

September 2022 - Week 1

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

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

**Note:** The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of SAREX-20 was conducted at Goa for 3-days.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **IPDMS 2.0:**

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

#### Pharma Sahi Daam 2.0 App:

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

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

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

#### **INS Vikrant:**

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

#### **Naval Ensign:**

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

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

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

#### Hanle:

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

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

#### **Dark Sky Reserve:**

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

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

#### **Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary:**

It is located in the Ladakhi Changthang plateau in the Leh district of Ladakh. It is home to the highest lake on earth, Lake Tso Moriri. It is also believed to include the world's highest village, Korzok village. It is considered to be the second largest nature reserve after Northeast Greenland National Park.

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

# **Key features of Tejas MK-2:**

- It will equipped with GE-414 engine in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class.
- The payload capacity of the Tejas Mark-2 jet will be **4 tonnes**.
- It will be equipped with an indigenously developed Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar.
- It will replace fighters like the Mirage-2000s, Jaguars and MiG-29s in the IAF's combat fleet.
- It will perform both **offensive and defensive operations**.
- 8. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted test of an Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD) that will be used for landing payloads on Mars and Venus in future. It has been successfully test flown in a 'Rohini' sounding rocket from Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
  - IAD is designed and developed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
  - The IAD is made out of Kevlar fabric, coated with Polychloroprene.
  - The IAD is developed for aerodynamically decelerating an object descending through the atmosphere.

- IAD technology can be used in spent stage recovery and planetary entry.
- During the test, IAD systematically reduced the velocity of the payload.
- 9. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee (CLC) by one more year i.e. till 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The tenure has already been extended twice in September 2020 and September 2021 which was originally formed in September 2019.
  - The Government has set up the **11-member CLC** under the Chairmanship of corporate affairs secretary **Tarun Bajaj**.
  - The committee has the mandate for examining and making recommendations to the government on various issues related to implementation of the Companies Act 2013 and Limited Liability Partnership Act 2008.
- **10.** The Indian cities, **Nilambur** and **Thrissur** in **Kerala**, and **Warangal** in **Telangana** have become India's first entrants in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) **Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC).**

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

#### **Thrissur:**

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

#### Nilambur:

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

#### Warangal:

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

# **UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities (GNLC):**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs):**

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

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

# **STATES AFFAIRS**

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

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

# **Shumang Leela:**

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

- **14.** The Education Department of **Uttarakhand** has launched an e-governance portal "**Samarth**" to provide all administrative and educational updates including information about entrance exams, salary structures, appointments from five state universities and 140 public schools.
- **15.** The **Jammu & Kashmir Police** has launched the online Mobile application **"JK Ecop"**, an easy way to use interface to facilitate common people. The Mobile App enables the citizens to use a host of services ranging from registering a complaint to downloading a copy of FIR.

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

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

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

- IPS Officer **Sanjay Arora** is the current Commissioner of Delhi Police.
- **17. Nua Khai**, an agricultural festival, is observed annually in the state of **Odisha** on Panchami tithi of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada, the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi. This year this festival is being celebrated on 1<sup>th</sup> September. It is observed to welcome the new crops of the season. **Goddess Samaleshwari** is worshipped during the festival.
  - The festival was first started by **Raja Ramai Deo**, the founder of Patna State, in the **14**<sup>th</sup> **century.**
- **18.** The Central Government through the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) has allowed the state of **Uttar Pradesh** to launch the **Family ID Plan or Parivar Kalyan Card** for its residents. Under this, the benefits of various welfare schemes running in the state can be availed.

- Through this card, the government will issue an identity card to each family in the state, which will be a unique 12 digit card like the Aadhar card, which will have complete information about all the members of that family.
- This card will be generated with the help of ration card data, with the help of which this process can be simplified and all government schemes can be integrated.
- **19.** The Government of **Karnataka** has launched the Global Startup Challenge **"VentuRISE"** to recognize, reward, and support growth stage startups in manufacturing and sustainability-related sectors.
  - The challenge is a part of the flagship event Global Investors Meet, "Invest Karnataka 2022", that will be conducted from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Bangalore Palace.
  - The Department of Industries and Commerce has partnered with The IndUS
     Entrepreneurs (TiE) to initiate this Global Startup Challenge.
  - E-commerce giant Amazon is sponsoring the initiative.
  - The Startup Challenge will be a 3-round challenge that will be conducted over a span of 2 months.
- 20. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, has given 'in-principle' approval to the proposals of the three states, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, under the Scheme for 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks', an initiative to support drugs manufacturing in India.

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

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

# 'Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks' scheme:

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

**Note:** Indian Pharmaceutical Industry is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the world by volume.

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21. India's 1<sup>st</sup> 3D-printed Post Office will be set up in Cambridge Layout in Halasuru, Bengaluru, Karnataka. The Post Office building is being constructed by Larsen & Toubro (L&T). The construction of the Post Office in the 1,000-square-feet building three floors from the ground will cost Rs.25 lakh, reducing the final cost by 25%.

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

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

#### **Aspirational District Programme:**

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

The parameters for Best Aspirational District are as follows:

- Health and Nutrition
- Education
- · Financial inclusion and skill development
- Agriculture and water resources
- Basic infrastructure
- 23. The Institute of Integrated Learning in Management (IILM University) in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh has launched the first National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) Compliant Law School in India. It aims to elevate the legal education system of India.
  - The school has been launched with the approval of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the recognition of the Bar Council of India (BCI).
  - The school also has Legal Aid and Advice Centre as required by the Constitution of India, the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the multiple directives of the Supreme Court of India.

- **24. Uttar Pradesh** has secured the first rank in terms of the number of disposal and entry of cases through the **e-Prosecution portal**, which is managed by the Central Government of India under its **Digital India Mission**. As per the data, the number of disposal and entry of cases in UP via e-Prosecution portal stood at 9.12 million cases till August 2022.
  - Uttar Pradesh is followed by Madhya Pradesh with 2.31 million, Bihar with 859,000, Gujarat with 487,000 and Chhattisgarh with 383,000 cases.
  - UP has also ranked at the top in disposal of online cases on this portal, with about 470,000 entries, followed by 170,000 for MP and 125,000 for Gujarat.
  - UP has also topped in convictions related to crime against women and in cases related to cybercrime as well as convictions of arrested people in cases related to Indian Penal Code (IPC) incidents, and in the seizure of illegal firearms, as per the latest data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

#### e-Prosecution Portal:

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

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

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

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

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

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

27. The Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Keriwal, has launched First Virtual School-Delhi Model Virtual School (DMVS), affiliated with the Delhi Board of School Education, and claimed that this school was India's first virtual school. The virtual school offers online classes, provides skill-based courses, and training for competitive exams, JEE MAIN, NEET, CUET, in association with Google & Schoolnet India. The school is for Classes 9-12.

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

- 28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various projects of **Kochi Metro** and Indian Railways worth around **Rs.4500 crore** in Kochi, Kerala. He has also visited Shri Adi Shankara Janmabhoomi Kshetram at Kalady village in Kochi.
- **29. Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated **Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki** as the 29th district of the state. It has been carved out of Rajnandgaon district.

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

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

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

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

# **Bio village project:**

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

# **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

- **31. Exercise Vostok 2022** has been held form 1<sup>st</sup> September to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at seven firing ranges in the Far Eastern Federal District of **Russia**, the **Sea of Okhotsk**, and the **Sea of Japan**.
  - The Indian Army has been represented by the contingent of troops from **7/8 Gorkha Rifles**.
  - The exercise is aimed at interaction and coordination amongst other participating military contingents and observers.
  - More than 50,000 troops and over 5,000 weapons units, including 140 aircraft and 60 warships have participated in the exercise.
  - The exercise has involved troops from several ex-Soviet nations, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.
- **32. China** has launched a new remote sensing satellite **'Yaogan-33 02'** into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China. The satellite has been launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully. It will be used for scientific experiments, land resources surveys, crop yield estimation, and disaster prevention and relief.
- **33.** The city of Markham in Ontario, Canada has honoured the music maestro from India **A.R. Rahman** by naming a street after him. He is one of the most loved musicians worldwide. He is known as the 'Mozart of Madras'. Some of his hit and award-winning compositions include Dil Se, Jai Ho, Ek Ho Gaye Hum Aur Tum, Rang De Basanti, and Ay Hairathe among many more.

# **REPORTS & INDICES**

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

# 'Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100':

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

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

The '4 S' guiding principles redefine the approach to attaining prosperity by stressing the need for prosperity growth to be matched by **social** progress, to be **shared** across all regions within India, to be environmentally **sustainable**, and to be **solid** in the face of

external shocks. Thus, the '4 S' guiding principles will pave the way for resilient and holistic development.

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

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

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

- **36.** Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, has released a report titled 'Globalise to Localise: Exporting at Scale and Deepening the Ecosystem are Vital to Higher Domestic Value Addition'.
  - The report investigates how India can reach its goals of **USD 300 billion** in electronics production and **USD 120 billion** in exports by **2025-26**.

• The report is prepared by the India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), in collaboration with the India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA).

#### **Key highlights:**

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

#### **ICRIER:**

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

**Director & Chief Executive of ICRIER:** Deepak Mishra

#### ICEA:

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

Chairman of ICEA: Pankaj Mohindroo

- **37.** As per the recent data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has expanded **13.5%** in the first quarter of FY22-23 (**Q1 FY23**). This is less than Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) projection of 16.2%. India's GDP growth in O1 FY22 was 20.1%.
  - Real GDP or GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated to attain a level of **Rs 36.85 trillion**, as against Rs 32.46 trillion in Q1 2021-22.
  - As per the data, Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by **12.7%** to Rs 34.41 trillion in April-June 2022.
  - Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q1 2022-23 is estimated at **Rs 64.95 trillion** against Rs 51.27 trillion in Q1 2021-22, showing a growth of 26.7% compared to 32.4% a year ago.



**38.** Rating-agency **Moody's** Investors Service, in its update to Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for 2022 to **7.7%** from 8.8% estimated earlier in May 2022. It has also lowered India's GDP forecast for 2023 to 5.2% from 5.4%.

#### Other agency forecast:

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

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

#### **Unemployment Rate (UR):**

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

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

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

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

# **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):**

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

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

# **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):**

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

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

**40.** As per the latest Bloomberg report, which has cited GDP figures from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), **India** has become the world's **fifth-largest economy** after surpassing the **United Kingdom**. A decade ago, India ranked 11th among the largest economies, while the UK was 5th. Indian economy is likely to grow by more than 7% this year.

According to the report, the size of the Indian economy in 'nominal' cash terms in the quarter through March was \$854.7 billion while the UK was \$816 billion. UK's ranking has slipped to 6<sup>th</sup> spot due to increase in the cost of living. **Top 4 world economies**: USA (1<sup>st</sup>), China (2<sup>nd</sup>), Japan (3<sup>rd</sup>), and Germany (4<sup>th</sup>).

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

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

#### **CPGRAMS:**

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

- **42.** As per the 'Global Economic and Insurance Outlook' report published by the Swiss Re Institute, India will become the sixth largest insurance market in the world by 2032, supported by regulatory push and rapid economic expansion.
  - Total insurance premiums in India will grow by an average 14 percent per annum in nominal local currency terms over the next decade, making India the 6th largest in terms of total premium volume by 2032 from 10th largest in 2021.
  - The Indian life insurance industry will grow at an exceptional rate of 6.6 percent (in real terms) in 2022 and further grow at 7.1 percent in 2023.
  - The life insurance premiums in India are set to cross USD 100 billion for the first time in 2022.
  - The non-life insurance market has returned to a growth of 5.8 percent (in real terms) in 2021 after a slight contraction in 2020.

**43.** NITI Aayog has released the **4<sup>th</sup> progress report on the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyan**, titled *'Preserving Progress on Nutrition in India: Poshan Abhiyan in Pandemic Times'*. The report covers the period from January to December 2020.

# Key highlights of the report:

#### **Larger States:**

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

#### **Smaller States:**

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

#### **Union Territories:**

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

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

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

# **POSHAN Abhiyan:**

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

**Targets of the mission:** To deliver a high-impact package of interventions in the first 1,000 days of a child's life; Strengthen the delivery of these interventions through technology and management; Improve the capacity of frontline workers (FLWs); Facilitate

cross-sectoral convergence to address the multi-dimensional nature of malnutrition, and Enhance behaviour change and community mobilisation.

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

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

#### Key facts from the study:

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

#### Paris Agreement/Paris Accords:

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

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

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

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- **46.** The 28<sup>th</sup> edition **of 'India's External Debt: A Status Report 2021-22'** has been published by the External Debt Management Unit (EDMU) under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF).
  - As per the report, India's external debt has increased from USD 573.7 billion at the end-March 2021 to USD 620.7 billion at the end-March 2022, an increase of 8.20%.
  - U.S. dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt.
  - External Debt as a ratio of GDP declined to **19.9%** at the end-March 2022, down from 21.20% at end-March 2021.
  - At the end-March 2022, the ratio of foreign currency reserves to external debt was 97.8%, down from 100.6% at end-March 2021.
  - Due to the increased grant of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) by the IMF during 2021-22, Sovereign External Debt (SED) stood at **USD 130.7 billion** by the end-March 2022, an increase of 17.1% over end-March 2021.
  - Non-Sovereign External Bond has increased by 6.1% from end-March 2021.

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

#### **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES**

- **47.** The Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma has launched the ambitious flagship programme for the welfare of farmers, **"Rural Backyard Piggery Scheme"** under National Livestock Mission at Byrnihat in **Ri-Bhoi** district, **Meghalaya.** 
  - Under this scheme, 4 piglets, 3 female and 1 male piglet will be distributed to farmers to promote pig breeding to provide regular income to farmers. This livestock package is worth Rs 25,000 per beneficiary.
  - Under Phase 1 of the scheme, the government has earmarked **Rs 15.18 crore** under which four high-yielding improved varieties will be distributed to 6000 families.
  - An additional Rs 25 crore will be earmarked to roll out the second phase of the programme.
- **48. 75 tribal districts** have been selected by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and the Central TB Division of the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** to become **Tuberculosis (TB)** free in the next few months.

#### **Tribal TB Initiative:**

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

Under this initiative, **Aashwasan Campaign** was launched in January 2022 from Nandurbar district of Maharashtra to detect active cases of TB in 174 tribal districts of India. Official data showed that 3,82,811 people were identified for presumptive TB after a verbal screening of over 1.03 crore people in over 68,000 villages.

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

#### **Tuberculosis:**

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

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

# **Key highlights:**

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

has been held at Meghdoot Auditorium in New Delhi. This year's festival focused on folk singing styles from across the country.

## **Key folk-songs performed:**

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

**Oggukatha:** It is a traditional folk theatre form which is an ancient narrative form of **Telugu speaking regions**. It comes from the compound 'oggu' meaning a damarukam (pellet drum) and 'katha' meaning tales. It usually centres around Myths and Gods. **Dhadi:** It is a singing tradition of **Punjab.** It was begun by **Guru Hargobind** to inspire bravery among armed men in the battlefield.

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

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

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

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

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

# **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

51. The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Private Limited (NHPC) has signed an Implementation Agreement with the Government of Himachal Pradesh for 500 megawatt (MW) Dugar Hydroelectric Project located in Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh. The project will generate 1,759.85 million units in a 90% dependable year with 95% machine availability.

- **52.** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy (**PCIM&H**), Ministry of Ayush, and Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (**IPC**), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in New Delhi for Inter-Ministerial cooperation for promotion and facilitation of "One Herb, One Standard".
  - The primary objective is to promote public health by facilitating the development of harmonized Herbal drug standards.
  - Under this MoU, each monograph will have Indian Standards along with the international quality requirements.
  - The sole authority of publication of monographs categorized under the "one herb one standard" will lie with PCIM&H only.
  - The technical content of the monographs will be jointly developed by PCIM&H and IPC.
- **53. Reliance Industries** will build **India's first** and one of the **world's largest Carbon Fibre plants** at **Hazira**, **Gujarat**. The plants will have a capacity of 20,000 MTPA based on Acrylonitrile feedstock. The first phase of the plant will be completed in **2025**.
  - The company has announced **Rs 75,000 crore** investment for the oil-to-chemicals (O2C) or petchem segment to expand capacities in existing and new value chains. These value chains are Polyester value chain, Vinyl chain, and New Materials.
  - In the polyester value chain, the company will build one of the world's largest single-train **PTA plant** of 3 MMTPA capacity at **Dahej**.
- **54.** The World Resources Institute (**WRI**) India has launched an online, open-source, and interactive geospatial platform for Assam in partnership with **Assam Energy Development Agency (AEDA).** 
  - The Geospatial platform named **Energy Access Explorer (EAE)** has been inaugurated in **Guwahati**, Assam.
  - The platform helps to visualize the extent of energy access at Assam's health, education, and livelihood infrastructures.
  - It will assist policy-makers, renewable energy industry entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers from the development sector to expand energy access in the state.
- **55.** The **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has partnered with **Adobe** to accelerate digital creativity skills across India. The partnership aims to empower over 75,000 faculty in 10,000 colleges and universities over the next two years with access to Adobe Express.

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

- 56. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved a Rs.1,200 crore scheme for disposal of Chana (pulses) to states at a discounted rate, which will be utilised for various welfare schemes from the stock of pulses procured under the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilization Fund (PSF).
- The committee also approved the enhancement of the ceiling on the quantity of procurement under PSS from the existing 25% to **40%** in respect of tur, urad and masur lentils.
- Under this approved scheme, states are offered to lift 15 lakh metric tonnes of chana at a
  discount of ₹8 per kg over the issue price of the sourcing state on a first-come-first-serve
  basis.
- This will be a one-time dispensation for a period of 12 months or till the complete disposal of the 15 lakh metric tonnes stock of chana, whichever is earlier.

#### **Other Cabinet approval:**

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

- **57. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)** has tied up with US-based **Coursera** to address India's current and future skill gap in the taxation space.
  - Under this collaboration, two entry-level professional certificates, GST Tax Executive
    and Direct Tax Executive, aimed at achieving skilling at scale and creating greater
    employment opportunities will be developed.
  - The entry-level professional certificates will take 24 weeks to finish.
  - The certificates will provide learners with a foundational understanding of the GST and direct tax practices, equipping them with the knowledge required for a beginner role in the field.
  - These programs will be launched in September 2022 and early 2023.

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

**58. Japan-**based USD 170 million **Drone Fund (DF)**, one of the world's largest dedicated Venture Capital (VC) for promoting unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) ecosystem, has planned to invest up to **USD 40 million** in Indian companies working in the sector.

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

# Key announcements and partnerships:

#### Jio True 5G:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **61. Bharti Airtel** has recently launched a pilot project in collaboration with **Tata Power Northern Odisha Distribution** to provide a Bill payment solution to over 2 million registered customer. The initiative will mobilise the 4,000 banking points of Airtel Payment Banks (APB) in north Odisha to facilitate bill payments.
- **62. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** have bagged a **Rs.860-crore** contract to build **5 Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLVs)** rockets, the versatile workhorse launch vehicle of India, and the contract has been signed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

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

#### **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):**

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

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

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

- **64.** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has approved an **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** to be set up in **Pune**, Maharashtra at a cost of **Rs.500 crore**. It will come up in Ranjangaon Phase III and will be set up over an area of 297 acres.
  - The central government assistance for the project will be nearly **Rs.208 crore**.
  - It will attract investments of up to Rs.2000 crore.

#### **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC 2.0) scheme:**

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

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

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

- **65.** The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of various projects worth **Rs. 3,800 crore** at Goldfinch city in Mangaluru, Karnataka and has also approved the New **Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP)** for Karnataka.
  - **Karnataka** has become the **first state in southern India** and only the **second state** in the country to get the Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) prepared and approved as per the 2019 Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) notification which has been approved by Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change.
  - This Plan will give boost to the economy and tourism in the coastal region of Karnataka.

# **Key highlights:**

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

- The Inland and Fishery Institute will be established in **Karwar**.
- **66.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of **Aditya Marketing and Manufacturing Private Limited** into **Umang Commercial Company Private Limited**. The proposed combination involves merger of Aditya Marketing into

  Umang Commercial in accordance with the Scheme of Amalgamation under Sections 230 and 232 of the Companies Act 2013.

#### Other approvals by CCI:

- CCI has also approved the acquisition of shares in Olam Agri Holdings Private Ltd. by SALIC International Investment Company. The proposed combination pertains to acquisition of 35.43% stake in Olam Agri Holdings Pte. Ltd. (Olam Agri / Target) by SALIC International Investment Company (SIIC / Acquirer).
- CCI has also approved the acquisition of approximately 7.49% shareholding in Aditya
  Birla Fashion and Retail Limited on a fully diluted basis by the Caladium
  Investment Private Ltd (GIC Investor) by way of preferential issuance of equity and warrants.
- **67. NHPC Limited** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **PTC India Limited** at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad for sale of power to be generated from upcoming **West Seti & Seti River-6 Projects** in **Nepal.** 
  - Under this MoU, PTC India will purchase the Contracted Capacity from NHPC from the date of commercial operation of above Projects for onward sale to the State Utilities/Discoms/Bulk Consumers on long term basis in India and neighbouring countries. PTC will also endeavour to sell any untied capacity on medium/short term basis or on power exchanges.
- **68. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Smiths Detection**, a global firm in threat detection and security inspection technologies, to provide advanced, high-energy scanning systems to the Indian market. The MoU is for a period of five years and can be extended further.
- **69.** London-based **Tony Blair Institute (TBI)** for Global Change and Canadian NGO Children Believe have jointly launched a **'Generation Global Programme'** for school & colleges in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. The program has been launched by TBI for Global Change Director Lucy Hayter. The aim is to transform the mindset of school and college students between the age of 13 and 17 years to make them 'global citizens'. The program has been organized by the Rural Organization for Poverty Eradication Services (ROPES).

- **70.** India's largest airline **IndiGo** and British carrier **Virgin Atlantic** have signed a new codeshare agreement to widen the network of the airline. Under this agreement, Virgin Atlantic will be allowed to sell seats to passengers connecting onto IndiGo flights.
  - The initial codeshare destinations under IndiGo-Virgin Atlantic partnership include: Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Goa, Delhi and Mumbai.
  - The additional destinations will include: Kochi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Pune, Coimbatore, Nagpur, Vadodara, Indore and Visakhapatnam.

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

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

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

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

# **BANKING & FINANCE**

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

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- **74.** The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has been replaced by Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission on the list of top ten companies by market capitalization in India.
  - LIC now holds **11th spot** in the list, whereas Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission have taken 10th and 9th spot, respectively, in the overall ranking.
  - Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is the top valued Indian company with a market capitalisation of Rs.17.8 lakh crore, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever (HUL), ICICI Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), and HDFC.
- **75.** The State Bank of India (SBI) Chief Economist **Soumya Kanti Ghosh** has lowered India's full-year GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to **6.8%** for **FY23** from the earlier 7.5%. The reason behind this downward revision is statistical adjustments.

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

- **76. SBI Cards and Payment Services Limited (SBI Card)** has launched the **'CASHBACK SBI CARD'**, the industry's first and most comprehensive cashback credit card in India, to boost online spending.
  - The card enables cardholders to earn 5 percent cashback on all online spending without any merchant restrictions.
  - Consumers across India, including tier 2 and 3 cities, can easily apply for the card through the digital application platform 'SBI Card SPRINT'.
  - The card is free for the first year till March 2023.
  - Cardholders can avail of four complimentary domestic airport lounge visits per year (one visit per quarter) on the card.
  - The annual renewal fee of the card is Rs 999 plus applicable taxes.
- 77. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI has restructured its 4-member high-level panel on cyber security that suggests measures to safeguard the capital markets from cyber-attacks.

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

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

- **78. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd** has collaborated with **IME India Pvt Ltd** (erstwhile IME Forex India) to expand its money remittance services between **Indo-Nepal** corridors.
  - Under this collaboration, Muthoot FinCorp will be able to serve a larger mass of Nepalese diaspora living in India.
  - Muthoot FinCorp has been assisting the Nepali community in India in remitting money through their existing partner, Prabhu Money Transfer Pvt Ltd.
- **79. IndusInd Bank** has collaborated with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to support and promote *Supply Chain Finance (SCF)* solutions in India. Under this collaboration, the lender has signed a partial guarantee programme with ADB with an initial outlay of **USD 70 million** (Rs 560 crore) to grow its presence in MSME financing.

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

- **80.** Veteran banker **Krishnan Sankarasubramaniam** has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Tamilnad Mercantile Bank** for a period of three years. He has succeeded K V Rama Moorthy. He also served as MD & CEO of Punjab and Sind Bank.
- **81.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has levied fines on **Aadhaar Ventures India Ltd (AVIL)** and its directors, Jils Raichand Madan, Somabhai Sunderbhai Meena and Jyoti Munver (to be paid jointly and severally), for violating insider trading rules and listing conditions. The total fines levied on AVIL is **Rs.25 lakh.**
- **82. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL),** the wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB) and **Snapdeal** in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) and **JCB International Co. Ltd.** have launched the *'Snapdeal BoB JCB RuPay Credit Card'*.
  - The co-branded card will offer up to 5% cashback on spends done on the Snapdeal app and website
  - Cardholders can also get benefits worth up to Rs. 500 by activating their credit card within 30 days of issuance
- **83.** The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has directed the payment apps to stop charging a platform fee for payments enabled on the Bharat Bill Payment System (**BBPS**).

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

#### **RBI IN NEWS**

- **84.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a pilot project for the digitization of **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** in **Madhya Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu**. The aim is to transform rural credit delivery system.
  - In this project, **Union Bank of India** and **Federal Bank** are the partner banks.
  - This project is developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in association with RBI.
  - The proposed digitalisation of the KCC lending process will make it more efficient, reduce costs for borrowers and reduce turn around time (TAT) significantly.

#### **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme:**

It was introduced in **1998** for issue of farm loan to farmers on the basis of their holdings. The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in 2004.

In December 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Revised Scheme to KCC with aim to provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs.

- **85.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has tightened norms for **Digital Lending** to protect consumers from breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates and unethical recovery practices by fintech players.
  - Digital Lending involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilizing technology for authentication and credit evaluation.
  - Guidelines are applicable to all Regulated Entities (RE) i.e. Commercial banks, Primary (urban) co-operative banks, Non- Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) etc.

# **Key guidelines:**

- All loan disbursals/repayments are to be executed only between bank accounts of borrower and RE.
- Cooling off/ look-up period to exit digital loan by paying principal and proportionate annual percentage rate without any penalty shall be provided.
- Lenders can store information such as name, address of customer etc. that are required to process and disburse loan and repayment of it.
- Biometric information of the borrower cannot be stored by Digital Lending Apps (DLAs).

- REs shall provide a Key Fact Statement (KFS) to the borrower before the execution of the contract in a standardized format for all digital lending products.
- Reporting of all lending to Credit Information Companies (CICs) as per CIC (Regulation) Act, 2005 and others.
- **86.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has selected **HDFC Bank** (in partnership with Crunchfish AB) and **Precision Biometric India Private Limited** for the Test Phase of the **'On Tap'** application facility for the theme **'Retail Payments'** under RBI's Regulatory Sandbox (RS).
  - HDFC Bank is selected for its 'Offline Retail Payments', while Precision Biometric India is selected for its 'InnaIT Key Solution for Banking'.
  - The 'On Tap' facility for theme 'Retail Payments' was announced by RBI in October 2021.

RBI has also announced the 5<sup>th</sup> Cohort under Regulatory Sandbox (RS) which will be themed '**neutral**'.

#### **Regulatory Sandbox (RS):**

It refers to live testing of new products or services in a controlled/test regulatory environment for which regulators may permit certain relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing. It was introduced in 2019.

- **87.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty on **8 co-operative banks** for breaching certain provisions related to 'income recognition, asset classification, provisioning' and finance for housing schemes.
  - **Rs 55 lakh** penalty on **The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Bank**, Andhra Pradesh for deficiencies in regulatory compliances.
  - A penalty of **Rs 10 lakh** has been imposed on **Bharat Heavy Electricals Employees' Co-operative Bank**, Kailasapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu;
  - **Rs 5 lakh** on **The Ottapalam Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd**, Ottapalam, Palakkad District, Kerala;
  - Rs 10 lakh on The Darussalam Co-operative Urban Bank, Hyderabad, Telangana.
  - A penalty of **Rs 10 lakh** each on The Nellore Co-operative Urban Bank Limited, Gandhi Nagar, Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh, and Kakinada Co-operative Town Bank Ltd, Kakinada, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.
  - **Rs 1 lakh** fine has been imposed on The Kendrapara Urban Cooperative Bank, Kendrapara, and **Rs 5 lakh** on the National Urban Co-operative Bank Limited, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh.

# **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

**88.** The **67th Filmfare Awards 2022** ceremony, presented by The Times Group, has honoured the best Indian Hindi-language films of 2021. It has been held at Jio World Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Wolf777news is the title sponsor of the event.

Category	Winners
Best Film (Popular)	Shershaah
Best Director	Vishnuvardhan (Shershaah)
Best Screenplay	Shubendu Bhattacharya (Sardar Udham)
Best Debut Director	Seema Pahwa (Ramprasad ki Tehrvi)
Best Dialogue	Dibakar Banerjee and Varun Grover (Sandeep Aur
	Pinky Faraar)
Best Story	Abhishek Kapoor, Supratik Sen, and Tushar
	Paranjape(Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui)
Best Actor Debut	Ehan Bhat (99 songs)
Best Actress Debut	Sharvari Wagh (Bunty aur Babli 2)
Best Actor in a Leading	Ranveer Singh (83),
Role	
Best Actress in a	Sai Tamhankar (Mimi)
Supporting Role	
Best Playback Singer	B Praak (Mann Bharryaa - Shershaah)
(Male)	
Best choreography	Vijay Ganguly (Atrangi Re)
Best Background score	Shantanu Moitra (Sardar Udham)
Best cinematography	Avik Mukhopadhyay (Sardar Udham)
Best action	Stefan Richter and Suneil Rodrigues (Shershaah)
Best VFX	Superb/BOJP Main Road Post NY VFXWAALA Edit Fx
	Studios (Sardar Udham)
Best Production Design	Mansi Dhruv Mehta and Dmitri Malich (Sardar
	Udham)
Best Sound Design	Dipankar Chaki and Nihar Ranjan Samal (Sardar
	Udham)
Best Editing	A Sreekar Prasad(Shershaah)
Best Costume	Vira Kapoor EE (Sardar Udham)
Best Lyrics	Kausar Munir (Lehra Do - 83)
Best Actress in a Leading	Kriti Sanon (Mimi)
Role	
Best Actor in a	Pankaj Tripathi (Mimi)
Supporting Role	
Best Playback Singer	Asees Kaur (Raataan Lambiyan - Shershaah)
(Female)	
Best Music Album	Tanishk Bagchi, B Praak, Jaani, Jasleen Royal, Javed-
	Mohsin and Vikram Montrose (Shershaah)

Best Film (Critics')	Sardar Udham (Shoojit Sircar)
Best Actor (Critics')	Vicky Kaushal (Sardar Udham)
Best Actress (Critics')	Vidya Balan (Sherni)
Lifetime Achievement	Subhash Ghai
Award	

**89.** The Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation (RMAF), known as the "Nobel Peace Prize of Asia", has recently announced the winners of the **64th Ramon Magsaysay Award 2022**. The theme of 2022 Awards is "Greatness of Spirit, Beyond Borders".

#### **2022 Ramon Magsaysay Awardees:**

- **Sotheara Chhim**: He is a mental health advocate from **Cambodia**. He is a leading voice in Cambodian trauma syndrome. He is being recognized for "his calm courage in surmounting deep trauma to become his people's healer".
- **Tadashi Hattori**: He is a sight-saving humanitarian from **Japan**. He is being recognized for his simple humanity and extraordinary generosity as a person and a professional.
- **Bernadette J. Madrid**: She is a children's rights crusader from the **Philippines.** She is being recognized for "her unassuming and steadfast commitment to noble and demanding advocacy.
- **Gary Bencheghib**: He is an anti-plastic pollution warrior from **Indonesia**. He is being recognized for Emergent Leadership for "his inspiring fight against marine plastic pollution.

# **Ramon Magsaysay Award:**

It was established in 1957. It is Asia's greatest honour and distinction. The award is managed by RMAF. It is named after Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Philippines. The prize is annually presented in a ceremonial ceremony in Manila, Philippines on August 31. The first Ramon Magsaysay Awards ceremony was held on 31st August 1958.

**90.** Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Hardeep Singh Puri**, has presented **Smart Solutions Challenge & Inclusive Cities Awards 2022.** These awards are an initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) and the United Nations (UN) in India to address city-level accessibility and inclusion challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD), women and girls, and the elderly.

The award were launched in April 2022 to promote people-centric design and to foster novel home-grown technological innovations and solutions.

A 'Compendium of Smart and Innovative Solutions for an Inclusive & Accessible Urban Future' has also been launched.

#### Winners of Smart Solutions and Inclusive Cities Awards 2022:

#### **Category 1: Early-stage Innovations**

- 1. Fifth Sense by Glovatrix Pvt. Ltd
- 2. Digital Mobility Subsidy by Ola Mobility Institute
- 3. AxcesAble Places by AxcesAble Designs LLP

#### **Category 2: Market-ready Solutions**

- 1. Mouseware by Dextroware Devices
- 2. Signer.Al by Incluistic Pvt. Ltd. / Friends for Inclusion
- 3. IncluMaps by Vikas Upadhyay, Research Scholar, IIT Delhi

#### **Category 3: Implemented Solutions**

- 1. Multi-Dimensional Inclusiveness: Using Advanced Technologies for Education and Literacy by Belagavi Smart City Ltd.
- 2. myUDAAN by Tekra Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
- 3. 'Moving with Pride' (Mo Bus and Mo E-Ride) by Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT), Odisha
- 4. Nirbhaya App by Sagar Smart City Ltd.
- **91.** Former US President **Barack Obama** has won an Emmy Award for his narration in the Netflix documentary series, *'Our Great National Parks'*. The five-part show, which features national parks from around the globe, is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground". He is the second US President to have an Emmy.

Previously, he won Grammy Awards for his audiobook reading of two of his memoirs, "The Audacity of Hope" and "A Promised Land".

#### Other awardees:

Black Panther star and Hollywood actor late **Chadwick Boseman** has won an Emmy Award for outstanding character voiceover for the Disney+ and Marvel Studios animated show "What If?".

**92. Tanikella Bharani**, a **Telugu** writer and actor, has been presented with the annual Sahitya Puraskar of the Lok Nayak Foundation at an award ceremony held at Kalabharathi Auditorium, Vishakhapatnam (Vizag) in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Lok Nayak Foundation Award:**

The award is popularly referred to as 'Andhra Jnanpith'. It carries a cash prize of Rs.2 lakh. The award is given annually to an eminent Telugu writer or poet or a person credited with service for the cause of Telugu literature. It was instituted in 2005.

**93.** Kolkata-based **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** has been conferred the **Green Channel Certification** by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of portable steel bridges, Bailey type, of various spans and configurations to the Indian Army.

#### **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

**94. Dr Ashutosh Raravikar**, Director in the Department of Economic & Policy Research (DEPR) of RBI, has authored a book titled **"Indian Banking in Retrospect – 75 years of Independence".** The book is published by Aswad Prakashan Pvt. Ltd. Bibek Debroy, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, has written the foreword of the book.

The book highlights various economic development such as LPG reforms during 1991, Nationalisation of Banks in 1969, setting up of Payment Banks, Small Finance Bank, etc.

- **95.** A book titled "When the heart speaks: Memoirs of a cardiologist" has been authored by **Dr Upendra Kaul**, one of India's most distinguished cardiologists. The book is published by

  Konark Publishers Private Limited. The book depicts an honest narration of heart touching

  events of a Kashmiri Pandit who despite travelling to different places, wanted to have a
  home in his motherland.
- **96.** A book titled 'Divorce and Democracy: A History of Personal Law in Post-Independence India' has been authored by **Saumya Saxena**, a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of History at the University of Cambridge. The book narrates the Indian state's difficult dialogue with divorce, mediated largely through religion. The book is published by Cambridge University Press.
- **97.** Minister of State for AYUSH, **Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai**, has released a book titled **"Science Behind Surya Namaskar"**, a collection of evidence based research on one of the most weill-known Yoga asanas at the AIIA. The book has been compiled by the AII-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) department of Swasthavritta and Yoga, at AIIA.

#### **PERSON IN NEWS**

- **98. Anurag Sharma**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from the Jhansi-Lalitpur parliamentary constituency, has been elected as the International Treasurer of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at its 65th CPA Conference in Halifax, Canada. He is the **second Indian** office-bearer in the CPA, the World's largest and oldest International Parliamentary Association.
- 99. German luxury carmaker **Mercedes-Benz** has named **Santosh Iyer** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & of the Indian operations with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. He will replace Martin Schwenk, who will take over as President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Thailand.
- **100. Acefour Accessories**, a travel accessories company, has appointed Indian cricketer **Jasprit Bumrah** as Brand Ambassador for its eco-friendly luggage brand **"Uppercase"** for two years. He will lead the *"Never Ordinary"* campaign. The campaign is managed by RISE Worldwide, a Reliance Industries Limited's initiative and India's largest sports and entertainment company.
- **101. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava** has been appointed as the acting Chairman & Managing Director (**CMD**) of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** for a period of 4 months with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He has succeeded **Alka Mital**.
- **102. M.V. lyer** has been appointed as the acting Chairman & Managing Director (**CMD**) of **GAIL** (**India**) **Limited** for a period of 3 months. He has succeeded Manoj Jain.
- **103.** Indian Information Service officer, **Vasudha Gupta**, has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of the News Services Division of All India Radio (AIR). She has succeeded N Venudhar Reddy. She was serving as DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- **104. Rajesh Malhotra**, Director General in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), has been promoted to the rank of Principal Director General. He will continue to look after the publicity works of the finance ministry in the PIB.
- **105.** Former Indian goalkeeper **Kalyan Chaubey** from West Bengal has been elected as the new President of **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** after defeating former Indian Professional Footballer Bhaichung Bhutia from Sikkim in the elections. He has replaced Praful Patel. With this, he has become the **first Indian player (former)** to chair as President in AIFF.

- **106.** NHPC Limited has named its Director (Technical) **Yamuna Kumar Chaubey** as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) for a period of three months from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 or till a regular incumbent joins the post, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest. He has succeeded Abhay Kumar Singh.
- **107.** Indian-American business executive **Laxman Narasimhan** has been named the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of global coffee giant Starbucks. He will replace Howard Schultz with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022. Earlier, he served as the CEO of health and hygiene company Reckitt Benckiser.
- **108.** Blue Energy Motors has launched India's first Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) fuelled Green Truck manufacturing facility at Chakan in Pune, Maharashtra. The aim is to decarbonize the environment by providing an immediate solution and breaking the barriers to economic returns.
  - Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated the facility which has an installed capacity of 10,000 trucks annually.
  - The trucks are powered by Iveco FPT, global powertrain brand of Iveco Group.
  - The long-haul trucks can travel up to 1,400 kilometres in one fill.
- **109.** Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have jointly appointed **Utpal Kumar Singh**, currently holding the post of Secretary General Lok Sabha, to perform additional duties of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Sansad TV. He has succeeded Ravi Capoor.

#### **Sansad TV:**

It was launched in September 2021 after merging the Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV channels. The 24-hour channel, through its content, showcases the democratic ethos and the functioning of democratic institutions of the country with an aim to target national and international audiences.

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**110.** Queen Elizabeth II has appointed UK Foreign Secretary **Liz Truss** as the 56th Prime Minister of United Kingdom. She has won 81326 votes, compared to his rival Rishi Sunak's 60399 votes in the recently held elections. She has become the third woman Prime

Minister of UK. She has also been named as the leader of the governing Conservative Party. She has succeeded Boris Johnson.

Liz Truss has appointed Indian-origin barrister **Suella Braverman** as the UK's new Home Secretary. She will succeed Priti Patel.

- **111.** Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has nominated **Ana Brnabic** to serve another term as **Prime Minister of Serbia** and to lead the new government through a time of war in Europe, global energy, and inflation crisis, and tensions with Kosovo. She became the first female Prime Minister of Serbia and an openly gay in 2020.
- 112. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud as the 31st Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He has succeeded Justice Uday U Lalit.

#### **Additional Information:**

The NALSA has been constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society and to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Hon'ble Mr. **Justice Uday Umesh Lalit**, The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief.

- **113. Binesh Kumar Tyagi** has become the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), for a period of 5 years.
- 114. The President of India Draupadi Murmu, in exercise of the power conferred by Article 223 of the Indian Constitution, has appointed **Justice M Duraiswamy** as the **Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court** with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> September. The present Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari demits office on September 12.

# **OBITUARIES**

**115.** Noted Carnatic Singer **T. V. Sankaranarayanan**, also known as TVS, has recently passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was born on 7 March 1945 in Mayiladuthurai, Madras Presidency, British India.

#### **Awards:**

- Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1990)
- Padma Bhushan (2003)
- Sangeetha Kalanidhi by the Madras Music Academy (2003)

- Sangeetha Kalasikhamani by The Indian Fine Arts Society (2005)
- Vidhya Tapasvi by TAPAS Cultural Foundation (2012)
- **116.** Indian-born Irish businessman **Cyrus Mistry**, former Chairman of **Tata Group**, has recently passed away in a road accident while en route from Ahmedabad to Mumbai near Palghar district of Maharashtra. He was born on 4 July 1968 in Bombay, Maharashtra. He became the Tata Group chairman in 2012, succeeding Ratan Tata. He was ousted from the position in 2016.
- **117.** Renowned historian and academician **B Sheik Ali Saheb** has recently passed away after a brief illness. He was the founder vice-chancellor of Mangalore University and also served the Goa University as Vice-chancellor.

### **SPORTS**

**118.** England's pacer **James Anderson** has become the first-ever fast bowler to complete **950 wickets** in international cricket. He has attained this historic feat on Day 3 of the second Test against South Africa. He has broken the record of Australia's Glenn McGrath (949 wickets).

The most successful bowlers in international cricket are Sri Lankan spin wizard, Muttiah Muralitharan (1,347 wickets), late Aussie spin great Shane Warne (1,001 wickets) and Indian spin great Anil Kumble (956 wickets).

- **119. New Zealand** all-rounder **Colin de Grandhomme** has recently announced his retirement from international cricket. He began his career by playing for Manicaland in Zimbabwe, and was a part of the Zimbabwe team at the 2004 Under-19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh.
  - In the Indian Premiere League (IPL), he played for Kolkata Knight Riders (2017) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (2018 & 2019).
  - He has played 29 matches with a score of 1432 runs at a strike rate of 38.70. He has also played 41 T20Is.
- **120. Mushfiqur Rahim**, former captain and vice-captain of **Bangladesh National Cricket Team**, has announced his retirement from Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) cricket. He played 102 T20Is matches.

He is the first and only wicketkeeper-batsman in the history of Test cricket to score two double-hundreds. He is also the first and only Bangladeshi batsman to score three double-hundreds in Tests. He is the only Bangladeshi player to win 150 international matches.

- **121.** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the mascot and the anthem for the **36th National Games 2022** at Trans Stadia in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. He has also launched the official website of the national games and the mobile App named **'NGGujarat'**.
  - "Savaj" meaning lion's cub in Gujarati, has been declared the mascot for the National Games.
  - The anthem is based on the theme **'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat'.** It encapsulated the philosophy of 'Judega India, Jitega India'. It has been voiced by Bollywood playback singer, **Sukhwinder Singh.**

#### **36th National Games:**

It will be organized between 29<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at six cities in Gujarat namely, Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar.

The theme of the 36<sup>th</sup> National Games is 'Celebrating Unity Through Sports'. New Delhi will additionally host the track cycling event.

**122.** Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has won the **2022 F1 Dutch Grand Prix** and made 4 straight wins for the first time in his F1 career. The event has been held at Cicrcuit Park Zandvoort, North Holland, Netherlands. This is his 10th victory of the season.

Mercedes-driver George Russell has finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and Ferrari-driver Charles Leclerc has finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the event.

- 123. Former Indian batsman **Suresh Raina** (**Uttar Pradesh**) has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket including the Indian Premier League (IPL)lic. In 2020, he had announced his retirement from international cricket. He represented India in 18 Tests, 226 ODIs and 78 T20Is. He is the first Indian to score hundreds in all three formats of cricket. In IPL, he played for Chennai Super Kings and Gujarat Lions.
- **124.** The 2022 Japan Open, a badminton tournament, has been held at Maruzen Intec Arena Osaka in Osaka, Japan.

Category	Winners

Men's Singles	Kenta Nishimoto (Japan)
Women's Singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang (China)
Women's Doubles	Jeong Na-eun and Kim Hye-jeong (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)

**125.** Indian Grandmaster (GM) **Aravindh Chithambaram** has won the **22nd Dubai Open Chess Tournament 2022** with 7.5 points from 9 rounds. The tournament has been held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Alexandr Predke (Russia), the top seed, finished runner-up on 7 points after a five-way tie for the second spot.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> spot is shared by 5 players with 7 points: R. Praggnanandhaa, Alexandr Predke, Abhijeet Gupta, Jaykumar Sammed Shete, and S.P.Sethuraman.

**126.** Indian leg-spinner **Rahul Sharma** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in order to take part in the second edition of the Road Safety World Series. He played 22 first-class, 35 List A and 74 T20 matches in domestic cricket. He made his ODI debut against West Indies in 2011. He made his T20 debut in 2012 against Australia. He made his IPL debut for Deccan Chargers in 2010 and also represented Pune Warriors in IPL in 2011.

# **IMPORTANT DAYS**

**127. National Nutrition Week** is observed annually across India from **1st September** to **7th September** to create awareness about the significance of a diet that is full of nutrition. The week was established in 1975 by the members of the American Dietetic Association (ADA), now known as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Theme 2022: "World of Flavors"

The **Food and Nutrition Board** of the Government of India's Ministry of Women and Child Development organises an annual week-long celebration of National Nutrition Week to inform people about this basic phenomenon.

**128.** The Ministry of Women and Child Development is observing the **5th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2022** from **1st to 30th September 2022**. This year, the objective is to trigger

Poshan Maah through **Gram Panchayats as Poshan Panchayats** with key focus on *"Mahila aur Swasthya" and "Bacha aur Shiksha"*.

The aim is to convert *Jan Andolan* into *Jan Bhagidari* to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a *Suposhit Bharat*.

The month long event will witness intensive activities across India for awareness about nutrition at the ground level through sensitization drives, outreach programmes, identification drives, camps and fairs with special focus on pregnant and lactating women, children below six years and adolescent girls, in order to realise the vision of 'Swasth Bharat'.

#### **Poshan Maah:**

It is being celebrated as part of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, the Central Government's flagship programme which aims to improve nutritional outcomes for children under 6 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

**129. World Coconut Day** is observed annually on **2<sup>nd</sup> September** to raise awareness and the significance of coconuts and their impact on society. The day was first observed in 2009 by the Asia Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).

The coconut tree is referred to as the "tree of life" because of its versatile usage in food, cosmetics, medicines and others things.

In India, this day is observed with the support of Kochi-based Coconut Development Board (CDB), across the states such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, etc.

Theme 2022: "Growing Coconut for a Better Future and Life"

**Note:** Indonesia (1st), India (2nd), Philippines (3rd), Brazil (4th) and Sri Lanka (5th) are the top exporters of coconuts.

#### **Additional Information:**

On the occasion of World Coconut Day 2022, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, has inaugurated the **Gujarat State Centre of Coconut Development Board** in **Junagadh**, Gujarat.

**130. National Teacher's Day** is observed annually across India on **5**<sup>th</sup> **September** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna **Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, who was the second President of India and a well-renowned educationist. The day provides a platform to recognise and honour the contribution of teachers to society. The day was first observed in the year 1962. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **50**<sup>th</sup> National Teacher's Day.

#### Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:

He was born on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1888 in Thiruthani, Tamil Nadu. He was India's first Vice President (1952–1962) and second President (1962-1967). His major works include *Indian Philosophy*, (1923-27), The Philosophy of the Upanishads (1924), An Idealist View of Life (1932), Eastern Religions and Western Thought (1939), The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, and East and West: Some Reflections (1955).

He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, in **1954.** He received a knighthood in 1931 and honorary membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963. He was the first Indian to hold a chair at the University of Oxford – the Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics (1936-1952).

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