

# Monthly GK Digest

January 2022



## Monthly Digest January -2022

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of '**January-2022**'. This file is important for **BBA & Hotel Management exams**.

### **Economic & Financial Awareness**

- 1. NTPC Ltd** acquire 5 per cent equity stake in **Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)** that provides various electricity trading options.  
**Note:** The PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, which has been providing various electricity trading solutions and connecting buyers as well sellers since 2008. the authorised share capital of the PXIL is Rs 120 crore and paid-up capital is Rs 58.47 crore.
- 2. As per the framework** issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for allowing offline digital payments **Rs 2,000** will be the total limit for offline digital transactions on a payment instrument at any point of time.  
**Note:** An offline digital payment means a transaction which does not require internet or telecom connectivity. Under this new framework, which is applicable with immediate effect, offline payments can be made in face-to-face (proximity) mode only. Such transactions will not require an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA). The upper limit of an offline payment transaction will be ₹200.
- 3. The government** has kept the interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) unchanged at **7.1%** percent for 4th quarter of FY 2021-22.  
**Note:** The central government has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, unchanged for the fourth quarter of 2021-22 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.
- 4. Digital marketplace** for consumer credit, paisabazaar.com has partnered with **Axis Bank** to launch a pre-qualified program for unsecured loans on its platform.  
**Note:** Axis Bank customers, both salaried and self-employed, who are eligible for pre-qualified personal loans from the bank, will now be able to view and apply for the same offers through the Paisabazaar platform as well. This integration would lead to instant access to credit for these select customers through an end-to-end digital process.
- 5. Fino Payments Bank** has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval for commencing international remittance business.  
**Note:** It received approval from central bank under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS). It will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities in association with an overseas principal, the details of which are being worked out. It also has plans to commence outward remittance services soon.
- 6. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL)**, the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'UPMS'.  
**Note:** Through UPMS, NBBL will enable the customers to set up standing instructions – from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments. The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management. UPMS will help in democratizing recurring bill payments and making them further convenient for customers.
- 7. SBI General Insurance** has launched #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao campaign to increase awareness of Indians around the need to buy health insurance to save tax.  
**Note:** The campaign #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao will also underline other benefits of opting for health insurance. The campaign has a humorous tone to bring out the barriers people have for not buying or procrastinating to buy health insurance.
- 8. In January 2022, Airtel Payments Bank** has been categorised as a scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).  
**Note:** With this, Airtel Payments Bank can now pitch for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions and undertake both central and



state government business, besides participating in government-operated welfare schemes. Airtel Payments Bank is among the fastest-growing digital banks in the country, with a base of 115 million users.

9. Group of banks (**State Bank of India, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank**) were identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the Reserve Bank of India for 2021.

**Note:** RBI places D-SIBs in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs). The central bank's current update on D-SIBs is based on the data collected from banks as on March 31, 2021. Based on the bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement is applied to it.

10. **South Indian Bank** has won the UiPath Automation Excellence Awards 2021 for Best Automation under Crisis for Business Continuity.

**Note:** The award was bestowed upon the Bank for its exceptional use of Robotic Process Automation capabilities under difficult times for solving severe operational constraints, thereby ensuring business continuity. The UiPath Automation Excellence Awards aim to recognise the change-makers of automation.

11. **Apple** became first company with stock-market value above \$3 trillion.

**Note:** Its share price has climbed steadily for years, leaving it up more than 200% since Covid lockdown in early 2020 and underlined centrality of technology for work, education, entertainment, etc. Apple shared \$2 trillion market value club with Microsoft Corp, which is now worth \$2.5 trillion

12. **CryptoWire** has launched India's first crypto index titled 'IC15', which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies.

**Note:** Crypto assets like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba inu will be monitored by this platform. CryptoWire's index governance committee will maintain, monitor and administer the index. Base value of the index is set at 10,000 and base date is 1 April 2018.

13. India exported goods worth \$37.29 billion in December 2021, the highest ever in a month and **\$400 billion** annual export target of India for the year 2021-22.

**Note:** India's merchandise exports in April-December were nearly \$300 billion, up 48.85 per cent year-on-year and 26 per cent against the same period in 2019. This translates into India achieving three-fourths of its annual export target of \$400 billion in the first nine months of FY22.

14. **Bharti Airtel Limited** has announced a joint venture with Hughes Communications India Private Limited

(HCIPL) to provide satellite broadband services in India.

**Note:** HCIPL will hold a 67 percent stake in the joint venture, while Airtel will hold a 33 percent. HCIPL will combine the Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) business of both companies.

15. **Airtel Payments Bank** announced a collaboration with Park+ to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across the country.

**Note:** The collaboration aims to leverage the deep distribution reach and digital payments stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. Park+ will offer its entire suite of FASTag services including issuance, acquiring, recharge, and technology support to Airtel Payments Bank.

16. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the authorisation certificates of **Muthoot Vehicle and Asset Finance Ltd and Eko India Financial Services Private Ltd** for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

**Note:** Both the Payment System Operators (PSOs) had authorisation for issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments. However, customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on these companies as PSOs, can approach them for settlement of their claims within three years from the date of cancellation.

17. **RBL Bank** has collaborated with Google to fuel the Bank's customer experience strategy and expand its value proposition to serve its rapidly growing customer base through its digital platform, Abacus 2.0.

**Note:** This collaboration will enable better customer data management, and analytics, enabling effective cross-selling within the Bank's large customer base and subsequently reducing the cost of customer acquisition. Through Abacus 2.0, the Bank aims to provide a superior and holistic one-stop solution to its existing and new customers, to seamlessly deliver its different product offerings across channels.

18. The Vodafone Idea has offered **30%** percent of stake to the Government against outstanding payments related to spectrum auction instalments and AGR dues.

**Note:** It is now informed that the Board of Directors, at its meeting held on 1 January 10, 2022, has approved the conversion of the full amount of such interest related to spectrum auction instalments and AGR Dues into equity. The Net Present Value (NPV) of this interest is expected to be about ₹16,000 crore as per the company's best estimates, subject to confirmation by the DoT," Vodafone Idea said in a stock exchange filing.



- 19.** In January 2022, **SJVN Ltd.** has been given the category 'I' licence for the inter-state trading of power in the entire country by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.  
**Note:** If the licensee fails to undertake trading in electricity within one year from the date of licence, the licence will be liable for revocation in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Trading Licence Regulations.
- 20.** AIC STPINEXT Initiatives, a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has signed two MoUs with **HDFC Bank** to enhance the tech startup ecosystem in India.  
**Note:** These partners would play critical role in supporting and handholding the startups in the growth journey through technical guidance & assistance, mentoring, pitching to investors, funding support, and market connect & access etc.
- 21.** Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd (EHFL) and ECL Finance Ltd (ECLF) have entered into co-lending partnership with **Indian Bank** for lending to priority sector areas.  
**Note:** Agriculture, micro enterprises and advances to weaker sections of the society are amongst the categories that form the priority sector in lending space. The lenders recently signed a (Memorandum of Understanding) MoU under RBI's Co-Lending Model (CLM), thus significantly expanding their portfolio of lending products available to the target customers, increasing their access to credit.
- 22.** **Federal Bank** has launched an online lending platform to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals of up to ₹50 lakh for MSMEs across India.  
**Note:** The platform enables borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally by uploading their income tax returns, bank account statement and online verification of GST details, per the private sector bank's statement. The platform also uses algorithms to read and analyse data points from various sources such as I-T returns, GST data, bank statements, Credit Bureau, capturing the borrower's basic details using analytics.
- 23.** **Axis Bank** has entered into a partnership with MinkasuPay to offer biometric authentication solution for its customers, whereby the transaction time to execute net banking payment will be reduced from about 50-60 seconds currently, to just 2-3 seconds.  
**Note:** India's third largest private sector bank said customers' biometric authentication will be done with Fingerprint or Face ID authentication. This will also increase transaction success rates significantly.
- 24.** **Adani Group** has and South Korean steel major POSCO have signed an agreement to explore opportunities, including setting up of an integrated steel mill at the western state of Gujarat.  
**Note:** POSCO and Adani intend to utilize renewable energy resources and green hydrogen to make it an environmentally friendly integrated steel mill. The company also runs POSCO-Maharashtra, a 1.8-million-ton cold-rolled and galvanized mill, and four processing centres in Pune, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad.
- 25.** India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of **\$50 billion**.  
**Note:** India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of \$50 billion before 2030, as South Korea's Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo held talks with Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi. The two ministers held wide-ranging discussions covering the whole gamut of bilateral trade and investment-related aspects.
- 26.** According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Report 2022, released in January 2022, **8.3%** will be India's annual growth rate in the current fiscal year (2021-22).  
**Note:** As per the report Global economic growth will dip sharply from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023. The report also flagged the risks posed by growing inequality and rising inflation.
- 27.** The **Indian Institute of Management** Kozhikode's Business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) has signed an MoU with **Indian Bank** to launch a startup funding scheme.  
**Note:** The inked agreement launched a startup funding scheme, 'IndSpring Board' to support early-stage startups by providing loans up to ₹50 crore. The loan amount disbursed to startups under the IndSpring Board scheme from IIMK LIVE and Indian Bank will be used to meet a startup operational expenditure and capital expenditure which includes working capital, purchase of fixed assets and other expenses.
- 28.** In partnership with the NPCI **UCO Bank** has launched a 'RuPay Select Contactless Debit Card' with a host of benefits for its premium/HNI (High Networth Individuals) customers.  
**Note:** This launch was made on the occasion of the 79th Inauguration Day of the bank i.e. January 6, 2022. The card offers an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) withdrawal limit of Rs 50000 along with a purchase of up to Rs 2 lakh at POS (Point of Sale) or E-Commerce. All RuPay Select Contactless Debit cardholders are eligible for the Insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakhs (Death due to personal accident and permanent disability).
- 29.** NABARD has forged a partnership with **Arthimpact Digital Loans** for providing end-to-end fintech solution including skilling, micro financial services and forward linkage support to self-help group members.



- Note:** ARTH will provide credit, payments and insurance solutions support to micro-MSME enterprises. Both organisations will work to provide micro financial services and forward linkage support to SHGs. The specialized entities across occupations to 500 enterprises across Uttar Pradesh impacting 2500 households
- 30. HDFC Bank** has been adjudged Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM). **Note:** Professional Wealth Management (PWM) specialises in analysing the growth strategies of private banks and the regional financial centres in which they operate. The award was given for contributing to accelerate key trends, including digitalisation, communication and investment in environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies.
- 31. Paytm Payments Bank** becomes the largest and fastest growing UPI beneficiary bank in India. **Note:** It becomes the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month. Beneficiary banks are the banks of the account holder who is receiving money. Paytm Payments Bank has also gained rapid traction as a remitter bank for UPI payments.
- 32. E-Commerce company Snapdeal** has joined hands with BOB Financial and NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card. **Note:** This co-branded credit card aims to popularise the adoption and usage of credit cards among the growing number of online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns. The Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless card will be rolled out by March 2022. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), one of India's largest public sector banks. Established in 1994, BFSL issues Bank of Baroda credit cards.
- 33. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Mecwin Technologies Ltd to introduce farmer-friendly solar-powered pump-sets using bank finance. **Note:** The MoU will benefit farmers since Mecwin Technologies Ltd is specialised in the production and management of solar irrigation pump-sets. Apart from this, the bank has the largest branch network in rural areas. KVGB was the first bank to introduce solar loan schemes.
- 34. Tata Consultancy Services** has been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs for the 2nd phase of the Passport Seva Programme, the country's largest mission-critical e-governance programme. **Note:** Launched in 2008, the PSP saw TCS transforming the delivery of passport-related services, digitizing the processes, and setting global benchmarks in timeliness, transparency, and reliability. In the next phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports.
- 35. Fintech company Lendingkart** has entered into a co-lending partnership with **Canara Bank** to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the country. **Note:** The loans will be provided with fast turnaround time for approvals powered by "Lendingkart 2gthr" platform using 'zero touch' technology. Through this alliance it aims to broaden its reach to support MSME borrowers to enhance financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank's Priority Sector initiative.
- 36. MobiKwik** has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay to launch ClickPay for its customers. **Note:** Through ClickPay, MobiKwik customers will be able to pay recurring online bills, such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance and loan EMIs with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.
- 37. According to the report** titled "World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022", released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), **207 million** will be the global unemployment in 2022. **Note:** The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report titled 'World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022'. The report warns of a slow and uncertain recovery, as the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on global labour markets.
- 38. In association with Equirus Wealth, Federal Bank** has launched a "US Dollar offshore fund" exclusively for their customers. **Note:** This is in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a Singapore-based global fund management company. Both NRI and Resident customers of Federal Bank will be able to invest in this fund.
- 39. As per the latest RBI data, 304.06** is the Digital Payment Index (DPI) in September 2021. **Note:** RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country. The Index captures the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. As per latest RBI data, the total volume of digital payments rose about 57.50 per cent year-on-year to 645.84 crore in November 2021 against 410.07 crore in November 2020.
- 40. As per the latest RBI data, released on January 2022,** the total volume of digital payments rose by **57.50%** year-on-year in November 2021. **Note:** As per latest RBI data, the total volume of digital payments rose about 57.50 per cent year-on-year to 645.84 crore in November 2021 against 410.07 crore



in November 2020. The total value of digital payments was up 32 per cent y-o-y to ₹1,48,03,884 crore in November 2021 against ₹1,11,99,549 crore in November 2020.

**41. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) calculate Digital Payment Index (DPI) on basis of base period March 2018.**

**Note:** The DPI index comprises five broad parameters that enable us to know the penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods. The parameters include payment enablers, with a weightage of 25 per cent in the index, followed by demand-side and supply-side payment infrastructure factors, with a weightage of 10 per cent each.

**42. As per the latest GDP prediction by Ind-Ra, 7.6% is the estimated GDP growth rate for Indian economy in FY 2022-23.**

**Note:** After two years, the Indian economy will show a meaningful expansion, as the real GDP in FY23 will be 9.1 per cent higher than the FY20 (pre-Covid level) GDP level. However, the size of the Indian economy in FY23 will be 10.2 per cent lower than the FY23 GDP trend value

**43. SEBI has launched Saa ₹thi mobile app to empower investors with the accurate knowledge of security market.**

**Note:** It will create awareness among the investors about the basic concepts of securities market, KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds, etc. The app is available in Hindi and English.

**44. Tech-giant Microsoft is buying video game publisher Activision Blizzard for almost \$69 billion.**

**Note:** This acquisition will accelerate the growth in Microsoft's gaming business across mobile, PC, console and cloud and will provide building blocks for the metaverse. Activision Blizzard is famous of Candy Crush and Call of Duty, Xbox, among other leading video games.

**45. Rs 1500 crores capital is being infused in Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, (IREDA) by Union Cabinet.**

**Note:** It will raise the lending capacity of IREDA to Rs 12,000 crore to the renewable energy sector.

**46. NIF's Incubation and Entrepreneurship Council has signed MoU with Amazon India for online distribution of product of grassroots innovations.**

**Note:** It will make innovations from rural parts of India available universally and will ensure capacity building of grassroots innovators by engaging industry and subject matter experts.

**47. IFSCA has signed MoU with Insurance Institute of India (III) for capacity building of professionals in the insurance sector.**

**Note:** It would design and conduct such examinations and training for professional in IFSC which would aid in having skilled talent in IFSC eco-system.

**48. Rs 650 crore** has been sanctioned by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for AU SFB and Jana SFB – to provide funds to finance companies and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

**Note:** The financial assistance has been extended out of the Special Liquidity Facility sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India. This liquidity line has been provided to SIDBI to meet the challenges being faced by the MSMEs due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation

**49. Axis Bank** has tied up with MinkasuPay, a mobile payments company based in Silicon Valley, California, to offer a smooth net banking payment experience to its customers through biometric authentication solution.

**Note:** The transaction time will reduce from the current 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds with fingerprint or face ID authentication, while increasing success rates significantly. Axis Bank through this partnership with MinkasuPay will enable customers to make net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need of usernames, passwords, and OTPs.

**50. Yes Asset Management's name has been changed to White Oak Capital Asset Management.**

**Note:** Further, Yes Mutual Fund will now be called White Oak Capital Mutual Fund, Aashish P Sommaiya, Chief Executive Officer of White Oak Capital. Founded by Prashant Khemka, formerly CIO of Goldman Sachs Asset Management's India Equity and Global Emerging Markets Equity businesses, White Oak Capital group provides investment management and advisory services for equity assets of over Rs 42,000 crore.

**51. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd has signed a joint development agreement with Africa50 to develop a transmission project in Kenya.**

**Note:** Under a public-private partnership (PPP) framework, the project involves the development, funding, building, and operation of the 400kV Lessos – Loosuk and 220kV Kisumu – Musaga transmission lines. When finished, the project will be Kenya's first Independent Power Transmission (IPT) and will serve as a benchmark in Africa as the first PPP-based financing of transmission lines

**52. TVS Motor Company** has inked a pact with leading on-demand delivery platform Swiggy to bolster the electric commercial mobility segment.

**Note:** The partnership highlights TVS Motor Company's commitment to strengthen electrification across diverse mobility segments and align with Swiggy's many efforts to enable the adoption of EVs in



its delivery fleet. As part of the agreement, TVS Motor and Swiggy will test the implementation of TVS Motor's EV for food delivery and other on-demand services of Swiggy.

- 53. Marwadi Financial Services (MFS) partnered with NSDL Payments Bank** to allow its clients an integrated 3-in-1 savings account that combines the features of savings, demat and trading accounts.  
**Note:** Using this account, investors will be able to seamlessly transfer funds in real time and execute trades in almost no time. Users will also be able to avail margins without actually moving funds between their savings and trading accounts.
- 54. Reliance Industries** is the most valued company in terms of Mcap.  
**Note:** This is due to the domestic equity benchmarks witnessed heavy selling in line with the global market. Benchmark indices witnessed nearly a 4% cut last week as FPIs booked profits across large-caps and select mid-caps.
- 55. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ enabling both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system for alternative investment funds and global custody services.  
**Note:** The MoU will enable both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system for alternative investment funds and global custody services. Both KMBL and GIFT SEZ will cooperate towards wide-ranging activities to improve overall financial services.
- 56. In January 2022, Food delivery company Swiggy** has become a Decacorn by almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion.  
**Note:** Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato before the latter went for its initial public offering. Zomato was valued at \$5.4 billion before its IPO.
- 57. Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs) Fullerton India** has partnered with Paytm to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.  
**Note:** With this partnership, the fintech users will get Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) feature on the Paytm platform. Besides, the partnership is set to offer lending products like merchant loans.
- 58. India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** partnered with **Muthoot Homefin** to offer mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products to later's customer.  
**Note:** Muthoot Homefin aims to leverage mortgage guarantee as a risk mitigation tool as demand for affordable and mid-income housing increases. The tie-up with IMGC will help Muthoot Homefin deepen its penetration in existing markets across its 108 branches/locations.
- 59. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** will spend \$150 million in the creation of data centres that will primarily serve emerging Asia.  
**Note:** This project is being AIIB's 1st data centre project. The Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a private equity company managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha), will route funds through the Beijing-based AIIB, of which India is a significant founding member.
- 60. According to Brand Finance's Global 500 study for 2022 Apple** has retained its title as the world's most valuable brand.  
**Note:** The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.
- 61. According to the World Economic Outlook report** released in January 2022, **9.0%** will be India's economic growth rate in the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22).  
**Note:** Earlier this was estimated at 9.5%. IMF has projected the growth forecast for India in 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.1%. IMF has projected the global growth rate in 2022 to 4.4%, and in 2023 to 3.8%.
- 62. Bharat Electronics Limited** has signed a contract with Hyperion Global Group, LLC, to develop, manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for the US market.  
**Note:** BEL will manufacture and supply IoT devices worth \$73 million to Hyperion during the first year of commencement of supply with a provision to negotiate and supply upgrades of the products, worth \$365 million, in the next five years. Hyperion's next generation global telecommunications infrastructure is said to be the key to unlocking unprecedented levels of performance and speed made possible by the combination of IoT and 5G. Hyperion would accomplish this by strategically implementing a six-phase strategy to meet its customer demands.
- 63. In association with which Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd.,** the Agri-tech start-up FAARMS has introduced customized digital insurance solutions for the rural population especially the farmers.  
**Note:** The partnership is aimed at offering comprehensive financial protection to the uninsured individuals of the country. Faarms is a single point e-commerce platform for farmers for all farming related inputs from seeds, agrochemicals, machinery and animal feed in India.
- 64. CVC and Ministry of Finance** have extended the scope of the existing Advisory Board for Banking and



Financial Frauds (ABBFF) to cover all fraud cases involving an amount of **Rs. 3 Crore and above.**

**Note:** The probity watchdog had issued an order in this regard to the chief executives and CVOs of all public sector banks and insurance companies. The CVC had on January 6 expanded the ambit of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF), which conducts first level examination of large bank frauds, to cover all such cases involving amounts of Rs 3 crore and above besides examining the role of all levels of officials.

**65. TerraPay** has signed an MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) that will allow Indian customers with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts.

**Note:** NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is the International arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). TerraPay is Headquartered in The Netherlands.

**66. TVS Motor Company Ltd** has announced the acquisition of 75 percent stake in the Swiss e-Mobility Group (SEMG) for \$100 million.

**Note:** The valuation of the company (SEMG) is \$100 million. So, the acquisition cost is \$100 million. The acquisition has been made in an all-cash deal through TVS Motor's Singapore Subsidiary TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte Ltd.

**67. Tata Group** has regained control of Air India after 69 years -- **Rs 18,000 crore.**

**Note:** The total value of the deal is Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion). The strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India includes transfer of 100 percent stake of GoI in Air India to Tata Sons, along with management control.

**68. The Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank** is merged with **Unity Small Finance Bank.**

**Note:** The amalgamation came into force with effect from the date of the notification of the scheme i.e. January 25, 2022. According to the press release, the

scheme of amalgamation notified envisages taking over of all the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the USFBL in terms of the provisions of the scheme.

**69. City Union Bank** has launched a wearable payment solution called CUB fitness watch debit card, in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii and powered by the NPCI.

**Note:** Customers need to hold this wristwatch in front of the PoS device during payment like tapping the card on PoS. For payments above Rs 5,000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN. The introductory price of a smartwatch debit card is Rs 3,499, as compared to an actual cost of Rs 6,499).

**70. Google** will invest \$1 billion in the Bharti Airtel as part of its India Digitization Fund.

**Note:** Google and Bharti Airtel will partner on a long-term, multi-year agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Google will make an equity investment of \$700 million for a 1.28% stake in Bharti Airtel at a price of Rs 734 per share.

**71. State Bank of India** has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India INX GIFT IFSC.

**Note:** The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan. SBI was the first issuer whose Green bonds were dually listed in November 2021 on Luxembourg Stock Exchange through a MOU that has been entered into by both Exchanges.

**72. According to the date released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 35% of growth has been registered in the export of the marine products during April to Dec 2021.**

**Note:** The exports of Marine Products touched over \$ 720 mn, registering a growth of over 28 per cent. The overall exports of Marine Products in the last Financial Year was \$ 5.96 bn. Top 5 export destinations: USA, China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand.

## Obituaries

**1. Veteran Conservationist** Richard Leakey passed away recently.

**Note:** He spearheaded campaigns against the ivory trade to save the dwindling African elephant population. For years, Mr. Leakey served in various roles in the government, including as director of the state-run National Museums of Kenya and twice as board chairman at the Kenya Wildlife Service.

**2. Renowned personality Sindhutai Sapkal** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Social Worker.**

**Note:** He is fondly known as 'orphan children's mother'. She raised over 1,050 orphan children and

could boast of having 207 sons-in-law and 36 daughters-in-law. Marathi biopic on her 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal' was released in 2010.

**3. Lawrence N. Brooks, the oldest World War II veteran** and believed to be the oldest man in the country passed away in January 2022 at the age of 112.

**Note:** His death was announced by the National World War II Museum and confirmed by his daughter. Brooks, born on Sept. 12, 1909, was known for his good-natured sense of humor, positivity and kindness. Brooks was working at a sawmill when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940.





4. veteran **lyricist** Marilyn Bergman passed away recently.

**Note:** Bergman and her collaborator husband Alan, was nominated for 16 Academy Awards over the course of her career, winning three. The song "The Way We Were" from the Barbara Streisand movie of the same name was one of those Oscar wins, which also won two Grammys.

5. Veteran **Actor** Bob Saget passed away recently.

**Note:** Saget was in Florida as part of his "I Don't Do Negative Comedy Tour." Following his first round of sitcom fame, Saget worked steadily in film and television roles but became known to a new generation of sitcom fans on CBS's "How I Met Your Mother," acting as narrator and the voice of future Ted Mosby

6. Noted writer Professor Chandrashekhar Patil passed away recently, he used to write in **Kannada** language.

**Note:** He was one of the prominent 'Bandaya sahithi' in Kannada literary school of thought and was an important voice in public discourse of Karnataka for over half a century. His street play Jagadambeya was against the imposition of Emergency by then PM Indira Gandhi.

7. Renowned personality Mihir Das passed away recently, he was a veteran **actor**.

**Note:** The popular actor was suffering from renal ailments for years. The versatile actor had won the State government's best actor award for his performance in 'Laxmi Pratima' (1998), and 'Pheria Mo Suna Bhauni' (2005).

8. David Sassoli, the President of European Parliament held from **Italy** passed away recently.

**Note:** Sassoli, 65, was first elected at the European Parliament in 2009. He won another term in 2014 and served as the Parliament's vice president.

9. Renowned personality Kamal Khan passed away recently he was veteran **Journalist**.

**Note:** Kamal's reportage over the last decades stood out for its perceptiveness, integrity & the way he delivered hard truths with poetic dexterity. Khan was working as Executive Editor with NDTV. He was a recipient of Ramnath Goenka Award, and Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award from the President of India.

10. Renowned personality Sidney Poitier passed away recently.

**Note:** Apart from his successful acting career, Sidney was also a tireless civil rights activist. He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work. A dual citizen of the US and the Bahamas, he served from 1997-2007 as Bahamian Ambassador to Japan.

11. Renowned **Kathak Maestro** Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away recently.

**Note:** A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan was born in a well-

known family of Kathak dancers. Pandit Birju Maharaj donned several hats during his lifetime. While he was best known as a Kathak dancer, he was an equally prolific singer, poet and painter.

12. Renowned **Environmentalist** Prof M K Prasad passed away recently.

**Note:** He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroots level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction. He had also led the popular science movement, 'Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath'. That had undertaken campaigns for popularisation of science in everyday life.

13. Veteran **actor** Sidney Poitier passed away recently.

**Note:** Apart from his successful acting career, Sidney was also a tireless civil rights activist. He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work.

14. **Social Worker** Shanti Devi, also known as Lugdi Devi passed away.

**Note:** Shanti Devi Ji will be remembered as a voice of the poor and underprivileged. She worked selflessly to remove suffering and create a healthier as well as just society. In 2021, she was felicitated with the Padma Shri Award by President Ram Nath Kovind.

15. **Theater personality** Shaoli Mitra passed away recently.

**Note:** Mitra was the daughter of legendary theatre personalities Shambhu Mitra and Tripti Mitra. She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2003, the Padma Shree in 2009 and the Bengal government's Banga Bibhushan Award in 2012.

16. Renowned personality and Padma Shri awardee, **Narayan Debnath** passed away recently.

**Note:** Debnath is the creator of the popular Bengali comic strips of Handa Bhonda (1962), Batul the Great (1965) and Nonte Phonte (1969). He holds the record for the longest running comic by an individual artist for the Handa Bhonda comic series which have now completed 53 years.

17. Saturnino **de la Fuente García** who claimed the record as the **oldest person living** (male) passed away in January 2022, belong to **Spain**.

**Note:** Saturnino claimed the record as the oldest person living (male) in September 2021 when he was exactly 112 years and 211 days. De la Fuente was a cobbler by trade and started working in a shoe factory at age 13. He was born in the Puente Castro neighbourhood of León on Feb. 11, 1909.

18. Renowned **mountaineer** Major Hari Pal Singh Ahluwalia has passed away.

**Note:** HPS Ahluwalia was a retired army officer, a trained mountaineer, author and social worker "who has contributed immensely in various fields including



adventure, sports, environment, disability and social work.

19. Renowned personality Thich Nhat Hanh passed away.  
**Note:** He was one of the world's most influential Zen masters, spreading messages of mindfulness, compassion and nonviolence. A prolific author, poet, teacher and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh was exiled from Vietnam after opposing the war in the 1960s.
20. Renowned **Football** Subhash Bhowmick passed away.  
**Note:** He was Suffering from diabetes and kidney disease since a long time. Popularly known as 'Bhombol da' in Kolkata, Bhowmik was a successful footballer as well as coach.
21. Noted **Archaeology** Ramachandran Nagaswamy passed away.  
**Note:** He was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology and was known for his work on temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu.
22. Former sports person Charanjit Singh passed away recently, he was associated with **Hockey** sports.  
**Note:** Charanjit was also a member of the team which won silver at the 1960 Rome Olympics. He represented India in two Asian Games as well and was honoured

with the Arjuna Award in 1963 and the Padma Shri the next year.

23. Renowned **author** Anil Awachat passed away due to a prolonged illness.  
**Note:** Awachat was the founder-director of the Mukhtangan Rehabilitation Centre in Pune and associated with several social causes. Known for his books including Purnia, Awachat regularly wrote for Marathi magazines and other publications. He also had a stint as a journalist and was known for his reportage.
24. Renowned classical dancer Milena Salvini from France passed away recently, she was associated with **Kathakali** dance.  
**Note:** 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.
25. **Spiritual Leader** Iqbal Singh Kingra passed away.  
**Note:** He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2022 for his contributions in the field of social work. He established Eternal University in 2008 and Akal University, Guru ki Kashi in 2015.

### Important Days

1. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has observed the 64th Foundation Day of its establishment on **1st January 2022**.  
**Note:** DRDO was established in 1958 with just 10 laboratories to enhance the research work in the Defence sector. At that time, it was tasked with designing and developing cutting edge defence technologies for the Indian Armed Forces.
2. World Braille Day is observed globally every year on **4th January**.  
**Note:** The day aims to recognize the right of access to braille by blind people and 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.
3. World Day of War Orphans is observed every year on **6th January** to create awareness about the plight of children who have lost their parents due to conflict.  
**Note:** In any conflict, children are one of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups present. Children who have been injured in a gunfight or separated from their families require particular care in order to heal the mental wounds of war, begin school, and restart normal life.
4. The theme of the National Science Day 2022 as announced by the Science and Technology Minister, Jitendra Singh -- **Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future**.

**Note:** National Science Day is observed every year on 28th February to mark the discovery of the Raman effect.

5. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has celebrated its which Establishment Day on 6th January, 2022 -- **75th**.  
**Note:** Addressing on the occasion Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Piyush Goyal said that Quality is not expensive it is cost-effective. He highlighted that For BIS to grow it should work as a facilitator not an obstructor. He said that BIS should develop as a global organisation, learn from global experiences and integrate global standards.
6. The Non-Resident Indian Day or Pravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated every year on **9th January**.  
**Note:** The aim of the event is to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. On 9 January 1915, Mahatma Gandhi came to India from South Africa and became the greatest Pravasi who led India's Freedom Struggle and made India free from British or colonial rule. As a Non-Resident Indian or Pravasi, he is presented as a symbol of a change and development that could bring into India.
7. World Hindi Day or Vishwa Hindi Divas is celebrated every year on **10 January**.



**Note:** It is celebrated across the world to promote the use of the Hindi language. The first World Hindi Conference was held in Nagpur on January 10 in 1975. First World Hindi Day was celebrated in the year 2006.

8. National Youth Day is celebrated every year on **12<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The main aim behind this is to make sure that the students across the country can be encouraged to learn about the life, the ideas and philosophy of Swami Vivekananda and apply them in their lives. The theme for National Youth Day 2022 is The Theme of 2022 is "It's all in the mind." In 2022, we are observing the 159th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand.

9. Armed Forces Veterans Day is observed every year on **14<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The day aims to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifice of our veterans in the service of the nation. 2022 marks the 6th Armed Forces Veterans Day. It is observed as a mark of respect and recognition of the services rendered by Field Marshal KM Cariappa OBE, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Armed Forces who retired on 14 January 1953.

10. In India, the Army Day is celebrated every year on 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**Note:** This year marks the 74th Indian Army Day. The day is marked to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) KM Cariappa took over the command of the Army from General Sir FRR Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.

11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared the 'National Start-up Day' to be celebrated on **16<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The announcement was made on 15th January 2022, via video conferencing during week-long event Celebrating Innovation Ecosystem as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. During the event, over 150 startups interacted and have been divided into six working groups based on several themes.

12. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrates its Raising Day every year on **19<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** In 2022, the NDRF is observing its 17th Raising Day. There are 12 NDRF battalions located in different parts of the country and comprises as many as 13,000 NDRF personnel who work to build a safer country.

13. The central govt has decided to celebrate his birthday on the 23rd January every year as Parakram Diwas to inspire people of this country.

**Note:** On this occasion, Narendra Modi unveiled the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate.

14. In India, the National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is observed annually on **24<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:**The day aims to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child. The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

15. The International Day of Education is marked every year on **24<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The first-ever International Day of Education was celebrated on **24 January 2019** as per the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly. The theme of 4th International Day of Education in 2022 is Changing Course, Transforming Education.

16. Theme of National Voters Day, which is being observed on 25th January in India -- **Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative.**

**Note:** The main objective behind the celebration is to encourage, facilitate, and maximise enrolment, especially for new voters. The day has been celebrated since 2011 across the country to mark the foundation of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.

17. In India, the National Tourism Day is celebrated every year on **25<sup>th</sup> January** to promote tourism and raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy.

**Note:** Theme: 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'. Indian government established National Tourism Day to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism. The day demonstrate tourism affects on social, political, financial, cultural worth and economic values worldwide.

18. The International Customs Day (ICD) is observed every year on **26<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The day is celebrated to recognise the role of customs officials and agencies and focus on the working conditions and challenges that customs officers face in their jobs. This year, the theme chosen by WCO for ICD is 'Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem'.

19. International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust (International Holocaust Remembrance Day) is observed on **27<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is "Memory, Dignity and Justice". The objective of the day is to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust that occurred during the Second World War.

20. Data Privacy Day is celebrated every year across the world on **28<sup>th</sup> January.**

**Note:** The objective of the day is to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles. It encourages everyone to own their privacy



responsibilities to create a culture of privacy. The theme for this year is 'Privacy Matters'.

21. World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day) is observed every year on **30<sup>th</sup> January**.

**Note:** 2022 theme is 'Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases'. The 2022 slogan is "From neglect to care".

22. World Leprosy Day is observed globally every year on **last Sunday of January every year (30<sup>th</sup> January 2022)**.

**Note:** The day is celebrated to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that it can be prevented, treated and cured. In India, World Leprosy Day is celebrated every year on 30 January, the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death. This year theme of World Leprosy Day 2022 is "United for Dignity".

### New Appointments

1. **Vinay Sahasrabudde** will lead the Parliamentary Standing Committee that will examine the bill that seeks to raise the legal age of marriage for women from 18 years to 21 years.

**Note:** It was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The bill seeks to increase the legal age of marriage of women from 18 to 21. The parliamentary standing committee will be led by senior BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabudde. TMC MP Sushmita Dev is the only woman among the 31 members.

2. **Vinod Kannan** took over as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Vistara airline.

**Note:** He replaced Leslie Thing, who was the CEO from July 16, 2017 to December 31, 2021. He started his stint with Vistara as Chief Strategy Officer in June 2019 and took over as Chief Commercial Officer in January 2020.

**Deepak Rajawat** has been elevated to the role of Vistara's chief commercial officer

3. **Vijay Paul Sharma** has been appointed as the chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP).

**Note:** The role of CACP chairman will be crucial in the proposed committee on the minimum support price (MSP) and other reforms. Currently, he is a Professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

4. Under **S Sahoo** chairmanship the SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

**Note:** Rejigging its market data advisory committee, Sebi has said the panel will now be chaired by S Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), as per the latest information with the regulator. The 20-member committee was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole time member of Sebi.

5. **Tarun Kapoor** will head the Energy Transition Advisory Committee formed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

**Note:** The panel will include representatives of all public-sector oil and gas companies and will reach out to other stakeholders in the sector. The committee has

until the middle of 2022 to recommend a roadmap for the sector's transition.

6. **Vinay Kumar Tripathi** has been appointed as the chairman-cum-CEO of Railway Board with immediate effect.

**Note:** Vinay Kumar Tripathi, prior to be appointed as new chairman of railway board was working as General Manager of North Eastern Railway in Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has not only approved the appointment of Tripathi for six month from January 1 but also further granted extension of his tenure till 31 December in 2022.

7. **Bank of Baroda** has signed cricketer Shafali Verma as its brand endorser.

**Note:** In a welcome result of her consistent outstanding performance in the Women's cricket for India, the Bank has signed contract with the ace Cricketer. Shafali has created various records, one of which is when she became the youngest woman cricketer to play for India in her debut game against South Africa. Shafali brings in a natural connect with today's youth, especially women and she exuberates sportsman spirit and qualities on and off-field.

8. **Alka Mittal** becomes the **first women chairman** and managing director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

**Note:** She is the first woman to head the country's largest oil and gas producer. She replaced Subhash Kumar, who retired on December 31. She has been appointed for a period of six months.

9. The survey is titled as 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar' is being conducted by **Ministry of Culture**.

**Note:** The survey is titled as 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar'. It will document the cultural identity at village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block, or district unique.

10. **Atul Keshap** has been appointed as the president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC).

**Note:** He will replace Nisha Biswal, who has been appointed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Senior Vice President of International Strategy and Global



Initiatives and South Asia. Mr. Kehsap was also previously the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives. He was posted to India in the 2005-2008 period and more recently in 2021 as Chargé d'Affaires.

**11. TS Tirumurti** has been named as the new Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

**Note:** Prior to taking up his current position as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, in May 2020, Tirumurti served as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, handling the Economic Relations portfolio.

**12. Zhang Ming** has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

**Note:** He succeeded Vladimir Norov, former diplomat from Uzbekistan. Before joining SCO, he served as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union. SCO comprises: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

**13. Ajay Kumar Choudhary** has been appointed as the head of the newly formed 'fintech department' for financial technology by the RBI to facilitate innovation, and help identify and address challenges & opportunities in the new-age sector.

**Note:** The central bank has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary, executive director, to head the department. All matters related to inter-regulatory and international coordination on fintech shall also be dealt with by the department, which will report to the RBI's centralised administration division.

**14. Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a three-year tenure.

**Note:** He will succeed DJ Pandian, who is in charge of sovereign, non-sovereign lending of AIIB in South Asia, Pacific Islands and South-East Asia. He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB, which is headed by the President and Chair of the Board of Directors Jin Lique (China).

**15. Haitham Al Ghais** has been appointed as the Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

**Note:** He is appointed for a three year tenure (2022-2025) and will take the charge as the SG from 1st August 2022. Haitham Al Ghais, previously served as the Governor of OPEC between 2017 to June 2021, then as the Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

**16. Viresh Kumar Bhawra** has been appointed as the Director General of Punjab Police.

**Note:** He replaced officiating DGP Siddharth Chattopadhyaya. He was the DGP of Punjab Home Guards. After assuming the charge, Punjab Police will ensure smooth conduct of elections, and will be eradicating drug menace and terrorism from the state.

**17. Raghuvendra Tanwar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

**Note:** Prof Tanwar who joined KU as a lecturer in August 1977 has an outstanding academic record, with two gold medals in MA History. He was appointed an open selection professor in 1997 and has also worked as the KU's dean of academic affairs and dean of social sciences.

**18. In January 2022, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas** has been appointed as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**Note:** He will replace Gita Gopinath, who is joining the IMF management team this month. As Economic Counsellor, he will serve as director of the IMF's Research Department. In December, Georgieva appointed Gopinath as the Fund's second-ranking official, putting her in a wide-ranging policy role overseeing IMF surveillance activities, research and flagship publications.

**19. Indu Malhotra** has been appointed as the chairperson of the three-member inquiry committee by the Supreme Court to look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit.

**Note:** Former Justice Indu Malhotra was the first woman judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court Bench directly from the Bar, joining the ranks of six other women who have been appointed as SC judges in India since Independence. She served as judge in SC for close to three years from April 2018 to March 2021.

**20. S Somnath** has been appointed as the 10th chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

**Note:** He replaces Kailasavadivoo Sivan. K Sivan, the outgoing chairperson, will be completing his extended term on 14th January 2022. Before his appointment as the ISRO chief, he was serving as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

**21. Anup Bagchi** has been re-appointed as the Executive Director of **ICICI Bank** for a period of 3 years.

**Note:** The shareholders of the bank at its Annual General Meeting in August last year had approved Bagchi's re-appointment for five years effective February 1, 2022. ICICI Bank has two more executive directors — Sandeep Batra and Vishakha Mulye.

**22. Navrang Saini** has been assigned the additional charge of the chairperson of **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**.

**Note:** The Centre had in Oct last year assigned additional charge of chairperson of IBBI Saini for a period of three months. The IBBI Chairperson is appointed by the center on the recommendations of the selection committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. M S Sahoo, who was the first Chairperson of IBBI since October 1, 2016.



- 23. Narendra Kumar Goenka** has been appointed as the chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).  
**Note:** He succeeded Padma Shri awardee A Sakthivel. Prior to this, he was the Vice Chairman of AEPC and has been associated with AEPC for more than two decades
- 24. Narayan Rane** is present union minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, a branch of the Government of India, is the apex executive body for the formulation and administration of rules, regulations and laws relating to micro, small and medium enterprises in India. Narayan Taty Rane is an Indian politician from Maharashtra state and former Chief Minister of Maharashtra.
- 25. Roberta Metsola** has been elected as the 3rd women president of the European Union's parliament.  
**Note:** Metsola succeeds Italian Socialist David Sassoli, who passed recently. She is only the third woman elected to the post. She is the European Parliament's youngest president.
- 26. Vikram Dev Dutt** has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of Air India Ltd.  
**Note:** Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre, is at present Principal Secretary (Tourism) in Delhi government. He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.
- 27. Shersingh B Khyalia** has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of Adani Power Limited (APL).  
**Note:** Shersingh B. Khyalia is a Chartered Accountant (CA) with over 32 years of experience in managing complex business in power industry, including generation, transmission and distribution. Earlier, Khyalia has worked as Managing Director in Gujarat Power Corporation, where he got experience of renewable power sector especially development of ultra-mega renewable parks.
- 28. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita**, who passed away recently, was the former President of **Mali**.  
**Note:** He ruled Mali for seven years, since September 2013, till he was overthrown in a military coup in August 2020. He had also served as Prime Minister of Mali from 1994 to 2000.
- 29. Dileep Sanghani** has been elected as the chairman of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO).  
**Note:** Its incumbent Chairman Balvinder Singh Nakai passed away recently. The elected board of directors of IFFCO unanimously elected Dileep Sanghani as the 17th chairman of the Cooperative. He was earlier serving as the IFFCO vice-chairman. Sanghani was elected as the vice-chairman of IFFCO in the year 2019.
- 30. Vinod Rai** has been appointed as the independent Chairman of Unity Small Finance Bank (Unity SFB).  
**Note:** He is a former IAS officer, with experience in Ministry of Finance, Commerce, Defence as well as with Federal and State Governments and Private Institutions. Unity Small Finance Bank has commenced operations as a small finance bank with effect from November 1, 2021 under Section 22 (1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 31. Vinodanand Jha** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority.  
**Note:** Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer, who was serving as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Pune before this. 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)**
- 32. Pushp Kumar Joshi** has been selected by the PESB as the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).  
**Note:** Joshi is currently Director - Human Resources at HPCL. The recommendation will now go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- 33. Badrinath Srinivasan** has been appointed as the Managing Director of Wipro Limited for Southeast Asia.  
**Note:** He will focus on Wipro's vision for business growth, revenue expansion, client and influencer relationships, talent development and brand building. He will also strengthen the key markets of Southeast Asia, focusing on large deals and strategic transformational engagements.
- 34. Arun Misra** has been elected as new Chairman of the International Zinc Association (IZA).  
**Note:** Incidentally, Misra is the first Indian as well as Asian to hold a position of acting chairman of the IZA. Hindustan Zinc is India's largest and the world's second largest zinc-lead miner. The IZA is a non-profit organisation that represents the global zinc industry.
- 35. MR Kumar** is the chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation of India.  
**Note:** Besides, the government has also extended the tenure of one of the managing directors, Raj Kumar, for one year. With the extension, M R Kumar will continue as chairman of LIC till March 2023. This is the second extension for the LIC chairman.
- 36. V Anantha Nageswaran** has been appointed as Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) to the government of India.  
**Note:** Prior to his appointment, Nageswaran has also been a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India from 2019 to 2021. He has replaced Krishnamurthy Subramanian, who returned to academia in December after a three-year tenure as CEA.



## Important News – India

1. India's first state-of-the-art water taxi services will be commissioned in **Mumbai**.  
**Note:** The services would be formally launched in January by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the exact dates are being finalised. The project is a joint initiative of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB). Infinity Harbour Services LLP and West Coast Marine will be the two service operators.
2. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pawar** has inaugurated Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS Wellness Centre in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** After this, Nashik will be 4th city in Maharashtra after Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur to have CGHS Wellness Centre. It will provide OPD Treatment including issue of medicines, indoor treatment at Government and Empanelled Hospitals, cashless facility available for treatment in empanelled centers for pensioners and other identified beneficiaries.
3. The foundation stone for the Heartfulness International Yoga academy for setting new benchmarks in yoga training has been laid down in **Hyderabad** by the Union Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal.  
**Note:** It comprises Yoga halls that can accommodate 100 Yoga students in each hall, therapeutic Yoga rooms for consultation, one to one training spaces or small group classes, pre-natal Yoga rooms, lecture hall with 200 sitting capacity, full-fledged recording studio, etc. It will have trainers from India, Europe, Australia, Uzbekistan and US
4. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** is organizing Climate Change Awareness Campaign and National Photography Competition.  
**Note:** Campaign will have Municipal Commissioners and key heads of urban local bodies and Smart City CEOs creating awareness about Urban Climate Change and Sustainability. The competition will be open to all participants till 26th January 2022 on climate change
5. Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport is located in **Agartala** city where Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building recently.  
**Note:** The airport is a blend of Tripura's culture, natural beauty and modern facilities. It will play a big role in enhancing air connectivity in the North East. This is turning Tripura into a new hub of business and industry as well as a trade corridor.
6. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) is flagship scheme of **Ministry of Power** that has completed seven years of its implementation.  
**Note:** The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country. Launched in 2015, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from ₹300-350 a bulb to ₹70-80.
7. 'Gram Ujala programme' is a flagship scheme of **Ministry of Power**.  
**Note:** It was launched by the Union minister of power and new and renewable energy RK Singh in March 2021. State-owned CESL has achieved a milestone of 50 lakh LED bulb distribution under the flagship Gram Ujala programme.
8. **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback.  
**Note:** As per an official release issued by the ministry the policy seeks to leverage India's potential for air sports and places a strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety. The vision of the policy is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.
9. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award, that is being awarded for **Public Administration** sector.  
**Note:** The award is being awarded for excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments. Recently, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh today launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award.
10. The tagline of the 25th National Youth Festival 2022 to be held in Puducherry from 12th to 16th January 2022 --**Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva**.  
**Note:** He also unveiled the tagline of National Youth Festival, Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth. National Youth Festival is organized by Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States.
11. **NHPC Ltd.** has signed a Promoters Agreement with the Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha (GEDCOL) for the development of 500 megawatts (MW) floating solar projects on different water bodies in the state.  
**Note:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the same was signed between NHPC and GEDCOL in July 2020. NHPC and GEDCOL agree to establish a joint venture (JV) company for implementation of 500 MW floating solar power projects in Odisha and other such projects in subsequent periods as may be decided from time to time.



12. 24th conference on e-Governance (NceG) was held in **Hyderabad**.

**Note:** The conference was inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Science and Technology and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions). The national awards for e-Governance 2021 were presented under six categories during the event.

13. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by **2024**.

**Note:** The ₹3.6 trillion JJM scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by 2024, with several states having presented their commitment to provide tap water connections to all rural households before 2024. Drinking water supply schemes totaling ₹6,872.28 crore have been approved in Rajasthan under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

14. The RPF has deployed 244 Meri Saheli teams at major railway stations across the country to provide security to lady passengers in long distance trains particularly travelling alone.

**Note:** RPF collects feedback from these lady passengers at the end of their journeys to assess the efficacy of the initiative.

15. Total outlay of the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor of the intra-state transmission system that was approved by the union cabinet in January 2022 -- **₹ 12,000 crore**.

**Note:** The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy (RE) projects in seven states — Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme will help in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.

16. The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has partnered with **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman.

**Note:** The partnership is a strategic force multiplier bringing deep work and experience together. India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world. A steering committee formed between these organisations would plan, discuss and mobilise financial resources to implement various activities.

17. **DPIIT** has organized the first ever Startup India Innovation Week from 10th to 16th January 2022.

**Note:** This virtual week-long innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. This is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. India is emerging as a

global innovation hub, boasting the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.

18. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in **France**.

**Note:** The expedition was conducted in November last year and the team comprising 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh. Mr Singh interacted with some of the members of the team present in New Delhi. He distributed appreciation certificates and commended the team for completing the expedition without any injuries to the members.

19. **Doon School** has organized 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC) Principals'.

**Note:** It is being organized by Doon School. IPSC started in 1939 with a few residential schools now has a strength of 81 schools including Sainik Schools and Military Schools.

20. **Kevadiya Railway Station** has been renamed as **Ekta Nagar** railway station.

**Note:** Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division. New station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be EKNR. Numerical code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be 08224620.

21. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** works under **Ministry of MSMEs**.

**Note:** Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Ministry of MSME, has launched two new products- Khadi babywear and handmade paper 'Use and Throw' Slippers. Beginning from January 14, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is starting the sale of Khadi handmade paper "Use & Throw" slippers for the use of devotees and workers.

22. According to the **Henley Global Mobility Report 2022**, Indian passport has been ranked at **83<sup>rd</sup> position**.

**Note:** However, in 2020, its rank stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan. Japan and Singapore top the index. The current rankings are for first quarter of 2022 and India shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.

23. In January 2022, an 'MSME Technology Centre' was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in **Puducherry**.

**Note:** The centre was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry. He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.

24. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **Andhra Pradesh** state recorded maximum forest cover increase in two years.





- Note:** In 2021, the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares. This is over 24.60 percent of the geographical area of the country. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km).
- 25.** According to the biennial India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **24.62%** percent of geographical area of the country is under forest and tree cover.  
**Note:** The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km). The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). In the year 2022, 17th edition of the report is released by the environment minister Bhupender Yadav.
- 26. Meenakashi Lekhi** has launched the 'North East on Wheels Expedition' in New Delhi to promote the Culture of Northeastern States.  
**Note:** It is scheduled to be held between 8th to 16th April this year to mark the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. 75 Bikers participating in this expedition will be selected from all over the country and will cover about 9000 km in the North-East Region in 6 groups.
- 27. Gurugram** will get India's first heli-hub designed to have many aviation facilities like heliport, hangars, repairs, and any other related services.  
**Note:** The heli-hub is proposed to be built in Gurugram & would be near the metro facility along with easy connectivity to industrial areas (Noida & Bhiwadi).
- 28. Chennai International Airport, Chennai** has been ranked eight for on-time performance among large international airports globally for 2021 by Cirium — a provider of aviation data to the travel, finance, aerospace and aviation industries.  
**Note:** In a review conducted by Cirium, an organisation that specialises in offering aviation data to travel, finance, aerospace, and aviation industries, the airport has been ranked 8th for 'on-time performance' for the year 2021. Besides that, Chennai airport is the only Indian airport to figure in the top 10 positions of the list.
- 29. Tata Consultancy Services** has been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs for the 2nd phase of the Passport Seva Programme, the country's largest mission-critical e-governance programme.  
**Note:** Launched in 2008, the PSP saw TCS transforming the delivery of passport-related services, digitizing the processes, and setting global benchmarks in timeliness, transparency, and reliability. In the next phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports.
- 30. Zojila project, Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel** will connect Ladkash with **Srinagar**.  
**Note:** The project of the NHIDCL, being executed by the MEIL, is envisaged to ensure connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh throughout the year. Zojila project, Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel, is a challenging development project in India for strategic reasons too.
- 31. The theme of the 16th India Digital Summit, 2022 -- Supercharging Startups.**  
**Note:** It is the oldest event of the digital industry in India. During the summit, Minister unveiled 'LEAP' as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem.
- 32. Union govt has dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant to the nation in Hyderabad.**  
**Note:** The 0.25 TPD capacity CTM pilot plant is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99% from high-ash coal. This conversion of high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India.
- 33. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** conducting the open data week from 17th to 21st January 2022, to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.  
**Note:** The Open Data Week is being conducted from 17th to 21st January 2022. It is a part of a series of pre-event initiatives leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference to be held next month.
- 34. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has organized the 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.  
**Note:** The training is aimed to equip participants with better understanding of emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security. It will cover topics such as Governance Risk and Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application and Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act.
- 35. India's Supermom tigress, popularly known as 'Collarwali'** passed away at **Pench Tiger Reserve**.  
**Note:** She was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime, which is believed to be a world record. Official name given to the tigress by forest department was T-15 but she was fondly called 'Collarwali' by the native people



36. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship has signed MoU with **IGNOU** to further strengthen the vocational and technical training framework.  
**Note:** Aim: to link vocational education and training with higher education, making India's youth employable by creating avenues for them to access better work opportunities. The trainees attached to National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI), Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), PMKK and JSS.
37. On the occasion of the **74th Army Day** (15th January), 'Monumental National Flag,' the world's largest national flag made from Khadi, was displayed Longewala. The Longewala is located in **Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** Longewala, in the western part of the desert state's Jaisalmer district, was the site of the iconic Battle of Longewala in 1971, which was fought during that year's war between the two neighbours.
38. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was erected to honour thousands of Indian soldiers who martyred during **Indo-Pak War 1971**.  
**Note:** The Amar Jawan Jyoti was erected as a memorial to fallen soldiers of the 1971 operations that led to the freedom of Bangladesh. It is housed inside the India Gate, a British era memorial to soldiers who lost their lives in pre-independence operations.
39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched India-assisted Social Housing Units project in **Mauritius**.  
**Note:** Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects are being undertaken under India's development support in Mauritius.
40. India's first state-of-the-art, high-performance para-badminton academy with advanced equipment and facilities has been set up in **Lucknow**.  
**Note:** The centre has been launched by Dronacharya awardee and head national coach of Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance. Khanna also unveiled the Ageas Federal 'Quest for Fearless Shuttlers' programme to spot and nurture new talent for the 2028 and 2032 Paralympics.
41. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**' in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.  
**Note:** Report provides considerations and recommendations to inform inclusion of EVs in RBI's PSL guidelines. Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore (USD 5 billion) by 2025.
42. The Gujarat government named an under-bridge in Rajkot after **General Bipin Rawat**.  
**Note:** General Rawat died on December 8 when his military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu. All 14 on board, including the general's wife, perished in the incident.
43. India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 released by the Transparency International -- **85<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88). This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be. The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). 180 countries are ranked in it.
44. In association with Amar Chitra Katha, **Ministry of Culture** has prepared the comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'.  
**Note:** The unique book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha. It beautifully portrays the tales of valor of our forgotten women freedom fighters.
45. Shivangi Singh held from **Uttar Pradesh**, became the first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale as part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the Republic Day parade.  
**Note:** Shivangi is from Varanasi and is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab. Shivangi Singh joined the Indian Air Force in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
46. **Rs 120 crore** has been allocated under PLI scheme for drones and drone components.  
**Note:** The PLI scheme came as a follow-through of the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, released by the MoCA on August 25, 2021.
47. **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu** has been awarded the prestigious international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population since 2010.  
**Note:** Nepal's Bardia National Park was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers. The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in Erode district, and now houses 80 tigers in its 1408 sq. km campus.
48. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation on the 92nd birth anniversary Pandit Jasraj, who was a legendary **Vocalist**.  
**Note:** During the launch PM called for the globalization of Indian Music. He also urged people to take Indian music to the world and said that people should be setting up startups based on music.
49. India Innovation Centre for Graphene (ICCG) will be setup in **Thrissur, Kerala**.  
**Note:** This will be a joint venture between Pune-headquartered Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), Tata Steel Limited and other industries. Earlier this week, the MeitY gave ICCG an 'in-principle' approval.
50. With technical assistance of **Israel**, the union government has decided to convert as



many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states.

**Note:** Already, the Israeli government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 states. The 150 villages that are located around CoEs will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence.'

51. The theme of the 30th Foundation Day celebration of National Commission for Women (NCW) -- **She The Change Maker**.

**Note:** "The theme of the programme is 'She The Change Maker', aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields. The State Commissions for Women and Department of Women and Child Development in State Govt will participate.

52. The govt has mandated storage of international calls, satellite phone calls, conference calls and messages made over normal networks as well as on the internet for a period of at least **two years**.

**Note:** The move follows an amendment made in the unified licence (UL) in Dec by the DoT. UL holders are telecom companies like Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, BSNL for providing all kinds of telecom services, except satellite phone services.

53. India's largest 100-point electric vehicle charging station for four-wheelers was inaugurated in **Gurugram**.

**Note:** The station is bound to attract city residents to switch to electric vehicles in the near future. The project was launched by the National Highway for Electric Vehicle. It is a private entity which has expertise in carrying out pilot projects and is working with government agencies and the NITI Aayog.

54. The year 2022 marks **74th** death anniversary of the Father of Nation.

**Note:** The day is also observed as Martyrs' Day. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on this day in 1948.

### Important News – State

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Road in **Sikkim** state has been renamed as '**Narendra Modi Marg**'.

**Note:** The older route is called Jawaharlal Nehru Road. The alternative double-lane road at 51 Kyongasala gram panchayat unit (GPU) -- spanning 19.51 km -- has been operational for almost a year now.

2. **Odisha** government has signed an MoU with the natural gas firm GAIL for cooperation in the production of eco-friendly fuels in the state.

**Note:** The agreement was signed by the public sector unit and the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (Ipicol) in Bhubaneswar. The MoU seeks to prepare a feasibility study for setting up plants in areas of green hydrogen, green ammonia and renewable energy like solar and wind.

3. The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the first such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022 in **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:** KTC is being set up by Aequs Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequs Pvt. Ltd. Six toy and toy-component makers have signed MoUs with Aequs Infra while another three players, including Viscon Polymers, manufacturer and exporter of custom rubber moulded products, have started construction of their production facilities at KTC.

4. Chilika lake is located in **Odisha** state where a bird census has been conducted recently.

**Note:** Chilika is the largest brackish water lake. Birds come to the lake to spend their winter. Around 106 personnel were deployed in the survey. This included bird experts from non – governmental organizations and government organisations.

5. India's first open rock museum was inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.

**Note:** 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 kilometres of distance from the surface of the earth.

6. The ICAR–Sugarcane Breeding Institute (ICAR-SBI) is located in **Tamil Nadu** state that was seen in news.

**Note:** Interventions by Institute for implementing STC, was finalized based on systematic need assessment by conduct of Focus groups among two tribes 'Malasar' and 'Malai malasar' tribes belonging to Nagaroothu, Old Sarkarpathy, Chinnarpathy.

7. **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.

**Note:** As many as 13,737 out of 14,200 villages in the State are in the ODF Plus list, which is 96.74%. This was followed by Tamil Nadu with 4,432 villages (35.39%) and Karnataka with 1,511 villages (5.59%). Gujarat took the 17th position with only 83 villages (0.45%).

8. **Himachal Pradesh** state becomes the first state in the country to become a smoke-free state under Ujjwala Yojana.

**Note:** Ujjwala Yojna was started by the Centre government with the view to free the women of the country from indoor pollution. Along with this, the Himachal government also started the Grihini Suvidha



- Yojana to benefit as many women as possible, under the scheme.
9. Five-day National Youth Festival 2022 will be held in **Puducherry**.  
**Note:** National Youth Festival will be held to celebrate the 159th birth anniversary of spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda. The five-day festival will be held in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The festival aims to ignite, unit, motivate and activate the youth of India towards nation building.
10. The 9th edition of the North East Festival was held in **Guwahati**.  
**Note:** The festival aimed to promote and highlight the commercial and tourism potential of the North East Region. The festival held in the format of a carnival also discussed the business, economic, socio-political issues of the region.
11. **Maharashtra** government has announced that a mini Olympics will be organized in order to promote and encourage Olympic sports among the youth.  
**Note:** Competition will be arranged around 1st May, to mark Maharashtra Day. This event will be called 'Maharashtra State Olympic Competition'. 'Olympics Vision Document' will be prepared considering requirements of 2024, 2028, 2032 Olympics
12. Van Vihar National Park and Zoo located in **Madhya Pradesh** state where India's oldest sloth bear, named as Gulabo (40 years) passed away recently.  
**Note:** India's oldest sloth bear, named as Gulabo (40 years) passed away at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh due to failure of internal organs. She was the oldest sloth bear of the country and was one of the star attractions in the park. She was rescued from a street performer (Madaari) in May 2006.
13. According to biennial India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover in the country.  
**Note:** The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). In the year 2022, 17th edition of the report is released by the environment minister Bhupender Yadav. This report was first published in the year 1987.
14. Kachai Lemon Festival is celebrated in **Manipur**.  
**Note:** Theme: 'Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation'. Kachai Lemon has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag and widely grown in Kachai Village of Ukhrul district, Manipur.
15. **Odisha** has topped the medal chart at the recently concluded IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition.  
**Note:** This event was organised in New Delhi by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). From over 150 winners, 59 of them won gold medals with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. Furthermore, 73 won silver medals with prize money of ₹ 75,000 while 53 received bronze medals and a cash prize of ₹ 50,000.
16. **Jammu and Kashmir** has signed an MoU with UAE's pioneering financial services company, Century Financial that will invest 100 million dollars.  
**Note:** Investment will cover 3 hotels and one commercial cum residential complex in Jammu & Kashmir. The owner of Century Financial Sh. Bal Krishen is originally a native of the Doda district of Jammu and has been a forerunner in supporting his home region.
17. **Tamil Nadu** will install a statue of Colonel John Pennycuick in the United Kingdom, a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895.  
**Note:** Colonel John Pennycuick was a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895 in Kerala's Idukki. The dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu government.
18. **Chhattisgarh** government has decided to set up an employment mission to create around 15 lakh job opportunities in the state in the next 5 years.  
**Note:** The mission will be headed by CM Bhupesh Baghel. Under the mission, the State government will also leverage expertise of premiere institutions such as the IIT, IIIT, IIM and NIT, in the State to generate employment opportunities.
19. **Telangana** government has approved 'Mana ooru, mana badi' programme aimed at allround development and creation of effective basic infrastructure in schools across the State.  
**Note:** The programme will be implemented in three years with a budget of ₹7,289 crore to benefit 19.84 lakh children of 26.065 schools. The amount will be spent on setting up digital classrooms, construction of additional classrooms and taking up repairs to schools.
20. **Karnataka** has won the maximum number of awards at the 2nd National Startup Awards 2021.  
**Note:** Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal presented the National Startup Awards 2021. This is second edition of the award conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
21. **India** announced a USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products.  
**Note:** India is poised to provide another \$1 billion in credit facility to Sri Lanka for importing food, essential items and medicines. India had recently extended foreign exchange support of more than \$900 million to Sri Lanka
22. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has joined hands with **Odisha** state to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.



- Note:** In a pilot initiative, advisories will be provided to small farmers of the state, which is particularly prone to cyclones, to help them adapt to impact of the climate crisis. The WFP and the Agriculture Department will develop toolkits, modules, and guidelines during the project to provide services to small farmers.
- 23. Arunachal Pradesh** government has decided to establish an Infrastructure Financing Authority on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations.  
**Note:** This was decided during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh as an independent state. The state of Arunachal Pradesh was created in 1972. In 2022, the state has celebrated its 50th anniversary.
- 24. Haryana** state govt the Himachal Pradesh govt has signed MoU to revive the Saraswati river.  
**Note:** Under this, Haryana Government will construct a dam and a reservoir in Adi Badri area near Yamunanagar district, which is situated on the border of Himachal Pradesh. Cost of the project is estimated at Rs 215.33 crore and will be borne entirely by Haryana govt.
- 25. Karnataka** has set up India's first Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Center of Excellence recently.  
**Note:** Karnataka was the first Indian state to introduce an AVGC policy in 2012. The state is now home to the country's first to set up such a centre, which is also said to be the biggest in Asia, the government said in a release.
- 26. Ladakh** women's team has won the ninth national women's ice hockey championship organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India in Himachal Pradesh.  
**Note:** The championship was held in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15-21. Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police participated in the championship.
- 27. Karnataka** govt has launched 'Grama One', a technology-driven programme that would offer services of various government departments in rural areas.  
**Note:** It would offer services of various government departments in rural areas of 12 districts. The services will be extended to all districts across Karnataka by the end of March.
- 28. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** The Centre also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger conservation. The Centre has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.
- 29. Tamil Nadu** government has established its own drone manufacturing corporation.  
**Note:** The corporation will design, manufacture and trade all types of drones and allied systems. Drones were used by the State police department and later by the Disaster Management Department to conduct surveys in mines and for aerial photography.
- 30. Andhra Pradesh** state government has formed 13 new districts.  
**Note:** Parliamentary constituencies were used to construct the districts. With this, the state of Andhra Pradesh now has a total of 26 districts.
- 31. Social activists of Andhra Pradesh** have built a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters.  
**Note:** Aim: to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Statues of freedom fighters and social activists were erected in the park with the help of donors.

### Important News – World

- 1. Abdalla Hamdok** resigned as Prime Minister of **Sudan**.  
**Note:** Hamdok, a former United Nations official seen as the civilian face of Sudan's transitional government, was reinstated in November amid international pressure in a deal that called for an independent technocratic cabinet under military oversight led by him. Hamdok's resignation came after Sudanese security forces violently dispersed the pro-democracy protesters against the October 25 military coup, killing at least two people.
- 2. France** takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time in 14 years with effect from 1st January 2022 till 30 June 2022.  
**Note:** Presidency of the Council (Council of Ministers) organizes meetings, brokers compromise, submits conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process. Each Member State of EU holds the presidency of Council of the European Union for six months on a rotational basis.
- 3. Antigua and Barbuda** become the 102nd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).  
**Note:** The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition through a solar-led approach. K. J. Srinivasa became



the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the 15-member CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) in 2019.

4. Sri Lanka has signed a deal with which **Indian Oil Corporation** to lease 75 oil tanks, as the island moved closer to securing a \$500 million fuel credit line from India.  
**Note:** The signing of the deal comes ahead of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Colombo this weekend, with China also vying for clout in Sri Lanka. Previously Sri Lanka had agreed to lease all of its 99 tank oil farms to India in 2003.
5. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Turkmenistan** on cooperation in disaster management that was approved by the Union cabinet in January 2022.  
**Note:** The MoU between India and Turkmenistan seeks to put in place a system whereby both countries will be benefitted from the disaster management mechanisms of each other. It will also help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field.
6. The first Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Workshop was conducted by **India**.  
**Note:** Delegates from Member and Observer States of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) including Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Bangladesh participated in the workshop.
7. Alikhan Smailov has been appointed as the prime minister of **Kazakhstan**.  
**Note:** Smailov, 49, served as first deputy prime minister in the previous cabinet which Tokayev dismissed last week amid violent unrest in the oil-rich Central Asian nation. Kazakh security forces have detained 9,900 people over the unrest.
8. Maya Angelou, who become the first Black woman to appear on the US quarter, in a new version of the coin unveiled by the US Mint was a **poet**.  
**Note:** The poet and writer, who died in 2014, was the author of I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, in which she wrote about the racial discrimination she experienced growing up. The author of 36 books – and the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees – she read her poem On the Pulse of the Morning at Bill Clinton's 1992 inauguration, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2010.
9. Two countries passport shares top rank in the Henley Passport Index 2022, released in January 2022 -- **Japan and Singapore**.  
**Note:** Germany and South Korea hold onto joint 2nd spot on the latest ranking, with passport holders able to access 190 destinations visa-free, while Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain share 3rd

place, with a score of 189. India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021. It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year.

10. **Bangladesh** has discovered huge potential natural gas hydrate deposits of 0.11 to 0.73 trillion cubic feet in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).  
**Note:** It is equivalent to 17-103 TCF of natural gas reserves. The study undertaken over the last three years was conducted by the Petrobangla, Bapex, local experts and the National Oceanography centre in Southampton, UK.
11. International Folk Art Festival was held in **Dubai**.  
**Note:** Lavani is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra and is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument. It is noted for its powerful rhythm and has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre.
12. **China** has built an "artificial moon" research facility that will enable them to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism.  
**Note:** The gravity of this place can be controlled using powerful magnets by scientists to such low levels that it could successfully simulate the moon's gravity. The artificial moon research facility is scheduled for official launch in the year 2022.
13. 'Infinity Bridge' is an impressive construction in **Dubai** that was opened to traffic for the first time.  
**Note:** Its design resembles mathematical sign for infinity ( $\infty$ ). It represents limitless, infinite goals of Dubai. It consists of six lanes in each direction and combined 3-metre track for pedestrians and cyclists
14. In January 2022, **Oxfam India** has released a report titled 'Inequality Kills' that reveals that COVID-19 pandemic has heightened economic inequalities across the world.  
**Note:** Wealth of world's 10 richest men doubled since COVID began. Collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (\$ 775 billion) in 2021. Number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 during COVID
15. The theme of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda Virtual Summit 2022 -- **The State of the World**.  
**Note:** During his speech, he talked about some of the pressing issues like Covid, climate change, cryptocurrency, reforms and initiatives taken by his government for ease of doing business. This is the second consecutive year that the forum has had to host the summit digitally due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



**16. Bangladesh** decided to make Unique Business ID (UBID) mandatory for all e-commerce entities in the country.

**Note:** According to Zunaid Ahmed Palak (State Minister for IT), all digital commerce operators in the country will be required to register with the government using the UBID. The use of these mechanisms to regulate the e-commerce sector will restore public confidence in the digital business.

**17.** As per new state capital law, Indonesia is shifting its capital from Jakarta to **Nusantara**.

**Note:** The new law has been formulated as Jakarta is prone to flooding amid climate change and also suffers from chronic congestion and air pollution. Initial relocation will start from between 2022 and 2024.

**18. Mauritius** has inaugurated the 'India-assisted social housing units project'.

**Note:** They also launched the Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius that are being undertaken under India's development support. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said, India and Mauritius are united by history, ancestry, culture, language, and the shared waters of the Indian Ocean.

**19. Afghanistan** has not participated in the 1st India-Central Asia Summit.

**Note:** Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will participate. Apart from regional security and the Afghanistan issue, the key focus will be trade and connectivity, development partnership, culture, and people-to-people ties.

**20.** India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **France** with a scope for cooperation in health research.

**Note:** The MoU was signed between Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR and Institut Pasteur, France. CSIR and Institut Pasteur will jointly research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders and enable delivery of effective and affordable healthcare solutions not only for the people of India and France but for the global good.

**21.** The "clinker boats" of **Nordic countries** has been inscribed in Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

**Note:** For thousands of years, wooden sailboats have allowed northern Europeans to spread influence, trade, and even conflict across continents and seas. The UNESCO designation was requested jointly by Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

**22.** World's-largest canal lock was unveiled in **The Netherlands**.

**Note:** Canal lock was inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander. The 500-meter long and 70-meter wide sluice replaces a smaller, nearly 100-year-old one at IJmuiden. IJmuiden is a small port city connecting the North Sea Canal to the port of Amsterdam.

**23.** Intergovernmental organization **ASEAN and India** has approved a Digital Work Plan 2022.

**Note:** It includes a system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets and WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet. It also includes capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in Information and Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things, 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication and Cyber Forensics.

### Honor & Awards

**1. Zishaan A Latif** has won the Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photojournalism category.

**Note:** He won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in The Caravan in October 2019. He documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and put a face to an untold human story.

**2.** The prize money for the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22 -- **Rs. 20 lakh**.

**Note:** India's governance model has become a Jan Andolan with people responding to the Prime Minister's call for Jan Bhagidari in major schemes. 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.

**3.** JC Chaudhry has achieved a Guinness World Record recently he is noted **numerologists**.

**Note:** He educated about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology from USA, UK, Middle East and India. The initiative was organized by Chaudhry Numero Pvt Ltd (CNPL) and Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology, which was prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt and India.

**4. The Hindu Group** has won the WAN-IFRA South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021.

**Note:** They include 'Bring Back Milk Bikis Classic', a week-long campaign for FMCG giant Britannia for the



- relaunch of Milk Bikis Classic won gold in best in audience engagement category and bronze in best branded/sponsored content campaign category. WAN-IFRA's South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021 received over 140 entries this year.
- The Power of The Dog** won the 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022 for Best Motion Picture – Drama.  
**Note:** The Power of The Dog won the two biggest awards - Best Motion Picture (Drama) and Jane Campion won the Best Director. Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe. He won the Best Film Actor (Drama) for King Richard.
  - Nicole Kidman** won the best actress in Motion Picture-Drama award at 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022.  
**Note:** The Power of The Dog won the two biggest awards - Best Motion Picture (Drama) and Jane Campion won the Best Director. Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe. He won the Best Film Actor (Drama) for King Richard.
  - Kenneth Branagh wins 'Best Screenplay Motion Picture' at 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022 for **Belfast**.  
**Note:** 'Belfast' is a 2021 coming-of-age comedy-drama film written and directed by Kenneth Branagh. The film stars Caitriona Balfe, Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds, Colin Morgan, and newcomer Jude Hill. The movie centres around a young boy's childhood amidst the tumult of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the 1960s.
  - Harshaali Malhotra** has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.  
**Note:** She received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshyari (Governor of Maharashtra). She played the role of Munni, who was mute young girl from Pakistan in Salman Khan starrer Bajrangi Bhaijaan.
  - Navdeep Kaur** has won the Best National Costume award at the prestigious Mrs World 2022 pageant in Nevada, Las Vegas.  
**Note:** She is the winner of Mrs India World 2021 and was representing the country at Mrs World 2022. She wore a striking gold Avant Garde outfit inspired by Kundalini Chakra and was designed by Eggie Jasmin.
  - Robert Lewandowski** has won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2021 award.  
**Note:** Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020. Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas Best FIFA Players 2021 award in women's category. Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the FIFA Special Best Men's award.
  - Alexia Putellas** has been awarded the Best FIFA Women's Player 2021 award.  
**Note:** Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the FIFA Special Best Men's award. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held virtually in Zurich, Switzerland to crown outstanding players for excellent achievement in football.
  - 46 startups** have been declared the winners of National Startup Awards 2021.  
**Note:** This is second edition of the award conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of National Startup Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.
  - Shaylyn Ford** has been declared the winner of the Mrs World 2022 beauty pageant.  
**Note:** Mrs Jordan, Jaclyn Stapp and Mrs UAE, Debanjali Kamstra, were declared as the runner ups, respectively.
  - Former cricketer **Clive Lloyd** has been given the knighthood for his service towards the game of cricket.  
**Note:** The Clive Llyod knighthood investiture was performed by the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle. Along with Clive Llyod Current England ODI and T20 Skipper Eoin Morgan received a CBE for his services to Cricket.
  - Ratan Naval Tata** has been bestowed with the highest civilian award of Assam 'Asom Baibhav'.  
**Note:** Assam governor Jagdish Mukhi will confer the award to the former chairman of Tata sons on 24 January, 2022. The Assam government is conferring 'Asom Baibhav' to Ratan Tata for his contribution to setting up cancer treatment facilities in the state.
  - Prajakta Koli** has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.  
**Note:** 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. UNDP aims to eliminate poverty, achieve sustainable growth and scale up human development in countries where it is required the most.
  - A new species of frog discovered in Panama's tropical rainforest has been named after **Great Thunberg**.  
**Note:** The new species of the frog is named *Pristimantis gretathunburgae*. The team, which discovered the new species, was led by Abel Batista from Panama and Konrad Mebert from Switzerland.
  - Sushmita Sen** has been honoured with International Association of Working Women Award at Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021.  
**Note:** She has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'. Aarya 2 series is created by Ram Madhvani and had released on Disney+Hotstar. DCSAFF 2021 is organized virtually from 16 to 30 January, to showcase the best in alternative cinema.
  - Smriti Mandhana** has been conferred with Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.





- Note:** Apart from her, Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan) has been conferred with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.
- 20. India film **Jai Bhim**** has been nominated for best feature film in Oscar 2022.  
**Note:** It is inspired by a real-life incident from the 1990s in Tamil Nadu. Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan.
- 21. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** has been conferred with Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021 in 'Large Scale Industry' category.  
**Note:** Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has emerged as the first Indian PSU to win Global Healthy Workplace Award 2021 in 'Large Scale Industry' category for upholding best healthy practices at the workplace.
- 22. Shaheen Afridi** has been awarded the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year award 2021.  
**Note:** Afridi had an unforgettable 2021, claiming a total of 78 wickets in 36 international matches at an average of 22.20. England captain Joe Root, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson and Pakistan's wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan were the other nominees for the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy.
- 23. Koozhangal** film has won Best Film award at Dhaka International Film Festival.  
**Note:** Apart from this, four more Indian entries were included among the 17 awards given away for the films during the concluding session of the film festival. The 9-day long international festival featured over 225 films drawn from 70 countries around the globe.
- 24. The Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP)** for the year 2022 has been conferred to 29 children. The award carries a cash prize of **Rs.1,00,000**.
- Note:** Award is presented in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories. Digital certificates was given to winners of PMRBP 2021 and 2022 using Block Chain-driven technology developed by IIT Kanpur under National Blockchain Project
- 25. Sandhya Mukherji** who has refused to accept Padma Shri award is a noted **Singer**.  
**Note:** On the eve of India's Republic Day this year, Mukherjee, now 90, was conferred with Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian honour in the country, for her contribution to music. She, though, has refused to accept the honour, calling it "insulting and demeaning".
- 26. Prabha Atre** is associated with **Vocalist** who has been awarded the Padma Vibhushan in January 2022.  
**Note:** She established the 'Swarmayee Gurukul' to teach students all over the world in both the 'guru-shishya parampara' and as well as the institutional tradition.
- 27. 128** people have been conferred with the Padma Awards in 2022.  
**Note:** This year, the President has approved conferment of 128 Padma Awards -- 4 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan and 107 Padma Shri Awards. Of them, 34 are women, 13 awards are posthumous, and 10 awards are for persons from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI.
- 28. 384** Gallantry awards have been conferred by the President of India in 2022.  
**Note:** These include 12 Shaurya Chakras, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 53 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and 13 Yudh Seva Medal.

### Sports News

- 1. Nodirbek Abdusattorov** won the World Rapid championship in Warsaw and become the youngest ever world champion in open competition.  
**Note:** Incidentally he set sets a world age record. He becomes the youngest ever world champion in open competitions. Nodirbek Abdusattorov won the World Rapid championship in Warsaw, claiming en route the scalps of Magnus Carlsen and the No 1's last two challengers, Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi.
- 2. Ekaterina Reyngold** has won the women's single title in the \$25,000 ITF tennis tournament at the Ganesh Naik Complex.  
**Note:** She defeated Diana Marcinkevica of Latvia in the final by 6-3, 6-2. It was a maiden title in the professional circuit for the 20-year-old Ekaterina Reyngold.
- 3. Indian women cricketer **Smriti Mandhana**** has been nominated for the prestigious Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award.



- Note:** She has scored 855 runs in 22 internationals, at an average of 38.86 with one century and five half-centuries. Besides her, other three cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis are also being nominated.
4. **India** has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2021 cricket tournament.  
**Note:** Yash Dhull-led young Indian side defeated Sri Lanka by 9 wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Sri Lanka had scored 106/9 and India were given the target of 99 runs due to the DLS method. India suffered an early jolt as Harnoor Singh was plumbed in front of the stumps in the fifth over.
5. Renowned **Pakistani** cricketer Mohammad Hafeez announced his retirement from international cricket.  
**Note:** He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches in which he scored 12,789 runs and took 253 wickets. He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs (One Day International) and 119 T20Is (Twenty20 International) including three ICC (International Cricket Council) ODI World Cups and six T20 World Cups.
6. **Madhya Pradesh** will host the 'Khelo India Youth Games' in 2022-23.  
**Note:** The approval has been given to host the games to be held in Bhopal city. The Government of Madhya Pradesh allocated Rs 176.59 crores for the first phase. Rs 15.56 crores is to be spent on operation and maintenance of International Sports Complex. Separate Funds are to be allocated for second and third phases.
7. Indian women cricketer **Mithali Raj** has been selected to lead India's 15-member squad at Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.  
**Note:** India's 15-member squad for ICC Women's World Cup 2022 has been announced by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which will be played between March 4 and April 3 in New Zealand. Harmanpreet Kaur will be deputy lead at the World Cup.
8. Bharath Subramaniyam has become the 73rd Grandmaster of India.  
**Note:** The Chennai-based teenager completed his final GM Norm and crossed the requisite 2500 rating at Vergani Cup Open in Italy. Subramaniyam finished seventh overall in the event held at Cattolica by scoring 6.5 points from nine rounds.
9. **Rafael Nadal** has won the Men's Singles title in the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.  
**Note:** It was Nadal's 89th tour-level crown as the Spaniard saved a set point in the first set tie-break

and rallied from a game down in the 2nd set against Cressy. The Spaniard, playing his first competitive tournament since August, was largely untroubled as he wrapped up the win in an hour 48 minutes.

10. **Simona Halep** won the Women's Singles title in the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.  
**Note:** Amanda Anisimova of the United States clinched her second career WTA singles title in a three-set thriller final at Melbourne Summer Set 2 after defeating 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 Belarusian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich. 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal defeated American Maxime Cressy in the Men's Singles final of the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.
11. **Canada** won the ATP Cup title 2022.  
**Note:** Denis Shapovalov opened the match for Canada with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Pablo Carreno Busta. Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov won a deciding doubles against Russia on Saturday in the semifinals to knock out the defending champions.
12. Ramkumar Ramanathan is associated with **Tennis sports**.  
**Note:** The unseeded pair beat top seeds Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo in the final to mark a victorious debut on the ATP Tour. This is Ramkumar's first ATP Tour title while Bopanna won his 20th. The Adelaide tournament is a warm-up for the Australian Open, the season's first Grand Slam.
13. **Ashleigh Barty** has won the Adelaide International women single title.  
**Note:** This was Barty's 14th career singles title and second in Adelaide. He defeated 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin and 2020 French Open winner Iga Swiatek of Poland en route to the title in Adelaide, without dropping a set or a service game against Rybakina, Kenin or Swiatek.
14. **Tata Group** has replaced Chinese mobile maker Vivo as the title sponsor for Indian Premier League.  
**Note:** Vivo had in 2020 pulled out as IPL sponsor after the Galwan Valley military face-off between India and China. At that time, mobile gaming platform Dream11 had stepped in as title sponsor for a year. Vivo was back in 2021 and could have continued this year as well.
15. **Savita Punia** has been appointed as the captain of 18-member Indian squad at the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 to be held in Muscat, Oman.  
**Note:** Indian women are the defending champions at the continental event. Indian women's hockey team features 16 players who were part of Tokyo 2020



Olympics, where the Indian eves finished fourth.

Vice-captain: Defender Deep Grace Ekka.

16. Renowned cricketer of **South Africa** Chris Morris has announced retirement from all forms of cricket.  
**Note:** Morris, who represented Proteas in 69 games across all formats last played for his country in an ODI against Australia in 2019. Since then, he has been plying his trade in franchise leagues around the world. Morris in his announcement also mentioned that he has taken up a coaching role with the domestic side Titans.
29. Indian shuttler **Lakshya Sen** has won his maiden Super 500 title by winning men's singles at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open.  
**Note:** In men's singles event he defeated World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. This was the 20-year-old's maiden entry in the final of a BWF World Tour Super 500 event after he came back from a game down to beat Malaysia's Tze Yong Ng.
30. 9th National Ice Hockey Championship-2022 was inaugurated in **Himachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Ice Hockey competition and development camp is being organized at the national level for the first time in Himachal Pradesh. Participants: Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh and Delhi.
31. **Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2021.  
**Note:** He was also named as the captain of the ICC T20I Team of the Year. No Indian has featured in the ODI Team of the Year. There were no Indians in the ICC T20I Men's Team of the Year but Smriti Mandhana found a spot in the Women's T20I Team of the Year.
32. Indian women cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** has been named in the 2021 ICC Women's T20I team of the year.  
**Note:** No Other Indian Player named in Men's as well Women's List. Smriti Mandhana is India's highest scorer who scored 255 runs at an average of 31.87 in 2021. She scored two fifties in the nine matches with the strike-rate of 131.44.
33. **Aslan Karatsev** beat Andy Murray to lift men's single title at Sydney Tennis Classic 2022 final.  
**Note:** The women's single title was claimed by Spanish world number nine Paula Badosa, who defeated Barbora Krejčíková 6-3 4-6 7-6(4), to capture her third career title.
34. **Busanan Ongbamrungphan** has won the women's single Indian Open (Badminton) 2022.

**Note:** Busanan Ongbamrungphan of Thailand won the Women's Single title. Ongbamrungphan, ranked world no. 12, won the women's singles final 22-20, 19-21, 21-13.

35. Indian tennis player **Sania Mirza** has announced her retirement in 2022.  
**Note:** She is a six-time Grand Slam champion, 42-time tour winner, and first Indian woman and third from the country to be the World No. 1 doubles player. She is the only Indian woman to break into the top 30 in singles, and a two-time Asian Games gold medallist.
36. **Akshay Bhatia** has become the third youngest player to win a Korn Ferry Tour event since the Tour's establishment in 1990.  
**Note:** After this victory, he becomes the third-youngest player to win a Korn Ferry Tour event since the Tour's establishment in 1990.
37. **PV Sindhu** has won the Women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament.  
**Note:** Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash in Lucknow. Earlier in the day, the Men's singles final of the tournament was declared as a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19.
38. **Paris, France** will host the 2024 Summer Paralympics Games.  
**Note:** Paris 2024 will be the largest event ever organised in the country and it promises to be an inclusive, interactive and sustainable celebration of sport.
39. **KL Rahul** has been roped-in as the captain of Lucknow Super Giants IPL team 2022.  
**Note:** Lucknow team roped-in KL Rahul as their captain and also roped in Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi. Lucknow's IPL franchise has been renamed Lucknow Super Giants ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 mega auction.
40. **Tata Motor** will be the sponsor of the Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament for the fourth consecutive year.  
**Note:** The tournament, scheduled from 31 January to 6 February at the Balewadi stadium. It is South Asia's only ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) tournament and India's oldest international sporting event.
41. **Ashleigh Barty** has won 2022 Australian Open women's singles title.



**Note:** She defeated Danielle Collins of US. Barty ended a 44-year drought for Australian women at their home Grand Slam tournament. Barty is the first Australian women's singles champion since Chris O'Neil in 1978.

**42. Rafael Nadal** has won the Men's Single title at Australian Open 2022.

**Note:** It was his record 21st Grand Slam title and first Grand Slam major since the 2020 French Open triumph. He created history by becoming the only player to win the most Grand Slam titles.

**43. Unnati Hooda** is associated with **Badminton** sports.

**Note:** She beat compatriot Smit Toshniwal by 21-18, 21-11. The 14-year old Unnati is the youngest Indian to win the US\$75,000 tournament.

**44. Argentina** has won the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup Field Hockey Tournament.

**Note:** The Women's Pan American Cup is the quadrennial international championship of the Americas organized by Pan American Hockey Federation. The 2022 Women's Pan Am Cup was the sixth edition of the championship. It was held from January 19 to 29, 2022 in Santiago, Chile.

### Books and Authors

**1. Jayanta Ghosal** has authored the titled "Mamata: Beyond 2021".

**Note:** The announcement about the release of the book was made on 5th January 2022, the birthday of Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal and the leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party. The book will be published on 24th January 2022.

**2. Dhirendra K. Jha** has authored the book titled "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India".

**Note:** The book is published by Vintage Books. 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.

**3. Thomas Matthew** has authored the book titled 'Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography', the authorized biography of Ratan Tata.

**Note:** The book is set to hit the stands in November 2022. It will be published by HarperCollins. The book chronicles Ratan Tata's childhood, college years, and early influences, among other things.

**4. The book** titled "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership" is an autobiography of **Arundhati Bhattacharya**.

**Note:** Arundhati Bhattacharya is a retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India. Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya's life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector.

**5. MR Sharan** has authored the book titled "Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar's Villages".

**Note:** The book is an account of the author's field study in a group of villages in Bihar. The book lays bare how the best of policies, crafted with the best of intentions, get subverted by local village-level power structures.

**6. Subhash Chandra Garg** has authored the book titled "The \$10 Trillion Dream".

**Note:** The book claims to explore the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s. The book scheduled to publish by end of Feb 2022. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

**7. Kiran Bedi** has authored the book titled 'Fearless Governance'.

**Note:** Dr. Kiran Bedi is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (ret'd). This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr. Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.

**8. Manoj Sinha** has released a book titled 'Praktik, Vaidik avem Jaivik Kheti- Graameen Udyamita Ka Naya Swaroop'.

**Note:** The book was published by Chudamani Sanskrit Sansthan, Basohli, Kathua. It was released as a souvenir after the successful conduct of the Annual Festival and foundation day celebrations

**9. Chandrachur Ghose** has authored the new biography of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose titled "Bose: The Untold Story of An Inconvenient Nationalist.

**Note:** The book sheds light on Netaji's thoughts on independent India's development, the problem of communalism, geopolitics his political ideology, and how he negotiated with the revolutionary societies, and the govt. It will be published by Penguin Random House India under its Viking imprint.

**10. Tuhin A Sinha and Ankita Verma** has authored the book titled "The Legend of Birsa Munda".

**Note:** The has been released by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The Book is the story of a lesser-known tribal hero, Birsa Munda, who courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.

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**Note:** Dr. Kiran Bedi is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (retd). This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr. Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.

### Science and Defence

- 1. Cochin Shipyard Limited** handed over the first of the 23 battery-powered electric boats being constructed for the water metro project under the Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL).

**Note:** This is the first of the 23 boats awarded for building to Cochin Shipyard under the Kochi Water Metro project. Five boats are under construction and will be handed over to KMRL in a couple of months by the CSL. The construction of water metro terminals is also progressing.

- 2.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at **Chandigarh University**.  
**Note:** He also launched Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 crore, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three Services. It is established with the objective of training students in space science, satellite development and meet future challenges in space research. It would be the Ground Control Station for the Chandigarh University's Student Satellite.
- 3.** Multinational naval exercise Milan was conducted in **Visakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration. This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies. The countries that have been extended invitations for participation include Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, Iran, France, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, among others.
- 4.** Capacity of the India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant -- **40,000-tonne**.  
**Note:** It is planned to be inducted in August 2022. The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier is the largest and most complex warship to be built in India. It successfully completed a five-day maiden sea voyage in August and underwent 10-day sea trials in October 2021.

- 5.** Multi-national exercise 'Sea Dragon' that focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training in Indo-Pacific region was led by **USA**.  
**Note:** Participating members are Quad nations (United States, Australia, India and Japan), Canada and South Korea. It includes more than 270 hours of in-flight training, classroom sessions for pilots, flight officers
- 6.** In January 2022, an extended range sea-to-sea variant of which missile was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam **BrahMos**.  
**Note:** 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.
- 7.** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of MPATGM.  
**Note:** The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, 'fire and forget' missile and is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight. While 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.
- 8.** In collaboration with **ISRO & CBSE**, the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) recently launched 'ATL Space Challenge 2021'.  
**Note:** It was launched in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE. The challenge was designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country. It witnessed over 2500 submissions from both ATL and Non-ATL students across the country from which 75 top innovators were selected and announced.



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