



# Bi-Weekly Current Affairs 2022 (1-15 Feb) English PDF

## **Bi-Weekly One Liner Updates** **1-15<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Dear readers,

**Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (1-15th) of **February 2022**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which public sector company has begun India's maiden project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore \_\_\_\_\_ **GAIL (India) Limited**.  
**Note:**
  - This is a first-of-its-kind project in the country.
  - The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) company with HPCL, operating in Indore.
2. Which e-wallet company has introduced "India's first" intelligent messenger called 'Pops' \_\_\_\_\_ **Paytm**.  
**Note:**
  - 'Pops' Messenger will allow its user to receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place.
  - It will also serve as a marketplace to offer sophisticated stock recommendations, new insights and new services.
3. Direct to Home (DTH) platform, Tata Sky has rebranded itself with a new name and identity and will now be called as \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Play**.  
**Note:**
  - The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content centric channel packs as well.
  - With the OTT combo packs, Tata Play users will be able to get a subscription to both the OTT platforms in the Binge service as well as the normal TV channels. Tata Play Binge will hosts content from 13 leading OTT apps through a single User Interface while offering the flexibility of single subscription and payment.
4. Which bank has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - Surya Shakti Cell in collaboration with Tata Power Solar Systems \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India**.  
**Note:**
  - The Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across India, for installation by business entities as well as households.
  - With this digital initiative, SBI will offer a complete solution at competitive rates for Solar projects.
5. Which entity has acquired 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL) \_\_\_\_\_ **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd**.  
**Note:**
  - NVVN has purchased the shares of PXIL from NSE Investment, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL.
  - NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL would enable a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a good position in the power trading market.
6. Which petroleum company has marked its foray into non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under brand name HaPpyShop \_\_\_\_\_ **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation**.  
**Note:**
  - Located at the company-owned retail outlet at the upmarket Nepean Sea Road near Malabar Hills, this is the company's latest offering at its "Club HP" retail outlet.
  - The store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.
7. With what initial authorized capital the Government of India sets up a National Land Monetisation Corporation \_\_\_\_\_ **₹5000 crores**.  
**Note:**



- So far, CPSEs have referred 3,400 acres of land and other non-core assets for monetisation from CPSEs including MTNL, BSNL, BPCL, B&R, BEML, HMT Ltd, Instrumentation Ltd.
  - Top five sectors including roads, railways, power, oil and gas pipelines and telecom account for around 83 per cent of the aggregate value.
8. In Phase I of its operation the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or bad bank what aggregate amount of about 15 accounts will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 50,000 crore.**
- Note:**
- A total of 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially.
  - In the Phase I 15 accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year.
9. Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of ₹8000 crore with which bank to take over majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Bank of India.**
- Note:**
- During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10Kcr with State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5 per cent.
  - This replacement facility was availed on Dec 2021 to take over the existing Syndicated facility to reduce the overall interest cost of the company.
10. Union Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) with an outlay of \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 1875 crore.**
- Note:**
- It is the main source of funding for the preparation of national teams for all major national, international competitions.
  - Funding will be used by National Sports Federations to conduct national coaching camps and provide training of international standards to athletes.
11. Which public sector and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab National Bank.**
- Note:**
- The co-branded credit cards are offered on NCPI's RuPay Platform and is available in two variants – PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select.
  - Both the co-branded cards offer a hassle-free credit service to purchase day-to-day Patanjali products, along with cash backs, loyalty points, insurance cover and more.
12. Which online platform has partnered with Simpl, a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform to provide BNPL services to its merchants \_\_\_\_\_ **Dukaan.**
- Note:**
- Simpl is a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform.
  - Dukaan is a Bangalore-based startup that enables D2C and SMB merchants to set up online stores and sell products digitally.
13. According to domestic rating agency CRISIL, what will be the real GDP growth in FY 2022-23 \_\_\_\_\_ **7.8 per cent.**
- Note:**
- This estimate is owing to Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation.
  - The agency said global growth is expected to slow this year as major economies see a withdrawal of monetary and fiscal stimulus.
14. According to the London-based Brand Finance, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is ranked as \_\_\_\_\_ most valued insurance brand globally \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup>.**
- Note:**
- Also, LIC is ranked third in brand strength globally after Poste Italiane of Italy and Mapfre of Spain and is also the 10<sup>th</sup> most valued insurance brand globally.
  - The market value of LIC will become Rs 43.40 lakh crore or \$59.21 billion by 2022, and Rs 58.9-lakh crore or \$78.63 billion by 2027.
15. In February 2022, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of which co-operative bank \_\_\_\_\_ **Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd.**
- Note:**



- Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on February 03, 2022.
- The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
16. Which bank has signed a tripartite MoU with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts and National Culture Fund for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **SBI**.
- Note:**
- The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India.
- The ABCD project will be implemented by IGNC, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture through ministry's NCF fund.
17. Ping An Insurance is an insurance company of which country that has been designated as the top most valuable insurance company globally as per the latest Brand Finance report of 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
- Note:**
- 5 Chinese insurance companies are among the top ten ranking.
- The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one each in the list.
- This has Life Insurance Corporation becoming the only domestic insurer to rank in the top 10 list strongest brands and top 10 most valuable insurance brands.
18. What amount of sovereign loan has been provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to India in 2021 including USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus response \_\_\_\_\_ **USD 4.6 billion**.
- Note:**
- This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response.
- The agency extended a USD 2.2-billion support for 12 state projects, committed to its geographically balanced programming.
- The ADB's India portfolio comprised 69 projects worth USD 15.5 billion as of 31st December 2021.
19. Which payments bank has partnered ICICI Lombard General Insurance to offer Cyber Insurance Solutions to customers \_\_\_\_\_ **Airtel Payments Bank**.
- Note:**
- The cyber insurance solution from ICICI Lombard provides financial protection to customers against potential financial fraud relating to banking, credit or debit card; identity theft; phishing or email spoofing, and more.
- Airtel Payments Bank customers can purchase this cyber insurance policy using the Airtel Thanks app.
- This insurance comes with a ZERO waiting period and allows users to make multiple claims multiple times during the policy tenure, within the limits of the insured amount opted for.
20. As per the recently presented Economic Survey 2021-22, which state tops the list of newly recognised startups and unicorns \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.
- Note:**
- Maharashtra alone recognised 11,308 of the fourteen thousand startups that began operations in the current financial year.
- Out of the 44 companies that achieved the unicorn status, 11 are based in the state
21. Ministry of Finance has released the monthly Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of what amount to 17 States \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 9,871 crore**.
- Note:**
- The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of one lakh 18 thousand 452 crore rupees to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22.
- An amount of over one lakh 8 thousand crore rupees has been released to the eligible States so far.
22. What is the theme of the theme of Financial Literacy week 2022, observed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 14th to 18th February 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Go Digital, Go Secure**.
- Note:**
- The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed Financial Literacy week 2022 from \_\_\_\_\_ **14th to 18th February**.
- Note:**



- The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.
  - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
24. What was the total corpus under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **10,990.17 crore.**
- Note:**
- The disbursement included Rs 1,000 crore for migrant welfare and over Rs 1,392 crore for procurement of Covid vaccine doses.
  - The fund recorded nearly Rs 494.91 crore as foreign contributions and over Rs 7,183 crore as voluntary contributions during the fiscal.
25. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry what amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, India has received in the last five years \_\_\_\_\_ **USD 339.55 billion.**
- Note:**
- There has been a continuous increase in the inflow of FDI in recent years. It increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 81.97 billion in 2020-21.
  - During the year 2019-20, the FDI inflows to India stood at USD 74.39 billion. In 2018-19, it stood at USD 62 billion. In 2017-18, it was USD 60.97 billion and in 2016-17, the FDI inflow to India stood at USD 60.22 billion.
26. What was the rank of the Reserve Bank of India in terms of buying Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **2<sup>nd</sup>.**
- Note:**
- Central Bank of Thailand (Bank of Thailand) was the highest buyer of Gold in 2021 and bought 90 metric tonnes of gold.
  - As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metal.
27. Which company has bought a majority stake in a Malaysian payments start-up named "Curlec" for a valuation of more than \$19 million \_\_\_\_\_ **Razorpay.**
- Note:**
- This is Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and comes just over a month after raising \$375 million in funding. Prior to this, Razorpay acquired TERA Finlabs, Opfin and Thirdwatch.
  - The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses.
28. Which social media platform has launched the campaign named 'Take a Break' \_\_\_\_\_ **Instagram.**
- Note:**
- Take a Break will alert users scrolling on Instagram to periodically take breaks from the platform and focus on other things.
  - The platform will also alert users of the new inclusion with a notification.
29. What will be the increased limit on the e-RUPI digital voucher from current cap of ₹10,000 \_\_\_\_\_ **₹100,000.**
- Note:**
- This was announced by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das.
  - The move will further facilitate the delivery of various government schemes to the beneficiaries more efficiently, he added.
  - The e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was launched in August 2021 and runs on the UPI platform.
30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a conservative real GDP growth of what per cent in FY23 \_\_\_\_\_ **7.8 per cent.**
- Note:**
- While announcing the review of the monetary policy on Friday, the six-member monetary policy committee of the RBI retained the growth forecast for FY22 at 9.5 per cent, while CPI inflation projection was revised downward, from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.
31. As per the latest Monetary Policy released by the RBI, what would be the NACH mandate limit for TReDS settlements that will fulfill the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs \_\_\_\_\_ **₹3 crore.**
- Note:**
- Governor Shaktikanta Das said it will increase National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) settlements from Rs 1 crore at present to Rs 3 crore



- Transactions in TReDS are settled through the NACH system.
  - This was proposed keeping in view the requests received from stakeholders and to further enhance the ease of financing and the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs.
32. Which bank's Strategic Training Unit has entered into a partnership with NSE Academy to promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Learners can start to enroll from February 9 for the five inaugural Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) of SBI on the NSE Knowledge Hub platform.
  - The five MOOCs that the Bank is offering are: "Banking Fundamentals", MSME Lending in a Nutshell". "Electronic Payment System in India", "Priority Sector Lending Norms" and "NRI Business & Compliance".
33. Paisabazaar.com, a digital platform for consumer credit, has tied up with which bank to offer 'Paisa on Demand' (PoD), a credit card \_\_\_\_\_ **RBL Bank**.
- Note:**
- The credit card will be exclusively available on the Paisabazaar platform. As per a press release, the credit card from RBL Bank will be lifetime free with a digital onboarding process.
  - Along with features of a credit card, the product will provide customers the option of availing personal loans from RBL Bank, using the same credit limit at normal personal loan rates.
34. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Ltd has signed a bancassurance agreement with which small finance bank for the distribution of health insurance products across India through the Bank's network \_\_\_\_\_ **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank**.
- Note:**
- This bancassurance partnership will help further strengthen our distribution and unlock growth opportunities through the Bank's wide network.
  - This tie-up will help us reach the tier II and tier III markets with insurance solutions thereby increasing insurance penetration in the country.
  - Through the current partnership, ABHICL has 12 bancassurance partners with over 51,120 direct distributors across India.
35. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the investment limit in Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) from Rs. 1,50,000 crores to \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs. 2,50,000 crores**.
- Note:**
- The Reserve Bank of India had introduced the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in debts in 2019 with an investment limit of ₹1,50,000 crore.
  - Out of this, around ₹1,49,995 crore have been availed so far in three tranches.
36. According to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list what is the rank of Mumbai as most congested cities in the world in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **5<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list.
  - However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according the report.
37. Which Public Sector Undertaking has won the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) award for excellence in financial reporting for the year 2020-21 in Public Sector Entities Category \_\_\_\_\_ **RailTel**.
- Note:**
- The company was adjudged as winner in the category plaque.
  - The award was given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the premier accounting body which has been holding the annual competition for these awards since 1958.
38. Which Indian bank is set to buy Citigroup Inc.'s India retail banking business in a transaction that could be valued at about \$2.5 billion \_\_\_\_\_ **Axis Bank**.
- Note:**
- An agreement for the consumer unit may be announced as soon as the next few weeks and is contingent on approval from the Reserve Bank of India.
  - The deal would include a cash component of less than \$2 billion, accounting for the consumer business's liabilities.
39. Which bank has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its 'Neo Collections' platform \_\_\_\_\_ **RBL Bank**.
- Note:**



- The private sector lender will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle.
  - Powered by AI and ML technology, the platform is built to automate strategies for reaching out to customers individually in an empathetic manner and motivate them to repay loan.
40. Which bank has announced the launch of an annual startup enabler Agri Infinity program \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank**.
- Note:**
- It seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field.
  - Those meeting the eligibility criteria will receive the guidance and support necessary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain.
41. NABARD has launched 'JIVA' programme to promote natural farming, under which it will invest what amount per hectare \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 50,000**.
- Note:**
- Under this, NABARD will invest Rs 50,000 per hectare.
  - It will be implemented on the existing completed (or near completed) projects of watersheds and wadis programme in around 11 states covering 5 agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas.

### Obituaries

1. What is the profession of Rupinder Singh Suri who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **Advocate**.
- Note:**
- Suri was appointed the ASG in June 2020.
  - Suri was designated as senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.
2. Renowned personality Amitabh Dayal passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's Dhuaan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).
3. Legendary playback singer Lata Mangeshkar awarded the nation's highest civilian honour in which year, who passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ **2001**.
- Note:**
- Mangeshkar began singing in her teens, and in a career spanning 73 years sang more than an estimated 15,000 songs in 36 languages.
  - She is known as the 'Nightingale of India'.
  - She was awarded the nation's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in March 2001.
4. Renowned personality Chandupatla Janga Reddy passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Politician**.
- Note:**
- Reddy was one of the only two BJP Lok Sabha MPs elected in the 1984 general elections, conducted after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
  - The other BJP MP was A K Patel, who was elected from Mehsana in Gujarat.
5. Renowned personality Christos Sartzetakis passed away recently, he was a former president of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Greece**.
- Note:**
- Christos Sartzetakis, the former President of Greece, has passed away.
  - Sartzetakis, who was a jurist by profession, served as the President of Greece from 1985 to 1990.
6. Renowned personality Praveen Kumar Sobti passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Actor**.
- Note:**
- Besides playing the role of Bheem, which made him a household name, Kumar also starred in many films including Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Shehenshah and Dharmendra's Loha.
  - Other films to his credit include Aaj Ka Arjun, Ajooba, and Ghayal, among others.
7. Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier passed away recently, he was a \_\_\_\_\_ **Virologist**.
- Note:**



- His co-discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus sparked a global search for an AIDS cure.
- The scientist from the Pasteur Institute in Paris shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Germany's Harald zur Hausen, whose work on the viral causes of cervical cancer was recognized in the same year.

### Important Days

1. The NPCI and the UPI ecosystem have announced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative under which NPCI and the ecosystem will observe UPI Safety and Awareness Week from \_\_\_\_\_ **February 1 to 7.**

**Note:**

- NPCI and the ecosystem comprising leading banks and fintech will observe Feb 1 to 7 as UPI Safety and Awareness Week.
- Whole month of Feb will be UPI Safety and Awareness Month.

2. In February 2022, which Indian Para Military force has celebrated its 46th Raising Day \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Coast Guard.**

**Note:**

- From just 7 surface platforms in 1978, the ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.
- It is the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world.

3. What is the theme of the World Wetland Day 2022, being observed every year on 2nd February \_\_\_\_\_ **Wetlands Action for People and Nature.**

**Note:**

- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2nd February globally.
- The objective of the day is to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.

4. World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed every year from \_\_\_\_\_ **February 1 to 7.**

**Note:**

- The celebration of this event spreads the message of mutual respect, love, and tolerance among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths, and beliefs.
- This week is especially important to celebrate in today's time as interfaith harmony is central and essential to take the human race forward.

5. What is the theme of the World Cancer Day 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Close the Care Gap.**

**Note:**

- World Cancer Day is celebrated every year on February 4.
- It is a global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally

6. The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on \_\_\_\_\_ **4th February.**

**Note:**

- The annual event designated by the United Nations honours the religious and cultural diversity present in our world.
- Amidst rising religious intolerance in parts of the world, International Day of Human Fraternity seeks to showcase how diverse religions and cultures enrich our life and progress as humankind.

7. What is the theme of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation.**

**Note:**

- The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6th February to create awareness about ending the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM).
- The day has been marked since 2012 by the United Nations (UN).

8. What is the theme of the Safer Internet Day 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Together for a better internet.**

**Note:**

- Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet.



- This year in 2022, Safer Internet Day falls on 08 February 2022
9. What is the theme of the World Pulses Day 2022, celebrated every year on 10th February \_\_\_\_\_ **Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agri-food systems.**
- Note:**
- World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February to spread public awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.
10. National Deworming Day is observed on which date, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children from 1 to 19 years of age \_\_\_\_\_ **10<sup>th</sup> February.**
- Note:**
- The Day was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015.** The main aim of the Day is to raise awareness on intestinal worms and to attain complete eradication of Soil-Transmitted Helminths in children. Around 24% of the world's population is infected with soil-transmitted helminths (worms).
11. What is the theme for the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us.**
- Note:**
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on 11 February to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- The day reminds us that women are not only beneficiaries of science but are also agents of change.
12. World Unani Day is observed every year which date to mark the birth anniversary of "Hakim Ajmal Khan" \_\_\_\_\_ **11<sup>th</sup> February.**
- Note:**
- The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician Hakim Ajmal Khan, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India.
- The theme of this conference is "Diet and Nutrition in Unani Medicine for good health and well-being."
13. National Productivity Day is observed every year in India on \_\_\_\_\_ **12<sup>th</sup> February.**
- Note:**
- The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country.
- The main observance of the day is to encourage all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.
14. What is the theme of the World Radio Day 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Radio and Trust.**
- Note:**
- This Day was proclaimed by UNESCO on 3rd November, 2011 during its 36th conference.
- It was adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 2012 and was first observed in 2013.
15. Whose birth anniversary is celebrated as National Women's Day in India on 13th February every year \_\_\_\_\_ **Sarojini Naidu.**
- Note:**
- She was a political activist and poet who was an important figure in India's struggle for independence
- She was honoured with the title of Nightingale of India or 'Bharat Kokila', by Mahatma Gandhi
16. International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **Second Monday of February (14<sup>th</sup> February 2022).**
- Note:**
- International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.

### **New Appointments**

1. Who assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Army staff \_\_\_\_\_ **Manoj Pande.**
- Note:**
- Lt Gen Pande was serving as the Eastern Army Commander before assuming the new role.



- Lt Gen RP Kalita has been appointed as the new chief of Kolkata-headquartered Eastern Army Command.
- Lt Gen Pande was commissioned in the Bombay Sappers in Dec1982.
2. Who has been appointed as the Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency \_\_\_\_\_ **GAV Reddy**.
- Note:**
- General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon. The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.
3. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) \_\_\_\_ **Ravi Mittal**.
- Note:**
- The appointment comes little over four months after the post fell vacant following the retirement of M S Sahoo who completed his five-year term on September 30, 2021.
- In October 2021, IBBI Whole Time Member Navrang Saini was given the additional charge as the chairperson.
4. Who has been appointed as Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) \_\_\_\_\_ **M Jagadesh Kumar**.
- Note:**
- This is the second time he has been given the charge of chairman of UGC. Kumar held the charge of Chairman, UGC from 14 January 2017 to 2 February 2017.
- He was a member of UGC for three years (24 June 2016 to 23 June 2019).
5. In February 2022, who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of 'RummyCircle' by Games24x7 \_\_\_\_\_ **Hrithik Roshan**.
- Note:**
- As part of the partnership, Roshan will be seen in multimedia campaigns by RummyCircle, spanning across TV, digital and social media platforms.
6. Which airline has recently appointed Rahul Bhatia as its Managing Director \_\_\_\_\_ **IndiGo**.
- Note:**
- The company is the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo.
- Bhatia is the Co-founder and Promoter of InterGlobe Aviation.
- Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.
- IndiGo is India's biggest airline by market share.
- It is headquartered at Gurgaon, Haryana.
7. In February 2022, who has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) \_\_\_\_ **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit**.
- Note:**
- She is currently the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Savitribai Phule University.
- Ms. Pandit will be the first woman Vice Chancellor of JNU.
- Her appointment is for a period of five years.
8. Who has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for five years \_\_\_\_\_ **Dinesh Prasad Saklani**.
- Note:**
- He is currently a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, in Uttarakhand.
- Saklani succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, whose five-year term ended in November 2020.
9. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Bata India Limited \_\_\_\_\_ **Disha Patani**.
- Note:**
- Patani will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata umbrella.
- The move comes as Bata aims to appeal younger shoppers and position itself as a "fashion forward" brand.
10. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttarakhand**.
- Note:**
- In 2017, Akshay Kumar was also named Uttarakhand's brand ambassador for 'Swachhata Abhiyan'. The actor did not charge any fee for the same and added that it was an honour for him to be associated with the campaign.
- Apart from Akshay Kumar, cricketer Rishabh Pant was also appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador in December 2021.
11. Who has been appointed as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) \_\_\_\_\_ **S Unnikrishnan Nair**.
- Note:**
- He was previously serving as the director of the Human Space Flight Centre, Isro.



- He succeeds S Somanath, who recently took over as the chairman of Isro.
  - VSSC is a key space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
12. Who has been appointed the official brand ambassador of MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms \_\_\_\_\_ **Amitabh Bachchan**.
- Note:**
- As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health.
  - With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India. Leveraging the veteran actor's popularity, especially across tier II and tier III cities, the brand aims to position itself as a household name.
13. Who has been appointed as Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Ministry of Finance with immediate effect \_\_\_\_\_ **Sanjay Malhotra**.
- Note:**
- Prior to this, he was serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd
  - He succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on Jan 31, 2022
  - DFS covers functioning of Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies, National Pension System, International banking
  -
14. Who will now chair the eight-member committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), restructured by the capital markets regulator SEBI \_\_\_\_\_ **G Mahalingam**.
- Note:**
- The advisory committee on IPEF is an eight-member committee which will take G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, as its new Chairperson.
  - In 2013, the committee was established by the SEBI to find out ways and means to best utilize the investor protection and education fund.
  - Earlier the committee was headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), Gujarat.
15. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Pfizer India \_\_\_\_\_ **Pradip Shah**.
- Note:**
- Pradip Shah is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil.
  - He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.
16. Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected as President of which country for second term \_\_\_\_\_ **Germany**.
- Note:**
- He was elected with a big majority by a special assembly comprising of the members of lower house of parliament and representatives of 16 states of Germany.
  - He became president in 2017.
  - Before that, he served two stints as foreign minister of Chancellor Angela Merkel and as chief of staff to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.
17. Who has been appointed as the President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Debashis Mitra**.
- Note:**
- Prior to this, he was serving as the Vice-President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for 2021-22.
  - After being part of Central Council for 2016-19, he is serving his 2nd consecutive term for 2019-22.
18. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the agritech platform, Krishi Network \_\_\_\_\_ **Pankaj Tripathi**.
- Note:**
- The actor has also invested in the start-up.
  - The start-up said the fresh funds would be used to expand their AI-based technology platform across India and grow rapidly.
19. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba has been declared as President of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Burkina Faso**.
- Note:**
- In the month of January, officers led by Damiba forced out the country's elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.
  - The country has been suspended from the West African bloc ECOWAS, although it escaped sanctions following last week's restoration of the constitution.



### Important News – India

- Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) is scheme implemented by which ministry under which home delivery of medicines has been started \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Defence**.  
**Note:**
  - Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had launched SeHAT scheme in May 2021.
  - SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled personnel and their families.
- Which historical monument has been finalised for nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage sites for the year 2022-2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Hoysala temples**.  
**Note:**
  - 'Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's tentative list since April 15, 2014.
  - The Hoysala temples represent human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.
- Which Biodiversity Park of India has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) \_\_\_\_\_ **Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram**.  
**Note:**
  - The OECM tag does not bring any legal, financial or management implications, but designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map.
  - The OECM tag is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.
- Government has approved the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for continuation from 2021-22 to till \_\_\_\_\_ **31 March 2026**.  
**Note:**
  - IFLDP has been approved by the cabinet for continuation till March 31, 2026, or till further review, whichever is earlier.
  - The programme aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Equality' to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya in \_\_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:**
  - The statue will encourage youth and will be a symbol of knowledge, detachment, and ideals.
  - PM Modi landed in the city earlier this afternoon where he also attended the 50th-anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.
- The world's third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in which city of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Jaipur**.  
**Note:**
  - Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the project virtually.
  - This stadium is being built on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass.
- Which is set to become the first station to be ready between Mumbai – Ahmedabad Bullet Train route for India's first futuristic High Speed Rail project \_\_\_\_\_ **Surat**.  
**Note:**
  - The MAHSR corridor will cover 12 stations in total- Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Bilimora, Bharuch, Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi stations.
  - Once the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project is ready, the journey time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be 2.07 hours (limited stops), 2.58 hours (halting at stations) vis a vis existing train journey duration of seven-eight hours.
- PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will provide support for how many rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States \_\_\_\_\_ **17,788**.  
**Note:**



- PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission which was earlier known as Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, is one of the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country.
  - The scheme was announced in the Budget speech of Financial Year 2021-22 on 1st February last year with an outlay of 64 thousand 180 crore rupees over six years till the year 2025-26
9. Which IIM will establish the country's first research chair in ESG in collaboration with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF) \_\_\_\_\_ **IIM, Ahmedabad.**
- Note:**
- The newly formed 'NIIF Chair in ESG at IIMA' will work closely with the Arun Duggal ESG Centre for Research and Innovation at IIMA.
  - It will function as the principal hub of knowledge and insights that allows businesses and policy makers to incorporate ESG principles in their long-term business and governance decisions.
10. The Central Government has decided to continue the Scheme of "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, RYSK for another \_\_\_\_\_ **five years.**
- Note:**
- The decision was taken with a view to achieving the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities.
  - Government of India also decided to continue the NSS(National Service Scheme) over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of Rs. 1,627 Crore.
  - NSS is implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities in all States and UTs across the country.
11. An igloo cafe named 'Snowglu', claimed to be world's largest cafe of its kind has been opened in \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu & Kashmir.**
- Note:**
- The cafe has been set up at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg.
  - Syed Wasim Shah, the creator of the igloo, claimed the structure to be the world's largest cafe of its kind.
12. What is the theme of the ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy, being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market.**
- Note:**
- The High Level Conference focused on the theme: "Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market".
  - The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference featured five technical sessions, which would facilitate peer-to-peer discussions between experts from India and ASEAN on themes of mutual interest.
13. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with which organization under the SAMRIDH scheme to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India \_\_\_\_\_ **NITI Aayog.**
- Note:**
- The initiative aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.
  - Under this partnership, AIM and SAMRIDH have announced a Call for Proposals for healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs in India.
14. Which has become the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS) \_\_\_\_\_ **Jammu and Kashmir.**
- Note:**
- National Single Window System (NSWS) was launched in September 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
  - It is a digital platform that serves as a guide for investors to identify and to apply for approvals as per their business requirements.
15. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till \_\_\_\_\_ **March 2026.**
- Note:**
- PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.



- The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
16. The flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 4,600 crore.**
- Note:**
- PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
  - The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
17. Which organization has organized Exclusive International Business Expo titled as 'India Telecom 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council.**
- Note:**
- It is being held from 8th to 10th February
  - Aim: to provide opportunities to the Indian telecom stakeholders to meet qualified overseas buyers
  - It will be held under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications and Indian missions in different countries.
18. Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched a dedicated storefront for ayurvedic products on which e-commerce platform \_\_\_\_\_ **Amazon.**
- Note:**
- This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products like skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils, juices and more from small businesses and startup brands
  - It will make shopping easier as product selection has been done according to focus areas and health benefits like pain management, immunity boosters, etc.
19. Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet', what is the length of the tunnel \_\_\_\_\_ **9.02 km.**
- Note:**
- Notably, Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020.
  - The 9.02 km long, strategically significant, Atal Tunnel, that runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.
20. As per 'Women in the Boardroom report' released by the Deloitte Global, what is the percentage of Women representation of board seats in India in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **17.1 per cent.**
- Note:**
- However, only 3.6 per cent of the board chairs are women, down by 0.9 per cent since 2018
  - Austria, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the UK, and the US saw the most notable increases in women in board chairs.
21. What is India's rank in the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 released by the US Green Building Council (USGBC) \_\_\_\_\_ **3<sup>rd</sup>.**
- Note:**
- It has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, followed by Canada at 2nd position with 205 projects.
  - The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.
22. With what financial outlay the central government has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 26,275 crore.**
- Note:**
- The total financial outlay of the scheme will be Rs 26,275 crore.
  - The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70.
  - This scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the modernisation and improvement.
23. What is India's rank in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **46<sup>th</sup>.**
- Note:**
- The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries.



- The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.
24. Recently held Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) was which edition of the field \_\_\_\_ **17<sup>th</sup>**.
- Note:**
- Films that were completed between September 01, 2019 to Dec 31, 2021 are eligible for entry in MIFF-2022.
  - It is organized by Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with support from Govt of Maharashtra, since 1990
25. By which year India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy \_\_\_\_\_ **2024**.
- Note:**
- For this, states should develop action plan to achieve the assigned targets and specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation
  - This initiative is a part of government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070.
26. Kameng sector is located in which state/UT, where seven army personnel died in an avalanche \_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- All the seven personnel were later found deceased. The area is located at an altitude of 14,500 feet and had been witnessing heavy snowfall since the last few days.
  - The Army had lost six personnel to avalanches and snow-slides in the Siachen Glacier in 2019, and 11 others in other parts of the country.
27. Which is the nodal agency the hackathon, Powerthon-2022 that was launched by the Union Power Ministry \_\_\_\_ **REC**.
- Note:**
- Union Power Minister R K Singh launched a hackathon, named Powerthon-2022, to find tech-driven solutions for quality power supply.
  - It is launched under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme). New ideas and concepts will be rewarded with licence.

### Important News – State

1. Which state government has promulgated an ordinance to enhanced the retirement age for its employees by 2 years to 62 \_\_\_\_ **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan promulgated the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 to this effect.
  - On January 21, the state Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) Act, 1984 in line with the announcement made by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.
2. Spituk Gustor is an annual celebration of culture and traditional heritage of which state/union territories \_\_\_\_ **Ladakh**.
- Note:**
- It is a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated every year.
  - The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.
3. India's first 'geological park' will be set up in which state \_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 crores.
  - The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view.
4. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state that has been declared Ramsar sites recently \_\_\_\_ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**



- Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar site No. 2464), a freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch, was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress.
- The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, the first marine national park in the country.
5. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state that has been designated as Ramsar sites on the occasion of World Wetland Day 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49 covering an area of 1,093,636 hectares.
- Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (site no. 2465), a freshwater marsh in the Sant Kabir Nagar district, is the largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern Uttar Pradesh.
6. The traditional Torgya Festival celebrated in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The traditional Torgya Festival is celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh by Monpa community.
- The objective of the festival is to welcome a healthy and prosperous new year and ward off any kind of external aggression and protect people from natural disasters.
7. Which state's tableau selected as the best state tableau at the Republic Day parade in 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product' and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'.
- The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts'.
- The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.
8. Which state tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.
- Note:**
- Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME.
- The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh (36,913 units), Karnataka (28,803 enterprises) and Punjab (24,503 units) respectively.
9. In a bid to spread voter awareness among voters which state's Chief Electoral Officer has unveiled its Election Mascot – 'Shera' \_\_\_\_\_ **Punjab**.
- Note:**
- The Election Mascot, 'Shera' represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab.
- Promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project, the Mascot aims to increase voter awareness and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting.
10. Which state government has launched 'Paray Shikshalaya', an open-air classroom for students from class 1 to 7 \_\_\_\_\_ **West Bengal**.
- Note:**
- The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education.
- The initiative has been started by the Bengal government keeping in mind the ongoing COVID pandemic situation, which has forced the students to stay back home and attend online classes.
11. Which state government has inked an MoU with the Social Alpha through its "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC) \_\_\_\_\_ **Kerala**.
- Note:**
- Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre(EMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- The MoU emphasizes KDISC, EMC, and CEIIC's shared commitment to collaborate in the areas of innovative and clean energy technologies that are aligned with Kerala's programs and initiatives.
12. Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which state government to support the growth the women entrepreneurs \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.
- Note:**



- Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online and access a wider market for their products.
13. State-owned THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) has signed a pact to build 10,000-megawatt (MW) solar power projects entailing an investment of Rs 10,000 crore in \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- THDC India Limited (THDCIL) signed the letter of intent (LoI) of 10,000 MW in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crore for the establishment of renewable energy parks/ projects of 10,000 MW in the august 2021.
14. India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up in which state \_\_\_\_\_ **Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.  
➤ It will also produce biochar and methane.  
➤ The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of ₹24 crore.
15. State-run Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with which state government to develop 10,000 megawatt (MW) of solar power projects in the state in the next five years \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the same will be inked shortly, and the investment is estimated at ₹50,000 crore.
16. WE HUB is an exclusive incubator for women entrepreneurs of which state government that has launched a unique incubator programme for rural areas \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- The year-long programme targets to accelerate small and medium enterprises, besides strengthening the local supply chain.  
➤ WE HUB, promoted by the Telangana Government has called for applications for the rural incubation programme.
17. Which state government and the British Council, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to renew the partnership in Education, English and Arts \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana.  
➤ Under the extended 3 year MoU, the British Council has also signed an agreement with the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) to work closely to engineer new partnerships between universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in the UK and in Telangana.
18. The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) government signed a pact with which country for the transformation of the sheep farming sector in the J&K Union Territory (UT) \_\_\_\_\_ **New Zealand**.
- Note:**
- To improve farmer's remuneration, transfer of technology in research and development, marketing and value addition of sheep products of J&K.  
➤ The agreement was signed through the virtual mode in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Navin Choudhary, principal secretary of agriculture production and farmers welfare department animal.
19. 'Operation Parivartan' has been initiated by which state to eliminate the cultivation of cannabis \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.
- Note:**
- Such an initiative was never been taken up before and it helps the state to fight against the drugs menace.  
➤ This operation was led by the Andhra Pradesh Police with the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) in Visakhapatnam.
20. Which state govt signed an agreement with the Anil Agarwal Foundation of the Vedanta Group to develop 25,000 Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar in the state \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan**.
- Note:**
- The foundation will develop Nand Ghars by spending about Rs 750 crore (Rs 3 lakh per Anganwadi).



- The chief minister said the development of Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar will improve their infrastructure as well as provide quality education and nutrition to children.
- This will also help in further reducing maternal and child mortality.

21. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed an MoU with which state govt to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- The beginning of a new partnership between UN Environment Programme and the Government of Maharashtra will support the state in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures," said a statement from UN office.

**Important News – World**

1. 11th meeting of India and which country's Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) was held in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Oman**.

**Note:**

- The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali AL Zaabi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence of Oman.
- The JMCC is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defence.

2. India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with (MoU) for the construction of a motorable Bridge over which river \_\_\_\_\_ **Mahakali**.

**Note:**

- It will connect Dharchula in India to Darchula in Nepal.
- It will be constructed under Indian grant assistance.
- The newly announced project to build a bridge over the Mahakali river would strengthen Nepal-India relations.

3. Which country was India's top most trading partner in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **USA**.

**Note:**

- The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion.
- In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.

4. Which country has tested fired Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRMB) named "Hwasong-12" \_\_\_\_\_ **North Korea**.

**Note:**

- The launch was the seventh missile test that Pyongyang has conducted since the start of 2022. It is also the longest-range missile that North Korea has launched since 2017.
- The launch of the "Hwasong-12-type surface-to-surface intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile" was organised by the Academy of Defence Science (ADS), the Second Economic Committee.

5. Which global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, has partnered with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' \_\_\_\_\_ **ITC Infotech**.

**Note:**

- The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades.
- The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship.
- Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers world-wide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.

6. Which country scored the highest in the Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022, that measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years \_\_\_\_\_

**India.**

**Note:**

- India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% respondents saying they were actively learning digital skills to prepare themselves for the future of work.
- The index is based on a survey of more than 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100.

7. World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in \_\_\_\_\_ **Dubai**.

**Note:**



- Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'.
  - THE JET' features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.
8. Which company surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Samsung Electronics.**
- Note:**
- While Intel posted relatively flattish results, Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021. Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year.
  - In terms of semiconductor sales in 2020, Samsung was at the second position behind Intel (approximately \$62 billion revenue versus Intel's \$76 billion).
9. Sergio Mattarella has been re-elected as President of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Italy.**
- Note:**
- The 80-year-old emerged as the most popular choice after six days of often tense voting in Rome.
  - Mattarella was reconfirmed with a broad majority, namely 759 votes in favor from a total of 983 lawmakers and regional representatives actively taking part in the ballot.
10. Which country will procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh.**
- Note:**
- The agreement worth Tk. 231 crore will be implemented within 27 months of the signing of the contract.
  - This project is being implemented with the joint funding of the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.
11. Which has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ **India.**
- Note:**
- The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna On February 05, 2022.
  - It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
12. World Oil Outlook 2021 is a flagship publication by which organization \_\_\_\_\_ **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).**
- Note:**
- It is a flagship publication by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
  - Govt has been taking up the issue, bilaterally with crude oil-producing countries with OPEC to convey India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.
13. India has agreed to provide grant to which country to implement 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on Aadhaar card \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka.**
- Note:**
- It will be categorized as a national level programme.
  - This will provide personal identity verification device based on biometric data, digital tool that can represent identities of individuals in cyberspace, and identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments.
14. According to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list which city has emerged as the most congested cities in the world in 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Istanbul.**
- Note:**
- Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list.
  - However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according the report.
15. Which country ranked 1st in the Economic Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ **Norway.**
- Note:**
- The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries.
  - The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.
16. Which country has announced 'Maitri' Scholars Program under which it will provide over USD 11 million for four years to support Indian students to study in that country's world-leading universities \_\_\_\_\_ **Australia.**



**Note:**

- The Maitri Fellowships Program will provide USD 3.5 million over four years to build links between future leaders, will support mid-career Australian and Indian professionals to collaborate on strategic research initiatives.
- Australia will also provide over USD 6 million over four years for the Maitri cultural partnerships to support cultural exchanges and boost the role of the creative industries in our two countries.

17. India signed agreement with UN World Food Program for distribution of wheat to which country \_\_\_\_\_ **Afghanistan**.

**Note:**

- India has committed to send relief to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance, to be sent in truck convoys through Pakistan by road.
- Rome-headquartered WFP thanked India for the agreement to support Afghans who are facing humanitarian crisis.

18. Which country is the host of One Ocean Summit 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- India supported the French initiative of a 'High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction'.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the conference and said that India is committed to eliminating single-use plastic.

19. Which country's central bank has launched 'Five-year plan for financial standardisation' \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.

**Note:**

- The plan is to be implemented during the 2021-2025 period.
- China will strengthen its cross-border yuan payments system and explore setting up infrastructure standards for a digital fiat currency as part of the plan.

### Honor & Awards

1. Name the Indian hockey player who won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 for his 2021 performances \_\_\_\_\_ **PR Sreejesh**.

**Note:**

- He becomes 1st Indian man and only the second Indian to receive the accolade.
- In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour.
- Sreejesh was part of the Tokyo Olympics-bronze medal winning side.

2. Name the sports person who has been nominated for the prestigious 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award \_\_\_\_\_ **Neeraj Chopra**.

**Note:**

- The other 5 nominees are Daniil Medvedev(Australian Open runner-up), Emma Raducanu(British tennis star), Pedri(Barcelona and Spain footballer), Yulimar Rojas (Venezuelan athlete) and Ariarne Titmus(Australian swimmer)
- The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.

3. Who has been named the recipient of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award \_\_\_\_\_ **Daryl Mitchell**.

**Note:**

- As a result, Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.
- Mitchell won the award for refusing to take a single in the high-pressure T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi on November 10, 2021.

4. In popular choice category award, which state has won first position for Best Tableau among 12 states/UTs category for 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Maharashtra**.

**Note:**

- "The second place went to Uttar Pradesh [popular choice], while the tableau of Jammu and Kashmir on theme 'Changing face of Jammu & Kashmir' finished third,".



5. Which International Airport has been awarded the 'Voice of the Customer' award by the Airports Council International (ACI) \_\_\_\_\_ **Mangaluru International Airport, Karnataka.**  
**Note:**
- ACI is a trade association of the world airports.
  - The airport was awarded for demonstrating relentless efforts in gathering passenger feedback on customer needs in 2021 and providing the best-in-class travel experience.
6. Who became the youngest female pilot to circumvent the globe, traveling across five continents in five months while flying in a single-seater sport plane \_\_\_\_\_ **Zara Rutherford.**  
**Note:**
- It took her 155 days, but 19-year-old Zara Rutherford accomplished her goal: to become the youngest woman to fly solo around the world.
  - Rutherford departed Belgium on August 18 in a Shark UL plane, a two-seat ultralight plane equipped with extra fuel tanks, two radios and a parachute.
7. Who has been awarded the Test batting award in the 15th edition of the ESPNcricinfo Awards \_\_\_\_\_ **Rishabh Pant.**  
**Note:**
- The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson for his 5 for 31, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions.
  - England fast bowler Ollie Robinson was named Debutant of the Year for his 37 wickets at 21.16 in eight Tests, which made him England's second highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2021.
8. Who will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21 \_\_\_\_\_ **Nitin Gadkari.**  
**Note:**
- This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanik Vachanalay. Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.

### Sports News

1. Who won the Tata Steel Masters chess 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **Magnus Carlsen.**  
**Note:**
- Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12th and penultimate round of the tournament.
  - The Norwegian, who will get a win by forfeit (over Daniil Dubov) in the final round, is a full point ahead of his closest competitors — Richard Rapport and Mamedyarov.
2. India defeated which country to win bronze medal at 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament \_\_\_\_\_ **China.**  
**Note:**
- Sharmila Devi and Gurjit Kaur scored goals from India's side.
  - It was held from 21st to 28th Jan 2022 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, Oman.
  - Meanwhile, Japan defeated South Korea to win gold at Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament.
3. Which Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise have become the first-ever sports Unicorn in the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Chennai Super Kings.**  
**Note:**
- CSK is four-time Indian Premier League (IPL) winners.
  - MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated mighty Kolkata Knight Riders last year to win their record-extending fourth IPL title in Dubai.
4. In February 2022, who got selected as the Torchbearer of Winter Olympic 2022 by the China Government \_\_\_\_\_ **Qi Fabao.**  
**Note:**



- The Winter Olympics was opened in a lavish ceremony to be attended by President Xi Jinping and more than a dozen world leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, five Central Asian Presidents and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.
  - He "took the flame from Wang Meng, China's four-time Olympic short track speed skating champion, at Winter Olympic Park.
5. Arif Khan is associated with which sports, who is the lone Indian athlete to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics \_\_\_\_\_ **Skiing**.
- Note:**
- The 31-year-old Arif will be the lone Indian competitor at the Games, having qualified in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. India sent a six-member contingent to the Games including a coach, a technician and a team manager.
  - Arif is the first Indian to secure qualification in two events of the same edition of the Games.
6. Which Country won the African Cup of Nations title in football \_\_\_\_\_ **Senegal**.
- Note:**
- Sadio Mané scored the winning spot kick to start the celebrations and make up for missing a penalty in the seventh minute of the game.
  - The final had ended 0-0 after extra time.
  - Senegal had lost two finals previously, including at the last African Cup in Egypt in 2019, when Mané was left inconsolable.
7. By defeating which country India has won the record fifth time ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title \_\_\_\_\_ **England**.
- Note:**
- India lifted a record fifth ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title after beating England by four wickets in the summit clash at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.
  - Earlier, India had won the U19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.
8. Which country has won the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Football tournament \_\_\_\_\_ **China**.
- Note:**
- China PR defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on February 06, 2022.
  - This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.
9. Veteran cricketer Suranga Lakmal plays for which country, who announced his retirement from international cricket \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka**.
- Note:**
- The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement.
  - Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.
10. The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named as \_\_\_\_\_ **Gujarat Titans**.
- Note:**
- The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named "Gujarat Titans" by its owner CVC Capital. Hardik Pandya has been declared as the Captain of this team.
  - Earlier in January 2022, Lucknow's IPL team was named as "Lucknow Super Giants" by its owner RPSG Group.

### Books and Authors

1. Who is the author of the biography of the Tokyo Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra titled "Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra" \_\_\_\_\_ **Navdeep Singh Gill**.
- Note:**
- The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members.
  - It is the seventh book written by Navdeep and the sixth placing focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons.



2. Who is the author of the graphic novel titled 'Atharva - The Origin', in which Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva \_\_\_\_\_ **Ramesh Thamilmani**.

**Note:**

- Dhoni unveiled the first look of his upcoming graphic novel Atharva - The Origin.
- The project is created by Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals.
- The graphic novel has been written by Ramesh Thamilmani.

3. Who has authored the book titled 'India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution' \_\_\_\_\_ **J Sai Deepak**.

**Note:**

- The book is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy, which examines the far reaching impact of European 'colonial consciousness' on Bharat. Upon a thorough reading of the book, what really lingers is the well-researched arguments put forth.

4. Who has authored the book titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons" \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia**.

**Note:**

- The book is published by Routledge India.
- The book also provides a detailed exploration of India-Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions.
- The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualise the evolution of the India - Africa engagement.

5. Who has authored the book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee", the biography on the former Prime Minister of India \_\_\_\_\_ **Sagarika Ghose**.

**Note:**

- It is a biography on the former Prime Minister of India.
- Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister".

### Science and Defence

1. A Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy has been launched at which IIT \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Dharwad**.

**Note:**

- The center is supported by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF).
- The first phase of the CSR project with HHSIF is to establish equipment for the GCoE-ACE mainly as skill development, fabrication, and R&D equipment.

2. What would be the name of the fifth submarine of Project 75, of the Scorpene class that has commenced her maiden sea trials \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Vagir**.

**Note:**

- The submarine, launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), would be named Vagir, after commissioning.
- Last year, INS Vela, the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines of Project-75, was inducted into the Navy.

3. Which defence PSU signed a contract worth ₹3131.82 crores for the manufacture and supply of Konkurs anti-tank missiles for the Indian Army \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**.

**Note:**

- Bharat Dynamics will manufacture and supply Konkurs anti-tank missiles to the Indian Army
- Konkurs - M is a second generation, mechanized infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armored vehicle equipped with explosive reactive armour.



4. Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India has been installed and commissioned in which institutions \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- The system, which is expected to power diverse research and educational pursuits, has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 1,015 operations per second), the premier science research institution based in Bengaluru.
- It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).

5. Which IIT has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by AI that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad.**

**Note:**

- The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank, while IIT-H provided AI expertise, Visual Quest developed the platform, and Youth4Jobs skilling services.
- The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible.

6. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in \_\_\_\_\_ **August 2022.**

**Note:**

- This was stated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha.
- This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline. ISRO will conduct 19 missions till December this year.

7. "Winter Camp" is a joint military exercise of which multilateral groups \_\_\_\_\_ **NATO.**

**Note:**

- The "Winter Camp" exercise in northeast Estonia, just 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the Russian border, included some 1,300 British, Estonian and French troops operating in extreme conditions.

8. Which operation has been launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to curb human trafficking \_\_\_\_\_ **Operation AAHT.**

**Note:**

- The RPF that rescued more than more than 2,000 women and children between 2017-21 from the clutches of traffickers intensified the crackdown on human trafficking with the increasing number of cases.
- The National Crime Records Bureau registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.

9. The National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) has been established at which institution \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT- Bombay.**

**Note:**

- The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has established the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.

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