** from its existing shareholders Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) 6.53%, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) 4.34%, and Union Bank of India (UBI) 2.95%.
- This transaction entails a cash consideration of Rs.67.84 crore. Prior to this acquisition, SBI held an 86.18% stake in SBIGFL.
- 326.** The Board of Directors of **Yes Bank** has approved the sale of stressed loans worth **Rs.48, 000 crore** to **JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)**. YES Bank will also pick up a **19.99% stake** in the ARC, subject to regulatory approvals.

JC Flowers ARC won Yes Bank's non-performing loan portfolio for Rs.11,183 crore in a Swiss Challenge auction, after a consortium of Cerberus Capital and Asset Reconstruction Company of India (ARCIL) withdrew its bid.

327. HDFC Bank has entered into a long-term partnership with the London Stock Exchange group's **Refinitiv** to facilitate digital transformation and innovation programmes across the whole business in India.

Under this agreement, comprehensive access to Refinitiv's data and products will enable HDFC Bank to realise new customer opportunities and fast-track its innovation agenda while reducing total cost.

328. ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund has recently launched the **ICICI Prudential Nifty Auto Index Fund**, industry's first Auto Index Fund. The fund will track the Nifty Auto Index which has been designed to reflect the performance of the automobiles sector.

- The index comprises **15 listed companies** and represents auto-related sectors such as auto ancillaries and tyres too.
- The index is composed using the free float market capitalization method.
- The new fund offer opens on 22 September and will close on 6 October.

329. The Defence Accounts Department (**DAD**), under the Ministry of Defence, has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** and **HDFC Bank**, to onboard them as Service Centres under the **System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH)** initiative, across more than 14,000 branches throughout India.

- The MoU will onboard more than 7,900 branches of Bank of Baroda and 6,300 branches of HDFC Bank as Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners (especially in remote areas) through SPARSH.
- The objective is to bring 17 lakh pensioners out of the total 32 lakh defence pensioners on SPARSH by the end of September 2022 and the remaining pensioners will be brought to SPARSH at the earliest.
- The Service Centres will become an interface for SPARSH and provide an effective medium for pensioners to perform profile update requests, register grievances and seek redressal, digital annual identification, pensioner data verification or also simply fetch detailed information regarding their monthly pension.

SPARSH:

It is a web-based system for processing the pension claims and crediting the pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without any external intermediary. This system is administered by the **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)** through the Principal

Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Prayagraj and caters to all the three Defence Services and allied organization.

330. Ageas Federal Life Insurance has become the **first life insurance company** in India to have **74 percent** stake held by a foreign partner after the Belgium-based shareholder, Ageas Insurance International NV, completed the acquisition of the remaining 25 percent stake from IDBI Bank.

Ageas has acquired the additional 25 percent stake (from IDBI Bank) for a total cash consideration of Rs.5.8 billion (EUR 73 million).

331. Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI), the life insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched a new-age savings solution '**ABSLI Akshaya Plan**', a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan offering immediate liquidity option through cash bonus facility.

The maximum entry age to avail ABSLI Akshaya Plan is 55 years, while the minimum age is 30 days. The minimum annualized premium is Rs.24,000 and no limit for the maximum annualized premium.

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332. World Bank (WB) has approved a **USD 350 million loan** to **Gujarat** to improve the quality and access of public healthcare services, with a special focus on adolescent girls and disease surveillance in the state.

- The loan amount sanctioned by the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development (**IBRD**), the funding arm of the WB, has a maturity of 18 years including a grace period of 5.5 years.
- The loan amount will be utilized through the state government's Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G) programme which will enable more people to access a wider range of high-quality health services.

333. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has permitted the **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)**, and **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)** to issue Commercial Papers (CPs), subject to certain conditions.

- This decision follows the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) CP directions in August 2022 which enabled InvIT and REIT having net worth of at least **Rs 100 crore** are eligible to issue commercial papers.

Commercial Paper (CP):

It refers to a short-term debt instrument issued by companies to garner funds generally for a time period up to one year. It is an unsecured money-market instrument issued in form of promissory note. It is offered at discount to face value.

Advantages: No requirement of collateral, Low funding cost, **Highly Liquid**, Higher returns for investors and fewer chances of default

334. Union Bank of India has launched the '**Ethical Hacking Lab**' at the Cyber Security Centre of Excellence (CCoE) in Hyderabad, Telangana. The aim is to strengthen the cyber ecosystem in India. The lab with cyber defence mechanism will protect the bank's information system, digital assets, and channels, against potential cyber threats.

335. Yubi (earlier, CredAvenue) has tied up with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to enable higher credit access to the priority sector. SBI will be integrated with Yubi Co.Lend, a co-lending marketplace that enables lenders to collaborate with multiple partners and disburse joint loans to the priority sector.

336. Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched "**Khushiyon ka Tyohaar**", an annual festival campaign, to provide a range of offers including attractive interest rates on home loans and car loans, in addition to the discount on processing charges and other benefits.

- In addition, customers will also receive a number of other benefits such as no pre-payment/part payment charges, concessional processing charges, and longer repayment tenure of seven years.
- BoB home loans are available at a competitive interest rate beginning at **7.95% p.a.** with no processing charges, and car loans are available at a special rate starting from **7.95% p.a.** with a 25 basis points concession.

337. Global payments and technology company **Mastercard** will launch the '**Carbon Calculator**' feature, which offers consumers an estimated carbon footprint for each of their purchases, for Indian consumers.

- Mastercard Carbon Calculator, developed in collaboration with Swedish fintech Doconomy, is currently used in over 25 countries.
- Banking partners can embed the tracking tool in their website or mobile apps.
- This can drive the cumulative effect of carbon footprint across a variety of spending categories in a month.

338. Muthoot Finance, one of India's largest gold loan NBFC companies, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UAE-based **Lulu International Exchange** to work as its collection partner.

Through this partnership, Muthoot Finance aims to drive convenience and ease of money transfer for over 4 lakh NRIs in the UAE region whose relatives have availed gold loans back home.

339. DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL), in collaboration with **HDFC ERGO** General Insurance Co Ltd and **Atradius**, has provided Trade Credit Insurance - Accounts Receivable solution to Tata Metaliks, a pioneer in manufacturing pig iron and DI pipes in India. This credit insurance deal is amongst the **first** to leverage Trade Credit Insurance.

340. Japan-based **MUFG Bank** has recently increased the capital of its branches in India by **Rs.3,000 crore** to expand its India business. As a result of this capital injection, the total capital of MUFG Bank in India will rise to Rs.5,207 crore.

341. UCO Bank and **Yes Bank** have collaborated with two Russian banks for undertaking businesses with Russia. The UCO Bank has collaborated with **Gazprom Bank** and the Yes Bank has collaborated with **Petersburg Social Commercial Bank (PSCB)** of Russia. This agreement took place after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed foreign payments through special Vostro accounts.

342. Bank of India (BoI) has recently acquired over **5.5 percent** stakes in Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) for Rs 10 crore under the private placement route. In absolute terms, BoI has acquired 10,00,000 equity shares for Rs 100 each in ONDC.

343. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has received the final approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for introducing the **Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR)** on its platform.

BSE had received in-principle approval from SEBI in February 2022 after which the exchange conducted several mock trading in the test environment for exchange members to facilitate trading in EGRs.

Note: EGR is an electronic receipt issued on the basis of deposit of physical gold in accordance with the regulations made by SEBI.

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RBI IN NEWS

344. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a pilot project for the digitization of **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** in **Madhya Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. The aim is to transform rural credit delivery system.

- In this project, **Union Bank of India** and **Federal Bank** are the partner banks.
- This project is developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (**RBIH**) in association with RBI.
- The proposed digitalisation of the KCC lending process will make it more efficient, reduce costs for borrowers and reduce turn around time (TAT) significantly.

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme:

It was introduced in **1998** for issue of farm loan to farmers on the basis of their holdings. The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in 2004.

In December 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Revised Scheme to KCC with aim to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs.

345. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for **Digital Lending** to protect consumers from breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates and unethical recovery practices by fintech players.

- Digital Lending involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilizing technology for authentication and credit evaluation.
- Guidelines are applicable to all Regulated Entities (RE) i.e. Commercial banks, Primary (urban) co-operative banks, Non- Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) etc.

Key guidelines:

- All loan disbursements/repayments are to be executed only between bank accounts of borrower and RE.
- Cooling off/ look-up period to exit digital loan by paying principal and proportionate annual percentage rate without any penalty shall be provided.
- Lenders can store information such as name, address of customer etc. that are required to process and disburse loan and repayment of it.
- Biometric information of the borrower **cannot** be stored by Digital Lending Apps (DLAs).
- REs shall provide a Key Fact Statement (KFS) to the borrower before the execution of the contract in a standardized format for all digital lending products.
- Reporting of all lending to Credit Information Companies (CICs) as per CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005 and others.

- 346.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has selected **HDFC Bank** (in partnership with Crunchfish AB) and **Precision Biometric India Private Limited** for the Test Phase of the '**On Tap**' application facility for the theme '**Retail Payments**' under RBI's Regulatory Sandbox (RS).
- HDFC Bank is selected for its '**Offline Retail Payments**', while Precision Biometric India is selected for its '**InnaIT Key Solution for Banking**'.
 - The '**On Tap**' facility for theme '**Retail Payments**' was announced by RBI in October 2021.

RBI has also announced the 5th Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox (RS) which will be themed '**neutral**'.

Regulatory Sandbox (RS):

It refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing. It was introduced in 2019.

- 347.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on **8 co-operative banks** for breaching certain provisions related to 'income recognition, asset classification, provisioning' and finance for housing schemes.
- **Rs 55 lakh** penalty on **The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank**, Andhra Pradesh for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.
 - A penalty of **Rs 10 lakh** has been imposed on **Bharat Heavy Electricals Employees' Co-operative Bank**, Kailasapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu;
 - **Rs 5 lakh** on **The Ottapalam Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd**, Ottapalam, Palakkad District, Kerala;
 - **Rs 10 lakh** on **The Darussalam Co-operative Urban Bank**, Hyderabad, Telangana.
 - A penalty of **Rs 10 lakh** each on The Nellore Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Gandhi Nagar, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, and Kakinada Co-operative Town Bank Ltd, Kakinada, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.
 - **Rs 1 lakh** fine has been imposed on The Kendrapara Urban Cooperative Bank, Kendrapara, and **Rs 5 lakh** on the National Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh.
- 348.** The **Institute for Development & Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, a unit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has developed a novel technology that allows people in remote hilly and forest areas without satellite signal to access banking services.
- IDRBT is the first in the world to build a network based on **Long Range Radio (LoRa) technology**.
 - LoRa is a spread spectrum modulation technique derived from chirp spread spectrum (CSS) technology.

- It is a new dedicated low-cost financing network that banks may use privately to transmit encrypted texts and make financial transactions.

349. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, has launched three key digital payment initiatives at the **3rd Global Fintech Fest 2022** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The three digital payment initiatives are:

UPI Lite:

- UPI Lite has been designed for small-value transactions. It is an on-device wallet.
- The upper limit of a UPI Lite payment transaction will be **Rs.200**. The total limit of the UPI Lite digital payment mode on the wallet on a device would be **Rs.2,000** at any point in time.
- In Phase-I, UPI Lite will process transactions in **near offline mode**, i.e., debit (payments) can be made without Internet connection and credits into the account will be done online.
- UPI Lite feature has been enabled on the BHIM app.
- Customers of these **eight banks** will be able to use UPI Lite digital payment system. These are Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Union Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

Bharat BillPay Cross-Border Bill Payments:

- Federal Bank** has partnered with the NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (**NBBL**), and **Lulu Exchange (UAE)** to enable Utility Bill Payment System services for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) diaspora. With this, Federal Bank and Lulu Exchange has become the **first** to accept BBPS cross-border bill payments.

RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

- The customers of **Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank** will be the first to be able to use RuPay Credit Card on UPI with BHIM App.
- RuPay credit cards will be linked to a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) i.e. UPI ID, thus directly enabling safe, and secure payment transactions.
- Currently, UPI is linked through debit cards and bank accounts.

350. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow foreign inward remittances received under the Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA), to be transferred to the KYC (Know Your Customer) compliant bank account of the biller (beneficiary) through **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, subject to conditions.

Thus, RBI has allowed BBPS to process Cross-Border Inbound Remittances. The direction has been issued under Section 10(4) and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

351. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed **Central Bank of India** from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (**PCAF**) after the lender showed improvement in various

financial ratios, including minimum regulatory capital and Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPAs). RBI had placed Central Bank under PCA in June 2017 due to high net NPAs and negative return on assets.

352. Public sector lender **UCO Bank** has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) approval to open a special Vostro account with Gazprombank of Russia for trade settlement in Indian rupees.

In July 2022, RBI announced its decision to allow Indian banks to settle trade in Indian currency. RBI also allowed trade settlements between India and other countries, including Sri Lanka and Russia.

Vostro account:

It is an account that a correspondent bank holds on behalf of another bank of correspondent bank/s of the partner country for trading. For example, HSBC Vostro account is held by SBI in India.

353. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Solapur (Maharashtra) based **The Laxmi Co-operative Bank Limited** as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. The lender has failed to comply with the requirements of the Banking Regulation (BR) Act 1949.

RBI, in the exercise of its powers under Section 45L (1) (b) of the RBI Act 1934, has ordered **Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) Financial Services** to immediately stop all recovery or repossession activity through outsourcing arrangements, with immediate effect.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

354. The **67th Filmfare Awards 2022** ceremony, presented by The Times Group, has honoured the best Indian Hindi-language films of 2021. It has been held at Jio World Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Wolf777news is the title sponsor of the event.

| Category | Winners |
|------------------------------|--|
| Best Film (Popular) | Shershaah |
| Best Director | Vishnuvardhan (Shershaah) |
| Best Screenplay | Shubendu Bhattacharya (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Debut Director | Seema Pahwa (Ramprasad ki Tehrvi) |
| Best Dialogue | Dibakar Banerjee and Varun Grover (Sandeep Aur Pinky Faraar) |
| Best Story | Abhishek Kapoor, Supratik Sen, and Tushar Paranjape (Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui) |
| Best Actor Debut | Ehan Bhat (99 songs) |
| Best Actress Debut | Sharvari Wagh (Bunty aur Babli 2) |
| Best Actor in a Leading Role | Ranveer Singh (83). |

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Best Actress in a Supporting Role | Sai Tamhankar (Mimi) |
| Best Playback Singer (Male) | B Praak (Mann Bharryaa - Shershaah) |
| Best choreography | Vijay Ganguly (Atrangi Re) |
| Best Background score | Shantanu Moitra (Sardar Udham) |
| Best cinematography | Avik Mukhopadhyay (Sardar Udham) |
| Best action | Stefan Richter and Suneil Rodrigues (Shershaah) |
| Best VFX | Superb/BOJP Main Road Post NY VFXWAALA Edit Fx Studios (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Production Design | Mansi Dhruv Mehta and Dmitri Malich (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Sound Design | Dipankar Chaki and Nihar Ranjan Samal (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Editing | A Sreekar Prasad(Shershaah) |
| Best Costume | Vira Kapoor EE (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Lyrics | Kausar Munir (Lehra Do - 83) |
| Best Actress in a Leading Role | Kriti Sanon (Mimi) |
| Best Actor in a Supporting Role | Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi) |
| Best Playback Singer (Female) | Asees Kaur (Raataan Lambiyan - Shershaah) |
| Best Music Album | Tanishk Bagchi, B Praak, Jaani, Jasleen Royal, Javed-Mohsin and Vikram Montrose (Shershaah) |
| Best Film (Critics') | Sardar Udham (Shoojit Sircar) |
| Best Actor (Critics') | Vicky Kaushal (Sardar Udham) |
| Best Actress (Critics') | Vidya Balan (Sherni) |
| Lifetime Achievement Award | Subhash Ghai |

355. The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF), known as the “Nobel Peace Prize of Asia”, has recently announced the winners of the **64th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2022**. The theme of 2022 Awards is “Greatness of Spirit, Beyond Borders”.

2022 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees:

- **Sotheara Chhim:** He is a mental health advocate from **Cambodia**. He is a leading voice in Cambodian trauma syndrome. He is being recognized for “his calm courage in surmounting deep trauma to become his people’s healer”.
- **Tadashi Hattori:** He is a sight-saving humanitarian from **Japan**. He is being recognized for his simple humanity and extraordinary generosity as a person and a professional.
- **Bernadette J. Madrid:** She is a children’s rights crusader from the **Philippines**. She is being recognized for “her unassuming and steadfast commitment to noble and demanding advocacy.”

- **Gary Benchehib:** He is an anti-plastic pollution warrior from **Indonesia**. He is being recognized for Emergent Leadership for “his inspiring fight against marine plastic pollution.

Ramon Magsaysay Award:

It was established in 1957. It is Asia’s greatest honour and distinction. The award is managed by RMAF. It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines. The prize is annually presented in a ceremonial ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31. The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on 31st August 1958.

- 356.** Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, has presented **Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022**. These awards are an initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the United Nations (UN) in India to address city-level accessibility and inclusion challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD), women and girls, and the elderly.

The award were launched in April 2022 to promote people-centric design and to foster novel home-grown technological innovations and solutions.

A ‘Compendium of Smart and Innovative Solutions for an Inclusive & Accessible Urban Future’ has also been launched.

Winners of Smart Solutions and Inclusive Cities Awards 2022:

Category 1: Early-stage Innovations

1. Fifth Sense by Glovatrix Pvt. Ltd
2. Digital Mobility Subsidy by Ola Mobility Institute
3. AxcesAble Places by AxcesAble Designs LLP

Category 2: Market-ready Solutions

1. Mouseware by Dextroware Devices
2. Signer.AI by Incluistic Pvt. Ltd. / Friends for Inclusion
3. IncluMaps by Vikas Upadhyay, Research Scholar, IIT Delhi

Category 3: Implemented Solutions

1. Multi-Dimensional Inclusiveness: Using Advanced Technologies for Education and Literacy by Belagavi Smart City Ltd.
2. myUDAAN by Tekra Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
3. ‘Moving with Pride’ (Mo Bus and Mo E-Ride) by Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Odisha

4. Nirbhaya App by Sagar Smart City Ltd.

357. Former US President **Barack Obama** has won an Emmy Award for his narration in the Netflix documentary series, '**Our Great National Parks**'. The five-part show, which features national parks from around the globe, is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground". He is the second US President to have an Emmy.

Previously, he won Grammy Awards for his audiobook reading of two of his memoirs, "The Audacity of Hope" and "A Promised Land".

Other awardees:

Black Panther star and Hollywood actor late **Chadwick Boseman** has won an Emmy Award for outstanding character voiceover for the Disney+ and Marvel Studios animated show "What If?".

358. Tanikella Bharani, a **Telugu** writer and actor, has been presented with the annual Sahitya Puraskar of the Lok Nayak Foundation at an award ceremony held at Kalabharathi Auditorium, Vishakhapatnam (Vizag) in Andhra Pradesh.

Lok Nayak Foundation Award:

The award is popularly referred to as '*Andhra Jnanpith*'. It carries a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh. The award is given annually to an eminent Telugu writer or poet or a person credited with service for the cause of Telugu literature. It was instituted in 2005.

359. Kolkata-based **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** has been conferred the **Green Channel Certification** by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of portable steel bridges, Bailey type, of various spans and configurations to the Indian Army.

360. West Bengal has received the International Travel Award 2023 for '**Best Destination for Culture**' by the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA), an affiliate member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The award will be conferred at the World Tourism and Aviation Leaders' Summit in Berlin, Germany on 9th March 2023.

Pacific Area Travel Writers Association (PATWA):

It is a professional organisation of travel writers which was founded in 1998. It works with both the public and private sectors to support sustainable growth and improve the quality of travel and tourism.

361. Noted Hindi writer **Asgar Wajahat** has been honoured with the **31st Vyas Samman Award** in New Delhi. He has been honoured for his play '**Mahabali**'. The play focuses on Mughal emperor Akbar and poet Tulsidas. Through the play, he attempts to answer who is the real Mahabali, the poet or the emperor.

Vyas Samman:

It is given by K K Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years. It carries an award of Rs.4 lakh along with a citation and plaque. It was initiated in 1991.

362. The Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army **General Manoj Pande** has been conferred the title of **Honorary General of the Nepali Army** by Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu, Nepal.

363. Former India Chief of Naval Staff, **Admiral Sunil Lanba** has been honoured with the prestigious military award, the **Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera)** or Meritorious Service Medal by **Halimah Yacob**, the President of the Republic of Singapore at the Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

Pingat Jasa Gemilang (Tentera):

It is a **Singaporean** national honour and medal instituted in 1962. It is awarded to members of the Singapore Armed Forces for exceptionally distinguished performance or extraordinary service, or the furtherance of links with overseas forces.

364. The 74th annual Emmy Awards 2022 has been hosted by Kenan Thompson at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, USA.

List of winners:

| Category | Winner |
|--|---------------------------|
| Outstanding lead actress in a comedy series | Jean Smart- Hacks |
| Outstanding lead actor in a comedy series | Jason Sudeikis- Ted Lasso |
| Outstanding comedy series | Ted Lasso |
| Outstanding lead actor in a limited or anthology series or a movie | Michael Keaton- Dopesick |

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| Outstanding lead actress in a limited or anthology series or a movie | Amanda Seyfried- The Dropout |
| Outstanding limited or anthology series | The White Lotus |
| Outstanding lead actress in a drama series | Zendaya- Euphoria |
| Outstanding lead actor in a drama series | Lee Jung-jae- Squid Game |
| Outstanding drama series | Succession |
| Supporting actor in a comedy series | Brett Goldstein- Ted Lasso |
| Supporting actress in a comedy series | Sheryl Lee Ralph- Abbott Elementary |
| Guest actor in a drama series | Colman Domingo- Euphoria |
| Guest actress in a drama series | Lee You-mi- Squid Game |
| Supporting actor in a drama series | Matthew Macfadyen- Succession |
| Supporting actress in a drama series | Julia Garner- Ozark |
| Supporting actor in a limited series or TV movie | Murray Bartlett- The White Lotus |
| Supporting actress in a limited series or TV movie | Jennifer Coolidge- The White Lotus |
| Television movie | Chip 'n' Dale: Rescue Rangers |
| Guest actor in a comedy series | Nathan Lane- Only Murders in the Building |
| Guest actress in a comedy series | Laurie Metcalf- Hacks |
| Outstanding writing for a comedy series | Abbott Elementary- Quinta Brunson |
| Outstanding writing for a drama series | Succession- Jesse Armstrong |
| Outstanding writing for a limited or anthology series or movie | The White Lotus- Mike White |
| Outstanding writing for a variety series | Last Week Tonight With John Oliver |
| Outstanding writing for a variety special | Jerrod Carmichael: Rothaniel |
| Outstanding writing for a nonfiction program | Lucy And Desi |
| Outstanding competition program | Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls |

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| Structured reality program | Queer Eye |
| Unstructured reality program | Love on the Spectrum |
| Host for a reality or competition program | RuPaul- RuPaul's Drag Race |
| Variety sketch show | Saturday Night Live |
| Variety special (live) | The Pepsi Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show Starring Dr. Dre- Snoop Dogg- Mary J. Blige- Eminem- Kendrick Lamar And 50 Cent |
| Variety special (pre-recorded) | Adele: One Night Only |
| Short form comedy, drama or variety series | Carpool Karaoke: The Series |
| Short form nonfiction or reality series | Full Frontal With Samantha Bee Presents: Once Upon A Time In Late Night |
| Documentary or nonfiction special | George Carlin's American Dream |
| Documentary or nonfiction series | The Beatles: Get Back |
| Exceptional merit in documentary filmmaking | When Claude Got Shot |
| Actor in a short form comedy or drama series | Tim Robinson- I Think You Should Leave With Tim Robinson |
| Actress in a short form comedy or drama series | Patricia Clarkson- State of the Union |
| Animated program | Arcane |
| Short-form animated program | Love- Death + Robots |
| Character voice-over performance | Chadwick Boseman- What If...? |
| Narrator | Barack Obama- Our Great National Parks |
| Hosted nonfiction series or special | Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy |
| Outstanding directing for a comedy series | Ted Lasso- MJ Delaney |
| Outstanding directing for a drama series | Squid Game- Hwang Dong-hyuk |
| Outstanding directing for a limited or anthology series or movie | The White Lotus- Mike White |
| Outstanding directing for a variety series | A Black Lady Sketch Show- Bridget Stokes |

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|--|---|
| Outstanding directing for a variety of special | Adele: One Night Only- Paul Dugdale |
| Outstanding Directing for a documentary/nonfiction program | The Beatles: Get Back- Peter Jackson |
| Outstanding Directing for a reality program | Lizzo's Watch Out For The Big Grrrls- Nneka Onuorah |

365. Federal Bank has been ranked **63rd** on the **Best Workplaces in Asia 2022** and becomes the **only bank in India** to be listed by Great Place to Work, the global authority on workplace culture.

- The list is based on over 1 million survey responses across Asia and West Asia, representing the experience of over 4.7 million employees in the region.
- According to Great Place to Work India, 88 percent of employees at the best workplaces in Asia on average reported having a positive employee experience. For the average global workforce, only 55 percent of workers report a similarly positive experience.

366. Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has recently presented **INSPIRE awards** to 60 startups and financial support to **53,021 students**. The award is instituted by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), and these innovators will be extended complete incubation support for their entrepreneurship journey.

The Indian Government confers INSPIRE Award – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) every year under the SEAT Program.

- MANAK was launched by DST in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) in 2017.
- The objective is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.

367. The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum, and the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation of Jubilant Bhartia group have awarded **Aniket Doegar** of **Haqdarshak**, a tech platform that connects citizens with their eligible government welfare schemes, with the prestigious '**Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award - India 2022**'.

- The annual award recognises entrepreneurs who implement innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to solve India's social problems.
- The award has been presented by **Anurag Thakur**, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.

368. Indian scientist & industrialist **Swati Piramal**, Vice Chairperson of Piramal Group, has been conferred the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), France's top civilian honour. She has been awarded for her outstanding achievements and contribution in the fields of business and industry, science, medicine, art and culture, both nationally and internationally.

She was also awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the Order of Merit), France's second highest honour in 2006.

369. Indian billionaire, industrialist and Adani Group's Chairperson **Gautam Adani** has become the 2nd Richest person in World on Forbes real-time billionaire list by surpassing **Jeff Bezos** (Amazon). As per Forbes real-time billionaires list, Gautam Adani's net worth stands at USD 155.7 billion as of September 16, 2022, up by USD 5.5 billion or nearly 4%.

- Tesla founder, Elon Musk has remained the world's richest man with USD 273.5 billion net worth.
- Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 8th in the list with USD 93.4 billion net worth.

370. Bollywood actress **Alia Bhatt** has been awarded the Best Actor at the prestigious "**Priyadarshni Academy Smita Patil Memorial Award 2022**". She has been awarded for her commendable contribution to Indian cinema at the 38th-anniversary celebrations of the premier non-profit, socio-cultural and educational organization, Priyadarshini Academy.

Note: Kiara Advani received Priyadarshni Academy's Smita Patil Memorial Award 2021 for Best Actress.

The Smita Patil Memorial Award for Best Actress is an honour established in 1986 by the Priyadarshni Academy in memory of actress Smita Patil.

371. The Film Federation of India (FFI) has selected a **Gujarati** film '**Chhello Show**' (**Last Film Show**) as India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards (Oscar 2023) in the Best International Feature Film Category.

The film is directed by **Pan Nalin** and is produced by **Siddharth Roy Kapur**.

The film's story is inspired by Pan Nalin's memories of falling in love with movies as a child in Gujarat's Saurashtra village. The film is a coming-of-age drama which focuses on a nine-year-old who loves cinema and how he bribes his way into a movie palace and spends his summer vacation watching movies from the projection booth.

In 2021, the Tamil drama 'Koozhangal' (Pebbles), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, was India's official entry at the Oscars.

Note: The 95th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 12, 2023 in Los Angeles.

372. **Radhika Batra** of India, **Zahra Joya** of Afghanistan, **Vanessa Nakate** of Uganda and EU chief **Ursula von der Leyen** of Germany have been honoured by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the **2022 Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards** for their extraordinary work towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Winners of 2022 Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards

| Name of the Award | Presented by | Awardee | Associated Field | About |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Global Goalkeeper Award | Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates | Ursula von der Leyen | Politician | She was awarded for her contribution to maintaining peace and stability in the region. |
| Campaign Award | Malala Yousafzai | Vanessa Nakate (Founder of Rise Up Climate Movement & Green School Movement) | Climate Activist | She is progressing SDG 4: Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 13: Climate Action. |
| Changemaker Award | Angelina Jolie | Zahra Joya (Founder of Rukhshana Media) | Journalist | She is progressing SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions. |
| Progress Award | Lilly Singh | Dr. Radhika Batra (Founder of Every Infant Matters) | Pediatrician | She is progressing SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. |

373. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur has inaugurated the **47th Annual Gathering** and **20th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** in New Delhi. The theme of the event is *"Building a stronger future for broadcasting in the post pandemic era"*.

- During the meeting, India's Presidency of the prestigious AIBD has been **extended** for one more year.
 - A five-year plan for co-operative activities and exchange programmes have also been finalised.
 - All the participating countries and member broadcasters pledged to work together for a sustainable broadcasting environment, latest technology know-how, and finest content.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur has presided over the award presentation for 2021 and 2022.

Awards:

Appreciation Award for 2021: Radio Television Brunei.

Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021: Khieu Khanharith, Minister of Information and Communication, Cambodia.

Appreciation Award for 2022: Ministry of Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development, Republic of Fiji and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022: Mayank Agarwal, CEO of Prasar Bharti, Director-General of Doordarshan, and President of AIBD.

Note: India hosted the AIBD Governing Council Meetings (GC) in 1978, 1985, and 2003.

Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD):

It was established in 1977 under the aegis of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

It is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.

Its secretariat is located in **Kuala Lumpur** and is hosted by the Government of Malaysia. It currently has 26 Full Members (countries), represented by 43 organisations, and 50 Affiliate Members (organisations) with a total membership of 93 representing 46 countries and regions and over 50 partners in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.

374. The **India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI)**, a Large-scale hypertension intervention under the National Health Mission (NHM), has recently won the '**2022 UN Interagency Task Force, and the WHO Special Program on Primary Health Care Award**' at the United Nations General Assembly. It has been awarded for India's exceptional work within India's existing primary healthcare system.

India Hypertension Control Initiative (IHCI):

- IHCI is a collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), state governments and the World Health Organization-India.
- The initiative was launched in **2017** and expanded in a phased manner to cover more than 130 districts across 23 states.
- IHCI aims to accelerate progress towards the government's NCD (Non-Communicable Disease) target by supplementing and intensifying evidence-based strategies to strengthen the building blocks of hypertension management and control.

Hypertension in India:

Uncontrolled high blood pressure (HBP) or hypertension is the most common reason for sudden heart attack or stroke.

In India, one in four adults has high blood pressure. There are an estimated 20 crore adults with hypertension, of whom approximately only 2 crores have it under control.

The Indian government has adopted the “25 by 25” goal to reduce premature mortality due to NCDs by 25% by 2025.

375. Indian author and poet **Meena Kandasamy** has been named the recipient of the **Hermann Kesten Prize** by the PEN Centre in Germany's Darmstadt. The PEN Center, Germany, will present the award at a ceremony in Darmstadt on 15th November 2022. The winner will receive an amount of EURO 20,000 (\$19,996) as prize money.

The website “*Weiter Schreiben*” (German for “Keep writing”) has also been awarded with a special award for encouragement, for giving authors in exile and writers from conflict zones a platform to express their thoughts.

The Hermann Kesten Prize honours personalities who, in the spirit of the charter of the PEN association, stand up for the rights of persecuted authors and journalists.

Meena Kandasamy:

She was born in 1984 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. She is a feminist and anti-caste activist whose work revolves around the issue of gender, caste, sexuality, patriarchy, and oppression by the Brahmanical system.

Her notable works include: *The Gypsy Goddess* (2014), *When I Hit You: Or, A Portrait of the Writer as a Young Wife* (2017), *Ayaankali* (2007), *Tamil Tigresses* (2021) and poems including *Touch* (2006), and *Ms Militancy* (2010).

376. Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has won the Airport Service Quality Award-2022 instituted by Airport Council International (ACI) for its successful implementation of ‘Mission Safeguarding’ program that was implemented in 2021-22 to ensure seamless traffic and passenger satisfaction after COVID-19 pandemic.

It has won recognition in the 5 to 15 million passenger category of airports operating in the Asia-Pacific region.

377. The winners of **Breakthrough Prize 2023** have recently been announced.

The Breakthrough Prize, also known as “Oscars of Science”, is the world's largest science award. Each prize is USD 3 million and presented in the fields of Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics and Mathematics.

2023 Breakthrough Prizes in Life Sciences:

- **Clifford P. Brangwynne**, Princeton University, Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Marine Biological Laboratory

Anthony A. Hyman, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics

Awarded for discovering a fundamental mechanism of cellular organization mediated by phase separation of proteins and RNA into membrane less liquid droplets.

- **Demis Hassabis**, DeepMind

John Jumper, DeepMind

Awarded for developing a deep learning AI method that rapidly and accurately predicts the three-dimensional structure of proteins from their amino acid sequence.

- **Emmanuel Mignot**, Stanford University School of Medicine

Masashi Yanagisawa, University of Tsukuba

Awarded for discovering that narcolepsy is caused by the loss of a small population of brain cells that make a wake-promoting substance, paving the way for the development of new treatments for sleep disorders.

2023 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics:

- **Charles H. Bennett**, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center
- **Gilles Brassard**, Université de Montréal
- **David Deutsch**, Oxford University
- **Peter W. Shor**, MIT

Awarded for foundational work in the field of quantum information.

2023 Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics:

Daniel A. Spielman, Yale University

Awarded for breakthrough contributions to theoretical computer science and mathematics, including to spectral graph theory, the Kadison-Singer problem, numerical linear algebra, optimization, and coding theory.

378. President of India Droupadi Murmu has conferred the **National Service Scheme (NSS) Awards** for the year **2020-21** at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. A total of **42 awards** have been awarded including 2 Universities, 10 NSS units, their programme officers, and 30 NSS volunteers received the awards.

NSS Awards:

The Department of Youth Affairs of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** confers every year the National Service Scheme Award. The awards are conferred to recognise and reward outstanding contributions towards voluntary community service with a view to further promoting NSS in the country.

National Service Scheme:

NSS is a Central Sector Scheme that was launched in **1969** with the objective of developing the personality and character of the student youth through voluntary community service. The ideology of NSS is inspired by the ideals of **Mahatma Gandhi**. Its Motto is *"Not me but You"*.

379. Indian-origin UK Home Secretary **Suella Braverman** has won the **1st Queen Elizabeth II Woman of the Year** award at the 20th edition of Asian Achievers Award 2022 ceremony in London, England. The awards recognise the outstanding work of such individuals within the South Asian community.

Other winners of Asian Achievers Award 2022:

- Art and Culture: Namit Malhotra, Chairman and CEO, DNEG

- Business Person of the Year: Shamil and Kavi Thakrar, Co-founders, Dishoom
- Community Service: Dr Zareen Roohi Ahmed, Chair, Halimah Trust
- Entrepreneur of the Year: Sherry Vaswani, Founder and CEO, Xalient
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr Kartar Lalvani OBE, Founder and Chairman, Vitabiotics
- Media: Naga Munchetty, BBC News
- Professional of the Year: Professor Sir Shankar Balasubramanian, University of Cambridge
- Special Award for Business Leadership: Puneet Gupta, Co-Owner and joint CEO, PG Paper
- Special Award for Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Bankim Chandra, CEO, DotSquares
- Sports Personality of the Year: Karenjeet Kaur Bains, powerlifter
- Uniformed and Civil Service: Captain Harpreet Chandi, British Army
- Outstanding Achievement in Healthcare: Prema Subaskaran, Founder, LycaHealth

380. Veteran actress **Asha Parekh** has been honoured with the **2020 Dadasaheb Phalke award**, making her the 52nd awardee of the honour. She has been awarded for her exemplary lifetime contribution to Indian cinema.

She worked in more than 95 films and was the chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification from 1998-2001. She was also conferred with Padma Shri in 1992.

Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

It is the highest honour in Indian cinema. The award was instituted in 1969 by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs.1,000,000 (USD 13,000). It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani.

381. Noted playback singers **Kumar Sanu, Shailendra Singh** and music-composer duo **Anand & Milind Shrivastava** have been awarded the National Lata Mangeshkar Award for different years on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late legendary singer, Lata Mangeshkar at her birthplace Indore, Madhya Pradesh. She was born on 28th September 1929.

- **Lata Mangeshkar Award 2019:** Shailendra Singh
- **Lata Mangeshkar Award 2020:** Anand & Milind Shrivastava
- **Lata Mangeshkar Award 2021:** Kumar Sanu

Lata Mangeshkar Award:

It was instituted in 1984 by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It is given annually to honour works in the field of music. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 2 lakh and a citation.

Additional Information:

Recently, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has inaugurated an intersection '**Lata Mangeshkar Chauraha**' in **Ayodhya** named after legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar on the

occasion of her 93rd birth anniversary. The intersection at the banks of the **Saryu River** has been developed at an estimated cost of Rs 7.9 crore. A 40-ft-long and 12-metre-high veena weighing 14 tonnes has been installed at the intersection.

382. Srishti Bakshi, an Indian marketer turned women's rights activist and founder of CrossBow Miles Movement, has won the '**Changemaker Award**' at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG) Action Awards 2022 held at a ceremony in Bonn, Germany. She has been honoured to spread awareness of gender-based violence and inequality.

She created a documentary film revealing untold stories of courage, **WOMB: Women of My Billion**.

Other UN SDG Action Awards Winners 2022:

- Mobilize category: SUPvivors say NO MORE
- Inspire category: The Masungi Story
- Connect category: CyprusInno
- Honourable Mention: Lets' Do It Ukraine

BOOKS & AUTHORS

383. Dr Ashutosh Raravikar, Director in the Department of Economic & Policy Research (DEPR) of RBI, has authored a book titled "**Indian Banking in Retrospect – 75 years of Independence**". The book is published by Aswad Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, has written the foreword of the book.

The book highlights various economic development such as LPG reforms during 1991, Nationalisation of Banks in 1969, setting up of Payment Banks, Small Finance Bank, etc.

384. A book titled "*When the heart speaks: Memoirs of a cardiologist*" has been authored by **Dr Upendra Kaul**, one of India's most distinguished cardiologists. The book is published by Konark Publishers Private Limited. The book depicts an honest narration of heart touching events of a Kashmiri Pandit who despite travelling to different places, wanted to have a home in his motherland.

385. A book titled '**Divorce and Democracy: A History of Personal Law in Post-Independence India**' has been authored by **Saumya Saxena**, a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge. The book narrates the Indian state's difficult dialogue with divorce, mediated largely through religion. The book is published by Cambridge University Press.

386. Minister of State for AYUSH, **Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai**, has released a book titled **"Science Behind Surya Namaskar"**, a collection of evidence based research on one of the most well-known Yoga asanas at the AIIA. The book has been compiled by the All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) department of Swasthavritta and Yoga, at AIIA.

387. A book titled **"Wildlife India@50: Saving the Wild, Securing the Future"** has been authored by **Manoj Kumar Misra**. The book is published by Rupa Publication India. The book is published in the 50th anniversary of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (9th September). The book highlights various concerns including trading of wildlife products, and the increasing loss of natural habitat, cheetah extinction, etc.

388. Former Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has released a collection of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's selected speeches at Akashvani Bhawan in New Delhi. The book titled **"Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas Sabka Vishwas Prime Minister Narendra Modi Speaks (May 2019-May 2020)"** has been released in the presence of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan at a function organised by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The book focuses on 86 speeches of the Prime Minister on various subjects. The book portrays the Prime Minister's vision of a 'New India', which is self-reliant, resilient and capable of converting challenges into opportunities.

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PERSON IN NEWS

389. **Anurag Sharma**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from the Jhansi-Lalitpur parliamentary constituency, has been elected as the International Treasurer of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at its 65th CPA Conference in Halifax, Canada. He is the **second Indian** office-bearer in the CPA, the World's largest and oldest International Parliamentary Association.

390. German luxury carmaker **Mercedes-Benz** has named **Santosh Iyer** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & of the Indian operations with effect from 1st January 2023. He will replace Martin Schwenk, who will take over as President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Thailand.

- 391. Acefour Accessories**, a travel accessories company, has appointed Indian cricketer **Jasprit Bumrah** as Brand Ambassador for its eco-friendly luggage brand "**Uppercase**" for two years. He will lead the "*Never Ordinary*" campaign. The campaign is managed by RISE Worldwide, a Reliance Industries Limited's initiative and India's largest sports and entertainment company.
- 392. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava** has been appointed as the acting Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** for a period of 4 months with effect from 1st September 2022 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He has succeeded **Alka Mital**.
- 393. M.V. Iyer** has been appointed as the acting Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of **GAIL (India) Limited** for a period of 3 months. He has succeeded Manoj Jain.
- 394.** Indian Information Service officer, **Vasudha Gupta**, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the News Services Division of All India Radio (AIR). She has succeeded N Venudhar Reddy. She was serving as DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- 395. Rajesh Malhotra**, Director General in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), has been promoted to the rank of Principal Director General. He will continue to look after the publicity works of the finance ministry in the PIB.
- 396.** Former Indian goalkeeper **Kalyan Chaubey** from West Bengal has been elected as the new President of **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** after defeating former Indian Professional Footballer Bhaichung Bhutia from Sikkim in the elections. He has replaced Praful Patel. With this, he has become the **first Indian player (former)** to chair as President in AIFF.
- 397.** NHPC Limited has named its Director (Technical) **Yamuna Kumar Chaubey** as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) for a period of three months from 1st September 2022 or till a regular incumbent joins the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He has succeeded Abhay Kumar Singh.
- 398.** Indian-American business executive **Laxman Narasimhan** has been named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of global coffee giant Starbucks. He will replace Howard Schultz with effect from 1st October 2022. Earlier, he served as the CEO of health and hygiene company Reckitt Benckiser.
- 399. Blue Energy Motors** has launched **India's first Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) fuelled Green Truck** manufacturing facility at **Chakan** in **Pune, Maharashtra**. The aim is to

decarbonize the environment by providing an immediate solution and breaking the barriers to economic returns.

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the facility which has an installed capacity of 10,000 trucks annually.
- The trucks are powered by Iveco FPT, global powertrain brand of Iveco Group.
- The long-haul trucks can travel up to 1,400 kilometres in one fill.

400. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have jointly appointed **Utpal Kumar Singh**, currently holding the post of Secretary General Lok Sabha, to perform additional duties of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV. He has succeeded Ravi Capoor.

Sansad TV:

It was launched in September 2021 after merging the Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV channels. The 24-hour channel, through its content, showcases the democratic ethos and the functioning of democratic institutions of the country with an aim to target national and international audiences.

401. Queen Elizabeth II has appointed UK Foreign Secretary **Liz Truss** as the 56th Prime Minister of United Kingdom. She has won 81326 votes, compared to his rival Rishi Sunak's 60399 votes in the recently held elections. She has become the third woman Prime Minister of UK. She has also been named as the leader of the governing Conservative Party. She has succeeded Boris Johnson.

Liz Truss has appointed Indian-origin barrister **Suella Braverman** as the UK's new Home Secretary. She will succeed Priti Patel.

402. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has nominated **Ana Brnabic** to serve another term as **Prime Minister of Serbia** and to lead the new government through a time of war in Europe, global energy, and inflation crisis, and tensions with Kosovo. She became the first female Prime Minister of Serbia and an openly gay in 2020.

403. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed Supreme Court judge Justice **D.Y. Chandrachud** as the 31st Executive Chairman of the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)**. He has succeeded Justice Uday U Lalit.

Additional Information:

The NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Hon'ble Mr. **Justice Uday Umesh Lalit**, The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief.

- 404. Binesh Kumar Tyagi** has become the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), for a period of 5 years.
- 405.** Aviation industry veteran **Peiter Elbers** has been named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiGo with effect from 6th September 2022. He has succeeded Ronojoy Dutta. The President of Burundi Evariste Ndayishimiye has appointed **Gervais Ndirakobuca** as the new Prime Minister of **Burundi**. He has replaced Alain-Guillaume Bunyoni.
- 406.** Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Kamal Narain Singh** has recently passed away in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. He was born on 13th December 1926. He served as the **22nd Chief Justice of India** with the shortest tenure of just 17 days in 1991.
- 407.** United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed **Volker Turk** of **Austria** as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He has succeeded Michelle Bachelet of Chile. He is the eighth High Commissioner to lead the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- 408.** Angola's President and leader of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) ruling party **Joao Lourenco** has been re-elected as the **President of Angola** for the 2nd term. MPLA has won 51.17% of the ballots against 43.95% for the main challenger, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).
- 409.** American Express Banking Corporation (AEBC) has announced the appointment of **Sanjay Khanna** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Country Manager of **AEBC Corp India**. His position will be key to advancing and strengthening the company's strategic focus in India. He has succeeded Manoj Adlakha.
- 410.** Google has honoured **Dr Bhupen Hazarika** on his 96th birth anniversary with a doodle on its webpage. The doodle has been created by Mumbai-based guest artist Rutuja Mali.

Bhupen Hazarika:

He was born on 8 September 1926 in Sadiya, Assam. He was a fine poet, musician, singer, actor, journalist, writer and filmmaker of the highest order. He was popularly known as **Sudha Kontho**, which means Nightingale. He was responsible for introducing the culture and folk music of Assam and Northeast India to Hindi cinema. He passed away on 5 November 2011 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Awards: Padma Shri (1977), Padma Bhushan (2001), Padma Vibhushan (2012), **Bharat Ratna (2019)**.

- 411. Dinesh Kumar Batra**, Director (Finance) & CFO, has given additional charge as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Navratna Defence PSU **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** with effect from 1st September 2022. He has succeeded Anandi Ramalingam.
- 412.** Senior IAS **BVR Subrahmanyam** has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the India Trade Promotion Organization (**ITPO**) for a period of two years. He has succeeded LC Goyal. He is a 1987 batch Indian Administrative Services officer of Chhattisgarh cadre.
- 413. Vanessa Nakate**, a climate activist from **Uganda**, has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), affirming her collaboration with the organisation and recognising her outstanding global advocacy for climate justice for current and future generations.
- She began her activism in January 2019 with a protest with her siblings and cousins on the streets of Kampala, inspired by Greta Thunberg (Sweden).
- 414. Pratap Pawar**, Chairman of Sakal Media Limited that publishes the Marathi newspaper Sakal, has been elected as the Chairman of the **Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)** for 2022-2023. He served as the former president of The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture, Pune.
- 415.** President of Senegal Macky Sall has reinstated the post of Prime Minister and has appointed former Economy Minister **Amadou Ba** as the **Prime Minister of Senegal**. The post of Prime Minister was abolished in 2019.
- 416.** The Central Government has appointed Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus **Ratan Tata**, former Supreme Court Judge **KT Thomas**, and former deputy Lok Sabha speaker **Kariya Munda** as the trustees of the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (**PM-CARES Fund**).

The Trust has also decided to nominate other eminent persons for the Constitution of Advisory Board to the PM CARES Fund. These eminent personalities included: **Rajiv Mehrishi**, Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India; **Sudha Murthy**, Former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and **Anand Shah**, Co-founder of Teach for India and Former CEO of Indicorp and Piramal Foundation.

PM CARES Fund:

- It was established in **2020** as a **Public Charitable Trust**.
- The primary objective of the fund is to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected individuals.
- The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act.
- **Prime Minister** is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and the Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Note: As per Centre's data, a total of Rs.7,031.99 crore was collected under PM CARES Fund between 2020-21.

417. Max Life Insurance has announced **Rohit Sharma**, Captain of the Men's Indian cricket team, and his wife **Ritika Sajdeh**, an Indian sports manager as Brand Ambassadors.

The company has signed a two-year partnership with Rohit Sharma and Ritika Sajdeh, with an aim to further build and enhance the importance of financial preparedness and protection.

418. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed the senior bureaucrat **Bharat Lal**, a 1988-batch Indian Forest officer of Gujarat cadre, as the Director-General of the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). He has been appointed for a period of one year. He has succeeded V. Srinivas.

419. The Central Government has appointed **Dr Rajiv Bahl**, Head of research on maternal, newborn child and adolescent Health-cum-Newborn unit head, Department of maternal newborn child and adolescent health and ageing, World Health Organization (WHO), as the **Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)** and Secretary Department of Health Research (DHR) for a period of three years. He has replaced Balram Bhargava.

420. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has reappointed **Dilip Asbe** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO) of the company for a period of 5 years, with effect from 8th January 2023 to 7th January 2028. He took over as MD & CEO of NPCI in January 2018.

421. Dr M Srinivas, the dean of Employees' State Insurance Company (ESIC) Hospital and Medical College, Hyderabad, has been appointed as the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**), New Delhi.

He has been appointed for a period of 5 years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He has succeeded Dr Randeep Guleria.

422. Sanjai Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of RailTel. He is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE). He was currently working as Director (Network Planning & Marketing/NPM) with additional charge of Director (Project, Operations & Maintenance/ POM) in RailTel.

423. Giorgia Meloni, the leader of the far-right political party Brothers of Italy, has won 26% of the vote in Italy's National Election by defeating Mario Draghi. With this, she has become the **first woman** Prime Minister of **Italy**.

Note: Parliament of Italy consists of two houses: *Chamber of Deputies and Senate of the Republic*

424. Mohammed bin Salman, a powerful Crown Prince of **Saudi Arabia**, has been named the Prime Minister of the kingdom by a royal decree. The former PM King Salman bin Abdulaziz will continue to chair the Cabinet meetings that he attends.

425. Senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India **R Venkataramani** has been appointed as the **15th Attorney General for India** for a period of three years with effect from 1st October 2022. He has succeeded K K Venugopal.

Attorney General for India (AG):

The AG is the Government of India's first law officer, and has the right of audience in all courts of the country. Under **Article 76(1)**, the AG is appointed by the President from among persons who are "qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court". It shall be the duty of the Attorney-General to give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time be referred or assigned to him by the President.

426. The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Lt. General Anil Chauhan**, the military adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and a former Eastern Army Commander, as the **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** of India. He is the 2nd person to hold the post of CDS after General Bipin Rawat, who died in a chopper crash in December 2021 in Tamil Nadu.

He will also function as **Secretary** of the Department of Military Affairs.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

The CDS is the most senior uniformed officer in rank, the first among equals, the only four-star officers in the country are the CDS, the chiefs of the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force. The CDS is the single point of contact for the government for giving military advice and is the senior-most bureaucrat in the defence ministry which has four major departments.

Anil Chauhan:

He was born on 18th May 1961 in Uttarakhand. He was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He had also served as a United Nations mission to Angola. He superannuated from the Indian Army on 31 May 2021.

Books written by him: 'Aftermath of a Nuclear Attack', and 'The History of 11 Gorkha Rifles Regimental Centre'.

Awards: Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

427. Veteran Assamese swimmer **Elvis Ali Hazarika** has become the **first** from the North East to cross the North Channel. Elvis and his team clocked a timing of 14 hours 38 minutes to achieve this feat. With this, Elvis has become the oldest Indian swimmer to cross the North Channel.

Note: The North Channel is the strait between north-eastern Northern Ireland and south-western Scotland.

428. **K Raja Prasad Reddy** of Telugu media group Sakshi has been elected as the President of the **Indian Newspaper Society (INS)** for 2022-23. He has succeeded Mohit Jain of the Economic Times.

Other appointments:

- **Deputy President:** Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj)
- **Vice-President:** M V Shreyams Kumar (Mathrubhumi Arogya Masika)
- **Treasurer:** Tanmay Maheshwari (Amar Ujala)
- **Secretary-General:** Mary Paul

INS is the apex body of publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country.

429. Lux Industries Limited, known for its innovative and customer-demand-driven product offerings, has appointed former Captain of the Indian Cricket Team, and current President of the BCCI, **Sourav Ganguly**, as the brand ambassador of **Lux Cozi**.

430. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has reshuffled the board of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), which is undergoing debt resolution process and has appointed **Nand Kishore**, who was serving as an executive director, as the Managing Director, with immediate effect from till March 2023.

The Ministry has redesignated **C S Rajan** as the Non-Executive Chairman.

431. The Board of **Britannia Industries Limited** has appointed **Varun Berry** as its Executive Vice-Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect.

The board has also appointed **Rajneet Kohli** as its Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer with effect from 26th September 2022.

432. Data Security Council of India (DSCI) has appointed **Vinayak Godse** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. He has succeeded Rama Vedashree.

Data Security Council of India (DSCI), is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM. It is committed to make the cyberspace safe, secure and trusted by establishing best practices, standards and initiatives in cyber security and privacy. It is based in New Delhi.

433. **Akash Ambani**, the Chairman of Reliance Jio, is the only Indian to be featured on the **TIME 100 NEXT** emerging leaders' list, TIME magazine's list of the world's rising stars (United-States based global magazine). Another Indian-born American business leader, Amrapali Gan is also on the list.

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OBITUARIES

434. Noted Carnatic Singer **T. V. Sankaranarayanan**, also known as TVS, has recently passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 7 March 1945 in Mayiladuthurai, Madras Presidency, British India.

Awards:

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1990)
- **Padma Bhushan (2003)**
- Sangeetha Kalanidhi by the Madras Music Academy (2003)
- Sangeetha Kalasikhamani by The Indian Fine Arts Society (2005)
- Vidhya Tapasvi by TAPAS Cultural Foundation (2012)

435. Indian-born Irish businessman **Cyrus Mistry**, former Chairman of **Tata Group**, has recently passed away in a road accident while en route from Ahmedabad to Mumbai near Palghar district of Maharashtra. He was born on 4 July 1968 in Bombay, Maharashtra. He became the Tata Group chairman in 2012, succeeding Ratan Tata. He was ousted from the position in 2016.

436. Renowned historian and academician **B Sheik Ali Saheb** has recently passed away after a brief illness. He was the founder vice-chancellor of Mangalore University and also served the Goa University as Vice-chancellor.

437. Noted Bhojpuri folk-dancer **Ramchandra Manjhi** has recently passed away in Patna Bihar. He was born in Saran, Bihar. He was well known for '**Launda Naach**', a sub-set of 'Naach', in which men crossdress as women.

Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2017) and Padma Shri (2021)

Launda Naach:

It is a folk dance of the Bhojpuri speaking Community of India, Nepal, Mauritius and the Caribbean Islands. It is performed by only males who dress as women called "launda".

438. Former Pakistani cricket umpire **Asad Rauf** has recently passed away in Lahore, Pakistan. He was born on 12th May 1956 in Lahore, Pakistan. He became a first-class umpire in 1998 and first officiated in an international ODI match in 2000. He joined the ODI panel in 2004. He was a member of the ICC Elite Umpire Panel from 2006 to 2013.

439. Britain's longest reigning monarch, **Queen Elizabeth II**, has recently passed away at Balmoral Castle in Scotland at 96 years after reigning for **70 years**. She was born as Elizabeth Alexandra Mary on 21 April 1926 as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). She was married to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

- She acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI died.
- She was crowned as Queen of Britain and other realms, including Canada and Australia on 2 June, 1953.
- She saw 14 Prime Ministers of UK during her reign, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss.
- She was the second-longest reigning monarch in history, after France's Louis XIV.

With the death of Queen Elizabeth, her eldest son **Prince Charles**, Prince of Wales, has become King of the United Kingdom and fourteen other Commonwealth realms. He will officially be known as **King Charles III**.

440. Indian religious leader **Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati** has passed away recently in Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh. He was 99 years old. He was born as **Pothiram Upadhyay**

on 2nd September 1924 in Seoni, Central Provinces and Berar, British India. He became the Shankaracharya of Dwarka Sharada Peetham in Dwaraka, Gujarat and the Jyotir Math in Badrinath in 1982. He also participated in the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942.

441. Renowned Indian **Archaeologist Braj Basi Lal**, popularly known as B.B. Lal, has recently passed away in Delhi. He was born on 2nd May 1921 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. He served as the director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) from 1968 to 1972.

- He had been conferred with **Padma Bhushan** in 2000 and **Padma Vibhushan** in 2021 for his contribution in the field of archaeology.
- He is particularly known for his work on the archaeology of Ramayana sites.
- He discovered evidence of the existence of a temple in the foundation of Babri Masjid in Ayodhya.
- His works include: *The Sarasvatī flows on: the continuity of Indian culture*, *Excavations at Kalibangan: The Early Harappans*, 1960-1969, *India 1947-1997: New Light on the Indus Civilization*, etc.

442. **Tun S. Samy Vellu**, former Cabinet Minister of Malaysia, has passed away recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He was born on 8th March 1936 in Kluang, Johor, British Malaya (now Malaysia). He was an Indian descend, who served as Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) President from 1981 to 2010.

He was the 1st Malaysian to receive **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**, the highest Indian award for Non-resident Indian and Overseas Citizen of India.

443. Noted Comedian and Politician **Raju Srivastava**, popularly known as **Gajodhar**, has recently passed away in New Delhi at the age of 58. He was born as **Satya Prakash Srivastava** on 25 December 1963 in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- He appeared in Hindi films such as *"Maine Pyar Kiya"*, *"Baazigar"*, *"Bombay to Goa"* (remake) and *"Aamdani Atthani Kharcha Rupaiya"*. He was one of the contestants on *"Bigg Boss"* (Season 3).
- He was the chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council.
- He also participated in the first season of the reality stand-up comedy show *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge* in 2005.
- He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominated him to be part of the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*.

444. Keshav Rao Dattatreya Dikshit, the senior most pracharak of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, in Bengal has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born in 1925 at Pulgaon village of Wardha district in Maharashtra.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS):

It was founded in 1925 by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, a physician living in the Maharashtra region of India, as part of the movement against British rule and as a response to rioting between Hindus and Muslims.

445. US meteorologist **Vernon Dvorak**, credited for developing Dvorak technique (read as Do-rak), has recently passed away in Ojai, California, United States. He was born in 1922 in Iowa, United States.

Dvorak technique:

It was first developed in 1969 and tested for observing storms in the northwest Pacific Ocean. It is a statistical method for estimating intensity of Tropical Cyclones (TCs) based on cloud patterns on satellite imagery. It uses enhanced Infrared and/or visible satellite imagery to quantitatively estimate intensity of a tropical system. It quantifies TCs intensity on a 1-8 scale (at 0.5 intervals) called T-numbers and final output is Current Intensity (CI) number.

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SPORTS

446. England's pacer **James Anderson** has become the first-ever fast bowler to complete **950 wickets** in international cricket. He has attained this historic feat on Day 3 of the second Test against South Africa. He has broken the record of Australia's Glenn McGrath (949 wickets).

The most successful bowlers in international cricket are Sri Lankan spin wizard, Muttiah Muralitharan (1,347 wickets), late Aussie spin great Shane Warne (1,001 wickets) and Indian spin great Anil Kumble (956 wickets).

447. New Zealand all-rounder **Colin de Grandhomme** has recently announced his retirement from international cricket. He began his career by playing for Manicaland in Zimbabwe, and was a part of the Zimbabwe team at the 2004 Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh.

- In the Indian Premiere League (IPL), he played for Kolkata Knight Riders (2017) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (2018 & 2019).
- He has played 29 matches with a score of 1432 runs at a strike rate of 38.70. He has also played 41 T20Is.

448. Mushfiqur Rahim, former captain and vice-captain of **Bangladesh National Cricket Team**, has announced his retirement from Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) cricket. He played 102 T20Is matches.

He is the first and only wicketkeeper-batsman in the history of Test cricket to score two double-hundreds. He is also the first and only Bangladeshi batsman to score three double-hundreds in Tests. He is the only Bangladeshi player to win 150 international matches.

449. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the mascot and the anthem for the **36th National Games 2022** at Trans Stadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He has also launched the official website of the national games and the mobile App named '**NGGujarat**'.

- **"Savaj"** meaning lion's cub in Gujarati, has been declared the mascot for the National Games.
- The anthem is based on the theme '**Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat**'. It encapsulated the philosophy of 'Judega India, Jitega India'. It has been voiced by Bollywood playback singer, **Sukhwinder Singh**.

36th National Games:

It will be organized between 29th September to 12th October 2022 at six cities in Gujarat namely, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar.

The theme of the 36th National Games is 'Celebrating Unity Through Sports'. New Delhi will additionally host the track cycling event.

450. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has won the **2022 F1 Dutch Grand Prix** and made 4 straight wins for the first time in his F1 career. The event has been held at Circuit Park Zandvoort, North Holland, Netherlands. This is his 10th victory of the season.

Mercedes-driver George Russell has finished 2nd and Ferrari-driver Charles Leclerc has finished 3rd in the event.

451. Former Indian batsman **Suresh Raina (Uttar Pradesh)** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket including the Indian Premier League (IPL). In 2020, he had announced his retirement from international cricket. He represented India in 18 Tests, 226 ODIs and 78 T20Is. He is the first Indian to score hundreds in all three formats of cricket. In IPL, he played for Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Lions.

452. The 2022 Japan Open, a badminton tournament, has been held at Maruzen Intec Arena Osaka in Osaka, Japan.

| Category | Winners |
|------------------------|---|
| Men's Singles | Kenta Nishimoto (Japan) |
| Women's Singles | Akane Yamaguchi (Japan) |
| Men's Doubles | Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang (China) |
| Women's Doubles | Jeong Na-eun and Kim Hye-jeong (South Korea) |
| Mixed Doubles | Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand) |

453. Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **22nd Dubai Open Chess Tournament 2022** with 7.5 points from 9 rounds. The tournament has been held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Alexandr Predke (Russia), the top seed, finished runner-up on 7 points after a five-way tie for the second spot.

The 2nd spot is shared by 5 players with 7 points: R. Praggnanandhaa, Alexandr Predke, Abhijeet Gupta, Jaykumar Sammed Shete, and S.P.Sethuraman.

454. Indian leg-spinner **Rahul Sharma** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in order to take part in the second edition of the Road Safety World Series. He played 22 first-class, 35 List A and 74 T20 matches in domestic cricket. He made his ODI debut against West Indies in 2011. He made his T20 debut in 2012 against Australia. He made his IPL debut for Deccan Chargers in 2010 and also represented Pune Warriors in IPL in 2011.

455. The 142nd edition of the US Open 2022 has been held at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, USA. It is a hard court tennis grand slam tournament.

| Category | Winner |
|-----------------|---|
| Men's Singles | Carlos Alcaraz Garfia (Spain) |
| Women's Singles | Iga Świątek (Poland) |
| Men's Doubles | Rajeev Ram (USA) & Joe Salisbury (UK) |
| Women's Doubles | Katerina Siniaková & Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) |
| Mixed Doubles | Storm Sanders & John Peers (Australia) |

456. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has recently won the Italian Grand Prix 2022 held at Monza Circuit in Monza, Italy. This marks the first Italian Grand Prix title of his career and also marks his **11th win** of the 2022-23 Formula 1 season.

- Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has finished second and Mercedes's George Russell has finished third in the race.
- Red Bull-backed racer **Jehan Daruvala** has won the first feature race of the FIA formula 2 Championship.

457. Indian boxer **Birju Sah**, who won bronze medals at the Commonwealth and Asian Games in 1994, has recently passed away in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He was the **first Indian boxer** to win medals at both Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games. He won the bronze medal in the light flyweight (45-48kg) category.

458. **Anishka Biyani**, a 6-year old Mumbai girl, has won a **Gold medal** in the **Malaysian Age Group Rapid Chess Championship** in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She has achieved this feat in the Under-6 Open category (girl's category) with a score of 4 points out of a possible six to clinch the title.

459. Indian badminton player **Prannoy Haseena Sunil Kumar (HS Prannoy)** has topped the latest **BWF World Tour Rankings** in Men's singles category. He became World's No.1 after overtaking the defending world champion Viktor Axelsen.

460. **Anupama Upadhyaya**, a 17-year old, has topped the latest BWF World Junior Rankings in Women's singles category. She has replaced fellow Indian Tasnim Mir from the top position.

- 461.** Tokyo Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** has become the **first Indian** to win the prestigious Zurich Diamond League Final 2022 in Switzerland. He has won the Diamond Trophy, prize money of USD 30,000 and a wild card for the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a best throw of **88.44m**.
- Czech Republic's Olympic silver medalist Jakob Vadlejha has finished second with a best throw of 86.94m, and Germany's Julian Weber has finished third with 83.73m in Men's javelin throw.
- 462.** Australian white-ball captain, **Aaron Finch** has announced his retirement from One Day International (ODI) cricket. He recently played his 146th and final ODI in Cairns, Australia against New Zealand. He was part of the squad which won the 2015 World Cup and has over 5000 runs with 17 centuries in the format. He made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2013 and smashed his first century against Scotland later that year where he scored 148.
- 463.** Ladakh Police in collaboration with the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh and Cycling Association of India has organized the first-ever Mountain Bicycle (MTB) World Cup-**UCI MTB Eliminator World Cup 2022** in **Leh, Ladakh**.
- The event has been held at the height of over 12 thousand feet to sea level.
 - Around 20 international, 55 national, and local cyclists have participated in this world cup.
 - German cyclists have topped in both men and women categories.
- 464.** The 15th edition of **2022 Asia Cup** cricket tournament with cricket format of Twenty20 International (T20I) has been held in United Arab Emirates (**UAE**). It has been held at two venues of UAE viz. Dubai International Cricket Stadium (Dubai), and Sharjah Cricket Stadium (Sharjah).
- **Sri Lanka** has won the Asia Cup 2022 title after defeating Pakistan in the finals with 23 runs. It was its 6th Asia Cup title, and 1st in the T20I format.
 - Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) served as the tournament's host while the administrator was Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Other awardees:

- **Player of the series:** Pinnaduwan Wanindu Hasaranga de Silva (Sri Lanka)
- **Most Runs:** Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
- **Most Wickets:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar Singh (India)
- **Note:** The 16th edition of the Asia Cup will be hosted by Pakistan in 2023.

- 465.** The 7th edition of **2022 SAFF U-17 Championship**, an international football competition, has been organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) in Racecourse Stadium Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- **Team India** has won the 2022 SAFF U-17 Championship after defeating Nepal in the final match, and has emerged as the champion for the fourth time (2013, 2017, and 2019).
 - **Most Valuable Player of the Tournament:** Vanlalpeka Guite (Indian Captain)
 - **Best Goalkeeper:** Sahil (India)
- 466.** Australian women's team cricketer and Vice- Captain **Rachael Haynes** has announced her retirement from international and state **cricket**. She has won six world championships as a member of the national women's team. She made her debut in 2009 and represented Australia in 6 Tests, 77 ODIs, and 84 T20Is, and won ODI World Cups, and three T20 World Cups with the team.
- 467.** Indian cricketer **Robin Uthappa** has recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He last played for India in 2015 tour to Zimbabwe. He played 46 ODIs, and 13 T20Is for India. He has won two Indian Premier League (IPL) trophies for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in 2014, and for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in 2021.
- 468.** The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of guarantees for hosting **FIFA Under-17 Womens' Football World Cup 2022** in India. Notably, the 7th edition FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11-30 October 2022 in Navi Mumbai, Goa, and Bhubaneswar.
- 469.** Tennis player **Roger Federer** has recently announced his retirement from the international tennis. The Laver Cup, which is set to commence on 23rd September in London, will be Roger Federer's final tournament. He will retire at the age of 41.
- He was born on 8th August 1981 in Basel, Switzerland.
 - He was the first person in the world to win **20 grand slam titles**. These are 8 Wimbledon, 6 Australian, 5 US Open and a solitary French title.
 - He is known for becoming the oldest ever World Number 1 at the age of 36.
 - He held the world's top spot in the ATP ranking for more time than any other player except Novak Djokovic.
 - He was nominated for the Sportsmanship Award for a record of 13 times and has won ATP Fan's Favourite for 17 consecutive years.
 - He was named the ATP Player of the Year and ITF World Champion 5 times.
 - He holds the record of being the only individual to win the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year award 4 times.

470. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **Zimbabwe** all-rounder **Sikandar Raza** as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2022. He has received the award after scoring three centuries in ODI cricket against Bangladesh and India. He has become the first Zimbabwe cricketer to receive the honour.

Among women, **Australian** all-rounder **Tahlia McGrath** has been named the ICC Player of the Month for August 2022 for her match-winning performances at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham.

471. Bengaluru Football Club, led by Sunil Chhetri, has won the maiden **Durand Cup 2022** title after defeating Mumbai City in the final match held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- The 131st edition of the Durand Cup 2022, Asia's oldest football tournament, has been hosted by West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur.
- The inaugural match has been held at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.
- A total of 20 teams have participated in the tournament.
- Durand Cup 2022 has been sponsored by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

Other Awardees:

Golden glove for best goalkeeper: Antonio Dylan (Odisha)

Golden boot for top scorer: Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mumbai City)

Golden ball for most valuable player: Greg Stewart (Mumbai City)

472. The 17th edition of the **World Wrestling Championships 2022** has been held in Belgrade, Serbia. The United States of America (USA) has topped the medal tally with 15 medals, followed by Japan (13 medals), and Turkey (7 medals).

India has been ranked 24th with 2 bronze medals.

Bajrang Punia (Haryana):

He has won the Men's 65kg Bronze medal by defeating Sebastian Rivera of Puerto Rico. He is the only wrestler from India to have 4 medals in the World Wrestling Championships.

Vinesh Phogat (Haryana):

She has won a bronze medal in women's 53kg freestyle after defeating Emma Malmgren of Sweden. This is her 2nd bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championships.

473. Bangladesh cricketer **Mohammad Rubel Hossain** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. He will continue to play in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL), Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), along with other white-ball tournaments. He has the highest bowling average of any pacer who has bowled at least 2,000 deliveries in Test cricket.

He holds the record of the fastest bowled delivery (149.5kph) by a Bangladeshi cricketer.

He innovated a technique of delivery named '**Butterfly**'.

474. Bangladesh has won the **2022 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship** after defeating Nepal in the final match held at Dasharath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The 2022 SAFF Women's Championship is the 6th edition of this championship.

Top scorer: Sabina Khatun (Bangladesh)

Best player: Sabina Khatun (Bangladesh)

Best goalkeeper: Rupna Chakma (Bangladesh)

475. Bengaluru teenager **Pranav Anand** has become India's **76th Chess Grandmaster** after winning against International Master (IM) Emin Ohanyan of Armenia in Round 10 of the World Youth Under-16 Open. He received the title after he crossed the 2,500 Elo points in the ongoing World Youth Chess Championship in Mamaia, Romania.

476. The Men's Cricket Committee (MCC) led by former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** has recommended changes to the **Playing Conditions** in MCC's updated 3rd Edition of the 2017 Code of the Laws of Cricket. The conclusions have also been shared with the Women's Cricket Committee, who endorsed the recommendations.

The main changes are as follows:

- Batters returning when caught
- Ban on the use of saliva to polish the ball
- Incoming batter ready to face the ball
- Striker's right to play the ball
- Unfair movement by the fielding side
- Running out of the non-striker
- Bowler throwing towards striker's end before delivery

The new Playing Conditions will come into effect on **1st October 2022**, which means the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia next month will enforce the new rules.

477. Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), the commercial partner of Indian football and the organizer of the Indian Super League, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga**, the organizing body of Bundesliga, a professional association football league in Germany. Both will raise awareness and find ways to grow their fan bases and also focus on 'eFootball' to develop a commercial model for e-Indian Super League.

FSDL is run as a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited and is a commercial partner of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

478. Former Indian men's team captain **Dilip Tirkey** (Odisha) has been elected as the new President of Hockey India (HI). He has become the Hockey India's first-player President.

Bhola Nath has been elected unopposed as Secretary-General.

479. India women's team bowling legend **Jhulan Goswami** has announced her retirement from international cricket. The match at Lord's England in September 2022, Indian Women's Team 3rd One Day International (ODI) against England, was her last international match.

- Jhulan Goswami was born on 25th November 1982 in Nadia, West Bengal.
- She is famously known as 'Babul'.
- She made her debut against England in 2002.
- She represented India in 12 Tests, 204 ODI, and 68 T20Is.
- **Awards:** Arjuna Award (2010), and Padma Shri (2012)

480. **West Zone** has won the **2022 Duleep Trophy** after defeating **South Zone** by 294 runs in the final match held at the SNR College Cricket Ground, Coimbatore. This is West Zone 19th title.

Sarfaraz Khan scored most runs with 127 runs for 178 balls and Jaydev Unadkat of West Zone became the player of the series.

Duleep Trophy:

The Duleep Trophy, also known as Mastercard Duleep trophy due to sponsorship reasons, is a domestic first-class cricket competition played in India. It is named after Kumar Shri Duleepsinhji of Nawanagar. The competition was started by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in the 1961-62 season.

481. India will host the maiden MotoGP World Cup Championship race in 2023, named '**Grand Prix of Bharat**', at the Buddh International Circuit in **Greater Noida**, Uttar Pradesh.

MotoGP commercial rights owner Dorna and Noida-based race promoters Fairstreet Sports have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to host the premier two-wheel racing event in India for the next seven years.

482. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced that the **ICC World Test Championship (WTC) final** will be hosted by The Oval, London, England in June 2023 and the 2025 edition of WTC Final will be played at Lord's, London.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

| Important Day | Date/Month | Theme for 2022 | Remark |
|---|---|--|--|
| World Coconut Day | 2 nd September | Growing Coconut for a Better Future and Life | |
| Rashtriya Poshan Maah | 1st to 30th September 2022 | | In 2022, the key focus is on "Mahila aur Swasthya" and "Bacha aur Shiksha". |
| National Nutrition Week | 1 st to 7 th September 2022 | World of Flavors | |
| International Vulture Awareness Day | First Saturday of September (3 rd September 2022) | | |
| National Teachers' Day | 5 th September | | The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, who was the second President of India and a well-renowned educationist. |
| International Day of Charity | 5 th September | | The day commemorates the death anniversary of Mother Teresa. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. |
| International Day of Clean Air for blue skies | 7 th September | The Air We Share | The day was first observed in 2020. |
| Important Day | Date/Month | Theme for 2022 | Remark |
| International Literacy Day | 8th September | Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces | |

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| World Physiotherapy Day | 8th September | Osteoarthritis and the Role of Physiotherapists | |
| International Day to Protect Education from Attack | 9th September | | |
| World Electrical Vehicle(EV) Day | 9th September | | The day was first observed in 2020. |
| Himalaya Day | 9th September | Himalayas will be safe only when the interests of its residents are protected | The day is observed annually in the state of Uttarakhand since 2015. |
| World Suicide Prevention Day | 10th September | Creating hope through action | |
| World First Aid Day | Second Saturday of September (10th September) | Lifelong First Aid Learning | |
| National Forest Martyrs Day | 11th September | | The day is observed to commemorate the anniversary of the Khejarli Trees Massacre in 1730. |
| United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation | 12th September | | |
| International Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) Awareness Month | 1st to 30th September | | |
| Hindi Diwas | 14th September | | The day was first observed in 1953. |
| National Engineer's Day | 15th September | | The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Sir Moksha Gundam Visvesvaraya, the first Civil Engineer in India. |
| International Day of Democracy | 15th September | Protecting Press Freedom for Democracy | |
| World Lymphoma Awareness Day | 15th September | | |
| Important Day | Date/Month | Theme for 2022 | Remark |

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|---|---|---|---|
| International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer | 16th September | Montreal Protocol@35: Global cooperation protecting life on earth | |
| World Patient Safety Day | 17th September | Medication Safety | |
| International Coastal Cleanup Day | 3rd Saturday of September (17th September 2022) | Connecting People For A Trash Free Coastline | The day was first observed in 1986. |
| International Red Panda Day | 3rd Saturday of September (17th September 2022) | | IUCN status of Red Panda: "Endangered" |
| World Bamboo Day | 18th September | | The day was first observed in 2009. |
| International Equal Pay Day | 18th September | | The day was first observed in 2020. |
| World Water Monitoring Day | 18th September | | |
| International World Snakebite Awareness Day | 19th September | | The day was first observed in 2018. |
| International Week of Deaf People | 19th to 25th September | Building Inclusive Communities for All | |
| International NFT Day | 20th September | | |
| World Alzheimer's Day | 21st September | | The theme for World Alzheimer's Month in September 2022 is "Know dementia, know Alzheimer's". |
| International Day of Peace | 21st September | End racism. Build peace | The day was first observed in 1982. |
| World Rose Day | 22nd September | | The day is dedicated to cancer patients. |
| World Rhino Day | 22nd September | Five Rhino Species Forever | |

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| World-Car Free Day | 22nd September | | |
| Important Day | Date/Month | Theme for 2022 | Remark |
| International Day of Sign Languages | 23rd September | Sign Languages Unite Us! | |
| World Lung Day | 25th September | Lung Health for All | |
| World Pharmacists Day | 25th September | Pharmacy united in action for a healthier world | The day was first observed in 2010. |
| Antyodaya Diwas | 25th September | | The day commemorate the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. The year 2022 marks the 106th birth anniversary of him. |
| World Rivers Day | Fourth Sunday of September (25th September 2022) | The Importance of Rivers to Biodiversity | |
| International Daughter's Day | Fourth Sunday of September (25th September 2022) | | |
| International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | 26th September | | The day was first observed in 2014. |
| World Contraception Day | 26th September | | The day was first observed in 2007. |
| World Environment Health Day | 26th September | Strengthening Environmental Health Systems for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals | |

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| World Tourism Day | 27th September | Rethinking Tourism | |
| World Rabies Day | 28th September | Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths | The day was first observed in 2007. |
| International Day for Universal Access to Information | 28th September | Artificial intelligence, e-governance and access to information | |
| World Heart Day | 29th September | Use Heart for Every Heart | |
| International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste | 29th September | | The day was first observed in 2020. |
| World Maritime Day | Last Thursday of September (29th September 2022) | New technologies for greener shipping | The day was first observed in 1978. |
| International Translation Day | 30th September | A World without Barriers: The Role of Language Professionals in Building Culture, Understanding and lasting Peace. | The day was first observed in 2017. |

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