

Monthly Current Affairs Digest for WBCS Exam May 2022



May-2022

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. **NABARD** is planning to prepare a farmer distress index to identify, track, and support distressed farmers.

Note: Under this, the government and the financial institutions can decide on an appropriate package of support instead of a distress package for all the farmers across the board. This index will not be uniform across the nation, as it will depend upon the place's stress levels.

2. **Seven** years have been completed for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) of providing social security net.

Note: The schemes were launched by PM Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal. PMJJBY: More than 12.76 crore Cumulative Enrolments; PMSBY: More than 28.37 crore Cumulative Enrolments; APY: Over 4 Crore subscribers

3. **Reliance Industries** becomes the first Indian company to record annual revenue of more than a whopping \$100 billion.

Note: The company has recorded a 22.5% rise in net profit for the quarter ended March 2022. The company has also reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of ₹33,968 crores (28% up) year-on-year.

4. **Market Ka Eklavya** is the National Securities Depository Limited's (NSDL) investor awareness programme for students which was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Note: To introduce the basics of the securities market and also impart training on financial markets for students. NSDL has launched a new investor awareness programme as part of its silver jubilee celebration.

5. Under the chairmanship of Navneet Munot, SEBI has constituted a committee for advising on **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** in the securities market.

Note: The terms of reference of the committee include Enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings, and ESG investing. It will examine evolving disclosures/metrics relevant to the Indian context and suggest areas for assurance and a plan for implementation.

6. **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched a digital solution named 'Trade nxt' to enable corporates as well as MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions.

Note: This online platform offers absolute entry and processing of letters of credit (LoC), bank guarantees, export and import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward & inward remittances, dealer financing, and much more. Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India: Rajkiran Rai G.

7. **India** has surpassed Germany to become the 4th largest vehicles market ____.

Note: According to the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India has sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021 as compared to 2,973,319 vehicles in Germany. This shows a difference of almost 26%. The most number of vehicles were sold in China (sales remained almost stagnant), followed by the US (reported growth of 4%) and Japan (market shrunk compared to both 2020 and 2019).

8. **Rs 40,295.25 crore** of fraud has been recorded by the Public sector banks during the financial year ended March 2022.

Note: The 12 PSBs had reported frauds worth Rs 81,921.54 crore in the preceding fiscal 2020-21. But, the number of fraud cases has fallen slightly as a total of 7,940 frauds were reported by the PSBs in 2021-22, against 9,933 incidents reported in FY21.

9. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** will facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks and ATM operators to provide cardless cash withdrawal facilities at all ATMs. All banks,

automated teller machine (ATM) networks, and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) may provide the option of ICCW at their ATMs.

10. The NEFT and RTGS facility will be available for Post Office Savings Accounts holders.

Note: NEFT facility has been made available for Post Office Savings Accounts holders from May 18, 2022, and RTGS facility will be available from May 31, 2022. This facility enables POSB customers to transfer funds to and from other bank accounts to POSB Accounts in DoP-CBS (DoP-CBS stands for Department of Posts - Core Banking Solutions).

11. 25 special courts will be constituted for the expeditious disposal of cheque bounce cases.

Note: The special courts under the Negotiable Instruments Act will be set up in Maharashtra, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in view of a large number of pending cases. The special courts shall follow the same procedure with respect to trial as mandated by the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973.

12. SEBI has withdrawn the recognition of Indian Commodity Exchange Limited (ICEX).

Note: The withdrawal of recognition follows an order passed by SEBI on May 10 after finding the bourse non-compliant on several grounds like net worth and infrastructural requirements.

Obituaries

1. Salim Ghouse who passed away recently was a veteran Actor.

Note: He made his debut with the film SwargNarak in 1978 and acted in films like Charkha, Saransh, Manthan, Kalyug, Trikal, Aghaat, Drohi, Thiruda, Sardari Begum, Koyla, Soldier, Aks and several others. He also played the roles of Rama, Krishna, and Tipu Sultan in Shyam Benegal's TV Series Bharat Ek Khoj. He has also worked in Malayalam and Tamil films.

2. Tony Brooks has passed away, was associated with Formula One.

Note: He won six Formula One Grand Prix in the 1950s and died at 90. He was known as a "Racing Dentist". He won his F1 debut at the non-championship 1955 Syracuse Grand Prix.

3. Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma who passed away recently was a veteran Santoor player.

Note: He was born in Jammu in 1938 and is believed to be the first musician to have played Indian classical music on the santoor. Awards: Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1986), Padma Shri (1991), and Padma Vibhushan (2001)

4. Yuri Averbakh who passed away recently associated with the Chess.

Note: He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952. In 1954, he became the champion of the USSR. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

5. Renowned personality Pandit Sukh Ram passed away recently. He was a former Union minister.

Note: He was the Union Minister of State, Communications (Independent Charge) from 1993 to 1996 and a member of Lok Sabha from the Mandi constituency (Himachal Pradesh). He won

the Lok Sabha elections three times and the Vidhan Sabha elections five times

6. Leonid Kravchuk who passed away recently was the first president of Independent Ukraine.

Note: Kravchuk was known as the "wily fox" as he rose through the ranks of Ukraine's Communist Party and took over as head of the parliament in 1990. He signed the Belovezha accords with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Belarusian leader Stanislav Shushkevich in December 1991 which effectively triggered the Soviet Union's collapse.

7. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al-Nahyan who passed away recently was the president of UAE.

Note: He took over as the UAE's second president in November 2004 after his father as the 16th ruler of Abu Dhabi. He also rescued Dubai when it was hit by the global financial crisis in 2009. The UAE ministry has announced 40 days of mourning, with flags at half-mast and work suspended in the public and private sectors for the first three days.

8. Cricketer Andrew Symonds, passed away recently.

Note: He made his first-debut for Queensland in 1994-95 season. He was a right-handed batter, who was known for scoring runs at a quick pace and has a career strike rate of 92.44 in 198 ODI matches. He was a part of the Ricky Ponting-led side that won the ICC Men's World Cup in 2003 and 2007.

9. Padma Shri awardee, Dr Rama Kant Shukla, passed away. He was an eminent scholar of Hindi and Sanskrit.

Note: He is the founder and general secretary of Devavani Parishad in Delhi, and the founding chairman and editor of "Arvacinasamskritam" (quarterly journal) in Sanskrit. He was conferred

the titles of Sanskrit Rashtrakavi, Kaviratna, and Kavi Siromani by literary and Sanskrit organizations.

10. Former parliamentarian Shivaji Patnaik. passed away at 92 who was related to **CPI (M)**.

Note: Patnaik joined the undivided Community Party of India (CPI) in 1947 and was the architect of the formation of CPI(M) in Odisha in 1961. He was elected from the Lok Sabha seat (Bhubaneswar) thrice in 1977, 1989 and 1991. He was the CPM secretary of the State Committee from 1972 to 1991 and also a member of the central committee of the CPM for a long period.

Important Days

1. International Labour Day is observed on **1st of May**.

Note: Aim: To spread awareness about Labour's rights and mark their achievements. In India, the first Labour Day was celebrated by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923, in then Madras (now Chennai). May Day is also celebrated as the foundation day of Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day.

2. World Tuna Day is being observed on 2nd May every year globally.

Note: Aim: Promoting the importance of sustainable fishing practices and educating people on how Tuna become endangered species due to high demand. UNGA has declared this day as World Tuna Day to create awareness to preserve species in 2016. Tuna is an important source of Omega-3 and it also contains minerals, proteins, and vitamin B12, among other advantages.

3. World Asthma Day is observed every year on the **first Tuesday of May** to spread awareness and care about asthma in the world.

Note: This year the theme is 'Closing Gaps in Asthma Care'.

4. World Press Freedom Day is observed globally on **3rd May**.

Note: It is also known as World Press Day. This year's World Press Freedom Day theme "Journalism under digital siege".

5. Coal Miners Day is observed on **4th May** every year to honour the coal miners.

Note: The day is celebrated to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands.

6. International Firefighter's Day is observed every year on **4th May** to pay respect to those firefighting experts who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

11. Lester Piggott passed away and was related to the sports of **Jockey**.

Note: Piggott was partially deaf and has won the Derby at Epsom for the first time in 1954 and the ninth win came on Teenoso in 1983.

12. Bujar Nishani, has passed away and was related to **Politics**.

Note: He was a former president of Albania. Nishani was elected as president in June 2012 at the age of 45, and becomes the country's youngest-ever president.

Note: A tragic incident in Australia's Linton led to the establishment of International Firefighters Day. This historical accident happened on December 02, 1998, which led to the taking of the lives of 5 firefighters. Therefore, a proposal was passed on January 04, 1999, to honour the firefighters who lost their lives on duty.

7. World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) is annually observed across the globe on **May 5** to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care.

Note: Theme – "health care quality and safety climate or culture. The slogan is "Unite for safety: clean your hands".

8. International No Diet Day 2022 is celebrated all over the world on **6 May**.

Note: On this day, people are made aware of body acceptance, leaving aside behaviour like body shaming, which includes people of all shapes and sizes. In the year 1992, International No Diet Day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans.

9. World Red Cross Day is observed every year on **May 8** to mark the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant.

Note: Henry Dunant was a founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize (1901). The theme for 2022 is 'Be Human Kind'.

10. World Thalassemia Day is observed on **May 8** every year to honour the struggles of patients suffering from thalassemia and make people aware of the disease and its symptoms.

Note: Thalassemia is a blood disease in which the body fails to create enough hemoglobin. The event was first observed by the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) in 1994. Theme 2022: Be Aware.

Share. Care: Working with the global community as one to improve Thalassemia knowledge

11. World Lupus Day is observed every year on **May 10** to raise awareness about Lupus disease that can cause damage to any part of the body.

Note: Lupus, autoimmune disease is one in which the immune system is unable to recognize the difference between healthy cells in the human body and the foreign cells it fights to remove. Common symptoms: Intermittent fever, recurrent mouth ulcers, joint and muscle pain, and extreme fatigue.

12. India observed National Technology Day on **May 11** to celebrate the achievements made by the scientists, engineers, teachers and researchers across the nation.

Note: Theme 2022: Integrated Approach in science and technology for a sustainable future. Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Former Prime Minister) declared 11 May as the National Technology Day as India has successfully carried out a series of nuclear tests in Pokhran on May 11, 1998.

13. International Nurses Day is celebrated worldwide on **May 12** to mark the contribution made by nurses to society, in health care set up and in a community.

Note: Theme 2022: 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health'. The day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale (the founder of modern nursing).

14. **Sikkim** has observed its 47th State Day on 16th May.

Note: In 1975 the Sikkim has become a part of India as its 22nd state. On 15 May 1975, then-President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed signed a 36th constitutional amendment and a day later, Sikkim became a complete Indian state. The rule of the Chogyal (last dynasty) was abolished.

15. On **17th May** World Hypertension Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the symptoms of hypertension.

Note: The theme of WHD for 2022 is Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer. Hypertension or high blood pressure occurs when the blood pressure rises to an unhealthy level of 140/90. Hypertension is a major cause of cardiovascular disease and premature death worldwide.

16. On **17th May** World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed every year to

raise awareness about the benefit of the Internet and other information and communication technologies to society and economies.

Note: The 2022 theme for World Telecommunication Day is Digital Technologies For Older Persons And Healthy Ageing. The day is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on May 17, 1865.

17. On **May 18** International Museum Day is observed annually.

Note: It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums. The 2022 theme of International Museum Day is "Power of Museums". The International Council of Museums has been organizing International Museum Day every year since 1977 for the museum community. The National Gallery of Modern Art has also organised special activities and programs to mark the celebration of Museum Day from May 16-20.

18. On **16th of May** National Dengue Day is observed every year in India.

Note: National Dengue day was an initiative of the Ministry of health and family welfare. Aim: To make people aware of dengue and its prevention measures. It also has the people to know how to prepare and control dengue before the transmission season begins.

19. On **16th May** the International Day of Light is celebrated each year to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.

Note: This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development. The laser is a perfect example of how a scientific discovery can yield revolutionary benefits to society in communications, healthcare and many other fields.

20. On **16th May** the International Day of Living Together in Peace is held every year.

Note: Aims: To urge people to live together in a united and peaceful way. Individuals can attain this by listening to each other and respecting one another despite their differences.

21. On **16th May** the International Day of Families is observed every year.

Note: The United Nations works on topics that are critical to the well-being of families worldwide, such as health, education, children's rights, gender

equality, work-family balance, and social inclusion, among others. The theme for this year 'Families and Urbanization'.

- 22. On 14 May and 8th October** the World Migratory Bird Day is marked twice a year.

Note: The day is celebrated with an aim to safeguard migratory birds' breeding, non-breeding as well as stopover habitats while preserving a healthy bird population. The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2022 is light pollution.

- 23. World Bee Day** is observed annually on **20th May** across the world with an aim to recognise the importance of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.

Note: The theme 2022: "Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems". The United Nations mark May 20 as World Bee Day to celebrate the birth anniversary of beekeeping pioneer Anton Jansa.

- 24. Anti-Terrorism Day** is observed every year on **21st of May**.

Note: The day is highly important for the nation as it has been a victim of terror attacks for several years. The day came into being after on May 21, 1991, India's former PM Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during a campaign in Tamil Nadu. He became the victim of a suicide bombing, which also resulted in around 14 other people being killed. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest PM when he was sworn in at the age of 40.

- 25. International Tea Day** is observed on **May 21** every year by the United Nations.

Note: The day aims to raise awareness of the long history and the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world. The UNGA in the year 2019 marked 21 May as International Tea Day. The theme of the first International Tea Day was 'harnessing benefits for all from field to cup.'

- 26. The International Day for Biological Diversity** commemorates every year on **May 22**.

Note: The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 is "Building a shared future for all life". Purpose: To raise awareness about the environment and all species that live on this planet. The United Nations General Assembly has designated May 22 as International Day for Biological Diversity in December 2000.

- 27. International Missing Children's Day** is observed every year on **25th of May**.

Note: Aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children and also honour those who have never been found and celebrate those who have.

- 28. World Thyroid Day** is observed on **May 25** to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention, and treatments.

Note: Thyroid Federation international has announced the theme, "It's not you. It's your thyroid."

- 29. International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories** day is observed by the United Nations from May 25 to 31.

Note: On December 06, 1999, the UN General Assembly called for the annual observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

- 30. May 23rd** is observed as World Turtle Day by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization.

Note: This year's theme for World Turtle Day is "Shellebrate". The theme asks "everyone to Love and Save Turtles".

- 31. Second Monday of March** is observed as a Commonwealth Day.

Note: However, India and a few other countries celebrate it on May 24. The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 is 'Delivering a Common Future'

- 32. United Nations (UN) International Day to End Obstetric Fistula** is marked on **23rd May** to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula.

Note: In 2003 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula, a collaborative initiative to prevent fistula and restore the health of those affected by the condition. The day was officially recognized in 2012.

- 33. World Metrology Day (WMD)** is annually observed across the globe on **20th May**.

Note: To create awareness about the Metrology, the science of measurement and its application. The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 is Metrology in the Digital Era.

- 34. People Peace Progress: The Power of Partnerships** is the theme of International Day of

UN Peacekeepers 2022 which is observed annually on May 29.

Note: Captain Abdelrazakh Hamit Bahar of Chad has received posthumously the highest award in UN peacekeeping, the 'Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage.

35. World No Tobacco Day is observed on this date every year to raise awareness about the destruction caused by consuming tobacco.

Note: The United Nations has adopted sustainable development agenda by 2030 with an aim to reduce tobacco-related deaths by one-third by that time. Theme 2022: Tobacco: Threat to our environment.

New Appointments

1. Anshul Swami has been appointed as managing director and chief executive officer Shivalik Small Finance Bank.

Note: The appointment of Swami has already been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He has replaced Suveer Kumar Gupta, who is a co-founder of the bank. Prior to Shivalik SFB, he was worked with RBL Bank as Head – Retail & Inclusion, Products.

2. Joydeep Karmakar has been appointed as the chief national rifle coach by National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

Note: He will oversee Indian continent till 2025, including the Paris Olympics 2024. He had missed a bronze medal by a whisker in men's 50-metre rifle prone event at 2012 London Olympics. He has been running his own shooting academy in Kolkata since 2015. NRAI was founded in 1951 to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.

3. Nand Mulchandani has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), first line of defense for the United States.

Note: Prior to this, he served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Centre under US Department of Defence. He served as the CEO of multiple successful startups like Oblix (acquired by Oracle), Determina, OpenDNS and ScaleXtreame.

4. Tarun Kapoor (Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and former Petroleum Secretary) has been appointed as the advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Note: He will superannuate as the secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on November 30, 2021. Apart from him, Senior bureaucrats Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra have been appointed as the additional secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

5. Rajiv Ranjan has been appointed as the ex-officio member of the monetary policy committee by RBI's central board.

Note: He replaced Mridul Sagar, who retired last month. Prior to this, he was an advisor in-charge in the monetary policy department, before he was elevated as an executive director. MPC is a 6-member body and is headed by RBI governor. There are 3 members from RBI and 3 members nominated by Govt.

6. Sangeeta Singh has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) for a period of three months or till a regular Chairman is appointed.

Note: She has replaced JB Mohapatra who retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30. She is currently holding charge of Audit and Judicial and an additional charge of Income Tax and Revenue and Tax Payers services.

7. Arvind Krishna (IBM Chairman and CEO) has been elected to the Board of Directors as a Class B director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Note: He will remain in the office for the remaining portion of a three-year term ending December 31, 2023. He has been an undergraduate from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was senior VP of Cloud and Cognitive Software and also headed IBM Research.

8. Alkesh Kumar Sharma has assumed charge as Secretary of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).

Note: Prior to this, he served as the Additional Secretary and Secretary in Cabinet Secretariat. He was also chairman of Indian Highways Management Company and implemented FASTAG system of toll collection. Minister of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY): Ashwini Vaishnaw.

9. Sudarshan Venu has taken over as the Managing Director of TVS Motor Company.

Note: Prior to this, he was the Joint Managing Director of the company. His elevation coincides with the appointment of Prof Sir Ralf Dieter Speth as the Chairman of the company. He succeeded Venu

Srinivasan, who has become the Chairman Emeritus of the company. TVS Motor Company: Indian motorcycle manufacturer headquartered in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is the 3rd largest motorcycle company in India.

10. **M. Narayanan** takes charge as a part-time chairman of City Union Bank Ltd. for a period of two years w.e.f. May 4.

Note: Narayanan replaced R. Mohan, who laid down the office after completing a three-year term. Narayanan is a graduate in Mathematics from Loyola College. He is a qualified chartered accountant, cost accountant and system auditor.

11. **John Lee Ka-Chiu** becomes the chief executive of Hong Kong.

Note: He will replace Carrie Lam. He will be the first security official to hold the Chief Executive position of Hong Kong which witnessed years of political unrest and recent debilitating pandemic controls.

12. **Sahas Malhotra** has been appointed as the CEO of JioSaavn, Music app.

Note: He joined JioSaavn from Amazon Music where he was leading his team as a Director. He has worked with Sony Music India and Tips Industries. He was leading the business at Tips Music and marketing for Tips Film production.

13. Before being elevated to the Supreme Court Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia was a Chief Justice of **Gauhati High Court**.

Note: President Ram Nath Kovind has confirmed the appointment of Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala as Judges of the Supreme Court. Justice Pardiwala was elevated as an additional judge of the Gujarat High Court and later confirmed as a permanent judge.

14. **Captain Rajesh Unni (Founder and CEO of Synergy Group)** has been appointed as a Vice-Chair of the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN).

Note: In 2006 he launched his own vessel ownership and management company named Synergy Marine Group. Captain Unni is joint CEO of Alpha Ori Technologies (AOT) which he founded in 2017 and is a Governor at the Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli.

15. **Rodrigo Chaves** was sworn in as Costa Rica's president for a four-years.

Note: He will focus on reinvigorating one of Latin America's most stable economies, as foreign debt rises to 70% of GDP, the poverty rate of 23%, unemployment of 14% and public sector

corruption. He was a senior official at the World Bank, where he worked for 30 years.

16. **Yoon Suk-yeol (a conservative former prosecutor)** has been sworn in as the president of South Korea in a ceremony held at Seoul's National Assembly.

Note: He served as South Korea's prosecutor general from 2019 to 2021 under Moon Jae-in (former president) rule. He played an important role in the conviction of Park Geun-hye (former President) as a chief prosecutor of South Korea.

17. **Deepika Padukone** has been appointed as Louis Vuitton's first-ever Indian brand ambassador.

Note: She was unveiled as part of a new handbag campaign with Emma Stone and Chinese actor Zhou Dongyu in a series of promotional shots. Recently, she has been named as a part of an eight-member jury presided by French actor Vincent Lindon at 75th Cannes Film Festival.

18. **Ranil Wickremesinghe (the United National Party leader)** has taken an oath as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fifth time after the resignation of Mahinda Rajapaksa.

Note: President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has administered his oath at a ceremony held in the President's office in Colombo. Wickremesinghe has been reappointed in an effort to bring stability to Sri Lanka, engulfed in a political and economic crisis.

19. **Startup Policy and Implementation Plan - 2022**, the startup policy of Madhya Pradesh was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi via video conferencing.

Note: He also addressed the startup community during the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave held in Indore. Aim: To promote startups and encourage budding entrepreneurs in Madhya Pradesh. PM Modi will also launch the Madhya Pradesh Startup portal to promote the startup ecosystem.

20. **Sanjiv Bajaj (Chairman of Bajaj Finserv Limited)** has assumed the office of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President for the year 2022-23 after replacing TV Narendran (CEO of Tata Steel).

Note: The Chairman and CEO of Hero MotoCorp Limited, Pawan Munjal has taken over as CII President-Designate for 2022-23. Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions, R Dinesh has been appointed as a Vice President of CII.

21. **Campbell Wilson** has been appointed by the Tata Group as Air India's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD).

Note: Wilson is the second attempt of Tata Group as a CEO-MD for Air India after the former Turkish Airlines chairman Ilker Ayci (declined to take up the position). The appointment of a foreign national as CEO of an airline in India needs government clearance before it can proceed.

22. Rajiv Kumar has been appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) from May 15.

Note: He will replace CEC Sushil Chandra, who is due to retire. Rajiv Kumar took charge as the Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on September 1, 2020. He had been the chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board. He joined as the PESB chairman in April 2020.

23. Manik Saha (Tripura BJP chief) has become the 12th Chief Minister of Tripura after Biplab Kumar Deb resigned from the post.

Note: Tripura's governor Satyadev Narayan Arya has administered the oath of office on May 15 at Raj Bhawan in Agartala (Capital city). Dr Saha is a dental surgeon by profession and joined BJP in 2016 after quitting Congress. Deb had taken oath as the CM of Tripura in 2018, ending the 25-year Communist rule in the state.

24. Nidhi Chibber has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Note: She is from 1994 batch IAS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre and currently working as an Additional Secretary in Ministry of Heavy Industries. Vivek Kumar Dewangan from a 1993 batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre has been named Chairman of REC Ltd. (Ministry of Power). S Gopalakrishnan has been appointed as Additional Secretary in Department of Health and Family Welfare.

25. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has been elected as president of the United Arab Emirates after the death of former leader Sheikh Khalifa.

Note: Sheikh Mohamed was elected by the Federal Supreme Council, becoming the ruler of the oil-rich country which was founded by his father in 1971.

26. Vijayalakshmi Swaminathan has been appointed as the company's new Chief People Officer of Pine Labs.

Note: Before joining Pine Labs, she worked with Amazon India where she was heading the Human Resources function. She was one of the founding Partners at CoCoon Consulting, a cross-sectoral boutique HR consulting firm. She has also worked

with FMCG major Unilever for bolstering the company's employer brand.

27. Elisabeth Borne has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of France.

Note: She becomes the second woman to hold this position after Edith Cresson (1991-1992) under President Francois Mitterrand. She joined Macron's centrist party in 2017. She is a former Transport, Ecology and Labour minister. She has succeeded Jean Castex, who had led the French cabinet since July 2020 and resigned recently.

28. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has been appointed as the new president of Somalia for four years.

Note: He defeated the current president, Mohamed Abudallahi Farmajo. Out of 328 MPs, Mohamud has received 214 votes and Farmajo won 110 votes only. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, also served as Somalia's president between 2012 and 2017.

29. Sitikantha Pattanaik and Rajiv Ranjan are two executive directors who have been recently appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: Ranjan will serve as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) while Pattanaik will serve as the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR). Prior to being promoted, Pattanaik was an Adviser in the DEPR and Ranjan served as Adviser-in-Charge of Monetary Policy Department and Secretary to the MPC.

30. Gram Unnati (Agritech startup) company has appointed former chief election commissioner Sunil Arora as the new non-executive chairman of its board.

Note: He is a retired civil servant (IAS) with an experience of over 36 years. He has served as secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

31. Naveen Srivastava has been appointed as the next ambassador to Nepal.

Note: He succeeded Vinay Kwatra, who has recently become the foreign secretary. He has played a key role in diplomatic and military talks with China to tackle the military standoff on the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

32. SS Mundra has been appointed by the BSE as the Chairman of the board of directors of the company.

Note: He replaced Justice Vikramajit Sen who is the current chairman. Mundra was appointed as Public Interest Director at BSE in January 2018. He retired as Deputy Governor of the RBI on July 30,

2017, and also served as Chairman and Managing Director of the Bank of Baroda.

- 33. Dr. Kamal Bawa** has been elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Note: He is a conservation biologist and President of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research and Ecology and Environment (ATREE). Election to the 170-year-old Academy is a recognition of the significant contributions to science by its members. Dr. Kamal Bawa is also an elected fellow of the Royal Society (London) and the American Philosophical Society.

- 34. B Govindarajan** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Eicher Motors Limited (EML), the parent company of Royal Enfield.

Note: He had been serving as the Executive Director of Royal Enfield since August 2021 and prior to that, he was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) at the company since 2013. He will also serve as a Wholtime Director on the Board of EML. He has spent more than 23 years across Royal Enfield and Eicher Motors.

- 35. Pieter Elbers** has been appointed as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of InterGlobe Aviation, the parent company of low-cost carrier IndiGo.

Note: He succeeds Ronjoy Dutta, 71, who has decided to retire on September 30, 2022. Since 2014, Mr Elbers, 52, has served as the President and CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Air France – KLM Group. MD of IndiGo: Rahul Bhatia

- 36. Vijay Shekhar Sharma** has been reappointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm for another 5 yrs term.

Note: His tenure will be from December 19, 2022, to December 18, 2027. Madhur Deora has been appointed as the Whole-time Director of Paytm for a tenure of 5 years from May 20, 2022, to May 19, 2027. Deora will also continue to act in the capacity of Chief Financial Officer of Paytm. One 97 Communications is the parent company of Paytm

- 37. Salil Parekh** has been appointed as the CEO of Infosys for the period of five years on the recommendation of the Board of Directors from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2027.

Note: He will be the only non-founder CEO to have managed to be at the helm of the company for a second term. He has been leading the role at Infosys since January 2018. He took over the role from then-interim CEO and MD and company veteran UB Pravin Rao.

- 38. Gyanesh Bharti** has been appointed as the new commissioner of the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Note: The Centre has appointed 1992 batch IAS officer Ashwani Kumar as the special officer in the unified MCD. He will take over the role of elected councilors and municipal committees till the fresh civic polls are held. The unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi comes into effect on May 22, 2022.

- 39. Labour Party leader Anthony Albanese** was sworn in as Australia's 31st Prime Minister.

Note: Four key Cabinet members, including new Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Richard Marles is the new Deputy Prime Minister and Employment Minister, Jim Chalmers is Treasurer, and Katy Gallagher is Attorney General and Finance Minister. It is Australia's first Labour Government in almost a decade.

- 40. Jose Ramos-Horta (Former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate)** was sworn in as president of East Timor.

Note: He defeated incumbent Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres (his fellow independence fighter) in election. Ramos-Horta was prime minister from 2006 to 2007 and president from 2007 to 2012. East Timor is marking the 20th anniversary of independence for Asia's youngest country.

- 41. Vivek Kumar** has been appointed as the PS to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at joint secretary level.

Note: He will take over as PM Modi's private secretary from Sanjeev Kumar Singla. Kumar has joined the PMO as a deputy secretary in 2014. He is a BTech in chemical engineering from IIT Bombay and has served in diplomatic positions in Russia and Australia.

- 42. Vinai Kumar Saxena** has been appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi.

Note: He was appointed as the chairman of KVIC in October 2015. He has worked on various schemes and products: 'Honey Mission', 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana', 'Leather Artisans' Empowerment', Khadi Prakritik Paint, and many more. He has replaced former LG Anil Baijal, who headed Delhi's government for five years.

- 43. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** has been reelected as Director-General of WHO for the second term with effect from 16th August 2022.

Note: His re-election was confirmed during the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva. He was the sole candidate. Dr Tedros was first elected in 2017.

Before joining the WHO, Dr Tedros served as Minister of Foreign Affairs and as Minister of Health in Ethiopia.

- 44. Captain Abhilasha Barak** becomes the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as a combat aviator after successfully completing her training.

Note: She is from Haryana and was awarded the coveted wings along with 36 other army pilots by the DG and Colonel Commandant of Army Aviation in Nashik. She was commissioned into the Indian Army from the Officers Training Academy, Chennai in 2018. She has been assigned to the second flight of the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron.

- 45. Gaurav Sachdeva** has been appointed as the CEO of the e-commerce venture of the group JSW One Platforms.

Note: He will be responsible for creating a strong and healthy transparent platform that will ease buying and selling of steel and other products for manufacturing and construction MSMEs in the country. Prior to joining JSW Ventures, he worked

in leading institutions like Citibank, Bank of America and Infosys.

- 46. Anwar Hussain Shaik** has been made the chair of the WTO's Committee on Technical Barriers on Trade (TBT).

Note: He replaced Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico.

- 47. Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed as the acting Chairperson of Lokpal by President Ram Nath Kovind, after Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his tenure as the Lokpal Chief.

Note: His tenure is effective from 28th May, till the appointment of a new Chairperson.

- 48. Lovlina Borgohain** has been elected as the voting member and chair on the Board of Directors for the Athletes' Committee, the International Boxing Association (IBA).

Note: She has received the highest number of votes at the 2022 Women's World Championships election.

Important News – India

- 1. 103 percent** of Pharma exports of India have been recorded since 2013-14 to 2021-22.

Note: 90,415 crores rupees in 2013-14 to 1,83,422 crores rupees in 2021-22. The export of Pharma Sector has performed best export performance in 2021-22. The exports grew by almost 10 billion US dollars in 8 years. The pharma exports in 2021-22 have shown positive growth despite the drop in demand for COVID-related medicines and global trade disruptions.

- 2. India** has signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with **UAE** on 18 February 2022 which is officially entered into force.

Note: BVR Subrahmanyam (Secretary, Department of Commerce) has flagged off the first consignment of goods comprising Jewellery products from India to UAE. The agreement is expected to escalate the total value of bilateral trade in goods and trade in services to over US\$100 billion and US\$ 15 billion respectively, within five years.

- 3. Rs 1,67,540** is the Revenue collection of GST in the month of April 2022.

Note: The gross revenue collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the month of April 2022 is Rs 1,67,540 crore out of which CGST is Rs 33,159 crores, SGST is Rs 41,793 crores, IGST is Rs 81,939 crores. The gross GST collection in April 2022 is Rs 25,000

crores more than the collection in March 2022 (Rs. 1,42,095 crores). This is the tenth month in a row that the GST revenues have crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark.

- 4. Narayan Rane (Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)** has launched the MSME Sustainable Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme.

Note: MSMEs will get subsidies as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification - Micro Enterprises: 80%; Small Enterprises: 60%; Medium Enterprises: 50%. An additional subsidy of 10% for the MSMEs owned by Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs OR MSMEs in NEER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts.

- 5. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** software developer company has signed a pact with Ministry of Railways for the modernization of Telecommunication in Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security Services.

Note: It will be done using the LTE-R following world standards, 5G Use Cases in Indian Railways in line with Make in India policy, Internet of Things, Unified Network Management System, Network Management System, Chatting application, Routers and Switches.

6. In **Bengaluru campus** Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).
Note: We should have an in-built mechanism for continuous up-gradation and will create a database of modes operandi of various crimes committed within the country. It will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all States and Union Territories. Technology partner: C-DAC, Pune.
7. **Railway Protection Force(RPF)** has launched a focused effort under "Operation Satark" from 5th April to 30th April 2022.
Note: Aim: Taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold and any other items which are being transported through the railway network for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling. RPF is an armed force under the ownership of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.
8. **The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd** had designed and established a "Health Cloud" at Visakhapatnam premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ).
Note: AMTZ is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. The "Health Cloud" has been inaugurated by Louise Agersnap (Head of WHO Innovation Hub). Health Cloud can also be operationalised on wheels and can dispense the medicines by Health ATM through Mobile App having a digital payment interface.
9. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has addressed the inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's - JITO Connect 2022 by video conferencing.
Note: JITO is a global organisation which connects Jains all over the world. JITO Connect is an attempt to help businesses and industries by providing a direction for mutual networking and personal interactions. This is a three-day event being organized at Gangadham Annex, Pune from 6th May 2022.
10. The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts will come into effect on **June 1, 2022**.
Note: This phase will cover additional three caratages of gold jewellery and artefacts - 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats. BIS also has made a provision to permit a consumer to get the purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested at any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.
11. **180 km per hour** is the speed of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train sets are being manufactured under Make In India initiative.

Note: India's first semi-high-speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) has been handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Alstom's Savli plant in Gujarat. It will be brought to Duhai Depot in Uttar Pradesh. Implementing agency of India's first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut: NCRTC.

12. **Tata Sons** company has approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a merger of Air India with Air Asia India.
Note: AirAsia India was launched as a joint venture between the Tatas and Malaysia's AirAsia Group. Tatas had raised its stake in AirAsia India to 83.67% in December 2020. In January 2022, Tata acquired Air India and Air India Express. Tata group aviation companies: Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India SATS Airport Services
13. **Mindtree** company L&T Infotech has announced a merger to create India's fifth-largest IT services provider.
Note: This combined entity will be known as LTIMindtree. This proposed integration will see Mindtree and LTI join strengths to create an efficient and scaled up IT services provider exceeding USD 3.5 billion. It will create a more distinctive employee value proposition.
14. **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has signed MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to promote renewable energy thereby moving towards a carbon neutral economy in Delhi.
Note: This MoU envisages collaboration between the two parties for jointly undertaking installation of Solar Rooftop PV Power Plants. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has estimated the total solar power potential of 71.68 MWs in the campuses of CAPFs & NSG.
15. **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has signed MoU with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for a trafficking free nation.
Note: It will enhance the scale, reach and effectiveness of Operation AAHT (Action against Human Trafficking) launched by RPF across the nation. RPF is entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway property, passenger area and passengers. RPF has also set up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) at more than 740 locations across India
16. **Shekhar Kapoor (Renowned Film Director)** has inaugurated National Seminar titled 'Indian Cinema and Soft Power' in Mumbai.
Note: Organized by: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Key topics: Cinematic colonialism,

Indian Cinema as a Vehicle of spreading awareness about idea of India abroad, regional cinema and its global influence, Indian cinema's engagement with foreign audience, global influence of Indian cinematic music.

17. In association with **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** the first International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy was organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

Note: Rao Inderjit Singh (Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation) has highlighted the journey of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. Chairperson of IBBI: Dr. Navrang Saini

18. In **Kevadiya in Gujarat** Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated a three-day Swasthya Chintan Shivir (Health Summit).

Note: Aim: Detailed discussion on various topics and policies related to the health sector and recommend ways and means for better implementation of these policies/programmes. This summit is being organized as a part of the 14th Convention of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).

19. **Union Minister, Kailash Choudhary** has inaugurated Conference of Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under Scheme of Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.

Note: Focus areas: expectations from CBBOs, Knowledge sharing by CBBOs on best practices, discussion on Training and Capacity Building of Stakeholders, and Open discussion on various issues/suggestions.

20. India will be the Official 'Country of Honour' in **Marche' Du Film in France** upcoming film festival.

Note: The festival will be organised from 17th May 2022. This is for the first time when such an honour is being bestowed on any country. The theme of the India Pavilion 2022 is 'India the Content Hub of the World'. R Madhavan's film 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', based on the life of Nambi Narayanan will also premiere.

21. According to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on the Civil Registration System report 2020, **Ladakh (1104)** has recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020.

Note: Followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala. Lowest sex ratio at birth: Manipur (880) followed by D& N Haveli &

Daman & Diu (898) and Gujarat (909). Published by: The Registrar General of India (Ministry of Home Affairs).

22. **Priyanka Mohite (Satara in western Maharashtra)** the Maharashtran girl becomes the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres after her 5th climb Mount Kanchenjunga.

Note: Priyanka received the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020. Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) is the third highest mountain on the planet. She had climbed world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 m), Mount Lhotse (8,516 m) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 m), Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in 2016, Mt Annapurna (8,091 m).

23. Mini Ratna PSU **RailTel** has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based on access to its Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations across the country.

Note: This service was virtually launched by RailTel chairman and managing director Puneet Chawla. Android users can access this WiFi network by downloading the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' from Google Play Store. This app has been developed in association with C-DOT.

24. **Ministry of Tourism** has participated in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai-2022 under its 'Incredible India' brand line.

Note: Showcase India's tourism potential and provide a platform to the tourism stakeholders. It also aimed to promote India as a 'Must See, Must Visit' destination. The India Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of Satpal Maharaj (Uttarakhand Tourism Minister) and other dignitaries.

25. **Etsy (global marketplace)** has partnered with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) and signed an MoU to support small sellers, weavers and artisans.

Note: This will help to provide them with market access and enablement support. To equip artisans, creators and small entrepreneurs in the Indian handicrafts sector to start and manage online businesses.

26. **33 domestic cargo terminals** will be set up by 2024-2025.

Note: Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia addressing the annual event of the Air Cargo Forum India. It will allow India's cargo sector to flourish and grow. Industry players need to focus

on the transportation of smaller cargo loads from Tier II and III cities to metros to achieve the target of 10 million metric tons in cargo.

- 27. Prasar Bharati** has signed an MoU on cooperation and collaboration in Broadcasting withh ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) in Madagascar.

Note: It was signed by Abhay Kumar (India's Ambassador to Madagascar) and ORTM DG Belalahy Jean Yves. This MoU will give international exposure to the Prasar Bharati as Madagascar National Television (TVM) will broadcast programmes from internal productions of Prasar Bharati.

- 28. National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** has collaborated with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started the Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) at Delhi campus.

Note: To make Khadi trendier by diversifying its fabrics and clothing line and upgrading the quality standards. Narayan Rane (Union Minister of MSME) also launched CoEK spokes in Gandhinagar, Shillong, Kolkata and Bengaluru virtually.

- 29. Northern Zone** of Indian Railways has added a 'baby berth' to their trains, an unusual setup allows women to travel by train while sleeping peacefully next to their children.

Note: On the occasion of Mother's Day, the Lucknow Division of Northern Railways experimented with a baby berth in coach No.194129/B4, berths 12 and 60. The infant seat is collapsible and has a safety stopper. Division of Northern Railways: Lucknow and Delhi collaborated on the infant berth.

- 30. Ministry of Tourism** has initiated the establishment of 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

Note: To nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism. To support this initiative, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has come forward and issued directions to all CBSE affiliated schools regarding the formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs.

- 31. BHARAT TAP** initiative was launched by the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep S Puri at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition.

Note: This exhibition caters to a fundamental service in the development of the nation: water and sanitation. He also launched NARDECO MAHI's

'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative which will work for saving 500 crore ltr of water per year.

- 32. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **United Nations Development Programme** for the implementation of combined agriculture credit and crop insurance.

Note: Aim: To provide technical support towards the Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme (PMFBY) and Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme. Chief Executive Officer of PMFBY: Ritesh Chauhan

- 33. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has participated in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on the invitation of the President of the USA, Joseph R. Biden.

Note: The theme of the summit: Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness. Highlights: India adopted a people-centric strategy to combat the pandemic; India plays an active role by sharing its low cost indigenous COVID mitigation technologies.

- 34. GatiShakti Sanchar portal** (www.sugamsanchar.gov.in) portal launched by the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals in line with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.

Note: The portal has been developed keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission (NBM). NBM was set up by the Department of Telecommunication in 2019.

- 35. Bhupender Yadav (Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister)** has led an Indian delegation at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) of the UNCCD at Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire.

Note: The theme of COP 15: Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity. Aim: To bring together world leaders to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.

- 36. Amit Shah** has formally inaugurated the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) in Hyderabad.

Note: The premium laboratory was inaugurated at the premises of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory located at Ramanthapur in the city. The Cyber and Information Security Division of the Home Ministry has set up the NCFL under Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Child scheme.

37. Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan is the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India which is recently announced by Bhupender Yadav (Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change).

Note: It will help to conserve biodiversity and bring ecotourism and development to the area. The newly notified tiger reserve includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.

38. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed Silver Jubilee Celebrations programme of TRAI through video conferencing. The full form of TRAI is **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**.

Note: During the programme, PM Modi also launched a 5G Test Bed, developed as a multi-institutional collaborative project by a total of eight institutes led by IIT Madras. TRAI was established in 1997 through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

39. Suresh Bhai Kotak will be the chairperson of the first meeting of the formation of the Cotton Council of India.

Note: The first meeting of the proposed council has been scheduled for the 28th of May 2022. The council will discuss, deliberate, and prepare a robust action plan for bringing out a tangible improvement in this field. The import of cotton will be permitted duty-free till the bill of lading is dated September 30, 2022.

40. Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU with Amazon Seller Services Private Limited to promote products listed by SHGs through the Saheli Storefront.

Note: With the help of this MoU SHG entrepreneurs under NRLM can be able to offer their products to buyers across India through Amazon Saheli Storefront. MoRD will conduct workshops for awareness creation and assist the sellers in listing their products with Amazon.

41. As per the report on the State of Inequality in India 51.5% is the labour force participation rate in the country in 2019-20.

Note: The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has proposed the implementation of an urban employment guarantee scheme on the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Participation of educated till higher secondary from 2017-18 to 2019-20 was low at 40-43%.

42. c-TB is the newly approved skin test for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis.

Note: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced to launch of c-TB while addressing the 35th board meeting of the Stop TB Partnership through video-conferencing. This TB Kit will be cost-effective and provide immense benefit to other high burden countries as well. He also announced to launch of a new initiative "Adopt people with TB".

43. Ministry of Heavy Industries has signed an MoU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for the enhancement of competitiveness in the Indian capital goods sector.

Note: Aim: Evaluation and review of the scheme, management of intellectual property rights, and commercialization support for the products developed under the Capital Goods Scheme. Vision: Make India a global hub for the manufacturing of capital goods. Heavy Industries Minister: Mahendra Nath Pandey

44. Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has signed an MoU with Vodafone Idea Limited on the occasion of "World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)".

Note: Aim: To help both the organizations leverage each other's expertise in their respective domains to develop and deploy IoT/M2M solutions in India. C-DOT is a telecom R&D organization under the Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

45. Assam Rifles of the Indian army has inked a Tripartite MoU with Axis Bank and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness to secure a better future for the youth of Nagaland.

Note: The centre named after Late Capt N Kenguruse MVC Centre of Excellence and Wellness will be located at Chieswema in Kohima district. Free residential coaching will be provided to 30 children from economically weaker sections of Nagaland.

46. Government eMarketplace (GeM) has signed an MoU with Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile women-led enterprises.

Note: The MoU was signed by the Chief Executive Officer of GeM P. K. Singh and Vice-President of SEWA Rehana Riyawala. GeM will train SEWA members to assist and enable women-led small enterprises with GeM processes related to seller registration and onboarding on the platform.

- 47. The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)** has signed an MoU with the Centre for Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) to foster innovation in agriculture.

Note: The agreement will initiate a joint effort in nurturing deep-science innovation in agriculture, food technology, and allied areas toward sustainability and food security in India's agriculture sector. C-CAMP is India's premier bio-innovation hub.

- 48. 42nd** edition of the Executive Committee, the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved 11 water infrastructure projects worth around Rs 660 crore.

Note: The meeting was headed by G Asok Kumar (DG, NMCG). During the meeting, a project for sewerage management for cleaning of River Hindon in Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) was also approved. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 577.23 crore including the construction of 135 MLD STP, creation of interception etc.

- 49. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)** gas producer company has become the first Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.

Note: The first online trade was made on 23 May 2022 by Anurag Sharma (ONGC Director (Onshore) In-charge Marketing) on India's first automated national level Gas Exchange, IGX. The gas traded is from ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block.

- 50. The World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced the Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders to supercharge India's climate action and decarbonization efforts.

Note: The alliance will continue its efforts to achieve the India vision, 'Mission 2070: A Green New Deal for a NetZero India', on India's low-carbon transition by 2070. Aim: To bring together the government, businesses, and other key stakeholders to achieve PM Narendra Modi's ambitious 'Panchamrit' pledge.

- 51. Dr Jitendra Singh (Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology)** has launched Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and Start-ups, named Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP).

Note: This will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research & development activity in the country. India will figure among the top 5 countries of the world by 2025 in Global Bio-manufacturing Hub.

- 52. PM Narendra Modi** has the head of the Inter-State Council which has been reconstituted recently.

Note: It works to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country. The council comprises chief ministers of all states and six Union ministers as members. It will also have 10 Union ministers as permanent invitees. The government has also reconstituted the standing committee of the Inter-State Council with Union HM Amit Shah as head.

- 53. Waste to Wealth** is the theme of the 8th Edition of Swachh Survekshan - 2023 under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

Note: The survey would give priority to the principle of 3 Rs- Reduce, Recycle and Reuse. Swachh Survekshan was introduced by MoHUA in 2016 as a competitive framework to encourage cities to improve the status of urban sanitation.

- 54. National Health Authority (NHA)** has announced the launch of a revamped Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Note: The ABHA mobile application enables an individual to create an ABHA address (username) that can be linked with the 14 digit randomly generated ABHA number. Existing ABHA app users can also update their previous app versions to the latest one. CEO of NHA: Dr RS Sharma

- 55. PM Narendra Modi** has inaugurated India's biggest drone festival at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi and interacted with kisan drone pilots as well as witnessed open-air drone demonstrations.

Note: Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022' is a two-day event being held on May 27 and 28. Many government officials, foreign diplomats, armed forces, public sector undertakings, private companies, central armed police forces, and drone startups will participate in the event.

56. Department of School Education and Literacy

has released the National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021 report to assess the health of the school education system in the country.

Note: The survey has evaluated the children's learning competencies at classes 3, 5, 8, and 10th with a cycle period of three years. The survey was conducted in 22 regional languages. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021.

57. Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Railways, Communications) has approved Rs 8.34 crore collaboration for **Hyperloop Technology (high-speed transportation system)** project with the IIT Madras.

Note: Hyperloop is the 5th mode of transportation that travels in a near vacuum tube. The reduced air resistance allows the capsule inside the tube to reach speeds of more than 1,000 km/h. The model proposed by Team Avishkar can achieve a top speed of over 1,200 Km/hr.

58. Just Transition Research Centre (JTRC), IIT Kanpur has signed an agreement with the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington D.C., to work on just energy transition globally including in India.

Note: Among Indian states, IIT- CSIS collaboration will engage with Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana.

59. The Indian cricket board has now decided to examine using NFT. The full form of NFT is **Non Fungible Token**.

Note: The Indian cricket board has unveiled FanCraze (cricket metaverse company) as its official associate partner for the Women's T20 Challenge. FanCraze is also the ICC partner alongside being on board with West Indies cricket. The women's T20 challenge will feature three team (the Supernovas, Trailblazers and Velocity) and will compete at Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium.

60. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed two quadripartite agreements for the development of sewage infrastructure and management.

Note: First agreement: NMCG, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority, M/s.

Maheshtala Waste Water Management Private Limited and Union Bank of India, to stop the flow of sewerage into River Ganga from the town. The other agreement is a Substitution Agreement between NMCG, KMDA, MWWML and Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank.

61. PM Modi has inaugurated World's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant constructed at Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) in **Kalol, Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Note: Nano Urea Liquid Plant has been built at the cost of around Rs 175 crore to boost productivity and increase farmers' income. It will produce about 1.5 lakh bottles of 500 ml.

62. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has organized 'National Outreach Meet' for the 2nd edition of Atal New India Challenge (ANIC) in **International Centre Goa**.

Note: Hosted by: Atal Incubation Centre at Goa Institute of Management (AIC-GIM Foundation)

63. Union Minister, **Anupriya Patel** has launched Indian Business Portal in New Delhi to serve as an international trade hub for Indian exporters and foreign buyers.

Note: Developed by: Federation of Indian Export Organizations

64. President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated a two-day National Women Legislators' Conference-2022 in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**.

Note: It is being hosted by Kerala Legislative Assembly as a part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It was attended by 120 delegates from different states across India.

65. US has replaced China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22.

Note: The bilateral trade between the two countries stood at \$119.42 billion (2021-22) against \$80.51 billion in 2020-21, according to the data of the commerce ministry. Other top trading partner: China (\$115.42 billion), The UAE (\$72.9 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$42.85 billion), Iraq (\$34.33 billion) and Singapore (\$30 billion).

66. Dr. Jitendra Singh (Union Minister) has inaugurated the nation's first Lavender Festival in **Jammu's district Baderwah**.

Note: Lavender cultivation has changed the destiny of farmers in Jammu and Kashmir under the government initiative of 'Aroma Mission or Purple Revolution'. Baderwah is in the Doda

district and is the best place for lavender cultivation in terms of land and climate.

- 67. Delhi Custom** has inaugurated project 'NIGAH' at ICD GarhiHarsaru, Gurugram with an aim to track containers by using ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module).

Note: This initiative will help in better visibility of the container movement inside the ICD and also help Customs to speed up the long-standing containers and monitor timely clearances.

- 68. India** has signed an MoU with the **United Arab Emirates** to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.

Note: Objective: To contribute towards implementing the Paris Agreement 2015. United Arab Emirates will host COP28 in 2023.

- 69. Jan Samarth** the credit-linked portal will be launched by PM Narendra Modi will launch for delivery of various schemes.

Note: Aim: improve the ease of living for the common man. Initially, the new portal will launch with the 15 credit-linked government initiatives.

- 70. National Health Authority (NHA)** has launched a public dashboard for near real-time information on the scheme under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

Note: Dashboard displays: Detailed information on the core registries under the mission – Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) and Health Facility Registry (HFR).

- 71. Bima Ratna** is the name of the new life insurance product launched by LIC.

Note: A non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance product that combines protection and savings. The sum assured on death is greater than 125% of the Basic Sum Assured or 7 times the annualized premium.

- 72. PM Narendra Modi** has released the 11th installment of **Rs 21,000 crore** for the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi on May 31.

Note: He has interacted with beneficiaries of about 16 schemes run by 9 Central Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

- 73. The Government** has approved the continuation of the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) till **2025-26**.

Note: Total outlay of Rs 13,554.42 crores. Aim: to create sustainable employment opportunities for about 40 lakh persons in five years.

Important News – State

- 1. In Purnia district**, CM Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in Bihar.

Note: The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of ₹105 crores. Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021. It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant. Ethanol production will help to reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.

- 2. In Puducherry** Mega Health Festival has been inaugurated.

Note: Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (LG of Puducherry) and CM N. Rangasamy have inaugurated a Mega Health Festival, which is jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Puducherry Health and Family Welfare Services Department. The Mela is being organised at the Puducherry Rock Beach. Super-speciality medical consultation to the common public would be given free of cost.

- 3. Karnataka** state government has signed an MoU with ISMC Analog Fab Private Limited (Israel-based) for

setting up a semiconductor fab plant in the state at a cost of Rs 22,900 crore (USD 3 billion).

Note: The project will be implemented over a period of seven years and generate 1,500 jobs. The ISMC has also requested 150 acres of land in Mysuru's Kochanahalli Industrial area. Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot; Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai

- 4. Maharashtra** state government cabinet has approved to set up of a gene bank project in the state to conserve native and endangered animals and biological species.

Note: The Gene Bank will work on freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection, marine, crop, veterinary, and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests. An amount of ₹172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas. The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB).

- 5. Narayan Rane (Union Minister for MSME)** has inaugurated the Maharashtra MSME Expo 2022 in Mumbai.

Note: The MSME sector contributes 50% of the country's total exports and 30% to economic growth. MSME will set up 37 clusters in Maharashtra in the next two years. During an event, he also launched the magazine 'Maharashtra MSME Achievers'. The event was organized in collaboration with the MSME ministry and MSME Development Organization named "Zhep, Udyoginichi" and "We MSME".

6. **Khandra, Panipat**, is the native village of **Neeraj Chopra** where Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to build a stadium.

Note: A stadium would cost ₹10 crores to the government. In 2021, Chopra (Javelin thrower) became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field. Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised by the Haryana Government from June 4 to June 13.

7. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a doorstep delivery scheme named Mukhyamantri Mitaan Yojna (Mitaan stands for a friend).

Note: The scheme will be implemented as a pilot project in 14 civic bodies. Citizens of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services, including delivery of birth, caste, income and marriage certificates, at their doorstep under a new scheme launched by the state government.

8. **Telangana Government** state government has announced the extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under 'NethannaBima' (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme.

Note: The State Government has extended the insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with RythuBima insurance scheme. The insurance coverage would be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years. Telangana Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan; CM: K. Chandrashekar Rao

9. **Haryana** state government has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app to track the vehicles carrying sand and other mining material.

Note: The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana. All vehicle details including vehicle type, vehicle number, moving from, moving to, and driver details will be stored in it. The non-registered individual will not be permitted to enter the zone of sand mining.

10. **Manipur** state has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for 18,000 registered farmers under Horticulture Department for Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Phase- III (2020-23).

Note: DBT of Rs. 11,250 per farmer, for the components of assistance for on-farm input for both 1st year and 2nd year and for off-farm inputs production for 1st was transferred to the individual registered farmer's account.

11. By the year **2030**, Delhi government has set a target to encourage, facilitate, and support 15,000 startups.

Note: The Delhi cabinet has approved the "Delhi Startup Policy" with an aim to create an ecosystem for people to launch startups and provide them with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, collateral-free loans, and free consultancy from experts, lawyers, and CA. The 20 members task force will be set up including government officials and experts from business and trade.

12. **Odisha** state has come up with an observatory that will establish a repository on the health of the tribal population in the state.

Note: This will be India's only tribal health observatory. An MoU was signed between the ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC (Regional centre of ICMR). It will perform systematic and ongoing observation on disease burden, health-seeking behaviour and healthcare delivery system pertaining to tribal health in the state.

13. **Tamil Nadu** state government has announced that all government primary school students from 1st to 5th standards will be provided nutritious breakfast on all working days.

Note: Tamil Nadu is set to become the first state to offer breakfast along with midday meals. This includes the launch of integrated urban health centres within the Corporation and Municipal limits. Earlier, he also announced schools with modern facilities will be established.

14. Under **e-Adhigam scheme** Haryana government distributed nearly three lakh tablets to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.

Note: These tablets have pre-loaded content along with personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB of free data. The country has set a target to implement the New Education Policy (NEP) by 2030, but the Haryana government it is 2025.

15. **Shaili App** is the mobile application launched by the Kerala government to diagnose and control lifestyle diseases among people in the southern State.

Note: The app will help the citizen to provide an accurate picture of such ailments both locally and at the State-level. The app was set up under the e-Health initiative, and will provide data to the

government so that health plans can be formulated to control such diseases.

16. Poumai tribe of **Manipur** has declared that Poumai inhabited areas to be a Drug-Free Zone supporting the State government's War on Drug campaign.

Note: Tribes also informed CM N. Biren Singh that the poppy plantation will not be allowed in the Poumai areas. The Poumai Naga are one of the major Naga tribes in Manipur.

17. **Ayodhya** 's crossing of Uttar Pradesh will be named after legendary singer late Lata Mangeshkar ____.

Note: The Ayodhya administration has received directions from CM Yogi Adityanath to identify a prominent crossing in Ayodhya and send a proposal to the state government in the next 15 days for renaming it. Construction of the Ram temple is likely to be completed by December 2023.

18. **Delhi** government will provide free sewer connections under the Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana to 25,000 households in East Delhi.

Note: These free connections will be provided in 12 colonies in Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad. The household sewage system will be connected to the existing sewer network, which will carry the waste to the Yamuna Vihar sewage treatment plant. The decision was taken by the DJB chaired by Water Minister Satyendar Jain.

19. **Haryana, JP Dalal (Haryana agriculture minister)** state government has launched the 'Chaara-Bijaee Yojana' scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre to grow fodder framers.

Note: Farmers need to grow fodder on up to 10 acres of land around the gaushalas (cowsheds) and provide it to them through mutual consent. The amount will be credited to the bank accounts of farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode.

20. **Near Haji Ali in Mumbai, Maharashtra** the nation's first organic waste-powered EV charging station has been inaugurated.

Note: The station will generate 220 units of electricity from food waste collected from its nearby areas. This station powers street lights and charge electric vehicles too. The project was done by the civic body in association AeroCare Clean Energy.

21. **Chhattisgarh government** has issued a notification to restore the old pension scheme effective from April 1, 2022.

Note: Also, the 10% deduction for monthly contribution from the salary of government

employees as a contribution to the new pension scheme will be abolished from April 1, 2022. However, a minimum of 12% of the basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.

22. **Punjab (CM: Bhagwant Mann)** state government has launched the first-of-its-kind public interaction programme Lok Milni to hear the grievances of people and issued directions for their redressal.

Note: Aim: Providing a single-window platform to the people for redressal of their complaints. Previously, the Lok Milni program was named 'jantadarbar'. This event helps to facilitate the people for resolving their long-pending administrative issues

23. **Tamil Nadu** state government has named the Nanjarayan lake as the 17th bird sanctuary in Tiruppur.

Note: The government also set up an information centre to raise awareness about the bird population in the lake. The Nanjarayan Tank also known as Sarkar Periyapalayam Reservoir, is located in Tiruppur city near Koolipalayam, Tamil Nadu. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared for setting up another wildlife sanctuary for the endangered Slender Loris in Dindigul and Karur.

24. **Kerala** state government will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform named 'Cspace' on November

Note: Offers: An array of movies, short films and documentaries of their choice. This is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFD) on behalf of the state government through video conferencing at a function in Kalabhavan Theatre. The films will be streamed on Cspace only after their theatrical release.

25. **Delhi Government** has undertaken a unique initiative of using robots for extinguishing fires in the city ____.

Note: These remote-controlled fire fighting robots will have greater accessibility to places and will be able to navigate narrow lanes, reach spaces inaccessible to humans and perform tasks too risky for people. These robots will also be capable of releasing high water pressure at the rate of 2,400 liters per minute.

26. **Maharashtra Government** has signed MoUs worth 30,000 crore rupees with 23 companies from different parts of the world at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Note: Subhash Desai (Maharashtra Industries Minister) and other ministers from Maharashtra Cabinet were in Davos to attract investment opportunities. Microsoft will set up its Data Centre in Pune with an investment of 3,200 crore rupees. More than 55% of investment would come from Singapore, Indonesia, the USA, and Japan.

27. Redcliffe Labs lab has come up with its first commercial drone flight in the country's healthcare sector.

Note: The company has recently opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarkashi and Dehradun. The distance from Uttarkashi to Dehradun by road is 144 km and takes 6-8 hours by road and during landslides 12 hours, but this distance was covered in 88 minutes with drone technology.

28. Tamil Nadu state government has launched the 'Kalaingar All Villages Integrated Agricultural Development Programme'.

Note: The programme has been proposed in all the 15,525 village panchayats through a convergence of Union and State government schemes. Aim: To bring 11.75 lakh hectares of land under net area cultivated in the next 10 years and increase the double-cropping area to 20 lakh hectares.

29. Tripura state government has decided to adopt the Electric Vehicle Policy 2022 to promote electric vehicles to convert 10% of state's vehicles to electric mode in 5 years.

Note: Electric vehicles would reduce air pollution and would be helpful in promoting eco-friendly tourism. If it is implemented, then Tripura would become the 15th state and third in the Northeast region after Assam and Meghalaya to adopt the electric vehicle policy.

30. India's first 'Olympic Values Education Programme' (OVEP) by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) was launched in **Odisha**.

Note: The OVEP was officially launched by Naveen Patnaik (Odisha CM), Nita Ambani (IOC Member) along with other members. This programme will be integrated into the school education system of Odisha. The programme is being developed in partnership with the Department of School and Mass Education (Odisha) and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust.

31. Minister for energy and urban development (UP) has launched 'SAMBHAV' (sambhav.up.gov.in)

platform/portal to monitor the grievances, schemes, programmes and policies of the departments.

Note: SAMBHAV is a multi-modal platform, it helps to dispose public grievances swiftly and effectively and provide good governance and make the public service delivery transparent and accountable. SAMBHAV will work as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform.

32. The fourth edition of the Shirui Lily Festival has began in **Ukhrul district, Manipur**.

Note: The four-day festival was inaugurated by the Governor La Ganesan, which is taking place after a gap of two years. The Shirui Lily blooms from late May to early June only on the Shirui village hilltop. Aim of festival: To spread awareness about the rare Shirui flower and encourage tourism in Manipur.

33. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated North India's first Industrial Biotech Park at **Ghatti, Kathua, Jammu**.

Note: Biotech Park will act as hub for incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, farmers, scholars, and students.

34. Anurag Thakur has inaugurated Khashaba Jadhav Sports Complex of the Pune University.

Note: The complex is spread over 27-acre land and it has synthetic athletic track, football, Astro turf lawn tennis court, international standard shooting range, state of art gymnasium.

35. Uttarakhand state govt has announced to form 5-member drafting committee to implement the much-debated Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state.

Note: Head of the committee: Ranjana Desai (retired Supreme Court judge). Members: Delhi High Court judge Pramod Kohli, ex-state chief secretaries Shatrughan Singh, Manu Gaud and Surekha Dangwal

36. Kolkata, WB has become the first major metropolitan city in India to make a detailed biodiversity register.

Note: The 520-page long document listed 399 species of plants which include 138 trees, 126 Chinese vegetables, 33 medicinal plants and nearly 100 other plants.

37. Telangana state government will launch a pilot project on single-pick cotton on about 50,000 acres.

Note: Currently, the farmers pick cotton bolls at least three to four times, this method will help the farmers to extend the harvest by a few weeks and allow farmers to complete the harvest all at once.

- 38. Rajasthan** becomes the first state to attempt systematize of health accounts to track and monitoring of health expenditures over time and can serve as an important tool for evidence-based policy making.

Note: This project of Rajasthan will be aid by the WHO India country office by providing technical and financial support for conducting the first round of health accounts.

- 39. Gujarat's Kutch district** has become the first time in the country where the Department of Indian Posts has delivered mail using a drone.

Note: This attempt was done by the drone from Habay village in Bhuj taluka to Ner village in Bhachau taluka of Kutch district by the postal department under the guidance of the Union Ministry of Communications.

- 40. AAYU** is the name of the new health and wellness app which was launched by Karnataka CM, Basavaraj Bommai.

Note: Developed by: Swami Vivekananda Yoga AnusandhanaSamsthana (S-VYASA) in partnership with RESET TECH (an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform).

Important News – World

- 1. Bangladesh** country has discovered a new gas field with the capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) at the Koilastila Gas field.

Note:Koilastila Gas Field is one of the five gas fields which was purchased from the Shell Oil company by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.Now, it is possible to supply 17-19 million cubic feet of gas daily to the national grid from the newly discovered well number 6 by May 10.

- 2. UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**plan was launched by the United Nations to catalyze large-scale action and support needed for transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions.

Note:Energy Compact Action Network was also launched to match those govt seeking support for their clean energy goals with those govt and businesses that have pledged over \$600 billion. It sets out a framework for collective action by nearly 30 UN and international organizations

- 3. 150th** is the rank of India in Reporters Without Borders (RSF) which has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index 2022.

Note:Index topped by: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, and Finland. India's neighbouring countries: India (150th, falls 8 positions), Pakistan (157th), Sri Lanka (146th), Bangladesh (162nd), and Maynmar(176th). North Korea is placed at the bottom of the list of the180 countries.

- 4. 8**Indian universities have been placed in the top 300 universities in the world in the 2022 edition of Impact Rankings.

Note:The ranking is topped by Western Sydney University (Australia); followed by Arizona State

University (The US), Western University (Canada).In India: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (41st), Lovely Professional University (74th).The Times Higher Education (THE) also publishes THE World University Rankings.

- 5. Kami Rita (Nepali Sherpa)**has scaled Mount Everest (Height: 8,848.86m) mountain for the 26th time along the traditional southeast ridge route leading 10 other Sherpa climbers.

Note: Rita scaled Mt Everest for the first time on May 13, 1994. Besides Mt Everest, he has also scaled Mt Godwin-Austen (K2), Mt Lhotse, Mt Manaslu and Mt Cho Oyu. He also holds the record for most climbs over 8000m.

- 6. India** has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines.

Note: Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA. The new member of the Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and the Philippines.

- 7. Czech Republic** has received approval from the UN General Assembly to replace Russia on the world organizations leading human rights body after its suspension over horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

Note: The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the 47-member Human Rights Council. Out of 193 members, 180 of the General

Assembly have deposited ballots (157 countries in favour).

8. **National Intelligence Service South Korea (spy agency)** has become the first in Asia to join NATO's Cyber Defense Group (CDG).

Note: The cyber defense group was founded in Tallinn in 2008 in response to a cyberattack that disrupted Estonia's state networks. It focuses on cyber security research, training, and exercises. NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (CCDCOE) now includes 27 NATO member countries and five non-NATO partners.

9. **Oil giant Saudi Aramco** has dethroned Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable company, underscoring the recent surge in oil prices that have boosted the energy giant this year.

Note: The current worth of Aramco is about \$2.43 trillion as compared with Apple's \$2.37 trillion. Saudi Aramco has reported a 124% surge in net profit in the last year from \$49.0 billion in 2020 to \$110.0 billion in 2021. President and CEO of Saudi Aramco: Amin H. Nasser

10. **Lionel Messi** has topped the list of Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes 2022 with a reported income of \$130 million, followed by Basketball player, LeBron James with \$121.2 million while Cristiano Ronaldo was third with \$115m.

Note: Messi had moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2021 and Cristiano Ronaldo rejoined Manchester United from Juventus in the same month. Forbes calculates the estimates based on prize money, salaries and bonuses, and sponsorship deals.

11. **India** has topped the foreign remittance list by receiving USD 89 billion followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion, and China at USD 53 billion in 2021 as per the World Bank.

Note: The officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2% in 2022 to reach USD 630 billion. Bangladesh was the 7th highest recipient of remittance from abroad in 2021. Report: Migration and development brief

12. India has been contributed **USD 800,000** to the United Nations to promote the Hindi language in the United Nations.

Note: India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra handed over a cheque for the UN project (Hindi @ UN project)

launched by India in 2018 to disseminate information about the UN to the Hindi-speaking population across the world.

13. **Kenton Cool from England** has scaled the world's highest mountain for the 16th time and becomes the first foreigner to climb the most Mt Everest summits.

Note: Kenton climbed the summit with his fellow guide Dorji Gyalzen Sherpa. Kenton also holds a record as the first British mountaineer who has climbed Mt Nuptse, Mt Everest and Mt Lhotse in a season in 2013.

14. **Sky Bridge 721** is the name of the world's largest suspension bridge which is located in the Czech Republic.

Note: The bridge connects two mountain ridges and hangs 95 metres (312 feet) above a valley and can be accessed by cable car. It is 721 metres, or 2,365 feet, long. The Czech Republic Sky Bridge is 154 metres longer than Nepal's Baglung Parbat Footbridge, which currently holds the Guinness World Record for the longest suspension footbridge.

15. **India** has hosted the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO's)-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) from May 16th to 19th.

Note: The Security Advisers of the National Security Councils of India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan participated in the meeting. India has taken the chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO last year for a period of one year.

16. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) has signed an MoU with **Lumbini Buddhist University** on the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies.

Note: Nepal and India have signed six MoU, during Prime Minister Modi's day-long visit to Lumbini (Nepal). An MoU between ICCR and Kathmandu University on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies. An Agreement between SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority was also signed.

17. **Adani Group** has acquired a controlling stake in Swiss-based Holcim AG's cement businesses in India in a \$10.5 billion deal.

Note: The Group has acquired 63.19% of Ambuja Cements Ltd and its subsidiary ACC in the bidding with companies. With this deal, Adani becomes the second biggest cement producer in the country after the Aditya Birla Group-owned UltraTech Cement. The divestment of India businesses by

Holcim is to reduce its reliance on carbon-intensive cement production.

- 18. Germany** has hosted the Group of Seven (G7) countries Finance Minister Summit in 2022____
Germany.

Note: Group of Seven (G7) countries have agreed to provide financial support to Ukraine to meet its immediate financing needs. The US Senate has approved a USD 40 billion package of military, economic and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. Christian Lindner (German Finance Minister) has announced a contribution of USD 1.1 billion to Ukraine's budget. The European Commission has pledged up to USD 9.5 billion of macro-financial assistance in the form of loans.

- 19. Climate scientist Baker Perry (Appalachian State University in the US)** has led the team of experts from the National Geographic Society (NatGeo), who has installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 meters.

Note: The automatic weather station was installed a few meters below the summit point (8,848.86 meters) as the snow and ice on the summit are not suitable for fixing equipment.

- 20. 13** are the total numbers of members in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Note: PM Narendra Modi has formalized India's entry into the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF), along with 12 other countries. Aim: To strengthen economic cooperation as a geostrategic counter. The other 12 countries that joined the IPEF: The US, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

- 21.** Three Indians who have been named among the world's 100 most influential people of 2022 by

TIME magazine are **Gautam Adani, Karuna Nundy (SC lawyer), and Khurram Parvez (Kashmiri human rights activist).**

Note: Adani has been named under the Titans category, and Nundy and Parvez are named under the Leaders category. Recently, Gautam Adani with \$123.7 billion net worth has become the 5th richest person in the world (2022).

- 22. Kuwait** is planning to build the world's largest petroleum research centre by the end of the year (2022).

Note: The research center will have 28 laboratories and built in al-Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City.

- 23.** According to the Fortune 500, **Elon Musk** has received the highest salary as a chief executive officer (CEO) in 2021.

Note: He has received a salary of around \$23.5 billion. Tim Cook, Apple with USD 770.5 Million placed at second followed by Jensen Huang, NVIDIA (USD 561 Million); Reed Hastings, Netflix (USD 453.5 Million); Leonard Schleifer, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals (USD 452.9 Million).

- 24.** 21 Cardinals will be created by Pope Francis.

Note: Two Cardinals from India, Archbishop Filipe Neri António Sebastião di Rosário Ferrão (Archbishop of Goa and Damão) and Archbishop Anthony Poola (Archbishop of Hyderabad). The elevated ceremony will be held at the Vatican on August 27, 2022.

- 25. India (61)** has topped the 7th edition of Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2022 in terms of the number of entries.

Note: Edited by: Rana Wehbe Watson, India has topped the list in terms of the number of entries with 61, followed by Singapore (34), Japan (33), Australia (32), Indonesia (30) and China (28).

Honor & Awards

- 1. Doordarshan** TV network has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series for its TV series based on pet care 'Best Friend Forever' at 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA).

Note: Best Friend Forever: Half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National. Here, two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues.

- 2.** Bengaluru-based neo banking startup **Open** has become the country's 100th unicorn after raising \$50 Mn from IIFL.

Note: Open operates neobank that offers small and medium-sized businesses as well as enterprises nearly all the features of the bank with additional tools to better serve the customer's needs. Co-founder and chief executive of Open: Anish Achuthan. The company is led by Google, Temasek, Visa, and Japan's SoftBank Investments.

3. **Cynthia Rosenzweig** has been awarded World Food Prize 2022.

Note: She is an agronomist and climatologist and spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate. She was awarded \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production. She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

4. Reuters photojournalist **Danish Siddiqui (Reuters)** has been posthumously honoured with his second prestigious Pulitzer Prize in the feature photography category with other three Indian journalists.

Note: Other three Indians: Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave. He was honoured with the prestigious award in 2018 for their coverage of the Rohingya crisis.

5. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah presents the President's Colours award to **Assam** state Police for exemplary service during the past 25 years.

Note: Assam becomes the 10th state in the country to receive President's Colours honour. President's Colours is the highest honour that is given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation.

6. **Gurusamy Krishnamoorthy (chief executive officer of Penlon)** will receive the Member of the Royal Order of British Empire (MBE) recognition from the Queen to meet the Ventilator requirement challenges in British during the pandemic.

Note: He started his career with Wipro GE Medical Systems and later co-founded a Med-tech startup in Chennai. Penlon deals with the design and manufacture of anaesthesia ventilators, anaesthesia machines and vaporizers.

7. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has conferred Gallantry Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony- 2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Note: He presented Shaurya Chakras (13) including six posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces for displaying courage, gallantry, and devotion to duty. He also conferred Param Vishisht Seva Medals (14), Uttam Yudh Seva Medals (4), and Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (24) for distinguished service of an exceptional order.

8. **Bengali** language translation of the French novel "Meursault, contre-enquête" (The Meursault

Investigation) has won the 5th Romain Rolland Book Prize 2022.

Note: The award was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati. Meursault, contre-enquête, originally written by Algerian writer and journalist Kamel Daoud. This is the first time Patra Bharati has received such a prestigious award.

9. **Frank Wilczek** has been awarded the 2022 Templeton Prize.

Note: He received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics along with David J. Gross, and H. David Politzer for his 1973 breakthrough in explaining the unusual properties of the strong force. Templeton Prize was established in 1972 by the late philanthropist Sir John Templeton.

10. **Mamata Banerjee** has been awarded the Bangla Academy Award for her Kabita Bitan.

Note: Mamata Banerjee's 'Kabita Bitan' was launched at the 2020 Kolkata Book Fair. The book contains 946 poems written by the TMC supremo. Mamta Banerjee was given the award at the "Ravi Pranam" function organised by the government's information and culture department on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary.

11. **Anna Qabale Duba (Kenyan nurse)** has won the inaugural Aster Guardian Global Nursing Award.

Note: She worked at the Marsabit County Referral Hospital. She was promoting education and campaigning against outdated cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in her community. She has been rewarded with USD 250,000 (approx. Ksh.29 million) in prize money.

12. **Drake** has won the Billboard Music Awards 2022 in the top artist, male artist, rap artist, rap male artist and rap album (for Certified Lover Boy) category.

Note: BTS has also won three awards in the Top Duo/Group, Top Selling Song, and Top Song Sales Artist categories. Top New Artist: Olivia Rodrigo

- Top Female Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
- Top Billboard 200 Artist: Taylor Swift
- Top Radio Songs Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
- Top Billboard Global 2022 Artist (New): Olivia Rodrigo

13. **Ajay Piramal (Chairman of Piramal Group)** has received the prestigious Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) award from Queen Elizabeth II.

Note: He has been honoured with this award for his services to the UK-India trade relationship as India Co-Chair of the UK-India CEO Forum. President Rolls-Royce India, Kishore Jayaraman, also receives the Honorary Order of the British Empire for his services to International Trade and Investment.

- 14. Cécile Ndjebet (Cameroon activist)** has received the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award in recognition of her contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them.

Note: The award has been presented by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization. This award was established in 2012 in memory of Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai.

- 15. Subhash Ola (Rajasthan innovator)** has won the Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022 award for saving energy in boilers by using recycling steam model.

Note: In addition, his enterprise "Geniusenergy Critical Innovation Private Limited" has also won the Start-up of the Year award. Geniusenergy Critical Innovation was incubated by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF). NIF is an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology.

- 16. Renowned vocalist Neyveli R Santanagopalan (2020)** has announced the Sangita Kalanidhi and other awards for various artists from the years 2020-22, who have been awarded Sangita Kalanidhi for 2020.

Note: The Sangita Kalanidhi award will be given to: eminent mridangam artiste Tiruvarur Bhakthavathsalam (2021) and violin duo Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Vijayalakshmi (2022). The Music academy also announced other awards including Nritya Kalanidhi for three recipients in the dance segment.

- 17. World Health Organisation (WHO)** has honoured to India's one million all-women Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers for their 'outstanding' contribution to advancing global health.

Note: ASHAs workers worked to provide maternal care and immunization for children against

vaccine-preventable diseases; community health care; treatment for hypertension and tuberculosis.

- 18. A Gopalakrishnan (Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute)** has received the VASVIK (VividhlaxiAudyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology for the year 2020.

Note: The award includes a cash prize of 1.51 lakh and a citation. The VASVIK research award is given to scientists and researchers who have demonstrated excellence in eight categories each year.

- 19. Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell** won the 2022 International Booker Prize for **Tomb of Sand**.

Note: The book "Tomb of Sand" was originally written in Hindi, it is the first book in any Indian language to win such a prestigious award. The prize money of 50,000 pound will be split between Shree and Rockwell.

- 20. Triangle of Sadness** has won the Palme d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival for the second time.

Note: Directed by Ruben Ostlund. Indian filmmaker Shaunak Sen has won the 'L'Oeil d'Or' award for his documentary 'All That Breathes'.

- 21. Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has received the Excellence in Cinema award at the French Riviera Film Festival.

Note: He received the honor from the two-time Emmy winner American actor-producer, Vincent De Paul. Prior to this, he was chosen as one of the delegates to receive awards on behalf of the nation at the Cannes Film Festival.

- 22. Sanjit Narwekar** has been awarded the Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022).

Note: The prestigious award includes cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs, Golden Conch and a citation. Focus Country of MIFF 2022: Bangladesh

- 23. Radio Jockey, Umar Nisar** has been awarded the '01 Best Content Award' and the Immunization Champion award by UNICEF at the annual Radio4Child 2022 Awards in Mumbai.

Note: He received an award for his excellent work during the pandemic in building awareness and countering rumours to reach audiences.

1. India has won a silver medal at the second Asian Girls Youth Beach Handball Championship which was held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

Note:The team of Indian girls has defeated Hong Kong. India was represented by Anushka Chauhan, Jassi, Sanjana Kumari, Chetna Devi, Vanshika Mehta, and Isha Majumdar. With this medal, the team also earned a spot in the World Youth Beach Handball Championship. The senior women's team has finished with a bronze.

2. **Harshada Sharad Garud** has become the first Indian to win a gold medal at IWF Junior World Championships 2022 in Heraklion, Greece.

Note:She lifted 153-kilogram in the 45-kg weight category, that included 70 kg in Snatch and 83 kg in Clean and Jerk to finish on top of the podium. Turkey's Bektas Cansu bagged silver medal and Moldova's Teodora-Luminita Hincu won the bronze medal.

3. **Kerala** team has defeated the 32-time champion West Bengal in a penalty shootout to win its 75th Santhosh Trophy National Tournament for the seventh time at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala.

Note:This is the first time that Kerala has won on home soil since 1993. Player of the Tournament: Jijo Joseph (Midfielder, Kerala). Top goalscorer: Jesin Tk. Thonikkara (Forward, Kerala), 9 goals; Best goalkeeper: Priyant Singh (West Bengal)

4. **JAIN University (Deemed-to-be University)** has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021 with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals.

Note:Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 golds has placed second and Punjab University placed third with 15 gold medals. Siva Sridhar has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

5. **Ronnie O'Sullivan (English snooker player)** has won his seventh World Snooker Championship crown after beating Judd Trump (English snooker player) by 18-13.

Note:With this win, he has been equalled Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven world titles. O'Sullivan has won his first world title in 2001. He has also claimed snooker's biggest prize in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2020 before his triumph over the Bristolian.

6. Olympian discus thrower **Kamalpreet Kaur** has been suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance.

Note:The AIU has found the presence/use of the prohibited substance anabolic steroid called stanozolol in her sample. Kaur had finished sixth with a throw of 63.7m in the Tokyo Olympics final. Stanozolol was used by sprinter Ben Johnson during the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

7. **Shooter Dhanush Srikanth** has won gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition in the 24th Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

Note:Shourya Saini has also won the bronze in the same event. Later, the Indian badminton team also won gold after beating Japan by 3-1 in the final to make it a double celebration for the country. Vedika Sharma won the bronze medal in the 10 m air pistol at the ongoing Deaflympics 2021 in Caxias do Sol, Brazil.

8. **India cricket team** has been ranked as the world's number one in ICC T20 team ranking.

Note:New Zealand has bagged the top spot in the ODI rankings, followed by England, Australia, and India. Men's Test Team Rankings: Australia, India, and New Zealand. International Cricket Council Chairman: Greg Barclay; CEO: Geoff Allardice; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

9. Khelo India Youth Games 2021 will be held in **Haryana**.

Note:Mascot, Logo and Jersey and theme song of Khelo India Youth Games were launched in a special ceremony held at Indra Dhanush Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana. The Mascot and theme was launched by Haryana's Chief Minister Manohar Lal along with Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur.

10. Abhinav Deshwal has won the second gold medal for India in **Shooting** at the ongoing 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

Note:He was tied with silver winning Ukrainian Oleksii Lazebnyk before winning gold in a shoot-off. India has four medals in the shooting competition at the 24th Deaflympics. Men's 10m air rifle: Dhanush Srikanth (Gold); Shourya Saini (Bronze)

➤ Women's 10m air pistol: Vedika Sharma (Bronze).

11. **Max Verstappen** has won the inaugural Miami Grand Prix for Red Bull after defeating the Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc.

Note: Leclerc (Ferrari) finished second and Spanish teammate Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) placed third in the Miami Grand Prix 2022.

12. **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** has clinched the men's singles Madrid Open title 2022 after beating the defending champion Alexander Zverev (Germany).

Note: Alcaraz has also defeated Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic (world No.1) to reach the final. It is his second Masters 1000 crown after Miami 2022 and his fourth title of the year. Ons Jabeur (Tunisia) has clinched women's singles title to become the first African player to win a WTA 1000 event.

13. Indian Grandmaster **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** has won the first Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament in Punta Prima.

Note: GM Gukesh has defeated GM Haik M Martirosyan (Armenian) in the final round. This is his third title after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open. He had defeated K Sasikiran (Indian) in the ninth and penultimate round.

14. Athlete **Jyothi Yarraji (from Andhra Pradesh)** has smashed the national record to clinch a gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles at Limassol in Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022 with a timing of 13.23 seconds.

Note: She broke the 20-year-old national record (13.38 seconds) in the name of Anuradha Biswal in 2002. Another Indian athlete Lili Das has also won gold in the women's 1500 meter race and Amlan Borgohain won the bronze medal in the men's 200m.

15. Indian pistol pairs **Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched the mixed team pistol gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

Note: The team of Palak and Sarabjot Singh has settled for the silver medal in the same event. Ramita and Paarth Makhija also won silver in the 10m air rifle mixed team competition. In all, India has so far won 10 medals, including four gold.

16. The Indian team of women archers **Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami, and Sakshi Chaudhary** has won India's first gold medal of the continental meet after defeating Kazakhstan which is being held in Iraq.

Note: The men's team of Prathamesh Fuge, Rishabh Yadav, and Jawkar Samadhan has won the second gold for India. The compound mixed duo of Prathamesh Fuge & Parneet Kaur won the third Gold Medal at Asia Archery Cup. Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar has won the bronze medal in Asia Cup.

17. **India's Men's Badminton team** has scripted the history by winning the first-ever Thomas Cup after

defeating 14-time Champions Indonesia in Bangkok.

Note: India has defeated Indonesia by 3-0 in the finals of the prestigious team championship. World Championships medallist Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth and world number 8 doubles duo of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy had given their memorable performances.

18. **Novak Djokovic (Serbian)** has defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas to capture the 38th ATP Masters 1000 crown (Italian Open).

Note: Novak Djokovic became the fifth man in the Open Era to earn 1,000 match wins after defeating Casper Ruud in the semi-finals. In Women Single, Iga Swiatek has won the Italian Open title after defeating Ons Jabeur. Men's doubles: Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić (Croatia). Women's doubles: Veronika Kudermetova and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

19. **Sift Kaur Samra** has won the individual women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) like Prone, the Standing and the Kneeling positions, event to take India's gold medal tally to 10 at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2022 in Suhl, Germany.

Note: She beat Julie Johannessen (Norway) by 17-9 in the final. India's Ashi Chouksey has also won bronze in the same event. Presently, India leads the tally with 25 medals which include 10 gold, 12 silver and three bronze.

20. **South Korea** has defeated China by 3-2 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) 29th edition of the Uber Cup Final at Impact Arena in Bangkok.

Note: This is the second Uber Cup title for South Korea after their first victory in 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. Thomas and Uber Cup is the biennial international badminton championship contested by the men's and women's national teams of the member associations of Badminton World Federation (BWF).

21. A total **16 medals (including eight golds, one silver, and seven bronze)** India has won at the Deaflympics 2021 in Caxias do Sul, Brazil

Note: India has finished in the ninth position in the medal tally. India won three gold in shooting, three in Badminton, and each in Golf and Tennis.

- ❖ Shooting: Dhanush Srikanth, Abhinav Deshwal, Dhanush Srikanth/Priyasha Deshmukh, Shourya Saini, Vedika Sharma

- ❖ Badminton: Jerlin Jayaratchagan, Abhinav Sharma
 - ❖ Tennis: Prithvi Sekhar/Dhananjay Dubey
- 22. Eintracht Frankfurt (German club)** has won their first European trophy in 42 years after defeating the Rangers by 5-4 on penalties in Seville, Spain.
- Note:** Goalkeeper, Kevin Trapp has saved at the end of extra time and another in the shootout to help give Frankfurt the 5-4 win on penalties. Rangers (Scottish club) was also trying to win its first European title since the Cup Winners' Cup in 1972. Man of the Match: Kevin Trapp (Eintracht Frankfurt)
- 23. Nikhat Zareen** India boxer has won the gold medal in 52kg (Category) after defeating Thailand's Jitpongjutamas at the 2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships, Istanbul.
- Note:** Nikhat became the fifth Indian woman to secure a gold medal at the World Boxing Championships after Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, and Lekha KC. It was also India's first gold medal since boxing great Mary Kom won it in 2018. Bronze winners: Manisha Moun (57 kg), Parveen Hooda (63 kg).
- 24.** The Indian men's compound archery team (Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini, and Rajat Chauhan) has defeated **France** in the final to win a gold medal at the Archery World Cup stages in Gwangju, South Korea.
- Note:** It was their second successive World Cup gold medal as the team had finished on the top step of the podium in Antalya, Turkey (April 2022). Archer Mohan Bhardwaj has also won a silver medal in the World Cup. The Compound Mixed duo of Abhishek & Avneet Kaur win bronze.
- 25. Manchester City (Football)** has been crowned 2021/22 Premier League champions their fourth title success in the last five seasons.
- Note:** Manchester City won over Aston Villa in the final game of the season. In Manchester City's 38 league matches this season, they have won 29, drawn six, and lost three, scoring 99 goals in the process. City has now won four Premier League titles and eight major trophies under Pep Guardiola since his arrival in the summer of 2016.

- 26. Haryana** Hockey team has emerged as the winners of the Hockey India sub-junior women's national championship 2022 after defeating Hockey Jharkhand by 2-0 in the final in Imphal.
- Note:** Uttar Pradesh Hockey has defeated Madhya Pradesh Hockey by 3-0 to secure third place in the tournament. Pushpanjali Sonkar, Manisha Patel, and Purnima Yadav scored a goal each to help Uttar Pradesh Hockey seal third place in the competition for the second consecutive time.
- 27. Odisha** team win Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2022 title.
- Note:** Hockey Association of Odisha became the champion of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2022 after a victory over Hockey Karnataka in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, Jharkhand Hockey team has defeated Hockey Haryana by 3-2 in the third-fourth place match. Punam Barla (34') has opened the scoring in the match in the third quarter as Odisha picked up the lead.
- 28. Punjab Kings batsman, Shikhar Dhawan** has become the first player to hit 700 fours in the history of the IPL.
- Note:** The batter has now a total of 701 IPL fours to his name, followed by David Warner (577) and Virat Kohli (576). He achieved this milestone during the match between PBKS and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede. Dhawan also becomes the second player to score 6000 runs in IPL history after Virat Kohli.
- 29. Gujarat Titans** has won the Indian Premier League (IPL) champions 2022 after defeating Rajasthan Royals by 7 wickets in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- Note:** Aramco Purple Cap: Yuzvendra Chahal (27 Wickets) Aramco Orange Cap: Jos Buttler (863 Runs)
- 30. Real Madrid** has become the European champion for a record-extending 14th time after defeating Liverpool by 1-0 in a Champions League final.
- Note:** The Real Madrid has claimed their fifth Champions League trophy in nine seasons.
- 31. Sergio Perez (Red Bull)** has won Formula One Monaco Grand Prix after defeating Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari).
- Note:** It was Perez's first win of the season. Mexican's Max Verstappen (Red Bull) has finished third, Leclerc at fourth.

1. **Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi** is the author of Marathi book on Union Home Minister Amit Shah that chronicles his political journey.

Note:Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra BJP leader) has released a book titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal' records the life and journey of Shah and his contribution to building the BJP. The book has been translated into Marathi by Dr. Jyostna Kolhatkar. The book is published by Bloomsbury India.

2. **Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan** is the editor of the 'INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors' book which was released by Rajnath Singh at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture.

Note:The book has 50 Swarnim articles which are penned in detailed narrations by veterans. Air Chief Marshal PC Lal was commissioned in the IAF in 1939 and awarded the Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (1972).

3. **Wesley Morgan** is the author of the book, titled "The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley".

Note: Wesley Morgan (Author and journalist) has won the William E. Colby Award for his military

and intelligence writing. He was cited for his book "The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley." The Colby Award is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. The Colby award was established in 1999 and named for the late CIA director William E. Colby.

4. **Renowned author Preeti Shenoy** has authored a new novel titled "A Place Called Home".

Note: The book published by HarperCollins Publishers India. The novel is about secrets, family, and finding yourself. A story set in a coffee estate in Sakleshpur, Karnataka with a strong female protagonist at its core. Other Books of Preeti Shenoy: The Magic Mindset, When Love Came Calling, Wake Up Life is Calling, Life is What You Make it, The Rule Breakers.

5. **Ruskin Bond** is the author of the book titled "Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure".

Note:Published by: Penguin Random House India (PRHI). His first novel: The Room on the Roof Awards: Padma Shri (1999) and Padma Bhushan (2014).

Science and Defence

1. By **December 2024** the Indian Space Research Organisation is planning to launch a spacecraft to orbit Venus with an orbital manoeuvre.

Note:To study the Venus atmosphere. The Orbital manoeuvre is the use of propulsion systems to change the orbit of a spacecraft. It permits a spacecraft to enter a planet's orbit. ISRO eyeing the December 2024 window as Earth and Venus would be aligned in a manner so that the minimum amount of propellant would be required.

2. **Red Shield Division** of the Indian Army has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India Foundation (SIBF) and training partner National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to establish a Centre for Excellence and wellness.

Note:The project is named Manipur Super 50 and will be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July 2022. Aim: To provide residential coaching for competitive examinations including the NEET and JEE.

3. Exercise **DEFENDER-Europe 22** was organised by the United States Armed Forces to build preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the USA and NATO.

Note:Poland is one of the DE22 host countries and conduct training in Drawsko Pomorskie, Bemowo Piskie and Zagan. Apart from Polish troops, the forces from the USA, France, Sweden, Germany, Denmark and Great Britain will also participate. The exercises are scheduled to run from May 1-27.

4. **Indian Coast Guard** has commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG) at the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi.

Note:The new Air Squadron was commissioned by Coast Guard Director General V S Pathania. It is equipped with indigenously developed Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters. This second squadron of these choppers will boost the security of the western seaboard and enhance India's search and rescue capability.

5. Scheme/portal '**CAPF Punarvaas**' was launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs through Welfare & Rehabilitation Board (WARB) to facilitate retired Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel.

Note:This portal will help the retired personnel to find an appropriate job match by uploading their

personal details on the WARB website. MHA also runs a portal under Private Security Agencies Regulation Act (PSARA) for the registration of Private Security Agencies (PSAs).

6. Human-rated solid rocket booster **HS200** has been successfully tested by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for Gaganyaan at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Note: HS200 is part of the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle MkIII (GSLV Mk III) rocket that will carry Indian astronauts to space. Stages of GSLV MK III: The first stage is powered by solid fuel, the second by liquid fuel and the third by liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

7. **Surat and Udaygiri** are two frontline warships of the Indian Navy which was recently launched by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai.

Note: The first ship is Surat, which is the fourth and last of the stealth destroyers under the 'Project 15B' programme. The second ship is Udaygiri, part of the 'Project 17A' frigate programme. It is the third ship of Project 17A frigates.

8. **Defence Research and Development Organisation** has jointly conducted the flight test of the indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile with Indian Navy successfully in May 2022.

Note: The missile was launched from a Naval Helicopter from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. It is the first indigenous air launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy. Recently, Rajnath Singh has launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy: INS Surat and INS Udaygiri.

9. **HANSA-NG** is the flying trainer Aircraft which has successfully completed an in-flight engine relight test at DRDO's Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) facility, Challakere, Karnataka.

Note: The aircraft was designed & Developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL). The flight test was carried out at an altitude of 7000-8000 feet with a speed range of 60 to 70 knots by Wg Cdr K V Prakash and Wg Cdr NDS Reddy.

10. **4th edition** of Indian and Bangladesh Navies has commenced two-day Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in Northern Bay of Bengal.

Note: Indian Navy: Two indigenously built Ships - Kora (a guided-missile corvette) and Sumedha (an offshore patrol vessel) are participating in the exercise. Bangladesh: Navy Ships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah are taking part in the coordinated patrol exercise.

11. **3rd edition** of Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral exercise, Bongosagar has commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh.

Note: Aim: Developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills. The exercise includes two phases: Harbour Phase and Sea Phase

12. **Army Training Command** of Indian army has signed an MoU with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to develop first-of-its-kind simulation-based training centre 'Wargame Research and Development Centre' in New Delhi.

Note: A prototype name 'WARDEC' has been given to this project and use artificial intelligence (AI) to design virtual reality wargames. The centre will be used by the Army to train its soldiers and test their strategies through "metaverse-enabled gameplay".

13. **INS Gomati** has been decommissioned by the Indian Navy.

Note: INS Gomati was commissioned on 16 April 1988 by the then Defence Minister, KC Pant, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd, Bombay. During its 34 years of service, the ship participated in Operations Cactus, Parakram and Rainbow, and multinational naval exercises.

14. **Param Ananta** supercomputer has been established at IIT Gandhinagar, under Phase II of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).

Note: NSM is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST). Its system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology.