

# Monthly Current Affairs January 2022



## Table of Contents

Important News: State.....	8
• Kochi becomes India's first city with Water Metro Project.....	8
• Telangana tops in highest number of ODF villages.....	9
• Election Commission defers February 14 Punjab Assembly election due to Guru Ravidas Jayanti .....	9
• Graphene Innovation Centre .....	10
• Andhra Pradesh government forms 13 new districts .....	10
• 1st District Good Governance Index in Jammu and Kashmir.....	11
Important News: India .....	11
• SC to set up high-level committee to inquire into security lapses during PM Modi's visit to Punjab..	11
• Startup India Innovation Week .....	12
• EC announces schedule for assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur .....	12
• Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things (IoT) .....	13
• Ayush Aahaar.....	13
• National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 3.0) .....	14
• 'Padhe Bharat' Campaign .....	14
• Electoral Bonds .....	15
• National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.....	15
• MoHUA announces winners of Streets for People and Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge .....	16
• Valedictory function of Kala Utsav 2021 .....	16
• Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative .....	17
• Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 'Open Data Week' .....	17
• National Startup Awards 2021 .....	18
• India grants financial assistance of over USD 900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis .....	18
• India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber and gherkins in the world .....	19
• Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with National War Memorial flame .....	19
• PM Modi launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation.....	20
• Lok Sabha secretariat launches Digital Sansad app .....	21

Important News: World .....	21
• Myanmar court sentences Aung San Suu Kyi to 4 more years in prison.....	21
• United Nation Security Council (UNSC).....	22
• Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announces resignation.....	23
• Nuclear-Weapon States .....	23
• First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship.....	24
• PM Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurate the Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius .....	24
• World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022.....	25
• Indonesia passes law to relocate capital from Jakarta to remote Borneo.....	26
• PM Modi delivers 'State of the World' special address at the WEF's Davos Agenda.....	26
• Activities of 2022 discussed at BRICS STI Steering Committee: India to host 5 events.....	27
• Volcanic eruption in Tonga.....	27
• International Film Festival .....	28
• UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022.....	28
• First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit.....	29
• India, Israel launch commemorative logo.....	29
• Prajakta Koli becomes India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion.....	30
• UNSC uses 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time.....	30
• ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting.....	31
Important News: Economy .....	31
• India and UK launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations.....	31
• Apple becomes first company to touch \$3 trillion market cap .....	33
• SEBI launches Saa᳚thi mobile app .....	33
• Cabinet approves infusion of Rs. 1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited .....	34
• FDI flows to India drop 26% in 2021: UNCTAD.....	34
Important News: Defense .....	35
• Naval variant of BrahMos supersonic missile test-fired from INS Visakhapatnam.....	35
• Sea Dragon 22 Exercise .....	36

• Bollard Pull Tug “Balraj” .....	36
• BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with enhanced capability, successfully test-fired .....	37
• BSF's "Operation Sard Hawa" .....	37
• In a first, India to export Brahmos missiles to the Philippines .....	38
• Indian Navy conducts Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy.....	38
• Exercise Paschim Lehar .....	39
• Delivery of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs “Balbir” to Naval Dockyard Mumbai .....	39
• Saab awarded Indian contract for AT4 Support Weapon .....	40
• Tri-Service Andaman & Nicobar Command inducts Advanced Light Helicopter MK III.....	40
Science and Technology .....	41
• David Bennett, world first human receives a Pig Heart Transplant.....	41
• Startup Grand Challenge .....	41
• National Air Sports Policy 2022 .....	42
• Devas-Antrix deal .....	42
• India's first coal to methanol plant built by BHEL .....	43
• Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan: ISRO .....	43
• Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).....	44
• Drone Certification Scheme .....	44
• Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing.....	45
Environment.....	45
• Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’ .....	45
• Environment Management Plans for Najafgarh jheel .....	46
• Peru declares ‘Environmental Emergency’ .....	46
Schemes .....	47
• Green Energy Corridor Phase-II .....	47
• Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar .....	48
• Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) .....	48
• One District One Product brands .....	49
Awards and Honours.....	49
• Global Women's Health Tech Awards .....	49

• Golden Globe Awards (2022) .....	50
• Maharashtra Foundation Award Announced .....	51
• National Water Awards .....	52
• PM's Excellence Award .....	52
• Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021 .....	53
• Lavni artist from Maharashtra wins gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai .....	53
• This dance form was popular in the Peshawari Dynasty that was situated in Pune .....	54
• President and Police Medal Announced .....	54
• Padma Awards 2022 .....	54
• Jai Bhim and Marakkar eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022 .....	55
• India's Koozhangal wins best film award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival .....	56
• Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe conferred Netaji Award 2022 .....	56
• Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2022 .....	57
• Babar Azam named Captain of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021 .....	57
• Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 .....	58
Books and Authors .....	58
• Book: "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership" .....	58
• Ratan Tata's authorized biography to come in November 2022 .....	59
• Book : "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India" .....	59
• HarperCollins announces the release of new book 'Mamata: Beyond 2021' .....	60
• A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' .....	60
• A pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle .....	61
• Ruskin Bond's new book, "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence" .....	61
Important Days .....	62
• National Youth Day .....	62
• PM Modi announces 26th December as 'Veer Baal Diwas' .....	62
• World Hindi Day .....	63
• World Day of War Orphans .....	63
• Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) .....	64

• World Braille Day .....	64
• Indian Army Day.....	65
• International Holocaust Remembrance Day .....	65
• National Voters' Day .....	66
• National Tourism Day.....	66
• Parakram Diwas .....	67
• World Leprosy Day2022 .....	67
Sports .....	68
• Bharath Subramaniam becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster .....	68
• National Youth Festival .....	68
• Source: Indian Express.....	69
• U-19 Asia Cup 2021.....	69
• Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 .....	69
• 2022 India Open (badminton) .....	70
• West Indies legend Clive Lloyd awarded knighthood for his services to Cricket .....	71
• Lucknow's IPL team to be called Lucknow Super Giants.....	71
• Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of 2021 .....	72
• Syed Modi India International 2022.....	72
• Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022 .....	73
Reports and Indexes.....	73
• India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021 .....	73
• Global Risks Report 2022 .....	74
• Good Governance Index.....	76
• Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022.....	77
• Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report.....	77
• Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 .....	78
New Appointments .....	78
• Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed new chairman of ISRO .....	78
• Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed vice-president of AIIB.....	79
• Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO .....	80

• Justice Ayesha Malik to be Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court judge.....	81
• Alka Mittal becomes first woman to head ONGC as CMD.....	81
• Vistara Airline CEO .....	81
• Tesla's Autopilot team.....	82
• CEO of Railway Board .....	82
• Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga .....	83
• Coast Guard Director General.....	83
• UN Conference on Disarmament .....	84
• Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary .....	84
• Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as CMD of Air India.....	85
• Roberta Metsola becomes European Parliament's new president .....	85
• Narendra Goenka takes over as new Chairman of AEPC.....	86
• Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority.....	86
• Appointment of Dr V Anantha Nageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor.....	87
Obituaries.....	87
• Death of Pandit Ramdas Kamat .....	87
• Shillong Chamber Choir founder Neil Nongkynrih passes away .....	88
• Sindhutai Sapkaal.....	88
• Shaoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality, actress passes away.....	89
• Renowned cartoonist Narayan Debnath passes away .....	89
• Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away .....	89
• Noted Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri recipient Milena Salvini of France passes away.....	90
• Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist Ramachandran Nagasamy passes away.....	90
Miscellaneous .....	90
• Kevadia railway station renamed as Ekta Nagar railway station.....	90
• IndiaSkills 2021.....	91
• Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) .....	91
• Jagannath Temple Act, 1954.....	92
• Rock Museum .....	93
• Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes first Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole.....	93

- Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station ..... 94
- Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers: MoRTH ..... 94
- Shivangi Singh ..... 95
- Fit India Quiz 2021 ..... 95

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# Monthly Current Affairs

## January 2022

### Important News: State

#### Prime Minister Modi inaugurates MSME Technology Centre at Puducherry



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Technology Centre of the MSME Ministry, established at Puducherry, on the occasion of National youth day.
- He inaugurated 11 new medical colleges and a new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Tamil Nadu.

#### Key Points

- This World Class Technology Centre set up with an investment of about Rs. 122 crore is spread across 10 acres, will train 20,000 youth, support 2000 MSMEs and incubate 200 Start Ups, thereby propelling the local economy to great heights.
- The Technology Centres across the country developed under the flagship Technology Centre Systems Program are supporting existing and prospective MSMEs by developing production facilities, manpower, providing consultancy and developing competitive edge through adoption of best practices.

Source: PIB

#### Kochi becomes India's first city with Water Metro Project



- **Kochi (Kerala)** has become India's first city with a **Water Metro Project** as it launches the first in a series of battery-powered electric boats in the city.
- The new project by the Kochi Metro Rail Ltd will likely have an integrated water transport system with 15 identified routes.

- It will connect 10 islands along a network of routes that span 76 km with a fleet of 78 fast, electrically propelled hybrid ferries plying to 38 jetties.
- The project intended to introduce modern, energy-efficient, environment-friendly and safe boats with low wake and draft characteristics at a high frequency to increase ridership.
- Constructed at Cochin Shipyard Ltd, the fully air-conditioned boats with wide windows offer comfortable travel which would be an exciting experience to passengers and tourists.

Source: India Today

### Telangana tops in highest number of ODF villages

- **Telangana** stood first in the country in the list of highest number of **open defecation free (ODF Plus)** villages under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II** programme till December 31, 2021.
- As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in Telangana are in the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%.
- The State government has enacted a new Telangana Panchayat Raj Act to ensure holistic development of villages.
- Sanitation drives have often been carried out through the **PallePragathi** programme in villages.
- The implementation of **PallePragathi** programme for holistic development of villages is being uploaded on **SBM (G) 2.0** mobile app, which gets reported at the national level dashboard.



Source: The Hindu

### Election Commission defers February 14 Punjab Assembly election due to Guru Ravidas Jayanti



- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** decided to postpone the February 14 assembly election in Punjab due to **Guru Ravidas Jayanti**.
- The Election Commission has announced that the voting for the state's 117 assembly seats will now take place on February 20.
- Commission has received several representations from State Government, Political Parties and other organizations drawing attention regarding movement of a large number of devotees

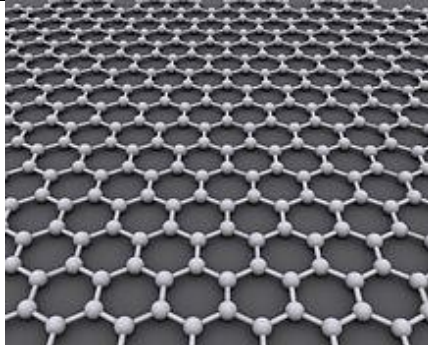
from Punjab to Varanasi for participation in Sri Guru Ravidas Ji Jayanti celebrations, which is observed on 16th February 2022.

**About Guru Ravidas Jayanti:**

- "Guru Ravidass Jayanti" is the birthday of Guru Ravidas, celebrated on Magh Purnima, the full moon day in the month of Magh month.

**Source: TOI**

**Graphene Innovation Centre**



- India's first innovation centre for graphene will be set up in Kerala by the Digital University Kerala (DUK), along with Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, for Rs 86.41 crore.
- Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- **Graphene** is an allotrope of carbon consisting of a single layer of atoms arranged in a two-dimensional honeycomb lattice nanostructure.
- Graphene is known for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, and as per latest research, it could replace indium and thereby bring down the cost of OLED (organic light-emitting diode) screens in smartphones.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Andhra Pradesh government forms 13 new districts**



- The Andhra Pradesh government formed 13 new districts in the state.
- The new districts have been formed based on Parliamentary constituencies.
- Adding to the existing 13 districts, the total number of districts in Andhra Pradesh is now 26.
- The new districts are being formed under the AP Districts Formation Act, 1974, Section 3(5).

**List of the new districts:** Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Kona Seema, Eluru, NTR District, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Sri Satyasai, Annamayya and Sri Balaji District.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 1st District Good Governance Index in Jammu and Kashmir



- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah released India's First "**District Good Governance Index**" in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under the index, the policies, schemes and programs of the central as well as the state governments have been monitored at the district level.
- The index will rank the districts and also present their comparative picture.
- The District Good Governance Index, which has been launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, has been prepared by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in partnership with the Union Territory's administration.
- Previously, the Centre had released the **National Good Governance Index** on December 25, 2021 that indicated Jammu and Kashmir saw an increase of 3.7% in Good Governance Indicators from 2019 to 2021.

Source: HT

## Important News: India

### SC to set up high-level committee to inquire into security lapses during PM Modi's visit to Punjab



- The **Supreme Court** will constitute a high-level committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge to investigate lapses in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security in Punjab.
- A three-judge bench comprising Chief Justice NV Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli was hearing the plea filed by an organisation, Lawyers Voice.



- The committee will also include DGP Chandigarh, Inspector General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana High Court and Additional DGP Punjab.

**Note:**

- Recently, the Union Home Ministry has constituted a committee to enquire into the serious lapses in the security arrangements during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab.
- The three-member committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Secretary (Security), Cabinet Secretariat and will comprise Balbir Singh, Joint Director, IB and S. Suresh, IG, SPG.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Startup India Innovation Week**



- To commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> years of progressive India 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', **Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE and Ministry of Commerce & Industry (DPIIT)** are jointly organising first-ever **Startup India Innovation Week (National Innovation Week)** from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022.
- A 2 days long e- Symposium on 'Building Innovation Ecosystem in Educational Institutions' will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 by the Ministry of Education.
- Startups are the key reason behind India's meteoric rise in **Global Innovation Index from 76 in 2014 to 46 in 2021**.
- This Innovation week will highlight various initiatives undertaken by these agencies to spread awareness to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in India.
- 75 innovative technologies selected from various programs such as National Innovation Contest, Smart India Hackathon, YUKTI2.0 and Toycathon conducted by the Ministry of Education will participate in e-exhibition and demonstrate their innovations.

**Source: PIB**

**EC announces schedule for assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur**



- The **Election Commission** announced the schedule for assembly elections in **Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Punjab and Manipur**.
- Uttar Pradesh will go to polls in seven phases from 10th February to 7th March.

- Voting for Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa will be held on 14th of February in a single phase. Manipur will vote on 27th February and 3rd March in two phases.
- Counting of votes will be held on 10th of March.
- The term of Goa Legislative Assembly is ending on 15th March this year, Manipur Assembly on 19th March, Uttarakhand and Punjab Legislative Assembly on 23rd March and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly on 14th May this year.

#### About ECI (Election Commission of India):

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950 (Later celebrated as National Voters Day)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission executives:**  
**Sushil Chandra**, Chief Election Commissioner  
**Rajeev Kumar**, Election Commissioner  
**Anup Chandra Pandey**, Election Commissioner

Source: newsonair

#### Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things (IoT)

- In order to secure Consumer Internet of Things (IoT) devices, Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has released a report “*Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)*” as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices.
- This report is intended for use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc.



Source: PIB

#### AyushAahaar

- Promoting nutritional diet and a healthy living, the **Ministry of Ayush** made a new beginning by making ‘**AyushAahaar**’ available at its canteen at Ayush Bhawan.
- Started as a pilot project, the ‘AyushAahaar’ includes Vegetable Poha, Bhajani Vada, Gajar Ka Halwa and Kokum Drink.
- The Ayush diet made available in the canteen is beneficial for health and easily digestible.



Source: newsonair

## National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT 3.0)

- **Union Education Minister and Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** launched **NEAT (National Educational Alliance for Technology) 3.0**, a single platform to provide the best-developed ed-tech solutions and courses to students of the country.
- The Minister also launched AICTE prescribed technical books in regional languages.
- NEAT will be a game-changer in bridging the digital divide, especially among the economically disadvantaged students and also in fulfilling the knowledge-based requirement of India and the world.
- More than 12 lakh socially and economically disadvantaged students have received free ed-tech course coupons worth over ₹253 crore under NEAT 3.0.

### About National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT):

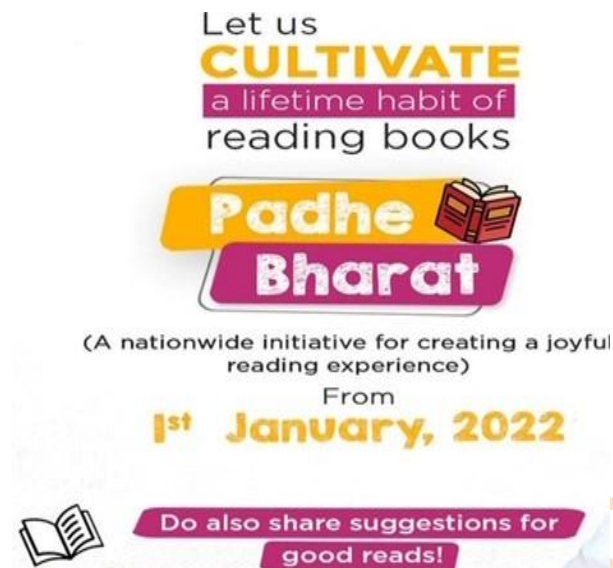
- It is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.
- These solutions use Artificial Intelligence for a personalized and customized learning experience for better learning outcomes and skill development in the niche areas.
- AICTE, Ministry of Education is acting as the facilitator in the process while ensuring that the solutions are freely available to a large number of socially and economically backward students.
- NEAT has 58 Education Technology Companies with 100 products that help to develop employable skills, capacity building, and bridge learning gaps.



Source: PIB

## 'Padhe Bharat' Campaign

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched a **100 days Reading Campaign 'Padhe Bharat'**.
- The launch of the 100 Days Reading Campaign is in alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- Padhe Bharat campaign will focus on children studying in Balvatika to Grade 8.
- The reading campaign will be organised for 100 days (14 weeks) starting from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- This campaign has also been aligned with the vision and goals of foundational Literacy and Numeracy mission.
- The 100 days reading campaign will also focus on Indian languages including mother tongue/local/regional languages.
- It is in this regard, **21st February** which is celebrated as **International Mother Tongue Day**, has also been integrated with this campaign.



Source: PIB

### Electoral Bonds

- Ahead of assembly elections in five states, the government approved issuance of the 19th tranche of **electoral bonds** which will be open for sale from January 1 to 10, 2022.
- Assembly elections for 5 states-- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Goa-- are expected to be announced soon.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches with effect from January 1 to January 10, 2022.

#### About Electoral Bond:

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.
- SBI is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.



Source: ET

### National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis



- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the tenure of the **National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis (NCSK)** for three years beyond 31.3.2022.



- The total implication of the extension for three years would be approximately Rs.43.68 crore.
- The major beneficiaries would be the SafaiKaramcharis and identified manual scavengers in the country since the NCSK for 3 more years beyond 31.3.2022.
- The **NCSK** was established in the year 1993 as per the provisions of the **NCSK Act 1993** initially for the period upto 31.3.1997.

**Background:**

- The NCSK has been giving its recommendations to the Government regarding specific programmes for welfare of SafaiKaramcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for SafaiKaramcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc.
- Also as per the provisions of the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**, the NCSK has been assigned the work to monitor the implementation of the Act, tender advice for its effective implementation to the Centre and State Governments and enquire into complaints regarding contravention/non-implementation of the provisions of the Act.

**Source: PIB**

**MoHUA announces winners of Streets for People and Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**organised an online event wherein it announced eleven winning cities for the **Streets for People Challenge**, and ten winning cities for the pilot stage of the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**.
- At the event, the Ministry also launched Season-2 of India Cycles4Change and Streets for People Challenges and a book titled ‘Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the Field’.
- These cities will now enter the scale up stage of the challenge wherein the projects undertaken in the pilot stage will now be scaled up in a sustainable manner.

**Announcement of winning cities under Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**

- MoHUA announced ten winning cities for the **Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge**, in collaboration with the Bernard van Leer Foundation (BvLF) and technical partner World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

**Source: PIB**

**Valedictory function of Kala Utsav 2021**



- Minister of State for Education, Smt. Annpurna Devi and Minister of State for Education Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh addressed the valedictory function of **Kala Utsav 2021**.
- **Kala Utsav 2021** was launched online on January 1, 2022 through a digital platform.

- A total of 35 teams have participated in Kala Utsav 2021, from different states, union territories, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti schools where 582 students demonstrated their talent.
- Out of these participants, 291 girls and 291 boys participated in Kala Utsav 2021 including 5 Divyang participants.

#### About Kala Utsav:

- The National **Kala Utsav** was launched by the National Council of Educational Research and Training and the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, in 2015.

**Source: PIB**

### Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative



- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is organizing **26th CISO (Chief Information Security Officers) Deep Dive Training program** under **Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative**.
- The training program is a part of a series of workshops organised by the National e-Governance Division at MeitY under the Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.
- The program is being conducted from January 17 - 22, 2022 and will cover topics such as Governance Risk & Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application & Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act, Security audit, guidelines for preparing CCMP and operation and monitoring of Security Operation Centre (SoC) etc.
- It will help the CISOs and other participants to equip themselves with better understanding of the emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security.

#### About Cyber Surakshit Programme:

- To empower the CISOs with the emerging challenges of cyber security and train them to meet the challenges, MeitY had initiated the Cyber Surakshit Programme in January 2018 with active support of industry consortium.
- The objective of the programme is to train 1200 CISOs and frontline IT officials from Central and State Government, PSUs, Banks and government organizations.

**Source: PIB**

### Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launches 'Open Data Week'



- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the initiation of the '**Open Data Week**' to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

- Leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data.
- It will be conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022.
- The Event will see participation from all **100 Smart Cities** that will be publishing high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal.
- The Event aims to show the benefits of open data such as increased efficiency, transparency, a spur in innovation, and economic growth.

**Source: PIB**

### **National Startup Awards 2021**



- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal presented the **National Startup Awards 2021**.
- A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of **National Startup Awards 2021** along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) conceived the National Startup Awards to recognize and reward outstanding Startups and ecosystem enablers that are building innovative products or solutions and scalable enterprises, with high potential of employment generation or wealth creation, demonstrating measurable social impact.
- Shri Goyal called upon the Startups to focus mainly on five areas to make India the No. 1 Startup ecosystem in the world:
  1. Develop solutions & content in Indic languages
  2. Encourage products & solutions that have a larger social & economic impact
  3. Promoting Startups in every district across the country, - Establish 'Startup Access centers' in every district
  4. Creating Innovation zones at the level of Urban Local Bodies
  5. Adopt best practices from across the globe & enhance India's global competitiveness

**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that **January 16** will be celebrated as **National Startup Day**, to take the Startup culture to the far-flung areas of the country.

**Source: PIB**

### **India grants financial assistance of over USD 900 million to Sri Lanka to overcome forex crisis**



- **India** has announced a USD 900 million loan to **Sri Lanka** to build up its depleted foreign reserves and for food imports.
- Sri Lanka is currently experiencing a shortage of almost all essentials due to a shortage of dollars to pay for the imports.

- These comprise deferment of Asian Clearing Union settlement of over \$509 million and currency swap of \$400 million.

**Facts about Sri Lanka:**

- **Capitals:** Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee
- **President:** Gotabaya Rajapaksa
- **Prime Minister:** Mahinda Rajapaksa

Source:ET

**India emerges as largest exporters of cucumber and gherkins in the world**



- India has emerged as the largest exporter of **cucumber and gherkins** in the world.
- India has exported cucumber and gherkins to the tune of 1,23,846 Metric Tonnes with a value of USD 114 million during April-October (2020-21).
- In 2020-21, India had shipped 2,23,515 Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins with a value of USD 223 million.
- Following directions of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** undertook a series of initiatives in infrastructure development, product promotion in the global market and adherence to food safety management system in processing units.
- **Gherkins** are exported under two categories -- cucumbers and gherkins, which are prepared and preserved by vinegar or acetic acid and cucumbers and gherkins, which are provisionally preserved.
- Gherkin cultivation, processing and exports started in India during the early 1990s with a modest beginning in Karnataka and later extended to the neighbouring states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Source: PIB

**Amar Jawan Jyoti merged with National War Memorial flame**





- The flame of the **Amar Jawan Jyoti** at the India Gate in Delhi was merged with the eternal flame at the National War Memorial.

**About Amar Jawan Jyoti:**

- The flame at Amar Jawan Jyoti in the India Gate memorial paid tributes to the martyrs of 1971 and other wars, however, none of the names who made that supreme sacrifice for the country were present there.
- The India Gate memorial, on the other hand, was built by the British government in memory of the British Indian Army soldiers who lost their lives between 1914-1921.
- The Amar Jawan Jyoti there was only included in the 1970s after the massive victory of India over Pakistan in which 93,000 troops of the enemy country surrendered.

**About National War Memorial:**

- The National War Memorial, which was built in the India Gate complex by the Narendra Modi government and was inaugurated in 2019, has the names of all the Indian defence personnel who have lost their lives in different operations from the 1947-48 war with Pakistan to the Galwan valley clash with Chinese troops.
- The names of troops who lost lives in the counter-terrorist operations are also included on the walls of the memorial.

Source: HT

**PM Modi launches Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation** on the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary classical vocalist late Pandit Jasraj.
- Pandit Jasraj was an Indian classical vocalist, belonging to the Mewati gharana (musical apprenticeship lineage).
- He received several accolades including the prestigious Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan and Sangeet NatakAkademi Award.
- He passed away at the age of 90 on August 17, 2020.

Source: TOI

## Lok Sabha secretariat launches Digital Sansad app



- The Lok Sabha secretariat has launched a new app, **Digital Sansad**.
- The App, planned by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, will help people get all Parliamentary updates.
- It becomes easier for citizens to access general information on MPs, on budget speeches since 1947, House discussions from 12th Lok Sabha to 17th Lok Sabha.
- The App will also contain the live telecast of Sansad proceedings, the major news of the day, etc.

Source: PIB

## Important News: World

### AlikhanSmailov named Kazakhstan's Prime Minister



- Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev nominated **AlikhanSmailov** as the Prime Minister.

#### Key Points

- AlikhanSmailov has served as First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2019.
- This year, he served as the acting Prime Minister after the government resigned due to the fuel protests followed by terrorist uprising.

Source: TOI

### Myanmar court sentences Aung San Suu Kyi to 4 more years in prison



- Former State Counsellor of Myanmar **Aung San Suu Kyi** was sentenced to four more years in prison.

- Aung San Suu Kyi was handed over the punishment in a case related to possession of unlicensed Walkie-talkie.
- The court handed over a sentence of 2 years for breaching the export import law for possessing the handheld walkie-talkie and one year for having a set of signal jammers. The two sentences will run concurrently.
- Earlier, she had received a four year jail sentence for inciting people against the military government and breaching the coronavirus rules. The sentence was later reduced by two years.
- Aung San Suu Kyi has been slapped with close to a dozen cases since the army seized power last February, If found guilty of all the charges, she could be sentenced to more than 100 years in prison.
- **Aung San Suu Kyi** is a Burmese politician, diplomat, author, and a 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate who served as State Counsellor of Myanmar and Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2016 to 2021.

**Source: newsonair**

### **United Nation Security Council (UNSC)**

- The **United Nation Security Council (UNSC)** got five new non-permanent members (**Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana and the United Arab Emirates**).
- Estonia, Niger, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam finished their terms recently.
- Albania is joining for the first time while Brazil is taking an 11th turn. Gabon and Ghana each have been on the council three times before and the UAE once.

#### **Facts about UNSC**

- **Formation:** 24 October 1945
- **Headquarter:** New York, USA
- **Membership:** 15 countries
- **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States)
- **Non-permanent members:** 10 including India



Source: Indian Express

### Sudan's Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok announces resignation

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- **Prime Minister of Sudan, Abdalla Hamdok** has announced his resignation.
- The 66-year-old Hamdok served as the 15th Prime Minister of Sudan from 2019 to 2022.
- MrHamdok, who was sacked by the military in October 2021 and reinstated a few weeks later as part of a deal, stepped down as anti-military protests continued to rock the country.
- The protesters rejected MrHamdok's deal with the military and demanded the Generals hand over power to an independent civilian authority.

#### Facts about Sudan:

- Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa.
- It borders the countries of Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan, and the Red Sea.
- **Capital:** Khartoum
- **Currency:** Sudanese pound



Source: The Hindu

### Nuclear-Weapon States

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- Five global nuclear powers namely **China, France, Russia, the U.K. and U.S.** pledged to prevent atomic weapons spreading and to avoid nuclear conflict, in a UN Security Council joint statement.
- The statement was issued after the latest review of the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** was postponed from its scheduled date of January 4 to later in the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### About Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT):

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- The treaty was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. Presently, it has 190 member states.
- India is not a member.





Source: The Hindu

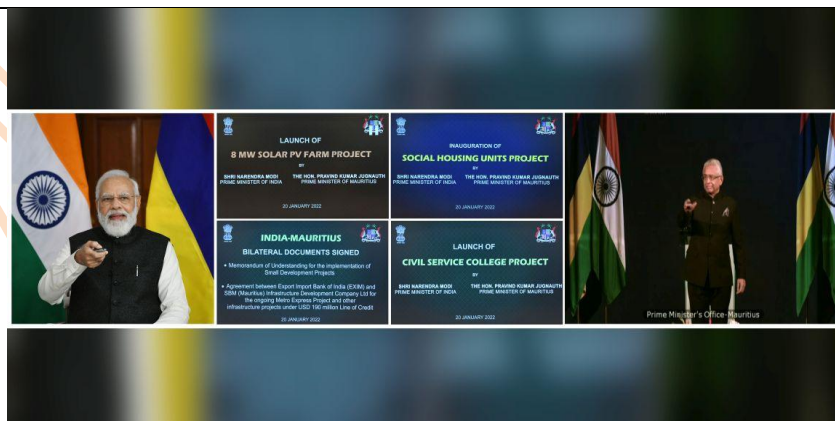
### First BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 held under Chinese chairship



- The first **BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022** was held virtually on January 18-19 under the Chinese chairship with the members thanking India for its BRICS chairship in 2021.
- **China** has taken on the rotating chairmanship of BRICS in 2022.
- Programme and priorities for the year were discussed at the first BRICS Sherpas Meeting of 2022.
- They looked forward to continuity, consensus and consolidation of BRICS cooperation.

Source: Business Standard

### PM Modi and Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurate the Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, jointly inaugurated the **Social Housing Units Project in Mauritius**.
- The two Prime Ministers also took part in a virtual foundation stone laying ceremony for two other projects – construction of a state-of-the-art Civil Service College and a 8 MW Solar PV Farm– also undertaken as part of India’s development support.

- The Prime Minister acknowledged the importance of the Civil Service College project in nation building and offered to share learnings of *Mission Karmayogi*.
- Prime Minister recalled the **One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** that he put forth at the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018 and said that the 8 MW Solar PV Farm project will help mitigate the climate challenges that Mauritius faces through avoidance of 13,000 tons of CO2 emissions.
- Ceremony included exchange of **two key bilateral agreements**: Agreement for the extension of USD 190 million Line of Credit from the Government of India to the Government of Mauritius for the Metro Express and other infrastructure projects and MoU on the Implementation of Small Development Projects.

Source: PIB

### World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022



- The **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** has released the **World Employment and Social Outlook-Trends 2022 (WESO Trends)**.
- The report examines the impacts of the crisis on global and regional trends in employment, unemployment and labour force participation, as well as on job quality, informal employment and working poverty.
- It also offers an extensive analysis of trends in temporary employment both before and during the COVID-19 crisis.

#### Findings of the Report:

- Global unemployment is projected to stand at 207 million in 2022.
- This is 21 million more than in 2019 before the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic began.
- Global working hours in 2022 will be almost two percent below their pre-pandemic level — that is equivalent to the loss of 52 million full-time jobs.
- There is the need for a broad-based labour market recovery — the recovery must be human-centred, inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

#### About International Labour Organization (ILO):

- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland
- **Director-General;** Guy Ryder

- **Formation:** 11 April 1919

**Source:** DTE

### Indonesia passes law to relocate capital from Jakarta to remote Borneo



- Recently, Indonesia's parliament has passed a law approving the relocation of its capital from slowly sinking Jakarta to a site 2,000 kilometres away on jungle-clad Borneo Island that will be named "Nusantara".
- The move was first tipped by President Joko Widodo in April 2019, citing rising sea levels and severe congestion on densely populated Java Island.
- The new capital (Nusantara) will cover about 56,180 hectares in East Kalimantan province on the Indonesian part of Borneo, which the country shares with Malaysia and Brunei.
- Indonesia is not the first country in the region to relocate from an overpopulated capital.
- Malaysia moved its government to Putrajaya from Kuala Lumpur in 2003, while Myanmar moved its capital to Naypyidaw from Rangoon in 2006.

**Source:** TOI

### PM Modi delivers 'State of the World' special address at the WEF's Davos Agenda



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered 'State of the World' special address at the **WEF (World Economic Forum)'s Davos Agenda** on 17th January, 2022.
- **Davos Agenda 2022** will be held from 17th to 21st January 2022.
- It will be the first global platform for key world leaders to share their visions for 2022.
- The event is being convened on the theme of "**State of the World.**"
- It will also be addressed by several Heads of State.
- It will also witness participation of top industry leaders, international organizations and civil society.
- During his special address, Prime Minister Modi outlined the reforms implemented by his administration to address the country's retrospective taxation problem.

- He also mentioned his government's asset monetisation efforts and large-scale infrastructure projects underway in India.

**Facts about World Economic Forum (WEF):** It is an international NGO.

- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Founded:** January 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab

**Source:** India Today

### Activities of 2022 discussed at BRICS STI Steering Committee: India to host 5 events

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- **India** will host five events in 2022, namely Startups Forum meeting, Working Groups meetings on Energy; Biotechnology & Biomedicine; ICT & High-Performance Computing; STIEP (Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Partnership) Working Group Meeting and the launching of BRICS innovation Launchpad as a microsite(Knowledge Hub), as per discussions at the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **BRICS Science Technology Innovation (STI) Steering Committee**.
- India has successfully handed over the **BRICS Chairmanship to China** from January 2022.
- The **theme for BRICS 2022** is “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership Usher in a New Era for Global Development”.
- A total of 25 events have been planned, of which India will host a total of five.

**Facts about BRICS:**

- **Formation:** 2009
- **Countries:** Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

**Source:** PIB

### Volcanic eruption in Tonga

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- Recently, a volcano erupted in the southern Pacific Island of Tonga, which triggered Tsunami waves around the Pacific.
- It is an Undersea Volcanic Eruption consisting of two small uninhabited islands, Hunga-Ha'apai and Hunga-Tonga.
- The Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano has erupted regularly over the past few decades.
- During events in 2009 and 2014/15 hot jets of magma and steam exploded through the waves. But these eruptions were small.

**Source: Indian Express**

### International Film Festival



- The 9-day long **20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)** was inaugurated at the National Museum premises in Dhaka on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 by the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr A K Abdul Momen.
- High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Vikram Doraiswami was present as special guest on the occasion.
- The film festival is showcasing 225 films spread in ten categories.
- Films from 70 countries are being shown at various venues during the festival.
- The **Indian entries** to the Festival include films like Koozhangal directed by P S Vinodraj, Avijatrik directed by Subhrajit Mitra, MayarJonjal directed by Indranil Roychowdhury, and Aandaal directed by Shareef Easa among the 35 entries.
- The Lebanese-German film 'The Anger' directed by Maria Ivanova was the inaugural movie of the festival.

**About Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF):**

- DIFF is organised by the Rainbow film Society established in 1977.
- DIFF was started in 1992.

**Source: newsonair**

### UN Regular Budget Assessments for 2022



- India has paid USD 29.9 million in UN Regular Budget Assessments for the year 2022.

- India has joined the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.
- India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation Security Council and its two-year term will end on December 31, 2022.

**Source: Business Standard**

### First India-Central Asia Virtual Summit



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** in virtual format on 27 January 2022, which was attended by Presidents of the Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- This first India-Central Asia Summit coincided with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- The Leaders discussed far-reaching proposals to further cooperation in areas of trade and connectivity, development cooperation, defence and security and, in particular, on cultural and people to people contacts.
- A comprehensive **Joint Declaration** was adopted by the leaders that enumerates their common vision for an enduring and comprehensive India-Central Asia partnership.
- In a historic decision, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every 2 years.
- They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
- An **India-Central Asia Secretariat** in New Delhi would be set up to support the new mechanism.

**Source: PIB**

### India, Israel launch commemorative logo



- India and Israel have launched a commemorative logo to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- The logo was unveiled virtually at an online event in the presence of Ambassador of Israel to India Naor Gilon and Indian envoy to Israel, Sanjeev Singla.

- The logo features the Star of David and the Ashoka Chakra- the two symbols that adorn the national flags of both countries- and forms the numeral 30 depicting the 30th anniversary of bilateral relations.
- Israel and India relationship encompasses slew of areas — health and innovation, agriculture and water, trade and economic activities, science and technology, research and development, defence and homeland security, art and culture, tourism and space.
- Israel and India established diplomatic relations on 29th of January 1992.

**Facts about Israel:**

- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **President:** Isaac Herzog
- **Prime Minister:** Naftali Bennett
- **Currency:** Israeli Shekel

Source: ET

**Prajakta Koli becomes India's first UNDP Youth Climate Champion**



- Prajakta Koli has become India's first **UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion**.
- Prajakta Koli is a content creator on various online platforms like youtube, Instagram, etc.
- The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.

**About UN Development Programme (UNDP):**

- It is a United Nations organization tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development.
- **Headquarters:** New York, United States
- **Founded:** 22 November 1965
- **Parent organization:** United Nations General Assembly

Source: Business Standard

**UNSC uses 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time**



- The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** used 3-D virtual diplomacy for the first time.
- Members of the UNSC went on a virtual field trip to Columbia, listening, watching and getting insights into the peace process with the help of **Virtual Reality (VR) technology**.

### Digital diplomacy:

- Digital diplomacy is also dubbed as Digiplomacy and eDiplomacy.
- It is defined as the use of new information communication technologies and the Internet to achieve diplomatic objectives.

### Facts about UNSC (United Nations Security Council):

- **Formation:** 24 October 1945
- **Membership:** 15 countries
- **Permanent members:** 5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States)
- **Non-permanent members:** 10 including India

Source: Business Standard

### ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) Meeting



- Recently, the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN) meeting with India was held.
- Devusinh Chauhan, Minister of State for Communications (MoSC) and Admiral Tin Aung San, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Myanmar co-chaired the meeting.
- The Ministers meeting approved the India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022.
- The Work Plan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet, the capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in the field of Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication, Cyber Forensics, etc.

### ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN):

- The ADGMIN is an annual meeting of Telecom Ministers of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam
- Dialogue Partner Countries - Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Russia, UK and US.

Source: PIB

## Important News: Economy

### India and UK launch Free Trade Agreement Negotiations



- **India and the United Kingdom** have formally launched negotiations for a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.



- This announcement has been made by Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and UK Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan.
- The India-UK bilateral trading relationship is already significant, and both sides have agreed to double that bilateral trade by 2030, as part of Roadmap 2030 announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Boris Johnson in May 2021.
- India and the UK will seek to agree a mutually beneficial agreement supporting jobs, businesses and communities in both countries.
- In parallel to trade negotiations, the India-UK Joint Economic and Trade Committee will continue to work in improving the India-UK trading relationship and addressing market access barriers outside of a trade agreement.

**Source: PIB**

### Indian Government to become single largest shareholder in Vodafone Idea



- **Vodafone Idea's** board has informed the telecom department that it will opt for converting the interest on spectrum and **Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR)** dues into government equity.
- In this case, it would mean that the government will hold 35.8% stake and become the single largest shareholder in the third largest telecom of the country.

#### Key Points

- The Vodafone had to pay Rs 58,254 crores of Adjusted Gross Revenue to the Government of India. It has already paid around 7,000 crores of rupees.
- The company has converted this pending amount into shares.

**Source: ET**

### India – South Korea Bilateral Trade Talks



- Yeo Han-Koo, Minister for Trade of South Korea held discussions with Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles in New Delhi.

#### Key Points

- Both the Ministers held wide ranging discussions covering the whole gamut of Bilateral Trade and Investment related aspects.

**CEPA negotiations:**

- The Ministers agreed to impart fresh momentum to the discussions on **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** up-gradation negotiations and also promote extensive **B2B (Business-to-Business)** interactions on trade and investment between the industry leaders of the two countries.

**Bilateral Trade:**

- India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of USD50 billion before 2030, which was agreed at the summit meeting in 2018.
- These regular negotiations shall be a forum to discuss the difficulties of the business community from both countries and emerging trade-related issues including supply chain resilience.
- India's total exports to South Korea in FY21 were about \$4.68 billion against imports of \$12.77 billion.

**Multilateral Platforms Shared by Both the Countries:**

- United Nations
- G20
- World Trade Organization (WTO)
- ASEAN Plus
- East Asia Summit (EAS)

**Note:**

**India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):**

- India has signed CEPAs with South Korea and Japan.
- In 2021, India and the United Arab Emirates formally launched negotiations on the India-UAE CEPA.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Apple becomes first company to touch \$3 trillion market cap**

- **Apple Inc** became the first company to hit a \$3 trillion stock market value.
- On the first day of trading in 2022, the company's shares hit an intraday record high of \$182.88, putting Apple's market value just above \$3 trillion.
- The stock ended the session up 2.5% at \$182.01, with Apple's market capitalization at \$2.99 trillion.

**Facts about Apple Inc.:**

- **CEO:** Tim Cook
- **Founded:** 1 April 1976
- **Headquarters:** Cupertino, California, United States
  - **Founders:** Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Ronald Wayne



**Source: ET**

**SEBI launches Saaṛṛthi mobile app**



- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** launched “Saaṛṛthi” – a mobile app on investor education.

- The Saaṡṡhi mobile app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.
- The app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

#### **About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):**

- SEBI is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- It was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Cabinet approves infusion of Rs. 1,500 crore in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited**



IS/ISO 9001:2015, ISO/IEC 27001:2013 Certified

(A Mini Ratna Category –I PSU)

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the equity infusion of Rs.1500 crore in **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**.
- This equity infusion will help in employment generation of approximately 10200 jobs-year and CO2 equivalent emission reduction of approximately 7.49 MillionTonnes CO2/year.

#### **About Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA):**

- IREDA, a mini ratna (Category-1) company under the administrative control of MNRE was set up in 1987 to work as a specialised non-banking finance agency for the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.

**Source: PIB**

### **FDI flows to India drop 26% in 2021: UNCTAD**



- According to the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**'s Investment Trends Monitor, **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** flows to India dropped 26 percent in 2021 as compared with the previous year.
- Global foreign direct investment (FDI) flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 77 percent to an estimated \$1.65 trillion, from \$929 billion in 2020.

- Recovery of investment flows to developing countries is encouraging, but stagnation of new investment in least developed countries in industries important for productive capacities, and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) sectors - such as electricity, food or health - is a major cause for concern.
- Developed economies saw the biggest rise by far, with FDI reaching an estimated \$777 billion in 2021 - three times the exceptionally low level in 2020.
- FDI to India increased 27 percent to USD 64 billion in 2020 from USD 51 billion in 2019, pushed up by acquisitions in the information and communication technology (ICT) industry.

**Source: ET**

## Important News: Defense

### DRDO flight tests final deliverable configuration of MPATGM

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**.

#### Key Points

- The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, fire & forget missile and is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight.
- The Indian Army has been mainly using various imported anti-tank guided missiles in the past, the DRDO has been working on ATGMs to be launched from different platforms as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.



#### Note:

- The indigenously developed MPATGM, ATGM Nag and Helicopter launched ATGM Nag or Helina have been successfully tested in the recent past under various conditions.

**Source: Indian Express**

### Naval variant of BrahMos supersonic missile test-fired from INS Visakhapatnam



- An extended range sea-to-sea variant of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam.

- BrahMos, deployed by the Navy on its warships first in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon.
- The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, respectively.
- This version of the missile has been designed to launch either in a vertical or a horizontal mode from moving/stationary assets to target both land and sea targets.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Sea Dragon 22 Exercise**



- Recently, the **US Sea Dragon 22 Exercise** began along with the navies of **India, Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea**.
- India, Japan, Australia and America are also part of the Quad, and also participate in the Malabar exercise.
- Sea Dragon is a US-led multi-national exercise designed to practice and discuss Anti-submarine warfare tactics to operate together in response to traditional and non-traditional maritime security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Bollard Pull Tug “Balraj”**

- Contract for construction of **50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs** was concluded with **M/sHindustan Shipyard Ltd**, Visakhapatnam on 14 Feb 2019 at a cost of Rs. 260.70 Crores.
- Third tug in the series, “**Balraj**” has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on **31 Dec 2021**.
- Tugs “Veeran” and “Balram” were inducted on 22 Oct 2021 and 30 Oct 2021 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam and Naval Dockyard, Mumbai respectively.
- These tugs have been designed and built under the classification rules of Indian Register for Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 20 years and are capable of assisting large naval ships, including Aircraft Carrier and Submarines in berthing, un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring.





Source: PIB

**BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, with enhanced capability, successfully test-fired**



- **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**, with increased indigenous content and improved performance, was successfully test-fired from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- The launch was conducted by Brahmos Aerospace in close coordination with the teams of **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
- BrahMos Aerospace has been continuously upgrading the powerful, highly versatile BrahMos to increase its effectiveness and lethality against sea and land targets.

**BrahMos missiles:**

- A combination of the names of Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers, BrahMos missiles are designed, developed and produced by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by DRDO and NPOM of Russia.
- The first test launch of the initial version Brahmos took place in 2001.
- Various types of the BrahMos including those which can be fired from land, warships, submarines and Sukhoi-30 fighter jets have already been developed and successfully tested since then.

Source: Indian Express

**BSF's "Operation Sard Hawa"**



- The **Border Security Force (BSF)** will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan under its **"Operation Sard Hawa"** from January 23 to 28, 2022.

- Due to fog and haze on the border during winter, the force remains on "high alert" to deal with infiltration and other nefarious activities from across the border.
- All personnel and officers of the headquarters will remain on the border during this period and will monitor the situation 24 hours.
- The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer and "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year.

**Source: ET**

### **In a first, India to export BrahMos missiles to the Philippines**



- **India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** will be exported first time and missiles will be purchased by Philippines.
- The Philippines has approved the purchase of anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos. This deal has been done for about \$ 374.9 million.
- **BrahMos Aerospace**, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.
- The BrahMos order is the first major military export by India.
- Last year, India and the Philippines signed a defence arrangement that would enable export of defence equipment to Manila.
- Other countries in Southeast Asia, including Vietnam and Indonesia, have also expressed their interest in buying BrahMos from India, to which end discussions are ongoing.

**Source: India Today**

### **Indian Navy conducts Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy**



- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, conducted Passage Exercise (PASEX) with Russian Navy's RFS Admiral Tributs on 14 January 2022 in the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kochi along with RFS Admiral Tributes of the Russian Navy undertook the Passage Exercise (PASEX) in the Arabian Sea on 14 January 2022.

- This is for the first time that the Indian Navy has tested its indigenously designed and built guided-missile destroyer and was tested with the Russian Federation Navy to showcase India's defence capabilities.
- The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.

**Exercise between India and Russia:**

- Indra: Joint Exercise (Army, Navy, Air Force)

**Source: TOI**

**Exercise Paschim Lehar**



- A joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** conducted by the Indian Navy off the West Coast was concluded on 25 January 2022.
- The exercise was conducted over a duration of 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.
- The exercise was conducted under the aegis of FOC-in-C, Western Naval Command.
- The intra-theatre exercise included mobilisation and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy.

**Source: PIB**

**Delivery of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs "Balbir" to Naval Dockyard Mumbai**



- Contract for construction of 50Ton Bollard Pull Tugs was concluded with M/s Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam in February 2019.
- The Fourth tug in the series, "**Balbir**" has been delivered to Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on **24 Jan 2022**.



- These tugs have been designed and built under the classification rules of Indian Register for Shipping (IRS) with a service life of 20 years and are capable of assisting large naval ships, including Aircraft Carrier and Submarines in berthing, un-berthing, turning and manoeuvring in confined waters and in harbour.
- With all major and auxiliary equipment/system sourced from indigenous manufacturers, these tugs are proud flag bearers of “Make in India, Make for the World” initiatives of Ministry of Defence in consonance with “Atmanirbhar Bharat”.

**Source: PIB**

### **Saab awarded Indian contract for AT4 Support Weapon**



- **Swedish defence company Saab** has been awarded a contract to supply single-shot **anti-armour weapon AT4** to the Indian armed forces.
- The company has been awarded the contract for the lightweight and fully disposable weapon after going through a "competitive programme".
- AT4 will be used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.
- The contract was signed by FFV Ordnance AB, responsible for Saab's Ground Combat offer in India.
- Operated by a single soldier, this single-shot system has proven efficacy against structures, landing craft, helicopters, armoured vehicles and personnel.
- Its 84 mm calibre warhead offers enhanced power and performance.

**Source: ET**

### **Tri-Service Andaman & Nicobar Command inducts Advanced Light Helicopter MK III**



- The indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III** aircraft was formally inducted at INS Utkrosh by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair.

- The ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and represents a tremendous leap towards self-reliance in the field of military aircraft, in line with the government's push towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Amongst its variants, the MK III variant is a maritime role variant encompassing state-of-the-art sensors and weapons that add punch to India's prowess at sea.

Source: PIB

## Science and Technology

### David Bennett, world first human receives a Pig Heart Transplant



- **David Bennett**, a US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.
- The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common.
- Pigs are increasingly becoming popular candidates for organ transplantation.
- This is because their organs are anatomically similar to those of humans.

Source: BBC News

### Startup Grand Challenge



- The **Department of Fisheries**, Government of India in association with **Startup India**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry inaugurated the “**Fisheries Startup Grand Challenge**”.
- The challenge has been launched with an objective to provide a platform to start-ups within the country to showcase their innovative solutions within the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector.
- The challenge is expected to foster start-up culture within the sector and to establish a strong foundation of the entrepreneurial model, the Department of Fisheries has earmarked funds to the tune of Rs. 3.44 Crore for the challenge.

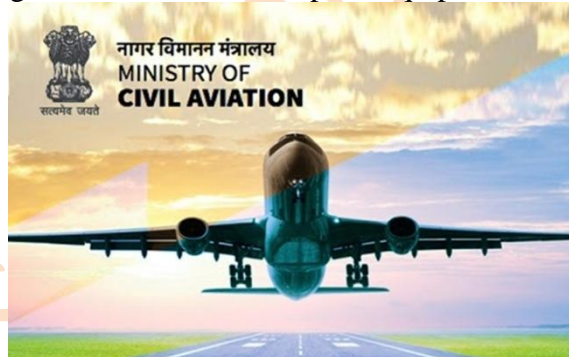
Note:

- Fisheries sector has tremendous potential for growth and the Government of India is providing all necessary support to achieve the one lakh crore export target from the sector by 2024-25.
- India is the second major producer of fish through aquaculture in the world.
- India is the 4th largest exporter of fish in the world as it contributes 7.7% to the global fish production.

**Source: PIB**

### **National Air Sports Policy 2022**

- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has released draft **National Air Sports Policy (NASP) 2022** for public feedback.
- **NASP 2022** covers sports like aerobatics, aeromodelling, amateur-built and experimental aircraft, ballooning, drones, gliding, hang gliding and paragliding; microlighting and paramotoring; skydiving and vintage aircraft.
- The vision is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.
- The mission is to provide a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in India.
- An **Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI)** will be established as the apex governing body.
- The **Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (FAI)**, headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland is the world governing body for air sports.
- To make air sports affordable to the common public, the Government will request the GST Council to consider rationalising the **GST rate** on air sports equipment to 5% or less.



**Source: PIB**

### **Devas-Antrix deal**



- Recently, the Supreme Court upheld a May 25, 2021 order of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) to liquidate Devas on the ground that the firm was created under fraudulent circumstances.
- The investors have won separate compensation awards in international tribunals, including \$1.2 billion awarded by an International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) tribunal on September 14, 2015.

- The Supreme Court has kept the \$1.2 billion award in abeyance.
- A 2005 satellite deal between Antrix Corporation — the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) — and Devas Multimedia Pvt Ltd, a start-up headquartered in Bengaluru, is at the heart of a global legal tussle between the Indian government and foreign investors in Devas.
- The tussle is a fallout of the cancellation of the deal in 2011 by the then UPA government citing requirement of satellite spectrum allotted to Devas for security purposes.

**Devas-Antrix deal:**

- Under the deal, ISRO would lease to Devas two communication satellites (GSAT-6 and 6A) for 12 years for Rs 167 crore. Devas would provide multimedia services to mobile platforms in India using S-band transponders on the satellites.

**Source: Indian Express**

**India's first coal to methanol plant built by BHEL**



- Union Minister for Heavy Industries Mahendra Nath Pandey dedicated **India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant** to the nation.
- The Minister also inaugurated an exhibition on Products Developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat' organised at Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited's (BHEL) Hyderabad unit.
- This conversion of high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India.
- The 0.25 TPD (tonnes per day) capacity CTM pilot plant that has been indigenously designed, developed and installed by BHEL is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99 percent from high-ash Indian coal.

**Source: Business Standard**

**Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan: ISRO**





- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully conducted qualification tests of the **Cryogenic Engine for Gaganyaan human space programme**.
- The ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu conducted the test for 720 seconds duration and met the test objectives.
- The engine will further undergo four more tests for a cumulative duration of 1810 seconds.
- The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark III launch vehicle to be used for the Gaganyaan programme will use two cryogenic engines.
- This engine developed by ISRO is named as Vikas.

**Note:**

- India's first Human Space Mission '**Gaganyaan**' will be launched in 2023.
- ISRO is planning to conduct the first Unmanned Mission under Gaganyaan program by the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's independence.

**Source: The Hindu**

### **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**



- The **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)** chairman Dr S Somanath has mentioned the launch of an "SSLV-D1 Micro SAT" in April 2022.
- The SSLV is intended to cater to a market for the launch of small satellites into low earth orbits which has emerged in recent years on account of the need for developing countries, private corporations, and universities for small satellites.

**About Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV):**

- The SSLV is the smallest vehicle at 110-ton mass at ISRO.
- It will take only 72 hours to integrate, unlike the 70 days taken now for a launch vehicle.
- SSLV is a three-stage all solid vehicle and has a capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- The maiden flight of the SSLV was scheduled to launch in July 2019 but that has since been delayed due to setbacks from Covid-19 and other issues.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Drone Certification Scheme**



- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA)** notified a **Drone Certification Scheme (DCS)** to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements as it will boost indigenous manufacturing.



- The **Drone Certification Scheme** notified on January 26, 2022, under Rule 7 of the **liberalized Drone Rules, 2021** will help in simpler, faster and transparent type-certification of drones.
- Along with the liberalised drone rules, airspace map, the PLI (production-linked incentive) scheme and the single window DigitalSky Platform, this will help drone manufacturing industry in India, grow.
- This is another step in making India the drone hub of the world by 2030.
- A multi-stakeholder steering committee (MSC) chaired by a known professional, who is respected by government and industry alike, will oversee the scheme, along with a QCI (Quality Control of India) secretariat.

**Source: Business Standard**

### Vision Document on Electronics Manufacturing

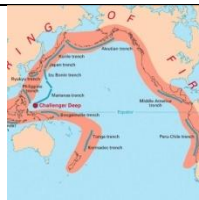


- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in association with ICEA, released a 5-year roadmap and Vision Document for the electronics sector, titled “\$300 billion Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026.”
- This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part Vision Document – the first of which titled “Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs” was released in November 2021.
- This report provides a year-wise break-up and production projections for the various products that will lead India’s transformation into a US\$300 billion electronics manufacturing powerhouse, from the current US\$75 billion.
- Mobile manufacturing that is expected to cross US\$100 billion annual production - up from the current US\$30 billion - is expected to constitute nearly 40% of this ambitious growth.

**Source: PIB**

## Environment

### Pacific ‘Ring of Fire’



- The Hunga Tonga-HungaHa'apai volcano, which erupted recently, lies along the Pacific ‘Ring of fire’.
- The Hunga Tonga-HungaHa'apai volcano erupted, sending ash and smoke thousands of feet into the air.

- The volcano, situated on an uninhabited island, became active in 2009.
- It lies along the Pacific 'Ring of fire', and is just over 60 kilometres from the island nation of Tonga.

**Pacific 'Ring of Fire':**

- The Pacific 'Ring of Fire' or Pacific rim, or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is an area along the Pacific Ocean that is characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- It is home to about 75 percent of the world's volcanoes – more than 450 volcanoes. Also, about 90 percent of the world's earthquakes occur here.
- Its length is over 40,000 kilometres and traces from New Zealand clockwise in an almost circular arc covering Tonga, Kermadec Islands, Indonesia, moving up to the Philippines, Japan, and stretching eastward to the Aleutian Islands, then southward along the western coast of North America and South America.
- The area is along several tectonic plates including the Pacific plate, Philippine Plate, Juan de Fuca plate, Cocos plate, Nazca plate, and North American plate.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Environment Management Plans for Najafgarh jheel**

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- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed **Delhi and Haryana** to enforce the **Environment Management Plans** that the two governments have prepared for the rejuvenation and protection of the Najafgarh jheel, a transboundary wetland.
- The implementation of these action plans is to be monitored by the National Wetland Authority through the respective State Wetland Authorities.
- The **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)** first took the matter of restoration of the Najafgarh jheel to the NGT in 2014, and then filed an execution application before the tribunal in 2019, noting that no remedial measures had been taken.

**About Najafgarh Jheel:**

- It is located in a natural depression in southwest Delhi, close to the Gurugram-Rajokri border on National Highway-48.
- The presence of 281 bird species, including several threatened ones such as Egyptian vulture, Sarus Crane, Steppe Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle and those migrating along the Central Asian Flyway has been reported at the lake.

**About National Green Tribunal (NGT):**

- NGT was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

**Source: Indian Express**

**Peru declares 'Environmental Emergency'**

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- The Peruvian government declared a 90-day “**Environmental Emergency**” in damaged coastal territories, after an oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea.
- The spill was caused by freak waves, which resulted from the eruption of a volcano in Tonga.
- Peruvian authorities say that this measure will allow for “sustainable management of the affected areas,” through “restoration and remediation” work.
- The oil spill came out of a tanker belonging to the Spanish energy firm Repsol.

**Environmental Impacts:**

- Harmful to aquatic life
- Toxic Effects
- Threat to Mangroves

**Economic Impacts:**

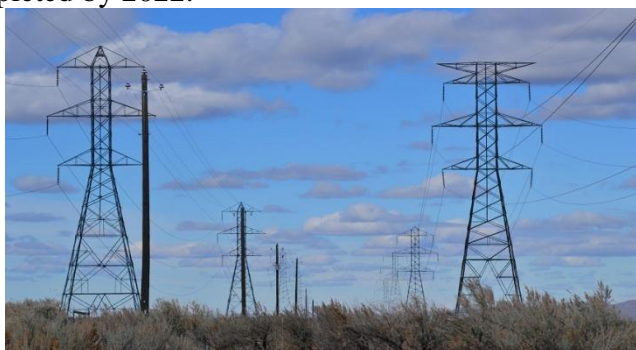
- Tourism
- Power Plants
- Fishing

**Source: Indian Express**

## Schemes

### Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, approved the scheme on **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II** for **Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)** for addition of approximately 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and approx. 27,500 MegaVolt-Amperes (MVA) transformation capacity of substations.
- The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of approximately 20 GW of Renewable Energy (RE) power projects in seven States namely, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- The transmission systems will be created over a period of five year from Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.
- This scheme is in addition to GEC-Phase-I which is already under implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for grid integration and power evacuation of approx. 24 GW of RE power and is expected to be completed by 2022.



Source: PIB

### Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar

- **Government-promoted CSC (Common Services Centres), SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Culture**, will undertake the first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through a mobile application.
- The survey, titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar', will document the cultural identity at the village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block or district unique.
- The entire exercise is expected to be completed by mid-2022.
- As per the agreement signed between the two entities, CSC will develop a mobile application and train the village level entrepreneurs (VLEs) in conducting the survey.
- Over 4 lakh VLEs, managing the CSCs across the country, will conduct the survey in 6.38 lakh villages.

#### About Common Service Centres (CSC):

- Common Service Centres are physical facilities for delivering Government of India e-Services to rural and remote locations where availability of computers and Internet was negligible or mostly absent.
- **Founder:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- **Founded:** 16 July 2009
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India



Source: TOI

### Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)

- **The Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has launched “**Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR)**” program.
- It is a joint initiative of **MoHUA, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by the Smart Cities Mission.
- The Smart Cities Mission's urban projects are lighthouse projects to other aspiring cities.
- Since the start of the Mission in 2015, the 100 Smart Cities have been developing a total of 5,151 projects with an investment of Rs 2,05,018 crore.
- The first activity envisaged under SAAR is to prepare a compendium of 75 landmark urban projects in India under the Smart City Mission.
- These 75 urban projects are innovative, multi-sectoral, and have been implemented across geographies.





Source: PIB

## One District One Product brands

- Union Minister for Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Pashupati Kumar Paras launched six, **One District One Product (ODOP)** brands under the **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme**.
- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has signed an agreement with NAFED for developing 10 brands of selected ODOPs under the branding and marketing component of the PMFME scheme.
- Out of these, six brands namely Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes were launched.
- All the products will be available at NAFED Bazaars, E-commerce platforms, and prominent retail stores across India.

### About the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme:

- Launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, PMFME Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme that aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- With an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crores over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the scheme envisions to directly assist the 2,00,000 micro food processing units for providing financial, technical, and business support for up-gradation of existing micro food processing enterprises.



Source: PIB

## Awards and Honours

### Global Women's Health Tech Awards





- **NIRAMAI Health Analytix Pvt. Ltd. and InnAccel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.**, two start-ups supported by **DBT-BIRAC**, have received the **World Bank Group and the Consumer Technology Association's Global Women's Health Tech Awards**.
- The award recognises innovative startups that leverage tech to improve women's health and safety in emerging markets.

Source: PIB

### Actress Harshaali Malhotra receives Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022



- 'BajrangiBhaijaan' actress **Harshaali Malhotra** received the prestigious 12<sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.

#### Key Points

- Harshaali Malhotra received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra, for her performance in the film and for her contribution to the field of cinema.
- Harshaali featured in BajrangiBhaijaan, released in 2015, directed by Kabir Khan.

Source: HT

### Golden Globe Awards (2022)



- The **79th Golden Globe Awards (2022)** honored the best in film and American television of 2021, as chosen by the **Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA)**.
- The nominations were announced on December 13, 2021 by rapper Snoop Dogg and HFPA president Helen Hoehne.
- Two of the films namely The Power of the Dog and the West Side Story, won the most number of awards with 3 each.

**List of winners in key categories:**

**MOVIES:**

- BEST DRAMA: "The Power of the Dog"
- BEST COMEDY OR MUSICAL: "West Side Story"
- BEST ACTOR, DRAMA: Will Smith "King Richard"
- BEST ACTRESS, DRAMA: Nicole Kidman, "Being the Ricardos"
- BEST ACTOR, COMEDY OR MUSICAL: Andrew Garfield, "Tick, Tick... Boom!"
- BEST ACTRESS, COMEDY OR MUSICAL: Rachel Zegler, "West Side Story"
- BEST DIRECTOR: Jane Campion, "The Power of the Dog"
- BEST ANIMATED FILM: "Encanto"
- BEST NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE FILM: "Drive My Car"

**TELEVISION:**

- BEST TV DRAMA SERIES: "Succession"
- BEST TV COMEDY/MUSICAL SERIES: "Hacks"
- BEST ACTOR, TV DRAMA: Jeremy Strong, "Succession"
- BEST ACTRESS, TV DRAMA: Mj Rodriguez, "Pose"
- BEST ACTOR, TV COMEDY/MUSICAL: Jason Sudeikis, "Ted Lasso"
- BEST ACTRESS, TV COMEDY/MUSICAL: Jean Smart, "Hacks"
- BEST TV MOVIE OR LIMITED SERIES: "The Underground Railroad"

Source: [goldenglobes.com](https://goldenglobes.com)

**Maharashtra Foundation Award Announced**



- The Maharashtra Foundation's 2021 Literature and Social Work Awards have been announced.
- Prematai Purav has received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Work and Narendra Chapalgaonkar for Literature. The award consists of Rs 2 lakh and a memento.
- Maharashtra Foundation has announced 11 awards in the field of literature and social service this year.

**Other awards:**

- Dr. Narendra Dabholkar Smriti Award - Anshul Chhatrapati (Sirsa, Haryana), Work: Raised the atrocities and murders of Baba Ram Rahim.
- Special Award in the field of Digital Journalism - Ram Jagtap
- Literary Award: Santosh Shintre

- Lalit Granth Puraskar - Writer Ramesh Andhare (Dagadimakta's Novel)
- Mukta Bam was given the R S Datar Natya Puraskar, a newcomer to the field of drama. Cecilia Cavarhallo will be honored for her autobiography, Tipani.
- Suresh Sawant and Sunita Bhosale will be honored with activist awards, while Yuvraj Gatkhal will be honored with youth awards.
- **Source: Loksatta**

### National Water Awards



- Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat announced **3<sup>rd</sup> National Water Awards-2020**.
- In the Best State category, **Uttar Pradesh** has been awarded first prize, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- National Water Awards were instituted in attaining the government's vision of a '*Jal Samridh Bharat*'.
- The first National Water Award was launched in 2018.

**Source: PIB**

### PM's Excellence Award

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for **PM's Excellence Award** in Public Administration portal for the year 2021-2022.
- After 2014, the process and selection of PM's Excellence Award have been institutionalized and now this is based on the performance of the District, rather than that of the District Collector or individual civil servant.
- The prize money was also doubled this year from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization which is to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.
- For the year 2021, the scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration aims to recognize the contribution of civil servants in:
  - 1) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or Peoples' participation in **Poshan Abhiyan**
  - 2) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through **Khelo India scheme**
  - 3) Digital Payments and good governance in **PM SVANidhi Yojana**
  - 4) Holistic Development through **One District One Product scheme**
  - 5) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention
  - 6) Innovations
- The total number of Awards under the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 would be 18.



Source: PIB

### Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021

- **Sahitya Akademi**, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021** in 20 languages.
- The Sahitya Akademi announced a list of 22 winners each of the **Yuva Puraskar** and the **Bal Sahitya Puraskar for 2021**.
- **Megha Majumdar** won the **Yuva Puraskar** for her debut novel *A Burning* and Himanshu Vajpai won it for his collection of short stories titled *Kissa Kissa Lucknowa — Lucknow Ke Awami Kisse*.
- 07 books of poetry, 02 of novel, 05 of short stories, 02 Plays, one each of Biography, Autobiography, Criticism and Epic Poetry have won the **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021**. Awards in Gujarati, Maithili, Manipuri and Urdu languages will be announced at a later date.
- Sahitya Akademi presents the award to literary works in 24 languages including English. It was established in 1954.
- Kiran Gurav, Pranav Sakhdev and Sanjay Wagh have been honored for writing in Marathi while Sanjeev Vernekar, Shraddha Garad and Sumedha Desai have been honored for writing in Konkani.
- Kiran Gurwan has been honored with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his collection of short stories 'Baluchya Avasthantarachi Diary' and Sanjeev Vernekar for his collection of poems 'Raktachandan'.
- The award is in the form of Rs 1 lakh and a badge of honor.



Source: The Hindu

### Lavni artist from Maharashtra wins gold medal at International Folk Art Festival in Dubai





- A young Lavani artist from Maharashtra, SumitBhale has won a gold medal at the **International Folk Art Festival in Dubai**.
- **Lavani** is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra, India.
- Lavani is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument.
- Lavani is noted for its powerful rhythm. Lavani has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre.
- Lavani dance originated from Maharashtra in 18th and 19th century.

**This dance form was popular in the Peshawari Dynasty that was situated in Pune.**

**President and Police Medal Announced**



- On the occasion of Republic Day, 51 police officers and staff of the state have been awarded President's and Police Medals.
- Out of them, 4 police officers were awarded 'Presidential Distinguished Service Medal' for outstanding service, 7 were awarded 'Police Bravery Medal' and 40 were awarded 'Police Medal' for commendable service.

#### **About the award**

- Every year on the eve of Republic Day, the 'Police Medal' is announced by the Union Home Department for the bravery of the police across the country.
- This year, It has been announced a total of 939 Police Medals have been awarded to 88 policemen for President's Distinguished Service Medal (PPM), 189 Police for Police Bravery Medal (PMG), 662 Police for Police Medal for Commendable Service (PM) and two for President's Bravery Medal.

#### **Recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Medal**

- Vinay Mahadevrao Korgaonkar (Additional Director General of Police (PCR), Fort Mumbai)
- Pralhad Nivruti Khade (Commandant SRPF, Group 6, Dhule)
- Chandrakant Rambhau Gundge (Inspector of Police PTC Nanvij, Daund, Pune)
- Anwar Beg Ibrahim Beg Mirza (Sub-Inspector of Police SP, Nanded)

Source: Loksataa

**Padma Awards 2022**





- This year the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards including 2 duo case (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).
- The list comprises 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards.
- 34 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 Posthumous awardees.
- Among the notable names, India's first chief of defence staff (CDS) – the late General Bipin Rawat – was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan, while Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra was among Padma Shri recipients.

**Following are some notable names from the Padma awards:**

- **Padma Vibhushan:** Kalyan Singh, former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh (posthumous); General Bipin Rawat, India's first chief of defence staff (posthumous)
- **Padma Bhushan:** Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, former West Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech's chairman Krishna Ella and his co-founder wife Suchitra Ella, Serum Institute of India (SII) managing director Cyrus Poonawalla
- Key names from Big Tech, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella and Alphabet and Google CEO Sundar Pichai, were also named as Padma Bhushan recipients.
- **Padma Shri:** Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra, Olympians Pramod Bhagat, and Vandana Kataria, singer Sonu Nigam

**Source: PIB**

**Jai Bhim and Marakkar eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022**



- Suriya's Jai Bhim and Mohanlal's Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham are eligible for Best Feature Film at Oscars 2022.
- Suriya's Jai Bhim, directed by TJ Gnanavel, premiered on Amazon Prime Video in November 2021.

- Jai Bhim is the only Tamil film to get shortlisted for the Best Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards.
- Among the 276 films that have been shortlisted across the world, Jai Bhim and the Malayalam film, Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham, have been chosen from India.
- The award ceremony is scheduled on March 27, 2022, in Hollywood, US.

Source: Indian Express

### India's Koozhangal wins best film award at 20th Dhaka International Film Festival



- During the recently concluded **20th Dhaka International Film Festival** in Dhaka, **Indian movie Koozhangal** won the best film award in the Asian Film Competition category.
- Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films.

#### **Koozhangal:**

- It's a Tamil-language drama directed by director PS Vinodraj and is produced by top South Indian actress Nayanthara and her husband Vignesh Shivan under their banner Rowdy Pictures.
- The film was screened at the 50th International Film Festival Rotterdam held in the Netherlands last year, where it received the Tiger Award at the festival.
- It was also selected as India's entry for the Best International Feature Film at the 94th Academy Awards, but did not make the final nomination.

Source: newsonair

### Former Japan PM Shinzo Abe conferred Netaji Award 2022



- **Former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** was conferred with the **Netaji Award 2022** by Netaji Research Bureau.
- Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka received the honour on behalf of Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- Moreover, in January 2021, India bestowed the Padma Vibhushan on former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the country's second-highest civilian honour.

Source: India Today

## Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar- 2022



- 29 Children have been conferred the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2022**, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories.
- There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs.
- During the function, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** gave digital certificates to the 61 winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using a **Block Chain**-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the **National Blockchain Project**.

### About Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:

- The Government of India presents PMRBP awards to children for their exceptional achievement in six categories namely Innovation, Social Service, Scholastic achievements, Sports, Art & Culture and Bravery.
- Each awardee is given a medal, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a certificate.

Source: PIB

## Babar Azam named Captain of ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021



- **Pakistani skipper Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the **ICC Men's T20I Team of the Year for 2021**.
- The ICC Team of the Year recognises the 11 best players in men's cricket who have impressed one and all with their performances in a calendar year, either with the bat, ball or their all-round performance.
- No Indian male player has found a place in the team of 11.
- However, in ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021, **Smriti Mandhana** is the only Indian women player named in the 11 member team.

- England's Nat Sciver has been made the captain of ICC Women's T20I Team of the Year for 2021.

**Source: India Today**

### **Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar 2022**



- For the year 2022, (i) Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (in the Institutional category) and (ii) Professor Vinod Sharma (in the Individual category) have been selected for the **Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar** for their excellent work in Disaster Management.
- They have been conferred with the Award, alongwith the awardees of the year 2019, 2020 and 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)**, established in 2012, has been working to enhance the disaster risk reduction (DRR) capacity of Gujarat.
- **Professor Vinod Sharma**, a senior professor at the Indian Institute of Public Administration and Vice-Chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, was the founder co-ordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, now known as the National Institute of Disaster Management. He has worked tirelessly towards bringing disaster risk reduction (DRR) to the forefront of the national agenda.

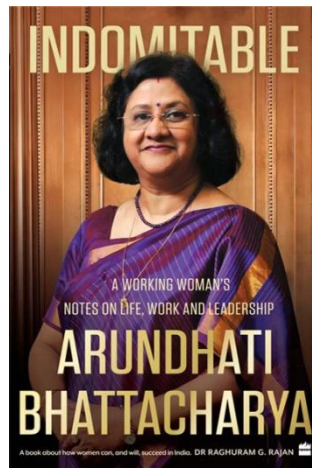
#### **About Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar:**

- To recognize and honour the invaluable contribution and selfless service rendered by individuals and organizations in India in the field of disaster management, Government of India has instituted an annual award known as Subhash Chandra Bose AapdaPrabandhanPuraskar.
- The award is announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh and a certificate in case of an institution and Rs. 5 lakh and a certificate in case of an individual.

### **Books and Authors**

**Book: "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership"**





- Former State Bank of India (SBI) Chairperson **Arundhati Bhattacharya** turned author with her autobiography - 'Indomitable - A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership'.
- The book focuses on **Arundhati Bhattacharya's** personal & professional journey.
- The book is published by HarperCollins India.
- In 2016, Forbes named her the Most-Powerful Woman in the World list, and she held the 25th spot.

**Source: ET**

**Ratan Tata's authorized biography to come in November 2022**

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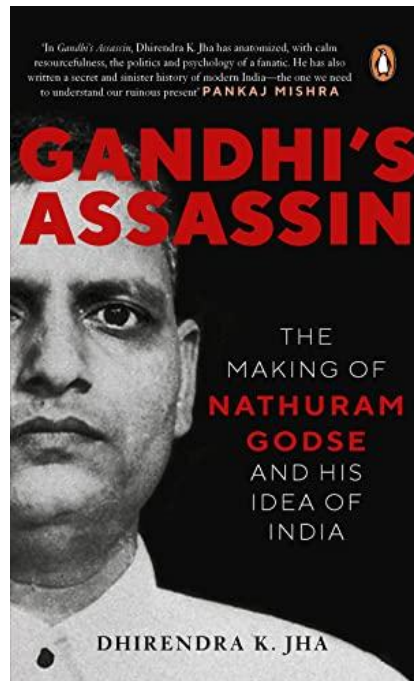
- **Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata's** authorized biography titled '**Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography**' is all set to hit the stands globally in November 2022.
- It will be published globally by HarperCollins in all formats in November 2022.
- The biography will be penned by former senior bureaucrat and retired IAS officer Dr. Thomas Matthew.
- The biography chronicles the 84-year-old Ratan Tata's childhood, college years, and early influences.

**Source: TOI**

**Book : “Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India”**

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- **Dhirendra K Jha** has authored a new book titled “**Gandhi’s Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India**”
- Dhirendra K Jha is a Delhi-based journalist.
- The book explores Godse’s relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse’s resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi’s assassination.

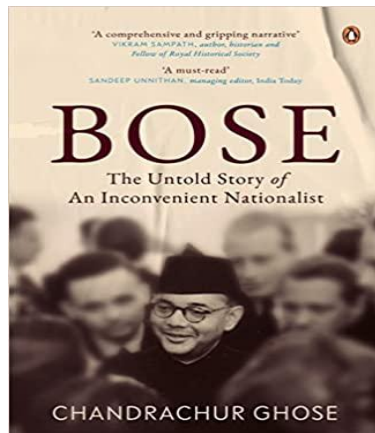
#### **HarperCollins announces the release of new book ‘Mamata: Beyond 2021’**

- **HarperCollins** announced the release of the book titled ‘**Mamata: Beyond 2021**’.
- The book is written by Jayanta Ghosal, a political Journalist, and translated by Arunava Sinha, a fiction and non-fiction translator.
- The book successfully portrayed the works and achievements of Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee**.
- The book will be published on January 24, 2022.



**Source: TOI**

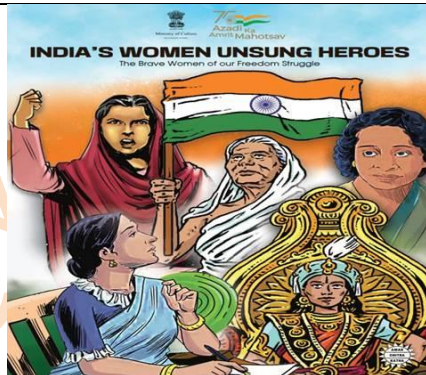
**A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist'**



- A new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled 'Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist' is all set to release in February, 2022.
- The biography is authored by researcher and founder of 'Mission Netaji' **Chandrachur Ghose** and published by Penguin Random House India.
- The biography attempts to bring new perspectives on Netaji's thoughts on independent India's development, the problem of communalism, geopolitics, his political ideology, and how he negotiated with the political parties, revolutionary societies, and the government.

**Source: TOI**

### **A pictorial book on India's Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle**

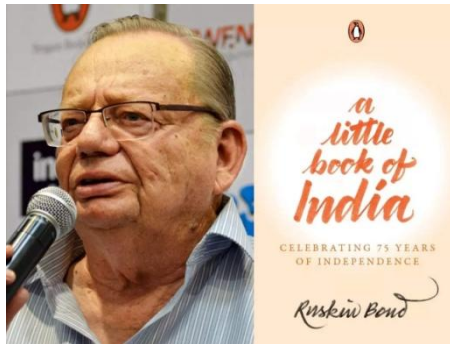


- Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi released a pictorial book on **India's Women Unsung Heroes** of Freedom Struggle as part of Azadi ka Mahotsav.
- The book has been released in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha which is a household name in India.
- The Ministry of Culture has decided to release pictorial books on 75 Unsung Heroes of the Freedom Struggle in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha.
- The second edition will be on 25 unsung Tribal Freedom Fighters which is under process and will take some time.
- The third and final edition will be of 30 unsung heroes drawn from other areas.

**Source: PIB**

### **Ruskin Bond's new book, "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence"**

- **Ruskin Bond** authored a new book titled "A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 years of Independence".
- The book is an amalgamation of the "physical and spiritual" attributes of India.



- It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- **Ruskin Bond** is the recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Sahitya Akademi's Bal Sahitya Puraskar, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, among other prestigious awards.

**Source: TOI**

## Important Days

### National Youth Day

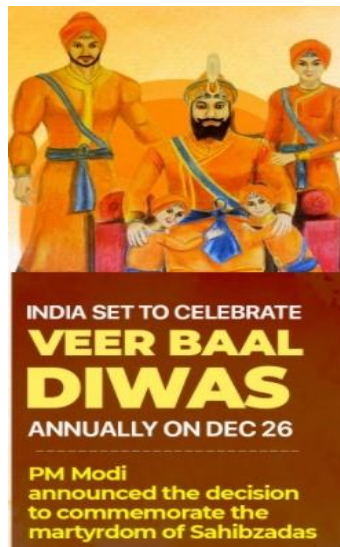


- **National Youth Day** is celebrated on January 12, every year in India to honor the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1984 the Government of India declared this day as National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.
- Swami Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata.

**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **25th National Youth Festival** on 12th January, 2022 in Puducherry.

**Source: IndiaToday**

### PM Modi announces 26th December as 'Veer Baal Diwas'



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the auspicious occasion of the Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Gobind Singh has announced that starting this year, **26th December** shall be observed as '**Veer Baal Diwas**'.
- The Government of India has decided to commemorate 26<sup>th</sup> December as "Veer Baal Diwas" in the honour of the supreme sacrifice made by Sahibzada Zorawar Singh and Sahibzada Fateh Singh, the younger sons of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sikh Guru Govind Singh, for their supreme and unparalleled sacrifice on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 1705 at the tender age of 9 and 6 years respectively to defend the dignity and honour of Sikhism.

**Source: PIB**

### **World Hindi Day**



- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated every year on January 10.
- Hindi is not only the country's most-spoken language, but it is the third most-spoken language in the world with 615 million speakers after English, Mandarin, according to the UN.
- Every year on January 10, World Hindi Day is marked to commemorate the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference that took place in 1975 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The then Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, had inaugurated the conference.
- World Hindi Day was observed for the first time in 2006.
- National Hindi Divas is celebrated annually on September 14.

Source: India Today

### **World Day of War Orphans**

- The **World Day of War Orphans** is observed on January 6 every year.

- The day aims to raise awareness about children who have been orphaned due to wars.
- World Day for War Orphans was created by SOS Enfants enDetresse, a French organization that works to bring a sense of normalcy to the lives of children affected indirectly by wars and conflict.
- UNICEF describes an orphan as a child who is under 18 years of age who has lost one or both parents to any cause of death.



Source: India Today

### Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- Recently, **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** celebrated 64th Raising Day on January 01, 2022.
- Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy addressed the DRDO fraternity in New Delhi on January 03, 2022.



Source: PIB

### World Braille Day

- **World Braille Day** is observed on January 04 every year.
- World Braille Day is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.
- The date for the event was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly via a proclamation in November 2018, and marks the birthday of Louis Braille, creator of this writing system.
- The first World Braille Day was celebrated on January 4, 2019.





Source: un.org

## Indian Army Day



- **Indian Army Day** is celebrated every year on January 15 in recognition of Field Marshal KM Cariappa as the first commander-in-chief of the Indian army.
- This year marks the 74th Army Day.
- Indian Army Day's theme for the year 2022 was **"In Stride with the Future"**.
- The Indian Army originated from the East India Company, which was known as the British Indian Army and later named the National Army after India's independence.

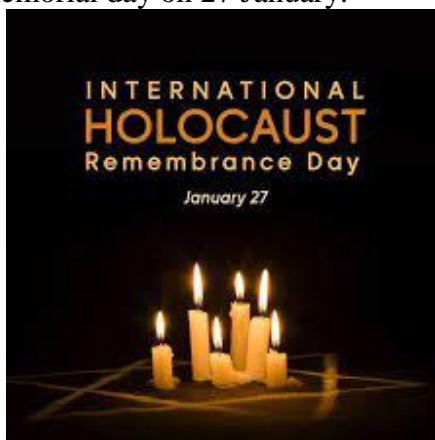
### Note:

- **28th Chief of Army Staff:** General Manoj Mukund Naravane
- The new uniform of the Indian Army was unveiled on the occasion of the Army Day Parade.
- On the occasion of 74th Army Day, the world's largest Khadi national flag was displayed on the highest hill near Jaisalmer military station in Rajasthan.

Source: India Today

## International Holocaust Remembrance Day

- International Holocaust Remembrance Day or the International Day in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust is an international memorial day on 27 January.



- The day commemorates the victims of the Holocaust, which resulted in the murder of one third of the Jewish people, along with countless members of other minorities by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945.
- 27 January was chosen to commemorate the date that Auschwitz concentration camp was liberated by the Red Army in 1945.
- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 1 November 2005.

Source: [un.org](http://un.org)

## National Voters' Day



- **National Voters' Day (NVD)** is observed on January 25 every year.
- **Theme** for NVD 2022 is 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'.
- The day was established to mark Election Commission's foundation day on January 25 in 2011, by the Government of India.
- On the occasion, National Awards for the Best Electoral Practices for the year 2021-22 will be conferred on State and District level officers for their outstanding performance in the conduct of elections in different spheres.

### About ECI (Election Commission of India):

- It is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India directly to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- **Formed:** 25 January 1950
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Commission Executives:**
  1. **Sushil Chandra**, Chief Election Commissioner
  2. **Rajeev Kumar**, Election Commissioner
  3. **Anup Chandra Pandey**, Election Commissioner

Source: [India Today](http://India Today)

## National Tourism Day



- **National Tourism Day** is celebrated on January 25 every year across the country.
- This day is observed by the Government of India to encourage tourism and explain the essential role of tourism in the growth of the country.

- The **World Tourism Day** is celebrated on 27 September.

**Source: India Today**

### ParakramDiwas

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- **ParakramDiwas (Bravery Day)** is celebrated in India on January 23rd.
- January 23, 2022, marks the 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- It was introduced by the Government of India in 2021 ahead of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th birth anniversary.
- The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- The central government has decided to start the Republic Day celebrations from January 23 to include Bose's anniversary.
- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack, Orissa on 23 January 1897.
- He played a pivotal role in the Indian independence movement.
- He was the head of the Japanese-supported Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fouj).
- He was the founder-head of the Azad Hind Government.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate.

**Source: HT**

### World Leprosy Day2022

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- **World Leprosy Day (WLD)** is celebrated on the last Sunday of January. In 2022, World Leprosy Day is **30 January**.
- The **theme** of World Leprosy Day 2022 is 'United for Dignity' and to create an environment for leprosy people to live a dignified life.
- The day was first initiated in 1954 by French Philanthropist Raoul Follereau who made people know about this ancient disease.
- Data published by WHO in September 2021, for the calendar year 2020, showed a drop in new cases of 37 percent in the previous year.
- Today, about 208,000 people worldwide are infected with leprosy, according to WHO, most of them in Africa and Asia.”
- In India, Anti Leprosy Day is observed on 30th January every year, i.e., Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom day.

Source: India Today

## Sports

### Bharath Subramaniyam becomes India's 73rd Chess Grandmaster



- 14-year-old **Bharath Subramaniyam** has become the 73rd **Chess Grandmaster (GM)** of India.
- The Chennai-based teenager **Bharath Subramaniyam** completed his final GM Norm and crossed the requisite 2500 rating at Vergani Cup Open in Italy.

**Note:** To achieve the Grandmaster (GM) title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.

Source: HT

### National Youth Festival

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Puducherry to inaugurate the **25th National Youth Festival** beginning on January 12.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Thakur and Lt. Governor of Puducherry Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan unveiled the Logo and Mascot of the 25th National Youth Festival.
- More than 7,000 youth from across the country will take part in the events in Puducherry held in association with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- **National Youth Festival** is organized by the Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States from January 12th to 16th to commemorate the **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12th January**.





Source: Indian Express

### U-19 Asia Cup 2021

- In cricket, **India** lifted the **Under-19 Asia Cup 2021** by defeating Sri Lanka by nine wickets in a rain-interrupted One-Day International final in Dubai through Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method.
- India has won a record eighth Asia Cup title.
- The 2021 Under-19 Asia Cup was the 9th edition of ACC Under-19 Cup.



Source: newsonair

### Best FIFA Football Awards 2021



- The Best FIFA Football Awards is an association football award presented annually by the sport's governing body, FIFA.
- The first awarding ceremony was held on 9 January 2017 in Zürich, Switzerland



### Best FIFA Football Awards 2021:

- The Best FIFA Men's Player: Robert Lewandowski
- The Best FIFA Women's Player: Alexia Putellas
- The Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper: Edouard Mendy
- The Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper: Christiane Endler
- The Best FIFA Men's Coach: Thomas Tuchel
- The Best FIFA Women's Coach: Emma Hayes
- FIFA Puskas Award: Erik Lamela
- FIFA Special Award: Cristiano Ronaldo

Source: HT

### 2022 India Open (badminton)



- The 2022 India Open (officially known as the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2022 for sponsorship reasons) was a badminton tournament that took place at the K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India, from 11 to 16 January 2022.
- The 2022 India Open was the first tournament of the 2022 BWF World Tour and was part of the India Open championships, which had been held since 1973.
- The tournament was organized by the Badminton Association of India with sanction from the Badminton World Federation.

#### List of winners:

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
<b>Winner-</b> Lakshya Sen (India)	<b>Winner-</b> Busanan Ongbamrungphan (Thailand)	<b>Winner-</b> Satwiksairaj Rankireddy (India), Chirag Shetty (India)	<b>Winner-</b> Benyapa Aimsaard (Thailand), Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand)	<b>Winner-</b> Terry Hee (Singapore), Tan Wei Han (Singapore)
<b>Runner-up-</b> Loh Kean Yew (Singapore)	<b>Runner-up-</b> Supanida Katethong (Thailand)	<b>Runner-up-</b> Mohammad Ahsan (Indonesia), Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)	<b>Runner-up-</b> Anastasiia Akchurina (Russia), Olga Morozova (Russia)	<b>Runner-up-</b> Chen Tang Jie (Malaysia), Peck Yen Wei

				(Malaysia)
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**Source: newsonair**

**West Indies legend Clive Lloyd awarded knighthood for his services to Cricket**



- **Clive Lloyd**, the former Captain of the West Indies Cricket team, has been given the honour of knighthood for his services to the game of Cricket.
- He was also a former West Indies team manager and selector, and ICC Match Referee. In 2009 he was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- A **knighthood** is a title that is given to a man by a British king or queen for his achievements or his service to his country. A man who has been given a knighthood can put ' Sir' in front of his name instead of ' Mr'.

**Source: ndtv**

**Lucknow's IPL team to be called Lucknow Super Giants**



- The Lucknow franchise of the IPL (Indian Premier League) will be called **Lucknow Super Giants**.
- Last year, the franchise was purchased by the Sanjiv Goenka-owned RPSG group for an amount of Rs 7090 Crores.
- The other new team to enter the competition is from Ahmedabad who was bought by the Irelia Company Pvt Ltd. for Rs 5635 Crores.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Smriti Mandhana named ICC Women's Cricketer of 2021



- India's **Smriti Mandhana** has been named the ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year for 2021.
- Smriti has won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy awarded to the ICC Women's Cricketer of the year for the second time after 2018.
- Smriti has also become the second women's cricketer after Australia's Ellyse Perry to win the honour more than once.
- Mandhana was also named in the ICC Women's T20 International Team of the Year.

Source: newsonair

## Syed Modi India International 2022



- The **Syed Modi India International** is an international badminton tournament, which is held annually in India.
- The tournament was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Badminton Association (UPBA) in 1991 as the 'Syed Modi Memorial Badminton Tournament' in memory of the Commonwealth Games champion Syed Modi.
- Venue: Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow, India
- Two-time Olympic medalist, **P.V. Sindhu** has won the **Women's singles title** at the Syed Modi International tournament 2022. Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod.

**List of Winners:**

Men's singles	Women's singles	Men's doubles	Women's doubles	Mixed doubles
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<b>Winner-</b> Not awarded	<b>Winner-</b> P V Sindhu (India)	<b>Winner-</b> Man Wei Chong (Malaysia), Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)	<b>Winner-</b> Anna Cheong (Malaysia), Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)	<b>Winner-</b> Ishaan Bhatnagar (India), Tanisha Crasto (India)
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Source: newsonair

## Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022



- **India** beat China 2-0 to win a **bronze medal** in the **Women's Asia Cup Hockey tournament 2022** at Muscat in Oman.
- **Japan** defeated South Korea to win the Women's Asia Cup Hockey 2022 title.
- The Women's Hockey Asia Cup is a women's international field hockey tournament organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.
- The winning team becomes the champion of Asia and qualifies for the FIH Hockey World Cup.

Source: newsonair

## Reports and Indexes

### India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021



- Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, released the '**India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**' prepared by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**.
- The **ISFR2021** provides information on forest cover, tree cover, mangrove cover, growing stock, carbon stock in India's forests, forest fire monitoring, forest cover in tiger reserve areas, above ground estimates of biomass using SAR data & climate change hotspots in Indian forests.

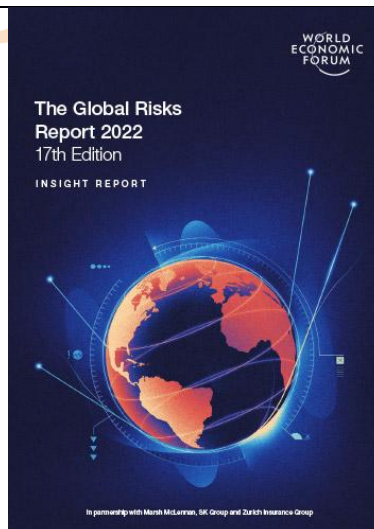
**Major Findings:**



- The total forest and tree cover of the country is **80.9 million hectares** which is 24.62 percent of the geographical area of the country. As compared to the assessment of 2019, there is an increase of **2,261 sq km** in the total forest and tree cover of the country. Out of this, the increase in the forest cover has been observed as 1,540 sq km and that in tree cover is 721 sq km.
- Increase in forest cover has been observed in open forest followed by very dense forest. Top three states showing increase in forest cover are **Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km) followed by Telangana (632 sq km) and Odisha (537 sq km).**
- Area-wise **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra. In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top five States are **Mizoram (84.53%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.33%), Meghalaya (76.00%), Manipur (74.34%) and Nagaland (73.90%).**
- 17 states/UT's have above 33 percent of the geographical area under forest cover. Out of these states and UT's, five states/UTs namely Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya have more than 75 percent forest cover while 12 states/UTs namely Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Assam, Odisha, have forest cover between 33 percent to 75 percent.
- Total mangrove cover in the country is 4,992 sq km. An increase of 17 sq Km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2019. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are **Odisha (8 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (4 sq km) and Karnataka (3 sq km).**
- Total carbon stock in the country's forest is estimated to be 7,204 million tonnes and there is an increase of 79.4 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to the last assessment of 2019. The annual increase in the carbon stock is 39.7 million tonnes.

**Source: PIB**

### **Global Risks Report 2022**



- The **Global Risks Report 2022**, 17th Edition, is published by the **World Economic Forum (WEF).**



- Cyber security, pandemic, climate change and space advancements are the emerging risks to the global economy.
- It stated that climate change was the number one danger, while erosion of social cohesion, livelihood crises and mental health deterioration were identified as risks which had increased the most since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The global economy is to shrink by 2.3% by 2024.
- According to Report released ahead of the Davos Agenda, a “global risk is the possibility of the occurrence of an event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause significant negative impact for several countries or industries”.

**Facts about World Economic Forum:** It is an international NGO.

- **Headquarters:** Cologny, Switzerland
- **Founded:** January 1971
- **Founder:** Klaus Schwab

**Source:** Business Today

### Report of second quarter of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)

- Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Bhupender Yadav released the report of second quarter of **Quarterly Employment Survey (QES)** part of **All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES)**.
- The estimated total employment in the nine selected sectors in this round of QES (July-September 2021) came out as 3.10 crore approximately, which is 2 lakhs higher than the estimated employment (3.08 crore) from the first round of QES (April-June 2021).
- It is worthwhile to mention here that the total employment for these nine sectors taken collectively was reported as 2.37 crore in the sixth EC (2013-14).



### Key Points

- The AQEES has been taken up to provide frequent (quarterly) updates about the employment and related variables of establishments in both organized and unorganized segments of nine selected sectors which account for a great majority of the total employment in the non-farm establishments.
- The nine selected sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation & Restaurant, IT/BPO and Financial Services.
- The report on Quarterly Employment Survey being a demand side survey along with supply side survey i.e., Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) will bridge data gaps on employment in the country.

**Source:** PIB

### India's passport rank improves to 83 from 90: Henley Passport Index 2022



- India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021. It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index 2022, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year (2021).
- The current rankings are for the first quarter of 2022.

#### Key Points

- India shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
- India now has visa-free access to 60 destinations worldwide with Oman and Armenia being the latest additions. India has added 35 more destinations since 2006.

#### Best Passports:

- Japan and Singapore have been ranked 1st, with passport holders having access to 192 destinations visa-free.

#### Worst Passports:

- Afghanistan with access to just 26 countries, emerged as the worst performer.

#### Henley Passport Index:

- Since 2005, Henley Passport Index ranks world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without prior visa and is based on data from International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Source: The Hindu

#### Good Governance Index

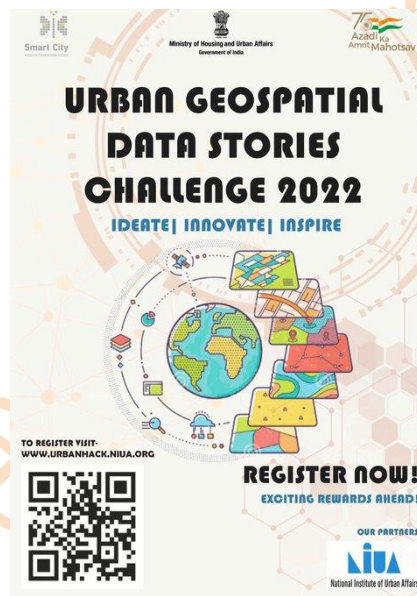
- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh said that **Jammu & Kashmir** will soon become the first Union Territory in the country to have a **district level Good Governance Index**.
- Centre will set up the **District Good Governance Index (DGGI)** in J&K and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) will carry out this task in collaboration with the Union Territory Government.
- The framework of the proposed Index has been finalised with the technical support from the Centre for Good Governance (CGG) Hyderabad.
- DGGI is modeled on the **Good Governance Index 2021** launched on 25 December 2021.



Source: ET

## Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge-2022

- The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** announced the opening of **Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge- 2022** to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge has been organized with select Smart Cities that will be publishing high quality GIS datasets.
- More than 1000 geospatial datasets have been made available to the registered participants from national geospatial agencies, private sector enterprises, scientific and academic institutions, businesses, consumer services & start-ups to analyse this data and create insightful data stories.
- Leading up to the '**Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization**' conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022, the Urban Geospatial Data Stories Challenge is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to foster adoption of geospatial technologies & to promote innovation in India's urban ecosystem.
- The challenge will commence for the registered participants on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 and conclude by the end of January 2022.



Source: PIB

## Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report



- According to **Oxfam India's "Inequality Kills" Report**, the income of 84 percent of households in the country declined in 2021, but at the same time the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142.
- In 2021, the collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (USD 775 billion).
- In the same year, the share of the bottom 50 percent of the population in national wealth was a mere 6 per cent.
- During the pandemic (since March 2020, through to November 30, 2021), the report says, the wealth of Indian billionaires increased from Rs 23.14 lakh crore (USD 313 billion) to Rs 53.16 lakh crore (USD 719 billion).
- India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world, just behind China and the United States, with more billionaires than France, Sweden and Switzerland combined — a 39 percent increase in the number of billionaires in India in 2021.
- The Oxfam India briefing also points out to the increase in indirect taxes as a share of the Union government revenue in the last four years, while the proportion of corporate tax in the same was declining.

**Source: Indian Express**

### **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021**



- Recently, the **Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021** was released by **Transparency International**.
- India ranks 85 in the index.
- Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway topped the list with the highest score.
- South Sudan, Syria and Somalia remain at the bottom of the index.
- India's rank improved by one place to 85 in 2021 from 86th in 2020.
- India's CPI score is 40.

#### **About Index:**

- The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100 to rank Corruption Perception Index, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

### **New Appointments**

**Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath appointed new chairman of ISRO**



- Eminent rocket scientist **S Somanath** has been appointed the new chairman of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** as well as the Space Secretary.
- S Somanath will succeed K Sivan who completes his extended tenure as ISRO chief.
- He will be the 10th chairman of ISRO.
- He is currently Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only.

Source: newsonair

### IMF names Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as next chief economist

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- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** said that it has appointed French-born University of California-Berkeley economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas as the IMF's next chief economist.
- He will succeed Gita Gopinath, who as previously announced will join the IMF's management team as First Deputy Managing Director.

#### Key Points

- Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas will start part-time on January 24, 2022, and transition to full-time Fund work on April 1, 2022.

#### Facts about IMF (International Monetary Fund):

- **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., U.S
- **Formation:** December 1945
- **Membership:** 190 countries
- **Managing Director:** Kristalina Georgieva

Source: The Hindu

### Former RBI Governor Urjit Patel appointed vice-president of AIIB

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- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Urjit Patel** has been appointed as a vice-president of the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.
- Urjit Patel will succeed outgoing Vice President D J Pandian.
- Urjit Patel is currently the chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.
- He had taken over as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) succeeding Raghuram Rajan in September 2016 and was with RBI till December 2018.
- India has emerged as AIIB's biggest beneficiary by obtaining \$6.8 billion funding for 29 projects.

**Facts about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):**

- It is a multilateral development bank that aims to improve economic and social outcomes in Asia.
- **Headquarters:** Beijing, China
- **Membership:** 104 Members
- **Formation:** 16 January 2016

**Source:** newsonair

**Chinese diplomat Zhang Ming takes over as new Secretary-General of SCO**



- Veteran Chinese diplomat, **Zhang Ming**, has taken over as the new Secretary-General of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**.
- Zhang Ming took over from Vladimir Norov, a former diplomat from Uzbekistan.
- Before joining SCO, Zhang served for four years as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union.

**About Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):**

- SCO or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic and security alliance.
- **Formed:** 15 June 2001
- **Members:** China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India & Pakistan.
- **Headquarter:** Beijing, China
- India became a full member of the SCO in 2017. Prior to that, India had an observer status, which was granted to it in 2005.

Source: newsonair

### Justice Ayesha Malik to be Pakistan's first woman Supreme Court judge

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- Pakistan has moved closer to appoint the first woman judge of the Supreme Court, after a high-power panel approved the elevation of Lahore High Court judge **Ayesha Malik** to the apex court.
- The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) – headed by Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed – approved Malik's elevation by a majority of five votes against four.
- Justice Malik became a high court judge in March 2012, and currently she is number four on the Lahore High Court (LHC) judge seniority list.

Source: Indian Express

### Alka Mittal becomes first woman to head ONGC as CMD

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- **Alka Mittal** has been appointed as the interim **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**, making her the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer.
- Alka Mittal became the first woman to join ONGC's board on November 27, 2018.

#### About Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC):

- It is the largest government-owned-oil and gas exploration and production corporation in the country, and produces around 70% of India's crude oil (equivalent to around 57% of the country's total demand) and around 84% of its natural gas.
- In November 2010, the Government of India conferred the Maharatna status to ONGC.



Source: India Today

### Vistara Airline CEO

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- **Vinod Kannan** took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the **Vistara Airline**.
- Vinod Kannan replaced Leslie Thng.
- Kannan started his stint with Vistara as the Chief Strategy Officer in June 2019 and took over as Chief Commercial Officer in January 2020.
- Vistara, is a 51:49 joint venture between **Tata Sons Private Limited** and **Singapore Airlines (SIA)**.



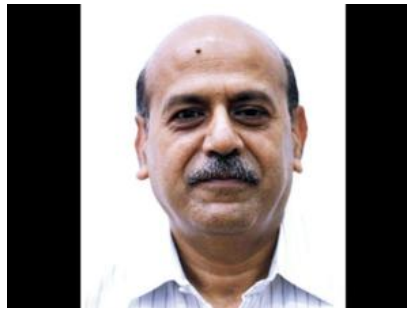
**Source: Indian Express**  
**Tesla's Autopilot team**

- **Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk**, who has been using social media to recruit people, has disclosed that **Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy** was the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team.
- Before joining Tesla, Mr. Elluswamy was associated with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and WABCO Vehicle Control System.



**Source: The Hindu**  
**CEO of Railway Board**

- **Vinay Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed as new **Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Railway Board.
- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Vinay Kumar Tripathi who is presently working as General Manager, North Eastern Railway to the post of Chairman of Railway Board.
- He belongs to 1983 Batch of Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers.



Source: ET

### Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga

- **G Asok Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti took over as the new **Director General for the National Mission for Clean Ganga**, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- G Asok Kumar belongs to the Indian Administrative Services Telangana Cadre 1991 batch.
- He is also the recipient of several awards such as the **SKOCH Award** for Public Services 2021, **Jal-Mitra award** from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the **first Telangana Excellence Award** by the Government of Telangana for outstanding work done in Public Administration.



Source: PIB

### Coast Guard Director General

- **V.S. Pathania** took over as the **24th Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICGICG)** from Krishnaswamy Natarajan who retired from service.
- In a career of over 36 years, V.S. Pathania has held several key appointments afloat and ashore and has also commanded all classes of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel 'Ranijindan', Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Vigraha' and advanced OPV 'Sarang'.
- He was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in November 2019 and took over as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam.
- He is the recipient of the President's Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished service, Tatrakshak Medal for gallantry and DG Coast Guard Commendation.



Source: The Hindu

### UN Conference on Disarmament

- Senior diplomat **Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the **UN Conference on Disarmament** in Geneva.
- Mr. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.
- Dr Pankaj Sharma, who is presently the Permanent Representative of India to the UN Conference on the Disarmament, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mexico.

#### About UN Conference on Disarmament:

- It is a multilateral disarmament forum established by the international community to negotiate arms control and disarmament agreements.
- **Membership:** 65 Countries
- **Headquarters:** Geneva



Source: The Hindu

### Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary

- **Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Durga Shanker Mishra** has been proposed to be appointed as the **Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh**.
- Durga Shankar Mishra is 1984- batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved repatriation of Durga Shankar Mishra to his cadre for his proposed appointment as Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh, by the state government.



- Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, a 1985-batch IAS officer, is currently serving as the state's Chief Secretary.



Source: HT

### Vikram Dev Dutt appointed as CMD of Air India



- The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions appointed **Vikram Dev Dutt** as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Air India Limited**.
- Vikram Dev Dutt is a 1993-batch IAS officer of **AGMUT** (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.
- In October 2021, the government accepted the highest bid made by a Tata Sons company for 100 percent equity shares of Air India and Air India Express along with its 50 percent stake in ground-handling company AISATS.
- The government had signed the share purchase agreement with Tata Sons for the sale of national carrier Air India for Rs 18,000 crore.

Source: Business Today

### Roberta Metsola becomes European Parliament's new president



- **Roberta Metsola**, Centre-right Maltese lawmaker, was chosen to head the **European Parliament**.
- Her election comes a week after the shock death of outgoing parliament president David Sassoli.

- Roberta Metsola has become the only third woman to hold the position.
- She is also viewed as a political moderate despite the controversy over her anti-abortion stance.
- She is a member of the biggest Parliamentary bloc, the European People's Party.

**About European Parliament:**

- The Parliament is composed of 705 members.
- **Headquarters:** Strasbourg, France
- **Founded:** 10 September 1952, Europe

**Source:** newsonair

**Narendra Goenka takes over as new Chairman of AEPC**

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- **Narendra Kumar Goenka** took charge of **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** as its new Chairman.
- Padma Shri Dr A Sakthivel handed over the charge to him.
- Narendra Kumar Goenka was the Vice Chairman of the apex body of Indian apparel exporters before taking charge as Chairman, AEPC.

**About Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC):**

- AEPC is the official body of apparel exporters in India, under the aegis of Ministry of Textiles that provides invaluable assistance to Indian exporters as well as importers/international buyers.

**Source:** PIB

**Vinodanand Jha appointed as new chairperson of the PMLA Adjudicating Authority**

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- **Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the chairperson of the **PMLA Adjudicating Authority** for a period of 5 years.
- Vinodanand Jha, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
- The PMLA Adjudicating Authority is a three-member body whose mandate is to adjudicate the cases of attachment of assets orders issued under the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA)**.

**About Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002:**

- Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted by the NDA government to prevent money-laundering and to provide for confiscation of property derived from money-laundering.
- PMLA and the Rules notified there under came into force with effect from July 1, 2005.

**Source: The Hindu**

**Appointment of Dr V AnanthaNageswaran as the Chief Economic Advisor**

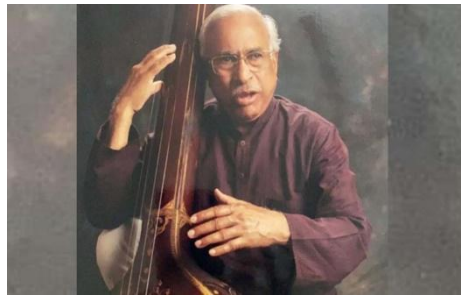


- The Government has appointed **Dr V AnanthaNageswaran** as the **Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)**.
- He succeeds former CEA KV Subramanian who returned to academia at the end of his three-year tenure in December 2021.
- Prior to this appointment, Dr. Nageswaran has worked as a writer, author, teacher and consultant.
- He was also a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister from 2019 to 2021.
- The CEA plays a key role in bringing out the Economic Survey, which presents the economic report card of the Government during the year and suggestions on possible reforms.

**Source: Indian Express**

## Obituaries

### Death of Pandit Ramdas Kamat



- Veteran singer-actor Pandit Ramdas Kamat died of old age at his residence in Vile Parle.
- He was 90 years old.
- He started his musical career with the play Sangeet SanshayKallol.
- He then acted in eighteen musicals such as 'Sangeet Sharda', 'Sangeet Saubhadra', 'Sangeet Manapman', 'Sangeet MadanachiManjiri', 'Sangeet EkchPyala', 'Sangeet Mandarmala', 'Sangeet HonajiBala'.
- 'Sangeet Matsyagandha' is his most famous play. Many of his plays like 'GuntataHridaya He', 'NakoVisruSanketMilnacha', 'Tam NirashechaSarla' were sung.
- He also sang lyric and film songs along with drama music. Many of his songs like 'Jana VijanZhale', 'Amber's Blue Cube Oath to You', 'Sriranga Kamala Kanta', 'Purvechya Deva Tuje', 'Deva Tuja Me Sonar' are still popular today.
- Ramdas Kamat was honored with 'Sangeet NatakAkademi Award' in 2015.
- He was also the President of the All India Marathi NatyaSammelan held in 2009.

**Source: AIR News**

### **Shillong Chamber Choir founder Neil Nongkynrih passes away**

- Shillong Chamber Choir founder and noted music composer **Neil Nongkynrih** passed away at 52.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015.
- He led the Shillong Chamber Choir to national fame after a reality TV show, India's Got Talent about a decade ago.



**Source: India Today**

### **Sindhutai Sapkaal**

Sindhutai Sapkaal, a social worker working for orphans, died of a heart attack. She was 75 years old. He died at the Galaxy Hospital in Pune. He had undergone a hernia operation a month ago. After that they start treatment.

#### **Institutions established by Sindhutai:**

- Mamta Bal Sadan (1994), Pune, Kumbharwalan Gaon
- Bal Niketan Hadapsar, Pune
- Savitribai Phule Girls Hostel, Chikhaldara
- Abhiman Bal Bhavan, Wardha
- GopikaGairakshan Kendra, Wardha (Gopalan)
- Mamta Bal Sadan, Saswad
- SaptasindhuMahila Aadhar Child Care and Education Institute, Pune

#### **Awards and honors**

Sindhutai has received about 750 national and international awards:

- Padma Shri Award (2021)
- Government of Maharashtra Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Samaj Bhushan Award (2012)
- Government of Maharashtra's 'Ahilyabai Holkar Award' (2010)



Source: Sakal

### Shaoli Mitra, eminent theatre personality, actress passes away



- **Shaoli Mitra**, an eminent Bengali theatre personality, passed away.
- Mitra, who was the recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi in 2003, Padma Shri in 2009, and Banga Bibhusan in 2012, will be remembered by her fans and critics alike for her solo performances as Draupadi in "Naathvati Anaathbat" and as Sita in "Sitakatha" or Bitata Bitangso.

Source: India Today

### Renowned cartoonist Narayan Debnath passes away



- Eminent cartoonist Narayan Debnath — the creator of unforgettable characters like Batul The Great, Nante and Fante — passed away.
- Debnath was conferred with Padma Shri in 2021. He was conferred with the Sahitya Akademi award in 2013 and the West Bengal government also honoured him with Banga Bibhusan.
- The Rabindra Bharati University gave him an honorary D.Litt in 2015.

Source: TOI

### Kathak maestro Pandit Birju Maharaj passes away





- Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away at 83.
- Pandit Birju Maharaj, better known simply as Birju Maharaj, was an Indian dancer, composer, singer and exponent of the Lucknow "Kalka-Bindadin" Gharana of Kathak dance in India.
- **Kathak** is one of the eight major forms of Indian classical dance.

Source: TOI

### Noted Kathakali Dancer & Padma Shri recipient Milena Salvini of France passes away



- **Noted Kathakali dancer Milena Salvini** of France passed away.
- Italian-born Salvini was a regular visitor to India, especially Kerala where she learnt Kathakali, and ran 'Centre Mandapa', a school for Indian dance forms, in Paris.
- The Government of India conferred the **Padma Shri** award on Salvini in 2019 for her contribution in the field of performing arts.

Source: Business Standard

### Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist Ramachandran Nagasamy passes away



- Veteran archaeologist and epigraphist **Ramachandran Nagasamy** passed away.
- Nagasamy is known for his epigraphy research on the sculptures in Mahabalipuram.
- He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in 2018 for his research work in archeology and was also the recipient of Kalaimamani award — the highest civilian award, from the Tamil Nadu government.
- He was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology.

Source: India Today

## Miscellaneous

**Kevadia railway station renamed as Ekta Nagar railway station**



- The Ministry of Railways has approved the renaming of the **Kevadiya railway station** as **Ekta Nagar railway station**.
- The Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division.
- Facing the Narmada River, it is 7 kilometers away from the small town of Kevadiya.
- The construction of the station aims to make the **Statue of Unity** more accessible to tourists.

Source: Financial Express

### IndiaSkills 2021



- 270 winners of **IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition** felicitated with 61 gold, 77 silver, 53 bronze and 79 medallions of excellence.
- **Odisha** topped the chart with 51 winners, followed by Maharashtra, 30 and Kerala, 25 winners.
- The competition, organised by **National Skill Development Corporation** under the guidance of **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, Government of India, witnessed participation in 54 skills such as concrete construction work, beauty therapy, car painting, health and social care, visual merchandising, graphic design technology, wall & floor tiling, welding, among others.
- IndiaSkills Competition, which raises the profile and recognition of the youth, brought together over 500 participants from 26 states/ union territories this year.
- The winners of IndiaSkills 2021 Nationals will get a chance to represent the country at **WorldSkills International Competition** to be held in Shanghai, China in October 2022.

Source: PIB

### Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA)



- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) did not notify the **Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA)** rules, the third extended deadline after the Act was passed.
- January 9, 2022 was the last day of an extension sought from the two parliamentary committees in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to frame the rules.
- Without rules, the CAA cannot be implemented.
- Earlier, it had sought time till April 9, 2021 and then July 9, 2021 from the committees to notify the rules which are to be published in the Gazette of India.
- On November 30 last, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha: “The persons covered under the CAA may apply for citizenship after the rules are notified under the CAA.”

#### **About CAA:**

- The CAA was passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019 and the Act was notified on December 12.
- In January 2020, the Ministry notified that the Act will come into force from January 10, 2020.
- The CAA provides citizenship on the basis of religion to six undocumented non-Muslim communities (Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians) from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014.

**Source: The Hindu**

#### **Jagannath Temple Act, 1954**

- In a historic decision, the **Odisha** state cabinet approved amendments to the **Sri Jagannath Temple Act of 1954**, simplifying issues pertaining to land owned by the Jagannath Temple.
- In the year 1806, the then British government had issued regulations for management of the Jagannath temple which was referred to as the Juggernaut temple by the colonial rulers.
- Under these regulations, pilgrims who visited the temple were expected to pay taxes.
- Three years later, the powers of management of the temple were passed on to the King of Khordha while the colonial government continued to retain some control.

- It was only after India gained Independence that the state of Odisha formally introduced the Jagannath Temple Act in the year 1952, which came into effect in 1954.
- The Act contains provision on land rights of the temple, duties of the sevayat, administrative powers of the Shri Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, rights and privileges of the Raja of Puri and other persons connected with the management and administration of the temple.

**Recent Amendments:**

- The recent amendment approved by the state cabinet now decentralizes the power to settle land related issues of the temple.
- The cabinet has delegated power to temple administration and concerned officials for sale and lease of land in name of Jagannath temple.



**Source: Indian Express**  
**Rock Museum**

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's first unique **Open "Rock" Museum** and later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).
- The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history.
- These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kms of distance from the surface of the earth.
- Dr Jitendra Singh also released **Earthquake Risk Maps** of Lucknow and Dehradun Cities.
- CSIR-NGRI has made earthquake risk maps for Lucknow and Dehradun cities which are vulnerable for future earthquakes in the Indo-Gangetic plains area.



**Source: PIB**

**Captain Harpreet Chandi becomes first Indian-origin woman to trek solo to South Pole**



- **Captain Harpreet Chandi**, a 32-year-old Indian-origin British Sikh Army officer and physiotherapist, also known as Polar Preet, has created history by becoming the first woman to complete a solo unsupported trek to the South Pole.
- **Harpreet Chandi** completed her 700 miles (1,127 kilometres) expedition to the South Pole in 40 days.



Source: The Hindu

### **VeeranganaLaxmibai Railway Station**

- The Uttar Pradesh government has renamed Jhansi Railway Station as ‘**VeeranganaLaxmibai Railway Station**’.
- The state government changed the name of the railway station after approval from the Central Government.
- Earlier, the Mughalsarai Railway Station was renamed Pandit DeenDayal Upadhyay Railway Station and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt.
- Since coming to power, Mr Adityanath government has changed names of several establishments including those of Faizabad and Allahabad districts, which were renamed as Ayodhya and Prayagraj, respectively.



Source: India Today

### **Minimum 6 airbags to be made mandatory in vehicles carrying up to 8 passengers: MoRTH**



- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has approved a draft notification, making it compulsory for the car manufacturers to equip a minimum of six airbags in motor vehicles that can carry up to 8 passengers.



- To enhance the safety of occupants of the motor vehicle, it has been decided to enhance safety features by amending the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR), 1989**.
- The General Statutory Rules (GSR) have been mandated to the motor vehicles of category M1 (motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising not more than eight seats, in addition to the driver's seat), with the effective timeline of cars manufactured after 1st October 2022.
- Recently, dual airbags (driver and passenger) became mandatory on all motor vehicles (M1 category) from 1st January 2022. Earlier, a driver airbag was mandated for all passenger vehicles since July 1, 2019.

Source: newsonair

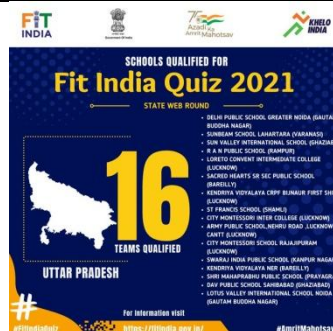
Shivangi Singh



- The country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** was part of the Indian Air Force (IAF) tableau at the Republic Day parade 2022.
- **Shivangi Singh** is only the second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- Last year, Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth became the first female fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
- Shivangi Singh, who is from Varanasi, joined the IAF in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
- She is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab.

Source: Indian Express

Fit India Quiz 2021



- Results of the Preliminary Round of the **first-ever Fit India Quiz**, India's biggest sports and fitness quiz for students were announced.
- Results of the nation-wide competition organised by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has revealed that two students from Uttar Pradesh have outperformed students from all other states to become the top scorers of the Preliminary Round.
- Divyanshu Chamoli of Delhi Public School, Greater Noida won the top spot, he was closely followed by Shashwat Mishra of Sunbeam School, Lahartara, Varanasi.

- The preliminary round of the Fit India Quiz, saw participants from 13,502 schools from more than 659 districts across the country, out of which students of 361 schools across 36 States and Union Territories have now been shortlisted for the State Rounds.
- The Quiz has a prize money of 3.25 crores which will be given out to winning schools and students at various phases of the quiz.

**About Fit India Movement:**

- Fit India Movement is a nation-wide movement in India to encourage people to remain healthy and fit by including physical activities and sports in their daily lives.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 29 August 2019.

**Source: PIB**

# Monthly Current Affairs January 2022

