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October 2022 - Week 2

WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

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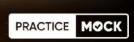
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Contents

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. **Indian Railways** has adopted an integrated approach for a Green Environment and planned to gradually reduce its carbon footprint to become a '**Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030'** by completing the electrification of all railway tracks.

   The Government of India (GoI), as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), has set a target of **33 percent** emissions intensity reduction, with the transport sector being one of the key sectors with substantial mitigation potential.

   Contribution of Indian Railways to India's NDC towards combating Climate Change:
   - To enhance the share of the Railways in the overall land based freight transport from present 36% to 45% by the year 2030.
   - Indian Railways is setting up Dedicated Freight Corridors (DFCs) across the country. The first phase of the project alone is estimated to reduce emissions by about 457 million ton CO_2 over a 30 year period.
   - Perform, Achieve, and Trade (PAT) Scheme to be implemented in the railway sector.
   - Use of 5% blending of biofuels in traction diesel fuel.
   - Improve water use efficiency by 20% upto 2030.
   - Tree plantation to increase Carbon sink.
   - Adopting good practices on Green Buildings, Industrial Units, and other establishments for the management of resources and infrastructure to achieve Environmental Sustainability in growth of IR.

2. The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified the establishment of the **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)** to provide startups collateral-free loans up to a specified limit.

   These loans are extended by Member Institutions (MIs), which include Scheduled Commercial Banks (**SCBs**), Non-Banking Financial Companies (**NBFCs**), and SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (**AIFs**).

   CGSS will complement the existing Schemes under Startup India initiative viz. Fund of Funds for Startups and Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, with the objective of mobilising domestic capital for Indian startups.
   The credit guarantee cover under the Scheme would be transaction based and umbrella based.
   - Transaction based guarantees will promote lending by Banks/ NBFCs to eligible startups.
   - The umbrella-based guarantee cover will provide guarantee to Venture Debt Funds (VDF) registered under AIF regulations of SEBI (a growing segment of funding in Indian startup ecosystem).

The exposure to individual cases would be limited to **Rs.10 crore** per case or the actual outstanding credit amount, whichever is less.

DPIIT will be constituting a Management Committee (MC) and a Risk Evaluation Committee (REC) for reviewing, supervising and operational oversight of the Scheme.

The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (**NCGTC**) will be administrating the scheme.

3. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently constituted a **9-member Task Force** for monitoring Cheetah introduction in **Kuno National Park** in **Madhya Pradesh** and other suitable designated areas.

India had introduced 5 female and 3 male cheetahs from **Namibia** to Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park.

- The nine member task force will include Principal Secretaries, Forests and Tourism of Madhya Pradesh, and the Inspector General of NTCA, New Delhi **Dr. Amit Mallick**.
- The Task Force will be in-force for a period of **2 years**.
- The Task Force has been constituted to review, progress and monitor the health status of Cheetah, upkeep of the quarantine and soft release enclosure, protection status of the entire area and adherence to the defined protocols. It will also monitor hunting skills and adaptation of Cheetahs to the habitat of Kuno National Park.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (**NTCA**) will facilitate the working of Cheetah Task Force.

4. The Union government has formed a **three-member panel** to examine the issue of whether Scheduled Caste (**SC**) status can be accorded to **Dalits** who have over the years converted to religions other than Sikhism or Buddhism.

- The panel will be headed by former CJI **K.G. Balakrishnan**.
- **Other members**: Retired IAS officer Ravindra Jain and UGC member Sushma Yadav.
- The panel has a deadline of two years.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 provides for only those belonging to **Hindu, Sikh, or Buddhist** communities to be categorized as SCs. Initially, the Order only allowed for Hindu communities to be classified as SCs based on the social disabilities and discrimination they faced due to untouchability. It was amended in 1956 to include Sikh communities and again in 1990 to include Buddhist communities as SCs.

5. **Northern Command** of the Indian Army has recently inducted **'Kalyani M4'**, an indigenous all-terrain high mobility combat troop carrier with armour and mine protection, in Jammu and Kashmir.

- Kalyani M4 was manufactured by Kalyani Group's Bharat Forge Limited.
- The vehicle can withstand three 10 kg TNT (Trinitrotoluene) charges under the wheels and one 50 kg IED (Improvised Explosive Device) blast at its one side.

- It is designed predominantly as an extraction and occupant protection vehicle.

6. **India** and **USA** have launched a new **Energy Storage Task Force** under the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership (**SCEP**) to support large scale integration of Renewable Energy (RE) needed to support the clean energy transition.

   - The task force will help in strengthening India-US partnership in the critical energy sector and will accelerate clean, secure, and just energy transition.
   - The task force will help India achieve its goal of approximately 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

   The Task force has been launched during the ministerial meeting between the US Energy Secretary **Jennifer Granholm** and Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri** in Washington DC, USA.

7. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (**IREDA**) has observed the **"Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas"** to create cybersecurity awareness among all employees.

   Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** that requires all government organizations to spread cybersecurity awareness. It is observed on **first Wednesday of every month**. The objective is to spread awareness and sensitize the Internet users on safeguarding against cyber frauds and cybercrimes.

8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid the foundation stone and dedicated various projects worth over **Rs.3900 crore** to the nation in **Modhera, Mehsana district** of **Gujarat.**

   He has laid the foundation stone of multiple projects that include:
   - Four laning of a section of NH-68 from Patan to Gozariya;
   - Water treatment plant at Chalasan village of Jotana taluka of Mehsana district;
   - New automated milk powder plant and UHT milk carton plant at Dudhsagar Dairy;
   - Redevelopment & Reconstruction of General Hospital Mehsana;

   He has also dedicated:
   - Gauge Conversion of Sabarmati-Jagudan segment of Ahmedabad-Mehsana Gauge Conversion project;
   - ONGC's Nandasan Geological oil production project;
   - Sujalam Sufalam Canal from Kherava to Shingoda Lake;
   - Dharoi Dam Based Vadnagar Kheralu and Dharoi Group Reform Scheme;
   - Project of four laning of a section of Bechraji Modhera-Chanasma state highway;
   - Project to expand a section of Unja-Dasaj Upera Ladol (Bhankhar Approach Road);
   - New Building of Regional Training Centre, Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA), Mehsana;

   He has declared the village of **Modhera** as India's first 24×7 solar-powered village. With this, the **Sun Temple of Modhera** has also became the **first heritage site** in India to be powered solely by solar energy.

He has also inaugurated the **3D Projection Mapping** of the Modhera Sun Temple.
The project involved developing a Ground Mounted Solar power plant and more than 1300 Rooftop solar systems on residential & Government buildings, all integrated with Battery Energy storage system (BESS).

Sun Temple of Modhera:
It was built in 1026-27 during **Chalukya King Bhimdev I** (1022-1063 AD) regime. It is one of the four main Sun Temples. It is located on the banks of River Pushpavati and falls near the Tropic of Cancer. It was declared a UNESCO World heritage Site in 2014.

The other 3 main Sun Temples are: Konark Sun Temple (Odisha), Martand Sun Temple (Jammu and Kashmir) and Dakshinaarka Sun Temple (Gaya).

9. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched the **Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS)** initiative on the occasion of World Mental Health Day (10th October). The initiative aims to increase access to mental healthcare across India.

Tele-MANAS to be organized in a two-tier system;
- **Tier 1**: State Tele-MANAS cells which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists.
- **Tier 2**: Specialists at District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or e-Sanjeevani for audio-visual consultation.

The programme includes a network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence, International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB), the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bengaluru and the National Health Systems Resource Centre (NHRSC) to provide technical support.
The nodal centre for its implementation is National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (**NIMHANS**), Bengaluru.

A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) has been set up across the country to support Tele-MANAS.
The Union Government aims to open at least **one** Tele-MANAS Cell in each State/UT.
Note: National Tele Mental Health Programme (NTMHP) was first announced in Union Budget 2022-23 while acknowledging mental health crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.

10. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) has hosted the **'Conference on B20 Indonesia Global Dialogue'** in partnership with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in New Delhi to align the perspectives of Indian industry with the policy recommendations of B20 Indonesia.

During the conference, dialogues were held on: a) *Energy, Sustainability and Climate*, b) *Digitisation*, c) *Trade and Investment*, and d) *Finance and Infrastructure*, wherein perspectives

from B20 Indonesia were followed by perspectives from Indian Industry and the Government of India.

Business 20 (B20):
- Business 20 (B20) was formed in 2010.
- The B20 is the official G20 dialogue forum with the business community.
- B20 aims to deliver concrete actionable policy recommendations on the priorities by each rotating presidency to spur economic growth and development.

Note: G20 is a group of 19 Countries + EU, together representing around 85% of global GDP, 75% of global trade, and 60% of the world's population.

11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the **2nd United Nations World Geospatial Congress (UNWGIC) 2022** held at International Convention Centre in **Hyderabad**, Telangana. The theme of UNWGIC 2022 is *'Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind'*.

- The goal of UNWGIC 2022 is to promote a broad dialogue on global geospatial information management with all relevant governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, and the private sector.
- The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has convened the conference on UNWGIC 2022 and has been organised by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- The UNWGIC 2022 has been hosted by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Geospatial technology can be used to create intelligent maps and models which help to collect geographically referenced data.

12. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has launched the first of its kind pilot project for **Flex Fuel-Strong Hybrid Electric Vehicles (FFV-SHEVs)** in India.

- These FFV-SHEV will run on **100% petrol** as well as 20-100% blended ethanol and electric power.
- The flex-fuel pilot project is being led by Japanese car maker **Toyota** who also launched the **FFV-SHEV Corolla Altis** at the event held in Delhi.

Vehicles with a flexi-engine can run on multiple types of fuels or a mixture of petrol with ethanol or methanol. A Flexi-engine is able to support different types of fuel because it is capable of adjusting the fuel and air ratio as per the requirement with the help of composition sensors. Such engines are already being utilised in other countries such as the US, Canada and Brazil.

Note: India will achieve the goal of 20 percent ethanol blending in overall fuel consumption by 2025.

13. The Central Government has accorded **Infrastructure status** to data centres that are "housed in a dedicated/centralized building for storage and processing of digital data applications with a minimum capacity of 5 MW of IT load" with more than **5 megawatt (MW)** capacity of IT load. This will help data centre companies to get easier access to institutional credit at lower rates, attract foreign investments etc.

- Data Centre is included in the Harmonized Master List of Infrastructure sub-sectors by insertion of a new item in the category of *'Communication'*.
- The capacity of data centres is measured in terms of power they consume which reflects on the scale of the server they are hosting in their facilities.

According to an ICRA report, data centres capacity expansion in India by both foreign and local firms is expected to add investments to the tune of Rs 1.05 lakh to 1.2 lakh crore investments in next 5 years.
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had made an announcement in the Union Budget speech for 2022-23, that data centres will be granted infrastructure status.

14. The **7th** edition of **IBSAMAR**, a joint multinational maritime exercise, among the **Indian, Brazilian and South Africa** navies has been held at **Port Gqeberha** (also known as Port Elizabeth), South Africa from 10 to 12 October 2022.

- The objectives of the exercise included strengthening maritime relations, promoting joint operational military training, combating maritime crimes, securing Sea Lines of Communication and enhancing interoperability to pursue common evolutions at sea.
- The Indian Navy has been represented by the guided missile frigate, **INS Tarkash**, a **Chetak helicopter** and **MARCOS** Special Forces.
The exercise IBSAMAR was first initiated in **2008.**

15. President of India **Droupadi Murmu** has recently inaugurated a supercomputer facility named **"PARAM KAMRUPA"** at the Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT**), **Guwahati** in Assam.

- Param-Kamrupa is a state-of-the-art supercomputer set up under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- With this facility, IIT Guwahati will be able to carry out research on weather and climate, bioinformatics, computational chemistry, molecular dynamics, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, data science, etc.
She has also inaugurated a high power active and passive component laboratory called **SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research)** at the institute. This laboratory will be used for the design and development of high-power microwave passive and active components.

Other initiations:

President Droupadi Murmu has virtually inaugurated the Medical College and Hospital at Dhubri and laid the foundation stones for two Zonal Institutes of **National Institute of Virology** (NIV) at– (i) Dibrugarh, Assam and (ii) Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on the occasion.

16. As per the latest work published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', the X-ray spectrometer '**CLASS' (Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer)** on the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter has mapped an abundance of **sodium** on the moon for the first time.

- CLASS is built at the U R Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru.
- CLASS provides clean signatures of the sodium line due to its high sensitivity and performance.

Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (C1XS) detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays which opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the Moon.

17. **Eastern Naval Command** has conducted an offshore security exercise named **'Prasthan'** in the Krishna Godavari Basin Offshore Development Area (ODA) on 11 and 12 October 2022. The exercise has been conducted in the Offshore Defence Area off Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. It aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence. It is conducted every **6 months**.

18. The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MoCA,F&PD), has extended the timeline for disbursement of loans under the 'Scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for enhancement and augmentation of ethanol production capacity' up to **31st March 2023** under the **Ethanol Blended with Petrol (EBP) programme**, notified first in 2018, to facilitate entrepreneurs to complete their projects while availing of government support.

19. The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) has approved the acquisition of 100% of the equity and compulsorily convertible debentures of five special purpose vehicles (SPVs) by **IndInfravit** and allotment of units of IndInfravit to CPHI-4 for the purpose of part-funding the acquisition of SPVs.

The five Target SPVs are engaged in the operation and maintenance of highways in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra.

CCI has also cleared **Platinum Owl's** acquisition of a minority stake in **Intas Pharmaceuticals**. The proposed transaction involves a secondary acquisition by Platinum Owl of 3 percent of the equity shareholding of Intas (on an outstanding shares basis).

STATES AFFAIRS

20. The Delhi government has launched an app named **'Delhi e-monitoring'** to keep track of all ongoing and upcoming projects across departments. The app will be monitored and inspected by the Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar. The app has been launched for monitoring of projects/inspection/tasks used by ministers and senior officers of all departments of Delhi government.

21. The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has virtually launched **'Football for All'** Initiative to promote the sport among school children in **Odisha**. This is the first such programme by the International Federation of Association Football (**FIFA**) to promote football in India.

    The programme has been initiated by FIFA in Odisha in partnership with KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) & KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences).
    Under this initiative, over 43,000 footballs will be distributed to children in about 2000 schools. The programme will provide life skill support to children.
    Note: Odisha will host the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022 from 11th October 2022 to 30th October 2022.

22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Mahakal Lok** corridor at Mahakaleshwar temple located in the **Ujjain** district of Madhya Pradesh. The corridor is part of the first phase of **Rs.850 crore Mahakaleshwar Temple Corridor Development Project.** Under the project, the entire area will be decongested and the heritage structures will be conserved and restored.

    - More than 900-metre-long Mahakal corridor is one of the largest corridors in India. It spreads around the old Rudrasagar Lake that has also been revived.
    - Under the project, the temple precinct will be expanded nearly seven times.
    - The Mahakal Path has 108 stambhs (pillars) that features Anand Tandav Swaroop (Dance form) of Lord Shiva.
    - Various sculptures featuring the life of Lord Shiva are installed along the Mahakal Path.
    - The mural wall along this path depicts the Shiva Purana stories like Ganesha's birth, Story of Sati and Daksha and such fables.
    - The entire temple plaza, spanning across 2.5 hectares, will be monitored round-the-clock by Integrated Command and Control Centre using artificial intelligence software and surveillance cameras.

    Mahakal temple:
    It is one of the 12 Jyotirlinga sites in India. It is the only Jyotirlinga that faces **south**. The temple complex was destroyed in the 13th century Turk ruler Shams-ud-din Iltutmish while raiding Ujjain. The present structure was built by Maratha general **Ranoji Shinde** in 1734. Kalidasa in *Raghuvansam* described this temple as **'Niketana'**. Also, in *Meghadutam*, Kalidasa gives a fascinating description of Mahakala temple.
    A Jyotirlinga is a representation of Lord Shiva in Hinduism.

23. The **Tamil Nadu** government has notified the **Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary**, the first of its kind in India for the endangered Slender Loris in **Karur** and **Dindigul** districts of Tamil Nadu with a financial outlay of Rs.5 crore until 2026.

The sanctuary will be spread across a total of 11,806 hectares after merging the forest areas of the Karur and Dindigul districts.

Slender Lorises:
Slender Lorises are small nocturnal animals, which are classified as '**Endangered'** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and are listed under the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972. They act as biological predators of pests that harm agricultural crops and help farmers. Their lifespan is approximately **15 years** and generally feed on insects, reptiles, plant shoots, and fruit. They are the primates that cannot jump.

24. The Minister of State for Communications, **Devusinh Chauhan** has released a **Commemorative Postage Stamp** on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of **Postal Index Number (PIN) Code**, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- PIN Code, also known as Zip Code or Area Code, is the post office numbering code system used by India Post.
- It was first introduced on **15th August 1972**.
- It is a 6 digits long code with each digit denoting a particular meaning. The first digit of the PIN indicates the zone. The second digit indicates the sub-zone, the third digit indicates the sorting district, and the last three digits indicates **Post Office**.
- India is divided into **9** postal regions (zones) with the first eight as geographical regions and ninth being Indian Army.

He has also launched the **e-Passbook** which is a feature for the account holders of Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) schemes.
He has launched **'PLI Mobile Training App'** which will not only provide online training but also facilitate conducting of online licentiate examination. This App contains training material in audio/visual mode and also a book which is a handy compilation of training material.
He has virtually inaugurated newly constructed Post Office buildings of Vav & Sami Sub Post Office, Parcel Packaging Unit, Navrangpura Head Post in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

25. The Government of **Himachal Pradesh** has launched **'HIMCAD'** scheme to bridge the gap between the **irrigation** potential created and the irrigation potential to be utilized. This

scheme will provide end-to-end connectivity of farmers' fields for better water conservation, crop diversification and integrated farming. Under the scheme, an area of 15,242 hectares has been brought under Command Area Development (CAD) activities.

26. An **Ethiopian delegation** has visited **Andhra Pradesh** to study the first-of-its kind **Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs)**, which have been set up by the Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy government. The delegation is led by Agricultural Minister of Ethiopia **Dr Meles Mekonen Yimer**.

Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs):
- The RBKs, set up for the first time in the country, are single-window service centres for farmers that have been set up across the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- They are a one-stop solution to all farmers' needs and grievances.
- RBKs sell pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilisers and animal feed.
- Farmers can purchase or hire farm equipment, and even sell their produce at the prevailing MSP (Marginal Standard Price) in the RBKs.
- Agriculture and horticulture officials manning the RBKs also provide services like soil testing and make recommendations about which crops to sow, and quantity and type of fertiliser to be used.
- The state government also pays crop insurance, procures grains and makes payments to farmers through the RBKs.

Note: The Centre Government has nominated the RBK concept for the Food and Agriculture Organisation's "Champion" award.

27. As per the latest data, **Tamil Nadu** has become the only State which has achieved the target of 2022 Q1 and Q2 for **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, with 69.57 lakh households provided with tap connections till date, according to official data.

- The State has provided **16.25 lakh** tap connections as against the 12.1 lakh tap connections target set by the Union government for Q1 and Q2 for 2022.
- The percentage of households (55.63%) with tap connections in Tamil Nadu is higher than the national average of 53.96%.
- The target set for 2022-2023 in the State is **28.48 lakh** tap connections.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):
It was launched in 2019. It envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.

28. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has recently visited **Una and Chamba** in **Himachal Pradesh** to launch a number of development projects and initiatives.

Prime Minister in Una:
Bulk Drug Park: He has laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park at **Haroli** in Una district, which will be built at a cost of over **Rs 1900 crore.**

IIIT Una: He has dedicated the **Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Una** to the nation. Its foundation stone was laid by him in 2017. Currently, more than 530 students are pursuing study in this Institute.

Vande Bharat Express: He has flagged off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express, which runs between **Amb Andaura** in **Himachal Pradesh** to **New Delhi**. This will be the **fourth** Vande Bharat train to be introduced in the country. It accelerates to 100 Km/h in just 52 seconds.

Prime Minister in Chamba:

Hydropower projects: He has laid the foundation stone of two hydropower projects (a) the 48 MW Chanju-III Hydro-electric Project and (b) the 30 MW Deothal Chanju Hydro-electric Project. Both these projects will generate over 270 million units of electricity annually and Himachal Pradesh is expected to get annual revenue of around Rs. 110 crore from these projects.

PMGSY-III: He has launched the **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)-III** in Himachal Pradesh for upgradation of around 3125 kms of roads in the State.

29. India's first indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile capable submarine **INS Arihant** has successfully launched a nuclear-capable **'Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM)'** in the Bay of Bengal with "very high accuracy". All operational and technological parameters of the weapon system have been validated. The launch has "Credible Minimum Deterrence," which is consistent with India's "No First Use" policy.

INS Arihant:

It was launched in 2009 and commissioned in 2016. It was built under the secretive Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project. It is classified as Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarines (SSBN). It is presently armed with **K-15**, also known as Sagarika, SLBM with a range of 750 km.

Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM):

It is also called the 'K' family of missiles. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). The family is codenamed after Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. These missiles are lighter, more compact, and stealthier than their land-based counterparts.

30. The Government of **Rajasthan** has recently launched a **'Post-Matric Scholarship Mobile Application'** to stimulate e-governance initiatives in the state. With this application, students will be able to file flawless online applications from their smartphones.

31. The Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** has inaugurated a first of its kind **Bird Festival 2022** at Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. The 6-day Bird Festival has been organised by the J & K Tourism Department in collaboration with Sanctuary Nature Foundation.

32. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **M.K. Stalin** has inaugurated state's first **Liquefied, Compressed Natural Gas (LCNG)** station set up by AG & P Pratham near **Manthangal village** in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu. The facility will cater to the piped natural gas requirements of domestic households, industries, commercial establishments and CNG for the transport sector. The company will lay a 300km pipeline network in Vellore and Ranipet regions by the end of FY23.

33. Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** along with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** have jointly inaugurated the **81st annual session of the Indian Roads Congress (IRC)** in **Lucknow.**

During the session, the Union Minister has approved the road projects worth Rs.8000 crore for Uttar Pradesh, including 13 Roads Over Bridges in the state with a fund of Rs.1,000 crore.

34. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth around **Rs 1450 crore** related to irrigation, power, water supply and urban infrastructure in **Jamnagar**, Gujarat.

- These projects include Kalavad Group Augmentation water supply scheme of Kalavad/Jamnagar Taluka Morbi-Maliya-Jodiya group Augmentation water supply scheme, Lalpur Bypass junction flyover Bridge, Hapa Market Yard Railway Crossing, and the refurbishment of the Sewer Collection pipeline and pumping station.
- He has dedicated package 7 of Saurashtra Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana Link 3 (from Und Dam to Sonmati Dam), package 5 of SAUNI Yojana Link 1 (from Und-1 dam to SANI Dam) and Haripar 40 MW Solar PV project.

35. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Phase 1 of Modi Shaikshanik Sankul**, an educational complex for needy students, in **Ahmedabad**. The project will help provide facilities to students for holistic development.

- He has also dedicated and laid the foundation stones of various healthcare facilities around **Rs.1275 crore** in Civil Hospital Asarwa, Ahmedabad. This includes dedication of new and improved facilities for cardiac care and a new hostel building in U.N Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre, among others.
- He has laid the foundation stone of shelter home to accommodate families of poor patients.

36. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth **Rs 8000 crore** in **Amod, Bharuch**, Gujarat.

- He has laid the foundation stone of **Bulk Drug Park** at **Jambusar**.
- He has laid the foundation stone of the **Deep Sea Pipeline Project** at **Dahej**, which will help in disposal of treated wastewater from industrial estates.

- Other projects whose foundation stone has been laid by the Prime Minister include the phase 1 of **Ankleshwar Airport** and development of Multilevel Industrial Sheds at Ankleshwar and Panoli, which will give a boost to the MSME sector.
- He has dedicated **800 TPD Caustic Soda Plant** integrated with 130 MW cogeneration power plant at Dahej.
- He has dedicated a project for manufacturing over one lakh MT per annum of Chloromethanes at Dahej.
- Other projects dedicated by the Prime Minister include the Hydrazine Hydrate Plant at Dahej which will help in import substitution of the product, IOCL Dahej-Koyali Pipeline Project, Bharuch underground drainage and STP work and widening & strengthening of Umlla Asaa Panetha road.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

37. The United Nations **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)** has adopted a long-term aspirational goal of making carbon emissions from air travel net zero by **2050**. This will boost the production of sustainable aviation fuel. This move will help in switching from kerosene-based jet fuels to fuels made from fats, grease, plants or renewables.

38. Russia has successfully launched a navigation satellite **'GLONASS-K'** by using a Soyuz-2.1b rocket from the State Testing Cosmodrome of the Russian Defence Ministry (the Plesetsk spaceport).

GLONASS-K is the third generation Russian Global Navigation Satellite System.
It is designed and developed by the Reshetnev Information Satellite Systems Company, a division of Roscosmos, the Russian State Space Corporation.

39. China has successfully launched the **'Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S)'** using the Long March-2D carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwestern part of China.

- The ASO-S is China's first full-scale satellite dedicated to researching the Sun.
- It is the world's first solar telescope capable of simultaneously monitoring both solar flares and coronal mass ejections.
- It will study the Sun from an orbit 720 km above the surface of the Earth.
- It is nicknamed Kuafu-1, after a mythical giant that sought to capture and tame the sun.
- The solar mission, which is expected to last for 4 years, will enable scientists to capture and study the previously unprecedented images of the Sun during the "solar maximum" (when sun has the highest number of sun spots). The solar maximum is expected to occur around the year 2025.

40. Israel & Lebanon have signed a 'Historic Agreement' to resolve a long-running maritime border dispute which was mediated by the United States of America (USA). This is the first

agreement between Israel and Lebanon, the 2 countries in a state of war. The deal will help to de-escalate tensions between Lebanon and Israel, reducing the prospects for conflict between the 2 countries in the near term.

REPORTS & INDICES

41. A new report titled **'Education 4.0 India Report'** has been released by World Economic Forum (**WEF**) in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Education Fund (**UNICEF**), and **YuWaah** (Generation Unlimited India). The report highlights that how digital and other technologies can address learning gaps and make education accessible to all. It has been launched as part of WEF's Education 4.0 India initiative.

The report identifies gaps and suggests interventions under four themes: *Foundational literacy and numeracy; Teacher professional development, School-to-work (S2W) transition; and Connecting the unconnected.*

Key highlights:
- As per the report, India has more than 60 million secondary and higher secondary students, but 85 percent of schools are yet to implement vocational courses as part of their curriculum.
- The S2W transition process is still facing major hurdles such as lack of trainers, inadequate resources and infrastructure, poor integration with the mainstream school curriculum, and poor linkages between localized skill gaps and vocational courses.
- The report noted that many students and parents consider vocational education to be the second-best option to mainstream education.
- The report complements the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 of India and the National Digital Education Architecture of 2021.

School-to-work (S2W) transition refers to the process of making students job-ready in a rapidly evolving employment landscape.
Education 4.0 India initiative:
It was launched in May 2020 by WEF in collaboration with UNICEF and YuWaah. This initiative has convened over 40 partners from the education technology, government, academic and start-up communities. It focuses on how the fourth industrial revolution technologies can enhance learning and reduce inequalities in access to education among children in India.

42. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) has launched a list of **50** exclusive and iconic heritage textile crafts of India. The list is named **'Handmade for the 21st Century: Safeguarding Traditional Indian Textile**', which lists the histories and legends behind the textiles.

According to UNESCO, one of the major challenges to the safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Asia is the lack of proper inventory and documentation.

Some of the Important Textiles Crafts Listed

Textile Crafts	State/Region
Toda embroidery and Sungadi	Tamil Nadu
Himroo weaves	Hyderabad, Telangana
Bandha tie and dye weaving	Sambalpur, Odisha
Khes	**Panipat, Haryana**
Chamba rumals	Himachal Pradesh
Thigma or wool tie and dye	Ladakh
Awadh Jamdani	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
Ilkal and Lambadi or Banjara embroidery	Karnataka
Sikalnayakanpet Kalamkari	Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu
Kunbi weaves	Goa
Mashru weaves and Patola	Gujarat
Himroo	Maharashtra
Garad-Koirial	West Bengal

43. As per the recent study conducted by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**, India has been ranked **fourth** among 12 Indo-Pacific countries in self-reliant arms production capabilities.

- **China** has secured the top position, followed by Japan, and South Korea.
- Pakistan has been ranked 8th.

Self-reliance of countries is measured until 2020.
Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam were the countries selected for the study.
The study is based on three indicators of self-reliance in each country:
- **Arms procurement**: imports, licensed and domestic production as a proportion of the government's total procurement of major conventional arms;
- **Arms industry**: The study presents the five largest arms companies in each country, where data are available, ranked by sales of arms and military services in 2020 to both domestic and export customers;
- **Uncrewed maritime vehicles**: It covers both uncrewed surface vehicles (USVs) and uncrewed underwater vehicles (UUVs). It is meant to provide a qualitative understanding of how countries are engaging domestic research institutes and firms to produce such cutting edge systems.

Note: India is ranked as the second-largest importer of arms for its armed forces in 2016-20.

44. The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, in its latest World Economic Outlook report, has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for **FY23** by 60 basis points (bps) to **6.8 percent**. The report reflected a weaker-than-expected outturn in the second quarter and more subdued external demand. The IMF has maintained a forecast of 6.1 percent for FY24.

As per the report, India is projected to be second-fastest growing major economy in 2022, next to Saudi Arabia, and fastest growing in 2023.
Global growth is forecast to slow from 6.0 percent in 2021 to **3.2 percent** in 2022 and **2.7 percent** in 2023.
Global inflation could rise from 4.7 percent in 2021 to 8.8 percent in 2022, but to decline to 6.5 percent in 2023 and to 4.1 percent in 2024.

India's FY23 GDP forecast

Bank/Institution	New Forecast (percent)	Earlier Forecast (percent)
State Bank of India	6.8	7.5
World Bank	6.5	7.5
Citigroup	6.7	8
IMF	6.8	7.4
Fitch	7	7.8
India Ratings	6.9	7
Asian Development Bank	7	7.2
Reserve Bank of India	7	7.2

45. Oxfam International, in collaboration with the Development Finance International (DFI), has released the **4th edition** of the **Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index 2022.**

The index evaluates government policies and actions in 3 areas: Public services (health, education, and social protection), Taxation, and worker rights.
The CRI Index 2022 is the first comprehensive analysis made by reviewing policies and actions of 161 governments to combat inequality during 2020 and 2022.
The CRI Index 2022 is topped by **Norway**, followed by Germany and Australia.
India's performance:
- India has improved its position by six points from 129 in 2020 to **123** in 2022.
- India has been ranked 16 on the taxation pillar.
- In terms of its public services, it ranked 129.

- India has been ranked 151 on the labour pillar.

46. The 14th edition of the **"Living Planet Report 2022"** has been published by the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).** The report states that there has been a **69 percent** decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, across the globe in the last 50 years.

   Key highlights:
   - The freshwater populations have declined the most, with an average **83%** decline between 1970 and 2018.
   - The IUCN Red List shows cycads, an ancient group of seed plants, are the most threatened species, while corals are declining the fastest, followed by amphibians.
   - The highest decline (94 percent) was in **Latin America** and the **Caribbean region**.
   - The Polar Regions and the east coast of Australia and South Africa have showed the highest impact probabilities for climate change, driven in particular by impact on birds.
   - Mangroves continue to be lost to aquaculture, agriculture and coastal development at a rate of **0.13 percent** per year.
   - Around 137 square kilometres of the Sundarbans mangrove forest in India and Bangladesh has been eroded since 1985, reducing land and ecosystem services for many of the 10 million people who live there.
   - About **50%** of warm water corals have already been lost and a warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius will lead to a loss of 70-90% of warm water corals.
   - The global abundance of 18 of 31 oceanic sharks has declined by 71% over the last 50 years and the report said that by 2020 three-quarters of sharks and rays were threatened with extinction.

   Living Planet Report:
   It is a flagship publication of WWF. It is released every two years. It is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and health of the planet. It tracks changes in the relative abundance of wild species populations across the globe.

47. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has released the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) Report 2022**. It has been prepared by the Logistics division of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**) with support from **Ernst & Young (EY).**

   The report has been launched during the National Workshop on PM GatiShakti held to mark the first anniversary of the roll out of the National Master Plan, in New Delhi.

   Key Findings:
   - The LEADS 2022 will assist in the implementation of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) and the National Logistics Policy (NLP) by identifying gaps in the existing logistics services, infrastructure and regulatory environment.

- The LEADS 2022 has adopted a **classification-based grading**, with states/UTs classified under four categories viz. Coastal states, Hinterland/Landlocked states, North-Eastern states, and Union Territories.
- It provides three performance categories:

a) **Achievers** (states and UTs achieving 90 percent or more)
b) **Fast Movers** (states and UTs scoring between 80 and 90 percent)
c) **Aspirers** (states and UTs with percentage scoring below 80 percent)

15 states and UTs are categorized as Achievers, 6 as Fast Movers, and 15 as Aspirers.

Categories	Achievers	Fast movers	Aspirers
Landlocked states	Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan	Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
Coastal states	Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu	Kerala	Goa, West Bengal
North-Eastern states	Assam	Sikkim, Tripura	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland
Union Territories	Chandigarh, Delhi	Puducherry	Andaman & Nicobar, Daman Diu & Dadara and Nagar Haveli, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep

LEADS:
The LEADS is an indigenous data-driven index to assess logistics infrastructure, services, and human resources across all 36 States and UTs.
LEADS continues to act as a guiding & bridging mechanism for the identification of interventions enhancing logistics efficiency at State/UTs. It reflects positively on international indices, like Logistics Performance Index.
The first LEADS report was released in **2018.**

Note: India's logistics sector estimated to account for about 14.4% of GDP.

48. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions to the banks on Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure (UFCE) of the entities which have borrowed from banks. These directions will be called **'RBI (Unhedged Foreign Currency Exposure) Directions, 2022'** and will come into effect from **1st January 2023**. This circular is applicable to all commercial banks (excluding Payments Banks and Regional Rural Banks).

Key directions:
- Banks shall ascertain the Foreign Currency Exposure (FCE) of all entities at least on an annual basis.
- Banks shall assess UFCE of entities with FCE by obtaining information on UFCE from the concerned entity.
- Banks shall determine the potential loss to an entity from UFCE using the largest annual volatility in the USD-INR exchange rates during the last 10 years.
- Banks shall calculate the incremental provisioning and capital requirements at a minimum on a quarterly basis.
- Banks shall incorporate the risk of UFCE of entities in their internal credit rating system and credit risk management policies and procedures.

49. As per the 2020 report published by the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) and non-profit **Pure Earth**, India bears the world's highest health and economic burden with over **275 million** children affected due to lead poisoning, out of 800 million children globally.
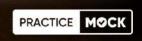
This report was jointly published by UNICEF and Pure Earth in 2020, which was reviewed and published by **NITI Aayog** in association with the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (**CSIR**) in July 2022.

Key points:
- In India, prevalence of lead poisoning is in **23 states** with people having an average Blood Lead Level (BLL) that exceeds **5 microgram per decilitre** (µg / dl) and **4.9 µg / dl** for children less than two years old.
- Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh have the highest average blood lead levels (BLL) among Indian states. These states account for 40 percent of India's population that is plagued with this poor health indicator.
- India loses **USD 236 billion** in GDP per year, which can be equated to because of lead poisoning in children.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

50. The Central Government has recently expanded the mandate of its flagship scheme - **'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP Scheme).** Some of the new objectives in the revised BBBP scheme include:

- Skilling of girls in **Non-Traditional Livelihood (NTL)** options where women are historically under-represented, Examples- Mobile repairing, LED light making etc.
- The scheme aims to ensure a **1%** increment in enrolment at the secondary level, particularly in **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) subjects.
- Raising awareness about **menstrual hygiene**.
- Promulgating elimination of **child marriages**.

Other Changes to the Scheme:
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MW&CD) has emphasised the convergence between various departments for providing quality education (including vocational) to empower girls.
- A MoU has been signed between the MW&CD and **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**, and **Ministry of Minority Affairs** to ensure adolescents complete their education, build skills, and enter the workforce in a diverse range of professions.
- A national committee headed by the Secretary of MW&CD, formed under **Mission Shakti,** will review the implementation of the BBBP scheme with states and UTs.

MW&CD has also launched the operational manual to implement the scheme in districts.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' (BBBP Scheme):
The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **22nd January 2015** at Panipat, Haryana to address the declining Child Sex Ratio and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.
It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development (**MW&CD**), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (**MH&FW**), and Ministry of Education (**MoE**).
Main objectives:
- To prevent gender-biased sex-selective elimination.
- To ensure survival & protection of the girl child.
- To ensure the education and participation of the girl child.
- To protect the rights of Girl children.

51. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a new Scheme, **Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE)** for the remaining four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26. The scheme will have an outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore**.

PM-DevINE:

It is a **Central Sector Scheme** with 100% Central funding. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (**DoNER**). The objectives of PM-DevINE are to:

- Fund infrastructure convergently, in the spirit of PM Gati Shakti;
- Support social development projects based on felt needs of the NER;
- Enable livelihood activities for youth and women;
- Fill the development gaps in various sectors.

PM-DevINE was announced in the **Union Budget 2022-23** to address development gaps in the North Eastern Region (NER).

Other Cabinet Approvals (October 2022):

a) Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for payment of **Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB)** to railway employees for the financial year 2021-22. The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs. 17,951/- for 78 days. The financial implication of payment of 78 days PLB to railway employees has been estimated to be Rs. 1832.09 crore.

b) Cabinet has approved the proposal of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to give one time grant amounting to **Rs.22,000 crore** to three Public Sector Undertaking Oil Marketing Companies (PSU OMCs). The grant will be distributed among Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (**BPCL**) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (**HPCL**).

c) Cabinet has approved the **Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022**, which seeks to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002. These amendments have been brought in to improve the ease of doing business. The bill incorporates the provisions of the 97th Constitutional Amendment.

d) Cabinet has approved development of **Container Terminal** at Tuna-Tekra, **Deendayal Port** on Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode. Its estimated cost is Rs 4,243.64 crore on the part of the Concessionaire and Rs 296.20 crore on the part of the Concessioning Authority toward development of common user facilities.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

52. The **Government of Haryana** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Dubai**, the governing authority of the United Arab Emirates, for cooperation in various economic activities such as investment promotion and land development, including real estate development, industrial parks, IT parks, multi-purpose towers, mixed-use townships, innovation centres and projects related to logistics.

53. **Saab**, a defence company of **Sweden**, has announced to set up a manufacturing facility in India for the production of its **Carl-Gustaf M4** weapon systems. It will be the company's first manufacturing facility for the Carl-Gustaf M4 outside Sweden.

   - The M4 is one of the world's most popular pieces of military equipment utilised primarily by the Special Forces (SF).
   - The new company **Saab FFV India**, currently under registration, will make the latest generation of the state-of-the-art weapon in India.
   - The production of Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired weapons having a range of 1,500 metres will start in 2024.

   The Carl-Gustaf system has been in service with the Indian Army since the first cooperation agreement for production in India was signed 1976.

54. The **NASSCOM Foundation** has tied up with **American Express** to train and empower 700 women graduates through an employment-linked training project named **'Women Empowerment Through Technology'**.

   - The project focuses on training 700 women on various technical courses including cloud and data analytics, blockchain, Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
   - Under this project, American Express and NASSCOM Foundation are working with two training partners - **FUEL** (Friends Union for Energizing Lives) and **RCED** (Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship) to impart women with technology-based skill development and entrepreneurship training.

55. The **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)**, the apex institute of Ayurveda in India under the Ministry of AYUSH, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), Japan** for academic establishment and to boost research and development in the field of Ayurveda.

   Under this MoU, AIIA aims to promote Institute's research activities both at a national and international stage. The MoU will enable both countries to promote research collaboration and building capacities in the field of the Indian Ayurvedic system of traditional medicines.

56. Indian cricket star Mahendra Singh Dhoni has launched a 'made-in-India camera drone' named **'Droni'** with advanced features. It has been manufactured by **Garuda Aerospace**.

   It has been launched during the Global Drone Expo in Chennai, Tamil Nadu that witnessed 1,500 participants from 14 international drone companies and representatives from over 28 states and union territories.

   During the Expo, a new **'Kisan Drone'** has also been launched that is aimed at the agriculture sector, particularly in spraying applications. This battery-powered drone is capable of carrying out agricultural pesticide spraying over a land area of 30 acres per day.

57. The Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has approved India's first petrol-operated drone **'DH-Agrigator'**, designed and manufactured by Chennai-based students' startup

Daksha Unmanned Systems Private Limited. The DGCA has also issued the 'Type Certificate' to DH-Agrigator.

DH-Agrigator:
It is an agriculture sprayer drone for farming solutions. This drone consumes 700 ml of petrol per acre and takes 7 to 10 minutes to spray an acre. Its maximum spraying payload is 12 litres.
It should be noted that the MIT Aerospace Department is offering research and development to Daksha unit, and Anna University is offering drone pilot training courses for those who have passed Class X.
Each drone costs Rs.13 to 15 lakh. However, the central government is offering a subsidy of Rs 10 lakh to the Kisan Vikas Kendra and Rs 7.5 lakh to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

58. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has recently launched its blockchain solutions platform **'Quartz Gateway System'** to enable **central and commercial banks** to support the entire lifecycle of Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) issuance, book-keeping and transactions.

    The award-winning Quartz solution provides the capability to issue, trade and settle a variety of traditional as well as tokenized assets, and handle payment transactions.

59. **JSW Steel**, a flagship company of JSW Group, has joined as the newest participant of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) initiative. With this, JSW Steel has become the 5th Indian company in the 'Industrial Mining and Manufacturing' category to join this initiative.

    United Nations Global Compact (UNGC):
    UNGC is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. It encourage companies to conduct business responsibly by aligning their operations and strategies with the UN's Ten Principles derived from: *the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.*
    It also commits companies to take actions to advance broader social benefits, in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

60. **Google** has launched **'Google Play Points'**, a reward point system in India, which can be redeemed for making purchases at Google Play Store. This reward programme is fully funded by Google and is providing a limited time offer with 5 times the Play Points in the 1st week for users in India. The programme is divided into 4 categories including bronze, silver, gold, and platinum, based on the points earned by users.

    The Google Play Points was first launched in 2018 and is currently available in 28 countries globally.
    Other related news:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) has authorized **Google Cloud** to use cloud technology to address challenging issues for governmental organisations. With this, Google is now positioned to fully partner with India's public sector organisations to become an active participant in India's digital transformation initiatives, especially **Project Meghraj**.
- Recently, **Google**, in partnership with **Acer, ASUS and Lenovo,** has introduced the **world's first Chromebooks** built for **cloud gaming**. The company has announced three new Chromebooks: Acer Chromebook 516 GE, ASUS Chromebook Vibe CX55 Flip and Ideapad Gaming Chromebook from Lenovo.

61. The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced the addition of 11 factories and industrial sites, including three pharmaceutical companies from India: **Cipla's** Indore facility, **Dr Reddy's Laboratories'** Hyderabad facility and the **Mondelez** facility in Sri City, to its **Global Lighthouse Network.**

    - The 11 new lighthouses also include Agilent Technologies in Singapore, Danone in Opole (Poland), Flex in Sorocaba (Brazil) and five in China (CATL, Haier, Midea, Sany Heavy Industry and Western Digital).
    - **Dapada factory** of the **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** has been recognised as a **Sustainability Lighthouse** by the World Economic Forum (WEF). This is the first Unilever site and the first company across sectors to achieve this status in India.

    Global Lighthouse Network:
    It is a World Economic Forum (WEF) initiative in collaboration with McKinsey & Company. It is a community of over 100 manufacturers that are showing leadership in applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies such as artificial intelligence, 3D-printing and big data analytics.

62. The **Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)** in partnership with **Power-CSIRTs** (Computer Security Incident Response Teams in Power sector) have designed and organized the Cyber Security Exercise named **"PowerEX"** for 193 invited power sector utilities.

    - **Objective:** To "Recognize, Analyse & Respond to Cyber Incident in IT & OT Systems"
    - The theme of the exercise is "Defending Cyber induced disruption in IT & OT infrastructure".
    - The CERT-In hosted the cybersecurity exercise on its simulation platform.

63. **Adani Data Networks**, a unit of Adani Group, has been granted a unified licence by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) in six circles: *Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Mumbai*. These are the six circles where the company bought spectrum in the mm-wave band during the 5G auctions.

    This licence entitles the company to provide internet services and carry long-distance calls across its network.

64. **Coal India Limited (CIL)** has signed three separate Memorandums of Understanding (MoU), one each, with three major PSUs of the country Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) and **GAIL (India) Limited** for setting up four large scale coal-to-chemical projects through surface coal gasification (**SCG**) route. Through SCG route coal is converted into syngas.

In addition, NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has signed an MoU with BHEL.
Under the MoU, the proposed surface coal gasification (SCG) projects will be set up in *West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu* at an aggregated estimated cost of Rs.35,000 crores.
Note: Ministry of Coal has targeted to achieve **100 million tons (MT)** of coal gasification by **2030.**

65. **Coal India Limited (CIL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rajasthan Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (**RVUNL**) to set up an **1190 MW** solar power plant in **Bikaner** district of Rajasthan.

The plant will be installed in a 2000MW solar park being developed by RVUNL in Poogal area of Bikaner. The state government has allotted 4,846 hectares of land for the solar park, in Bikaner.

66. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has partnered with the **United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF)** to empower women and girls and promote inclusion and gender equality through cricket.

- The partnership between ICC and UNICEF is to be activated in the upcoming T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia where all 16 Nations will hold '**Cricket 4 Good Coaching Clinics'** with up to 40 school children taking part in each.
- The players will introduce the children to **'Criiio 4 Good'**, a cricket development curriculum as the participants will also learn more about gender equity.
- The partnership will continue throughout the ICC events till the men's One Day International (ODI) World Cup in India in October-November 2023.

Criiio 4 Good:
It is a programme developed by the **ICC** to deliver an 8-weeklesson plan which will introduce the fundamentals of batting, bowling, and fielding as well as the basic rules of the game.

67. **World Bank** has extended an unconditional loan of **USD 250 million** for the Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (**SALT**) project in **Andhra Pradesh**. This is the **first** project in the school education sector to be funded by the World Bank without any precondition.

SALT project aims to improve the quality of learning for over 50 lakh students in the State. It aims for training teachers, facilitating State-level assessment and establishing an effective education management and information system.

68. The United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) has recently collaborated with **Arya.ag** and **Friends of Women's World Banking, India (FWWB India)** to implement **Project Excel** in *Jamnagar* and *Dwaraka Devbhumi* districts of **Gujarat** to improve the incomes of 10,000 households through enterprise promotion, agri-value chain interventions, skilling, employment, and social protection.

The collaboration aims to create a cadre of community resource persons for mentoring and supporting entrepreneurs and promoting individual and group enterprises by December 2023.

Project Excel:
The project aims to develop the potential of the rural and semi-urban communities and provide them with opportunities to enhance their livelihoods in sectors like agriculture, dairy, poultry, handloom, goat rearing, handicraft, etc. The project will also help build their managerial capabilities and provide stronger market linkages.

69. **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **GE Gas Power** for feasibility to demonstrate hydrogen co-firing blended with natural gas in GE's 9E gas turbines installed at NTPC's Kawas combined-cycle gas power plant in Gujarat.

Both the companies will jointly explore the pathways to reduce CO2 emissions from Kawas gas power plant and further implementation at scale across NTPC's installed units in India.

70. The **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF)** for the promotion of football activities. Both federations have also agreed to deeply study the possibility to stage the final stages of the National Football Championships (NFC) for the Santosh Trophy in Saudi Arabia next February 2023.

71. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS),** the National Standards Body of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Testing, Inspection, Certification (TIC) Council**, India to promote and harmonise the implementation of standards and quality, safety and sustainability practices in laboratories.

72. **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, a CPSE under the Department of Space and the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has signed two launch service contracts with M/s **Network Access Associated Limited** (M/s OneWeb), United Kingdom, for launching OneWeb LEO Broadband Communication Satellites on board ISRO's

heaviest launcher LVM3. Under this contract, ISRO will launch **36 satellites** on board GSLV-MK III.

73. Tata Group-owned **Air India** has signed a definitive sale and lease back agreement with Nasdaq-listed **Willis Lease Finance Corporation** for **34 CFM56-5B** engines installed on its Airbus A320 family fleet. Under the sale transaction, Willis Lease will purchase 34 engines from Air India, powering 13 Airbus A321 aircraft and four Airbus A320 aircraft.

74. **NMDC Limited** and **RailTel Corporation of India** have entered into an agreement that covers Information and Communication Technology (**ICT**) and Digital Transformation Services of NMDC, both at its Corporate Offices and Mining Complexes.

75. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has approved the demerger of **NMDC Steel Limited**, a three-million tone Greenfield steel plant at Nagarnar in Chhattisgarh, from NMDC Limited with an investment outlay of over **Rs.20,000 crore**.

76. **Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **India Infrastructure Finance Company (IIFCL)** to strengthen cooperation in financing railway infrastructure projects with forward and backward linkages to Indian Railways sector.

77. State-owned fertilizer firm **Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **K plus S Middle East FZE DMCC**, a subsidiary of K + S Minerals and Agriculture GmbH, Germany, for long-term supply of **105,000 tonnes/year** of Muriate of Potash or Potassium Chloride (**MOP**). The MoU aims to improve the availability of MOP (Muriate of Potash) for farmers and boost indigenous production of various grades of complex fertilizers.

78. The **National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL)** has acquired a **5.6 percent** stake in the digital commerce platform Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) for a cash consideration of Rs.10 crore.

79. The Central Government has scrapped the privatisation of **Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP)** Bhadravathi in Karnataka due to insufficient bidder interest. The government with the approval of Alternative Mechanism (Empowered Group of Ministers) has decided to annul the Expression of Interest (EoI) and terminate the present transaction.

80. The **Textiles Committee (TC)** of Government of India has entered into a Cooperation Agreement with **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** on "Mainstreaming Sustainability & Circularity in the Textiles Sector" to promote Sustainability and Circularity in Textile Value Chain (TVC).

The Cooperation Agreement has been exchanged between the Secretary of Textiles Committee Ajit B Chavan and Head of UNEP India Country Office Atul Bagai in presence of Secretary (Textiles) U.P. Singh.

BANKING & FINANCE

81. **HDFC Bank** has developed **"SmartHub Vyapar Merchant app"**, a one-stop merchant solution app designed to fulfil everyday business needs of merchants, in partnership with **Mintoak Innovations India**, a merchant SaaS platform.

SmartHub Vyapar facilitates instant, digital, and 100% paperless merchant onboarding for HDFC Bank customers along with 24*7 support with Eva chatbot, to address any issues. It allows merchants to accept interoperable payments across multiple payment modes.

82. **IDBI Bank**, a private sector bank, has launched several digital solutions to meet the demand of the ever-evolving financial ecosystem on the occasion of their **59th Foundation Day.**

The lender has announced its entry into **Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC)**. The IDBI Bank ONDC Sellers App will enable merchants to on-board onto the ONDC platform. ONDC is an initiative by the government that is expected to help MSME and other retail merchants to become part of a decentralised e-commerce network to conduct their business.

Key initiatives launched by IDBI Bank:
DigiKCC:
It is a platform for digitization of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loan process to make it more convenient for borrowers. The platform has built-in capabilities for scrutiny of loan applications to enable an end-to-end digital experience.

The bank is introducing this in Maharashtra and will gradually extended it to other states where digitization of land records is streamlined.
In September 2022, the RBI had announced the launch of pilot projects, developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, to digitise KCC in select districts of Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with Union Bank of India and Federal Bank, respectively, as partner banks.
Warehouse Receipt Processing System (WPS):
It is an integrated digital solution for loans against warehouse receipts.
GO Mobile+ Mobile App:

This mobile banking app will include specific amenities for senior citizens. Under this, the lender has introduced special facilities such as door-step banking under the 'Naman' page of the app.
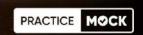
Cardless ATM:
The bank has also launched its cardless ATM for cash withdrawal from nearby shops.

83. **Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank)**, a digital first bank, has launched **'Shagun 501'**, a special fixed deposit (FD) scheme amid festival season. Under this offer, retail customers will earn a return of 7.90 percent on 501 days FD, whereas senior citizens will earn 8.40 percent. This scheme will be made available for the money deposited on or before 31st October 2022.

84. **ICICI Bank** Limited has launched **'Smart Wire'**, an online solution to allow Non-Resident Indian (NRI)'s and resident customers to make SWIFT based **inward remittances** in a faster and hassle-free manner.

- ICICI Bank is the **first bank** in the country to introduce this faster online solution to receive inward wire remittances.
- The facility enables the beneficiary to initiate the wire transfer request, submit online declaration / documents, **block the exchange rates** in advance and track the status of the transaction.
- The blocking of exchange rates are available for USD, EUR, GBP, AED, CAD, SGD and AUD.

85. The **World Bank** in its latest South Asia Economic Update titled 'Coping with Shocks: Migration and the Road to Resilience' has declined the real GDP growth forecast for India for 2022-23 (FY23) to **6.5%** from an earlier estimate of 7.5%, citing the blowback of the Russia-Ukraine war and ongoing global monetary policy tightening.

It projects South-Asian regional growth to average 5.8% in 2022 from 6.8% in June 2022.

86. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of **Prashant Kumar** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Yes Bank** for three years with effect from 6 October 2022. He was earlier appointed as MD & CEO of Yes Bank post the Reconstruction in March 2020.

87. **A Balasubramanian**, MD & CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund, has been re-elected as the Chairperson of **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**. He will also continue as the ex-officio Chairman of AMFI Financial Literacy Committee.

    Radhika Gupta has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of AMFI.

88. **South Indian Bank** has set the world record for organizing a first-of-its-kind category event 'Onnichirikkam Oonjaladam' by staging and swinging **101 'Oonjals'** simultaneously at Marine drive in Kochi, Kerala. The event witnessed a huge gathering of public to celebrate the unity and prosperity during the on-going festival season.

    Oonjals (swings) are made using wood and rope in the traditional way.
    The World Book of Records team has presented the award to **Murali Ramkrishnan**, MD & CEO of South Indian Bank.

89. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has given its in-principle approval to **BSE Limited** to set up a **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** as a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges.

    - SSE is a platform that allows investors to buy shares in a social enterprise that has been vetted by an official exchange.
    - Social Enterprises eligible to participate in the SSE will be **Non-Profit Organisation (NPO)** and for-profit social enterprises having social intent and impact as their primary goal.
    - The social enterprises will have to engage in a social activity out of **16 broad activities** listed by SEBI. The eligible activities include eradicating hunger, poverty, malnutrition and inequality; promoting healthcare, supporting education, employability and livelihoods; gender equality empowerment of women and LGBTQIA+ communities; and supporting social enterprise incubators.
    - A social enterprise does **not** include corporate foundations, political or religious groups, professional or trade associations, infrastructure companies, except affordable housing.
    - The eligible social enterprise can raise funds through equity, issue of zero-coupons zero-principal bonds, mutual funds, social impact funds, and development impact bonds.

    The idea of SSE was proposed by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech **2019-20**.

90. **IDBI Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Vayana Network** as its **first** fintech partner for e-SCF (end-to-end digitalization) services. This MoU aims to contribute in the growth of the Supply Chain Finance (SCF) penetration in India, which is less than 1 % of GDP and contributes only 5% of the outstanding banking assets.

91. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced its **Next-Gen Contact Centre Service** to deliver superior customer experience, drive business outcomes like sales and collections, and

support strategic focus areas like digital handholding for the bank's products. The revamped contact centre offers 30+ banking solutions in 12 languages, available 24x7 from home.

The aim of SBI is to explore embedding advanced AI/ML-based technologies, including conversational IVR, and voice bots.
Recently, SBI has surpassed **Rs.6 trillion** in Assets Under Management (**AUM**) under the Home Loan segment.

Dvara E-Dairy Solutions Private Limited has launched **'Dvara Surabhi Loan'**, a "True cattle loan" offered digitally in collaboration with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to create scalable access to finance for small dairy farmers in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The Dvara Surabhi Loan is a tailored loan product for dairy farmers towards cattle purchase and maintenance.
- The loan amount ranges from **Rs.30,000** to **Rs.1.5 lakh** with an average ticket size of Rs.80,000.

Other collaboration:
One97 Communications Limited (OCL), which owns the Paytm brand, has collaborated with **Jana Small Finance Bank** to deploy card machines to further drive digitisation among merchants across India.

92. **RBL Bank**, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank, has tied up with **BookMyShow** to launch a new 'Play' credit card for India's entertainment seeking audience.

The 'Play' credit card will be available to select customers on BookMyShow and provides offers for transactions in booking movie tickets and live entertainment offerings both online and offline.

93. **Worldline**, a global leader in payments services, has joined hands with **NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL**), the international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to facilitate UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments for Indian tourists in **Europe**. With this association, Worldline will become the **first** EU acquirer to offer UPI and RuPay to European merchants.

94. **Karur Vysya Bank** has re-appointed **K.G. Mohan** as its Non-Executive Independent Director for a period of three years on its board member. His first term was completed on 11th October 2022.

95. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently reconstituted its **Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC)** which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the Alternative Investment Industry.

- The **20**-member committee is chaired by **N.R. Narayana Murthy**.
- The new members include Karthik Reddy, Chairperson, Indian Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (IVCA), and Rajesh Panwar, Joint Director, DEA, Ministry of Finance.
- Other members include: Naresh Kothari, Sujoy Bose, Gopal Srinivasan, Prashant Khemka, Gopal Jain, Vipul Roongta, Sarath Naru, Manish Jain, Subramaniam Krishnan, Ravi Vukkadala, Sudhir Sethi, Shanti Mohan, Gautam Mehra, Vivek Sinha, Mahavir Lunawat, and Vaidya Nathan K.

SEBI has also restructured its **Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee (CDAC)**. The committee will now have **16** members instead of 17. It will continue to be chaired by **Ashok Dalwani**.

96. Bank of India Investment Managers Private Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of India, has appointed **Mohit Bhatia** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with effect from 4th October 2022.

97. The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** will divest a **60.72% stake** in **IDBI Bank Limited** through the sale of GoI's and LIC's equity stake along with the transfer of management control in IDBI Bank.

GoI will divest 30.48 percent stake and LIC will offload 30.24 percent, thus, totalling 60.72%. In this regard, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the Ministry of Finance has named **KPMG India Private Limited** as a transaction advisor and **Link Legal** as a Legal Advisor for the same.
LIC is currently the promoter of IDBI bank with management control while the Central government is the co-promoter.

98. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has reduced its stake in **United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company Ltd** from 4.81 lakh shares to **3.80 lakh shares**. The LIC's shareholding has decreased from 9.632 percent to 7.613 percent of the paid-up capital of the company.

99. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched **NPCI Partner Program (NPP)** to collaborate with various Technological Service Providers (TSP), Application Service Providers (ASP), and other similar entities in the industry. With this program, NPCI aims to connect with innovative and payment-oriented service providers.

100. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has given final clearance to HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (**HDFC Life**) to merge **Exide Life** with the company.

RBI IN NEWS

101. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed all **Credit Information Companies (CICs)** holding a Certificate of Registration (CoR) under sub-section (2) of Section 5 of Credit

Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005, to appoint **Internal Ombudsman (IO)** at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism by **1st April 2023.**

Key points:
- Every CIC shall appoint the internal ombudsman for a fixed term of not less than **three years**, but not exceeding five years.
- Only complaints that the CIC has already reviewed but rejected in whole or in part will be handled by the IO.
- Direct complaints from complainants or members of the public won't be handled by it.
- IO will **not** be handling any complaints involving fraud and misappropriation, with the exception of those brought about by a CIC service failure.
- IO will report administratively to the **Managing Director (MD) or Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of the CIC and functionality to the Board.
- The implementation of the IO mechanism will be monitored by the CIC's internal audit system.

102. The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the concept note on **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).** This Concept Note explains the objectives, choices, benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, referred to as **e₹ (digital Rupee).** The e₹ will provide an additional option to the currently available forms of money.

The Concept Note also discusses key considerations such as technology and design choices, possible uses of digital rupee, issuance mechanisms etc. It examines the implications of introduction of CBDC on the banking system, monetary policy, financial stability, and analyses privacy issues.
The Reserve Bank will soon commence limited pilot launches of e₹ for specific use cases.

CBDC is legal tender issued by a central bank in digital form. It will be referred as e₹ (digital Rupee). Its features include:
- It is same as a **sovereign currency** and is exchangeable, convertible one-to-one at par (1:1) with the fiat currency.
- It appears as a **liability** on the central bank's balance sheet.
- Must be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender, and a safe store of value by all citizens, enterprises, and government agencies.
- **Fungible legal tender** for which holders need not have a bank account.
- It can be structured as: a) **token-based** i.e., an instrument like banknotes, or b) **account-based** system that involves maintenance of record of balances and transactions of all holders of CBDC.

Benefits of digital Rupee:
- Operational costs involved in physical cash management will be reduced.
- It will bring resilience, efficiency, and innovation to the payments system.
- Offline feature in CBDC would also be beneficial in remote locations.
- It will bolster digitisation and will help in achieving a cashless economy.

- It will support financial inclusion.

The issuance of the e-rupee or digital rupee was announced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during the 2022 Budget.

103. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has raised the minimum capital requirement for setting up an **Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** to **Rs.300 crore** from the existing Rs.100 crore with an aim to strengthen the securitisation sector which plays a vital role in the management of distressed financial assets.

RBI has directed all ARCs to raise their minimum net-owned fund to in a phased manner i.e. Rs 200 crore by end-**March 2024** and Rs 300 crore by end-**March 2026**.

Other amendments:
- RBI has also permitted ARCs to undertake those activities as a **Resolution Applicant (RA)** under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 which are not specifically allowed under the SARFAESI Act. The ARCs with a minimum net owned fund of Rs 1,000 crore can act as resolution applicants.
- The Managing Directors (MDs) and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of ARCs cannot have more than three terms in office, with each term not exceeding five years.
- No person can continue as MD/CEO beyond the age of 70 years.
- Independent director will be empowered to chair a meeting in absence of Chair of the board.
- The board of ARCs should have an audit committee and a nomination remuneration committee.

Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC):
ARC has been set up to provide a focused approach to Non-Performing Assets resolution on recommendations of Narasimham Committee- II. It is a company registered under Section 3 of SARFAESI Act, 2002. It is regulated by RBI as a Non-Banking Financial Company.

104. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the license of Pune based **Seva Vikas Co-operative Bank** as the urban cooperative bank lacked adequate capital and earning prospects. The bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on 10th October 2022.

105. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.48 lakh** on Thiruvananthapuram-based **The Kerala State Co-operative Bank Ltd** for non-compliance with the provisions of section 19 read with section 56 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and directions issued by RBI on 'Gold Loan – Bullet Repayment'.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under section 47 A (1) (c) read with sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

106. The 2022 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to human rights advocate **Ales Bialiatski** from Belarus, the Russian human rights organization **Memorial**, and the Ukrainian human rights organization **Center for Civil Liberties**. The Prize recognizes their contribution for many years, promoting the right to criticize power and protecting the fundamental rights of citizens.

Ales Bialiatski:
He is one of the initiators of the democracy movement in **Belarus** in the mid-1980s. He is credited with founding the organisation '*Viasna*' (spring) in 1996 in response to the controversial constitutional amendments that gave the President Alexander Lukashenko dictatorial powers.
In 2020, he was one of the three recipients of the **Right Livelihood Award** by the Swedish Right Livelihood Foundation, sometimes referred to as the "Alternative Nobel".
He is the **fourth person** to get the Nobel Peace Prize in Jail.

107. The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the **Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2023**. The rankings feature 1,799 universities across 104 countries and regions. These are assessed based on 13 carefully calibrated indicators.

According to the rankings, **University of Oxford**, **UK** is the top university in the world followed by University of Harvard (USA) and University of Cambridge (UK) at second and third places.
University of Oxford has topped the rankings list for the 7th time consecutively.

India's performance:
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore** has secured the top place among the Indian universities. It has been placed under 251-300 bracket. It is also the only university in India to make the top 300 list.
- Five Indian universities made it into the world's top 500 varsities.
- India now has nine institutions in the top 600, up from six in 2022.
- With 75 institutes included in the THE World University Rankings 2023, India is the fifth most represented country on the list. In 2020, 56 universities took part, up from 31 in 2017.

Top 10 Indian Universities:

Bracket	Name of the Institute
251-300	IISc
351-400	JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research
351-400	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
401-500	Alagappa University
401-500	Mahatma Gandhi University
501-600	IIT Ropar

501-600	International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad
501-600	Jamia Millia Islamia
501-600	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
601-800	BHU

108. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has awarded the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2022 to **Ben S. Bernanke (USA), Philip H. Dybvig (USA),** and **Douglas Diamond (USA)** for significantly improving our understanding of the role of banks in the economy, particularly during financial crises.

Svante Pääbo (Sweden) has been awarded the **2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine** for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

109. The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled **"Pandemic Disruptions and Odisha's Lessons in Governance".** The book is authored by Rajya Sabha MP from Odisha **Amar Patnaik**. The book is published by Vitasta Publishing Private Limited. The book is a collection of the various essays on pertinent contemporary issues that emerged in India during the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-22.

110. External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** has recently visited New Zealand and took part in the Kiwi Indian Hall of Fame Awards 2022 along with Jacinda Ardern, PM of New Zealand, where they launched the New Zealand launch of the book **'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery'** in **Aukland**.

- Both leaders have also released **India@75 postage stamps** to commemorate and showcase Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in New Zealand.
- A book showcasing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's special bond with the Sikh community **'Heartfelt - The Legacy of Faith'** has also been released.
- He has officially inaugurated the new **Indian High Commission Chancery** in **Wellington**, New Zealand.

PERSON IN NEWS

111. Gulf Oil India, a lubricant manufacturer, has appointed **Smriti Mandhana**, an Indian cricket star as its Brand Ambassador. She will join famous cricketers and current brand ambassadors MS Dhoni, and Hardik Pandya.

112. Senior diplomat **Sibi George**, a 1993-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as the next Indian ambassador to **Japan**. He has replaced Sanjay Kumar Verma. He is currently the Ambassador of India to Kuwait.

113. Delhi High Court judge **Dinesh Kumar Sharma** has been appointed to head the **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) Tribunal** related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its affiliates.

- The affiliates include Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI) All India Imams Council (AIC) National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala.
- The government on 28th September 2022 banned the PFI and several of its associates for five years under a stringent anti-terror law, accusing them of having "links" with global terror group like the ISIS.

As per the procedure, the Ministry of Home Affairs requests the Ministry of Law to name a sitting judge of High Court as presiding officer of the tribunal. The law minister then requests the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court to recommend a judge to head the tribunal.

114. Samantha Cristoforetti of Italy has been appointed as the first woman to command International Space Station (ISS). She has succeeded Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev. She has become the fifth and first woman European commander of ISS. She will be responsible for the performance and well-being of the astronauts in orbit.

International Space Station (ISS):
The International Space Station is the largest modular space station in low Earth orbit. It is a multinational collaborative project that consists of five participating space agencies including NASA, JAXA, CSA, Roscosmos, and ESA. The authority and use of the space station are established by intergovernmental treaties and agreements.

115. The Central Government has announced the names of new Chief Justices for the High Courts in Rajasthan, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

- Justice **Pankaj Mithal** has been appointed as the Chief Justice in the **Rajasthan** High Court.
- Justice **Prasanna B Varale** has been appointed as the Chief Justice in the **Karnataka** High Court.
- Justice **Ali Mohammad Magrey** has been appointed as the Chief Justice in the **J&K and Ladakh** High Court.

As per **Article 222** of the Indian Constitution, the President has transferred Justice Pankaj Mithal, Chief Justice of the HC of J&K and Ladakh, as the Chief Justice in the Rajasthan High Court.

As per **Article 217** of the Indian Constitution, the President has appointed Justice Prasanna B Varale, Judge of the Bombay High Court, as the Chief Justice in the Karnataka High Court.

As per Article 217 of the Indian Constitution, the President has appointed Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Judge of the HC of J&K and Ladakh, as the Chief Justice in the J&K and Ladakh High Court.

116. The lawmakers of Iraq have elected Kurdish politician **Abdul Latif Rashid** as the new President of **Iraq**. He has become the 9th President of Iraq. He has won the election, securing 162 votes in the 2nd round of voting, by defeating the incumbent President Barham Salih.

OBITUARIES

117. Noted actor and National award winning producer **Arun Bali** has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 23rd December 1942 in Lahore, Punjab (British India).

- He played the part of King Porus in the 1991 period drama Chanakya.
- He became known for his *"grandfatherly"* roles like that of Harshvardhan Wadhwa in Kumkum serial.
- **Popular movies of Arun Bali**: Manmarziyaan (2018), Kedarnath (2018), Panipat (2019), Laal Singh Chaddha (2022), etc.

118. Padma Shri awardee and popular **'Villupattu'** exponent **Subbu Arumugam** has recently passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 12th July 1928 near Chatthiram Pudukulam in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu.

He was awarded India's fourth-highest civilian award the **Padma Shri** in the Arts and Literature category in **2021.**

He published 15 books containing Villu Pattu narratives, songs, short stories and novels.

'Villupattu':

It is a popular folk music of **Tamil Nadu**. The lead singer also plays the role of the main performer. He also handles the dominating instrument which is bow shaped. The songs revolve around theological themes and the conquest of good over evil is emphasized.

119. Mulayam Singh Yadav, founder of **Samajwadi Party**, has recently passed away in Gurugram, Haryana. He was born on 22nd November 1939 in Saifai village, Etawah district in Uttar Pradesh.

- He served as the **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** for 3 non-consecutive terms (1989-91, 1993-95, and 2003-2007).
- He was often referred to as **'Netaji'** by party leaders and workers.
- He was the Member of Parliament for seven times, representing the constituency of Mainpuri, UP in the Lok Sabha.
- He also served as the Union Minister of Defence from 1996 to 1998.

SPORTS

120. Indian cueist **Pankaj Advani** has won the 2022 IBSF (International Billiards & Snooker Federation) World Billiards Championship held at the High End Snooker Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has defeated Sourav Kothari by 4-0 in the 150 up billiards final.

This is his **25th world title** at the international level.

121. India men's hockey team defender and vice-captain **Harmanpreet Singh** has been named the men's FIH Player of the Year 2021-22. He has become the fourth player to win the Player of the Year award (men's category) in consecutive years. He has scored an incredible 18 goals from 16 games, with two hat-tricks, in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22.

Felice Albers of Netherlands has been named the women's FIH Player of the Year 2021-22.

122. Tennis player **Barbora Krejčíková** of the **Czech Republic** has won the singles title at the 2022 Ostrava Open held at Ostrava Arena in Ostrava, Czech Republic by defeating Iga Swiatek of Poland in the final match. She has become the first woman to beat Iga Swiatek in a tour-level final of 2022.

Doubles title: Caty McNally (USA) and Alycia Parks (USA)

123. **Novak Djokovic** of Serbia has defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in the final, 6–3, 6–4 to win the singles tennis title at the 2022 Astana Open. This is his 90th ATP Tour-level singles title, and 4th title of 2022.
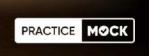
Nikola Mektić (Croatia) and *Mate Pavić* (Croatia) have defeated Adrian Mannarino and Fabrice Martin in the final, 6–4, 6–2 to win the doubles tennis title at the 2022 Astana Open. The **3rd Astana Open 2022** has been held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

124. India women's team captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month Award for the month of September 2022. She has become the **first** Indian woman to win the ICC Player of the Month Award. She has received the award for her memorable showing in the 3-0 ODI series in England. This was India's first series win in England since 1999.

Pakistan cricketer **Mohammad Rizwan** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for September 2022.

125. The fifth edition of the **Laver Cup 2022**, a men's tennis tournament, has been held on an indoor hard court at The O2 Arena in London, England. **Team World** has won the title for the first time after defeating Team Europe in the final match.

Frances Tiafoe (USA) has won the Laver Cup title for Team World by saving four match points against Team Europe's Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).

126. Red Bull's driver **Max Verstappen**, a Belgian-Dutch motorsports racing driver, has won the Japanese Grand Prix 2022 and his 2nd Formula One World Championship 2022. It has been held at the Suzuka International Racing Course, Suzuka, Mie Prefecture, in Japan.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez (Mexico) has finished second and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc (Monaco) has finished third in the race.

127. World Number 1 **Magnus Carlsen** has won the Julius Baer Generation Cup after defeating Indian Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** in the rapid online chess tournament.

Magnus Carlsen and Arjun Erigaisi have qualified from the Julius Baer Generation Cup to the final major of the 2022 Meltwater Champions Chess Tour, an 8-player tournament to be held in San Francisco in November 2022.

IMPORTANT DAYS

128. Indian Air Force Day is observed annually on **8th October** to pay respect and honour to our brave Indian Air Force who protects the country and makes people feel safe and secure. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **90th Anniversary** of the Indian Air Force.

Theme 2022: *"IAF: Transforming for the Future"*

The grand fly-past has been held at Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh. President **Droupadi Murmu** and Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** have participated in the event.
As many as 80 military aircraft and helicopters have showcased the prowess of IAF at a grand event in Chandigarh. This include Rafale, Prachand, Sukhoi Su-30, Jaguar, Chinook, Apache and Mi-17.
During this occasion, the Centre has approved the creation of a new branch, called the **Weapon Systems (WS) branch**, in a historic move for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- The creation of WS branch would entail unification of all weapon system operators under one entity dedicated to the operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapon systems.
- Four specialised streams included in the branch: *Surface-to-Surface missiles, Surface-to-Air missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft and Weapon System Operators* in twin/multi-crew aircraft.

Indian Air Force:

It was officially established on **8 October 1932** by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950. The President of India is the Commander-in-chief of the IAF.
The present Indian Air Force Air chief Marshall is **Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria**.

129. **World Post Day** is observed annually on **9th October** to raise awareness of the role of the postal sector in people's and businesses' everyday lives and its contribution to the social and economic development of countries.

The day also marks the establishment of the **Universal Postal Union** in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland. The day was first declared as the World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.
Theme 2022: "Post for Planet"

130. **World Mental Health Day** is observed annually on **10th October** to create awareness of mental health issues around the world and to mobilize efforts in support of mental health. The day was first observed in **1992.**

The day is a global initiative supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), and its member organizations.
The **green ribbon** is a symbol of mental health.
Theme 2022: "Making Mental Health for All a Global Priority"

131. **International Day of the Girl Child** is observed annually on **11th October** to spread awareness of issues facing girls internationally surrounding education, nutrition, child marriage, legal and medical rights.

The year 2022 marks the observance of the **10th anniversary** of the International Day of the Girl Child.
United Nations General Assembly has declared 11th October as the International Day of the Girl Child on 19th December 2011. The day was first observed in **2012.**
Theme 2022: "Our time is now—our rights, our future"

132. **World Arthritis Day** is observed annually on **12th October** to spread awareness about arthritis, an inflammatory condition that causes pain and stiffness in joints that can worsen with age. The day was first observed in **1996** by the Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI).

Theme 2022: "It's in your hands, take action"

133. The United Nations **International Day for Disaster Reduction** is observed annually on **13th October** to promote a global culture of risk awareness and disaster reduction.

The International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) was first observed on 10th October 1990. In 2009, the UN General Assembly had decided to change the name to

International Day for Disaster Reduction and designated 13th October as the official date for the day. Since 2010, the day is observed on the 13th October every year.

Theme 2022: *'Early Warning'*

The theme also focuses on the Target G of the Sendai Framework, "Substantially increase the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessment to people by 2030".

134. International E-Waste Day is observed annually on **14th October** to promote the correct disposal of e-waste throughout the world with the aim to increase re-use, recovery and recycling rates. The day was first observed in **2018** by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Forum. The year 2022 marks the fifth edition of the day.

Theme 2022: "Recycle it all, no matter how small"

135. World Student's Day is observed annually on **15th October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the former president of India, Late Dr **APJ Abdul Kalam**. The year 2022 marks his 91st birth anniversary of him.

A.P.J Abdul Kalam:

He was born on 15 October 1931 at Dhanushkodi, Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. His full name was Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam. He was known as the *'Missile Man of India'*. He played a crucial role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998. He became the President of India in 2002.

Awards/Honours: Bharat Ratna in 1997, Padma Vibhushan in 1990, and Padma Bhushan in 1981.

Major works: India 2020: A Vision for the New Millennium, Wings of Fire, Ignited Minds: Unleashing the Power within India, Transcendence: My Spiritual Experiences with Pramukh Swamiji, A Manifesto for Change: A Sequel to India 2020, etc.

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