

The background of the page is a blurred photograph of a student with glasses sitting at a desk, using a laptop. The student is holding a blue pen. The image is partially obscured by a large purple and orange graphic element on the left side.

ESIC
(UDC, Steno & MTS)
Exam 2022

GK Tornado PDF
(Capsule)

GK-Tornado **ESIC UDC, Steno & MTS Exam 2022**

Dear Aspirants,

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in the last **4 months (1st Nov 2021- 7th March 2022)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like ESIC UDC, Steno & MTS exam 2022.

News related to RBI

March/Feb 2022

1. RBI amends payments systems rules

Note: The Reserve Bank of India issued amended Payments and Settlement Systems Regulations that allows companies wanting to run payment businesses to seek licenses from the regulator. The application for licensing should include the technology platform which is to be used, the operator's process flow, interoperability with operators of the other payment systems, and security features.

As per the rules that have been set, the operators will be required to submit all documents and information which are desired by the RBI from time to time. Three months after the closing of the account, annual accounts also have to be submitted by the system provider to the regulator along with a copy of the audited balance sheet.

2. RBI cautions against car pooling app sRide

Note: The Reserve bank of India cautioned public against car pooling app sRide, citing that the firm was operating a semi-closed pre-paid instrument without authorization from the central bank. sRide Tech Private Limited is a registered company, with registered office in Gurgaon, Haryana. This company is operating a semi-closed (non-closed) pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its 'sRide' carpooling app. Thus, RBI cautioned that persons dealing with the app will be doing at their own risk.

3. RBI announces dollar/rupee two-year sell buy swap auction

Note: The RBI announced a US Dollar/Rupee two-year sell buy swap auction with a view to elongating the maturity profile of its forward book and smoothen the receivables relating to forward assets. The Sell/Buy Swap Auction will help in levelling the liquidity of rupee in the light of expected behemoth IPO of Life Insurance Corp of India. This move will lead to inflow of US dollar. RBI will conduct a spot sale to sell USD 5 billion to banks in exchange of rupees, through this auction on March 10, 2022. On March 11, 2024, it will make a forward purchase from banks in two years.

4. RBI keeps benchmark lending rate unchanged 10th time in a row at 4%.

Note: RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept key interest rates unchanged. It retained the accommodative stance in its first policy after Union Budget 2022. This is the tenth consecutive time that, MPC has maintained the status quo. The three-day RBI MPC meeting started on February 8, and concluded on **February 10**.

Key Highlights of the policy are:

- Keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at **4.0 per cent**.
- The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate stands unchanged at 3.35 per cent.
- The MPC also decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, while ensuring that inflation remains within the target going forward.

Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	4.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%

5. Reserve Bank of India to prematurely redeem sovereign gold bonds

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to prematurely redeem sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), which were issued in 2016 at a price of Rs 4,813 per unit of SGB. Under central government rules, the premature redemption is permitted after the fifth year from the date of issue of such gold bonds on the

date on which interest is payable. SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the

bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The bond is issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.

1st -31st January

1. Govt. converts G-Secs and oil bonds aggregating ₹1.20-lakh crore

Note: The Government of India recently held conversion operation. It is also called Switch operation. Under the operation, the government bought back securities from the Reserve Bank of India. These government securities were maturing in 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. These securities were bought for Rs 1,19,701 crores. And fresh securities are to be issued to make the transaction cash neutral. The transactions were made using Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited. These transactions were made with the objective of smoothing the liability profile. The liabilities are the amount of money owed to the individual or an organization.

2. RBI holds special repo auction

Note: The RBI conducted a variable rate repo operation to infuse liquidity, instead of its usual variable rate reverse repo operations (VRRR) to suck out cash, as a larger-than-expected goods and services tax (GST) collection tightened liquidity this week. This measure was taken because larger goods and services tax (GST) collection tightened liquidity recently. RBI has proposed to lend the banking system Rs 50,000 crore in a day, while it received bids for Rs 65,700 crore. Cut-off rate was 4.06 per cent and weighted average rate 4.10 per cent. Both are higher than repo rate of 4 per cent.

3. Rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its "Annual Report of the Ombudsman Schemes for the year 2020-21", highlighting a rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints. During April 2020-March 2021, report witnessed a 22.27 per cent increase in number of complaints under various ombudsman schemes. ATM & debit cards, mobile banking and credit cards accounted for major chunk of the complaints. During this period, volume of complaints stands at 4,04,143. Chandigarh, Kanpur and Delhi received the maximum number of complaints.

4. RBI sets up fintech dept

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an internal "FinTech department" for focusing on the dynamically changing financial landscape in India. As per RBI circular, the FinTech department was set up on January 4, 2022. Decision to set up the department was taken in a bid to further focus on the area and innovation in FinTech sector in keeping pace with dynamically changing landscape. The FinTech

department will also provide a framework to conduct further research on subject that can aid the policy interventions by the Bank.

5. RBI List of Scheduled Banks

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently included Airtel Payment Bank in the second schedule of RBI Act, 1934. And HDFC, ICICI and SBI are to remain as D – SIB. D – SIB is Domestic Systematically Important Banks. The bank should belong to the category of CET 1. CET 1 is Common Equity Tier 1. It is a precautionary to self-protect from financial crisis. This comes under the BASEL III norms. The BASEL III norms are international rules. It was introduced to improve supervision and regulation. It is divided into Tier I and Tier II. The Tier I is divided into CET 1 and AT1. AT 1 is Additional Tier 1. In CET 1, the performance of the bank is evaluated based on its return. The CET 1 is the ratio between bank's capital and assets.

6. RBI prompts primary dealers to trade in Retail Direct

Note: The Reserve Bank of India recently provided a new special window for bond houses called "Primary Dealers". The window allows to exchange illiquid securities. Illiquid securities are those securities that cannot be sold easily or directly. That is, the investors buying the securities can sell them only in limited instances. The primary dealers are those dealers who buy securities directly from the government. They then resell the security to the others. Thus, their main role is to assist the government in selling bonds or securities. They earn some fees for selling these securities.

7. HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI are domestic systemically important lenders: RBI

Note: As per Reserve Bank of India (RBI), State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), similar to 2020 list of D-SIBs. These three banks continue to be in the list, under the same bucketing structure as it was there in the 2020 list of D-SIBs. Current update on D-SIBs by RBI is based on data collected from banks as of March 31, 2021. On the basis of bucket in which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement is applied to it.

8. RBI releases framework for offline digital payments

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for small-value offline transactions in

digital mode. As per framework, offline payments can be made using any channel or instrument such as wallets, mobile devices or cards. However, they shall be made in proximity, or in face-to-face mode only. Authorised payment system operators (PSOs) and payment system participants (PSPs) including banks

and non-banks, which wants to offer payments in offline mode will require to comply with the requirements under the prescribed framework. Offline payment transactions can be offered without additional factor of authentication (AFA).

1st -31st December 2021

1. **RBI proposes new norms for capital requirement for banks**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India released the draft Master Directions on minimum capital requirements for operational risk as part of convergence of its regulations for banks with Basel III standards. The provisions of these directions shall apply to all commercial banks excluding local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks. The directions shall come into effect from April 1, 2023. All existing approaches – Basic Indicator Approach (BIA), The Standardised Approach (TSA)/ Alternative Standardised Approach (ASA) and Advanced Measurement Approach (AMA) for measuring minimum operational risk capital requirements shall be replaced by the new standardised approach (Basel III Standardised Approach). Basel III SA calculation methodology is based on the Business Indicator (BI), the Business Indicator Component (BIC) and the Internal Loss Multiplier (ILM). The BI is a financial-statement-based proxy for operational risk while the BIC is calculated by multiplying the BI by a set of marginal coefficients (α). The ILM is a scaling factor that is based on a bank's average historical losses and the BIC.

2. **RBI allows Payments Banks, SFBs to conduct Govt agency business**

Note: Scheduled payments banks and scheduled small finance banks will be eligible to conduct Government agency business, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The central bank has decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF). Any payment bank or small finance bank that intends to undertake Government agency business may be appointed as an agent of RBI upon execution of an agreement with RBI, provided that the overarching regulatory framework prescribed for these banks is complied with.

3. **RBI unveils PCA framework for NBFCs effective Oct 2022**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to put in place a prompt corrective action (PCA) framework for troubled non-banking finance companies to restore their financial health. Until now, the RBI had imposed PCA only on banks. The PCA

framework for NBFCs comes into effect from October 1, 2022, based on their financial position on or after March 31, 2022. The framework will apply to all deposit-taking NBFCs, excluding government companies, and all non-deposit taking NBFCs in the middle, upper and top layers. The central bank will track three indicators — capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR), Tier I ratio and net non-performing assets (NNPAs), including non-performing investments (NPIs). In the case of core investment companies (CICs), the RBI will track adjusted net worth/aggregate risk weighted assets, leverage ratio and NNPAs, including NPIs. A breach in any of the three risk thresholds under the above mentioned indicators could result in invocation of PCA.

4. **RBI enforces 20-digit LEI for cross-border deals above Rs 50 crore**

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory for cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of Rs 50 crore and above, from October 1 next year. LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained in a global LEI database available on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). LEI has been introduced by the Reserve Bank in a phased manner for over the counter (OTC) derivative, non-derivative markets, large corporate borrowers and large value transactions in centralised payment systems. Banks will have to obtain LEI numbers from local companies undertaking capital or current account transactions of Rs 50 crore and above, for each transaction.

5. **India to recover faster than other BRICS nations: RBI Bulletin 2021**

Note: India's recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations, as per the second edition of the BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 released by the Reserve Bank of India. It notes that India, Brazil and Russia are in the top five countries in the world in terms of infections. Charting the expected growth recovery for 2021, India's recovery is projected to be higher than other BRICS nations. The BRICS Economic Bulletin 2021 is prepared by the BRICS

Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) Research Group with members from BRICS central banks. This edition addresses the theme of 'Navigating the Ongoing Pandemic: The BRICS Experience of Resilience and Recovery'.

6. Paytm Payments Bank gets RBI approval to operate as scheduled bank

Note: Paytm Payments Bank has received the banking regulator's approval to operate as a scheduled payments bank, helping it to expand its financial services operations. Bank has been included in the second schedule to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. With the scheduled bank status, the payments bank can now participate in government- and other large corporations-issued requests for proposal, primary auctions, fixed-rate and variable rate repos, and reverse repos, along with participation in marginal standing facility. Also, the bank will now be eligible to partner in the government's financial inclusion scheme.

7. RBI plans to enhance 14-day VRRR auction amounts in December

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to enhance the 14-day variable reverse repo rate (VRRR) auction amounts in December. This comes even as it continues to rebalance liquidity conditions in a non-disruptive manner while maintaining adequate liquidity to meet the needs of the productive sectors of the economy. The central bank will conduct a VRRR auction for ₹6.5 lakh crore on December 17 and for ₹7.5 lakh crore on December 31. RBI had undertaken the 14-day VRRR auctions on a fortnightly basis beginning October 8, 2021 (₹4 lakh crore), followed by ₹4.5 lakh crore on October 22, ₹5 lakh crore on November 3, ₹5.5 lakh crore on November 18, and ₹6 lakh crore on December 3.

8. RBI Proposes To Increase UPI Transaction Limit For IPOs To ₹ 5 Lakh

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said the central bank has proposed to enhance the transaction limit for payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) for investment in government securities and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. This essentially means that retail investors using the convenient UPI payment system will soon be able to invest upto Rs 5 lakh in government bonds under RBI's RDS scheme and IPOs. The limit was Rs 2 lakh earlier. RBI Governor made the announcement while announcing the outcome of the central bank's bi-monthly policy review meeting.

9. RBI announces bi-monthly Monetary Policy

Note: The RBI maintained status quo in key policy rates as the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four percent to keep the stance accommodative. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent. The reverse repo rate will also remain unchanged at 3.35 per cent. The projection for real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is retained at 9.5 per cent in 2021-22.

9. RBI released its Financial Stability Report

Note: According to the report, stress tests have revealed that gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) of banks is likely to jump from 6.9 percent in September 2021 to 8.1 percent in September 2022 under the baseline scenario. While under a severe stress scenario, it is likely to increase to 9.5 percent for the same period. Report highlights that, scheduled Commercial Banks have sufficient capital, at the aggregate as well as individual levels, even under stress conditions. The report further highlights the collective assessment of Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability & Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability as well as resilience of the financial system.

10. RBI extends card tokenisation deadline by 6 months till Jun-end

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the deadline to comply with new card storage rules by another six months to June 2022, following requests from industry bodies and other stakeholders. Deadline was extended because merchants and payments companies expressed their inability to comply with the December 31 deadline. RBI took this decision as industry bodies had requested the central bank to extend the deadline from December 31 highlighting multiple challenges in implementing new guideline. Furthermore, merchants and banks were not prepared to switch to new system in specified time.

11. Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework for NBFCs

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has brought non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) under the ambit of prompt corrective action (PCA) framework. Under the PCA framework, NBFCs will face restrictions when parameters such as capital adequacy ratio, non-performing assets, and Tier 1 capital will fall below the stipulated levels. Banks are already covered under the framework. The PCA framework for NBFCs will be implemented from October 1, 2022, on the basis of financial position of NBFCs on or after March 31, 2022. PCA framework will be applicable for all deposit-taking NBFC.

November -2021

1. RBI accepts 21 of 33 working group recommendations on private banks

Note: The RBI has accepted 21 recommendation the IWG headed by PK Mohanty. The key recommendations include that the cap on promoters' stake in long run of 15 years will be raised from the current levels of 15 per cent to 26 per cent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank.

Key Recommendation:

- No changes are made in the initial lock-in requirements, which may continue as a minimum of 40 percent of the paid-up voting equity share capital of the bank for the first 5 years.
- There is no need to fix any cap on the promoters' holding in the initial 5 years.
- The promoters are allowed to choose to bring down the holding to below 26 percent, any time after the 5 year lock-in period.

2. RBI approves NSDL e-Governance as Account Aggregator

Note: The RBI approved the "NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure" as an account aggregator. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure is an IT-enabled services provider. It got an in-principle approval from RBI for setting an account aggregator business under the wholly owned subsidiary called NSDL e-Governance Account Aggregator Ltd. Account Aggregator (AA) model has the potential of transforming the way by which financial services are delivered by means of a unique architecture for consent-based sharing of data.

3. Banks To Place Consumer Education Info On Websites: RBI

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced banks must mention accurate repayment due dates in loan agreements. Under the guidelines, banks have been asked to specify the exact due dates of repayment in loan agreements. As per current norms, loan turns overdue in case it is not repaid on the due date fixed by bank. RBI noted observed that, due dates for repayments are not specifically mentioned sometimes, in the loan agreements. Instead, a description of due dates is mentioned. It led to different interpretations. Thus, RBI has asked banks to specify exact due dates for repayment of a loan, breakup between principal & interest, frequency of repayment, non-performing asset (NPA) classification and examples of special mention account (SMA) in the loan agreement.

4. PM Narendra Modi launched two customer-centric initiatives of RBI

Note: Two schemes are RBI Retail Direct Scheme and the Integrated Ombudsman Scheme. RBI Retail Direct Scheme will act as a safe medium of investment for small investors in government securities. RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme was launched to help in improving grievance redress mechanism to resolve customer

complaints against regulated entities of RBI. It will do away with the jurisdictional limitations and limited grounds for complaints. This scheme based on the principle of 'One Nation-One Ombudsman' comprising of "one portal, one email, and one address" for customers to file their complaints.

5. RBI Launches First Global Hackathon 'HaRBInger'

Note: The RBI will be organising its first global hackathon on the theme of digital payments. "HARBINGER 2021-Innovation for Transformation" with the theme 'Smarter Digital Payments' will see participants identify and develop solutions "that have the potential to make digital payments accessible to the under-served, enhance the ease of payments and user experience, while strengthening the security of digital payments and promoting customer protection. The participants in the hackathon will get the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts, exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury, and win prizes in each category. The winner will get Rs 40 lakh, and the runner-up will be awarded Rs 20 lakh.

6. RBI unveils revised PCA framework

Note: The RBI tweaked its prompt corrective action (PCA) framework to exclude the profitability parameter from its list of triggers. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022. The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline. The framework will apply to all banks operating in India, including foreign banks operating through branches or subsidiaries based on breach of risk thresholds of identified indicators.

7. RBI panel calls for an overhaul of ARC regulations

Note: A central bank panel has suggested an overhaul of the rules governing Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARC) to enhance the availability of bad loans for transactions and bring in a wider set of investors to the market for distressed assets. The recommendations include purchase of loans classified as fraud, an online system for transparency in transactions, and permission to transact in financial assets owned by mutual funds. The need to define 'substantial part of business' to ensure change in management, and permission to participate in the resolution under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) by ARCs are among the 42 recommendations of the panel.

8. RBI supersedes board of default-hit Reliance Capital

Note: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) superseded the board of Reliance Capital and appointed Nageswar Rao Y (Ex-Executive Director, Bank of Maharashtra) as the administrator of the company. The Reserve Bank will shortly initiate the process of resolution of the company under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Rules, 2019. The RBI will also apply to the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai for appointing the Administrator as the Insolvency Resolution professional. RBI also appointed

three-member advisory committee for assisting the administrator of Reliance Capital (RCap), appointed to the company in discharging his duties. Members: SBI's ex-deputy managing director (DMD) Sanjeev Nautiyal, Axis Bank's ex-DMD Srinivasan Varadarajan, and Tata Capital's ex-MD and CEO Praveen P Kadle.

9. LIC gets RBI approval to raise stake in Kotak Mahindra Bank

Note: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to increase its stake in the Kotak Mahindra Bank. The approval is to raise LIC's stake in the bank up to 9.99 per cent from the current 4.96 per cent it has in the private lender. Prior approval is required from the central bank to make an acquisition in any private banks of more than 5 per cent stake.

10. RBI releases report of working group on digital lending

Note: A working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India on digital lending through online platforms and mobile apps has submitted its report. This report is aimed at enhancing customer protection and making the digital lending ecosystem safe while encouraging innovation. The working group (WG) was set up on January 13, 2021, with Jayant Kumar Dash, Executive Director, RBI as the Chairman. The group has recommended subjecting the digital lending applications to a verification process by a nodal agency, which may be set up in consultation with stakeholders. Further, the group recommends setting up a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) covering the participants in the digital lending ecosystem. An anti-predatory lending policy may be framed by each lender based on the characteristics to be defined by RBI/ proposed SRO.

11. RBI's Regulation Review Authority 2.0 recommends withdrawal of 150 circulars in first tranche:

Note: The RBI's Regulation Review Authority (RRA) 2.0 has recommended withdrawal of 150 circulars. This is the first tranche of RRA 2.0's recommendations. RRA 2.0 was set-up in April 2021 to review regulatory instructions removing redundant and duplicate ones; reduce compliance burden on Regulated Entities (REs) by streamlining reporting structure; revoke obsolete instructions; and, wherever possible, obviate paper-based submission of returns. The RRA has to engage with the regulator, regulated entities and other stakeholders to facilitate the review and streamlining process. Subsequently, the Authority has constituted an advisory group representing the regulated entities under the

chairmanship of Swaminathan J, managing director, State Bank of India.

12. PIDF corpus of RBI at Rs 613 crore

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has shared the status update on the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF). PIDF was operationalised by RBI from January 2021 to subsidise the deployment of Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states. In August 2021, beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi Scheme) in tier-1 and tier-2 centres were also covered under the PIDF scheme. Acquiring institutions (banks and non-banks), registered under the PIDF Scheme, commit region-wise deployment targets, submit deployment statistics and claim subsidy for devices which fulfil the prescribed criteria

13. RBI introduces internal ombudsman mechanism for select-NBFCs

Note: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced internal ombudsman mechanism for select-NBFCs. RBI has directed deposit-taking NBFCs (NBFCs-D) with or more branches and Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) with asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above having public customer interface to appoint Internal Ombudsman (IO) at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism within a period of six months. Certain NBFCs not having public customer interface and certain types of NBFCs, viz., standalone Primary Dealers (PDs), NBFC - Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs), Core Investment Companies (CICs), Infrastructure Debt Fund - Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs), Non-Banking Financial Company - Account Aggregators (NBFC-AAs), NBFCs under Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process, NBFCs in liquidation and NBFCs having only captive customers have been excluded.

14. RBI committee releases suggestions to streamline functioning of ARCs

Note: A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel, headed by the central bank's former executive director Sudarshan Sen, released a number of suggestions on November 2 to streamline the functioning of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs). The suggestions include the creation of online platform for the sale of stressed assets and permitting ARCs to act as resolution applicants during the insolvency and bankruptcy process. The RBI committee has recommended that the scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs, and all NBFCs including HFCs.

Highlights Economic Survey 2021-22

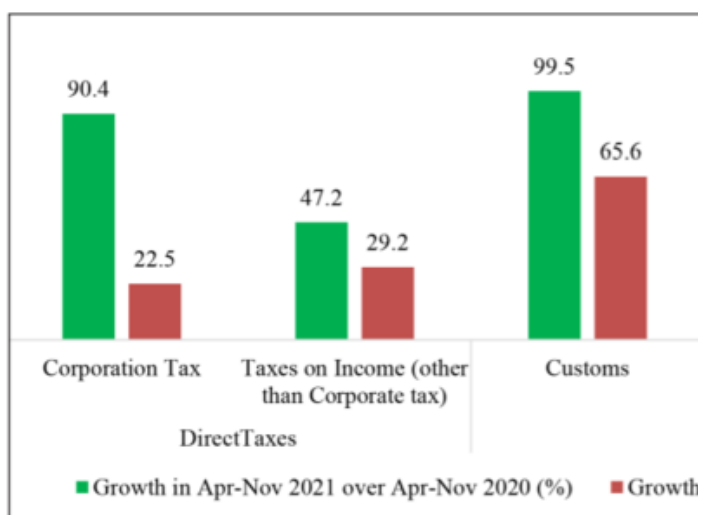
1. State of the Economy

- Government's flexible and multi-layered approach is partly based on "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops for monitoring of real-time data.

- For this, govt use eighty **High Frequency Indicators (HFIs)** in an environment of extreme uncertainty.
- As per first advance estimate, Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2% in real terms in 2021-22, subsequent to a contraction of 7.3% in 2020-21.
- GDP projection: **Growth of 8% to 8.5% in real terms in 2022-23.**
- As per IMF’s latest World Economic Outlook ,India’s real GDP is projected to grow at 9% in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1% in 2023-2024, making India the fastest growing major economy in the world.
- **Sectoral Trends:**
 - **Agriculture and allied sectors:** It is expected to grow by 3.9% in 2021-22
 - **Industry:** It will grow by 11.8% in 2021-22
 - **Services sector:** It will grow by 8.2% in 2021-22.
- Consumption is estimated to grow by 7.0% on demand side.
- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):** to grow by 15%.
- Exports will grow by 16.5% and imports by 29.4% in 2021-22.
- **India’s Consumer Price Index inflation:** 5.6% YoY in December 2021.
- Economic impact of “Covid’s second wave” was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.
- Government opted to use safety-nets for vulnerable sections on one hand while responding iteratively based on Bayesian-updating of information.

2. Fiscal Developments

- **Revenue receipts** during April to November, 2021 have increased by **67.2%** (YoY) as against an expected growth of **9.6%** in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates.
- **Gross Tax Revenue:** It shows growth of over 50% during April to November, 2021 in YoY terms.



- Tax performance is strong as compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019-2020.
- Gross monthly collections of GST have crossed 1 lakh crore mark consistently since July 2021.
- During April-November 2021, **capital expenditure has grown by 13.5%** (YoY), with focus in infrastructure-intensive sectors.
- Fiscal deficit for April-November 2021 has been contained at 46.2% of BE.
- Central Government debt is increased from **49.1%** of GDP in 2019-20 to **59.3%** of GDP in 2020-21.

3. External Sectors:

- India’s merchandise exports and imports has rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during current financial year.
- Current account balance of India turned into deficit of 0.2% of GDP in the first half (H1) of 2021-22.
- **Net capital flows:** US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- **India’s external debt** increased from US \$ 556.8 billion in 2020 to US \$ 593.1 billion at end-September 2021.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves touched US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- On November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world, after China, Japan and Switzerland.
- Top export destinations in April-November 2021: **USA followed by UAE and China.**
- Largest import sources for India in April-November, 2021: **China, UAE and USA.**
- **Major Schemes & Initiatives to boost exports:**
 - Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)
 - Developing District as Export Hub
 - Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors.
 - Electronic Platform for Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO)
 - Infusion of capital in EXIM Bank
 - Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)
 - Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme
 - Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)
 - Market Access Initiatives (MAI)
 - Special Economic Zone (SEZ) scheme

4. Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:

- **Repo rate** was maintained at **4% in 2021-22.**

- RBI took various measures like **G-Sec Acquisition Programme** and **Special Long-Term Repo Operations** to provide liquidity in the market.
- **Bank credit growth** accelerated gradually from 5.3% in April 2021 to 9.2% as on 31st December 2021.
- **Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** declined from 11.2% at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9% in September, 2021.
- **Net Non-Performing Advances ratio** declined from 6% to 2.2%.
- **Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs** increased from **13% in 2013-14** to **16.54% in September 2021**.
- Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks remain positive for the period ending September 2021.
- During April-November 2021, Rs. 89,066 crore was raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues.
- Sensex and Nifty touched peak at 61,766 and 18,477 respectively in October, 2021.

5. Prices and Inflation:

- **Average headline CPI-Combined inflation** decreased to 5.2% in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6% in 2020-21.
- Decline in retail inflation was due to ease of food inflation.
- Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9% in 2021-22 as against 9.1% in 2020-21.
- Measures were taken to control price rise in pulses and edible oils.
- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States eased petrol and diesel prices.
- **Wholesale inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** rose to 12.5% during **April to December 2021-22**.
- Divergence between CPI-C and WPI Inflation has been observed, that can be explained by factors like:
 - Variations due to base effect
 - Difference in scope and coverage of the two indices
 - Price collections
 - Items covered and difference in commodity weights.

6. Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- India's score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard: 66 in 2020-21. The rank was 60th in 2019-20
- **Number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99):** 22 States and UTs in 2020-21
- Across North East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI

Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.

- India has tenth largest forest area across the world.
- India ranked 3rd globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020.
- Forest covers 24% of India's total geographical, that accounts for 2% of the world's total forest area.
- Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) in the Ganga and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.
- **New Measures:**
 - Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified to phase out single use plastic by 2022
 - Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
 - PM Modi announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021
 - 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) movement was underlined.
- India continued significant climate leadership at **International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT Group)**.

7. Agriculture and Food Management:

- Agriculture sector registered growth of **3.6% in 2020-21** and **3.9% in 2021-22**.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy** to promote crop diversification is used extensively.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the recent Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.
- **Livestock sector** has grown at CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of average monthly income.
- Government also facilitated food processing measures like subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- Government has extended coverage of food security network through schemes like **PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)**.

8. Industry and Infrastructure:

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** It grew at 17.4% (YoY) during April-November 2021.
- **Capital expenditure for Indian railways** increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 and it has been

budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22, which is five times increase in comparison to 2014 level.

- Extent of road construction per day increased 30.4% to 36.5 Kms per day in 2020-21 from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6% in July-September 2021-22.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme gave major boost to physical as well as digital infrastructure, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

9. Services:

- Overall service Sector GVA is expected to grow by 8.2% in 2021-22.
- GVA of services crossed pre-pandemic level in July-September 2021-22 but GVA of contact intensive sectors like trade, transport, etc. still remain low.
- During first half of 2021-22, service sector received over US\$ 16.7 billion FDI, that accounts for almost 54% of total FDI inflows into India.
- IT-BPM services revenue reached US\$ 194 billion in 2020-21, adding 1.38 lakh employees.
- Major government reforms in this:
 - removing telecom regulations in IT-BPO sector
 - opening up of space sector to private players.
 - 100% FDI flow in telecom sector.
- **Start-ups:**
 - India has become 3rd largest start-up ecosystem of the world after US and China.
 - New recognized start-ups increased from 733 in 2016-17 to over 14000 in 2021-22.
 - A total of 44 Indian start-ups bagged unicorn status in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83.

10. Social Infrastructure and Employment:

- **Covid vaccination:**
 - Union Budget 2021-22 has allocated 35,000 crore for procurement of vaccines under COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
 - 156.76 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been registered as on 16th January 2022

- With this, 93% of 18 year and above aged persons have been vaccinated with first dose and about 70% with second dose.
- As per quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data, employment in urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- Gross enrolment ratio in higher education reached 27.1% in 2019-20.
- **Expenditure on social services (health, education and others)** by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE)
- As per **National Family Health Survey-5:**
 - **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16
 - **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** improved.
 - 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts under Jal Jeevan Mission.
 - Increased allotment of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to provide buffer for unorganized labor in rural areas during Covid.

11. Tracking Development through Satellite Images & Cartography

- The Economic Survey 2021-22 saw plethora of information from satellites, drones, mobile phones and other sources.
- The chapter saw India's night-time luminosity comparison between 2012 and 2021 using satellite images.
- Maps have been created by combining satellite data over the course of 12 month period in each year.
- Components included under this:
 - Physical as well as financial infrastructure development in India.
 - Expansion of national highways, airports, commercial bank branches, metros, etc.
 - Change in net sown area of India over the last 15 years.
 - Comparison of Kharif crop cycle in Moga district, Punjab during 2005 and 2021.
 - Shift of Kharif sowing cycle by around two-to-three weeks causing the Kharif harvest to almost coincide with Rabi sowing in November.
 - Population density of select Indian cities
 - Wasteland redeployment in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.

Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23

Pillars of Union Budget 2022-23

Union Budget 2022-23 comprises of four Pillars:

- PM Gati Shakti
- Inclusive development

- Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action
- Financing of investments

Union Budget 2022-23 will lay special focus on youth, women, farmers, and the backward classes.

India's growth is estimated to be at 9.27%.

India at 75 to India at 100

Union Budget 2022-23 seeks to lay foundation, providing blueprint of economy over 'Amrit Kal' of next 25 years from India at 75 to India at 100.

Capital Expenditure

- Effective Capital Expenditure (CapEx) of Central Government is estimated at Rs 10.68 lakh crore in 2022-23
- It is about 4.1% of GDP.
- FY23 CapEx target: **Rs 7.50 lakh crores.**

Fiscal Deficit

- Fiscal Deficit for FY22 is pegged at 6.9% from 6.8% in FY21.
- Fiscal deficit target for Fiscal Year 2022-23 (FY23): 6.4% of GDP, which is above expectations.

Four Pillar Approach

PM Gati Shakti Masterplan

- It is a **National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity** that intends to bring together 16 infrastructure related Ministries.
- PM Gati Shakti will encompass 7 engines for multi-modal connectivity to facilitate faster movement of people & goods including railways, roads, ports, airways, etc.
- It will enrich the economy, create jobs and opportunities for the youth.
- **Roadways:** National Highways (NH) Network to be expanded by 25000 Km in 2022-23 with Rs 20,000 crores finance mobilization.
- **Logistic Parks:** Four Multimodal Logistics Parks will be implemented through PPP mode in 2022-23
- **Railways:**
 - 'One Station One Product' to help local businesses & supply chains.
 - Railway network of 2000 Km to be brought under Kavach, indigenous world class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.

- 400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured in the next three years.
- 100 Cargo Terminals under PM Gati Shakti will also be developed in the next few years.
- **Parvatmala (National Ropeways Development Program):** Contracts for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length will awarded in 2022-23 on PPP mode.

Inclusive Development

Farmers and Agriculture

MSP:

- Rs 2.37 lakh crores will be given as direct payment of MSP to farmers
- Procurement of wheat in Rabi season 2021-22 and estimated procurement of paddy in Kharif season 2021-22 will cover 1,208 lakh metric tonnes of wheat and paddy from 163 lakh farmers

Agriculture financing:

- Funds with blended capital raised under co-investment model to finance start-ups in agriculture and rural enterprises for farm produce value chain will be set up.
- They will be facilitated through NABARD

Agricultural Education: States will be encouraged to revise agricultural universities syllabi to meet needs of natural, zero-budget and organic farming, modern-day agriculture.

Use of drones:

- Drones will be used for crop assessment, digitization of land records, spraying of insecticides and nutrients.

Other Areas

- NABARD will provide funds to finance start-ups for agriculture and rural enterprise for the farm produce value chain.
- Chemical-free Natural Farming will be promoted.

Ken Betwa project

- **Outlay:** Rs 1400 crore.
- It will provide irrigational benefits to 9.08 lakh hectares of farmers' lands.

MSME

- Interlinking of Udyam, e-shram, NCS and ASEEM portals
- **Emergency Credit Linked Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):**
 - Additional credit to 130 lakh MSMEs
 - It will be extended up to March 2023.
 - Guarantee cover to be expanded by Rs 50000 Crore to Rs 5 Lakh Crore.
- Additional credit of Rs 2 lakh crore for Micro and Small Enterprises to be facilitated under Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).
- **Raising and Accelerating MSME performance (RAMP) programme** to be rolled out with outlay of Rs 6000 Crores.

Skill Development

- **Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal)** will be rolled out
- Startups will be promoted for 'Drone Shakti' and Drone-As-A-Service (DrAAS).

Education

- **PM eVIDYA's 'One class-One TV channel' programme** to be expanded to 200 TV channels.
- Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to be set up.
- High-quality e-content to be developed for delivery through Digital Teachers.
- Digital University for world-class quality universal education to be established.

Health

- **National Digital Health Ecosystem platform** to be rolled out.
- **National Tele Mental Health Programme** for counselling and care services to be launched.
- Network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS as nodal centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.
- Two lakh anganwadis will be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal

- Outlay: **Rs. 60,000 crores.**
- Will cover 3.8 crore households in 2022-23

Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East Region (PM-DevINE)

- **Aim:** to fund infrastructure and social development projects in the North-East.
- Rs. 1,500 crores allocated initially.

Banking

- 5 lakh post offices to come under core banking system.
- Scheduled Commercial Banks to set up 75 Digital Banking Units in 75 different districts.

e-Passport

- e-Passports with embedded chip and futuristic technology features to be rolled out.

Urban Planning

- Modernization of building byelaws, Town Planning Schemes, and Transit Oriented Development will be implemented.
- Battery swapping policy will be rolled out

Land Records Management

- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number will be provided for IT-based management of land records.

Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action

Accelerated Corporate Exit

- Centre for Processing Accelerated Corporate Exit (C-PACE) to be established

Telecom Sector

- Scheme for design-manufacturing to be launched strong for 5G as part of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme.

Export Promotion

- Special Economic Zones Act to be replaced with new legislation to enable States to become partners in 'Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs'.

Defence

- Sector observed 68% of capital procurement earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23
- Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% defence R&D budget earmarked.

- For meeting testing and certification requirements, Independent nodal umbrella body will be set up

Sunrise Opportunities

- Sunrise Opportunities: Artificial Intelligence, Geospatial Systems and Drones, Semiconductor and its eco-system, Space Economy, Genomics and Pharmaceuticals, Green Energy, and Clean Mobility Systems.
- Govt will contribute to its R&D

Energy Transition and Climate Action:

- Additional allocation of Rs. 19,500 crores for Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for manufacture of high efficiency solar modules to meet 280 GW goal of installed solar power by 2030.
- 5 to 7% biomass pellets to be co-fired in thermal power plants that will reduce CO2 emission, provide extra income to farmers and help in avoiding stubble burning.
- Financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for agro-forestry.

Financing of investments

Public Capital Investment

- Public investment continue to pump- private investment and demand in 2022-23.
- Outlay for capital expenditure stepped up by 35.4% to Rs. 7.50 lakh crore in 2022-23 from Rs. 5.54 lakh crore in the current year.
- Outlay in 2022-23 to be 2.9% of GDP.

Digital Rupee

RBI to introduce Digital Rupee in 2022-23.

GIFT-IFSC

- World-class foreign universities and institutions to be established in the GIFT City.
- International Arbitration Centre to be set up for timely settlement of disputes

Mobilising Resources

- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be upgraded to infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity investment to be scaled up
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.

- Sovereign Green Bonds for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure to be issued

Greater Fiscal Space to States

- Enhanced outlay for 'Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment' from Rs. 10,000 crore in Budget Estimates to Rs. 15,000 crore in Revised Estimates for current year
- States will be allowed fiscal deficit of 4%, of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms in 2022-23.

Tax Proposals

Direct Tax

- **New updated return:** Here people can file updated return within 2 years of filed IT Return.
- **Cooperative societies:**
 - Alternate minimum tax reduced for cooperatives from 18.5% to 15%.
 - Surcharge of cooperative societies reduced from 12% to 7% for those having income of more than 1 crore and up to Rs 10 crores.
- **Tax Benefits to startups:** Existing tax benefits for Startups to be extended by 1 more year till 2023.
- **Tax relief to persons with disability:** Payment of annuity and lump sum amount from insurance scheme to differently abled dependent during lifetime of parents/guardians, i.e., on parents/guardian attaining the age of 60 years.
- **Parity in National Pension Scheme (NPS) Contribution**
 - Tax deduction limit increased from 10% to 14% on employer's contribution to the NPS account of State Government employees.
 - Brings them at par with central government employees.
- **Virtual digital assets:**
 - They will be taxed at 30%.
 - Loss from transfer of virtual digital asset cannot be set off against any other income.
 - TDS on payment made in relation to transfer of virtual digital asset is at the rate of 1%.
 - Gift of virtual digital asset will also to be taxed in the hands of the recipient.
- Tax incentives to IFSC:
 - Income of non-resident from offshore derivative instruments.
 - Income from over the counter (OTC) derivatives issued by an offshore banking unit.
 - Income from royalty and interest on account of lease of ship.

- Income received from portfolio management services in IFSC.
- **Surcharge**
 - Surcharge on Association of Persons (AOPs) capped at 15%.
 - Surcharge on long term capital gains on transfer of any type of assets capped at 15%.
- **Health and Education Cess:** Any surcharge or cess on income and profits not allowable as business expenditure.
- **Discouragement against tax-evasion:** Budget discourages tax invasions and allow any loss against undisclosed income detected during search and survey operations.

Indirect Tax

- **GST:** GST revenues goes buoyant despite the pandemic. Gross GST collections for the month of January 2022 is Rs 1,40,986 crore, which is the highest since the inception of the tax in 2017
- **Special Economic Zones:** Customs Administration of SEZs to be fully IT driven and Customs National Portal will be implemented by 30th September 2022.

- Customs Reforms and duty rate changes
- Faceless Customs service has been fully established.
- Certain exemptions for advanced machineries that are not manufactured within India shall continue.
- Few exemptions introduced on inputs, like specialized castings, ball screw and linear motion guide will encourage domestic manufacturing of capital goods.
- More than 350 exemption entries to be gradually phased out.
- **Electronics:** Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers and camera lens of mobile camera module and certain other items.
- **Gems and Jewellery:** Customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones has been reduced to 5% and Nil customs duty to simply sawn diamond.
- Customs duty exemption for steel scrap extended for one more year.
- Unblended fuel to attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2 per litre from 1st October 2022.

Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

February / March 2022

1. International Intellectual property (IP) Index 2022

- India has been ranked at 43rd place in 2022 International Intellectual property (IP) Index describing the function of the global IP system and identifies opportunities, among 55 countries
- Overall score of India has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64% (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition
- Released by: Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- Top countries: USA, followed by UK, Germany, Sweden, and France.

2. Mumbai 5th most-congested city in TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021

- It has been released covering 404 cities across 58 countries.
- India: Mumbai has been ranked 5th, Bengaluru is ranked 10th and New Delhi has been ranked at 11th place in terms of most congested cities in the world in 2021.

- Topmost congested city of the world: Istanbul (Turkey), followed by Moscow.
- Congestion level in Delhi has been reduced to 48 points in 2021 from 53 points in 2019 and peak traffic congestion also reduced by 17% in 2021

3. Salesforce Global Index

- India has scored highest on digital readiness among 19 countries that were surveyed as part of the Salesforce Global Index.
- It measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire key digital skills needed by businesses today and over 5 years.
- India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% of respondents as they were actively learning digital skills to prepare themselves for the future of work.

4. American cybersecurity firm released report on ModifiedElephant group

- 'SentinelOne' has released ModifiedElephant hacking group report that allegedly plant incriminating evidence on personal devices of Indian journalists, human rights activists-defenders, academics, lawyers
- ModifiedElephant maliciously target specific groups and individuals, including activists arrested in Bhima Koregaon case of 2018

5. Union Minister launches two reports of Institute for Competitiveness

- Two reports of Institute for Competitiveness
 - COVID-19-India's Vaccine Development Story
 - India's COVID – 19 Vaccination Administration Journey
- They highlight the crucial aspects that have contributed to the success of India's COVID-19 vaccine development and administration efforts, which includes manufacturing of indigenous vaccines, sturdy and timely procedures and protocols, etc.

6. Democracy Index 2021

- Released by: **Economist Intelligence Unit.**
- India is ranked 46th on the 2021 index with an overall score of 6.91. India has been classified as a flawed democracy. (In 2020, India was ranked 53rd in democracy index).

January 2022

1. First District Good Governance Index for 20 Districts of J&K released

- Organized by: Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Jammu & Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration & Rural Development in association with Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad.
- J&K will become first Union Territory in the country to have Good Governance Index.

2. India Ranks 83rd in Q1 Henley Passport Index 2022

- India has been ranked 83rd among 111 countries in the latest Henley Passport Index, released for Q1 of 2022
- India improved its position by seven places from 90th in Q4 of 2021 in October.

- Top scorer: Norway
- Least scorer: Afghanistan.

7. India ranks 3rd in LEED Certified Green Buildings

- India has ranked third in the world for LEED certified green buildings in 2021 in the US Green Building Council (USGBC) annual list.
- Top performer: China and Canada
- United States is not included in the list but remains the world's largest market for LEED.

8. TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021

- Mumbai and Bengaluru have been ranked 5th and 10th in the global ranking of urban congestion.
- Delhi and Pune occupied the 11th and 21st spots among 404 cities across 58 countries.
- World's most congested city: Istanbul, Turkey

9. Hurun India Wealth Report 2021

- Number of dollar-millionaire households in India has increased by 11% to 4,58,000 households as compared to last year.
- Indian dollar-millionaire households are estimated to increase by 30% over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households by 2026.
- Dollar-millionaire household has a net worth of at least Rs 7 crore.

- Indian passport has visa-free access to 60 countries worldwide in Q1 2022, as compared to 58 destinations in Q4 of 2021.
- Top performers: Japan and Singapore, followed by Germany and South Korea
- Least powerful passports: Afghanistan
- Index is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

3. India's first index of cryptocurrencies 'IC15' launched

- Crypto Superapp, CryptoWire has launched India's first crypto index titled 'IC15', which will track the market capitalization and liquidity of top 15 global digital currencies
- Crypto assets like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance coin, Solana, Cardano, Ripple, Terra, Dogecoin and Shiba 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

4. NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) releases 'Banking on Electric Vehicles in India' report

- It outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in electric mobility ecosystem.
- It 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

5. Oxfam India releases new study report 'Inequality kills'

- Itb reveals that COVID-19 pandemic has heightened economic inequalities across the world.
- Key highlights:
 - 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.
 - 84% of households suffered a decline in their income in a year.

6. Environment Minister releases Forest Survey report 2021

- Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has released India State of Forest Report 2021.
- Highlights of the report:
 - Total forest and tree cover in India in 2021: 80.9 million hectares.
 - This is over 24.60% of the geographical area of the country.
 - 17 states and union territories have above 33% of the geographical area under forest cover.
 - Largest forest cover: Madhya Pradesh
 - Maximum increase in forest cover: Andhra Pradesh
 - Total carbon stock in India's forest: 7,204 million tonnes

7. Labour Minister releases report on 2nd round of Quarterly Employment Survey

- It is the part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey.
- The report highlights that the manufacturing sector engages 39%, education 22% and Health 10% of the estimated workers.
- Overall percentage of female workers stood at 32.1%
- Regular workers constitute 87% of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2 per cent being casual workers.

8. Ministry of Culture to undertake 1st ever cultural survey of Indian village

- Govt-promoted CSC SPV in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, will undertake first-ever cultural survey of India's villages through mobile application
- Survey is titled 'Mera Gaon, Meri Dharohar'
- It will document cultural identity at village level by involving citizens to share what makes their village, block, or district unique

9. ICMR-NIN and Telangana govt to hold state-wide SARS COV-2 sero survey

- Hyderabad-based ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and Telangana state govt will be holding state-wide SARS COV-2 sero survey
- It will be conducted among general population and health care workers
- It will be assessed by examining SARS Cov-2, IgG antibodies in the blood samples to be collected
- It will be a house-to-house survey and will cover about 16,000 population of 330 villages in all 33 districts.

10. TEC releases 'Code of Practice for securing consumer Internet of Things

- Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), under Dept of Telecommunications has released 'Code of Practice for Securing Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)' report as a baseline requirement aligned with global standards and best practices
- It will help in securing consumer IoT devices & ecosystem as well as managing vulnerabilities
- It is intended for use by IoT device manufacturers, Service providers/ system integrators and application developers etc.

11. Global Risks Report 2022

- It is an annual report, released by the World Economic Forum.
- It tracks global risk perceptions among risk experts and world leaders in business, govt, and civil society.
- It examines risks across 5 categories: economic, environmental, geopolitical, societal, and technological.
- Climate action failure' is designated as the number one risk, followed by Extreme weather

December 2021

1. NITI Aayog releases Northeastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22

- Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of Northeastern Region (MDoNER) with NITI Aayog releases Northeastern Region District SDG Index and Dashboard 2021-22
- Index measures the performance of the district of the 8 NE States
- This is the first time, District wise index is being prepared
- SDG Index will be used as a base for planning of development and welfare activities, education, health care.
- Top performer: **East Sikkim district**
- Worst: **Kiphire district of Nagaland**

2. NITI Aayog releases Fourth Edition of State Health Index 2019-20

- It provides incremental performance in health outcomes and status.
- Developed by: **NITI Aayog, World Bank, and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).**
- Top Larger State: Kerala and Tamil Nadu; Lowest Larger State: UP
- Top Smaller State: Mizoram; Lowest ranked smaller state: Nagaland
- Top UT: Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

3. Union Home Minister release Good Governance Index 2021

- It is prepared by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)

12. India ranks 85 in Transparency International's corruption index

- The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- Low scorers: China (45 score) and India (40), Indonesia (38), Pakistan (28) and Bangladesh (26).
- Top performers: Denmark, Finland, New Zealand and Norway

- GGI framework covered ten sectors and 58 indicators
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa top the composite rank score covering 10 sectors
- UP secured top position in Commerce & Industry sector and has also shown increase in Social Welfare & Development.

4. India to regain its place as the world's sixth biggest economy in 2023

- Indian economy is all set to become 6th largest economy in the world leaving French and British economy, as per British Consultancy Cybr report
- The report says that Indian economy will exceed French economy in 2022 whereas it will trump British economy in 2023.
- Russia could become a Top 10 economy by 2036 and Indonesia looks on track for ninth place in 2034.

5. India displaces UK to be 3rd top country hosting unicorns

- India displaced U.K. to be third in the list of countries that are home to unicorns valued at more than \$1 billion each, according to Hurun Research Institute report
- India added 33 'unicorns' in a single year.
- Top performers: U.S., followed by China. They are home to 74% of the unicorn universe.

6. India ranks 4th in the Global Spam Report

- India has been ranked at 4th spot in 2021 Global Spam Report, in the tally of top 20 countries affected by spam calls

- India's rank is moved from 9th in 2020 to the 4th spot this year
- The report has been released by Truecaller
- KYC (know your customer) spam remains one of the most common one in the country.
- At global level, Truecaller identified 184.5 billion calls and 586 billion messages.

7. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2021

- The 2021 index explored cost of living in 173 cities, 40 more than last year.
- Most expensive cities: Tel Aviv, followed by Paris, Singapore, Zurich, and Hong Kong
- Paris was the most expensive city according to the 2020 index.
- Lowest rankings: Africa, Middle East, and less wealthier parts of Asia.

8. India ranks as the fourth most powerful country in Asia Power Index

- India has overall score of 37.7 out of 100, down by two points from 2020
- Released by: Lowy Institute
- India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among 18 countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021
- Top performers: USA, China and Japan

9. World Inequality Report 2022

- Released by: Paris-based **World Inequality Lab**
- The report captured certain interesting insights about global income & wealth inequality
- As per the report 2022, India is now among the most unequal countries in the world with an affluent elite
- While the bottom half of Indian population earns Rs 53,610, top 10% earns twenty times more (around Rs 11,66,520).
- Top 10% and top 1% hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income.

10. Forbes' rankings of 100 most powerful women of the world

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked 37th among Forbes' 100 most powerful women of the world

- Top performer: Mackenzie Scott, followed by Kamla Harris and Christine Lagarde.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra (52); Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (72), and Falguni Nayar (88) were also in the Forbes List.

11. Waste-wise Cities: Best practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management report

- Released by: NITI Aayog, along with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste and documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.
- Five cities in Maharashtra (Vengurla Municipal Council, Karad, Chandrapur, Pune) have been placed in the list due to their relentless efforts.

12. 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China'

- Published by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- As per the report, China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.

13. India ranks 66th at Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 with score of 42.8 (out of 100)

- Developed By: Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center.
- It assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories and 37 indicators
- Top performers: US, Australia, Finland, Canada, Thailand
- Worst Performer: Somalia (195), Yemen (194), North Korea (193)

14. World Talent Ranking (WTR) 2021

- India's rank: 56
- Released by: Institute for Management Development
- Top performers: Switzerland, followed by Sweden, Luxembourg, Norway, and Denmark.
- WTR assesses the status and the development of competencies among 64 economies

15. Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2021

- Tesla Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has been named as Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2021

- US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were named as the Person of the Year for 2020 by Time magazine.
- Elon Musk is the founder, CEO and Chief Engineer at SpaceX with an estimated net worth of around US\$255 billion.

16. Global trade likely to hit \$28 trillion in 2021, grow 23%

YoY: UNCTAD report

- Global trade is expected to reach about \$28 trillion in 2021, growing 11% over pre-pandemic levels, according to the global trade update report by UNCTAD.
- India's goods exports show rise of 27% and 5%, and services increased by 7% and 17% in Q3 of the current fiscal compared to 2019 average and Q2 2021, respectively.

17. Ninth edition of India Skills Report 2022

- Released by: **Wheebox**

- **Maharashtra** has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent followed by **Uttar Pradesh** and **Kerala**.
- The theme of ISR 2022: **'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'**.
- The Report is a full-fledged report about the future of work, education, and skilling to match the talent demand and supply in a growing India

18. World Cooperative Monitor report 2021

- Released by: **International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)** and **European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse)**
- Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has been ranked 'number one Cooperative' among top 300 cooperatives in the world.
- Ranking was based on the ratio of turnover over the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

November-2021

1. WHO released 2021 Global Nutrition Report

- World Health Assembly (WHO) has released Global Nutrition Report 2021, that acts as a report card on the world's nutrition globally and regionally.
- India's position:
 - Over half of Indian women of 15-49 years are anaemic with increase in number from 52.6% in 2016 to 53% in 2020.
 - Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are under the category of child wasting (low weight for height)
 - India is meeting 7 of 13 global nutrition targets.

2. NITI Aayog releases SDG Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22

- NITI Aayog under Indo-German Cooperation has released Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Urban Index and Dashboard 2021-22.
- It ranks 56 urban areas on 77 SDG indicators across 46 targets of SDG framework
- Shimla tops the Index followed by Coimbatore, Chandigarh, Thiruvananthapuram
- Worst performers: Patna, Guwahati, Itanagar, Meerut, Dhanbad
- Urban areas have been classified as:
 - Aspirant: 0-49
 - Performer: 50-64

- Front-Runner: 65-99
- Achiever: 100

3. Bhupender Yadav initiates first ever All India Domestic Workers Survey

- It will cover 742 districts in 37 States and Union territories.
- Objective: To estimate the number and proportion of domestic workers at the national and state level and find out household estimates of live-in and live-out domestic workers.

4. Migration and Development Brief 35 report

Key highlights:

- It is released by World Bank and KNOMAD
- India has received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021 and is also the top country in receiving remittances in 2021, followed by China, Mexico, Philippines, and Arab Republic of Egypt.
- As per the report, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to reach \$589 billion in 2021

5. India ranked 10th in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022

- It is being released by German-watch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute

- India was at 10th place in 2020 as well
 - Scandinavian countries (Denmark (4th), Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th)), together with UK and Morocco, lead the 'race to zero'
 - Worst performers: Australia, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan
- 6. Govt to conduct National Achievement Survey (NAS)**
- Union Govt has been implementing sample-based National Achievement Survey (NAS) aimed at Classes III, V, VIII and X with a cycle period of 3 years.
 - Earlier, NAS was held on 13th November, 2017 for assessing the competencies developed by children at the grade levels III, V and VIII.
 - Aim: to assess the learning interruptions and new learnings during the COVID pandemic and help to take remedial measures.
 - Test would be conducted in 22 mediums of instruction covering Assamese, Bengali, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Mizo, Odiya, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Garo, Khasi, Konkani, Nepali, Bhutia, and Lepcha.
- 7. Third edition of Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) report**
- As per the report, Gujarat has been adjudged as the Best Performing State, followed by Haryana and Punjab, while Uttar Pradesh is the top improver.
 - LEADS: Longevity, Efficiency, Accuracy, Durability, and Smartness in the Logistics sector.
 - It can lead the way to bring down logistics costs by five percent over the next 5 years.
- 8. World Meteorological Organization released report titled as 'State of Global Climate-2021'**
- The report stated that last seven years have been the warmest on record and global sea-level rise accelerated since 2013, reaching a new high in 2021.
- It has attributed record sea-level rise to warming up and acidification of ocean waters.
 - COP-26 conference began in Glasgow, combines inputs from multiple United Nations agencies, national meteorological and hydrological services and scientific experts.
- 9. Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021**
- Top performers: Kerala, Tamil Nadu & Telangana
 - Released by: Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
- 10. JP Morgan Chase bagged top spot at 2021 list of globally systemic banks (G-SIBs)**
- It released by Financial Stability Board (FSB).
 - FSB has identified total 30 banks as globally systemic banks (G-SIBs) by FSB.
 - These 30 banks are divided into four buckets in order of how systemic, international, interconnected and complex they are.
- 11. National Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021**
- Released by: Niti Aayog
 - It uses methodology developed by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
 - As per the index, 51.91% of the population in Bihar is poor, followed by Jharkhand, UP, MP and Meghalaya.
 - Lowest poverty levels: Kerela, followed by Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Goa and Sikkim
- 12. Union Health Ministry released Factsheets of NFHS-5**
- Factsheets of key indicators on population, reproductive and child health, family welfare, nutrition and others for India and 14 States/UTs (clubbed under Phase-II) of 2019-21 National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) has been released
 - India has also officially hit total fertility rate (TFR) of 2.0 that indicates a decrease from the 2.2 in the NFHS-4.
 - Proportion of anaemic children (5-59 months) increased from 58% to 67%.

Economy News

(1st -7th March 2022)

1. India set to export record 7 million tonnes wheat this year

Note: This financial year, India is set to export around 7 million tonnes of wheat. This would be one of the highest exports of wheat by India. India is the world's second biggest producer of wheat, accounting for 13.53% of global production. But it only accounts for 1% of global wheat exports. Annually India produces around 108 million tonnes of wheat. However, majority of the production goes for domestic

consumption. India exported a record 6.5 million tonnes in the financial year 2012-13. By the end of February 2022, India already exported 6.6 million tonnes of wheat.

2. India, Canada set for FTA talks

Note: India and Canada decided to restart negotiations on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The benefits of India-Canada CEPA were highlighted by "India-Canada CEO Round Table" held

in 2008. It was decided that bilateral trade would get boost by elimination of tariffs. In 2010, the benefits were reiterated in the report based on joint study conducted by both the countries. In the same year, Prime Ministers of India and Canada announced the launch of India-Canada CEPA in Seoul, to realize the benefits. Later, the negotiations for India-Canada CEPA were formally launched in New Delhi.

3. YouTube Creators Contributed Rs 6,800 Crores to the Indian Economy

Note: According to a research report by the independent consulting firm Oxford Economics, YouTube's ever-growing creator ecosystem contributed Rs 6,800 crores to the Indian economy in 2020. Not only that, the platform became a primary source of income for millions of creators, generating 6,83,900 full-time jobs in the country.

4. Draft framework on Sustainable Financial Lending

Note: The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) invited public comments on the draft framework on sustainable and sustainability-linked lending by financial institutions in IFSCs. IFSCA has been established as a unified regulator to develop and regulate financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India.

5. FM launches e-Bill processing system

Note: Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system under the Digital India ecosystem and ease of doing business. This e-governance initiative was announced in the Budget 2022-23 by the FM. Across all departments and central ministries, the e-Bill system will be implemented. Implementing this system will help in enhancing efficiency, transparency, and a paperless-faceless payment system. Through this system contractors and suppliers will be able to submit their claim online and it will be trackable on a real-time basis.

6. PFRDA's guaranteed return scheme

Note: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS). This scheme will be launched to provide people from salaried class an option for their

investments. PFRDA has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant, in order to help in designing the proposed MARS under National Pension Scheme (NPS). It will be the first scheme from pension regulator, to offer a guaranteed return to investors. However, only the floor is set in proposed scheme. Consultant is likely to work out the framework within some months.

7. Second advance estimates of national income

Note: National Statistical Office (NSO) under 'Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation' released the Second Advance Estimates (SAE) of National Income, 2021-22 and Quarterly Estimates of GDP for October-December quarter (Q3), 2021-22. In the year 2021-22, the Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant (2011-12) Prices is estimated to reach Rs 147.72 lakh crore, as opposed to First Revised Estimate of GDP for 2020-21 of Rs 58 lakh crore. Growth in GDP during 2021-22 is estimated at 8.9 percent, against a contraction of 6.6 percent in 2020-21.

8. NDB first multilateral agency to open office in GIFT city

Note: New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT). NDB vice president representing India Anil Kishora said the multilateral agency will take all requisite steps to make the Indian office operational. New Development Bank (NDB) has received the approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City. The Indian office will help identify suitable projects and try to create a pipeline of potential financing for the bank.

9. MSME-Technology Centres

Note: Narayan Rane, the Union MSME Minister has announced the formation of the MSME Technology Centre at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra. This will be set up at a cost worth Rs 200 crore. The Konbac Sfurti Cluster in Kudal was also launched. This will support 500 honey bee boxes, 300 artisans. 100 electric pottery wheels and 100 agarbatti production machines were also distributed to provide opportunities for self-employment.

(1st -28th February)

1. India's total FDI inflow of USD 60.3 billion

Note: India received total foreign direct investment of USD 60.3 billion during April to December 2021 which is 10.6 per cent lower compared to the USD 67.5 billion of FDI received in the same period of 2020-21, according to a government's data. During the same time period the previous year, inflows stood at USD 51.47 billion. Total FDI inflows (reinvested earnings,

equity inflows, and other capital) totaled USD 60.34 billion in the first nine months of this fiscal year, compared to USD 67.5 billion the previous year. In the 3rd quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021), the equity inflows declined to USD 12 billion. In the corresponding time period of 2020, the amount stood at USD 21.46.

2. Sustainable Cities India Program

Note: Recently, the World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'. The 'Sustainable Cities India' intends to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems. This initiative is in synergy with India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

3. Moody's ups India's growth forecast to 9.5% for 2022

Note: Moody's Investors Service on Thursday raised India's growth forecast to 9.5 per cent for the calendar year 2022 and to 8.4 per cent for the coming fiscal beginning April 1, 2022. The GDP forecast has been increased citing an economic recovery that has been stronger than expected starting from the national lockdown of 2020 to the COVID-19 second wave in mid-2021. The FY 23 GDP forecast has been retained at 5.5 percent. According to Moody's, the retail activity, collection of sales taxes, and Purchasing Managers Indices (PMI) all point to further growth. Supply disruptions and high oil prices will, however, continue to drag down the GDP.

4. Green Financing Critical to Decarbonizing the Indian Transport Sector

Note: NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, with the support of GIZ India, conducted a virtual consultation workshop on 'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport' as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project. The Government of India is actively working towards the decarbonization of transport, with a major focus on the adoption of sustainable mobility. The aim of the workshop is to identify actionable strategies and bring together financing institutions and transport organizations to collectively work towards furthering innovative financing policies for the decarbonization of transport.

5. Airtel joins SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium

Note: Bharti Airtel has joined the 'SEA-ME-WE-6' undersea cable consortium in a bid to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast-growing digital economy. Airtel is participating as a "major investor" in the SEA-ME-WE-6 and is anchoring 20% of the overall investment in the cable system, which will go live in 2025. Airtel has acquired one Fibre Pair on main SEA-ME-WE-6 system. It will co-build four Fibre Pairs between Singapore – Chennai – Mumbai as part of this project. It will land SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

6. PM Modi flags off 100 Kisan drones to spray pesticides in farms across India

Note: Prime minister Narendra Modi flagged off 100 Kisan drones in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India. This move will prove to be a milestone in development of drone sector and will also open sky to unlimited possibilities. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced major stimulus for farming and agriculture sector in Budget 2022-23. As a part, Centre will promote Kisan Drones, public-private partnerships to deliver digital & high-tech services and chemical-free natural farming, to farmers across India during financial year 2022-23.

7. Department of commerce set for a revamp

Note: The government plans to reorganize the commerce department so that it can implement a more organized trade promotion strategy with clear targets. A dedicated trade promotion organization and a trade remedies review committee have been proposed as part of the strategy. The Department of Commerce will have a setup that will be sensitive to the market possibilities and exporter demands in order to establish an ecosystem to reach USD 2 trillion in exports by the year 2027. In addition, India's branding would be consistent across all domains, with the focus areas highlighted.

8. Indian Oil Installs More Than 1,000 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Note: Diversified energy major IndianOil has installed more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) across the country. IndianOil had installed its first EV charger for public use in 2017, at Nagpur. Now, the company's charging points are present in more than 500 towns and cities including multiple state and national highways. Besides, the corporation is planning to have a base of 3,000 plus charging stations to convert highways into e-highways across the country, over the next three years.

9. India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

Note: India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a trade agreement that will decrease import duties on the majority of Indian exports to the UAE. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is the Narendra Modi government's first significant trade agreement since coming to power in 2014. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and UAE Economy Minister Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri signed the agreement in New Delhi. While the government expects the decrease in import duties to benefit a wide range of products, the government expects it to increase exports of gems and jewellery, as well as clothes, to the UAE, bringing total trade to USD 100 billion in the next five years.

10. Asia's biggest bio-CNG plant inaugurated in Indore

Note: Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant will virtually be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in

Indore. Indore is considered as one of the cleanest cities India. With the inauguration of bio-CNG plant, it will set another high standard in cleanliness. The Bio-CNG plant will be operated using 100 per cent wet waste. It is estimated to produce 18,000 kg gas per day. As per estimates of Indore Municipal Corporation, amount of Bio-CNG will help in running around 400 buses in the city daily. The bio-CNG plant has a total capacity of 550 MT. It will produce CNG with 96 per cent pure methane gas.

11. Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project: Longest tunnel T-49 connected

Note: Indian Railways connected the main and longest tunnel of T-49, under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. The T-49 tunnel is in between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section of USBRL project. It is a 12.758-Km-long tunnel. It is going to be longest tunnel of Indian Railway. It has surpassed Peer Panjal Tunnel of 11.2 Km length, which was constructed by USBRL on Banihal-Qazigund section. South portal of Tunnel T-49 is located in Sumber Village. It is at a distance of 45-km from District HQ Ramban. It has been constructed at an altitude of 1,400 meters. While North Portal of the tunnel is located near Arpinchala village Tehsil Khari, at an altitude of 1600 meters, in Mahu-Mangat Valley.

12. LIC: India's largest Initial Public Offering

Note: The Government of India is planning to sell 5% of its share in LIC. LIC is Life Insurance Corporation. With this, the government is trying to raise Rs 65,000 crores. 10% of the shares are being reserved for eligible policy holders. These shares will carry discounted prices. The plan is to sell 316.25 million shares. This is 5% of the total equity base. The total equity base of LIC is 6.32 billion shares. The pricing of IPO, Initial Public Offering, has not yet been decided. 35% of the shares are to be reserved for retail investors. Discounts are to be provided to LIC employees.

13. Centre sets target to replace Diesel with Renewable in Agriculture by 2024

Note: The Central government has set the target for replacing diesel with renewable energy in the agricultural sector by 2024. This is in line with the government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070. The Central government is already running a scheme to solarise the agriculture sector through KUSUM scheme. This would entail solar-run irrigation systems.

14. Seven AAI airports chosen for Voice of Customer Recognition 2021

Note: Seven AAI airports namely Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Patna, Bhubaneswar & Chandigarh that participated in ACI-ASQ survey in 2021, have been chosen for Voice of Customer Recognition under

Airports Council International (ACI) World's Voice of the Customer initiative. Airports Council International has initiated the 'Voice of the Customer' initiative to acknowledge and recognize airports that continued to prioritize their customers and are committed to ensuring their voice was heard, even during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

15. Centre's GDP deflator forecast for FY23 is 3-3.5%

Note: Centre's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator projection for 2022-23 is 3 to 3.5 per cent. This means that the government's own real GDP growth projection for the coming fiscal year is in the range of 7.6-8.1 per cent, given that the Union Budget assumes a nominal GDP growth rate of 11.1 per cent for FY23. GDP deflator, or implicit price deflator, is a measure of inflation and is the difference between nominal GDP and real GDP.

16. India's first Biomass-based hydrogen plant

Note: India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will be constructed in Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh. From 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock, Biomass-based hydrogen plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day. It will also produce biochar and methane. It will be put up with an investment of Rs 24 crore. The plant is being put up by Watomo Energies Ltd in association with Biezel Green Energy.

17. Centre releases revenue deficit grant of ₹9,871 cr to 17 states

Note: The finance ministry released the tenth monthly instalment of revenue deficit grant of ₹9,871 crore to 17 states. With this, a total of ₹98,710 crore has been released to eligible states as Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant in the current financial year so far. The grant is provided under Article 275 of the constitution. The grants are released based on the recommendations made by the fifteenth finance commission.

18. Korean technology to be used to monitor Mumbai-Nagpur expressway

Note: The Republic of Korea will be sharing its technology with India to monitor and manage the 701-km Mumbai-Nagpur Super Communication Expressway, set to be the country's longest expressway. This will be the first time in the country that an intelligent transportation system (ITS) will be implemented on an expressway for the safety of motorists and to prevent accidents. The ITS makes the roads safe. It is an intelligent system that monitors the road, informs about road blockages well ahead, reports about weather conditions. It is communication and information technologies applied on road transport. The three main features of ITS are Optical Fibre Cable network, Integrated Traffic Management System and Toll collection system.

19. GAIL starts India's maiden project of blending hydrogen into CGD network

Note: State gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd has commenced India's first-of-its-kind project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Ltd, one of GAIL's joint venture with HPCL, for retailing of CNG to automobiles and piped natural gas to households in Indore. GAIL started injection of grey hydrogen at the city gate station (CGS), Indore. GAIL has already obtained the necessary regulatory permissions to commence the project.

20. Govt approves sale of NINL to Tata Steel Long Products

Note: The government has approved sale of loss-making Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd (NINL) to Tata Steel Long Products Ltd for Rs 12,100 crore. NINL is a joint venture of four CPSEs, namely MMTC, NMDC, BHEL, MECON and two Odisha Government PSUs, namely OMC and IPICOL. NINL has an integrated steel plant with a capacity of 1.1 million tonnes (MT), at Kalinganagar, Odisha. The company has been running in huge losses and plant is closed since March 30, 2020.

21. Govt sets up National Land Monetisation Corporation

Note: According to Economic Survey, central government has set up a "National Land Monetisation Corporation" in a bid to FastTrack the monetisation of land and non-core assets of public sector entities. As

of now, CPSEs have referred 3,400 acres of land and other non-core assets for monetisation. Lands have been referred from CPSEs including MTNL, BSNL, BEML, BPCL, HMT Ltd, B&R, and Instrumentation Ltd. The National Land Monetisation Corporation (NLMC) is being set up in accordance with the Budget announcement. It is being set up as a 100 per cent Government of India owned entity. The initial authorised share capital will be Rs 5,000 crore while subscribed share capital will be of Rs 150 crore.

22. IIT Dharwad Gets Global Center of Excellence In Affordable and Clean Energy

Note: IIT Dharwad recently opened the Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy. The facility will expand research on low-cost, environmentally friendly energy. The center will design, develop, and incubate innovations as well as physical infrastructure. It will also generate clean energy solutions. The solutions will focus on rural populations' livelihoods. CSR funding will be used to sustain the center. The acronym CSR stands for "Corporate Social Responsibility." HHSIF will provide the CSR monies. Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF) is a non-profit organization that supports Honeywell Hometown Solutions in India. HHSIF funds family safety and security, science and math education, housing and shelter, sustainability, and humanitarian relief, to name a few.

(1st -31st January 2022)

1. Electronic goods exports up by 49% on-year in April-Dec 2021

Note: India's electronic goods exports registered a growth of 49 per cent at \$11.0 billion in April-December 2021 compared to \$7.4 billion during the same period in 2020. The top five export destinations in April-November 2021 are - USA (18 per cent), UAE (16.6 per cent), China (7.6 per cent), Netherlands (4.5 per cent) and Germany (4.2 per cent). The overall electronic goods exports FY21 were \$11.11 billion.

2. Plastic Park in Ganjimutt gets final approval

Note: The Central Government recently approved to build a plastic park at Ganjimutt, Managaluru, Karnataka. The park will be created at Rs 62.77 crores. It is to be built by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) land. Of the total estimated cost of 62.77 crores of rupees, the union government will share 50%, that is, 31.38 crores of rupees. The rest of the 50% is to be borne by the KIADB. The KIADB will be create a special purpose vehicle under its purview to implement the project. Also, KIADB is the major promoter.

3. AIIB to invest \$150 mn in development of data centres serving Asia

Note: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), will invest \$150 million in the development of data centers that mostly serve emerging Asia. Beijing-based AIIB, where India is a key founding member, will channelise funds through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha).

4. SEBI launches Saa᳚thi mobile app for investor education

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched "Saa᳚thi" – a mobile app on investor education in Mumbai. The new app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market. The application uses both Hindi and English. It is available for both iOS and android users. In future, the app will be made available in local languages as well.

5. India's exports to China rise by 21% to \$22.9 billion in 2021

Note: India's exports to China rose by 21 per cent to USD 22.9 billion in the 2021 calendar year while imports surged by 49 per cent to USD 87.5 billion during the same year. Bilateral trade between the two countries rose to USD 110.4 billion in 2021 against USD

77.7 billion in 2020, registering a year-on-year growth of 42.2 per cent. When compared with 2019 data, India's exports to China rose by 33.9 per cent in 2021. India's exports to China have risen consistently in the last three years despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. IMF World Economic Outlook

Note: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released its World Economic Outlook on January 25, 2022. As per report, Global economic growth will decrease by half a percentage point less than it was forecasted earlier. The growth will decrease from 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022. It will further reduce to 3.8% in 2023. According to IMF forecast, India will grow at 9% in 2021-2022. In October 2021 estimate, IMF had estimated India's growth prospects at 9.5% for the year. IMF now projects 9% growth for India's economy in 2022-23. In October assessment, growth was forecasted at 8.5% in 2022-23 and 7.1% in 2023-24. India's prospects for 2023 is estimated based on expected improvements to credit growth. Furthermore, investment and consumption are building on better performance of the financial sector.

7. Flipkart launches Leap Ahead and Leap Innovation Network startup programmes

Note: E-commerce firm Flipkart announced the evolution of its flagship startup accelerator programme, Flipkart Leap, to identify wider and relevant market opportunities for its selected startups. After the successful completion of the first cohort of the programme, Flipkart Leap will now evolve into two new programmes - Flipkart Leap Ahead (FLA) and Flipkart Leap Innovation Network (FLIN). The Flipkart Leap launch coincides with National Startup Day, a day recognised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently to help startup culture spread better across India. The Flipkart Leap program graduated its first cohort in July 2021 with eight startups.

8. ILO World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022

Note: Recently, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report titled World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends (WESO Trends) 2022. The Outlook remains fragile because the future path of the pandemic remains uncertain. The WESO Trends includes comprehensive labour market projections for 2022 and 2023. It gives assessments of how labour market recovery has unfolded worldwide, reflecting different national approaches to pandemic recovery and analysing the effects on different groups of workers and economic sectors.

9. National Technical Textiles Mission

Note: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of a National Technical Textiles Mission at a total outlay of ₹1,480 crores. It aims to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market. The Mission will aim at

taking domestic market size to \$40 billion to \$50 billion by 2024. A Mission Directorate will be operational in the Ministry of Textiles. It will be implemented for four years starting from 2020-2021. It will focus on research, development and innovation with an outlay of ₹1,000 crores.

10. Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 5.56

Note: The retail inflation in India increased to 5.59% in December 2021. This is the highest in the last five months. The inflation data was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The inflation rate is measured by Consumer Price Index. In December 2020, the retail inflation in India was 4.59%. Later in July 2021, the inflation increased to 5.59%. In October 2021, it was 4.49%. In November 2021, the retail inflation increased to 5.8%. With the December inflation at 5.59%, the Consumer Price Index has remained within the tolerance level set by the RBI. According to the target set by RBI, the inflation level is to remain between 2% and 6%. The target is being maintained for more than two years now.

11. Piyush Goyal suggests 5-point reform agenda for FCI

Note: On the 58th Foundation Day of Food Corporation of India (FCI), the food Minister Shri Piyush Goyal released a "5-point reform agenda for FCI". It is also called "5 Sutras". The agenda aims to improve FCI and its progress. To change the public perception of FCI. Currently the public see the FCI as inefficient and corrupt. This perception will now be converted to inclusive, dynamic and honest entity. To focus on end-to-end tech solutions. This includes everything starting from procurement to delivery. This is to be achieved by reducing PDS response time and efficient tracking of the food grains. Ultimately, this will result in leakage free operational efficient system.

12. World Bank downgrades 2022 global economic growth forecast to 4.1%

Note: The World Bank has released its January 2022 Global Economic Prospects where it has forecasted 4.1 per cent global economic growth. The report notes that, Global economic growth will decrease sharply to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023, from 5.5% in 2021. It projects India's annual growth to be 8.3% in the fiscal year 2021-2022, 8.7% in 2022-23, while 6.8% in 2023-24. It also flagged the risks posed by rising inflation and growing inequality. It noted that, after having recovered in 2021, global economy is headed towards "pronounced slowdown", because of new Covid-19 variants, increasing inflation, debt & income inequality, reducing fiscal & monetary support and decreasing demand.

13. India, South Korea set \$50 billion bilateral trade target before 2030

Note: India and South Korea have set to achieve bilateral trade target of 50 billion USD by 2030. The target was set during the summit held in 2018. The

target is to be achieved by giving fresh momentum to the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement). Also, the governments will hold back-to-back discussions with their respective industrial leaders to boost the trade.

14. The government is now the biggest shareholder in Vodafone Idea

Note: The government is set to own 35.8 per cent in Vodafone Idea (Vi) after the financially-stressed telco decided to convert interest on deferred spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues into equity. This makes the Union government the single-largest shareholder in Vi, a joint venture between the Aditya Birla group and UK-headquartered Vodafone.

15. India-South Korea bilateral trade talks

Note: India and Korea held a bilateral trade talk. The talks focused on non – tariff barriers, market access issues, trade deficit faced by the Indian exporters. The countries also discussed investment related issues. The India – Korea bilateral trade was 20 billion USD in 2018. However, it started decreasing after that. And it was largely hit by the pandemic. The recent talks mainly discussed on this issue. The talks aimed to make the relations “Equitable and Balanced and mutual advantage”.

16. Govt set to allow 20% foreign direct investment in LIC

Note: The Centre has decided to allow 20 per cent foreign direct investment in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), like in the case of public sector banks (PSBs). This is expected through amendment of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) rules in a move to attract foreign investors ahead of LIC's public listing.

17. Govt. helplines to aid e-commerce firms

Note: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently launched helpline numbers for E – Commerce. The helpline will aid in smooth functioning of e – commerce supply chains. Wholesaler, manufacturers, transporters, E – commerce companies facing transport difficulties, mobilization of resources and distribution of goods. It is essential to maintain the supply chain of E – Commerce sector, especially during the pandemic times. The helpline will contribute to the growth of government initiatives such as Startup India, Skill India, Digital India, Make in India.

18. Investment in India Agri Start – Ups – Recent Trends

Note: The AgFunder and Omnivore, a capital released the “India AgriFood Startup – Investment Report”. According to the report, the investment in agri and food tech start ups increased by 97% in 2020-21. It increased to 2.1 billion USD. The investments are mainly driven by restaurant funding. The investment in the agri tech and food tech investments doubled. It was 1.1 billion USD in 2019-20. The number deals signed

by the startups increased from 133 in 2019-20 to 189 in 2020 – 21. The restaurant market places raised 1.33 billion USD. It is 64% of total agri food tech funding.

19. Varanasi fast emerging as an agri export hub

Note: The commerce ministry's arm APEDA identified potential districts in Uttar Pradesh, for covering it under the Varanasi Agri-Export Hub (VAEH) in a bid to promote exports from that region. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has started initiatives for promoting exports from Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh, by developing VAEH. Purvanchal region of the state comprises districts of Varanasi, Mirzapur, Prayagraj, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur, Basti, Chandauli, Jaunpur, and Sant Ravidas Nagar.

20. Koppal Toy Cluster to be operational in March

Note: The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the first such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022. KTC is being set up by Aequus Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequus Pvt. Ltd. Six toy and toy-component makers have signed MoUs with Aequus 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.

21. IRDAI guidelines on Surety Insurance

Note: The IRDAI recently issued guidelines for surety insurance. Under the guidelines, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has capped the surety insurance to 10% of the premium. And the maximum threshold was set to five hundred crores of rupees. Surety insurance are guarantees without collateral. It protects the lender against default by contractor, failure of projects or poor services. The guidelines say that the surety or guarantee shall not exceed 30% of project value. Only the insurance registered under the Insurance act shall issue surety insurance.

22. Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS)

Note: Wholly-owned subsidiary of national Payments Corporation of India, NPCI BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) introduced a unique functionality called “Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS) with the aim of enriching and simplifying bill payments in India. UPMS will help the customers to set up standing instructions, for any mode and from any channel on their recurring bill payments. Bills will be fetched automatically from the billers and will be presented to customers for their action, in terms of bill payment and auto-debit management.

23. 2021 Gold Import in India

Note: India reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021. India bought more than double tonnage, as compared to previous tonnage, as a price drop favoured retail buyers. 2021 gold import bill got doubled the \$22 billion, which were spent in 2020. It also surpassed the previous high set in 2011. In 2011,

\$53.9 billion gold import was reported. India imported 1,050 tonnes of gold in 2021, in volume term. It is far

more than 430 tonnes import in 2020.

1st to 31st December 2021

1. Incentive scheme for RuPay debit card, UPI payment gets approval

Note: Aiming to promote digital transactions and incentivise users having Rupay debit cards and BHIM unified payments interface (UPI) system, the union cabinet on Wednesday approved reimbursement of ₹ 1,300 crore on such transactions. Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government by paying a percentage of the value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of ₹1,300 crore for one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021. The scheme has been formulated in compliance with the Budget announcements (FY 2021-22) by the Government to further boost digital transactions in the country.

2. India's first Green Hydrogen Microgrid Projects to be set up in Andhra

Note: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has awarded a standalone fuel-cell based Green Hydrogen Microgrid Project at Simhadri in Andhra Pradesh. This will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the world's largest. It would be a precursor to large scale hydrogen energy storage projects and would be useful for studying and deploying multiple microgrids in various off-grid and strategic locations of the country. The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby Floating Solar project.

3. Wholesale inflation record high in November

Note: According to government data, annual wholesale price-based inflation in India had accelerated to a record high in November 2021. The wholesale price inflation, a proxy figure for producers' prices, accelerated by increases in manufacturing and food prices. Thus, it raised concerns of rising inflationary pressure. Annual wholesale price-based inflation increased to 14.23% in November. It was highest since April 2005. In October 2021, this figure was 12.54%. The Wholesale inflation has remained in double-digits for the eighth consecutive month, while headline retail inflation was around 5%, or within the target of 2% to 6% by central bank.

4. ADB scales down India growth estimate further to 9.7% in FY22

Note: The Asian Development Bank for the second time in three months has scaled down India's

growth estimate for the fiscal year ending March 2022 due to supply chain issue of industries. The Manila-based multilateral development bank pegged India's growth estimate at 9.7% for the current fiscal year in its latest supplement. The ADB had projected a growth rate of 10% for FY22 in its September supplement.

5. NITI Aayog launches 'e-Sawaari India e-bus Coalition'

Note: The National Institution of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog launched the 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI). The objective of the initiative is to share knowledge of various stakeholders – Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India.

6. Power ministry approves new inter-state projects worth Rs 15,893 crore

Note: Union power minister, R K Singh, approved 23 new inter-state transmission system projects of worth Rs 15,893 crore. The new inter-state transmission system (ISTS) projects comprise 13 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 14,766 crore to be developed under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) and 10 projects with an estimated cost of Rs 1,127 crore to be developed under Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM). The new transmission projects will facilitate: Evacuation system for 14 GW of renewable projects in Rajasthan; 5 GW of RE projects in Gujarat; 1 GW Neemuch Solar Park in Madhya Pradesh and Feeding areas near Akhnoor & Jammu region by setting up a Siot Substation in Jammu.

7. Cabinet approves Ken-Betwa River interlinking project

Note: Union Cabinet approved the Ken-Betwa River interlinking project, ahead of elections to major North Indian states. Ken-Betwa River Interlinking project is worth Rs 44,605-crore project. This project promises to address the issue of water scarcity in Bundelkhand region, spreading across Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Uttar Pradesh (UP). This project is expected to benefit several poverty-stricken regions in MP and UP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally lay the foundation stone for this project soon. Out of total

Rs 44,605 crore for the project, central government will provide the support of Rs 39,317 crore. It covers a grant of Rs 36,290 crore and a loan of Rs 3,027 crore.

8. Airports to get facial recognition from 2022

Note: The air passengers can use a face scan as their boarding pass from 2022. The first airports to roll out the facility are Kolkata, Pune, Varanasi and Vijayawada. The NEC Corporation Private Limited has been chosen by the Airport Authority of India to implement the project. The details of face recognition data are to be stored in Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem. To avail the service, the passenger has to send PNR, pax details and facial biometrics to the Biometric Boarding System of the departing airport through a mobile application. The passenger can also choose not to opt for the service. The Facial recognition is to be done using software designed by National Institute of Standards and Technology.

9. Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart

Note: Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development of the Government of India (MoRD), for their ambitious Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program, to help empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) – especially those that are led by women – by bringing them into the e-commerce fold. The partnership is aligned with the DAY-NRLM's goal of strengthening the capabilities of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship, thus providing further impetus to the Prime Minister's vision of an "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

10. ADB approved a USD 350 million loan to improve India's urban services

Note: Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a Rs 2653.05 crore (USD 350 million) policy-based loan to improve urban services in India. This loan supports the policies formulated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to benefit the urban poor, economically weaker sections, and low-income groups. ADB will also provide knowledge and advisory support to MoHUA in program implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The loan supports the policies established by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to accelerate universal coverage of piped water supply and improved sanitation. This is part of the recently launched national programme Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 and to provide affordable housing to all, including poor, urban

migrant and industrial workers, under the flagship mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

11. Fitch Ratings cuts India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast to 8.4%

Note: Fitch Ratings has slashed India's economic growth forecast in the financial year 2021-22 (FY22) to 8.4 per cent and raised the growth projection to 10.3 per cent for FY23, compared to October 2021 rating projections of 8.7 per cent (FY22) and 10 per cent (FY23). India's GDP grew 11.4 per cent in the Q2 FY22 over the April-June quarter of FY22 on a seasonally adjusted basis. The economy has contracted 4 per cent in the April-June quarter in FY22 over the fourth quarter of FY23. Indian economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in FY21 due to COVID-19. The rating agency has expected the headline inflation to average 4.9 per cent in 2022 and 4.2 per cent in 2023, from 5 per cent in 2021. In India, less than one-third of the population is fully vaccinated and the new Omicron variant poses a new risk to the recovery.

12. Goldman Sachs : India's GDP to grow 9.1% in 2022

Note: Wall Street brokerage, Goldman Sachs has estimated India's GDP growth at 9.1 per cent in 2022. After India's economy contracted by a sharp 7 per cent in 2020, Goldman Sachs pegged the economy to grow at 8 per cent in 2021 and 9.1 per cent in 2022. It earlier estimated India's economic growth to 11.1 per cent in the fiscal year to March 31, 2022.

13. IMF Announces Global Debt Record as \$226 Trillion in 2020

Note: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has announced that the Global debt raised a record \$226 trillion in 2020 as the world was hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and a deep recession. Global debt rose by 28 percentage points to 256 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2020. IMF's latest Global Debt Database figures the 2020's debt as the largest 1-year debt surge since World War II. According to IMF, the public debt rose from 70 percent of GDP in 2007 to 124 percent of GDP in 2020 and the private debt rose at a moderate pace from 164 percent to 178 percent of GDP in 2020. The gap between the global financing divide and COVID-19 Pandemic is demanding strong, effective international cooperation and support for the developing countries.

14. BPCL Collaborates with BARC to boost Green Hydrogen Production

Note: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to boost Alkaline Electrolyser technology for Green Hydrogen production. This is a first of its kind initiative to support India's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets

and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Note-India has set a target towards zero-emission cars by 2040. Currently, India is dependent on import of Electrolyser Plants and uses the Steam Reforming process for refining Hydrogen from Natural gases, but this results in high Co2 emission.

15. LIC got Approval from RBI to hike stake up to 9.99% in IndusInd Bank

Note: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has received approval from the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) to increase its stake to 9.99 per cent in IndusInd Bank of the total issued and paid-up capital of the private sector lender. The approval will be valid for 1 year i.e. up to December 8, 2022. At present, LIC holds a 4.95 percent stake in the IndusInd Bank.

16. India-ITU Launch Joint Cyber Drill 2021

Note: The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) operating under the Ministry of Communications conducted a 'Joint Cyber Drill 2021'. It was conducted for the Critical Network Infrastructure (CNI) operators of India. It is a four-day virtual event that will take place from November 30 to December 3, 2021. The CNIs are the systems, assets and networks that are essential to ensure the security of a country.

17. Gujarat with 15.9% Manufacturing Growth became India's Largest Manufacturing Hub

Note: In accordance with the data by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Gujarat has surpassed Maharashtra to become India's leading manufacturing hub. It's Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grew 15.9% annually between FY12 to FY20 to Rs 5.11 lakh crore. GVA indicates economic growth in supply of goods and services. It is GDP minus net product taxes. In terms of manufacturing, Maharashtra is followed by Tamil Nadu with a GVA of Rs 3.43 lakh crore at 3rd spot, Karnataka (4th) at Rs 2.1 lakh crore, and Uttar Pradesh-UP (5th) at Rs 1.87 lakh crore. India's cumulative manufacturing GVA grew to Rs 16.9 lakh crore in FY20 stating an annual growth rate of 9.7% since FY12.

18. SBI Listed USD 650-million Green Bonds on India INX and LuxSE

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) listed its USD 650-million green bonds simultaneously on the India International Exchange (India INX) and the Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE). This dual listing is in line with 2021's topic of the World Investor Week (WIW), 'sustainable finance', as indicated by the regulatory body International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). The listing of green bonds with the LuxSE will open up new avenues for market development and fundraising opportunities in the green bond space.

India INX will work towards establishing a green corridor with Luxembourg to enable Indian Issuers to automatically qualify for dual listing with LuxSE to get investors from Europe and the globe.

19. LIC, GIC, New India Assurance are Domestic Systemically Important Insurers for 2021-22

Note: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) said that Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Co Ltd continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2021-22. D-SIIs are insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global interconnectedness whose distress or failure could cause a significant turbulence in the domestic financial system. The IRDAI stated that the continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the availability of insurance services.

20. Rajnath Singh unveils 27 border infrastructure projects

Note: Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated 24 bridges and three roads, which have been constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). These bridges and roads have been constructed across four States and two Union Territories in India. On the occasion, Defence Minister commended BRO for completing these projects, despite the challenges of high altitudes and sub-zero temperatures. Minister also announced to set up of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 places, under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

21. India to become 3rd largest economy in 2031: CEBR

Note: The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) from the United Kingdom has predicted that the Indian economy will become the world's third-largest by the year 2031. In the year 2022, India is set to regain its sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France, as per CEBR. In the year 2020, India's GDP had witnessed a contraction of 7.3% due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown leading to constraints on economic activity.

22. Kanpur Metro rail project - facilities, technology used and the politics

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Kanpur and inaugurate the completed section of Kanpur Metro Rail Project. Prime Minister will also inaugurate "Bina-Panki multi-product pipeline project". later, he will address the 54th convocation ceremony of IIT-Kanpur. Kanpur Metro is a rail-based mass transit system. It is under construction for the city of Kanpur. The project is extendable to the Kanpur metropolitan area. The feasibility study for this project was done

in June 2015 by RITES. Under the project, metro will run for a distance of 32 kilometres. It is being built at a cost of Rs 11000 crore.

23. CCI approves acquisition of Air India stake by Tata sons

Note: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of Air India, Air India SATS Airport and Air India Express by Talace, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons. Air India, along with AIXL, is primarily engaged in business of providing domestic scheduled air passenger transport service, air cargo transport services and international scheduled air passenger transport service. Air India SATS Airport Services is engaged in providing ground handling services at airports in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mangaluru and

Thiruvananthapuram. It also provides cargo handling services at Bengaluru airport.

24. DPIIT Launches Hackathon for Logistics

Note: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform's (ULIP) Hackathon called 'LogiXtics' for crowdsourcing more ideas for the benefit of logistics industry. ULIP is designed for enhancing efficiency and reducing logistics cost across India. This objective will be reduced by creating a transparent platform which will provide real time information to all the stakeholders and remove all asymmetry information.

ULIP Hackathon – LogiXtics is being organised by NITI Aayog and Atal Innovation Mission.

November -2021

1. Labour Ministry Modified base year in Wage Rate Index (WRI)

Note: Recently, Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) with base year 2016. The Wage Rate Index (WRI) is being compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau. New series of WRI with base 2016=100 is going to replace old series with base 1963-65. Central government periodically revises base year for major economic indicators for reflecting the changes in economy and for capturing wage pattern of workers. This time, the WRI base year has been revised on the recommendations of National Statistical Commission, International Labour Organization etc. in order to enhance the coverage and to make index more representative.

2. 2nd Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hub inaugurated

Note: 2nd edition of the summit on Global Chemicals & Petrochemicals Manufacturing Hub (GCPMH) was inaugurated. During the inaugural session, Union Minister Chemicals & Fertilisers stated that, hard work and perseverance of the Government will help in transforming India into a global chemical & petrochemical manufacturing hub. Summit on "India: GCPMH 2021" is one of the significant events in the Chemical and Petrochemical Industry. The summit highlights the potential of Indian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Sector to the world. Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are participating as Partner States in the event.

3. Rs 10,000 crore allotted for MGNREGA scheme

Note: Central government allotted more of Rs 10000 crore on November 25, 2021 for MGNREGA Scheme. While allotting the fund, central government stated that, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) is a demand-driven

scheme. Government also clarified that during financial year 2021-2022, more than 240 crore person-days has been generated, so far. Furthermore, more than Rs 68,568 crore released for implementing the scheme in States and UTs. Central government has increased the fund allocations for financial year 2021-22 by 18 percent as compared to the last financial year as budget estimate. Ministry had allocated Rs 50,000 crore additional funds for MGNREGA scheme above the Budget Estimate, so far. Recently, Ministry of Finance allocated additional funds of Rs 10,000 crore for the scheme as an interim measure.

4. The NBFID Will Begin Operations

Note: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID) plans to begin lending operations with 190-200 large infrastructure projects in the road, rail, and energy sectors. K V Kamath, the newly appointed Chairman of NBFID, made the announcement. The central government announced the selection of K V Kamath as chairperson of the newly established NBFID. The NBFID was established with the goal of catalysing investment in India's fund-strapped infrastructure industry. There are 193 projects worth more than Rs 1,000 crore in the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP). NBFID was set up as a corporate body, with an authorised share capital of one lakh crore rupees.

5. Coal Ministry constitutes Sustainable Development Cell

Note: Ministry of coal has constituted a "Sustainable Development Cell", in line with the commitment of clean energy. The Sustainable Development Cell was constituted in the backdrop of Prime Minister's announcement on new climate targets at COP26 under 'Panchamrit Strategy'. Ministry emphasised on to put major thrust on Sustainable Development

in coal mining, by taking care of the environmental and social impact of the mining. Ministry of coal has established a full-fledged Sustainable Development Cell (SDC) to mentor, advice, and plan action of minimising adverse impact of mining. It will also formulate future policy framework for environmental mitigation in Coal sector as well as Lignite sector in India. Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries along with NLC India Ltd., & Singareni Coal Company Ltd. (SCCL) has already started the extensive work.

6. SEBI releases investor charter

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) released the investor charter that was proposed in the Union Budget 2021-2022 with the aim of protecting investors from misselling of financial products. This charter (for investors in the Indian securities market) includes the rights and responsibilities of investors, and dos and don'ts of investing in the securities market. The charter has been published to protect the "interests of investors by enabling them to understand the risks involved and invest in a fair, transparent, secure market, and to get services in a timely and efficient manner.

7. 70% informal workers SC, ST, OBCs: e-Shram

Note: On India's first centralised database of unorganised workers, e-Shram portal, more than 7.86 crore registrations have been done till date. Out of this number, 40.5 percent belong to Other Backward Classes (OBCs), 27.4 percent general category, 23.7 percent scheduled castes (SCs) and 8.3 percent to scheduled tribes (STs). These estimations are significant as they offer an indicator of social profile of informal sector workers in India. As per 2011 census, population share of SCs was 16.2 per cent and that for STs was 8.2 per cent. The count of OBCs is not detailed in 2011 Census. However, as per a survey conducted in 2007 by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) had estimated the population share of OBCs as 40.9 per cent.

8. World's largest solar power park in Bhadla

Note: Bhadla Solar Park, located in Rajasthan, is the World's largest solar power park. The solar park is located in Bhadla, a dry & sandy region in Rajasthan. It spans over 14,000 acres. The Park comprises of 10 million solar panels at the park. These solar panels contribute to an operational capacity of 2245 MW. As of 2020, Bhadla solar park is largest solar park worldwide. It is spread over an area of 5,700 hectares in Bhadla, Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Park has a total capacity of 2245 MW. It had witnessed the lowest bid for solar power in India at Rs 2.44 per kilowatt-hour.

9. Centre approves incentives for sugar, cotton, jute farmers

Note: Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a slew of measures that will support farmers growing sugar, cotton and jute. The CCEA increased the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane juice for blending in petrol to ₹63.45 a litre. Ethanol blending with petrol is expected to reach 10% next year and 20% by 2025. CCEA also approved a committed price support of Rs. 17,408.85 crore for the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Price support will be provided as reimbursement for its losses occurred in past seven years in procuring crops from farmers at minimum support prices (MSP). Cotton Corporation of India Limited is engaged in diverse activities related to trade, procurement, and export of cotton. It is a public sector agency which is responsible for equitable distribution of cotton across different constituents of the industry.

10. Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators launched

Note: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the first-ever Mentorship programme on November 8, 2021. The mentorship programme was launched for Young Innovators for marking 75th Year of India's independence. This mentorship programme will help in promoting scientific temper among masses, by strengthening scientific research & innovation efforts in India. The programme is a pan India Scheme, which envisages Star College in every district supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT). This programme will help towards the concept of networking, outreach and hand holding.

11. India ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics: SBI report

Note: According to SBI report the number of bank branches per 100,000 adults in India rose to 14.7 in 2020 from 13.6 in 2015, which is higher than Germany, China and South Africa. India is now ahead of China in financial inclusion metrics, with mobile and internet banking transactions rising to 13,615 per 1,000 adults in 2020 from 183 in 2015. States having higher Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts balances have reported decline in crime. Number of 'Banking Outlets in Villages - BCs' has increased from 34,174 in March 2010 to 12.4 lakh in December 2020.

12. Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL Launches Model Retail Outlet Scheme

Note: Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) launched the Model Retail Outlet Scheme and a Digital Customer Feedback Program named. The scheme was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs. The scheme was inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas &

Housing and Urban Affairs. The scheme involves a 5 Level evaluation process of over 70000 retail outlets in the country upon core services, facility parameters and standard of customer amenities.

13. ADB Funds \$300 Million to Improve Primary Health Care in India

Note: The union govt and ADB have signed a \$300 million loan pact to improve primary health care in urban areas. The project will benefit over 256 million across 13 states, including 51 million people from slum areas. The programme will be implemented in urban areas across 13 states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and West Bengal. The programme is supported by a \$2 million technical assistance grant from ADB's Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction for program implementation, capacity building, innovation, knowledge sharing across the healthcare system. Delivery and health information systems for primary health care will be upgraded through digital tools, quality assurance mechanisms, and engagement and partnership with the private sector.

14. NPCI Bharat BillPay onboards Tata Power as the first power company on ClickPay

Note: NPCI Bharat BillPay announced its integration with Tata Power on ClickPay - making it the first power company to go live on the newly launched platform. Tata Power is the first power company which will provide services on the NBBL ClickPay platform. Through this agreement, ClickPay will enable Tata Power customers to make monthly electricity bill payments.

15. HPCL partners IDFC FIRST Bank for fuel payments using FASTags

Note: IDFC FIRST Bank partnered Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) enabling bank's FASTag customers to facilitate fuel payments of passenger vehicles at HPCL's retail outlets using the bank's FASTags via HP PAY app. Also, IDFC FIRST Bank's FASTags can be bought, recharged and replaced by passenger vehicle users at select HPCL retail outlets. This tie-up will benefit about five million customers by making transit-related payments simpler. The agreement for the same was signed in Mumbai (Maharashtra) at an event attended by the senior management of HPCL and IDFC FIRST Bank.

16. SIDBI launches 2nd window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund

Note: SIDBI launched the second window of Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) which aims to provide financial support to non-profit organizations, educational institutions for addressing developmental gaps. This edition themes are aligned with attaining net zero emissions by

2070, as per the commitments made by India at 26th UN (United Nations) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26). Therefore, 'Green Bharat' is the prioritised theme for the same. In this regard, this 2nd SCF focuses on green, clean and efficient climate change. This fund is a part of Swavalamban Resource Facility (SRF) being implemented by SIDBI in partnership with Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Kingdom (UK).

17. WB and ADB launches 'WePOWER India Partnership Forum'

Note: The WePOWER India Partnership Forum was held through a virtual platform to boost South Asia Women in Power Sector Professional Network (WePOWER) in India. The event was organized by the World Bank (WB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) in association with the India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF). It was attended by 168 energy sector stakeholders. The event saw a panel discussion on expanding job opportunities for women in India's Clean Energy Transition'.

18. Tata Projects bags \$120mn order for Power Transmission Project in Bangladesh

Note: Tata Projects Limited secured an order on a turnkey basis from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB) for a 400kV (kilovolt) double circuit transmission line project worth Rs \$120 million (around Rs 900 crores). ii.It is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura in Bangladesh to be executed in 30 months. The funding for the same will be provided by EXIM (Export Import) Bank India under Indian Line of Credit (LoC).

19. SEBI amends Mutual Fund Norms to launch ETFs on Silver

Note: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) notified SEBI (Mutual Funds) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2021 amending the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996 to allow the launch of exchange traded funds (ETFs) on silver. This notification will enable the asset management companies (AMCs) to include silver or silver-related instruments in the investment schemes or initiate 'silver ETF schemes'. iii.It is a mutual fund (MF) scheme which invests primarily in silver or silver-related instruments having silver as the underlying product. It passes on the benefits of price efficiency, liquidity and convenience to retail investors.

20. BSE Tie-up with All India MSME Association to Promote MSMEs Listing

Note: The BSE has signed an MoU with the All India MSME Association (AIMA MSME), to encourage and promote the listing of MSMEs and start-ups. Under the partnership, both the entities will raise awareness among MSMEs for listing on the exchange's SME segment by hosting roadshows and events across India. BSE became the 1st stock

exchange to get approval from SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) to launch its SME platform in March 2012. So far, 353 companies listed on the BSE SME Platform have raised Rs 3,732 crore from the market, and the total market capitalisation of such firms stood at Rs 40,716 crore.

21. TVS Motor Became 1st Indian 2-wheeler Maker to Join United Nations Global Compact

Note: TVS Motor Company, the flagship company of TVS Group, has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. TVS Motor has become the 1st Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to join the UNGC. UNGC is a

voluntary initiative based on CEO commitments to implement universal sustainability principles and to take efforts to support the UN goals.

22. PGIM India MF Launches India's First Global Real Estate Securities Fund

Note: PGIM India Mutual Fund has announced the launch of PGIM India Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund of Fund, an open-ended equity fund of fund scheme investing in PGIM Global Select Real Estate Securities Fund. The minimum amount required to invest in this NFO is Rs 5000 and after that in multiples of Re 1. The fund-of-fund will be managed by Ravi Adukia, an Equity Analyst and dedicated Fund Manager for overseas investments.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1st to 7th March 2022

1. According to the second advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), **8.9%** would be the India's GDP growth rate in FY 2021-22.

Note: Gross Value-Added (GVA) is expected to grow by 8.3% this financial year, from 4.8% contraction in 2020-21. India's GDP shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, with the first half of the year recording a sharp contraction.

2. The government of India has approved **up to 20 percent** of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under 'automatic route' in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.

Note: It is aimed at attracting long-term foreign investors to the issue. IPO – An IPO is the selling of securities (shares of the company) to the public in the primary market (usually to institutional investors and retail investors).

3. Recently Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) of **\$ 125 billion**.

Note: The Bank of Japan, acting as an agent for the Minister of Finance Japan, and the RBI signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the bilateral swap agreement (BSA). Essentially, BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for dollars.

4. Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with Mahagram to roll out 'Bank Sakhi' project in **Odisha**.

Note: As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores

5. In association with **HDFC Bank** the NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India

launched trading in India's first Un-sponsored Depository Receipts.

Note: This will offer Indian retail investors an opportunity to invest in the US stocks, listed on exchanges like NYSE and NASDAQ, in an easy and affordable way. NSE-IFSC kick-started trading in 8 prominent US stocks such as Alphabet, Amazon, Tesla, Meta Platforms (Facebook), Microsoft, Netflix, Apple and Walmart.

6. **Mahindra Group** has announced a collaboration with Google Cloud to fuel the conglomerate's digital transformation strategy and its next phase of business growth.

Note: Mahindra Group's Digital, Data and Cloud Center of Excellence, referred to as Mahindra Digital Engine (MDE), will leverage Google Cloud's "secure and reliable" infrastructure and advanced data analytics technology to drive innovation across the group's multiple business units, including its core operations, its customer-facing channels, and its employee experience.

7. **Reliance Group** has announced invest Rs 1670 cr to create a joint venture (JV) with U.S.-listed Sanmina Corp for making electronic products in Chennai.

Note: The JV aims to make hardware for 5G communications, cloud infrastructure, healthcare systems, and defense and aerospace, Reliance said in a regulatory filing. Reliance will hold a 50.1 per cent stake in the JV after the investment in Sanmina's existing Indian entity through a Reliance unit. Sanmina will contribute its existing contract manufacturing business to the JV.

8. **Tata Motors** has launched 'Anubhav,' showroom on wheels, a doorstep car buying experience for the rural customers.

Note: Tata Motors' Anubhav showroom on wheels was developed with assistance from the company's

Commercial Vehicles Fully Built Vehicles (FBV) Division. The showroom on wheels is based on the Tata Intra V10 and will be operated by dealerships under the company's guidance and supervision.

9. Payment wallet, **Paytm** has partnered with IRCTC to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations.

Note: It is the first time that Indian Railways is providing a digital payment option for providing ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs. QR codes can be scanned on ATVMs installed at railway stations. Paytm Passengers have multiple payment options like Paytm UPI, Wallet, Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later), etc

10. **Axis Bank** has committed a USD 150 million (about Rs 1,140 crore) loan for strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the country in association with IPE Global.

Note: The continued threat of new variants has reinforced the need to boost investments and partnerships in the health sector. Axis Bank has committed to strengthening India's healthcare infrastructure by signing an MoU with IPE Global for the SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility

11. **HPCL** has signed a pact with Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) for cooperation and collaboration in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels.

Note: The MOU envisages cooperation and collaboration in the field of Renewable Energy, Electric Mobility, and alternative fuels including the development of ESG Projects. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) inked pact for renewable energy, electric mobility, alternative fuels.

12. **Indian Overseas Bank** has sanctioned a loan of Rs 1,000 crore to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Ltd (JKIDFC).

Note: Indian Overseas Bank is one of the First Public Sector Banks to lend to Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation Limited, which is incorporated to complete various projects belonging to various departments like Agriculture Production, Animal Husbandry, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce Department, Jal Shakti Department, Public Works Department, School Education Department etc.

13. **Reserve Bank of India** has chosen the Intellect Design Arena Limited to implement the upgraded version of the 'Cloud-Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution' to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda.

Note: The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices

architecture supported by a rich set of packaged business components. It supports over 100 million transactions, over 250 commercial banks, 35 state government and union territories along with a number of Central Government ministries.

14. **Microsoft** is establishing its largest data center in India in Hyderabad in collaboration with the Telangana govt.

Note: It will be one of the largest data centres in India (operational by 2025). Microsoft already has a data centre in three Indian regions across Pune, Mumbai, and Chennai. The new data centre will add to the growing demand for Microsoft's cloud services from both the private enterprises as well as the govt sector.

15. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has signed an MoU with Indian Banks Association (IBA) to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.

Note: The MoU was signed during the workshop on 'Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public Faith' organised jointly by IBBI, SBI (State Bank of India) and IBA at New Delhi. The timely resolution of insolvency cases can be undertaken by the Committee of Creditors (CoC) and Resolution Professionals / Interim Resolution Professionals (IRPs).

16. **Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank** has announced a strategic partnership to introduce a series of innovative financial offerings and digital services.

Note: These include a co-branded credit card, pre-approved instant loans, and Buy Now Pay Later offerings. 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card' has been launched to offer a host of benefits such as cashback, special discounts, digital vouchers and complimentary services to Airtel customers.

17. **Reserve Bank of India** has launched a booklet named "BE(A)WARE" to enhance public awareness about financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers.

Note: The booklet gives information on the common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions. The booklet elaborates on safeguards against commonly used fraudulent techniques, such as SIM swaps, vishing/phishing links, lottery, etc., including fake loan websites and digital apps.

18. **Zeta**, the banking technology company has announced a 5-year global partnership with Mastercard.

Note: As part of the agreement, the firms will go-to-market jointly to launch credit cards with issuers worldwide on Zeta's modern, cloud-native, and fully API-ready credit processing stack. Mastercard has underscored the partnership by making a financial investment in Zeta.

19. Google Cloud and **Flipkart** has have entered into a multi-year strategic partnership to help fast-track its innovation and cloud strategy.

Note: This partnership will propel Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India's next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers, the company claims. By leveraging Google Cloud's secure and scalable global infrastructure and advanced networking technologies, Flipkart aims to deliver robust app access and performance even during peak purchase seasons with heightened traffic.

20. **HDFC Mutual Fund** has launched a women-led financial empowerment initiative 'LaxmiForLaxmi' which will connect women investors to a woman financial expert near them through a unique missed call service.

Note: The female financial expert will guide and address queries of the woman investor. The initiative is based on the fact that it is very easy for a person to understand a concept when it is taught by someone who understands them and is like-minded. The #LaxmiForLaxmi initiative is a financial empowerment campaign for women, by women.

February 2022

1. Public sector company, **GAIL (India) Limited** has begun India's maiden project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore.

Note: This is a first-of-its-kind project in the country. The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) company with HPCL, operating in Indore.

2. E-wallet company, **Paytm** has introduced "India's first" intelligent messenger called 'Pops'.

Note: 'Pops' Messenger will allow its user to receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place. It will also serve as a marketplace to offer sophisticated stock recommendations, new insights and new services.

3. Direct to Home (DTH) platform, **Tata Sky** has rebranded itself with a new name and identity and will now be called as **Tata Play**.

Note: The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content centric channel packs as well. With the OTT combo packs, Tata Play users will be able to get a subscription to both the OTT platforms in the Binge service as well as the normal TV channels. Tata Play Binge will hosts content from 13 leading OTT apps through a single User Interface while offering the flexibility of single subscription and payment.

4. **State Bank of India** has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - Surya Shakti Cell in collaboration with Tata Power Solar Systems.

Note: The Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across India, for installation by business entities as well as households. With this digital initiative, SBI will offer a complete solution at competitive rates for Solar projects.

5. **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd** has acquired 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL).

Note: NVVN has purchased the shares of PXIL from NSE Investment, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL. NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL would enable a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a good position in the power trading market.

6. **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation** has marked its foray into non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under brand name HaPpyShop.

Note: Located at the company-owned retail outlet at the upmarket Nepean Sea Road near Malabar Hills, this is the company's latest offering at its "Club HP" retail outlet. The store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.

7. With **₹5000 crores** initial authorized capital the Government of India sets up a National Land Monetisation Corporation.

Note: So far, CPSEs have referred 3,400 acres of land and other non-core assets for monetisation from CPSEs including MTNL, BSNL, BPCL, B&R, BEML, HMT Ltd, Instrumentation Ltd. Top five sectors including roads, railways, power, oil and gas pipelines and telecom account for around 83 per cent of the aggregate value.

8. In Phase I of its operation the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or bad bank **Rs 50,000 crore** aggregate amount of about 15 accounts will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year.

Note: A total of 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially. In the Phase I 15 accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year.

9. Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of ₹8000 crore with **Union Bank of India** to take over majority of

the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders.

Note: During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10Kcr with State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5 per cent. This replacement facility was availed on Dec 2021 to take over the existing Syndicated facility to reduce the overall interest cost of the company.

- 10.** Union Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) with an outlay of **Rs. 1875 crore.**

Note: It is the main source of funding for the preparation of national teams for all major national, international competitions. Funding will be used by National Sports Federations to conduct national coaching camps and provide training of international standards to athletes.

- 11.** **Punjab National Bank** and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Note: The co-branded credit cards are offered on NCPI's RuPay Platform and is available in two variants – PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select. Both the co-branded cards offer a hassle-free credit service to purchase day-to-day Patanjali products, along with cash backs, loyalty points, insurance cover and more.

- 12.** Online platform, **Dukaan** has partnered with Simpl, a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform to provide BNPL services to its merchants.

Note: Simpl is a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform. Dukaan is a Bangalore-based startup that enables D2C and SMB merchants to set up online stores and sell products digitally.

- 13.** According to domestic rating agency CRISIL, **7.8 per cent** will be the real GDP growth in FY 2022-23.

Note: This estimate is owing to Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation. The agency said global growth is expected to slow this year as major economies see a withdrawal of monetary and fiscal stimulus.

- 14.** According to the London-based Brand Finance, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is ranked as **10th** most valued insurance brand globally.

Note: Also, LIC is ranked third in brand strength globally after Poste Italiane of Italy and Mapfre of Spain and is also the 10th most valued insurance brand globally. The market value of LIC will become Rs 43.40 lakh crore or \$59.21 billion by 2022, and Rs 58.9-lakh crore or \$78.63 billion by 2027.

- 15.** In February 2022, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of **Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd.**

Note: Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on February 03, 2022. The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

- 16.** **SBI** has signed a tripartite MoU with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts and National Culture Fund for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi.

Note: The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India. The ABCD project will be implemented by IGNCFA, an autonomous organization under Ministry of Culture through ministry's NCF fund.

- 17.** Ping An Insurance is an insurance company of **China** has been designated as the top most valuable insurance company globally as per the latest Brand Finance report of 2022.

Note: 5 Chinese insurance companies are among the top ten ranking. The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one each in the list. This has Life Insurance Corporation becoming the only domestic insurer to rank in the top 10 list strongest brands and top 10 most valuable insurance brands.

- 18.** **USD 4.6 billion** of sovereign loan has been provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to India in 2021 including USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus response.

Note: This included USD 1.8 billion towards coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic response. The agency extended a USD 2.2-billion support for 12 state projects, committed to its geographically balanced programming. The ADB's India portfolio comprised 69 projects worth USD 15.5 billion as of 31st December 2021.

- 19.** **Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered ICICI Lombard General Insurance to offer Cyber Insurance Solutions to customers.

Note: The cyber insurance solution from ICICI Lombard provides financial protection to customers against potential financial fraud relating to banking, credit or debit card; identity theft; phishing or email spoofing, and more. Airtel Payments Bank customers can purchase this cyber insurance policy using the Airtel Thanks app. This insurance comes with a ZERO waiting period and allows users to make multiple claims multiple times during the policy tenure, within the limits of the insured amount opted for.

- 20.** As per the recently presented Economic Survey 2021-22, **Maharashtra** tops the list of newly recognised startups and unicorns.

Note: Maharashtra alone recognised 11,308 of the fourteen thousand startups that began operations in

- the current financial year. Out of the 44 companies that achieved the unicorn status, 11 are based in the state
- 21. Ministry of Finance has released the monthly Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of Rs. 9,871 crore to 17 States.**
Note: The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of one lakh 18 thousand 452 crore rupees to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22. An amount of over one lakh 8 thousand crore rupees has been released to the eligible States so far.
- 22. Go Digital, Go Secure** is the theme of the theme of Financial Literacy week 2022, observed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 14th to 18th February 2022.
Note: The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
- 23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed Financial Literacy week 2022 from 14th to 18th February.**
Note: The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.
- 24. 10,990.17 crore** was the total corpus under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21.
Note: The disbursement included Rs 1,000 crore for migrant welfare and over Rs 1,392 crore for procurement of Covid vaccine doses. The fund recorded nearly Rs 494.91 crore as foreign contributions and over Rs 7,183 crore as voluntary contributions during the fiscal.
- 25. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry USD 339.55 billion** of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, India has received in the last five years.
Note: There has been a continuous increase in the inflow of FDI in recent years. It increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 81.97 billion in 2020-21. During the year 2019-20, the FDI inflows to India stood at USD 74.39 billion. In 2018-19, it stood at USD 62 billion. In 2017-18, it was USD 60.97 billion and in 2016-17, the FDI inflow to India stood at USD 60.22 billion.
- 26. The Reserve Bank of India** ranks 2nd in terms of buying Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
Note: Central Bank of Thailand (Bank of Thailand) was the highest buyer of Gold in 2021 and bought 90 metric tonnes of gold. As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metal.
- 27. Razorpay** has bought a majority stake in a Malaysian payments start-up named "Curlec" for a valuation of more than \$19 million.
Note: This is Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and comes just over a month after raising \$375 million in funding. Prior to this, Razorpay acquired TERA Finlabs, Opfin and Thirdwatch. The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses.
- 28. Social media platform, Instagram** has launched the campaign named 'Take a Break'.
Note: Take a Break will alert users scrolling on Instagram to periodically take breaks from the platform and focus on other things. The platform will also alert users of the new inclusion with a notification.
- 29. The increased limit on the e-RUPI digital voucher** from current cap of ₹10,000 to **₹100,000**.
Note: This was announced by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das. The move will further facilitate the delivery of various government schemes to the beneficiaries more efficiently, he added. The e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was launched in August 2021 and runs on the UPI platform.
- 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a conservative real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent** in FY23.
Note: While announcing the review of the monetary policy on Friday, the six-member monetary policy committee of the RBI retained the growth forecast for FY22 at 9.5 per cent, while CPI inflation projection was revised downward, from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.
- 31. As per the latest Monetary Policy** released by the RBI, **₹3 crore** would be the NACH mandate limit for TReDS settlements that will fulfill the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs.
Note: Governor Shaktikanta Das said it will increase National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) settlements from Rs 1 crore at present to Rs 3 crore. Transactions in TReDS are settled through the NACH system. This was proposed keeping in view the requests received from stakeholders and to further enhance the ease of financing and the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs.
- 32. State Bank of India's** Strategic Training Unit has entered into a partnership with NSE Academy to promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill.

- Note:** Learners can start to enroll from February 9 for the five inaugural Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) of SBI on the NSE Knowledge Hub platform. The five MOOCs that the Bank is offering are: “Banking Fundamentals”, MSME Lending in a Nutshell”. “Electronic Payment System in India”, ”Priority Sector Lending Norms” and “NRI Business & Compliance”.
- 33.** Paisabazaar.com, a digital platform for consumer credit, has tied up with **RBL Bank** to offer ‘Paisa on Demand’ (PoD), a credit card.
Note: The credit card will be exclusively available on the Paisabazaar platform. As per a press release, the credit card from RBL Bank will be lifetime free with a digital onboarding process. Along with features of a credit card, the product will provide customers the option of availing personal loans from RBL Bank, using the same credit limit at normal personal loan rates.
- 34.** Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Ltd has signed a bancassurance agreement with **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank** for the distribution of health insurance products across India through the Bank’s network.
Note: This bancassurance partnership will help further strengthen our distribution and unlock growth opportunities through the Bank’s wide network. This tie-up will help us reach the tier II and tier III markets with insurance solutions thereby increasing insurance penetration in the country. Through the current partnership, ABHICL has 12 bancassurance partners with over 51,120 direct distributors across India.
- 35.** The Reserve Bank of India has increased the investment limit in Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) from Rs. 1,50,000 crores to **Rs. 2,50,000 crores**.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India had introduced the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in debts in 2019 with an investment limit of ₹1,50,000 crore. Out of this, around ₹1,49,995 crore have been availed so far in three tranches.
- 36.** According to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list **5th** is the rank of Mumbai as most congested cities in the world in 2021.
Note: Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list. However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according the report.
- 37.** Public Sector Undertaking, **RailTel** has won the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) award for excellence in financial reporting for the year 2020-21 in Public Sector Entities Category.
Note: The company was adjudged as winner in the category plaque. The award was given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the premier accounting body which has been holding the annual competition for these awards since 1958.
- 38. Axis Bank** is set to buy Citigroup Inc.’s India retail banking business in a transaction that could be valued at about \$2.5 billion.
Note: An agreement for the consumer unit may be announced as soon as the next few weeks and is contingent on approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The deal would include a cash component of less than \$2 billion, accounting for the consumer business’s liabilities.
- 39. RBL Bank** has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its ‘Neo Collections’ platform.
Note: The private sector lender will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle. Powered by AI and ML technology, the platform is built to automate strategies for reaching out to customers individually in an empathetic manner and motivate them to repay loan.
- 40. Yes Bank** has announced the launch of an annual startup enabler Agri Infinity program ____ **Yes Bank**.
Note: It seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field. Those meeting the eligibility criteria will receive the guidance and support necessary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain.
- 41. NABARD** has launched ‘JIVA’ programme to promote natural farming, under which it will invest **Rs 50,000** per hectare.
Note: Under this, NABARD will invest Rs 50,000 per hectare. It will be implemented on the existing completed (or near completed) projects of watersheds and wadis programme in around 11 states covering 5 agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas.
- 42. Reliance Jio** has formed a joint venture with **SES, Luxembourg** to provide affordable broadband services in India leveraging satellite technology.
Note: Jio Platforms will own 51% stake in the joint venture while SES, a leading global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider will own 49% stake. The total value of the contract is around \$100 million.
- 43.** In February 2022, **IndusInd Bank** has been empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for transactions between farmers and traders across the country.

Note: Under this arrangement the bank will offer an array of transaction services through digital modes including multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS, and UPI to the buyer and seller of the agriculture produce. As of January 2022, there are over 1.7 crore farmers and more than 1.8 lakh traders who are registered on eNAM and have benefitted from the digital marketplace.

- 44. Karur Vysya Bank** has joined hands with the Chennai-based UNANU Technologies for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors. using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.
Note: UNANU has built the Freight Financing System within their suite of software platforms. Using the module “U-Turbo – a marketplace”, one can on-board logistics companies and shippers to Freight Financing programme.
- 45.** The Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) projected India’s gross domestic product (GDP) deflator for FY23 at **3 to 3.5 percent**.
Note: The Government’s own projection on real GDP growth for FY23 is at 7.6-8.1 percent and the union budget projected nominal GDP growth rate to be 11.1 percent for FY23. Economic Survey 2021-22 projected a real GDP growth rate of 8-8.5 percent in FY23. GDP Projection in the Budget is based on advance estimates of ‘National Statistical Office’ (NSO).
- 46.** Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company, **Dabur India Limited** has become India’s 1st 100% Plastic Waste Neutral company.
Note: It claimed to be the first Indian consumer goods company to achieve this landmark. Dabur has collected, processed and recycled around 27,000 MT of post-consumer plastic waste from all over India in the 2021-22 financial year. Dabur's plastic waste management initiative was rolled out in the year 2017-18.
- 47. Vedanta** has signed an MoU with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) to form a joint venture for manufacturing semiconductors in India.
Note: According to the MOU signed between the two companies, Vedanta will hold the majority of the equity in the joint venture, while Foxconn will be the minority shareholder. This first-of-its-kind joint venture between the two companies will support Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision to create an ecosystem for semiconductor manufacturing in India.
- 48.** IndiGo airline has announced a partnership with **Indian Oil** for its 6E Rewards Ka-ching credit cardholders under which cardholders will earn accelerated reward points of up to 4 per cent on fuel.
Note: Under the partnership, Ka-ching cardholders will earn accelerated reward points of up to 4 per

cent on fuel spends at more than 35,000 IndianOil outlets across the country. With accelerated earnings, Ka-ching cardholders will earn free flight tickets with 6E Rewards from daily fuel purchases.

- 49.** Automobile company, **Renault India** has joined hands with Common Services Center e-Governance Services to support the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan.
Note: To digitally empower citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computers, laptops, browse the internet, access government websites, banking service and undertake digital payments. The aim of the program is to empower rural citizens in the age group of 14 to 60 years.
- 50.** DMI Finance Private Limited has launched a digital personal loan product on **Google Pay** to provide reliable credit access to pre-qualified users of wallet.
Note: Through the partnership, DMI Finance intends to disburse up to Rs 1 lakh per loan, which would be repayable over a maximum of 36 months. The product is being launched across more than 15,000 pin codes. The launch of the loan product will include the advantages of the digital loan disbursement process of DMI Finance and the Google Pay’s customer experience.
- 51.** LKP Securities Ltd has signed an agreement with **HDFC Bank** to offer a special 3-in-1 online account.
Note: The 3-in1 account facilitates swift fund transfer between the bank account and trading account as clients no longer have to go through a lengthy authentication process. To deliver an efficient experience by offering ease of opening trading, demat and bank account in a seamless manner.
- 52.** In association with **PhonePe**, NITI Aayog will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all hackathon that aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the fintech ecosystem.
Note: The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code. It aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the Fintech Ecosystem.
- 53.** As per the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops **316.06 million tonnes** is the estimated food grains production in the year 2021-22.
Note: Further, the production during 2021-22 is higher by 25.35 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of foodgrains. Total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 127.93 million tonnes.
- 54. IndusInd Bank** has been empaneled by the SFAC to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on e-NAM portal for the transactions between farmers and traders across India.

Note: IndusInd Bank has been directly integrated with e-NAM platform to provide safe and hassle free payments, clearing and settlement services to the farmers and traders. Under this arrangement, the bank will offer an array of transaction services through digital modes including multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT, RTGS, IMPS and UPI to the buyer and seller of the agriculture produce.

55. Wealth tech company, Fisdom has partnered with **Bank of Maharashtra** to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank.
Note: This partnership is to distribute the wealth products and services through the bank's network of more than 2,000 branches and its digital platforms, including the mobile banking app and internet banking. The wealth management services will be made accessible to bank customers through both physical and digital mode.
56. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has partnered with Ezetap to provide integrated Point of Sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India.
Note: The initiative will strengthen the bank's presence in the digital payments market space. The partnership will enable it to scale up its PoS product base across merchant segments, including retail enterprises and government customers.
57. Twitter Inc has partnered with **Paytm's payment gateway** to improve the support for its 'Tips' feature in India.
Note: Using the Tips feature, users can send payments to their favourite content creators on twitter. Tips is available since November to all Twitter users above 18 years of age in India. It is available in Indian languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi and Tamil.
58. **Edelweiss Asset Management** has launched eInvest- a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience.
Note: eInvest is an easy-to-use app for investors to give them a smooth investing experience where they can perform all financial transactions and access their investment from anywhere at any time with speed and ease.
59. **TransUnion CIBIL** has launched a MSME consumer education program that will help small businesses gain awareness on credit management, CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information.
Note: It will teach them on how to build good credit history and CIBIL Rank to avail easier and faster loans. It will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura.
60. The NHPC Ltd has set a wholly owned subsidiary named **NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd** for development of renewable energy, small hydro and green hydrogen-based businesses.

Note: The new company -- NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd -- was registered with Registrar of Companies, NCT of Delhi & Haryana. The Subsidiary Company shall develop Renewable Energy Projects either in Stand-alone mode or through formation of Special Purpose Vehicles with collaboration of other agencies.

61. **Bank of Baroda** and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) have launched a co-branded contactless credit card.
Note: The card offers maximum savings to frequent railway travellers and the card users will also get multiple benefits for shopping across other categories like groceries, fuel etc. The card provides 1% transaction fee waiver for the customers on all train ticket bookings and 1% offer as fuel surcharge waiver across all petrol pumps in India. Customers will be provided with 1,000 bonus reward points for purchase worth Rs.1,000 or more within 45 days of card issuance.
62. **Bank of Baroda** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam Rifles to provide 'Central Forces Salary Package'.
Note: Under the agreement, Bank of Baroda will offer the Baroda Central Forces Salary Package to all personnel of the Assam Rifles, both serving and retired. Further, the Bank will also provide special benefits, including Personal Accident Insurance and a co-branded credit card. Assam Rifles is country's oldest paramilitary force.
63. **Tata Power Renewable Energy** has collaborated with Germany-based RWE Renewable GmbH to explore potential for a joint development of offshore wind projects in India.
Note: A corresponding MoU has been signed between Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd and RWE Renewables GmbH, one of the world's leaders in offshore wind. The MoU between Tata Power Renewable Energy and RWE becomes significant in the light of the Central govt's announcement of achieving 30GW of offshore wind installations by 2030.
64. Telecom company, **Bharti Airtel** has joined the SEA-ME-WE-6 undersea cable consortium to scale up its high-speed global network capacity to serve India's fast growing digital economy.
Note: The 19,200 Rkm SEA-ME-WE-6 will connect Singapore and France, and will be amongst the largest undersea cable systems globally. Through SEA-ME-WE-6, Airtel will add 100 TBps capacity to its global network. Airtel will land the SEA-ME-WE-6 cable system in India at new landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.
65. According to India Ratings, **8.6 percent** is the estimated GDP growth rate of India for FY 2021-22.
Note: The National Statistical Organisation (NSO), which has forecast 9.2 per cent real GDP growth for

the year. The major reason for the likely downward revision is the upward revision of FY21 GDP to Rs 135.6 lakh crore in the first revised estimate of national income for FY21, which was released on January 31, 2022.

- 66. HDFC Bank** has collaborated with the Indore Clean Energy Private Ltd for the development of 550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste to Compressed Biogas plant - the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia.
Note: Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd (ICEPL) is promoted by Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), which is the largest climate impact fund in India with anchor investors like NIIF & Government of UK. Earlier on February 19, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the municipal solid waste based Gobar-Dhan plant and dedicated it to the citizens of Indore City, Madhya Pradesh.
- 67. Edelweiss General Insurance** has joined hands with Ashv Finance, a tech-led NBFC present in over 100 locations in India, to offer financial protection to latter's business loan borrowers.
Note: Under this, EGI will utilize Ashv Finance reach of small business owners across India and offer them easy and friendly, tech powered solutions, coupled with superior customer experience. Ashv will offer timely credit to small businesses and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) while EGI will provide health insurance cover to all the customers of Ashv Finance in all major cities across the country.
- 68. TripMoney**, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip has partnered with **SBM Bank** to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card.
Note: "The TripMoney Global card offers multiple value-added benefits including zero forex mark-up, lifetime free validity and 100 per cent digital in-app card management. The card is powered by Visa and can be used across over 150 countries.
- 69. The RBI** has asked the certain class of NBFCs to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' **by Sep 2025** in order to provide seamless customer interface as well as have a centralised data base.
Note: The RBI has decided that NBFCs – Middle Layer and NBFCs – Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 1, 2022 shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS. CFSS is akin to the Core Banking Solution (CBS) adopted by banks.
- 70. As per Moody's Investor Services**, **9%** is the estimated GDP growth forecast for India in the calendar year 2022.
Note: It maintained a forecast for 5.5 per cent growth in CY2023. In its update on Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said sales tax collection, retail activity and Purchasing Managers Index suggest solid momentum.
- 71. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved the re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **IDBI Bank**.
Note: This re-appointment is as per approval of the Reserve Bank of India received in this regard. He was previously appointed as the MD & CEO of the bank in October 2018.
- 72. Union Bank of India** in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched 'MSME RuPay Credit Card' for meeting business related operational expenses of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
Note: It is a first of its kind initiative to provide simplified and digital delivery of Finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to meet their business-related operational expenses. This dedicated card for MSMEs will be available to eligible borrowers of Union Bank of India.
- 73. Standard Chartered** has partnered with International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch payment platform 'IATA Pay' for airline industry in India.
Note: IATA Pay's rollout will enable participating airlines to offer instant payment options like UPI Scan and Pay. Service leverages Unified Payment Interface (UPI), enabling consumers to instantly pay for airline tickets from bank accounts
- 74. New Development Bank** will become first multilateral agency to open an office in Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT).
Note: NDB has received approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City. NDB announced Director General position for India Regional Office and will be responsible for origination-implementation of operations in India
- 75. In a bid to boost the production of biofuel** in the country to curb carbon emissions, among others, agri co-op giant NAFED signed an MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.
Note: The MoU was signed to set-up Bio-fuel projects, Plants for post-processing of products viz Cattle feed & Marketing of end products of CBG. The project will benefit Farmers, communities, and Environment in the region & contribute to Hon. PM vision 2021 for making India a 'Net Zero Emission Country by 2070.
- 76. Paytm Payments Bank Limited** payments bank has become an official acquiring partner for e-RUPI vouchers, further making it accessible at offline stores across the country.
Note: e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via SMS or QR Code. Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account. This will benefit beneficiaries (users), even those who do not have access to formal banking

services or smartphones to avail the convenience of digital payments.

77. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificate of registration issued to **PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd.**

Note: Accordingly, PC Financial Services will not be able to transact the business of a NBFI (Non-Banking Financial Institution). PC Financial Services was primarily engaged in mobile app-based lending operations through an app called 'Cashbean'.

Banking & 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 banksaid 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 Arthim pact 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.

December 2021

- 1. According to the Ministry of Finance, government's debt is estimated to be around 62% of the GDP for the current financial year.**
Note: Government debt is held predominantly in domestic currency. Increasing the buoyancy of tax revenue through improved compliance, mobilisation of resources through monetisation of assets, improving efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure etc are the important measures initiated by Government to control the fiscal deficit and the debt burden.
- 2. Asian Development Bank** has signed a pact with the Government of India to provide a loan of USD 250 million (about Rs 1,872 crore) to support the country's National Industrial Corridor Development Program (NICDP).
Note: The ADB financing supports India's NICDP that aims to develop world-class industrial nodes that are buttressed by efficient urban agglomerations and multimodal connectivity, including international gateways like ports and airports and inclusive, climate-resilient, and sustainable infrastructure.
- 3. IDFC FIRST Bank** has launched India's first standalone metal debit card or black card in partnership with Visa.

Note: It is a lifetime free card to cater the customers of the bank's FIRST Private program. The program offers an unrivalled banking and investment experience to customers and comes with a range of exceptional investment, banking, lifestyle and wellness benefits.

- 4. PhonePe** has launched a health insurance plan, Health@999, for first-time health insurance buyers.
Note: The product has a three-step process requiring users to share information such as name, age, gender, and email ID to buy the policy. The plan will cover expenses including in-patient and ICU hospitalisation, daycare procedures, Ayush treatment, and ambulance charges.
- 5. Asian Development Bank** has approved a \$500 million loan to the Government of India to help improve the quality of the country's school education and mitigate the impact of the Covid-19) pandemic on students' learning.
Note: About 1,800 government schools will be transformed into exemplar schools in Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Exemplar schools will demonstrate quality learning environments and effective learning, which will become a model for

- replication in other government schools across the country.
6. **State Bank of India** has signed a master agreement with Adani Capital for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements, to increase efficiency in farm operations and productivity of crops.
Note: Adani Capital is the non-banking finance company (NBFC) arm of Adani Group. India's largest bank underscored that it is actively looking at co-lending opportunities with multiple NBFCs for financing farm mechanisation, warehouse receipt finance, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) etc., for enhancing credit flow to double the farmers' income.
 7. **Paytm** has signed an MoU with the Directorate of General Training to train 6,000 individuals over a period of three years in the rapidly growing fintech industry.
Note: The selected individuals will undertake a six-month programme, designed by Paytm, in consultation with the DGT. It will equip the trainees with fundamentals and knowledge of the latest fintech IoT products and financial services. The trainees will also undergo professional skills, communications, sales and pitch, and on-the-job training.
 8. **Federal Bank** has launched a feature-rich savings bank product 'called Mahila Mitra Plus' for women.
Note: The savings scheme is called **Mahila Mitra Plus** and provides a curated set of features, designed to make financial planning and investments easy for women. The special features include exclusive preferential interest rates on housing loans, processing fee waiver for home loans, complimentary and customised insurance cover.
 9. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has announced a partnership with Europe-based payment and transactional service firm, Worldline to enable Equated Monthly Installment (EMI) payments via Kotak debit cards in India.
Note: The Kotak debit card EMI is available to all consumers, retailers, fashion and electronic products to pay instalments easily using Worldline Point of Sale (POS) terminals. Worldline is dominant among Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities of India. It manages over 15 lakh merchants and enables Kotak debit cardholders to access to their EMI facilities.
 10. **Paytm** has partnered with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer its Startup Toolkit to startups onboarded on AWS Activate.
Note: This program offers startups free tools, resources, and more to quickly get started on AWS. Paytm will help entrepreneurs operating in India in the AWS Activate program grow their businesses with payment, distribution, and growth solutions.
 11. **Aditya Birla Health Insurance** has launched 'Activ Health Essential' an affordable health solution plan for the special health needs of senior citizens.
Note: This plan will offer coverage from day one of chronic health management, along with optional benefits to waive off mandatory co-payment. The senior citizen plan also comes with counselling support and health coaching features that are so important for senior citizens.
 12. **Karnataka Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding with Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd (TKM) to introduce financing options for its customers to purchase Toyota vehicles.
Note: Under this agreement, Karnataka Bank becomes one of the preferred financiers for the vehicles sold by TKM. The customers can get loans through the digital platform of the bank with interest rate linked to External Benchmark Lending Rate (EBLR) for purchasing TKM vehicles for both private and commercial use.
 13. **Reliance Industries** has signed a \$736 million equivalent green loan agreement with five banks to fund its acquisition of Norwegian solar panel manufacturer REC Solar Holdings.
Note: ANZ, Credit Agricole, DBS Bank, HSBC and MUFG were the lenders on the borrowing. Reliance had announced the acquisition of 100 per cent shareholding of REC Solar from China National Bluestar (Group) for an enterprise value of \$771 million.
 14. **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Liberty General Insurance for selling general insurance products through 629 branches.
Note: The company will provide a variety of general health insurance products to the customers with reasonably affordable cost. The bank has consistently enhanced its portfolio to meet the diverse financial needs of its customers and alliance in this regard is a step in that direction.
 15. **State Bank of India** will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Kendriya Sainik Board to support and educate the children of war veterans, ex-servicemen, and war widows.
Note: India's largest bank said it will provide a grant of ₹1,000 per month to 8,333 war veterans' children. The bank has contributed ₹10 crore to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.
 16. **State Bank of India** has signed an agreement with Usha International Limited (UIL) for empowering women entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance.
Note: The financial assistance will be provided under the Joint Liability Group model. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between SBI and UIL, branches of the bank in Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western UP, and NCR Haryana will be financing women entrepreneurs to Usha Silai School to purchase sewing machines for enhancement and upgradation of technical sewing skills or to purchase thread of clothes, etc. related to above for running their livelihood.
 17. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently inked an agreement with Adani Capital Private Ltd (Adani Capital), the NBFC arm of Adani Group, for co-lending to farmers for purchase of tractor and farm implements.

- Note:** With this partnership, SBI would be able to target farmer customers in the interior hinterland of the country looking for adoption of farm mechanization to enhance productivity of crops.
18. Agriwise Finserv Limited has entered into a co-lending agreement with **Central Bank of India** for agri-loan disbursal.
Note: The co-lending agreement will ensure that the farmer, agri and allied community get finance at affordable rates in a simple, transparent and speedy manner. The loan will be disbursed at a blended interest rate, as per the RBI directive on co-lending of loans.
19. As per the Bi-monthly Policy released in December 2021, **4.25 percent** is the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate.
Note: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate at four per cent to keep the stance accommodative. Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rate will remain unchanged at 4.25 per cent.
20. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 150 million dollar (about Rs 1,095 crore) loan to provide access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable housing for the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The project is aligned with the Government's development priorities and policies on urban sector development, particularly the flagship program Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Housing for All.
21. **Asian Development Bank** & central government has signed a \$125 million loan pact to improve access to safe and affordable drinking water and city-wide inclusive sanitation services in Dehradun and Nainital cities of Uttarakhand.
Note: The project will construct 136 kilometers of water pipe system to replace defective water networks in South Dehradun to ensure reliable and continuous water supply. It will benefit more than 40 thousand people, including four thousand urban poor and vulnerable groups.
22. The Reserve Bank of India has proposed to enhance the transaction limit for payments through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for the Retail Direct Scheme (RDS) for investment in government securities and Initial Public Offering (IPO) applications from **Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh**.
Note: This essentially means that retail investors using the convenient UPI payment system will soon be able to invest upto Rs 5 lakh in government bonds under RBI's RDS scheme and IPOs. The limit was Rs 2 lakh earlier. RBI Governor made the announcement while announcing the outcome of the central bank's bi-monthly policy review meeting.
23. **Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited** has signed a partnership agreement with fintech firm, Indiagold to launch India's first Loan against Digital Gold.
Note: This agreement will enable customers to use their digital gold balance to avail of instant and digital loans up to Rs. 60,000 and also seamlessly access gold loans starting at a monthly interest of just 1%. To provide access to secure and affordable credit to the customers looking for quick liquidity against their gold assets.
24. **City Union Bank** in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its manufacturing partner Seshaasai, has announced the launch of RuPay On-the-Go contactless wearable keychain for its debit card customers.
Note: Launched by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, on Sunday at New Delhi, CUB is introducing this keychain payment mode to enable customers to make payments on-the-go, according to a statement. The keychain can be requested through net banking, mobile banking, and at CUB's branches.
25. **Paytm Payment Bank** has received RBI's approval to operate as a scheduled payments bank.
Note: It has been included in the second schedule of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934. Apart from Paytm, Fino Payments Bank and India Post Payments Bank have also been included in the second schedule.
26. **Bank of Maharashtra** has tied up with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch its first Platinum RuPay Contactless Credit Card.
Note: It offers 100 reward points as a welcome benefit to users on their first retail spending worth ₹1,000 or more
27. **India Post Payment Bank** has tied up with NPCI's bill payments system Bharat BillPay to facilitate cash-based bill payments service at customer's doorstep.
Note: Payments for various utility bills can be done on the Bharat BillPay platform and the facility will be made available to non- IPPB customers as well. The aim is to provide access to payment solutions to millions of unbanked and underserved customers in remote locations at their doorstep. The service will enable payments of mobile postpaid, D2H recharge, school fees, and other utility services by using the bank's mobile banking service.
28. **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance** has announced a strategic alliance with Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd to provide the bank's customers access to a range of insurance solutions.
Note: Under this agreement, Vasai Vikas Sahakari Bank Ltd. will offer Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive suite of general and health insurance products to its customers across its network of 21 branches. The insurance products will mitigate the risks and secure the assets and health of the customers.
29. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has partnered with Cholamandalam MS General Insurance to launch a 'Chola Sarva Shakti Policy', a women-specific health insurance policy.
Note: According to a recent survey among 1,009 women, only 39% of them had a health cover. The Chola Sarva Shakti Policy initiative aims to provide women with an

- independent and comprehensive policy, which secures their future against various contingency health situations.
- 30. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd** has collaborated with Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) to scale-up alkaline electrolyzer technology for green hydrogen production.
Note: Presently, electrolyzer plants are imported. This is a first of its kind initiative to support the country's commitment to achieve renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Refineries use large quantities of hydrogen for de-sulfurization to make petrol, diesel and other chemicals. Currently, hydrogen is made at the refinery via steam reforming of natural gas, but this results in high CO₂ emission.
- 31.** For cross-border transactions for capital or current account transactions of **Rs 50 crore** and above, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) mandatory.
Note: LEI is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data systems. The LEI numbers are maintained in a global LEI database available on the website of the Global Legal Entity Identifier Foundation (GLEIF). LEI has been introduced by the Reserve Bank in a phased manner for over the counter (OTC) derivative, non-derivative markets, large corporate borrowers and large value transactions in centralised payment systems.
- 32. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has announced the launch of its '#Care4Hockey' campaign aims to support the development of Hockey in India from the grass-root level.
Note: The Company has associated with Rani Rampal, Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain who is the face of this campaign. The thought behind this campaign is to elevate field Hockey's recognition in our country and showcase how supporting a person to attain their goals can enable them to make a difference in the society.
- 33. Adani Green Energy** has signed a power purchase agreement with state run Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) to supply 4667 MW of green energy.
Note: This is the world's largest ever green power purchase agreement (PPA), as Adani is on track to be the world's largest renewables player by 2030. As the world's largest solar power developer, Adani Green Energy will supply 4,667 MW.
- 34. PayPhi** became the first certified tokenization service for NPCI Tokenization system (NTS) supporting tokenization of RuPay cards.
Note: On the lines of the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 2021 regarding tokenization of cards during online transactions, NPCI announced the launch of NPCI Tokenization system (NTS). In this regard, PayPhi, Phi Commerce's API (Application programming interface) first digital payments platform, became the first certified tokenization service for NTS supporting tokenization of RuPay cards. Tokenization of cards as an alternate to storing card details with merchants.
- 35.** The Finance Ministry announced that around 2.13 Lakh Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) have been installed across India by the end of September 2021.
Note: Out of 2.13 lakh ATMs, 4 percent of ATMs are installed in rural and semi-urban areas. RBI has directed the White Label ATMs (WLAs) operators must deploy a minimum of 1,000 ATMs every year. WLA should maintain a deployment ratio of 1:2:3 for metro and urban, semi-urban and rural regions respectively.
- 36. ICICI Bank** has partnered with Flipkart, an e-commerce platform, to offer an instant and digital overdraft (OD) facility of up to 25 lakhs to individual sellers and businesses registered on Flipkart.
Note: The OD is renewable on an annual basis, depending on the repayment track records of the seller. The OD Facility is enabled by Application Programming Interface (API) and the process from application to sanction to disbursement is completely digital.
- 37. Bank of Baroda** has signed an MoU with Centrum Housing Finance Limited (CHFL) for sourcing and financing housing loan borrowers under Co-Lending Model (CLM) mechanism.
Note: CHFL is one of the leading housing finance companies that provides long-term housing finance. The Bank will penetrate deep into the markets of tier 2 & tier 3 cities at very competitive interest rates. Bank extends upto of Rs.1000 crore as Housing finance in one financial year.
- 38. Bank of Baroda** has joined hands with **National Payments Corporations of India** (NPCI) to launch a solution for digital banking payments, named '**World Wave**' a wearable line of products for payments, integrated with a complete health ecosystem.
Note: A bob World Wave wearable device will allow customers to monitor their SpO₂, body temperature, heart rate and blood pressure. With bob World Wave, BOB is providing an exclusive 3-months free wellness package along with a personal health coach, doctor tele-consultation and interactive video coaching. The device will provide contactless payments of up to ₹5,000 in all NFC enabled PoS devices.
- 39. SBI Card** issuer has launched a unique type of credit card called '**PULSE**' on the Visa Signature platform to cater to the needs of fitness and health enthusiasts.
Note: Launched on the Visa Signature platform, this new credit card called the "Pulse" has an annual membership charge of Rs 1,499. SBI Card PULSE provides the customers Noise ColorFit Pulse Smartwatch of worth ₹4,999 as a welcome gift on payment of the joining fee.
- 40. Tether** cryptocurrency has been accepted as an official currency for local use by the Myanmar's parallel

government led by the supporters of Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Note: The National Unity Government officially accepts Tether, a cryptocurrency meant to be a dollar proxy, for "domestic use to make it easy and speed up the current trade, services and payment systems. The NUG is an alliance of leaders from the ousted civilian government and pro-democracy groups.

41. The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the draft Master Directions on minimum capital requirements for operational risk as part of convergence of its regulations for banks with Basel III standards. The provisions of these directions shall apply to **all Commercial Banks**.
Note: The provisions of these directions shall apply to all commercial banks excluding local area banks, payments banks, regional rural banks, and small finance banks, the RBI said, adding that the directions shall come into effect from April 1, 2023. Operational risk means the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events.
42. Amount **Rs 1,300 crore** reimbursement scheme has been approved by the central government aiming to promote digital transactions and incentivise users having Rupay debit cards and BHIM unified payments interface (UPI).
Note: Under the scheme, the acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government by paying a percentage of the value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of ₹1,300 crore for one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021. The scheme has been formulated in compliance with the Budget announcements (FY 2021-22) by the Government to further boost digital transactions in the country.
43. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow **Scheduled Payments Banks and Scheduled Small Finance Banks** to conduct Government agency business.
Note: The central bank has decided in this regard in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance (MoF). Any payment bank or small finance bank that intends to undertake Government agency business may be appointed as an agent of RBI upon execution of an agreement with RBI, provided that the overarching regulatory framework prescribed for these banks is complied with.
44. Tata Motors has partnered with **Bandhan Bank** to sign a retail finance MoU, offering finance options to all its passenger vehicle customers.
Note: As part of the tie-up, Bandhan Bank will provide loans to Tata Motors' customers at an interest rate starting from 7.50 per cent. This scheme will offer a maximum of 90 percent financing on the total on-road cost of the vehicle.
45. IT company **Wipro Ltd.** has signed an agreement to acquire LeanSwift Solutions, US-headquartered system integrator of Infor Products whose service capabilities

include ERP, e-commerce, digital transformation, supply chain, warehouse management systems, business intelligence and integrations.

Note: LeanSwift has development offices across US, Sweden and India and its portfolio of clients span multiple industries, including manufacturing, distribution, chemicals, fashion, and food & beverages. Their core business is providing consulting, business solutions, and technical services to customers in the Infor space.

46. State-owned power sector giant NTPC has awarded a standalone fuel-cell based green hydrogen microgrid project at **Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: This will be India's first green hydrogen-based energy storage project and one of the world's largest. The hydrogen would be produced using the advanced 240 kW Solid Oxide Electrolyser by taking input power from the nearby Floating Solar project. This unique project configuration is designed in-house by NTPC.
47. Food and tech platform company **Innoterra** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NABFOUNDATION, a wholly owned subsidiary of NABARD to develop farmer clusters through products and services of Innoterra platform.
Note: The MoU aims to develop farmer clusters through products and services of Innoterra platform. This association will enable both organisations to engage with India's largest farmer collectives' network of over 5000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
48. Online ordering platform **JioMart** partnered with WhatsApp that will enable retailers and consumers to order essentials like groceries, vegetables, snacks etc.
Note: This will enable retailers and consumers to order essentials like groceries, vegetables, snacks etc. The JioMart on WhatsApp service is expected to start in 2022. The new 'tap and chat' option allows users to order groceries through Whatsapp and pay via JioMart or can opt for cash on delivery.
49. **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has approved the \$150-million 'Chennai City Partnership: Sustainable Urban Services Programme' that seeks to strengthen institutions and improve the quality and financial sustainability of selected urban services in Chennai.
Note: Tamil Nadu is an economic powerhouse and is one of India's most urbanized States. Chennai dominates the State's demographic and economic landscape and is experiencing rapid physical growth and changes in its boundaries. The programme will complement AIIB-supported urban transport projects-such as the Chennai Metro Rail (Phase 2, Corridors 4 and 5) and Peripheral Ring Road-by improving integration of public transport modes (in terms of routes, institutions and technology) and strengthening relevant institutions.
50. Home First Finance Company India Ltd (HomeFirst) has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with **Union Bank of India** to offer home loans to customers.

- Note:** Under this partnership, HomeFirst will originate loans as per the agreed credit policy of UBI in line with the provisions of RBI's Co-Lending Model. HomeFirst will retain minimum 20 per cent of the loan on its book while 80 per cent will be on UBI's book.
51. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an MoU with **Western Union** to enable real-time bank account payout in India.
Note: The agreement will enable bank account holders in India to receive cross-border money transfers instantly using UPI IDs. It will benefit millions of Indian citizens to seamlessly receive money from across the world.
52. Pine Labs has partnered with **AU Small Finance Bank** to enable the bank's credit cardholders to avail equated monthly instalments (EMI) offers.
Note: The Partnership offers EMI at the point of sale (PoS) and converts their customer's regular purchase into interest-free EMIs across the over 2 lakh merchant base of Pine Labs, pan India. Aim – To empower the underbanked with no cost EMI offers. Pine Labs contains more than 30 different credit issuers and Non-Banking Financial Corporation (NBFC) partners on its Android PoS terminals.
53. **State Bank of India** has renewed its **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with the **Indian Army** to offer benefits to all serving as well as retired army personnel and their families through its Defence Salary Package (DSP) Scheme.
Note: The MoU was signed in the presence of AG Lt. Gen. Harsha Gupta in New Delhi. Under this MoU, SBI will offer enhanced complimentary personal accidental insurance (Death) cover, air accidental insurance (Death) cover, permanent/partial disability covers. It also supports the education of children and the marriage of girl children of deceased army personnel.
54. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has been empanelled as a banking partner to the Government of Maharashtra with a view to offer its services to the state government employees.
Note: The agreement will enable the SFB to distribute salaries and allowances to the existing employees apart from making provision of pension to pensioners. The other three banks assigned the role of distributing salaries and allowances to government employees are Bandhan Bank, Karur Vysya Bank and The South Indian Bank.
55. Edelweiss General Insurance has partnered with digital payment platform **PhonePe** for digital motor insurance products.
Note: PhonePe customers can now purchase EGI's motor insurance policy in just a few clicks with zero paperwork. EGI has launched on-demand, need-based, bite-sized insurance products, and is co-creating propositions in partnership in the digital ecosystem.
56. Government of India has signed a 442.26 million euro loan pact with **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)** for Surat Metro Rail project.
Note: The total cost of the project is Euro 1.50 billion, out of which KfW is financing Euro 442.26 million. The project is co-financed by French Development Agency, AFD (Agence Française de Développement) with Euro 250 million. The agreement for the same was signed on January 28, 2021.
57. **Asian Development Bank** will provide USD 350 million loan to improve access to urban services in India by accelerating policy actions and reforms to enhance service delivery and promote performance-based central fiscal transfers to urban local bodies (ULBs).
Note: The ADB will provide knowledge and advisory support to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in programme implementation, including monitoring and evaluation. It will also support urban local bodies particularly in select low-income states to implement policy reforms, prepare investment plans, and provide recommendations on cross-cutting issues like climate change, environmental and social safeguards assessment, and gender equality and social inclusion.
58. The Government of India has signed a \$150-million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for a housing project for the urban poor in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: Nearly half of Tamil Nadu's 72 million population lives in urban areas making it one of the most urbanised States in India. Through the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board, the project will construct houses in nine locations and relocate about 6,000 households vulnerable to natural hazards.
59. Samunnati has entered into a co-lending agreement with **IndusInd Bank** to expand credit accessibility for farmer producer organisations (FPOs) across the country.
Note: This collaboration will provide ₹15 crore as an initial amount disbursed to farmers collectives. The primary aim is to ensure the self-sustainability and profitability of Farmer Collectives and their members, comprising mostly small-holder farmers.
60. **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has become the first Indian insurance company to sign the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI).
Note: In its journey towards promoting sustainability, the company is integrating ESG factors into its investment management framework. This private life insurer has also adopted sustainability principles across its business activities. The sustainability framework is built on the three pillars of ESG which include leaving the planet a better place for the next generation, giving back to society and transparency in functioning.
61. Pine Labs, a merchant commerce platform, has partnered with AU Small Finance Bank, the country's largest small finance bank.

- Note:** With this partnership, the bank's credit cardholders will now be able to avail of equated monthly instalments (EMI) offers at the point of sale and convert their regular purchase into interest-free EMIs across the over 2 lakh merchant base of Pine Labs, pan India. Currently, Pine Labs powers more than 30 different credit issuers and NBFC partners on its Android PoS terminals.
- 62. NITI Aayog** has entered into an agreement with United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to address issues related to inclusion of millets in government programmes.
Note: The partnership focuses on mainstreaming of millets and supporting India in taking lead globally in knowledge exchange using the opportunity of 2023 as an International Year of Millets. Further, the partnership will aim at building resilient livelihoods for small-holder farmers and adaptation capacities to climate change and transforming food systems.
- 63. \$93 billion** amount has been announced by the World Bank to help the poorest countries respond to the raging Coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis and boost economic growth.
Note: It was the biggest replenishment ever for the International Development Association (IDA), which provides grants for 74 countries. The package includes \$23.5 billion of contributions from 48 high and middle-income countries as well as financing raised in the capital markets. It will help countries better prepare for future crises.
- 64. Hero Electric** has tied up with **HDB Financial Services** to offer easy financing options for the purchase of electric scooters.
Note: The collaboration will enable customers to avail hassle-free loans with minimum documentation on their desired electric scooter. The financing option will be available to Hero Electric customers across its widespread network of over 700 dealerships in the country.
- 65. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** signed a partnership agreement with **Udemy Business** to encourage innovative learning and skill development for employees of NPCI.
Note: The 3-year partnership with Udemy Business will offer courses on in-demand skills such as tech, domain, behavioural, and leadership skills to all NPCI employees. Through the mission 'Talent Development for All' of NPCI, it provides capacity building programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), etc.
- 66. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Care Health Insurance Ltd to market health insurance products for customers of the bank.
- Note:** Under the partnership, the bank focuses on its rural customers by covering maximum people, including farmers, artisans and rural population under health insurance. The bank was also working on a tailor-made product to suit farmers and Kisan Credit Cardholders to face challenges arising out of illness and hospitalisation, through products at an affordable premium.
- 67. ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has collaborated with Clove Dental to offer dental insurance.
Note: The offering will be covered under the OPD (Out Patient Department) benefit and will be available on a cashless basis to customers. This partnership will provide oral health support to Clove Dental's consumers that will encompass all necessary dental treatment expenses under the OPD benefit of ICICI Lombard.
- 68. Bank of Baroda** has grabbed the top spot in overall digital transactions among large banks for FY20-21.
Note: It was felicitated by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) at the Digital Payments Utsav which was held to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Independence of India. BoB has been conferred with five DigiDhan awards for FY 2019-20 & 2020-21 in various categories.
- 69. State Bank of India** has acquired a minority stake in JSW Cement Limited for an investment of INR 100 crore through Compulsory Convertible Preference Shares (CCPS).
Note: The SBI is working as a strategic investor at JSW Cement and has invested in the company through CCPS. The conversion of CCPS into common equity will link with the JSW Group to provide valuation determined at the time initial public offering (IPO). This amount will support the expansion of JSW Cement from taking its production from the current 14 MTPA (million tonnes per annum) to 25 MTPA.
- 70. Central Bank of India** has the MSME lending fintech platform, U GRO Capital signed a co-lending agreement.
Note: Under this partnership, the two entities aim to disburse up to Rs 1000 crore to U GRO Capital's varied MSME segments under its programmes like Pratham, Sanjeevani, Saathi, GRO MSME and Machinery financing, in the next 12 months. The co-lending arrangement with Central Bank of India will work towards providing formal credit to underserved MSMEs at affordable rates across all product categories of U GRO Capital.
- 71. Paytm Payment Bank** has partnered with **MoneyGram**, a peer-to-peer remittance company to enable MoneyGram customers globally to send money in real-time.
Note: Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of Paytm, and Nasdaq-listed MoneyGram, a global leader in digital P2P payments, have entered into a partnership to enable MoneyGram customers globally to send money in real-time to a Paytm Wallet user in India. With this partnership, MoneyGram users abroad can now

- conveniently transfer money to full KYC Paytm wallet users in India from the comfort of their homes.
72. Government of India has signed an agreement with **European Investment Bank** for a Finance Contract for the first tranche loan of Euro 250 million for Agra Metro Rail Project.
Note: The Project is working under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (UPMRCL) is the implementing agency. The project aims to provide a safe, reliable, affordable and environment-friendly public Mass Rapid Transit System for Agra city which will improve mobility and support endeavour for planned urban development in Agra.
73. State-owned **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)** Ltd has signed a pact with **KfW Development Bank** to avail USD 169.5 million to the power finance sector and renewable energy projects.
Note: Both organisations will jointly undertake various projects in Power sector & Renewable Energy (RE) projects. The approval was passed by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. This is the fifth line of credit signed between KfW Bank and REC Limited to finance power sector projects and the third line of credit for financing renewable energy (RE) projects.
74. The tagline of the **Akasa Air**, which is set for launch next year -- **it's your sky**.
Note: The proposed ultra low cost carrier has shunned the traditional blue and red colour -- long favoured by Indian carriers -- and opted for 'sunrise orange' and 'passionate purple' colours, which it says, reflect warmth and youthful energy. The airline's symbol is a rising A, symbolising "the warmth of the rising sun, the effortless flight of a bird and the dependability of an aircraft wing."
75. **Vayana Network**, one of India's largest trade finance platforms, and **Federal Bank** have been awarded the 'Most Effective Bank-Fintech Partnership: Agile and Adaptable' at the IBSi-Global Fintech Innovation Awards 2021.
Note: The award was conferred in recognition of Vayana Network's partnership with Federal Bank making Supply Chain Finance at ease. The 2021 Innovation award includes the participation of 190 participants from 48 countries.
76. **BOB Financial Solutions Limited** and Indian Navy have launched a co-branded credit card for Indian Navy personnel.
Note: The card, offered on the RuPay platform, has contactless features. Indian Navy personnel can choose from 3 variants of the co-branded credit card. the credit cards will offer uninterrupted payment convenience to the personnel of the Indian Navy.
77. **IndusInd Bank** partnered with the **NPCI to offer real-time cross-border remittances** to India using UPI IDs, for its Money Transfer Operator (MTO) partners.
Note: It is the first Indian bank to go live on UPI for cross-border payments/NRI remittances. Under this arrangement, the MTOs will be using the IndusInd Bank channel to connect with NPCI's UPI payment systems for validation and cross-border payment settlement into beneficiary accounts.
78. **Punjab National Bank** has entered into a co-lending arrangement with **Lendingkart Finance Limited** to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy.
Note: This partnership is part of its efforts to improve the flow of credit to the unserved and underserved sector of the economy. This arrangement will focus on digital underwriting and cashflow based lending.
79. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹30 Lakh for **non-compliance** with its directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
Note: MUFGBank has the largest network amongst Japanese banks in India, with a presence in five locations. MUFGBank caters to the banking needs of Japanese and global corporates that are establishing or growing their businesses in India.
80. **HDFC Bank** has been conferred with 'Most Innovative Best Practice' for financial inclusion at the coveted CII Digital Transformation Award 2021.
Note: It has been conferred due to HDFC Bank's efforts in furthering financial inclusion through partnership with Government of India's Common Service Centres (CSC). CII instituted digital transformation award to recognize excellence in Digital Transformation in India.
81. IPPB has signed an MoU with **HDFC Bank** for offering banks's various banking products and services to customers of the payments bank in semi-urban and rural areas, focussing on unbanked and underserved segments.
Note: Over 4.7 crore customers of IPPB of whom nearly 90 per cent are residing in rural areas are expected to benefit from this partnership. The strategic alliance will enable IPPB to provide affordable and diversified offerings, including access to finance, to its customers through its innovative Doorstep Banking Service.
82. HDFC Life Insurance Company announced a bancassurance tie-up with **South Indian Bank**.
Note: This bancassurance arrangement will enable customers of SIB to avail HDFC Life's life insurance products, including solutions for protection, savings and investment, retirement and critical illness. HDFC Life aims to provide SIB's customer base with innovative products and superior levels of service via both the physical and digital routes.
83. Indipaisa, a member of the Nexxo Network signed a partnership agreement with NSDL Payments Bank to launch Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's 63 million Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector.

- Note:** Indiapaisa, in partnership with NSDL Payments Bank, plans to introduce multiple financial products and services customized from the ground up to match the specific needs of Indian SME owners and operators. Furthermore, Indiapaisa is proud to be part of the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India's drive to digitize payments, estimated to exceed USD 1.0 Trillion annually by the year 2025.
- 84.** The annual league table also predicted that China will overtake the US to be the largest economy in 2030 (two years later than the forecast in 2021).
Note: The world economy is set to surpass \$100 trillion for the first time in 2022.
- 85. IndusInd Bank** has announced to launch of 'Green Fixed Deposits' where the deposit proceeds will be used to finance projects and firms supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Note: IndusInd Bank is amongst few banks globally, to bring forth this proposition, thereby integrating SDG into a regular fixed deposit product. IndusInd Bank 'Green Fixed Deposits' shall be offered to both retail and corporate customers.
- 86. Bank of Maharashtra** has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with MAS Financial Services to offer loans to micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) borrowers.
Note: This co-lending arrangement will result in greater expansion of portfolio for both the entities. Under this arrangement, MAS Financial Services (a RBI registered non-banking financial company) will originate and process loans to MSME borrowers under priority sector as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria and BoM will take on its book these loans under mutually agreed terms.
- 87. Karnataka** has partnered with the NPCI and SBI for enabling and implementing e-RUPI, a cashless and contactless payment solution for students under the State's scholarship programme.
Note: e-RUPI will be used to ensure a leak-proof delivery of education fees of eligible students by paying digitally to the college/institute by Karnataka Government. Karnataka government will get e-vouchers delivered to the mobiles of eligible students. The voucher code can be received on the feature phone also.
- 88. RBL Bank** announced the signing of an agreement with **Bajaj Finance Ltd.** for the extension of the partnership of co-branded credit cards for 5 years to December 2026.
Note: In FY2018, the Bank had entered into a partnership with Bajaj Finance, launching a series of co-branded credit cards. As per the Bank's FY2019 annual report, FY2019 also saw the RBL Bank - Bajaj Finance co-brand portfolio cross the 10 lakh cards mark, making it one of the largest co-branded card partnerships in the country.
- 89. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has entered into a strategic co-lending partnership with **MAS Financial Services Ltd.** to offer loans to micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) borrowers.
Note: The partnership is subject to compliance laws including applicable guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This partnership will support the expansion of the portfolios of both BoM and MAS Financial Services Limited.
- 90. Union Bank of India** has announced its partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch 'RuPay Business Platinum Debit Card' for firms/corporates.
Note: This card offers an ATM withdrawal limit of ₹1 lakh along with a purchase of up to ₹3 lakh at POS or E-Commerce, to its users. Further, card users can withdraw up to ₹75,000 at ATMs abroad and perform purchases globally worth up to ₹3 lakh at POS and international online merchants.

November 2021

- 1. Microsoft** become the world's most valuable public company.
Note: Microsoft surged 2.2 percent to a market value of \$2.49 trillion, surpassing Apple. For the first time since 2010, Microsoft passed Apple's market cap in 2018 and later in July 2020.
- 2. NITI Aayog** has released report titled 'Health Insurance for India's Missing Middle' highlighting the gaps in the health insurance coverage with solutions.
Note: The report highlights the need for designing a low-cost comprehensive health insurance product for the missing middle. As per the report, AB-PMJAY provides comprehensive hospitalization cover to the bottom 50% of population, 20% is covered through social health insurance and private voluntary health insurance and other 30% are devoid of health insurance, and has termed them as the missing middle
- 3. Government of Meghalaya** has signed \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project with international organization **World Bank**.
Note: Government of India, Government of Meghalaya and World Bank has signed a \$40 million Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project to improve the quality of health services and strengthen the state's capacity to handle future health emergencies, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4. The RBI** issued a revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks to enable supervisory intervention at "appropriate time" and also act as a

tool for effective market discipline. The revised PCA framework will be effective from **January 1, 2022**.
Note: Capital, asset quality and leverage will be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework. The revised PCA framework will be effective from January 1, 2022. The PCA framework is also intended to act as a tool for effective market discipline.

5. **Sudarshan Sen Committee** of the Reserve Bank of India has recommended that the scope of **Section 5** of the **SARFAESI Act** be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs and all NBFCs including HFCs.
Note: It suggested that the scope of Section 5 of the SARFAESI Act be expanded to permit ARCs to acquire financial assets from all regulated entities, including AIFs, FPIs, AMCs making investment on behalf of MFs and all NBFCs including HFCs. The committee has recommended that for all accounts above Rs 500 crore, two bank-approved external valuers should carry out a valuation to determine the liquidation value and fair market value. In case of accounts between Rs 100 crore and Rs 500 crore, one valuer may be engaged.
6. **Indian Oil Corporation** will set up India's first mega-scale Maleic Anhydride Plant to manufacture value-added chemical products at its Panipat Refinery and Petroleum Complex (PRPC).
Note: The project — with a capex of ₹3,681 crore will be commissioned in 54 months from stage 1 investment approval. The project is proposed to have a capacity of 120 KTA of Maleic Anhydride (MAH)
7. NITI Aayog has partnered with **World Bank** to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EV) and they will up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument'.
Note: The two entities are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager. This facility would seek to garner around \$1.5 billion in financing for EVs. The instrument would act as a hedging mechanism, for banks to access in case of defaults of loans on purchase of EVs.
8. **State Bank of India** will be the program manager of the \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument' being set up by NITI Aayog and the World Bank to facilitate a program for faster and easier financing of electric vehicles (EV).
Note: The two entities are setting up a \$300-million 'first loss risk sharing instrument', with State Bank of India (SBI) as its program manager. This facility would seek to garner around \$1.5 billion in financing for EVs. The instrument would act as a hedging mechanism, for banks to access in case of defaults of loans on purchase of EVs.

9. **State Bank of India** has launched a pre-approved 2-wheeler loan scheme 'Easy Ride' through its Mobile Application platform.
Note: Eligible SBI customers can avail of end-to-end digital two-wheeler loans through the YONO app without visiting the bank branch. Customers can apply for the Easy Ride loan for an amount up to Rs 3 lakh at a competitive interest rate of 10.5% per annum onwards for a maximum tenure of 4 years.
10. **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has partnered with Vega to offer personal accident insurance cover on every online purchase of Vega helmet.
Note: The personal accident insurance policy will provide individuals with the benefit of accidental death with sum insured of ₹1 lakh. The cover is applicable on a worldwide basis. The tie-up aims to give the customer dual safety and protection, through the helmet and the personal accident insurance cover.
11. **Bank of Baroda** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NCDEX e Markets Ltd (NEML) to become a "clearing bank" for handling financial transactions in the NeML market place and procurement/auction platform.
Note: NEML, a wholly-owned subsidiary of agricultural commodity exchange, NCDEX, is an online commodities spot market and services company. This tie-up opens up multiple opportunities for both institutions.
12. International internet company **Starlink** has registered its business in India and planning to launch internet services in the country.
Note: It is planning to launch internet services in the country, as per the company documents filed with the government. Starlink is the satellite internet division of billionaire Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX.
13. **Axis Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy, offering a defence service salary package, 'Power Salute'.
Note: Through the exclusive defence service salary package--Power Salute--Axis Bank will offer numerous benefits to all ranks of the Indian Navy, veterans and cadets. The benefits include a personal accidental cover of up to ₹56 lakh to all navy personnel, veterans and cadets; additional up to ₹8 lakh children education grant; total permanent disability cover benefit up to ₹46 lakh; partial permanent disability cover of up to ₹46 lakh; air accident cover of ₹1 crore.
14. **Indian Oil Corporation** has decided to set up 10,000 electric vehicle charging stations across the country in three years.
Note: This step will boost the EV ecosystem in the country. PM Modi announced India's pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070, as part of the global drive to fight climate change during COP26 summit in

Glasgow. Indian Oil will soon unveil its net-zero emission target.

- 15. State Bank of India** has launched the first 'Video life certificate service' for pensioners.

Note: Pensioners from the comfort of their homes can schedule a video call with SBI staff at their convenience and complete the process of life certificate submission without having to visit the bank branch. State Bank of India is the largest commercial bank in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers, and employees. It is also the largest mortgage lender in the country which has so far fulfilled the home buying dreams of 30 lakh Indian families.

- 16. ESAF Small Finance Bank** has joined hands with NABARD for its Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program.

Note: K. Rajan, the State Revenue Minister inaugurated the state-level Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program organized by the bank in this regard. ESAF Small Finance Bank's state wide initiative on Local Sustainable Economic Development Training Program in collaboration with Nabard is a step towards building financial literacy at grass root levels.

- 17. PhonePe** has launched tokenization solution named as 'SafeCard' for online debit and credit card transactions.

Note: RBI had made device-based tokenization framework applicable to Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT) services as well i.e Card-on-File (CoF) in September 2021. Tokenisation provides users an added layer of security by converting sensitive card information like card name, card number, CVV, etc

- 18. Technology company Alphabet** has launched a new company in London titled as Isomorphic Labs, that will aim to use artificial intelligence for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research.

Note: This company will aim to use AI (artificial intelligence) for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research. CEO of Isomorphic Labs: Demis Hassabis (Current CEO and co-founder of DeepMind). It is a commercial venture with the mission to reimagine the entire drug discovery process.

- 19. Asian Development Bank** has approved a \$61 million (~INR 453 Crore) loan under 'Agartala City Urban Development Project' to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in the city of Agartala, Tripura.

Note: The Agartala City Urban Development Project will build and upgrade 48 kilometers (km) of new or

existing stormwater drainage and construct 23 km of climate-resilient urban roads. The ADB's support is aligned with the Government of India's national Smart Cities Mission program, which aims to drive economic growth through local area development. ADB will also provide a \$1 million technical assistance (TA) grant from its Technical Assistance Special Fund to support the project's capacity building and awareness-raising activities.

- 20. Bombay stock exchange (BSE)** in collaboration with **HDFC Bank** to promote and encourage the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and also listing of Start-ups.

Note: The collaboration helps the SMEs and Startups to get-in touch with accountants, Lawyers and Bankers in the list of BSE. The collaboration resolves financial constraints for the startups and SMEs and creates sustainability. Through this MoU, HDFC and BSE shall evaluate banking and lending solutions for startups and SMEs.

- 21. Liberty General Insurance Limited** has collaborated with digital payment company **PhonePe** to provide motor insurance services digitally.

Note: Under this, Liberty General Insurance will provide a variety of Motor Insurance policies to the customers, digitally through PhonePe app. In 2020, PhonePe ventured into distribution of insurance and has become one of India's fastest growing digital distributors with sale of over 5 lakh policies in 5 months. The users of PhonePe can choose from multiple motor insurance products on the platform. It will work as a one stop destination for all insurance needs.

- 22. State Bank of India** has launched the first 'Video life certificate service' for pensioners.

Note: Pensioners from the comfort of their homes can schedule a video call with SBI staff at their convenience and complete the process of life certificate submission without having to visit the bank branch. State Bank of India is the largest commercial bank in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers, and employees. It is also the largest mortgage lender in the country which has so far fulfilled the home buying dreams of 30 lakh Indian families.

- 23. Under theme the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** going to organize its first global hackathon "HARBINGER 2021–Innovation for Transformation"-- '**Smarter Digital Payments**'.

Note: The participants in the hackathon will get the opportunity to be mentored by industry experts, exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury, and win prizes in each category. The winner will get Rs 40 lakh, and the runner-up will be awarded Rs 20 lakh.

- 24.** Social media giant **Meta** has announced the launch of 'Grow Your Business Hub', a one-stop destination for the micro, small, and medium businesses to find relevant information, tools, and resources curated to cater to their business goals based on their growth journey.
Note: It is a localised business hub for the micro, small and medium business to find relevant information, tools, and resources curated to provide their business goals based on their growth. Grow Your Business Playbook to inspire and equip early-stage businesses to start their journeys on Meta's apps was also launched during the event. This playbook aims to assist the business to set up an offline to online journey and accelerating online sales for small businesses during the COVID-19 era and beyond.
- 25.** Life insurance company **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company** has entered into a strategic partnership with Department of Posts and India Post Payments Bank to offer two Point of Sale (PoS) products — a term product and an annuity product — through the postal department's network of 1,36,000 banking access points and the payments bank's 650 branches.
Note: Through this alliance, BALIC has become the first private life insurer in the country to enter into a tie up with the Department of Posts for sale of PoS products. This alliance will enable the lakhs of Gramieen Dak Sevaks to offer financial solutions in rural areas.
- 26.** NPCI Bharat BillPay has tied up with life insurance company **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company** to provide ClickPay to the insurer's customers.
Note: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance is the first insurance company to offer this facility of ClickPay to its customers empowering them to make renewal premium payments with ease. To offer an automated and valuable insurance premium payment experience, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance will generate the ClickPay link and share it with customers which will redirect them to the payment page comprising payment details.
- 27.** **UCO Bank** has entered into a co-lending agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance company to offer home loans at competitive interest rates.
Note: The aim is to reach out to a large section of society to provide easy, convenient, and efficient home finance solutions to customers from the economically weaker, lower and middle-income groups.
- 28.** The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to permit banks to offer interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits using widely-accepted overnight 'ARR' for the respective currency' with an upward revision in the interest rates ceiling by 50 basis points (bps).
Note: The Reserve Bank of India has decided to permit banks to offer interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits using widely-accepted 'Overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) for the respective currency' with an upward revision in the interest rates ceiling by 50 basis points (bps). This comes in view of the impending discontinuance of LIBOR (London Inter-Bank Offered Rate) as a benchmark rate.
- 29.** **Axis Bank** has signed an MoU with the Army Insurance Group (AGI) to offer retail mortgage loans to the Indian Army.
Note: The bank will offer best-in-class products and services to defence personnel to cater to their home loan requirements. Through this partnership, it will exclusively offer higher loan amounts as well as the facility to transfer the balance of their loans from AGI to Axis Bank.
- 30.** **Narendra Modi** has launched RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme based on "One Nation-One Ombudsman" by integrating which of the following schemes.
Note: The Reserve Bank of India will provide a multi-lingual toll-free phone number for all the relevant information on grievance redress. It will also provide assistance for filing complaints. Earlier, there were three Ombudsman schemes in India (i) Banking Ombudsman Scheme (ii) Ombudsman Scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies and (iii) Ombudsman Scheme for Digital Transactions.
- 31.** According to the Reserve Bank of India, **5.3 per cent** will be the Consumer Price Index or CPI inflation for 2021-22.
Note: The inflation was 7.61% in October last year. The RBI has projected the CPI inflation at 5.3 per cent for 2021-22. According to MoSPI data, inflation in the food basket rose to 0.85 per cent in October, compared to 0.68 per cent in the preceding month.
- 32.** **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** and **NTPC Limited** signed an MoU to collaborate in the field of Renewable Energy (RE) and mutually explore opportunities for supply of low carbon/RE RTC (round the clock) captive power.
Note: This is a first-of-its-kind novel initiative by two leading national energy majors of India, to support the country's commitment to achieving renewable energy targets and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. NTPC, India's largest integrated energy company, has an installed capacity of 67,657.5 MW (including 13,425 MW through JVs/Subsidiaries) comprising 47 NTPC stations.
- 33.** **IIT Guwahati** will collaborate with Oil India Limited (OIL) on the development and introduction of new technologies energy, and related sectors.
Note: The partnership will also focus on cooperation in Transfer of existing technologies, Knowledge up-gradation and innovation partnership, Training and

skill development, and other areas of mutual agreement. This MoU will facilitate a new path for exploring various opportunities in applied and translational research for the sustainable energy sector with OIL. According to MoU, this collaboration is equally beneficial for both parties.

34. HDFC Bank has integrated with the government's National Agriculture Market (eNAM) to enable digital collections and settlement of funds to various e-NAM beneficiaries.

Note: HDFC Bank has partnered with the SFAC to further improve the ease of doing business on e-NAM platform by offering collection modes like multi-net banking, debit card, NEFT/RTGS and UPI/IMPS. This integration helps not only farmers but also Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), commission agents, institutional buyers and other Mandi level service providers etc. who form part of the entire agriculture value chain.

35. Indian infra company Tata Projects has received an order for a 400kV double circuit transmission line project valued at around \$120 million from the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh Limited (PGCB).

Note: This is a 120-km project from Barapukuria to Bogura in Bangladesh to be executed in 30 months. The funding for the same will be provided by EXIM Bank under Indian Line of Credit. This project is on the line of South Asia power pool comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal.

36. The central government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$61 million loan to improve livability, harness technology, and promote new developments to accommodate the expanding population in **Agartala**.

Note: The loan agreement for the Agartala City Urban Development Project was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the government and Takeo Konishi, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.

37. Indian Motor company TVS Motor has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative.

Note: TVS Motor has become the 1st Indian two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer to join the UNGC. TVS Motor will also engage in collaborative projects which will advance the development goals of the UN, particularly the Sustainable development goals (SDG).

38. The Reserve Bank of India has announced to introduce the Internal Ombudsman mechanism for Non-Deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) with asset size of **Rs.5,000 crore**.

Note: The RBI has directed the Deposit-taking NBFCs with 10 or more branches and non-deposit taking NBFCs with assets size of ₹5,000 crore must appoint an Internal Ombudsman (IO) at the apex of their internal grievance redress mechanism within a period of six months from the date of issue of the direction.

39. IndusInd Bank has launched a comprehensive 'Merchant Solutions' mobile application to enable merchants, retailers and professionals to carry out banking transactions digitally, on a single platform.

Note: Indus Merchant Solutions will enable merchants and retailers to undertake an array of activities such as accept instant cashless payments on mobile phones from customers through multiple digital modes, track inventory via in-built dashboards, apply for an exclusive Point of Sale (PoS) machine to facilitate card based payments, as well as avail small ticket business loans from the bank in a completely digital and paperless manner, without having to visit a bank branch.

40. U GRO Capital, a technology-focused small business lending platform, has entered into a co-lending partnership with **State Bank of India** to provide credit to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME).

Note: Through this collaboration, SBI and U GRO aim to disburse up to ₹500 crore by March 2022. The agreement has been signed under the alternative option of Reserve Bank of India's revised co-lending guidelines, which involves post disbursement takeover of the bank's share in the loan on a back-to-back basis.

41. The corpus of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) has been reached at **₹613.89 crore**.

Note: The PIDF Scheme, operationalised by the RBI from January 1, 2021, subsidises deployment of Points of Sale infrastructure (physical and digital modes) in Tier-3 to Tier-6 centres and north-eastern States of the country. From August 26 this year, beneficiaries of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi in Tier-1 and Tier-2 centres are also covered. Physical devices include PoS, mobile PoS, GPRS, PSTN or Public Switched Telephone Network and digital devices include interoperable QR code-based payments such as UPI QR, Bharat QR.

42. HDFC Bank has launched the second edition of its "Mooh Band Rakho" campaign in support of the International Fraud Awareness Week 2021.

Note: Aim: To increase awareness of its customers on all types of frauds and the importance of keeping your mouth shut to ensure their prevention and taking a pledge and not share confidential banking information with anyone. HDFC Bank will organize 2,000 workshops in the next four months under this campaign.

- 43. Kotak Mahindra Bank** and PVR Cinemas launched a co-branded movie debit card.
Note: With the Kotak PVR Movie Debit Card, cardholders will receive joining vouchers and earn points on every transaction on the debit card at PVR and outside PVR as well, with no upper limit on the points earned. Further, Kotak PVR debit cardholders will get automatically enrolled to the PVR Privilege Plus programme.
- 44. State Bank of India** has entered into a strategic partnership with Jamshedpur Football Club (JFC) owned by Tata Steel to support and promote the sport in the country.
Note: The bank signed the agreement with JFC in Mumbai in the presence of top officials of the two brands. With this partnership, a first major endeavour by the country's largest lender, SBI will be one of the principal sponsors of the JFC. With the agreement coming into existence, the JFC match jersey will now feature the SBI logo.
- 45.** According to UBS Securities, **9.5 per cent** will be the growth rate of Indian economy in the fiscal year 2021-22.
Note: The brokerage also sees the economy clipping at 7.7 per cent in FY23 but moderating to 6 per cent in FY24. The Reserve Bank also forecasts 9.5 per cent GDP growth this fiscal while the average projection ranges from 8.5 to 10 per cent.
- 46. NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure** has got in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an account aggregator business under its wholly-owned subsidiary.
Note: Account Aggregator is a first-of-its-kind consent framework that empowers an individual with control over his or her data, and the ability to securely and digitally access and share the same. Aggregator services can play a pivotal role as a core contributor to a data-led economic empowerment and inclusion at scale.
- 47. SIDBI** has entered a collaboration with global giant **Google** for having a social impact lending programme, entailing financial assistance up to ₹1 crore at competitive interest rates targeted at micro-enterprises.
Note: The program entails financial assistance up to ₹1 crore at competitive interest rates targeted at micro-enterprises. The collaboration brings a corpus of \$15 million (about ₹110 crore) to micro-enterprises as a crisis response related to Covid-19 to reinvigorate them. The collaboration envisages a loan programme targeted at micro enterprises (having turnover up to ₹5 crore), with loan sizes ranging between ₹25 lakh to ₹1 crore, being implemented by SIDBI.
- 48.** According to World Bank data **India** becomes the world's largest recipient of remittances worth \$87 billion a gain of 4.6 per cent from previous year.
Note: India becomes the world's largest recipient of remittances with a gain of 4.6 per cent. India is followed by China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt. In India, remittances are projected to grow three per cent in 2022 to \$89.6 billion.
- 49.** Electric two-wheeler platform **eBikeGo** has acquired the rights to manufacture the smart electric trike 'Velocipede' of a leading Spanish automotive company Torrot in India, in a multi-million-dollar deal.
Note: With this, eBikeGo now plans to enter the luxury electric three-wheeler industry and aims to manufacture these scooters at its factory in Pune. The acquisition will address a niche in the Indian mobility sector, particularly in the electric vehicle (EV) segment. Velocipede will be produced in three basic models — a personal vehicle, Trick Taxi and a cargo vehicle, in Pune.
- 50.** NPCI International Payments has signed an MoU with Network International to discuss their collaboration on acceptance of the UPI in **UAE**.
Note: The proposed collaboration will benefit Indian travellers visiting the UAE by allowing them to make payments through UPI-based mobile applications leveraging Network's trusted payment infrastructure and network strength as the UAE's largest merchant acquirer. The proposed rollout of UPI mobile payment solutions on Network International's merchant network in the UAE is expected to start in the first quarter of 2022 across the company's key retail merchant partner outlets
- 51.** Financial institution **SIDBI** has launched Swavalamban Challenge Fund (SCF) with Green Bharat as prioritised theme.
Note: The focus of the fund is on innovative projects addressing the green, clean or efficient climate change, Sidbi said in a statement. Other themes are sustainable livelihood, financial inclusion, and access to financial services and promoting the culture of entrepreneurship
- 52.** India has received \$87 billion in remittances in 2021 as per the report titled 'Migration and Development Brief 35' released by World Bank and KNOMAD.
Note: As per the report, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to reach \$589 billion in 2021.
- 53. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has been adjudged the best regional rural bank (RRB) under the 'Regional Rural Banks' category, in recognition of its initiatives in the sphere of digital financial services by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

Note: Bank chairman P. Gopikrishna received the award from Reserve Bank of India Regional Director R. Gurumurthy in Bengaluru. Around 40 villages in Karnataka are converted into 100% digital villages by the KVGB bank. These efforts are encouraging villagers to use digital mode for transactions. Those villages have round-the-clock access to Internet banking, mobile banking, micro ATMs, AEPS (Aadhar Enabled Payment Systems), IMPS, and UPI.

54. Mswipe has partnered with OneCard, a mobile-first credit card company, to offer no-cost Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs) across its network of 250,000 retailers.

Note: The partnership will enable users of OneCard to seamlessly access no- or low-interest EMIs, while availing mid- and high-value purchases at retail outlets powered by Mswipe terminals.

55. HDFC Bank has announced the launch of micro-credit facility for street vendors, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), with common service centres (CSC).

Note: HDFC Bank would facilitate PM SVANidhi for its village-level entrepreneurs (VLEs) on the digital sewa portal where vendors can complete the entire process online. It is a collateral-free affordable loan of ₹10,000 with an interest subsidy of 7%. VLEs must understand the loan application requirements, ensure the mobile number is linked to the Aadhaar and check the eligibility status of their application as per the scheme rules.

56. Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services announced the launch of a lease-based vehicle subscription business for the urban centres.

Note: The new venture would be called 'Quiklyz' and would target both individuals as well as corporate buyers. The venture is a digital platform for vehicle leasing and subscription, that aims to provide convenience, flexibility and choice to customers across cities.

57. According to the SBI Ecowrap report of Economic Research Department of State Bank of India (SBI), India's GDP growth rate of the Indian Economy during the fiscal year 2021-22 -- **9.3%-9.6%**.

Note: Earlier, this was estimated in the range of 8.5% to 9%. Reason for the upward revision is decline in the number of COVID cases.

58. The Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision-making body of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) approved **5 per cent** of the annual deposits to invest in alternative investments including infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

Note: Central board of trustees of EPFO has given in-principle approvals to invest in public sector invits and

bonds, though on a case-to-case basis, to be decided by Finance Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC).

59. ICICI Bank has launched an online platform called as '**Trade Emerge**' for Indian exporters and importers to offer them digital banking and value-added services.

Note: Through this platform, cross-border trade will become hassle-free, expeditious and convenient. This is due to an array of services offered in one place, facilitating companies to coordinate with multiple touchpoints.

60. JPMorgan Chase has been named the world's most important bank to the health of the wider financial system, according to the latest annual ranking of top lenders released by the Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries.

Note: The Financial Stability Board (FSB), made up of regulators from G20 countries, published its latest table of the world's 30 most systemic banks. Last year JPMorgan shared the highest bucket with HSBC and Citigroup, but is now alone in the next bucket up, which had been empty.

61. Andhra Pradesh state govt and the Union govt have signed a legal agreements for \$250 million (Rs 1,860 crore) loan with **World Bank** for Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project, which aims to improve the quality of learning for over 50 lakh students in the State.

Note: The project aims to cover 40 lakh students between the ages of six and fourteen in over 45,000 government schools, over 10 lakh children between the ages of three and six enrolled in Anganwadis, about 1,90,000 teachers, and more than 50,000 Anganwadi workers.

62. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Government of India has signed a \$300 million loan to strengthen and improve access to comprehensive primary health care in urban areas.

Note: The programme supports the Government of India's key health initiatives - Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWC) and Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana (PM-ASBY) - which has been renamed as Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) - by expanding availability and access to quality primary health care services particularly for vulnerable populations in urban areas.

63. Tata Power go live on 'ClickPay', the newly launched platform launched by NPCI Bharat BillPay.

Note: Bharat BillPay's marquee offering - ClickPay will enable Tata Power customers to make monthly electricity bill payments with ease. To offer an automated and valuable electricity bill payments experience, Tata Power will generate the ClickPay link

and share it with customers which will redirect them to the payment page comprising payment details.

- 64. Equitas Small Finance Bank** has partnered with **HDFC Bank** to launch a co-branded credit card.

Note: The credit cards will be available for Equitas Small Finance Bank's customers, with an aim to provide them with the facilities of the banking ecosystem. The credit card can be availed in two categories. The first category is the 'Excite Credit Card' which offers a credit limit from ₹25,000 to ₹2 lakh and the second category is the 'Elegance Credit Card' which offers credit limit of over ₹2 lakh.

- 65. Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited** has partnered with API Holdings through its digital platform Retailio to provide financing solutions to consumers, retailers and merchants in the API Holdings' healthcare ecosystem.

Note: Retailio is the country's largest digital B2B healthcare platform. Under this partnership, PCHFL has earmarked an initial amount of ₹100 crore for disbursement by March 2022.

- 66.** According to a recent Sequoia India and Boston Consulting Group report, the mobile gaming market in India is estimated to become a \$5 billion market by **2025**.

Note: The rise in adoption of smartphones, wider internet access, and a better selection of mobile-first games along with the rise of gaming streamers and influencers is said to have catalysed gaming in India. There are now over 300 million gamers in India and revenue across all gaming devices reached \$1.8 billion in 2020, up 500 per cent from 2016.

- 67. Capri Global Capital Limited (CGCL)** has entered into a co-lending agreement with **Union Bank of India** to offer loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across 100-plus touch points pan-India.

Note: CGCL emphasised that the co-lending agreement aims to enhance last-mile credit and drive financial inclusion to MSMEs by offering secured loans between ₹10 lakhs to ₹1 crore. The co-lending arrangement will entail joint contribution of credit to prospective MSME customers in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets.

- 68. Bank of Baroda** has partnered with OneCard, to launch a co-branded mobile-first credit card.

Note: The virtual credit card, powered by a mobile app, will be delivered in under three minutes and the metal card will be delivered in three to five days. The internationally valid credit card will be issued by BFSI and managed by OneCard on VISA's Signature platform.

- 69. State Bank of India** has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Puducherry Cooperative Milk Producers Union (PONLAIT) to provide loan to individual dairy farmers.

Note: The loan would be given under SAFAL (simple and fast agriculture loan) scheme of the bank. The amount of loan is up to a limit of Rs 3 lakh. This was the first MoU signed in the Chennai circle of the bank which plans to enter into such agreements with commercial dairies throughout the country to finance farmers supplying milk to the dairies.

- 70. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** has announced its partnership with deep-tech startup TropoGo for the distribution of a drone Insurance product.

Note: The drone insurance product will cover damage to the Drone and Payload it carries, Third Party Liability along with additional covers for BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) Endorsement and Night Flying Endorsement. Drone owners and drone manufacturing companies can avail an annual third-party and comprehensive coverage for accidental damage, theft, and disappearance.

- 71. Yes Bank** announced its collaboration with Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer customers an instant real-time payment system through a UPI transaction facility.

Note: The integration enables Amazon Pay to issue UPI IDs with the @yapl handle, allowing customers to make secure, fast, and convenient payments. Based on a multi-bank model, this collaboration allows Yes Bank to acquire merchants through the Amazon Pay platform, further extending the lender's presence in the UPI merchant business segment.

- 72.** According to Moody's **9.3%** will be the India's GDP growth in fiscal year 2021-22.

Note: India recently hit record Covid-19 vaccination rates. Moody's notes that the vaccination drive in India has gathered pace after the second wave. In the report, Moody's said credit fundamentals are favorable for India's companies on a sustained economic recovery and earnings of rated companies' will rise on strong consumer demand and high commodity prices.

- 73.** The new base year on which Ministry of Labour released a new series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) -- **2016**.

Note: New series of Wage Rate Index (WRI) from July 2016 to July 2020 based on the new series 2016=100 has been released by the government. Total of 37 industries have been covered in the new WRI basket (2016=100) as against 21 industries in the 1963-65=100 series.

- 74. Exim Bank** has committed has loans worth \$100 million for domestic manufacturers of Covid-19 vaccines.

Note: These loans are being extended to about half a dozen drug makers in the country. The loans for vaccines are also being extended to other countries. The bank expects a credit growth of 10% this year.

75. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has accepted the recommendation of the Internal Working Group constituted under Prasanna Kumar Mohanty to raise the cap on promoters' stake in private banks from the current 15 % to **26%**.

Note: There is no need to fix any cap on the promoters' holding in the initial 5 years. The promoters are allowed to choose to bring down the holding to below 26 percent, any time after the 5 year lock-in period.

76. **HSBS** bank has launched India's first credit card made from recycled PVC plastic.

Note: The cards are issued in partnership with IDEMIA and will help gradually eliminate single-use PVC plastic. This initiative has initially been rolled out for HSBC Cashback Credit Card and will be gradually extended to all card variants.

77. **ESAF Small Finance Bank** has announced the latest "Go Green" range of electric vehicle loan schemes.

Note: ESAF Go green loans validate bank's social business strategy seeking a triple bottom line impact; people; planet; and prosperity. ESAF SFB caters to more than 46 lakhs customers through its 550 banking outlets across 21 States and two UTs.

78. White-label ATM operators (WLAOs) **India1 Payments** has crossed a milestone of deploying 10,000-white-label ATMs, making it the largest player in the segment.

Note: The company has installed these machines mostly in semi urban and rural areas across 14 states and union territories, and this milestone makes India1 ATM the second largest white label ATM (WLA) brand in the semi-urban and rural areas. India1 ATM services over 72 million customer transactions and facilitates a gross transaction value of over Rs 13,600 crore every quarter on an average. It began operations in 2014 and since then it has installed more than a third of the WLAs.

79. After Air India in a second major disinvestment, the central government has approved the 100 percent strategic disinvestment of the **Central Electronics Limited**.

Note: This is the second privatisation this fiscal year, after Air India. The winning bidder offered over ₹210 crore against the reserve price of ₹194 crore. This is the second attempt at selling CEL after the process in 2016 did not attract any financial bid.

Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** -Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** – Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV**- Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** – Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India

50. **NFS** – National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** – National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** – National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** – Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank
91. **YONO** - You only need one
92. **ARC** - Asset Reconstruction Company
93. **D-SIBs** - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
94. **MFIs** - Micro Finance Institutions
95. **FPIs** - Foreign portfolio investors
96. **FVCIs** - Foreign venture capital investors
97. **PPF** - Public Provident Fund
98. **NSC** - National Savings Certificate
99. **CbC** - Country-by-Country
100. **WEF** - World Economic Forum
101. **MPI** - Multidimensional Poverty Index
102. **UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme
103. **UPI** - Unified Payments Interface
104. **NPCI** - National Payments Corporation of India
105. **CII** - Confederation of Indian Industry
106. **NBCC** - National Buildings Construction Corporation
107. **NSSO** - National Sample Survey Office
108. **EMV** - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
109. **FATF** - Financial Action Task Force

Agreement & Deals

(1st -7th March 2022)

1. **India & International Telecommunication Union Sign Host Country Agreement**

Note: The Government of India has signed the Host Country Agreement (HCA) with International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for the establishment of an Area Office & Innovation Centre of ITU in New Delhi. The Host Country Agreement provides the legal and financial framework for the establishment and operations of the Area Office. The Area Office and Innovation Centre of ITU at New Delhi will serve South Asian countries comprising of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India.

2. **DST tieup with Intel India to boost AI readiness**

Note: 'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators', a program by the Department of Science and

Technology (DST), Government of India, in partnership with Intel India, was launched by Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology (I/C). The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.

3. **HPCL signed MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India**

Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on February 24, 2022 in New Delhi between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to accomplish green energy targets and the Government of India's efforts towards a carbon-neutral economy.

1st -28th February 2022

1. India's NIUA and WEF to collaborate on sustainable cities development programme

Note: World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'. The program aims to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and built environment sectors.

2. Kerala's startup Mission partnered with Google for Startups to foster global links

Note: During the 'Huddle Global 2022', the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) has entered into a collaboration with technology major Google that will enable start-ups in the State to join a wider global network that provides mentorship and training. This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions.

3. India and France sign Roadmap on Blue Economy

Note: India and France have inked a roadmap to enhance their bilateral exchanges on the blue economy and ocean governance. Dr S Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to France, from February 20 to 22, 2022, to attend EU Ministerial Forum for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific scheduled for February 22. The agreement on 'Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance' was signed between India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar's and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

4. TransUnion tieup Ficci for MSME consumer education programme

Note: TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME. This program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.

5. Twitter tieup with Paytm to boost its 'Tips' feature in India

Note: Twitter Inc has partnered with Paytm's payment gateway to improve the support for its 'Tips' feature in India. With this partnership, Twitter users will be able to use the payments facility of Paytm, including its Paytm digital wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later service), debit and credit cards, and net banking. The feature was announced last year and is one of the company's many efforts to introduce monetisation on the platform.

6. Reliance Jio ties up with SES for satellite-based broadband service

Note: Reliance Jio has tied up with Luxembourg-based satellite and telecom services provider SES to provide satellite-based broadband communication services in India. Under the agreement, Jio Platforms has formed a joint venture with SES, named as Jio Space Technology Ltd. The joint venture will deliver the next generation scalable and affordable broadband services in India, leveraging satellite technology. Jio Platforms Ltd will hold 51 per cent and SES will own a 49 per cent equity stake in the joint venture. The total value of the contract is around \$100 million.

7. Amazon India signed MoU with Karnataka to turn rural women into entrepreneurs

Note: Amazon India signed an MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products. The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.

8. Sonata Software tie-up with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud'

Note: A global IT Services, and Technology Solutions Company, Sonata Software has announced its partnership with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'. The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship. Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers worldwide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.

9. NITI Aayog and USAID announces tie-up under SAMRIDH initiative

Note: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative. It aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions. It aims to mobilize a capital pool of \$100+ million from the private sector and bilateral organizations. It leverages this fund to offer both grant and debt financing provision to support the expansion of market-based health solutions.

10. LIC tie-up with Policybazaar for digital distribution of life insurance

Note: Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with Policybazaar to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers

across India. This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products. To facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across India.

11. Kotak General Ins. partners CARS24 to offer Motor Insurance for used cars

Note: Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company has signed an agreement with Cars24 Financial Services Private Limited (CARS24 Financial Services) to provide motor insurance services to used car buyers. Under the partnership, used car buyers from Cars24 will be directly provided with Kotak General Insurance's comprehensive motor insurance plans.

12. SBI tie-up with Ministry of Culture for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design

Note: The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi. The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote

and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India.

13. Vedanta tied up with Union Bank of India to take over syndicated facility

Note: Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of Rs 8,000 crores (replacement facility) with Union Bank of India at 7.75% to take over the majority of the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders. During 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Vedanta Ltd had tied up a syndicated facility of ₹10K crores with the State Bank of India as the lead bank at a running cost of 10.5 per cent.

14. SBI tie-up with Tata Power for financing solar projects

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell named 'Surya Shakti Cell' with the objective of strengthening the existing financing arrangement for solar power projects. SBI has collaborated with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (a Tata Power Company) for financing solar power projects.

(1st -31st January 2022)

1. India tie-up with Israel to convert 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence'

Note: The Government of India has joined hands with the Government of Israel to create 150 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States of the country, to help farmers to adopt the latest technology in the farm sector. Israel would provide Technical assistance and other expertise to make agriculture a more profitable business.

2. Meta tie-up with FICCI to support 5 lakh women-owned SMBs across India

Note: Social media giant Meta has partnered with industry body the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to support five lakh women-led small businesses across India. Meta will undertake this initiative under its #SheMeansBusiness programme, in partnership with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%' initiative. The initiative will create a supportive ecosystem for women and inspire them to become contributors to the overall development of the country.

3. TerraPay tie-up with NPCI International to boost cashless transactions

Note: TerraPay has signed MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to allow Indian customers with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology. It will enable a seamless and convenient cross-border remittances

experience. NIPL is an international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

4. Google to invest upto \$1 Billion in Bharti Airtel

Note: Bharti Airtel and Google have announced a long-term partnership agreement, to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Under the deal, Google will invest USD 1 billion in Airtel. From the total investment, Google will invest USD 700 million to acquire a 1.28 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel Ltd. The remaining USD 300 million will go toward multi-year commercial agreements with Airtel, including devices built together by the two tech giants.

5. Jio tie-up with Finland's University of Oulu to accelerate 6G research

Note: Jio Platforms (JPL) has signed a pact with the University of Oulu, Finland, to accelerate research and standardization in 6G technology. JPL and the University of Oulu will collaborate in Research and Development (R&D) of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics.

6. IIMK LIVE and Indian Bank ink MoU to disburse loans upto Rs 50 Crore for Startups

Note: Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode's (IIMK) Business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Bank to financially support early-stage startups. Under the MoU, a startup funding scheme, 'IndSpring Board'

has been launched. Under this scheme loans up to Rs, 50 Crore will be disbursed to the startups.

7. Odisha And The United Nations World Food Programme To Bolster Food Security Of Small Farmers

Note: In a participatory pilot initiative, climate advisories will be tailored to enable smallholder farmers to adapt to the impact of climate change. Smallholder farmers, who constitute 90 percent of farming communities in Odisha, will be able to select the right farming and livelihood options to improve their food security and incomes.

8. Indifi tie-up with GPay to offer instant digital credit to SMEs

Note: Small businesses-focused online lending platform Indifi Technologies has collaborated with Google Pay to provide instant loans to eligible medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) merchants through the Google Pay platform. The borrowing process is entirely digital and eligible merchants on the Google Pay for the Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi and submit an application online. The loans will be in the range of Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh.

9. Axis Bank tie-up with MinkasuPay for biometric-based banking payments

Note: Axis Bank has tied up with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords, and One-Time Passwords (OTPs). This Solution will reduce the time of payment from 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds and also increase the transaction success rate.

10. LazyPay tie-up with SBM Bank India to Launch LazyCard

Note: LazyPay, a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution by PayU Finance, announced its partnership with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard, a prepaid payment instrument backed by a credit line that works on the Visa payment network. To empower financially underserved Indians with easy access to credit as their card has limited credit options. LazyCard reaches over 62 million pre-approved users of LazyPay, with a credit limit of up to 5 lakhs. Consumers could avail the Lazycard at zero joining fees and zero annual fees along with multiple transactional benefits and rewards.

11. Adani Group sign agreement with South Korea's POSCO to develop steel mill

Note: Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore business opportunities in India. This includes the establishment of a green, environment-friendly integrated steel mill at Mundra, Gujarat. The estimated investment of the project is up to \$5 billion (approx. Rs 37,000 crore). The non-binding MoU also intends to collaborate at the group business level in various other sectors such as renewable energy, hydrogen, and logistics in response to carbon reduction requirements.

12. Airtel Payments Bank tie-up with Park+ to offer FASTag-based Parking Solutions

Note: Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ have collaborated to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India. This partnership will utilize the reach of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. Park+ is backed by Sequoia Capital and Matrix Partners and is engaged in automating parking spaces through FASTag.

(1st -31st December 2021)

1. Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Financial Intelligence Unit-India signs MoU for Data Exchange

Note: Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND), Ministry of Finance signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for data exchange on an automatic and regular basis. It is on the line of vision of MCA and FIU-INDIA to harness data capabilities to ensure effective enforcement. This MoU will also fulfill the Government's vision of minimum government, maximum governance.

2. Ashok Leyland Signs Pact with DRDO Arm to Develop Combat Vehicle Engines

Note: Ashok Leyland has partnered with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment

(CVRDE), a premier lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), to develop and manufacture 600-HP indigenous engine to power futuristic combat vehicles under Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The 600-HP engine will undergo rigorous testing in the lab and will be qualified for application in tanks.

3. HAL signs Rs 2,400 cr contract with BEL for supply of avionics for LCA

Note: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited awarded a Rs 2,400 crore contract to Bharat Electronics Limited for the manufacture and supply of 20 types of airborne electronic systems for the LCA Tejas Mk1A fighter aircraft programme. The duration of the contract is 5 years i.e. from 2023 to 2028. Notably, this is HAL's

biggest order on any Indian company thus boosting the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign.

4. India & Vietnam Signed LoI to Establish Partnership in Digital Media

Note: Anurag Thakur, Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Nguyen Manh Hung, Minister of Information and Communication, Government of Vietnam, to enable collaboration in the field of digital media and strengthen the partnership between India and Vietnam. The LoI anticipates sharing of information and experience in establishing policies and regulatory frameworks on digital media and social networks. The LoI also expects to conduct capacity building and training programs for media professionals and officials in both India and Vietnam.

5. NIPL & Western Union sign MoU to enable Real-time Cross-Border Transactions

Note: NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), international payments arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Western Union to enable real-time bank account payout in India. The agreement will enable bank account holders in India to receive cross-border money transfers instantly using UPI IDs. It will benefit millions of Indian citizens to seamlessly receive money from across the world.

6. India & Uzbekistan Pushes Cooperation to Boost Economic Ties

Note: India and Uzbekistan decided to promote cooperation & intensify interregional cooperation, especially between Andijan (Uzbekistan) and Gujarat (India). The financial-technical cooperation between India & Uzbekistan were also discussed. The direct interaction for the implementation of joint projects in the investment, trade and cultural-humanitarian spheres will be established between Uzbekistan's Fergana region and Haryana, the cities of Bukhara and Hyderabad, and also between Tashkent and New Delhi. The Projects regarding infrastructure development, education, Information Technology, healthcare and education will be accelerated under Indian grants.

7. Meta, CBSE expand partnership to enable over 10 million students to embrace immersive tech

Note: Meta (Facebook) is set to expand its partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide a curriculum on digital safety and online well-being and Augmented Reality (AR) for around 1 crore college students and 10 lakh educators across India over the next 3 years. This was announced by Mark Zuckerberg, Founder and CEO of Meta at Meta's Fuel for India 2021. This is in line with the vision of the Indian government to Universalize Education.

8. IIT-Delhi signs MoU with IAF to Improve Indigenisation Efforts

Note: IIT-Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Air Force (IAF) to support requirements towards indigenous solutions in various weapon systems. The MoU was signed by Air Vice Marshal Samir V Borade, Deputy Senior Maintenance Staff Officer, Headquarters Maintenance Command, IAF, and M R Ravi, Head of Department for Mechanical Engineering at IIT-Delhi. Under the MoU, The IAF has identified key focus areas involving development of technology and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems. IIT Delhi will provide consultancy and cooperation, appropriately supported by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development.

9. Axis Bank Tie up with Swift to Provide Digital Banking Solution

Note: Axis Bank is working with new digital services from provider Swift to provide a comprehensive digital solution to clients. The bank is integrating with different digitisation initiatives by government bodies and service providers to extend an end-to-end service to business clients. Axis bank's B2B (business-to-business) digitisation efforts are being supported by Swift, a cooperative of global banks that acts as an intermediary between banks and sets standards.

10. AGEL Signed an Agreement with SECI to Supply 4667 MW of Green Power

Note: Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has signed a purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to supply 4667 Megawatt (MW) of green power.

This is the world's largest green power purchase agreement (PPA). This agreement is in line with India's objective to accelerate India's renewable energy footprint as well as to promote domestic manufacturing under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat programme. This agreement between ANGEL and SECI to supply 4667MW is a part of the manufacturing-linked solar tender of 8,000 MW awarded to AGEL by SECI in June 2020, which was the world's largest solar development tender ever awarded.

11. MoD signs MoU with IITE, Gandhinagar for Training 800 Sainik School teachers

Note: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE), Gandhinagar to facilitate training for 800 teachers of Sainik Schools. The MoU is signed for 5 years with effect from January 2022. Under the partnership, around more than 800 teachers from all Sainik Schools will be trained through courses named 'Gurudiksha' and 'Pratibaddhta'. The MoU was signed in New Delhi by Rakesh Mittal, Joint Secretary (Land & Works) and Honorary Secretary, Sainik Schools

Society (SSS), (on behalf of MoD); and Himanshu Patel, Registrar of IITE.

12. India's mission to WTO inks MoU with 2 institutes for capacity building, research in international trade law

Note: The Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland; Centre for Trade and Investment Law (CTIL), Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi; and the Centre for Trade and Economic Integration of The Graduate Institute, Geneva (CTEI) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Geneva to collaborate towards research and capacity-building in the field of international trade law and policy. It was signed by India's Ambassador and PMI to the WTO Brajendra Navnit, Prof. James J. Nedumpara, Head, CTIL, and Prof. Joost Pauwelyn, Professor of International Law at The Graduate Institute.

13. MoHUA & UNDP Signed MoU for Strengthening Waste Management Sector

Note: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), operational for a period of 5 years (2021-26), to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0). This collaboration is in the backdrop of the 75th year of India's independence, the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with UNDP supporting us with the set up and operationalization of 75 Swachhata Kendras across the country.

14. BDL and Indian Army sign Rs 471.41cr contract to supply IGLA-1M missiles

Note: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) and the Indian Army signed a contract worth Rs 471.41 crore in New Delhi for the refurbishment of IGLA-1M missiles. After the Refurbishment, the missile will get a fresh lease life of ten years. Introduced by the Soviet Union in 1986, the IGLA-1M is an improved version of Iгла man-portable missile system. The Iгла is a fire-and-forget, man-portable, shoulder-launched, short range Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) to engage low flying fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft and cruise missiles.

15. India-EU adopted Clean Energy & Climate Partnership 2021-2023

Note: The 9th India-EU (European Union) Energy Panel held which was co-chaired by Reenat Sandhu, the Secretary of India's Ministry of External Affairs (West), and Ms. Mechthild Worsdorfer, Deputy Director-General for Energy, European Commission (EC). During the meeting both sides agreed on a detailed work programme 2021-2023, to implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. The Energy Panel agreed on increased technical cooperation in the area of energy efficiency, renewable energy, green

hydrogen, grid integration; storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.

16. Paytm Signs MoU with Skill Development Ministry to Train Youths in Fintech Industry

Note: Paytm signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Directorate of General Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, to train 6000 individuals for 3 years in Fintech Industry. The trainees will undertake a six-month programme that is designed by Paytm in consultation with the DGT. The collaboration is part of DGT's Flexible-MoU (Flexi-MoU). The course equips the trainee's with the fundamentals of the latest Fintech Internet of Things (IoT) products and financial services along with professional skills, communications, sales and pitch, and on-the-job training.

17. WFP & The Akshaya Patra Foundation partnered to enhance PM POSHAN Scheme

Note: United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) in India, has partnered with The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF), a not-for-profit organization, to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri - Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme (earlier known as National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools). The partnership aims to enhance food safety and hygiene projects, capacity building of cooks-cum-helpers and nutritional quality of school meals.

18. HDFC Bank tie-up with IPPB to offer banking services in rural areas

Note: HDFC Bank has signed an MoU with India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) to offer banking services to over 4.7 crore customers of IPPB in semi-urban and rural areas. Under the MoU, out of 4.7 crores, customers around 90 per cent reside in rural areas. The HDFC bank aims to boost its financial inclusion drive by leveraging IPPB's network of 650 branches and over 136,000 banking access points.

19. Indipaisa tie-up with NSDL Payments Bank to launch a new Fintech platform

Note: Indipaisa has signed a partnership agreement with NSDL Payments Bank to launch Financial Technology (Fintech) solutions targeting India's 63 million Small & Mid-sized Enterprise (SME) sector. To empower SME owners & operators to provide facilities and services that help them grow businesses, comply with government tax laws and build a sustainable future.

20. NITI Aayog tie-up with UN WFP to diversify food basket

Note: NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP). The partnership focuses on mainstreaming millets and supporting India in taking lead globally in knowledge exchange using the opportunity of 2023 as an

International Year of Millets. The government of India observed 2018 as a year of millets.

21. NPCI partners with UdeMy Business to encourage skill employees

Note: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has signed a partnership agreement with UdeMy Business, to encourage innovative learning and skill development for employees of NPCI. The 3-year partnership with UdeMy Business will offer courses on in-demand skills such as tech, domain, behavioural, and leadership skills to all NPCI employees. Through the mission 'Talent Development for All' of NPCI, it provides capacity-building programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), etc.

22. GACL, GAIL team up to establish bioethanol plant in Gujarat

Note: Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Limited (GACL) and GAIL (India) Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up a bioethanol plant with a production capacity of 500-kilo litre per day (KLD) in Gujarat. This MoU was signed on the lines of the roadmap launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for 20% Ethanol Blending in Petrol by 2025 in order to reduce the import of crude oil.

23. TVS Motor and BMW Motorrad tie up to make electric vehicles

Note: India's TVS Motor Company will develop electric vehicles (EV) with BMW's motorcycle brand in India, joining a host of Indian automakers that have sought to expand their clean mobility offering. The tie-up comes at a time when new-age start-ups like Ola Electric & Ather are ramping up investment in electric scooters.

24. Andhra Pradesh tie-up with UN-FAO & ICAR for sustainable agriculture

Note: The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has signed an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh Government to train the farmers in good farm management practices and sustainable agricultural methods. The FAO apart, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is collaborating on the project.

25. IIT-Delhi tie-up with IAF to improve indigenisation efforts

Note: IIT-Delhi signed an MoU with Indian Air Force (IAF) to support requirements towards indigenous solutions in various weapon systems. Under the MoU, The IAF has identified key focus areas involving the development of technology and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems. The partnership between IIT Delhi and IAF will also boost the efforts by Base Repair Depots (BRDs) of Maintenance Command IAF.

November-2021

1. SIDBI- Google join hands to support MSMEs

Note: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has joined hands with Google India Pvt Ltd (GIPL) to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The partnership will pilot a social impact lending programme, providing a financial assistance of up to Rs 1 crore at competitive interest rates to MSMEs. It will bring a corpus of \$15 million to MSMEs, as a crisis response related to Covid-19 pandemic. Under the agreement, a loan programme targeted at micro enterprises (with turnover up to Rs 5 crore), is being implemented by SIDBI. The loan sizes rang between Rs 25 lakh to Rs 1 crore. The collaboration between SIDBI and GIPL will enhance the efforts in expanding MSEM sector's access to credit. It also marks the launch of a paperless journey of SIDBI to its customers, right from on-boarding to the disbursal stage.

2. AMTRON Signs MoU to set up cyber intelligence centre of excellence

Note: Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON) has signed a tripartite MOU with Mastercard Asia/Pacific Pte Ltd. and I-Sec Security Services Pvt. Ltd for setting up a strategic cyber intelligence centre of excellence (COE) at Tech City, Guwahati. The cybersecurity threats have been

steadily increasing and become a concern for all Government organisations, financial institutions or business bodies. The Cyber COE provides intelligence services to the Government of India, state governments within India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) within India, and corporations within India against cyber security threats. This step strengthens the National Cyber Defence Mechanism that improves overall security services and increases vigilance on any cyber threats or frauds. The Master Card supports AMTRON with relevant training and knowledge for the Cyber COE.

3. EESL Ties up with Ministry of MSME, UNIDO, GEF to Implement Energy-efficiency Project

Note: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power has collaborated with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (M/o MSME), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to implement the projects on promoting market transformation for energy efficiency in the MSME sector. Under this project, 12 MSME clusters from across India including Howrah mixed cluster have been identified, where the energy efficient technologies will be demonstrated.

4. Ministry of Civil Aviation signed MoU with Indian School of Business to analyze the effect of RCS on Commercial Air Travel

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Indian School of Business (ISB) to undertake research to analyze the effect of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) on commercial air travel in India. MoU is the extension of the socio-economic impact study of the UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme conducted by ISB pro-bono basis in 2020. After the success of phase I, now it got further extended.

ii. Under this agreement, ISB will conduct an in-depth analysis of RCS and prepare a case study that can be used in academic institutions and administrative training institutions for students of public policy.

5. India & Nepal Signed MoU on Reciprocal Recognition of Covid Vaccination Certificate

Note: India and Nepal have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for reciprocal recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificate to ease the travel of fully vaccinated people of both India and Nepal. The MoU between the Health Ministers of India and Nepal was signed by Vinay M Kwatra, Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Dr. Roshan Pokhrel, Secretary, Ministry of health and Population, Government of Nepal at the ministry office, Kathmandu, Nepal. This MoU is one of the COVID-19 related cooperation and coordination between India and Nepal.

6. World Bank signs \$250 Million Loan to improve Educational Quality in Schools of Andhra Pradesh

Note: The Government of India, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, and the World Bank signed a loan agreement worth \$250 million, for a project aimed at improving education quality for nearly 50 lakh students in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The project will benefit around 40 lakh students (between the age of 6 and 14) in over 45,000 Government schools. 10 lakh children (between the age of 3 and 6) enrolled in Anganwadis (Integrated Child Development Centers). 1,90,000 teachers along with more than 50,000 Anganwadi workers will be trained to adopt a new competency-based teaching-learning approach.

7. Odisha Signs MoU with Save LIFE Foundation NGO to Improve Road Safety

Note: Odisha Govt signed an MoU with Delhi based NGO, Save LIFE Foundation (SLF), to improve road safety in the state. The agreement was signed by Sanjay Biswal, Joint Commissioner, Road Safety, State Transport Authority, Odisha, and Piyush Tewari, Founder & CEO, Save LIFE Foundation, New Delhi. MoU aims to reduce accidental road deaths around 30-40 percent in 3 years. SLF will identify 100 accident prone areas and recommend measures to bring down the accidents. The 'Zero-Fatality

Corridor' model attempts at reducing the number of road accident deaths through a 360-degree intervention across engineering, emergency care, enforcement, and education.

8. Ministry of FPI Signs MoU with DAHD, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Note: The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAH&D) to provide benefits to beneficiaries of various schemes of MoFPI and DAHD. The beneficiaries will get credit support in establishing dairy processing, meat processing, animal feed plants etc. Under this agreement the MoFPI and DAHD will work together and facilitate the beneficiaries to avail the benefits under the Prime Minister (PM) Kisan Sampada Yojana and PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme of the MoFPI and dairy development schemes of DAHD.

9. BDL inks Export Contract worth USD 21 million with Airbus Defense

Note: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed an export contract under which it will supply Counter Measures Dispensing System (CMDS) to Airbus Defense & Space, Spain. The contract value is estimated at USD 21 million. BDL is also offering Akash Weapon System (surface-to-air missile), Astra Weapon System (air-to-air missile), Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon & Helina (air-to-surface weapon), Light Weight Torpedo and Heavy Weight Torpedo (underwater weapons), Counter Measures Dispensing System among others to friendly foreign nations.

10. SBI & Tata Steel signs Agreement to Jamshedpur Football Club

Note: The State Bank of India (SBI) signed a strategic agreement with Jamshedpur Football Club (JFC), a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Steel, to promote and support football in India. This is the first of its kind of agreement by SBI in the game of football. Through this agreement, the SBI will become one of the principal sponsors of the JFC, thereby having the SBI logo on the Jersey. Tata Football Academy, owned by Tata Steel has been promoting football for 30 years. While JFC is the extension in the same line.

11. SBI signs Co-lending Agreement with U Gro Capital to finance MSMEs

Note: State Bank of India (SBI) signed a Co-lending agreement in line with RBI (Reserve Bank of India) guidelines with the U GRO Capital, the Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). Through this collaboration, SBI and U GRO Capital will disburse up to Rs 500 crore loans to MSME sector by March 2022. It aims to offer strategic financing solutions to the

unserved and underserved (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) MSMEs of the country.

12. TPCI signs MoU with Spain's Navarra for Trade Promotion

Note: Trade Promotion Council of India (TPCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Economy and Business Development of the Government of Navarra, Spain towards mutual promotion of trade and investments, thereby enhancing the country's commercial relationship. Under the MoU, both countries will promote trade & investment with main focus on the Food & Food Processing sector. iii. With USD 4.7 billion bilateral trade in 2020-21, Spain is India's 7th largest trade partner in the European Union, which carries major trade in Organic Chemicals, Textile and Garments.

13. Ministry of Tourism Signs MoU with IRCTC to Strengthen Hospitality sector

Note: The Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to strengthen the hospitality and tourism industry. Aim of the MoU is to provide visibility to accommodation units self-certified under System for Assessment, Awareness & Training for the Hospitality Industry (SAATHI) on the Online Travel Aggregator (OTA) platform. The MoU was signed

during an event organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Quality Council of India (QCI).

14. Ministry of Rural Development signs MoU with Flipkart to aid DAY-NRLM

Note: In order to empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) through Central Government's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program, the e-marketplace Flipkart has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on November 2, 2021. Under this MoU, these businesses, especially led by women, will utilize Flipkart's e-commerce platform to sell their products to its 10 crore customers.

15. NHRCL signs MoU with Japan's JRTC for Designs of HSR Track works

Note: National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHRCL) signed an MoU with Japan Railway Track Consultant Company Limited (JRTC) to design High Speed Rail (HSR) Track works for T-3 package for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor Project. Under this MoU, JRTC will provide the detailed design and drawings of HSR track components like RC Track bed, Track slab arrangement and Continuous Welded Rail CWR for 116-kilometre long track T-3 package between Vadodara and Sabarmati Depot and Workshop in Gujarat.

Obituaries

1-7th March 2022

1. Cricket Sonny Ramadhin who passed away recently represented **West Indies**.
Note: He was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950. He made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950. Ramadhin ended up playing 43 Tests and taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98.
2. Renowned personality Jaiprakash Chouksey passed away recently, he was veteran **Film critic**.
Note: Chouksey has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials.
3. Renowned cricketer Rod Marsh passed away recently; he used to play for **Australia**.

Note: Marsh had been in an induced coma after suffering a heart attack when he attended a charity event. The 74-year old played 96 Tests for Australia and was the first wicket-keeper from his country to score a century.

4. Legendary **Australian** spin bowler Shane Warne passed away recently.
Note: He made his cricket debut in 1992, played 145 Tests for Australia, and picked up 708 wickets. He had retired from all formats of cricket in July 2013 and was regarded as one of the greatest bowlers in the history of cricket. He took 708 Test wickets (most ever for an Australian), and the second-most of all time behind Muttiah Muralitharan.

February 2022

1. Rupinder Singh Suri who passed away recently was an **Advocate**.

Note: Suri was appointed the ASG in June 2020. Suri was designated as senior advocate in 2009 and also served as the President of the Supreme Court Bar

- Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.
2. Renowned personality Amitabh Dayal passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's Dhuaan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).
 3. Legendary playback singer **Lata Mangeshkar** awarded the nation's highest civilian honour in **2001**, who passed away recently.
Note: Mangeshkar began singing in her teens, and in a career spanning 73 years sang more than an estimated 15,000 songs in 36 languages. She is known as the 'Nightingale of India'. She was awarded the nation's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in March 2001.
 4. Renowned personality Chandupatla Janga Reddy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: Reddy was one of the only two BJP Lok Sabha MPs elected in the 1984 general elections, conducted after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The other BJP MP was A K Patel, who was elected from Mehsana in Gujarat.
 5. Renowned personality Christos Sartzetakis passed away recently, he was a former president of **Greece**.
Note: Christos Sartzetakis, the former President of Greece, has passed away. Sartzetakis, who was a jurist by profession, served as the President of Greece from 1985 to 1990.
 6. Renowned personality Praveen Kumar Sobti passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Besides playing the role of Bheem, which made him a household name, Kumar also starred in many films including Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Shehenshah and Dharmendra's Loha. Other films to his credit include Aaj Ka Arjun, Ajooba, and Ghayal, among others.
 7. Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier passed away recently, he was a **Virologist**.
Note: His co-discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus sparked a global search for an AIDS cure. The scientist from the Pasteur Institute in Paris shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Germany's Harald zur Hausen, whose work on the viral causes of cervical cancer was recognized in the same year.
 8. Renowned personality Sandhya Mukherjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Singer**.
Note: She sang under the direction of famous composers such as S D Burman, Roshan and Madan Mohan. She received the National Film Award for best female playback singer in 1970 for the movies Jay Jayanti (a Bengali remake of Sound of Music) and Nishi Padma. This year she refused the Padma award.
 9. Renowned personality Bhargavi Narayan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Actor**.
Note: Bhargavi Narayan was a renowned actor in the Kannada film industry. She was married to Belavadi Nanjundaiah Narayanan, fondly called Makeup Nani10.
 10. Renowned personality Bappi Lahiri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Composer**.
Note: Best known for popularising disco music to the Indian mainstream, the singer was fondly known as Bappi da, and experienced huge success in the 1980s and 90s. He earned the title 'Disco King'.
 11. Renowned personality Dr Chennaveera Kanavi passed away recently, he was a prominent writer and poet of **Kannada** language.
Note: He was also known as 'Samanvaya Kavi' (Poet of Reconciliation). Dr Kanavi received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his work Jeeva Dhvani (Poetry).
 12. Surajit Sengupta was associated with **Football** who passed away recently.
Note: Sengupta had been associated with Kolkata's three big clubs, Mohun Bagan (1972-1973, 1981-1983), East Bengal (1974-1979) and Mohammedan Sporting (1980). He represented the national team from 1973 to 1979 and was in the national team for the 1978 Asian Games.
 13. 102-year-old Gandhian leader Shakuntala Chowdhary held from Assam passed away recently.
Note: She worked towards the welfare and empowerment of women. Shakuntala Chaudhary spent a large portion of her life at the Kasturba Ashram, since 1947. She was a recipient of Vayosheshta Samman - National Awards For Senior Citizens 2021, from the government of India.
 14. Renowned personality Sadhan Pande passed away recently, he was veteran **Politician**.
Note: Pandey represented Kolkata's Burtolla assembly constituency 5 times since 1987, when he was in the Congress, and the Manicktala constituency 3 times since 2011. He joined the TMC after its formation in 1998.
 15. Renowned personality KPAC Lalitha passed away recently she was a noted **Actress**.
Note: She acted in over 500 films in Malayalam and Tamil in her career spanning around five decades. She won the national award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Malayalam film 'Amaram' and 'Santham'.
 16. Renowned personality Hemananda Biswal passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Odisha**.
Note: He was the first tribal chief minister of Odisha. Mr. Biswal was elected chief minister for the first

time for the period December 7, 1989, to March 5, 1990, and again from December 6, 1999, to March 5,

2000.

January 2022

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 grassroot 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.

December 2021

1. Renowned personality **Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry** passed away recently, he was veteran lyricist of **Telugu** language.
Note: He came to be known as Sirivennela Sitarama Sastry though his surname is Chembolu. Since then, he has penned about 3,000 songs and bagged the Andhra Pradesh government's Nandi award several

times, besides other honours. He formed a powerful combination with legendary playback singer S P Balasubrahmanyam, especially in the films of K Viswanath.

2. Renowned personality **Vinod Dua** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Journalist**.

- Note:** Dua was a pioneer in broadcast Hindi journalism with stints in Doordarshan and NDTV. He lived an inimitable life, rising from the refugee colonies of Delhi to the peak of journalistic excellence for over 42 years, always, always speaking truth to power.
3. Renowned personality Sarada Menon passes away recently, he was a veteran **psychiatrist**.
Note: She has been a recipient of several awards, including the Padma Bhushan in 1992 for her work in the field of mental health. She became the first woman psychiatrist in the country when she began working in 1959 at what is now the Institute of Mental Health (previously government Kilpauk mental hospital) in Chennai.
 4. Renowned **teacher** Nanda Prusty, fondly known as Nanda Sir passed away recently.
Note: His family later took him to the Jajpur district headquarters hospital and Tata Covid Hospital for further treatment. The much respected "Nanda Sir" will be remembered for generations due to his efforts to spread the joys of education in Odisha.
 5. veteran **Writer** Anne Rice passed away recently.
Note: Anne Rice's debut novel, published in 1976, Interview with the Vampire revolves around a vampire named Louis de Pointe du Lac, who narrates the story of his life to a reporter. The novel was written shortly after the death of Anne's young daughter, Michelle, who was reportedly an inspiration for the character of Claudia - a child vampire - in the novel.
 6. Veteran **Biotechnologist** Dr Suresh Jadhav has passed away.
Note: He was part of several national and international bodies and organisations. Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine maker. It is the second company to apply for the approval of a vaccine candidate from the Drugs Controller General of India.
 7. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has passed away in a helicopter crash near Coonoor in Tamil Nadu. He was 26th number of Chief of Army Staff.
Note: He was among the 14 people who were on board, including his wife and staff members. Thirteen people have succumbed to the crash, including CDS Rawat, Madhulika Rawat and 11 others. An IAF Mi 17 V5 helicopter with a crew of 4 members carrying the CDS and 9 other passengers met with a tragic accident. Wing Commander Prithvi Singh Chauhan was the pilot of the Mi-17V5.
 8. Renowned personality **R.L. Jalappa** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.
Note: RL Jalappa was founder and Chairman of Devaraj Urs Medical College in Kolar and RL Jalappa Institute of Technology, Doddaballapur. In 1979 he quit Congress to form the Karnataka Kranti Ranga with former Chief Minister D Devaraj Urs and he again joined congress in 1998. In 1996, He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Chikballapur constituency, representing Janata Dal.
 9. Renowned personality **KP Geethakrishnan** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Bureaucrats**.
Note: He joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in May 1958 and belonged to the Tamil Nadu cadre. He held various positions in the State Government, including that of the Collector of Salem, Industries Secretary and Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Industries Development Corporation.
 10. Renowned personality **Richard Rogers** passed away recently, he was a veteran **Architect**.
Note: He was known for designing some of the world's most famous buildings including Paris' Pompidou Centre in 1977. He changed London skyline with distinctive creations such as Millennium Dome and 'Cheesegrater', that won a series of awards for his designs, including the 2007 Pritzker Prize, and is one of the pioneers of the 'high-tech' architecture movement.
 11. Nobel Peace Prize Winner Renowned personality Desmond Tutu passed away recently
Note: Tutu was diagnosed with prostate cancer in the late 1990s and in recent years he was hospitalized on several occasions to treat infections associated with his cancer treatment. In 1984 Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for his non-violent opposition to apartheid.
 12. Renowned personality Karolos Papoulias was former president of **Greece**.
Note: Papoulias, who was also foreign minister in 1985-89 and 1993-96, was a high-ranking member of socialist PASOK party and a close associate of its late leader and former prime minister Andreas Papandreu. He served as President during the crisis that plunged the country into the most grave political and economic turmoil of recent decades.
 13. Renowned personality T. Mark Taylor passed away recently.
Note: He-man was the muscled frontman for toy manufacturer Mattel's Masters of the Universe franchise He-Man was the epitome of hulking superhero warrior but also became an icon within the LGBTQ+ community, who saw parallels in the secret life of Prince Adam, He-Man's alter ego.
 14. Renowned parliamentarian and industrialist Mahendra Prasad passed away recently he was seven time Rajya Sabha MP from **Janata Dal (United)**.
Note: Prasad was a seven-term Rajya Sabha MP from Bihar and was also elected to the Lok Sabha once. Prasad was first elected to the Lok Sabha on a

Congress ticket in 1980. He remained associated with the party for a long time and shifted his loyalties later as its fortunes declined in the state.

15. Renowned personality Edward O Wilson passed away recently.

Note: He was "called 'Darwin's natural heir,' and was known affectionately as 'the ant man' for his pioneering work as an entomologist. He was a true visionary with a unique ability to inspire and galvanize. He articulated, perhaps better than anyone, what it means to be human.

16. Renowned personality Keri Hulme passed away recently.

Note: Hulme worked as a tobacco picker, dropped out of law school and was a charity worker before becoming an unusual literary star when *The Bone People*, her first novel, won one of fiction's greatest prizes. The novel was rejected by several publishers before being picked up by the obscure publisher Spiral, a New Zealand feminist collective.

17. Renowned personality Sabine Weiss passed away recently, she was a veteran **photographer**.

Note: Weiss was the last of the French humanist photography school of post-World War II that reimagined the evocative powers of images, which included Robert Doisneau, Willy Ronis and Brassai.

November 2021

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
Chun Doo-hwan	Former South Korean President	Former army general and led 1979 military coup that sparked massive democracy protests
Mannu Bhandari	Renowned Hindi author	Known for her novels 'Aapka Bunty', 'Mahabhoj' and 'Yahi Sach Hai' (adapted in movie <i>Rajnigandha</i>)
Wilbur Smith	South African author	Authored 49 novels and sold over 140 million copies worldwide in more than 30 languages.
Stephen Sondheim	Veteran US composer and lyricist	Pulitzer Prize ('Sunday in the Park'), and Academy Award (for the song 'Sooner or Later')
Sananta Tanty	Eminent Assamese poet	Sahitya Akademi Award in 2018 for poems "Kailoir Dinto Amar Hobo"
Gurmeet Bawa	Punjabi folk singer	
Novy Kapadia	Football journalist and sports commentator	Known as 'the voice of Indian football'
Babasaheb Purandare	Eminent historian, orator and noted author from Maharashtra	Padma Vibhushan in 2019
Koneru Ramakrishna Rao	Well-known educationist, teacher, and philosopher	Padma Shri in 2011
Anand Shankar Pandya	Former Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad	
Tarak Sinha	Eminent Cricket Coach and Dronacharya Awardee	-

Appointments

List of Cabinet Ministers of India 2021 and their Constituency

Prime Minister

Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.	Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh)
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Cabinet Ministers

Sr. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	
4	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
5	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Morena(Madhya Pradesh)
6	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice	Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh)
7	Shri Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh)
8	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
9	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Deogarh (Odisha)
10	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs.	Khunti(Jharkhand)
11	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development	Amethi(Uttar Pradesh)
12	Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Palitana (Rajya Member from Gujarat)
13	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Labour and Employment	Rajya Sabha member (Rajasthan)
14	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
15	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Rajya Sabha Member
16	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
17	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines.	Dharwad(Karnataka)
18	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries	Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh)
19	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj	Begusarai(Bihar)
20	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti.	Jodhpur(Rajasthan)

21	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH	
22	Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Minister of Civil Aviation	Rajya Sabha Member from Madhya Pradesh
23	Shri Ramchandra Prasad Singh	Minister of Steel	Rajya Sabha Member from Bihar
24	Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw	Minister of Railways; Minister of Communications; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology	Rajya Sabha Member from Odisha
25	Shri Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Minister of Food Processing Industries	Hajipur (Bihar)
26	Shri Raj Kumar Singh	Minister of Power; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy	Arrah (Bihar)
27	Shri Hardeep Singh Puri	Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs	Rajya Sabha (Uttar Pradesh)
28	Shri Parshottam Rupala	Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying	Rajya Sabha Member from Gujarat
29	Shri G. Kishan Reddy	Minister of Culture; Minister of Tourism; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region	Secunderabad (Telangana)
30	Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports	Hamirpur (Himachal Pradesh)

List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

S. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs	Gurugram (Haryana)
2	Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space	Udhampur (Jammu & Kashmir)

List of Ministers of State

S. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio
1.	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
3.	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries

4.	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
6.	General (Retd.) V. K. Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation
7.	Shri Krishan Pal	Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries
8.	Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao	Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways; Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines
9.	Shri Ramdas Athawale	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
10.	Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
11.	Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
12.	Shri Nityanand Rai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
13.	Shri Pankaj Chaowdhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
14.	Smt. Anupriya Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
15.	Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice
16.	Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
17.	Sushri Shobha Karandlaje	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
18.	Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
19.	Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh	Minister of State in the Ministry of Textiles; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways
20.	Shri V. Muraleedharan	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
21.	Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture
22.	Shri Som Parkash	Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
23.	Smt. Renuka Singh Saruta	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs
24.	Shri Rameswar Teli	Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment

25.	Shri Kailash Choudhary	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
26.	Smt. Annpurna Devi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
27.	Shri A. Narayanaswamy	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
28.	Shri Kaushal Kishore	Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
29.	Shri Ajay Bhatt	Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
30.	Shri B. L. Verma	Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation
31.	Shri Ajay Kumar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
32.	Shri Devusinh Chauhan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
33.	Shri Bhagwanth Khuba	Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
34.	Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil	Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
35.	Sushri Pratima Bhoumik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
36.	Dr. Subhas Sarkar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
37.	Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad	Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance
38.	Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh	Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Education
39.	Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
40.	Shri Bishweswar Tudu	Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti
41.	Shri Shantanu Thakur	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
42.	Dr. Munjapara Mahendrabhai	Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of AYUSH
43.	Shri John Barla	Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs
44.	Dr. L. Murugan	Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
45.	Shri Nisith Pramanik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

National and International Appointment

1 -7th March 2022

1. **Hasmukh Adhia** has been nominated again as the chairman of state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB).
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for re-nomination of Adhia as non-executive chairman of the BoB. His term has been extended by another two years as chairman with effect from March 1, 2022. BoB is the third biggest public sector lender after State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.
2. **Akshaye Widhani** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yash Raj Films.
Note: Prior to this, he was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios. He joined Yash Raj Films as a studio manager in 2005.
3. **Sunil Agrawal** has been appointed as the chief financial officer (CFO) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
Note: Prior to this, LIC executive director Shubhangi Sanjay Soman was holding charge as CFO of the insurance behemoth. Agrawal was earlier the CFO of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance for over 12 years. He was also associated with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for 5 years.
4. **T S Ramakrishnan** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund.
Note: Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO. Ramakrishnan is a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) and PGDIM and has been awarded Fellowship from the prestigious Insurance Institute of India.
5. Vidya Balan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.
Note: She as the brand ambassador will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture of Bharti, India's leading business group and AXA, one of the world's leading organizations in financial protection and wealth management.
6. **Nitin Chugh** has been appointed as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of State Bank of India.
Note: Chugh would be responsible for driving growth of customer acquisition through digital channels, along with defining and implementing digital strategies. The seasoned banker and a digital banking expert, with an experience of nearly three decades, served Ujjivan Small Finance Bank as its MD and CEO. He also served 18 years at HDFC Bank in several leadership roles in retail banking.
7. **DN Patel** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
Note: He will succeed Justice Shiva Kirti Singh. His tenure shall be governed by Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021
8. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava has been appointed as the Chief Justice of **Rajasthan High Court**.
Note: President appointed senior-most Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice under Article 223 of the Constitution of India. He will succeed Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi. Prior to Rajasthan, he was heading the Tripura High Court.
9. **Sanjiv Kapoor** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways.
Note: Prior to this, was the president of Oberoi Hotels and has also worked as chief operating officer at SpiceJet and chief strategy and commercial officer at Vistara. Apart from him, former Sri Lankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatileka as the chief financial officer. Jalan Kalrock Consortium is the new promoter of Jet Airways.

February 2022

1. **Manoj Pande** assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Army staff.
Note: Lt Gen Pande was serving as the Eastern Army Commander before assuming the new role. Lt Gen RP Kalita has been appointed as the new chief of Kolkata-headquartered Eastern Army Command. Lt Gen Pande was commissioned in the Bombay Sappers in Dec1982.
2. **GAV Reddy** has been appointed as the Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency.
Note: General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon. The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.
3. **Ravi Mittal** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
Note: The appointment comes little over four months after the post fell vacant following the retirement of M S Sahoo who completed his five-year term on September 30, 2021. In October 2021, IBBI Whole Time Member Navrang Saini was given the additional charge as the chairperson.
4. **M Jagadesh Kumar** has been appointed as Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC).

- Note:** This is the second time he has been given the charge of chairman of UGC. Kumar held the charge of Chairman, UGC from 14 January 2017 to 2 February 2017. He was a member of UGC for three years (24 June 2016 to 23 June 2019).
5. In February 2022, **Hrithik Roshan** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of 'RummyCircle' by Games24x7.
Note: As part of the partnership, Roshan will be seen in multimedia campaigns by RummyCircle, spanning across TV, digital and social media platforms.
 6. **IndiGo** airline has recently appointed Rahul Bhatia as its Managing Director.
Note: The company is the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo. Bhatia is the Co-founder and Promoter of InterGlobe Aviation. Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo. IndiGo is India's biggest airline by market share. It is headquartered at Gurgaon, Haryana.
 7. In February 2022, **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit** has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
Note: She is currently the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Savitribai Phule University. Ms. Pandit will be the first woman Vice Chancellor of JNU. Her appointment is for a period of five years.
 8. **Dinesh Prasad Saklani** has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for five years.
Note: He is currently a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, in Uttarakhand. Saklani succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, whose five-year term ended in November 2020.
 9. **Disha Patani** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Bata India Limited.
Note: Patani will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata umbrella. The move comes as Bata aims to appeal younger shoppers and position itself as a "fashion forward" brand.
 10. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of **Uttarakhand**.
Note: In 2017, Akshay Kumar was also named Uttarakhand's brand ambassador for 'Swachhata Abhiyan'. The actor did not charge any fee for the same and added that it was an honour for him to be associated with the campaign. Apart from Akshay Kumar, cricketer Rishabh Pant was also appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador in December 2021.
 11. **S Unnikrishnan Nair** has been appointed as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
Note: He was previously serving as the director of the Human Space Flight Centre, Isro. He succeeds S Somanath, who recently took over as the chairman of Isro. VSSC is a key space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
 12. **Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed the official brand ambassador of MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms.
Note: As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health. With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India. Leveraging the veteran actor's popularity, especially across tier II and tier III cities, the brand aims to position itself as a household name.
 13. **Sanjay Malhotra** has been appointed as Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Ministry of Finance with immediate effect.
Note: Prior to this, he was serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on Jan 31, 2022. DFS covers functioning of Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies, National Pension System, International banking
 14. **G Mahalingam** will now chair the eight-member committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), restructured by the capital markets regulator SEBI.
Note: The advisory committee on IPEF is an eight-member committee which will take G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, as its new Chairperson. In 2013, the committee was established by the SEBI to find out ways and means to best utilize the investor protection and education fund. Earlier the committee was headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), Gujarat.
 15. **Pradip Shah** has been appointed as the Chairman of Pfizer India.
Note: Pradip Shah is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil. He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.
 16. Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected as President of **Germany** for second term.
Note: He was elected with a big majority by a special assembly comprising of the members of lower house of parliament and representatives of 16 states of Germany. He became president in 2017. Before that, he served two stints as foreign minister of Chancellor Angela Merkel and as chief of staff to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.
 17. **Debashis Mitra** has been appointed as the President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
Note: Prior to this, he was serving as the Vice-President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for 2021-22. After being part of Central Council

- for 2016-19, he is serving his 2nd consecutive term for 2019-22.
- 18. Pankaj Tripathi** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the agritech platform, Krishi Network.
Note: The actor has also invested in the start-up. The start-up said the fresh funds would be used to expand their AI-based technology platform across India and grow rapidly.
- 19. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba** has been declared as President of **Burkina Faso**.
Note: In the month of January, officers led by Damiba forced out the country's elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kabore. The country has been suspended from the West African bloc ECOWAS, although it escaped sanctions following last week's restoration of the constitution.
- 20. Mehmet Ilker Ayci** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India.
Note: Expected to take charge on or before April 1, Ayci (51) until recently was the Chairman of Turkish Airlines and was also on its Board of Directors prior to that. Born in Istanbul in 1971, Ayci was once the Advisor to the country's current President, R.T. Erdogan, when the latter was the Mayor of Istanbul.
- 21. Vineet Joshi** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
Note: He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Vineet Joshi is also the Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA). In 2010 as well he got the responsibility of CBSE chairman.
- 22. G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as the India's first national maritime security coordinator (NMSC).
Note: G Ashok Kumar is an alumnus of Sainik School, Amravathi Nagar and National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune. He was commissioned into the executive branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1982. Ashok Kumar has held various challenging staff and command assignments during his distinguished career in the Navy for over three decades.
- 23. Chetan Ghate** has been appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth.
Note: He succeeds Professor Ajit Mishra. Mr Ghate is a former member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020.
- 24. Vipula Gunatilleka** has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Jet Airways.
Note: His appointment is made by new promoters of Jet Airways, Jalan Kalrock Consortium. He was the CEO of SriLankan Airlines till January 2022. He was also the CFO and board member of TAAG Angola Airlines from November 2015 to July 2018 under Emirates Management.
- 25. Takuya Tsumura** has been appointed as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from April 1, 2022.
Note: He was in-charge of South Asian countries including India from 1997 to 2000 while working at head office of Honda He will succeed Gaku Nakanishi, who has been appointed as General Manager, Automobile Business of Asian Honda (Regional office-Bangkok, Thailand). Honda Cars India Ltd was established in 1995.
- 26. Emma Terho** belongs of **Finland** has been re-elected as the Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC).
Note: She is a double Olympic bronze medallist and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team. She was appointed as the Chair of the Commission on August 06, 2021, for the first time during Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- 27. K.N. Raghavan** has been appointed as the Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) for a period of two years.
Note: Raghavan is currently the Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board and Head of the Indian delegation to IRSG. India has taken over the chair of the IRSG from Cote d'Ivoire. IRSG is an intergovernmental organisation of natural rubber (NR) and synthetic rubber (SR) producing and consuming countries.
- 28. Sharukh Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Thums Up.
Note: Earlier this month, The Coca-Cola Company announced that the home-grown Thums Up brand became a billion-dollar brand in 2021—the first to reach the milestone from its portfolio of drinks in India. The new campaign has been launched to mark this key milestone.
- 29. Sudha Ragunathan** has been appointed as the member of Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC) by Ministry of Culture.
Note: CABC established to provide policy advice to Ministry of Culture on developing programmes. CABC Presided over by Minister of Culture of the Government of India. CABC's member provide policy advice, along with aiding participative decision-making and provide an integrated view of the different ideas and interests from various domains of culture.
- 30. Sanjeev Sanyal** has been appointed as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
Note: Sanyal, who is currently serving as the Finance Ministry's principal economic adviser, had been working since the 1990s with the financial markets.

His addition to the EAC-PM is expected to aid the top advisory body.

31. Nitin Pranjape has been appointed as the as the Non-Executive Chairman of the FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) with effect from March 31, 2022.

Note: The FMCG major has announced the appointment of Nitin Pranjape, currently chief operating officer of Unilever, as the non-executive chairman of the company. Sanjiv Mehta will continue as CEO & MD.

32. Rishabh Pant has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Dish TV India Limited's DTH brand D2H.

Note: Pant will feature in 360-degree brand communication for D2H for the next two years. Dish TV India Limited is a direct-to-home (DTH) company with brands such as Dish TV, Zing and D2H under its ownership.

January 2022

1. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe 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 Sahasrabuddhe. 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 D J 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 Liqun (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 (KPU).
- 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.

December 2021

1. **Ajendra Bahadur Singh** assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-In-Chief of Western Naval Command.
Note: He succeeded Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar. Prior to this, he served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command. He is among the few Commanders-in-Chief who have been bestowed with the unparalleled honour and unique distinction of heading both operational commands of the Indian Navy.
2. **Manoj Kumar Mago** took charge as the 34th Commandant of National Defence College (NDC), New Delhi.
Note: He succeeded Air Marshal D Choudhury who superannuates on November 30, 2021. He is an alumnus of Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and was commissioned into the elite 7th Battalion Brigade of the GUARDS on December 15, 1984 and later commanded 16 GUARDS.
3. **Sambit Patra** has been appointed as the chairman of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the Tourism Ministry's proposal to split the post of chairman and managing director of India Tourism Development Corporation into chairman, ITDC, and managing director (MD), ITDC. IAS officer, GKV Rao will hold the post of managing director of ITDC.
4. **Smriti Mandhana** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the GUVI, an Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
Note: As the brand ambassador of GUVI, Smriti Mandhana will be the face of GUVI and feature across the online campaigns of GUVI aimed to strengthen the importance and scope of technological education & information technology (IT) skills. She will create awareness about technological education among everyone, especially among women.
5. **Gita Gopinath** has been appointed as the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
Note: She will become the second-ranking official, replacing First Deputy Managing Director Geoffrey Okamoto who plans to leave the Fund early next year. Gopinath has served as the IMF's chief economist for three years. She was scheduled to return to her academic position at Harvard University in January 2022.
6. **Shefali Shah** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the CA Institute's Quality Review Board (QRB).
Note: It has also now notified K Saravanan, Chief General Manager, Corporate Finance Department at SEBI as Member of the QRB. Ritika Bhatia, Director General (commercial-II), Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also been notified as Member of QRB. The QRB established under the Chartered Accountants Act 1949 has 11 members including six nominees of the central government (Chairman and five members).
7. **Naomi Kawase** has been appointed as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural and Creative Industries.
Note: She has been recognized for her commitment to culture and creativity at the service of the development of more just societies, especially for girls and women, and of her support for the objectives of UNESCO. Naomi Kawase, committed to the representation of women in the film industry in Africa, participated in UNESCO's conference on Diversity and Gender Equality in African Cinema.
8. **Alka Upadhyaya** has been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
Note: Senior bureaucrat Alka Upadhyaya has been appointed as the chairperson of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Ms Upadhyaya, a 1990-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development.
9. **Sanjay Bandopadhyay** has been appointed as the chairman of the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
Note: Sanjay Bandopadhyay, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, has been named chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India.
10. **Pradip Shah** has been appointed as the chairman of National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL).
Note: Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Company managing director Sanjay Jain will be the chief executive of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL). Also, Diwakar Gupta, former managing director of State Bank of India, is selected as chairman of IDRCL. Before joining Aditya Birla ARC, Jain was with Asset Reconstruction Company of India, J M Financial and SBI Capital Markets.
11. **Olaf Scholz** has been nominated as the next Chancellor by Parliament, replacing Angela Merkel's 16-year reign.
Note: He has cleared the final hurdle on his path to majority after Green Party members approved their coalition deal with his Social Democrats and Free Democrats. While support of at least 369 lawmakers is required in 736-seat lower house to take up the top job, three coalition partners have 416 seats together, giving them a comfortable majority in the house.

12. Who has been elected as the president of International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) _____ **Major General Dr. Ahmed Nasser Al Raisi.**
Note: He is inspector general of the UAE's Ministry of Interior. In the final round, the UAE candidate received 68.9 per cent of votes cast by member countries. As president, Al Raisi's role during his four-year term will be to chair meetings of the executive committee which supervises the implementation of decisions taken at the General Assembly.
13. **Xiomara Castro** became the first female president of Honduras in the Presidential election of Honduras in December 2021.
Note: The conservative ruling party accepted loss in presidential elections held two days earlier. Handing victory to Castro and assuaging fears of a second contested election and violent demonstrations.
14. **Catherine Russell** has been appointed as the Executive Director of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).
Note: Russell will succeed Henrietta Fore, who resigned in July 2021. Russell, a lawyer, has worked in Democratic politics since the mid-1980s. Catherine Russell is an assistant to US President Joe Biden and she also heads the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.
15. Indian-origin person **Gautam Raghavan** has been elevated to Head of the White House personnel office.
Note: He succeeded Catherine Russell, who has been appointed Executive Director of UNICEF. Gautam Raghavan was Russell's Deputy at the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. He is the editor of the book 'West Wingers: Stories from the Dream Chasers, Change Makers, and Hope Creators Inside the Obama White House'.
16. Radha Unni, former Chief General Manager, State Bank of India has been appointed as Independent Director of **South Indian Bank.**
Note: She brings to the table 36 years of banking experience. During her tenure in State Bank of India, Radha Unni had handled corporate credit and project appraisal of small and medium enterprises.
17. **Ittira Davis** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB) for a period of 3 years.
Note: The bank has also appointed Rajesh Kumar Jogi, Harish Devarajan and Umesh Bellur as additional directors. Ittira Davis is succeeded by former MD and CEO Nitin Chugh. Davis has also been appointed as Key Managerial Personnel in terms of Section 203 of the Companies Act, 2013 for a period same as that of his tenure as MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.
18. Under chairmanship of **Madhabi Puri Buch**, the SEBI has constituted an Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS) to enhance technological capabilities and explore suitable technology solutions for the early detection of market anomalies.
Note: The seven-member expert group will guide Sebi on ways to "enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technology solutions for early detection of market anomalies." The name given to the committee is 'Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)'.
19. **Mohit Jain** has been elected as the president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS).
Note: He was elected during 82nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of INS held through video conferencing. He succeeds Lakshmi Pathy Adimoolam of Health & The Antiseptic. K Raja Prasad Reddy (Sakshi) is the Deputy President, Rakesh Sharma (Aaj Samaj) is the Vice President and Tanmay Maheshwari (Amar Ujala) is the Honorary Treasurer of the Society for 2021-22.
20. **Rishabh Pant** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand with an aim to promote sports and create mental health awareness.
Note: The 24-year Pant, who was rested for the New Zealand Tests, is currently in South Africa as the Indian Team is all set to face Proteas in the three-match Test series, starting December 26. Rishabh Rajendra Pant is an Indian cricketer who plays as a middle-order wicket-keeper batsman for India, Delhi, and the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League.
21. 35-year-old Gabriel Boric becomes the youngest president of **Chile** and one of the youngest political leaders in the world.
Note: Boric won with 56% of the votes, while his opponent 55-year-old José Antonio Kast trailed with 44% of the votes. Boric as a student led Federation of Students at University of Chile in Santiago. He rose to prominence after leading protests in 2011 demanding improved and cheaper education.
22. **Unsoo Kim** has been appointed as Managing Director of Hyundai Motor India Limited with effect from 1st January 2022.
Note: He will succeed Seon Seob Kim, who was serving the company since November 2018. He is currently with the parent company in South Korea. SS Kim has played pivotal role in Hyundai growth in the Indian market.
23. The chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee -- **MM Naravane.**
Note: The post fell vacant following the death of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat in the IAF helicopter crash on December 8. Gen Naravane has been given the charge as the chairman of the committee as he is the senior-most among the three service chiefs
24. **Arvind Kumar** has been appointed as the Director General of Software Technology of India (STPI).
Note: Before joining STPI, Kumar was working with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) since 2004. As an advisor in TRAI, he was responsible for

- broadband, data security and privacy issues, manufacturing, DTH, IPTV, TV broadcasting and OTT, after having worked since 1997 in the Indian Government-run premier technology centre, C-DoT.
- 25. Atul Dinkar Rane** has been appointed as the as Director General of BrahMos Aerospace.
Note: He joined DRDO in 1987 and started his initial career at Defence Research and Development Laboratory as System Manager and established modular real-time simulation test mechanisms for Surface to Air Akash Missile System. BrahMos Aerospace: Indo-Russian multinational aerospace and defense corporation, with Headquarters in Delhi.
- 26. PV Sindhu** has been appointed as a member of the Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Athletes' Commission.
Note: She is among the 6 appointed members of the Commission. PV Sindhu was first elected as a member of the BWF's Athletes' Commission in 2017. She is the only member who stood for re-election. PV Sindhu was the 2nd Indian to become a member of the BWF's Athletes Commission.
- 27. H O Suri** has been appointed as new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the IFFCO-TOKIO General Insurance.
Note: Prior to this, Suri was director of marketing and Chief Investment Officer. He started his professional journey in the year 1982 with Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), the world's largest fertiliser manufacturer in the Cooperative Sector, and has a professional qualification of chartered accountant.
- 28.** Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of **Uttarakhand** High Court.
Note: He has been appointed as per Article 223 of the Constitution of India. He was elevated as Judge of the Orissa High Court in 2009 and joined Uttarakhand High Court in October 2021.
- 29. Yogesh Dayal** has been appointed as an additional director on the board of RBL Bank by the Reserve bank of India.
Note: The private sector lender's Managing Director and CEO Vishwavir Ahuja has proceeded on leave with immediate effect. The central bank invoked Section 36 AB (power of RBI to appoint additional directors) contained in Part 2A (Control over Management) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- 30. Atul Kumar Goel** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
Note: Goel will serve as PNB chief until December 31, 2024, which is his attaining the superannuation age. He will serve as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in PNB, which is the country's second-largest public sector bank, until January 31, 2022. Goel will replace
- Mallikarjuna Rao, incumbent MD & CEO of PNB, who is due to demit office at the end of January 2022.
- 31. Soma Sankara Prasad** has been appointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UCO Bank.
Note: Currently, he is the Deputy Managing Director at State Bank of India. He will serve as MD & CEO of UCO Bank till the date of attaining the age of superannuation on May 31, 2023. He will replace Atul Kumar Goel, who has been appointed as MD & CEO of UCO Bank, as MD & CEO of Punjab National Bank (PNB).
- 32. Rajeev Ahuja** has been appointed as interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of RBL Bank.
Note: The RBL Bank board has appointed Rajeev Ahuja, who's currently working as the Executive Director at the bank, as interim Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the bank with immediate effect, subject to the regulatory and other approvals. The board of directors at its meeting has accepted the request of Vishwavir Ahuja, Managing Director and CEO of the bank, to proceed on leave with immediate effect.
- 33. Vikram Misri** has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor in the National Security Council Secretariat of India.
Note: A career diplomat from the 1989 batch of the Indian Foreign Service, Mr Misri was appointed as India's Ambassador to Beijing in 2019. The Ministry of External Affairs had earlier this month appointed Pradeep Kumar Rawat as the next ambassador to China.
- 34. Anupam Ray** has been appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.
Note: Mr. Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi. Mr. Sharma, a 1991-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Mexico.
- 35. Vasudevan Pathangi Narasimhan (PN)** has been reappointed as the MD & CEO of **Equitas Small Finance Bank**.
Note: Vasudevan was appointed as the MD of erstwhile Equitas Finance Limited, now a bank, with effect from July 23, 2016. He is a qualified Company Secretary from the Institute of Company Secretaries of India. He has extensive experience in the financial services sector.
- 36. Baldev Prakash** has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of Jammu & Kashmir Bank for three years.
Note: His appointment will be effective from the date of taking charge or April 10, 2022, whichever is earlier. Apart from him, R K Chhibber has been appointed as an additional director on the board of the bank.

November 2021

Name of the Person	Designation
Harshwanti Bisht	First woman President of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF)
R. Hari Kumar	25th Chief of the Naval Staff
Parag Agrawal	CEO of Twitter, succeeding Jack Dorsey
Vivek Johri	Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), after succeeding M Ajit Kumar.
Petr Fiala	Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Geoff Allardice	Permanent CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
Vinod Tawde	National General Secretary of BJP
VVS Laxman	Head of National Cricket Academy (NCA)
Pramod Chandra Mody	Secretary General of Rajya Sabha, after replacing P.P.K. Ramacharyulu
Daniel Bruhl	Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)
Fumio Kishida	Prime Minister of Japan
Rajeev Srivastava	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Standard Chartered Securities for India (SCSI) operations
Morinari Watanabe (Japan)	President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) for three years.
Zubeen Garg	Brand ambassador for Bandhan Bank in Assam
Rahul Dravid	Head coach of the Indian men's cricket team
Shombi Sharp	UN Resident Coordinator in India
Sourav Ganguly	Chairman of ICC Men's Cricket Committee
Bimal Patel	International Law Commission for five-year.
Satya Narayan Pradhan	Director-General (DG) of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
Sheel Vardhan Singh	DG of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)
Rajib Kumar Mishra	Chairman and Managing Director of PTC India Ltd
Arun Chawla	Director-General of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)

Books and Authors

1 -7 March 2022

- Mithilesh Tiwari** has authored the book titled "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" about Captain AD Manek that was released by the famous Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota.
Note: The program was well organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd. It highlights the life journey, struggle and success story of Captain AD Manek. Capt AD Manek is the founder of "The Skyline Aviation Club".
- The book titled "One Among You" is an autobiography of **MK Stalin**.

Note: This is the first part of the autobiography that contains his early life experiences. Stalin is the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.

- Srishti Jha** is the author of the biography 'The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup'.
Note: The book was originally written in Hindi titled "Ullas Ki Naav" by author Vikas Kumar Jha. "The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup" is the English translation of the book, translated by the writer's daughter Srishti Jha.

February 2022

- 1. Navdeep Singh Gill** is the author of the biography of the Tokyo Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra titled “Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra”.
Note: The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members. It is the seventh book written by Navdeep and the sixth placing focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons.
- 2. Ramesh Thamilmani** is the author of the graphic novel titled ‘Atharva - The Origin’, in which Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva.
Note: Dhoni unveiled the first look of his upcoming graphic novel Atharva - The Origin. The project is created by Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals. The graphic novel has been written by Ramesh Thamilmani.
- 3. J Sai Deepak** has authored the book titled ‘India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution’.
Note: The book is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy, which examines the far reaching impact of European ‘colonial consciousness’ on Bharat. Upon a thorough reading of the book, what really lingers is the well-researched arguments put forth.
- 4. Rajiv Kumar Bhatia** has authored the book titled “India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons”.
Note: The book is published by Routledge India. The book also provides a detailed exploration of India–Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions. The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualise the evolution of the India – Africa engagement.
- 5. Sagarika Ghose** has authored the book titled “Atal Bihari Vajpayee”, the biography on the former Prime Minister of India.
Note: It is a biography on the former Prime Minister of India. Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled “Indira: India’s Most Powerful Prime Minister”.
- 6. Bill Gates** is the author of the book titled “How to Prevent the Next Pandemic’.
Note: In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world. Bill Gates’ last book ‘How to Avoid a Climate Disaster’ was published in 2021.
- 7. RO Khanna** has authored the book titled “Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us”.
- Note:** The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress. It also mentioned about the digital divide i.e unequal access to technology and the revenue, as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.
- 8. Samuel Moyn** has authored the book titled “Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War”.
Note: The book is published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, United States of America (USA). The book highlights the United States of America (USA) strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.
- 9. Priyam Gandhi Mody** has authored the book titled ‘A Nation to Protect’.
Note: The book highlights the role of PM Narendra Modi during the Covid crisis in the past two years. The book documents the Centre’s leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.
- 10. Uma Das Gupta** has authored the book titled, “A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s Pioneering Work in Rural Construction”.
Note: It is published under Niyogi Book’s ‘Paper Missile’ imprint. Tagore’s work in ‘village reconstruction’ at Sriniketan is not as widely known as his work at Santiniketan, popularly known today as a university town. The idea of doing something to redeem the neglected village came to Tagore when he first went to live in his family’s agricultural estates in East Bengal during the 1890s.
- 11. Jimmy Soni** has authored the book titled book titled as “The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley’.
Note: This book explores the origin of PayPal and its founding team, comprising of Elon Musk, Amy Rowe Klement, Peter Thiel, Julie Anderson, Max Levchin, Reid Hoffman, and many others whose stories have never been shared. PayPal: US-based multinational financial technology company.
- 12. Anirudh Suri** has authored the book titled ‘The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations’.
Note: It has been published by HarperCollins India publication. The book lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era. He is the founding partner and managing director of India Internet Fund.

January 2022

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 (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.
8. **Manoj Sinha** has released a book titled ‘Prakrtik, 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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December 2021

- 1. Prabhat Kumar** has authored the book titled 'Public Service Ethics – A Quest for Naitik Bharat'.
Note: The book was released by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The book is published by IC Centre for Governance. The book deals with ethics in governance and public service and proposes a collective quest for ethical India or Naitik Bharat.
- 2. Gautam Chintamani** has authored the book titled 'The Midway Battle: Modi's Roller-coaster Second Term'.
Note: The book mentioned the political scenario of India. It marks the second tenure of the current Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. The Midway Battle shed light on the various legislations like the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, triple talaq, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as well as farming laws.
- 3. Ayaz Memon** has authored the book titled 'Indian Innings: The Journey of Indian Cricket from 1947'.
Note: It is an anthology of Indian Cricket and marked several insights of Indian cricket of the last 70 years. The book has covered the era of veteran cricketers K N Prabhu to P N Sundareshan and Dicky Rutnagar to Ramachandra Guha and Suresh Menon, those years of famous victories consist of experiences about World Cups, various Test cricket, etc.
- 4. Bala Krishna Madhur** has authored the book titled 'At Home in The Universe'.
Note: The book is the autobiography of B K Madhur, a former Chief Executive Officer at DHFL Property Services Ltd, and one of the key personalities in establishing Dewan Housing. The book is published by Bookworld Enterprises of Mumbai. The book offers an inside view into the policy environment in the 1980s and 1990s in the Housing Finance Sector.
- 5. Shashi Tharoor** has authored the book titled 'Pride, Prejudice and Punditry'.
Note: The book, published by Aleph Book Company, was earlier launched in Delhi. There are ten sections in this book, each devoted to a particular topic such as modern Indian history, Indian Politics etc.
- 6. Rahul Rawail** has authored the book titled 'Raj Kapoor: The Master At Work' that was released by the Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
Note: The book launch event was held at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, coinciding with Raj Kapoor's 97th birth anniversary. The vice president described the book as a "labour of love and dedication". The book is also dedicated to Raj Kapoor's second son and father of Ranbir Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, who passed away in April 2020.
- 7. S S Oberoi** has authored the book titled 'Rewinding of First 25 years of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology'.
Note: The book consists of life experience, challenges working as an advisor under the MeitY. S. S. Oberoi is a retired adviser in the Department of Electronics (DoE). He was the first head of the Software Development Agency and the first adviser of Information Technology.
- 8. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad** has authored the book titled 'Gandhi Topi Governor'.
Note: The book chronicles the life of Barrister Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao. The book is published by Emesco Books. Idpuganti Raghavendra Rao was a prominent freedom fighter, Legislator and the Governor of the Central Provinces in the British Administration.
- 9. Rekha Chaudhari** has authored the book titled "India's Ancient Legacy of Wellness".
Note: It was launched on the occasion of World Digital Day (WDD) celebration. The book highlights how important it is for human beings to be close to nature which helps to revive and recharge to do productive work. Dr Rekha has also published many of her research works in the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 10. Tusar Kapoor** is the author of the book titled 'Bachelor Dad'.
Note: He has shared his journey of being a single father in the new book. The actor has shared his journey of the 'slightly unconventional road to fatherhood' in his debut book, Bachelor Dad. On the cover of the book, he can be seen carrying his son.

November 2021

- 1. Subhadra Sen Gupta** has authored the book titled "The Story of the First Civilizations: From Mesopotamia to the Aztecs".
Note: This is the last book authored by Subhadra Sen Gupta and published posthumously by Talking Cub, an imprint of Speaking Tiger. The book is an informative book for Children, on the ancient civilizations around the world like Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus valley, Greece, Rome etc

2. **Sudha Murty** has authored the book titled “The Sage with Two Horns: Unusual Tales from Mythology”.
Note: The book is published by Penguin Random House India imprint India Puffin. The series features the stories of kings and queens, gods and goddesses, sages and extraordinary men and women of wisdom.
3. **Pradeep Magazine** has authored the book titled “Not just cricket: A Reporters Journey”.
Note: It is published by HarperCollins Publishers India. It consists of life experiences, social, political, ups and downs of Indian cricket by the journalist Pradeep Magazine. It also contains memorable cricket encounters and anecdotes of cricket.
4. **Dr Shankar Acharya** has authored the book titled “An Economist at Home and Abroad: A Personal Journey”.
Note: The book features the professional and personal life of the most accomplished policy economist Dr Shankar Acharya. The book is published by HarperCollins India.
5. **Bhaskar Chattopadhyay** has authored the book titled “The Cinema of Satyajit Ray”.
Note: The book is divided into two sections, first is about art and second is the artist. Bhaskar Chattopadhyay also authored novels like “Patang” (2016), “Here Falls the Shadow” (2017) and “The Disappearance of Sally Sequeira” (2018).
6. **Salman Khurshid** has authored a book on Ayodhya verdict titled “Sunrise over Ayodhya: Nationhood in our Times”.
Note: Book states about unity between Hindus & Muslims and about creating an awareness that the Supreme Court verdict on Ayodhya was a good one. On 9 November 2019, the Supreme Court, in a unanimous verdict, cleared the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya.
7. **Tripurdaman Singh** and **Adeel Hussain** are the author of the book titled ‘Nehru: The Debates that Defined India’.
Note: This book mentions the political journey of Jawaharlal Nehru from being elected as Congress president to various other important aspects of his life. The book has been published with permission from HarperCollins India.
8. **M Mukundan** has authored the novel titled ‘Delhi: A Soliloquy’ that has won the Rs 25-lakh-JCB Prize for Literature 2021.
Note: The Book focuses on India’s capital Delhi, as it changes into the present-day megalopolis. Besides the cash award Mukundan also won a trophy created by Delhi artist duo Thukral & Tagra, titled ‘Mirror Melting’. He also dedicated the award to “the poor people on the streets of Delhi.”
9. **Debashish Mukerji** has authored the book titled ‘The Disruptor: How Vishwanath Pratap Singh Shook India’.
Note: The book presents a detailed account of India’s eighth Prime Minister (PM), Vishwanath Pratap Singh (V P Singh), who served as PM between December 1989 to November 1990. V P Singh was known for implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission Report 1980 that provided reservations in central government services for the first time to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in 1990.
10. **Navdeep Singh Gill** is the author of the biography of Olympic athlete Gurbachan Singh Randhawa titled ‘Uddna Baaz’.
Note: The book is published by Unistar Books at Punjab Kala Bhawan. The Book is about Gurbachan Singh Randhawa’s journey along with the Document of Nation’s sports history.
11. **Smriti Irani** is the author of the book ‘Lal Salaam’.
Note: ‘Lal Salaam’ is based on the tragic killings of 76 CRPF personnel in Dantewada in April 2010. Lal Salaam is the story of a young officer, Vikram Pratap Singh, and of the challenges he faces against a system that is steeped in backroom politics and corruption.
12. According to a new report by the research arm of consultants McKinsey & Co **China** becomes the richest nation in the world.
Note: The report has been prepared after examining the national balance sheets of 10 countries, representing more than 60 per cent of world income. The worldwide net worth rose to \$514 trillion in 2020, from \$156 trillion in 2000, according to research conducted by McKinsey & Co. China emerged at the top of the worldwide list, accounting for almost one-third of the increase.
13. The book titled ‘Shuttler’s Flick: Making every match count’ is an autobiography of **P. Gopi Chand**.
Note: The book tells the life story of Gopichand. From the fateful knee injury on January 25, 1994, the comeback and his journey into building the Pullela Gopichand Badminton Academy was discussed during the launch of the book. Professor Madan Pillutla further delved into how to build a legacy and an institution.
14. **Manish Tiwari** is the author of the book titled ‘10 Flashpoints; 20 Years’.
Note: The book is set to be released on December 2. The excerpts of the book appear to suggest that Mr Tewari -- the official spokesperson of the Congress at the time who later he became the information and broadcasting minister -- was in favour of a tougher response by the UPA government to 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
15. **Ban Ki-moon** has authored the book titled ‘Resolved: Uniting Nations in a Divided World’.
Note: The book has been published by HarperCollins India. Ban has described how he became a man of peace from a child of war in his autobiography. He also talks about his election to the top UN post in 2006, in which India’s Shashi Tharoor was also a contender.
16. **Brijinder Nath Goswamy**, has authored the book titled ‘Conversations: India’s Leading Art Historian

Engages with 101 themes, and More', based on and around the Indian arts.

Note: It will be published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) and will hit stands in 2022. The book

opens a window to a wide range of subjects: on and around the arts. It not only invites those interested and literate in arts but also the general readers who want to take a dive into the field of the arts.

Summit and Conference

February 2022

1. 28th edition of DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit held

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh addressed 28th edition of DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit
- Singaporean Minister, S Iswaran showcased the data on Bi-lateral trade between India and Singapore, that is increased by 35% from 19.8 billion dollars to 26.8 billion dollars from 2020 to 2021.
- Focus areas of the summit: Smarter Cities, Space, Industry 4.0 and Advanced Engineering, Healthcare, Precision Medicine, Mobility etc.

2. Telangana IT Minister KTR inaugurates 19th edition of BioAsia conference in Hyderabad

- It is the annual flagship event of the life sciences industry.
- It will be addressed by about 50 celebrities from various organizations, including Bill Gates
- Telangana attracted investments of over 6 thousand 400 crore rupees in the life sciences sector from around 215 enterprises the previous year.

3. NITI Aayog, WRI India conducted Financing for Decarbonization of Transport

- NITI Aayog, World Resources Institute (WRI), India, with the support of GIZ India have conducted virtual workshop on 'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport' as part of NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project
- NDC-TIA: Joint programme of seven organizations that engages India, China and Vietnam in promoting comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport
- It is part of the International Climate Initiative
- Implementing partner for India component: NITI Aayog

4. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates 'Industry Connect 2022' seminar in New Delhi

- Organized by: Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with Central Institute

of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

- Focus: R&D Laboratory, skill gap analysis for human capital in petrochemicals sector, providing indigenous technology, etc.

5. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flags off NITI Aayog's Fintech Open Summit

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY has organized 3-week summit, titled 'Fintech Open' to showcase importance of fintech industry.
- It was held from 7 to 28 February.
- It brings together regulators, fintech professionals, enthusiasts, industry leaders, start-up community, developers to collaborate, exchange ideas and innovate
- It has three objectives:
 - Encourage an open ecosystem
 - Foster innovation and growth
 - Ensure financial inclusion

6. PM Modi virtually addressed One Ocean Summit

- It was held from 9 to 11 February 2022 in Brest, France
- It was organized by France, UN and World Bank.
- Aim: to bring together international community for taking concrete action towards preserving and supporting sustainable ocean ecosystems
- 2022 edition was held under the chairmanship of French President Emmanuel Macron.
- 2021 to 2030 has been declared as 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'

7. PM addressed TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit

- PM Narendra Modi virtually delivered an inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit today.
- This 3-day Summit is TERI's annual flagship event.

- Theme 2022: **'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'**.
- It discusses a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

8. Ministry of Culture to organize Global Summit 'Reimagining Museums in India'

- It will be held on 15th and 16th February 2022.
- It will bring together leading experts and practitioners of museum development and management field.
- It is being organized in partnership with Bloomberg.
- It will encompass four broad themes: Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections and Education and Audience Engagement.

9. TEPC organizes exclusive International Business Expo 'India Telecom 2022'

- Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has organized Exclusive International Business Expo titled as 'India Telecom 2022'
- It is being held from 8th to 10th February

- Aim: to provide opportunities to the Indian telecom stakeholders to meet qualified overseas buyers
- It will be held under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications and Indian missions in different countries.

8. Two-day conference on temple architecture

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture hold a two-day international conference 'Devayatanam ' An odyssey of Indian temple architecture began at Hampi, Karnataka.

9. Fourth India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue held

- The 4th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue has been held in virtual mode.
- Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and UK delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, Home Office, Mathew Rycroft.
- Dialogue covered wide range of issues including Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Extradition cases, Migration & Mobility, etc.
- The dialogue concluded with both sides agreeing to deepen security-related bilateral engagement.

January 2021

1. 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has virtually addressed 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave and urged all schools attending the conclave to reflect how inclusive our leading schools are.
- 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.

2. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad

- Organized by: Dept of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Electronics, and Information Technology in association with Govt of Telangana
- Theme: India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World

- It will be presented under 6 categories to 26 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State, District levels and Academic-Research Institutions and PSU

3. PM Narendra Modi addressed World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda

- During the address PM proposed the a 'P-3' approach: "pro-planet-people"
- The three main areas of concern at the summit are Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic and Social Resilience.

4. PM Narendra Modi to host first meeting of India-Central Asia Summit

- Participants: Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- The summit is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's extended neighbourhood.
- It coincided with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

5. India, ASEAN approve digital work plan to combat use of stolen mobile handsets

- India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 was approved during 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers meeting.
- India and ASEAN nations have jointly approved work plan under which they will develop a system to combat the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, among other things.
- Meeting was co-chaired by ministers from India and Myanmar.

December 2021

1. First ever 'J&K Real Estate Summit- 2021' been addressed

- Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has attended first ever 'Real Estate Summit- 2021' at Convention Centre, Jammu.
- It is organized by Department of Housing & Urban Development Department, Govt of Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

2. Gujarat Govt to organize 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022

- Mansukh Mandaviya, Bhupendra Patel will jointly inaugurated pre-event of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2022
- It will be organized by Govt of Gujarat from 10-12 January 2022, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Pre-event summit has been with theme Holistic Healthcare focused on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices
- Pre-event summit focuses on: Boosting Bulk Drug Production through PLI Scheme, Reducing India's Dependence in Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, Jan Aushadhi Kendras

3. PM addresses farmers at National Conclave on Natural Farming

- PM Modi virtually addressed national conclave on agriculture and food processing held during 3-day pre-Vibrant Gujarat Summit at Anand
- Focus: natural farming and providing information to farmers on its benefits and issues of agriculture and food processing including Zero budget natural farming.

6. IAMAI organized 16th India Digital Summit

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal has virtually addressed 16th India Digital Summit, 2022.
- It was a two-day virtual event, that was organized by Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- Theme of the summit: "Supercharging Startups"
- 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.

- It will be attended by over 5000 farmers, apart from those farmers connected Live through ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA network

4. Technical Conference cum Exhibition on 24x7 Water Supply Systems held

- Technical Conference cum Exhibition on 24x7 Water Supply Systems has been held in New Delhi to disseminate knowledge on the planning, design, implementation, Operation and Maintenance of 24x7 water supply system
- Organized by: Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO)
- It will ensure prevention of water contamination, control of NRW, equitable water supply and bring efficiency in terms of financial sustainability by attracting PPP funding

5. India-ITU Joint Cyberdrill 2021

- Organized by: Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- It is intended for Indian entities especially Critical Network Infrastructure operators.
- Experts from ITU, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), INTERPOL, National Security Council Secretariat, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and other eminent organizations participated in the session.

6. PM Modi has virtually inaugurated InInfinity Forum

- Aim: to achieve financial empowerment of every single citizen of the country
- Hosted by: International Financial Services Centres Authority in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg

- Partner countries in the first edition of the Forum: Indonesia, South Africa and U.K.
- InInfinity Forum theme: 'Beyond.'

7. Regional Conference on Replication of Good Governance Practices

- Organized by: **Dept of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** in collaboration with **Govt of Odisha**
- It is being held on 3rd and 4th Dec 2021 at **Bhubaneswar**
- **Aim:** to bring national and state level public administration organizations on the same platform to share experiences and innovations in public administration, for improving quality of life, e-Governance and Digital Governance, etc.

8. 5th Indian Ocean Conference in Abu Dhabi

- Addressed by: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar
- Theme of conference: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic.
- Organized by: India foundation and is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
- 2021 edition of the conference is dealing with the challenges faced by the Indian ocean, due to the effects of the pandemic, economic decline and climate change.

9. 21st India – Russia Annual summit in Delhi

- Attended by: Russian President, Vladimir Putin and Indian PM Narendra Modi
- It was the first meeting of 2+2 Dialogue of Foreign and Defence Ministers and meeting of Inter-Governmental Commission on Military, Military-Technical Cooperation

10. Forum of Indian Professionals in South China (FIPSC) in Shenzhen

- Organized by: India's Consulate General in Guangzhou
- It is a part of an outreach initiative of CGI, Guangzhou, during an event in Shenzhen.
- The event was attended by more than 50 Indian professionals working in South China

11. Sixth India Water Impact Summit (IWIS)

- Organized by: **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** along with **Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (c-Ganga)**
- It is being organized in **hybrid mode (online and physically)** at NMCG office, New Delhi and IIT, Kanpur.
- Theme: **River Resources Allocation, Planning and Management at the Regional Level**
- Focus: synchronizing river conservation with long term developmental needs by resource budgeting

12. Summit for Democracy

- Hosted by: **United States**
- It is a virtual summit, which is being held on December 9 to 10, 2021.
- Three themes: defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights.

13. Second edition of water innovation challenges

- Launch: Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog and Royal Embassy of Denmark to India
- It is launched as part of the Indo-Danish Bilateral Green Strategic partnership.
- Aim: To identify innovative & next-gen solutions to solve proposed challenges in collaboration with corporate and public partners.

14. India Global Forum, UAE-2021

- It will showcase opportunities to build dynamic alliances with world-beating talent, technology, and business partnerships that can make a global impact.
- It will bring together the most senior leaders from business, politics, and culture to discuss and implement newfound ambitions, and address vital global imperatives.

15. Fifth edition of the World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- Organized by: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi campus.
- Theme of the 5th WCDM: Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19.

November 2021

1. India Internet Governance Forum 2021 (IGF 2021)

- Organized by: **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India**
- It is centered around the theme '**Empowering India through Power of Internet**'
- Aim: To bring stakeholders of internet governance for roadmap of digitization
- It is an initiative associated with **UN Internet Governance Forum (UN-IGF)**.

2. 13th edition of the ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit

- It has been organized from 25 to 26th November 25 and 26, 2021
- Hosted by: **Cambodia as ASEM Chair**
- Theme: **Strengthening Multilateralism for Shared Growth**
- ASEM grouping have 51 member countries, European Union and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

3. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to organize 20th edition of 'Connect 2021' in Chennai

- It will be held from 26th to 27th November
- Theme: **Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem**
- **Connect:** It is an international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT)
- Partner countries: **Australia and UK**
- It is hosted by Govt of Tamil Nadu and co-hosted by Software Technology Parks of India and MeitY.

4. Jitendra Singh inaugurates ISRO's five-day Technology Conclave-21

- Aim: highlighting Futuristic and Disruptive Technologies to be developed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- It is being organized by Directorate of Technology Development and Innovation (DTDI) under the aegis of ISRO.
- Development of Satellite-Based Quantum Communication will enable unconditional data security to the country's communication network.

5. First International Conference on Hydrogen Energy

- Minister of State for MNRE has inaugurated **1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy - Policies, Infrastructure Development and Challenges**

- **Organized by:** Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) with the support of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and NTPC.
- **Aim:** to bring all the key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.

6. Maiden Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation

- It is being conducted between lead Maritime Security Agencies of India, Maldives and Sri Lanka in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the three countries in Southern Arabian Sea.
- It is a two-day CSC Focused Operation with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities.

7. Ayurveda Parv-2021 inaugurated virtually in New Delhi

- It is a three-day event that has been organized to promote Ayurveda.
- An exhibition has been arranged with 40 stalls and participation of pharmaceutical companies.
- It has been organized for proper utilization of Ayurvedic health care and for coordination and better utilization of Ayurvedic research, education and manufacturing of medicines.

8. Fifth World Congress on Disaster Management (WCDM)

- It is being organized in New Delhi between 24th to 27th November 2021 at the campus of IIT Delhi on the overarching theme of '**Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the context of COVID-19**'.
- It is an initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS).

9. Dept of Food organizes All India Food Ministers Meet

- It will be chaired by Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal
- Meet discuss the issue of community kitchen and other issues with Food Minister of all States and UTs.
- Key issues: Model Community Kitchen Scheme, One Nation One Ration Card-status of implementation, Aadhaar seeding of Ration Cards, etc.

10. Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance

- Union Minister has inaugurated 3-day workshop titled as 'Aadhaar 2.0- Ushering the Next Era of Digital Identity and Smart Governance' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It will also be telecast live on YouTube, Twitter and Facebook handles of UIDAI.
- It is considering Aadhaar as a Trusted ID as a platform and method for delivering innovative digital solutions.

11. Fifth East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation

- It will be held from 23rd and 24th November in Kolkata.
- Organized by: India in partnership with Australia.
- Apart from two governments, organizers include ASEAN-India Centre at Research and Information System for Developing Countries in collaboration with National Maritime Foundation of Australia and Research Centre for East and Northeast Regional Studies, Kolkata.

12. Leadership Forum on FinTech 'InFinity Forum'

- Hosted by: International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg in virtual mode.
- Partner countries: Indonesia, South Africa, and UK.
- InFinity Forum is a leadership event where problems, ideas, innovative technologies from across the world gets discovered, discussed and developed into solutions

13. Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated 3-days annual flagship BTS 2021.
- Organized by: Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T, Government of Karnataka and Co-Hosted by STPI
- It will be held from 17th to 19th November 2021.
- Central theme of BTS 2021: Driving the Next.
- It is the 24th edition of BTS which is being conducted in a hybrid format and will see participation from 30 countries.

14. President Ram Nath Kovind addresses 51st Conference of Governors & LGs in Delhi

- It is the 4th conference to be presided over by President Ram Nath Kovind.
- Governors and Lieutenant Governors from all states and union territories across the country attended the conference along with PM Narendra Modi, VP Venkaiah Naidu, and Home Minister Amit Shah.
- First conference of governors was held in 1949 at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

15. India and United States (US) held 11th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group meeting virtually.

- Aim: to bring sustained leadership focus to the bilateral defence trade relationship and create opportunities for co-production and co-development of defence equipment.
- This forum offers an opportunity for Indian and US industries to be directly involved in DTTI and facilitates dialogue between government and industry on issues that impact industrial collaboration.

16. a Regional Conference on the theme 'Strengthening the State Institutes of Public Administration'

- **Organized by:** Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with Govt of Uttar Pradesh
- It will be held 11 and 12 November 2021 at Lucknow.
- **Aim:** to bring national and state level training institutes on the same platform to share emerging requirements in governance for future public solutions for improving quality of life, bringing synergies among administrative Institutes for continuous capacity building, logistics as aimed under Mission Karmyogi.

17. Chief of Defense Staff General Bipin Rawat inaugurates 14th edition of 'c0c0n',

- It is an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Briefing that was held virtually from 10th to 13th November 2021.
- It is being conducted by Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organisations, Society for Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB) and Information Security Research Association (ISRA).
- Aim: to discuss the challenges facing by the digital world during COVID period.

18. Ganga Connect exhibition

- Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated 'Ganga Connect exhibition' showcased by National Mission for Clean Ganga, c-Ganga, and High Commission of India at the City of Glasgow
- It is an attempt to showcase development in Ganga River basin to global community of environmental stakeholders, who have gathered in Glasgow for UN COP 26 meet.

19. 'Indian Army Make Projects' webinar

- Organized by: Indian Army in collaboration with FICCI
- This was the 6th such webinar since the inception of the Make process in 2016.
- During webinar, Indian Army unveiled Six new 'Make-II Projects' with spanned technologies across unmanned systems, technologies to counter such systems as well as emerging solutions for augmenting air defence capabilities.

20. The 3rd edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2021

- It is being held from 7th to 9th November 2021 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa.
- Theme for GMC 2021: Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies.

21. 5th edition of 'Ganga Utsav 2021 – The River Festival' begins

- Fifth edition of 3 day-long Ganga Utsav 2021 - The River Festival has been organized from 1st to 3rd November 2021 in virtual format
- It will not only celebrate the glory of river Ganga but all the rivers of the country to promote the celebration of 'Nadi Utsav' (River Festival)
- It has been organized under leadership of Union Minister for Jal Shakti by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) jointly with Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Important Days

February 2022

Date	Day	Theme
2 February	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands Action for People and Nature
4 February	World Cancer Day	Close the Care Gap
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation
10 February	National Deworming Day	
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	
12 February	National Productivity Day	Self-Reliance Through Productivity
13 February	World Radio Day	Radio and Trust
13 February	International Women's Day	Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
20 February	World Day of Social Justice	Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment
21 February	International Mother Language Day	Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
24 February	Central Excise Day	-
27 February	World NGO Day	-
28 February	National Science Day	Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future
28 February	Rare Disease Day	-

January 2022

Date	Day	Theme
1st January	64th Foundation Day of DRDO	-
3rd January	Birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule	-
4th January	World Braille Day	-
6th January	World Day of War Orphans	-
9th January	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas or Non-Resident Indian Day	-
10th January	World Hindi Day	-
10th January to 16th January	Startup India Innovation Week by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry	-
11th January	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	-
12th January	National Youth Day	'It's all in the mind'
14th January	Armed Forces Veterans Day	-
15th January	Indian Army Day	-
16th January	National Startup Day	-
17th January to 21st January	Open Data Week by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	-
19th January	Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)	-
23rd January	Parakram Diwas	-
24th January	International Day of Education	Changing Course, Transforming Education
24th January	National Girl Child Day	-
25th January	National Voters' Day	'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'
25th January	National Tourism Day	-
26th January	73rd Republic Day of India	-
26th January	International Customs Day (ICD)	Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem
27th January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	Memory, Dignity, and Justice
30th January	74th Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas	-
30th January	World Leprosy Day	United for Dignity
30th January	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases

December 2021

Date	Day	Theme
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1 December	World AIDS Day	End Inequalities, End AIDS
2 December	National Pollution Control Day	
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	
3 December	World Day of the Handicapped or International Day of Persons with Disabilities	
4 December	Indian Navy Day	
5 December	World Soil Day	Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	
10 December	Human Rights Day	EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights
11 December	International Mountain Day	
11 December	UNICEF Day	
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day	
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India' and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet
16 December	Vijay Diwas	
18 December	International Migrants Day	Harnessing the potential of human mobility
19 December	Goa's Liberation Day	
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	
22 December	National Mathematics Day	Mathematics for a Better World
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	
25 December	Christmas Day	
25 December	Good Governance Day (India)	-

November 2021

Date	Name of Important Days	Theme 2021
1 November	World Vegan Day	-
1 November	All Saints' Day	-
1 November	Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka Formation Day)	-
2 November	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	-
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day	-
6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	-
7 November	Infant Protection Day	-

7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	–
8 November	International Day of Radiology	Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient
8 November	World Urbanism Day	–
9 November	Legal Services Day	–
10 November	World Science Day	Building Climate-Ready Communities
11 November	National Education Day	-
12 November	Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Poshana (Nutrition)
12 November	Public Service Broadcasting Day	-
12 November	World Pneumonia Day	-
13 November	World Kindness Day	Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness
14 November	World Diabetes Day	Access to Diabetes Care If Not Now, When?
14 November	Children’s Day	-
16 November	International Day for Tolerance	-
16 November	National Press Day	-
17 November	National Epilepsy Day	-
17 November	World Prematurity Day	Zero Separation: Act now! Keep parents and babies born too soon together
18 to 24 November	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance
19 November	International Men’s Day	-
19 November	World Toilet Day	-
20 November	Universal Children’s Day	-
21 November	World Television Day	-
21 November	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims	-
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	-
26 November	Constitution Day of India	-
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	-
30 November	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	-

Important News – National (India)

1-7th March 2022

1. ‘National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav’ has been launched by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
Note: During iconic week, Ministry of MSME will launch Phase II of ‘National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav’ through which more than 1 lakh students from 1300 colleges will be motivated

- to take up entrepreneurship. Ministry of MSME is also launching Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive in 46 aspirational districts.
2. According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of **1.5°C**.

- Note:** The report also warns about temporarily exceeding this warming level leading to additional, severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. Lucknow and Patna would reach wet-bulb temperature of 35°C if emissions continued to rise. Global sea levels will likely rise 44-76 cm if not given attention.
3. Along with **IIT Madras**, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai jointly hosted, for the first time in India, the OCEANS 2022 conference & Exposition.
Note: It is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers on February 21-24, 2022. It was held in a hybrid format. 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain' was the main theme of the conference.
 4. The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in the year **2008**.
Note: PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.
 5. India's first e-waste eco-park will come up in **New Delhi**.
Note: He also announced the framing of Delhi Film Policy 2022 to make the city a brand for shooting locations and promoting tourism. At present, Delhi produces 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year.
 6. India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in **Chennai**.
Note: Launched by Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth, the Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
 7. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). IMPO/IITM located in **Pune**.
Note: Setting up the IMPO reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy. It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
 8. **Arogya Vanam**, hub of medicinal herbs and plants launched by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.
Note: The Arogya Vanam has been developed in a 6.6 acre area and it has 215 types of medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Bel, Arand, Arjun, Ashwagandha and Harsingar. Aroma Garden, Lotus Pond, Water Channels, Yog Manch and a ViewPoint are also part of Arogya Vanam.
 9. Ministry of Women and Child Development will launch the 'Back to School' Campaign in partnership with **UNICEF**.
Note: On 7th March 2022, 'Back to School' Campaign will be launched jointly by MoWCD and UNICEF India as 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav', focusing on supporting out-of-school girls.
 10. **NITI Aayog** will release the National Gender Index in India.
Note: The index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.
 11. India will soon launch the third phase of Monsoon Mission. In **2012** was the first Monsoon Mission was launched to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.
Note: Aim: to achieve further improvement in our understanding about the monsoons, thus helping achieve a quantum leap in the predictions. Monsoon Mission was launched for the first time in 2012. It has been a flagship project undertaken by the MoES to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.
 12. **Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit** is the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
Note: The New Motto is 'Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit'. The Minister interacted with the children from different States and also visited the exhibition based on stories of freedom fighters during their childhood organised by Border Security Forces (BSF) in collaboration with NCPCR and remembered their sacrifices.
 13. **Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government** is the theme of the 3rd edition of NIC Tech Conclave 2022 being organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
Note: The two-day event being organized by the National Informatics Centre NIC. The event will be attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and other dignitaries from Centre and State Governments. NIC has been organizing Tech Conclave focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance.
 14. India ranked at **third** in terms of having most billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022.

- Note:** Number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% in 2021 to 145 billionaires, highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific region. UHNWIs: Individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m (Rs 226 crore) or more. India's UHNWI is expected to grow by 39% from 2021 to 2026.
- 15. MeitY Startup Hub and Google** have announced to cohort 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups and help them to build high-quality global apps and games.
Note: They were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process. Under this 6-month programme, 100 startups will be trained through a customized curriculum that includes virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, mentorship sessions
- 16. Ujjain** has created Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes, on the occasion of Mahashivratri 2022.
Note: A five-member delegation of Guinness Book of World Records saw the mammoth effort and offered the record certificate to Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- 17.** The ministry of Women & Child Development has launched 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with **NIMHANS** organisation to improve the mental health of women population across the country.
Note: The project would emphasise on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India. The project also focusses on self-care techniques for OSC staff and counselors.
- 18.** India ranked **120th** in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021.
Note: Top performers: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Belgium. Index measures the total progress of India towards achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 19. Kavach** is the name of Indian Railway's indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP), a train collision protection system.
Note: The two trains will hurtle towards each other at full speed, one with the railway minister on board and the other with the Chairman of the Railway Board. TCAS or Kavach includes the key elements from already existing, and tried and tested systems like the European Train Protection and Warning System, and the indigenous Anti Collision Device.
- 20. Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the Pune Metro Rail Project that cost Rs 11,420 Crore.
Note: The project is being built at a cost of more than Rs 11,400 crore. Modi also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).
- 21.** Under **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana** the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) has launched 'Donate-a-Pension' programme for people to contribute to the pension fund to their support staff.
Note: It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc. According to the labour ministry website, the PM-SYM is a 50:50 voluntary and contributory pension scheme in which the beneficiary makes a stipulated age-specific contribution and the Central Government matches it.
- 22.** India's flagship 12th edition of Nanotech event focussing on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology was inaugurated in **Bengaluru**.
Note: The three-day nano event has the participation of more than 2,500 delegates and 75 national as well as internationally renowned speakers. The event is being organised virtually by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, KSTePS and JNCASR

February 2022

- 1.** Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) is scheme implemented by **Ministry of Defence** under which home delivery of medicines has been started.
Note: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had launched SeHAT scheme in May 2021. SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled personnel and their families.
- 2. Hoysala temples** has been finalised for nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage sites for the year 2022-2023.
Note: 'Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's tentative list since April 15, 2014. The Hoysala temples represent human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.
- 3. Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram** has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based

conservation measures” (OECM) site by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Note: The OECM tag does not bring any legal, financial or management implications, but designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map. The OECM tag is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.

4. Government has approved the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for continuation from 2021-22 to till **31 March 2026**.
Note: IFLDP has been approved by the cabinet for continuation till March 31, 2026, or till further review, whichever is earlier. The programme aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.
5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the ‘Statue of Equality’ to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The statue will encourage youth and will be a symbol of knowledge, detachment, and ideals. PM Modi landed in the city earlier this afternoon where he also attended the 50th-anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.
6. The world’s third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in **Jaipur** city of India.
Note: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the project virtually. This stadium is being built on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass.
7. **Surat** is set to become the first station to be ready between Mumbai – Ahmedabad Bullet Train route for India’s first futuristic High Speed Rail project.
Note: The MAHSR corridor will cover 12 stations in total- Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Bilimora, Bharuch, Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi stations. Once the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project is ready, the journey time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be 2.07 hours (limited stops), 2.58 hours (halting at stations) vis a vis existing train journey duration of seven-eight hours.
8. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will provide support for **17,788** rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States.
Note: PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission which was earlier known as Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, is one of the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. The

scheme was announced in the Budget speech of Financial Year 2021-22 on 1st February last year with an outlay of 64 thousand 180 crore rupees over six years till the year 2025-26

9. **IIM, Ahmedabad** IIM will establish the country’s first research chair in ESG in collaboration with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF).
Note: The newly formed ‘NIIF Chair in ESG at IIMA’ will work closely with the Arun Duggal ESG Centre for Research and Innovation at IIMA. It will function as the principal hub of knowledge and insights that allows businesses and policy makers to incorporate ESG principles in their long-term business and governance decisions.
10. The Central Government has decided to continue the Scheme of “Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, RYSK for another **five years**.
Note: The decision was taken with a view to achieving the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities. Government of India also decided to continue the NSS(National Service Scheme) over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of Rs. 1,627 Crore. NSS is implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities in all States and UTs across the country.
11. An igloo cafe named ‘Snowglu’, claimed to be world’s largest cafe of its kind has been opened in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: The cafe has been set up at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg. Syed Wasim Shah, the creator of the igloo, claimed the structure to be the world’s largest cafe of its kind.
12. **Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market** is the theme of the ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy, being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India.
Note: The High Level Conference focused on the theme: “Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market”. The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference featured five technical sessions, which would facilitate peer-to-peer discussions between experts from India and ASEAN on themes of mutual interest.
13. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with **NITI Aayog**, under the SAMRIDH scheme to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India.

Note: The initiative aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions. Under this partnership, AIM and SAMRIDH have announced a Call for Proposals for healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs in India.

- 14. Jammu and Kashmir** became the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS).
Note: National Single Window System (NSWS) was launched in September 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is a digital platform that serves as a guide for investors to identify and to apply for approvals as per their business requirements.
- 15. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** has been extended till **March 2026**.
Note: PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
- 16. The flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of **Rs 4,600 crore**.
Note: PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.
- 17. Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council** has organized Exclusive International Business Expo titled as 'India Telecom 2022'.
Note: It is being held from 8th to 10th February. It provides opportunities to the Indian telecom stakeholders to meet qualified overseas buyers. It will be held under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications and Indian missions in different countries.
- 18. Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** launched a dedicated storefront for ayurvedic products on **Amazon**.
Note: This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products like skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils, juices and more from small businesses and startup brands. It will make shopping easier as product selection has been done according to focus areas and

health benefits like pain management, immunity boosters, etc.

- 19. Atal Tunnel** has officially been certified by the World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet', the length of the tunnel is **9.02 km**.
Note: Notably, Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020. The 9.02 km long, strategically significant, Atal Tunnel, that runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.
- 20. As per 'Women in the Boardroom report'** released by the Deloitte Global, **17.1 per cent** of Women representation of board seats in India in 2021.
Note: However, only 3.6 per cent of the board chairs are women, down by 0.9 per cent since 2018. Austria, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the UK, and the US saw the most notable increases in women in board chairs.
- 21. India's** ranked at 3rd in the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 released by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).
Note: It has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, followed by Canada at 2nd position with 205 projects. The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.
- 22. The central government** has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with an outlay of **Rs 26,275 crore**.
Note: The total financial outlay of the scheme will be Rs 26,275 crore. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70. This scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the modernisation and improvement.
- 23. India's** rank in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021 is **46th**.
Note: The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries. The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.
- 24. Recently 17th edition** of Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) was held.
Note: Films that were completed between September 01, 2019 to Dec 31, 2021 are eligible for

- entry in MIFF-2022. It is organized by Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with support from Govt of Maharashtra, since 1990
25. By the year **2024** India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy.
Note: For this, states should develop action plan to achieve the assigned targets and specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation. This initiative is a part of government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070.
26. Kameng sector in Arunchal seven army personnel died in an avalanche.
Note: All the seven personnel were later found deceased. The area is located at an altitude of 14,500 feet and had been witnessing heavy snowfall since the last few days. The Army had lost six personnel to avalanches and snow-slides in the Siachen Glacier in 2019, and 11 others in other parts of the country.
27. **REC** is the nodal agency the hackathon, Powerthon-2022 that was launched by the Union Power Ministry.
Note: Union Power Minister R K Singh launched a hackathon, named Powerthon-2022, to find tech-driven solutions for quality power supply. It is launched under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme). New ideas and concepts will be rewarded with licence.
28. Indian Railways is setting up country's biggest and world class wrestling academy to support wrestling as a sport in **Delhi**.
Note: The academy would be the biggest in the country, equipped with advanced training facilities. The sports facility being made at Delhi will be exclusively for wrestling and will provide opportunities for wrestlers to enhance their skills and become 'world champions' in the coming years.
29. **Which organization** has organized a hackathon named Darkathon-2022 from February 15 to April 22 to find solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets.
Note: The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets. This hackathon is being organised in three phases starting today and concluding on 22nd April.
30. First of its kind two-day Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India' was held in **Hyderabad**.
Note: Union Ministry of Culture is organized the first of its kind summit to celebrate the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, as part of Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav marking 75 years of Independence of the Country. Over thousand museums from the country and abroad has showcased cultural heritage on the occasion to for educating future generations as part of the summit.
31. **Prime Minister** will be the head of the Apex Committee on G20 Secretariat, formed to oversee the preparations for G20 India Summit 2023.
Note: The G20 Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister and it will have the following members. Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister and G20 Sherpa (Piyush Goyal) will be the members of the committee.
32. The Ministry of Education (MoE) approved a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" to be implemented from 2022 to **2027**.
Note: The ministry has also decided to use "Education For All" instead of "Adult Education" as the previous term did not appropriately represent all non-literates in the 15 years and above age group. The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism via online mode.
33. The Ministry of Education (MoE) approved a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" under which the term "Adult Education" will be replaced by **Education for All**.
Note: The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in the country. Now, Govt. has replaced the term "Adult Education (प्रौढ़ शिक्षा)" as 'Education for All' in the country. It will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
34. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled the much-awaited water taxi service in **Mumbai**.
Note: The initiative will help in promoting tourism as well as reducing traffic congestion in the city. The WT services are expected to cut the commuting time between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai by almost 45 minutes to an hour.
35. **World Health Organization** organization has launched 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people to quite tobacco in all forms.
Note: The 'WHO Quit Tobacco App' is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region. It was launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign.
36. **12.758 km long** main tunnel of T-49, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section of Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project that has been connected successfully.
Note: It is constructed between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section USBRL.

It is the longest tunnel of Indian Railways. T49 is a tunnel of length 12.758 km long and it is going to be the longest tunnel of Indian Railway.

- 37. Rs 200 crore** is the outlay of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNTs (SEED) launched by the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).
Note: It is an umbrella scheme for the empowerment and welfare of the most deprived and economically weaker Indian communities' viz. Denotified Tribes (DNTs), Nomadic Tribes (NTs) and Semi Nomadic Tribes (SNTs). It has been formulated with four components that affect their livelihood. Its outlay is ~Rs 200 crore to be spent over five years beginning 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- 38.** The 12th edition of President's Fleet Review was conducted at **Visakhapatnam** as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
Note: The 12th edition of President's Fleet Review is being conducted at Visakhapatnam as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was also present at the event.
- 39.** Under chairmanship of **N R Narayana Murthy**, the SEBI has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space.
Note: Chairman of the committee: N R Narayana Murthy. It will advise the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry. Prior to this, there were 22 members in the committee, which was constituted in March 2015.
- 40.** International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) is located in **Mumbai** where two new Centres called 'Centre of Demography of Gender' and 'Centre for Ageing Studies' are inaugurated recently.
Note: Here two new Departments and two new Research Centres were inaugurated by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pawar. The newly inaugurated departments are 'Department of Survey Research and Data Analytics' and the 'Department of Family and Generations'.
- 41. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has organized a Chintan Shivir 'Heal by India' for strengthening the country's educational institutions in the health sector.
Note: Union Health Ministry has organized Chintan Shivir — 'Heal by India' for two days. Heal by India initiative: Generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and

enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.

- 42.** Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route has been awarded to **SpiceJet** airline company under the UDAN 3.0.
Note: With this, 405 routes would be operationalized under the UDAN-RCS (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik- Regional Connectivity Scheme). The Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route was awarded to SpiceJet airline under the UDAN 3.0.
- 43.** 550-tonne capacity 'Gobar-Dhan' Bio-CNG plant has been inaugurated in **Indore** by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Note: It is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. The municipal solid waste based Gobar-Dhan plant is in line with PM's vision of creating "garbage-free cities" under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- 44.** The central government has launched a doorstep distribution drive 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
Note: The doorstep campaign aims to ensure all farmers are well aware and equipped with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The campaign will be launched in all implementing states in the upcoming Kharif season.
- 45.** In February 2022, India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with **UAE**.
Note: It will cover goods, services and digital trade, among others, that will allow 90% of the country's exports a duty-free access to the Emirates. The bilateral trade pact is India's first in the region and the first comprehensive trade agreement with any country in a decade. UAE is India's third-biggest trading partner behind the US and China.
- 46.** The Government has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till **2026**.
Note: The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores. It has been envisaged to support around 1600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.
- 47.** India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was launched in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.
Note: The mobile laboratory has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings. The laboratory has been designed and built by the Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Mumbai based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaid.

- 48. Ricky Kej and Bickram Ghosh** has composed the signature tune for "Vande Bharatam" that was released by Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi.
Note: The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh. It was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022.
- 49.** With financial outlay of **Rs 1,827 crores** the Central Govt has approved continuation of Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
Note: Financial outlay for the scheme: Rs 1,827 crores. Income ceiling for the scheme has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum
- 50.** The 'Kisan Drone Yatra' was inaugurated virtually by PM Modi, was organised at **Manesar**.
Note: The PM labelled it a "milestone" for Indian agriculture. A raft of recent policy relaxations and incentives, including proposals in the Union Budget 2022-23, has opened up India's vast agriculture sector for commercial use of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles.
- 51.** The Ministry of Education (MoE) has approved the continuation of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) till **2025-26**.
Note: In eligibility criteria minor changes has been made such as increasing income ceiling from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum. The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically-weaker sections to deter them from dropping out at class 8 and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.
- 52.** Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Nikarshan Sadan" - The Dredging Museum in **Visakhapatnam**.
Note: It displayed models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos, and historical milestones of this dredging behemoth from the Eastern Port City of Vizag. He also inaugurated skill development facility - Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) in Visakhapatnam, improving employability.
- 53. World Economic Forum (WEF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to implement Sustainable Cities India program.
Note: The partnership gains significance on the backdrop of India's commitment at COP26 summit in Glasgow to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070. The 'Sustainable Cities India' intends to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
- 54.** International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) has launched a cybersecurity hub in **Bengaluru** to address the concerns of its clients across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
Note: The security hub will be one of the only two centres globally. The other one is in the US. The IBM global analysis report for 2022 states that Asia emerged as the top-most targeted region for cyberattacks, representing 26% of attacks analyzed in 2021.
- 55.** Indian Railways along Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has Successfully commissioned India's first Solar Photovoltaic Plant of 1.7-MegaWatt (MW) at **Bina, Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: The plant will directly feed power to traction systems of Indian Railways. The move to create a solar plant was taken after Indian Railways decided to be self-reliant for its energy needs and solarise railway stations by utilizing its vacant lands for Renewable Energy (RE) projects. The Ministry of Railways has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands on mega scale.
- 56.** The central government has recently launched an Ombudsperson App for **MNREGA**.
Note: It will facilitate hassle free reporting, categorization of grievances and disposal of complaints by Ombudsperson. It will also ensure tracking and timely passing of awards by Ombudsperson. The app will ensure transparency and accountability in the ecosystem of MNREGA
- 57.** India's rank in the International Intellectual Property Index 2022 is **43rd**, compiled by US Chambers of Commerce.
Note: Overall score of India has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition. It is released by Global Innovation Policy Center of U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Top countries: USA, followed by UK, Germany, Sweden, and France.
- 58. Cochin International Airport** is the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, that is set to become power-positive.
Note: CIAL's solar plants together generate two lakh units of power a day whereas the daily consumption of power in the airport stands at 1.6 lakh units. The airport became the first in the world in 2015 to be fully powered by solar energy.
- 59.** In Bhasha Sangam mobile app people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in **22** many Indian languages.

Note: The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfies with the certificate from their social media accounts using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

60. Operation Ganga has been launched by Indian government for the evacuation of Indian Nationals from Ukraine due to Russia-Ukraine war.

Note: Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations. Due to this many Indian nationals were left stranded in Ukraine. To help the Indian citizens come back to the country, the government of India decided to conduct a special evacuation mission named Operation Ganga.

61. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane announced establishment of MSME-Technology Centre at **Sindhudurg**.

Note: The MSME-Technology Center to be set up at Sindhudurg at a cost of about Rs 200 crore will enhance the competitiveness of MSME industries. MSME RuPay Credit card will enable the user to avail the facility of digital payment at any time.

62. BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), a subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure-backed BSES has commissioned India's first 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' in **New Delhi**.

Note: Supported by Nordic Innovation, an organisation promoted by the governments of Nordic countries, and executed by Fortum Charge & Drive, it will be the first BYPL operated and managed Smart EV Charging Station.

January 2022

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 **83rd 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 Ladkahn 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 -- **85th**.
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 (IICG) 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 IICG 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.

1. Under chairmanship of **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted a three-member committee to review the criteria for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) reservations.
Note: The committee will comprise Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Member Secretary ICSSR Prof VK Malhotra and Principal Economic Advisor to the Indian government Sanjeev Sanyal. The committee will examine various approaches followed in the country so far for identifying the economically weaker sections. It will also send its recommendations to the Centre in the next three weeks.
2. **Ministry of Personnel** has launched "**unique**" face recognition technology that would act as a proof of 'life certificate' for pensioners and ensure ease of living for the retired and elderly citizens.
Note: Face Recognition Technique of giving Life Certificate is a historic, far-reaching reform and this will bring ease of living for the retired and the elderly citizens. It will touch the lives of not only 68 lakh Central Government Pensioners but also Crores of Pensioners who fall outside the jurisdiction of EPFO and State Government Pensioners.
3. **Flipkart &** Ministry of Rural Development has signed an MoU to sell products made by millions of artisans under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) program on the e-commerce platform.
Note: The move will help artisans reach out 10 crore of Flipkart's existing customers, thus substantially scaling their outreach. MoU between ministry & Flipkart will help in empowering local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
4. The IFFCO has been ranked **First** position among the top 300 cooperatives in the world in the 2021 edition of the 10th Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report.
Note: WCM is a project designed to collect robust economic, organizational, and social data about cooperatives worldwide. The 2021 WCM report is published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and European Research Institute on Cooperative and Social Enterprises (Euricse).
5. Smartphone maker Oppo India has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **IIT Delhi** to introduced the Genius+ programme to provide scholarships to outstanding students pursuing engineering courses at premium institutes.
Note: Under this program, Oppo said it has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-Delhi to offer scholarships covering academic expenses for the shortlisted students. Genius+ program is aimed at connecting with youth at renowned institutes in India and reach out to the best talent who can further build India's innovation portfolio.
6. The theme of the first edition of the 'InFinity Forum' -- **Beyond**.
Note: The event is being hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority under the aegis of Government of India in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg. Indonesia, South Africa and the U.K. are partner countries in the first edition of the Forum. NITI Aayog, Invest India, FICCI and NASSCOM are some of the key partners to this year's Infinity Forum. InFinity Forum will bring together leading minds of the world in policy, business and technology.
7. The union government has launched **SRESHTA** scheme for socio-economic upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students by providing quality residential education to meritorious students in reputed private schools.
Note: Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Virendra Kumar on Thursday said the Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA) scheme will enable meritorious SC students to have a better future and aid in controlling dropout rates of students from classes 9 to 12.
8. **Microsoft** has launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022.
Note: In a bid to address this skills gap and empower India's workforce for a career in cybersecurity, Microsoft, on Tuesday, launched a cybersecurity skilling program that aims to skill over one lakh learners by 2022. The program is designed to provide a hands-on experience to learners in the fundamentals of security, compliance and identity.
9. The union housing & urban affairs ministry has extended the timeline for the implementation of the Smart Cities Mission to **June 2023**.
Note: According to an earlier deadline, the cities were expected to complete their projects within five years of being selected under the Smart Cities Mission. The official said all the 100 smart cities selected under the mission will now have to complete their projects by June 2023.
10. The government has set a target to open about ten thousand five hundred Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMBJK's), by **March 2025**.
Note: In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Chemical and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said,

about eight thousand 533 PMBJKs are functioning till 28th of last month. It covers all districts in the States and Union Territories of the country. The Minister said, the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India, the implementing agency of PMBJP makes regular efforts for making all the drugs of its product basket available to the consumers.

11. To achieve the target of constructing 2.95 crore houses the Cabinet approved the extension of the Centre's flagship housing-for-all scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) till **March 2024**.
Note: Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said financial assistance would be provided for the construction of the 155.75 lakh houses remaining as on March, 31, 2021. Till November 29, 2021 a total 1.65 crore PMAY-G houses have been constructed of the total target of 2.95 crore.
12. India's rank in the Asia Power Index 2021 -- **4th**.
Note: The index has been released by Lowy Institute. India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021.
13. **NITI Aayog** has launched report on Waste-wise Cities: Best practices in Municipal Solid Waste Management.
Note: It is a comprehensive knowledge repository of how Indian cities are managing their solid waste and documents best practices from 28 cities in 15 states of India.
14. ISRO has signed an agreement with **Oppeo** to strengthen the Research and Development (R&D) of the NavIC messaging service, an Indian satellite navigation system.
Note: NavIC is a messaging service platform, which provides regional navigation services covering the entire country and an area up to 1,500 km beyond the Indian boundaries. Notably, the messaging platform primarily provides PNT (position, navigation, and timing) services along with the capability of broadcasting short messages (safety-of-life alerts) in areas with poor or no communication, particularly in oceans.
15. According to the new 2021 Global Health Security (GHS) Index India has shared the 66th rank with Jordan.
Note: India, with a score of 42.8 (out of 100) has slipped by 0.8 points since 2019. While Jordan scored 42.8 with a gain of 1.6 points since 2019. Three neighbouring countries of India like

Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives have improved their score by 1-1.2 points.

16. **1 lakh** amount of assistance will be provided to each artisan under the Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme for the grass root Artisans of the North-East Region announced by the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) under Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER).
Note: Total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs.1 lakh per artisan. Credit facility is collateral free and carries subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months. For regular repayment, incentive of 1% on interest rate.
17. India's rank in the Global Health Security (GHS) Index 2021 -- **66th**.
Note: GHS Index has been developed in partnership of Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and Johns Hopkins Center. It assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories and 37 indicators
18. According to Asian Power Index for 2021 released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, India's rank as most powerful nation in Asia -- **Fourth**.
Note: India fell short of the major power threshold in 2021 and is among eighteen countries in the region to trend downward in its overall score in 2021. Asian Power Index for 2021 of Lowy Institute ranks 26 nations and territories. The institute noted that India exerts less influence in the region than expected due to its negative power gap score.
19. India's rank in the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) 2021 World Talent Ranking-- **56th**.
Note: In the Peer Group Ranking – Asia – Pacific, India have ranked 12th. Switzerland tops the ranking followed by Sweden in 2nd and Luxembourg in 3rd. The ranking is published by the IMD World Competitiveness Center.
20. **Narendra Modi** represented India in the first Summit for Democracy convened by US President Joe Biden.
Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Session convened by US President Joe Biden. Delivering his opening speech, Biden highlighted the 'definite challenges' and threats faced by democracy worldwide that has been 'backsliding'.
21. Swachh Technology Challenge was launched by **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**.
Note: The challenge seeks entrepreneurial skills for India's waste management sector that can be further utilized by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in implementing various components of SBM-U 2.0. MoHUA will also launch the Swachhata Start-Up Challenge in collaboration with France's

- Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It will be an extension to the Swachh Technology Challenge in January 2022.
22. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has signed an MoU with **UNDP** to strengthen the waste management sector in India under the Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0).
Note: This collaboration is in the backdrop of the 75th year of India's independence, the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, with UNDP supporting us with the set up and operationalization of 75 Swachhata Kendras across the country. This will also support the realization of the vision, 'Clean Air, Clean Water, Clean Land' in urban India, through a circular economy approach based on the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle) principle.
23. **NITI Aayog** has launched the 'e-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition' in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India) and with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
Note: To Share knowledge of various stakeholders – Central & State Govt. agencies, transit service providers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), on accelerating the process towards seamless adoption of e-bus services in India. The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of NITI Aayog has launched a Digi-book titled "Innovations for You". It is an initiative of Niti Aayog to share success stories of Atal Innovation Mission's Startups in different domains.
24. **India** has assumed the Chairmanship of Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO).
Note: The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), Government of India, in association with Data Security Council of India (DSCI), as a Knowledge Partner, organized a 2-day Practical Seminar on 'Securing Cyberspace in the Contemporary Threat Environment' (on December 7 and 8, 2021) for delegates from SCO member States. The seminar is the 1st event to be hosted by India during its Chairmanship of Council of RATS SCO.
25. The winner of the 2nd edition of 'Animal Husbandry Startup Grand Challenge' will get **Rs. 10 Lakh** that was launched by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, in partnership with Startup India.
Note: The first edition of the startup grand challenge was launched by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 12th September, 2019. The challenge is open for application on the Startup India portal – www.startupindia.gov.in – to all startups
26. In December 2021, **Kolkata's Durga puja festival** has been inscribed on the UNESCO's 'Intangible Heritage list' .
Note: Durga Puja is an annual festival celebrated in September or October, most notably in West Bengal's Kolkata, also in other parts of India. The 16th Committee of UNESCO for safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in its meeting held on 15th December 2021 in Paris has inscribed Durga puja in Kolkata on the representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
27. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26 with an outlay of **Rs.93,068 crore**.
Note: The CCEA has approved central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government of India for irrigation development during PMKSY 2016-21. Launched in 2015, PMKSY is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.
28. The theme of the eighth Indian Ocean Dialogue -- **Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States**.
Note: The theme for this year's edition was Leveraging Digital Technologies for Health, Education, Development, and Trade in Indian Ocean Rim Association Member States. IORA was formerly known as Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC) and Indian Ocean Rim Initiative. It is an international organisation comprising of 23 states which share borders with the Indian Ocean.
29. India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with **Vietnam** to enable collaboration in the field of digital media and strengthen the partnership between both the countries.
Note: Shashi Shekhar Vempati, CEO, Prasar Bharati; Jaideep Bhatnagar, Principal DG, PIB; and Vikram Sahay, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) along with other officials from India and Vietnam were present during the event. The LoI anticipates sharing of information and experience in establishing policies and regulatory frameworks on digital media and social networks. The LoI also expects to conduct capacity building and training programs for media professionals and officials in both India and Vietnam.

- 30.** Under the theme Good Governance Week 2021 is being celebrated from 20th-25th December, 2021 -- **Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur.**
Note: Celebrated by: Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG). Moto: to redress and dispose of public grievances and improvise service delivery down to the village level. Theme: "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur". A film on "Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur" will also be screened. "Good Governance Day will be celebrated on December 25, 2021.
- 31. G Padmanabhan** will chair the Committee set up by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for the transfer of stressed loans from domestic lenders to financial institutions.
Note: Former executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) G Padmanabhan will chair the committee along with expertise in banking and legal firms. The committee examines the provisions of the RBI directions that require further clarification for transferring stressed loans, for identifying areas or issues of the directions from RBI. The committee will submit a report to the chairperson of IFSCA, within one month from the date of the committee's first meeting.
- 32.** The foundation stone of which was laid down by the PM Narendra Modi, The length of the Ganga Expressway **594 Km.**
Note: Ganga Expressway will open new doors of progress for UP and will be a source of five boons covering network of expressways, new airports, and railway routes: It is a 594 Km long six-lane Expressway and will be built at a cost of over Rs 36,200 crore. It passes through Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Budaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareilly, Pratapgarh and Prayagraj.
- 33.** India's rank in the Truecaller's Global Spam Report 2021 -- **4th.**
Note: India's rank is moved from 9th in 2020 to the 4th spot this year. The report has been released by Truecaller. KYC (know your customer) spam remains one of the most common one in the country. The average number of spam calls per user per month stood at 16.8 in October.
- 34. Indian Coast Guard** has launched website for online recruitment of the officers.
Note: Digital recruitment process will cover around hundred cities spread throughout the country and would be conducted twice a year ensuring far wider reach, talent and also provide an unprecedented opportunity to the individuals aspiring to serve the Nation.
- 35. Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated 232 km of National Highways at a cost of Rs.4160 Crore in Jaunpur and Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.
Note: It will facilitate movement of goods with better connectivity in the region and provide access to markets for agricultural produce, local and other products. In Jaunpur, foundation stone for 3 national highway projects which will cover 86 kms with a total cost of Rs 1,123 crore. In Mirzapur, Four National highways projects worth Rs 3037 crore with total length of 146 kms.
- 36. Ministry of Petroleum** has launched the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) Bid Round-VII for International Competitive Bidding.
Note: Eight blocks are being bid out under the round. These include five on-land blocks (four in Category-I Basin and one in Category-III Basin), two shallow water blocks (both in Category-I Basin) and one ultra-deep-water block (Category-I Basin). "It is expected that OALP Round VII would generate an immediate exploration work commitment of around \$ 300-400 million.
- 37.** The Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) organized a "Technical Conference cum Exhibition on 24x7 Water Supply Systems" in **New Delhi.**
Note: Organized by: Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO). It will ensure prevention of water contamination, control of NRW, equitable water supply and bring efficiency in terms of financial sustainability by attracting PPP funding.
- 38.** According to Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2021, India's rank in having highest number of unicorns -- **third.**
Note: The report, released shows that Bengaluru has more unicorns than cities like Boston, Palo Alto, Paris, Berlin, Chicago among others, with a tally of 28 such companies--the seventh-highest in the world. India has more than doubled the number of unicorns from last year and overtook the UK in the tally.
- 39. Rajnath Singh** has launched India's first of its kind Geographic Information System (GIS) Based 'Automatic Water Supply System' for citizens of Cantonment Boards under eChhawani project.
Note: It is an easy and fast application with 100% automatic process. The module for this system has been developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics (BISAG) under the guidance of Defence Secretary and Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE), Delhi.
- 40.** Under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission**, PM Narendra Modi has

provided Rs 1000 crore to Community Investment Fund to transfer bank accounts of self help groups to benefit around 16 lakh women.

Note: It is administered under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for improving the quality of life and for providing other social needs of the members in the Self Help Group. It is intended to encourage innovative community enterprise and also to provide small amounts as loan or grant to those tormented by poverty.

41. The Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has launched the first of its kind Vernacular Innovation Program which enables innovators and entrepreneurs to have access to the innovative ecosystem -- **22 languages**.
Note: By providing access to learning in one's language and culture, Atal Innovation Mission aims to create equal opportunity for the vernacular innovators. AIM will identify and train the Vernacular Task Force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages to build the required capacity of the VIP.
42. **O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU), Sonipat** has won the "Digital Innovation of the Year" award at the distinguished Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Awards 2021.
Note: JGU was the Only Indian University to be Shortlisted for the "Digital Innovation of the Year". JGU's win at the THE Awards is a recognition of JGU's successful digital transformation and impact over the last two years.
43. Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) comes under the ambit of **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**.
Note: In March, 1964, a Department of Administrative Reforms was set up within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Organisation and Method (O & M) Division was transferred to its charge from the Cabinet Secretariat. On 07th February, 1973, the work relating to Department of Administrative Reforms was transferred to Department of Personnel created under Cabinet Secretariat on 01st August, 1970 and was re-designated as Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.
44. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Renukaji Dam project in **Himachal Pradesh** that was pending for around three decades.
Note: He will lay the foundation stone of Renukaji Dam project which is lying pending for around three decades. Also, he inaugurated the Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project. The 111 MW Project has been built at a cost of around ₹2,080 crore

45. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a Defence Technology & Test Centre (DTTC) in **Lucknow** to accelerate the growth of the defence and aerospace manufacturing clusters in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor.

Note: A first-of-its-kind DTTC is being set up to accelerate the growth of the defence and aerospace manufacturing clusters in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor. The Brahmos manufacturing centre, announced by BrahMos Aerospace, is a modern, state-of-the-art facility in the Lucknow node of UP DIC.

46. **Vivek Joshi** will chair the high-level committee constituted by the central government to to examine the possibility of withdrawing the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Nagaland.

Note: Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Vivek Joshi will head the five-member committee and Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Piyush Goyal will be its Member-Secretary. The Chief Secretary and Director General of Police of Nagaland and the DGP of Assam Rifles will be the other members of the committee.

47. According to the NITI Aayog's fourth edition of the State Health Index for 2019–20 titled "Healthy States, Progressive India", **Kerala** state at the top among the larger states, in overall ranking based on the composite index score in 2019–20.

Note: Among the 'Larger States', in terms of annual incremental performance, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana are the top three ranking states. Among 'Smaller States', Mizoram and Meghalaya registered the maximum annual incremental progress.

48. According to the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2021, **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** has been recognised as the Most Innovative Educational Institute in India, in the technical ranking.

Note: ARIIA 2021 classifies participating institutions into two major categories; technical and non-technical. In the technical ranking, the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has been recognised as the Most Innovative Educational Institute in India.

49. **Jhansi Railway Station** has been renamed as **Veerangana Laxmibai Railway Station**.

Note: Earlier the **Mughalsarai Railway station** was renamed as **Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya** junction and the Faizabad Railway station as Ayodhya Cantt. Since coming to power, Mr Adityanath government has changed names of several establishments including those of Faizabad and Allahabad districts, which were renamed as Ayodhya and Prayagraj, respectively.

November 2021

- 1. Amit Shah** has launched the "Dairy Sahakar" scheme at Anand, Gujarat.
Note: The Dairy Sahakar with a total investment of Rs 5000 crore will be implemented by NCDC under Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India to realize the vision, "from cooperation to prosperity". Under Dairy Sahakar, financial support will be extended by NCDC to eligible cooperatives for activities such as bovine development, milk procurement, processing, quality assurance, value addition, branding, packaging, marketing, transportation and storage of milk and milk products, export of dairy products within the overall objectives of "Doubling the farmers income" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat".
- 2. Jitendra Singh** dedicated "Sardar Patel Leadership Centre" to the nation at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie.
Note: Sardar Patel Leadership Centre aims to lay the foundation capacity building for future generations of Civil Servants. Sardar Patel Leadership Centre will emerge as a Huge Resource Centre to provide continuous study and learning opportunities to Civil Servants from India and Abroad as visualised by the Father of All India Services.
- 3. Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express** becomes the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified Shatabdi.
Note: It received the certificate for world-class maintenance of the train, environment-friendly resources. The train's primary maintenance is handled by Basin Bridge Coaching Depot of Indian Railways' Chennai Division.
- 4. The Pension fund regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has added Aadhaar based eKYC for **Atal Pension Yojana**.
Note: Aim: to expand its subscriber base and simplify the on-boarding process further. PFRDA is allowing enrollment of subscribers through physical, net banking and other digital modes, at present. After an APY account is opened, Atal Pension Yojana-Service Provider (APY-SP) will offer subsequent servicing to the subscribers.
- 5. The 14th edition of Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2021** inaugurated by Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep S. Puri.
Note: Theme of the conference: Mobility for All.
Aim: provide an opportunity to decision makers and delegates to interact with professionals, experts, industry, civil society, technology, services providers and other stake holders in Urban Transport.India at 75-Mobility for All film also released.
- 6. Ramky Enviro** has inaugurated one of the world's first and India's largest landfill gas-to-compressed biogas plant in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The project is focused on the conversion of landfill gas into compressed biogas as an automotive fuel. The project offers significant benefits such as carbon sequestration and reduced emissions of GHGs into the environment and contributes to the greening of the automotive industry. The end (Biogas) product of the plant will be sold to Bhagyanagar Gas Limited (BGL).
- 7. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** has launched Bhasha Sangam initiative for schools. It has been launched to teach basic sentences of everyday usage in **22** languages.
- 8. Ministry of Rural Development** signs Memorandum of Understanding with e-commerce company **Flipkart** for the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
Note: Helps empower those who take the lead by participating in e-commerce. This partnership is in line with DAY-NRLM's goal of strengthening the capacity of rural communities for self-employment and entrepreneurship, and provides further impetus for the Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- 9. Amit Shah** has launched the 'Ayushman CAPF' Scheme health cards at the national level in New Delhi.
Note: The scheme has been designed to cover all serving personnel and their dependents of the seven Central Armed Police Forces. He handed over 'Ayushman CAPF' Scheme health cards to the Director General, National Security Guard for distribution to NSG personnel. The scheme is a joint initiative of the Home Ministry, Health Ministry and National Health Authority (NHA).
- 10. India** has adopted a net zero target by **2070** year in the COP26 summit in Glasgow.
Note: India announced a new targets to increase reliance on renewables and reduce the carbon intensity of its economy, including to adopt a net zero target by 2070. Investment in RE and climate change adaptation policies suggest it is well positioned to take further steps to reach this new target.
- 11. IIT Kanpur** has developed 'Ganga Atlas: River of the Past' that was launched during the 5th Ganga Utsav.

- Note:** Ganga Atlas developed by Prof Rajiv Sinha, IIT Kanpur documents the changes in River Ganga over the past 5-6 decades in terms of channel morphology, land use & land cover, river dynamics and associated issues.
- 12. K Rajaraman** will head the 22-members technology innovation group on sixth generation or 6G formed by the Department of Telecommunications.
Note: Telecom secretary K Rajaraman will head the initiative as chairperson and the forum aims to create vision and objectives as well as develop a roadmap for research and development (R&D), pre-standardisation, development of applications and products, and action plans for 6G technology.
- 13. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released “The Adaptation Gap Report 2021” that discusses the irreversible nature of global climate risk.
Note: It is the 12th edition of the Emissions Gap Report. The Report shows that new national climate pledges combined with other mitigation measures put the world on track for a global temperature rise of 2.7°C by the end of the century. That is well above the goals of the Paris climate agreement and would lead to catastrophic changes in the Earth’s climate.
- 14.** India’s rank in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium -- **18th**.
Note: The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India’s rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
- 15.** Indian city has been included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) with a special mention for its craft and folk art -- **Srinagar**.
Note: Srinagar joins Chennai and Varanasi - UNESCO Cities of music; Jaipur - UNESCO city of crafts and folk arts; Mumbai - UNESCO city of film and Hyderabad - UNESCO City of gastronomy. Worldwide, 49 new cities have joined the UNESCO’s Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- 16.** The Central government has launched ‘DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme’ for **Young Innovators**.
Note: The ‘DBT-Star College Mentorship Programme’ will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach, said Singh who is the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology. The pan India scheme envisages a ‘Star College’ in every district of the country supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the science and technology ministry.
- 17. Bipin Rawat** has inaugurated the 14th edition of ‘c0c0n’, an annual Hacking and Cyber Security Conference.
Note: The conference, which is being conducted by Kerala Police in association with two non-profit organisations, Society for the Policing of Cyberspace (POLCYB) and Information Security Research Association (ISRA), would be primarily discussing online scams and defenses during the lockdown period. The conference is being held virtually so that people from across the globe can attend the event as the 13th edition of ‘c0c0n’ last year saw more than 6,000 attendees from around the world.
- 18.** The union minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Labour & Employment, Shri Bhupender Yadav has inaugurated the Ganga Connect exhibition showcased by National Mission for Clean Ganga, c-Ganga, and the High Commission of India at the **City of Glasgow College**.
Note: The exhibition is an attempt to showcase the level of development in the Ganga river basin to a global community of environmental stakeholders, who have gathered in Glasgow for the UN Conference of the Parties (COP-26) meeting. “Ganga Connect is a global exhibition that will showcase multiple facets of the river basin and connect with interested parties. This project is important from the point of view preserving and protecting Ganga and its ecosystem and creating widespread awareness about the river basin.”
- 19.** The theme of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021 -- **Atmbirbhar Bharat**.
Note: 40th edition of IITF is a magnum of India Trade Promotion Organization representing India in totality as an ideal destination for numerous business and investment opportunities. Bihar is the Partner State, while Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand are the Focus States. Overseas participation is from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- 20.** India’s rank in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26 - **10th**.
Note: It is being released by German-watch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute. India was at 10th place in 2020 as well. The report noted that no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty.

21. Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has declared November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' to mark the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**.
Note: The day is dedicated to the brave tribal freedom fighters and their sacrificed for the country. This day will be celebrated every year from now on to recognize the efforts of the tribals for preservation of cultural heritage and promotion of Indian values of valor, hospitality and national pride.
22. National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) is a not-for-profit Company under the aegis of **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has launched 'Digital Payment Gateway' to make the internet accessible to everyone.
Note: It will lead to increased ease of use for NIXI's customers by offering real-time payments, providing uninterrupted services and ensuring seamless experience to all stakeholders. PayU is enabling payment digitization for crucial initiatives across the three key domains of NIXI. NIXI has partnered with PayU and NSDL to offer Payment gateway services.
23. World's longest bi-lane road tunnel called "Sela Tunnel" is being built in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The tunnel, located near China border, is expected to give India strategic heft by facilitating faster movement of its troops. The tunnel goes through Sela Pass and is expected to cut down the distance to China border through Tawang by 10 km. It is located on the border between the Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal. The project consists of two tunnels.
24. **Gopal Krishna Pillai** will head the committee constituted by the central government for the determination of RoDTEP rates for exports from special economic zones (SEZs) and export-oriented units (EOUs), as these sectors were left out in the earlier exercise.
Note: The committee will be headed by Former Home Secretary Gopal Krishna Pillai, Former CBEC (Central Board of Excise and Customs) member Y G Parande and former customs member Gautam Ray. The committee will also make recommendations on issues relating to errors or anomalies with respect to the RoDTEP schedule of rates notified.
25. First-ever National Yogasana Championship was held in **Bhubaneswar**.
Note: It has been organized by National Yogasana Sports Federation (NYSF) in association with the Odisha state. Around 560 young Yogasana Sports athletes from across 30 states would be participating in the event.
26. Industry association **FICCI** has organized a virtual agriculture summit and awards event 'Envisioning Smart & Sustainable Agriculture' aims to bring all key stakeholders and policymakers on a common platform to ideate an implementable strategy for smart and sustainable agriculture.
Note: The summit 'Envisioning Smart & Sustainable Agriculture' aims to bring all key stakeholders and policymakers on a common platform to ideate an implementable strategy for smart and sustainable agriculture. The plenary sessions will focus on issues such as strengthening agri-inputs for sustainably increasing productivity. A knowledge report on 'India Beyond 75: Envisioning smart and sustainable agriculture' is being released during the event.
27. **Hardeep Singh Puri** lead the Indian delegation in the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC).
Note: Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri will lead an official and business delegation for the conference. During the visit, the Minister will participate in the inaugural Ceremony of ADIPEC and also take part in a Ministerial Round Table titled "Charting the Climate Action Path from COP 26 to COP 27".
28. According to the data from air quality and pollution city tracking service from IQAir, a Switzerland-based climate group **Delhi** becomes the most polluted city of the world.
Note: While Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) at 556 made it to the top of the list, Kolkata and Mumbai recorded an AQI of 177 and 169, respectively, at fourth and sixth position. The cities with the worst AQI indices also include Lahore, in Pakistan, and Chengdu, in China. A real-time air quality information platform - IQAir is also a technology partner of the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).
29. Number of scientific expeditions to Antarctica have been launched by India recently -- **41st**.
Note: The first batch comprising 23 scientists and support staff reached the Indian Antarctic station, Maitri. Four more batches will reach Antarctica by air and chartered ice-class vessel MV Vasilij Golovnin by mid-January 2022.
30. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is located in **Vasco da Gama, Goa**.
Note: It is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It manages the entire Indian Antarctic programme.
31. **M Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated three days annual flagship Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2021.
Note: Bengaluru Tech Summit 2021 was Karnataka government's flagship three-day technology event. Naftali Bennett, the Prime Minister of Israel, and Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister of Australia attended the event virtually. For the first time South

- Africa, Vietnam, and UAE participated in the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS).
- 32.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Purvanchal Expressway at Karwal Kheri in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
Note: This 341 km long Purvanchal Express and will connect Lucknow with Ghazipur. It has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 22,500 crore. Expressway starts from village Chaudsarai, located on Lucknow-Sultanpur road (NH-731) and ends at village Hydaria located on National Highway No. 31.
- 33.** International airport **Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru** has partnered with Microsoft India to launch a 'Hackathon' to develop an app using Microsoft Azure.
Note: The hackathon invited professional developers, data scientists, data engineers and hackathon enthusiasts to participate in this challenge and design innovative solutions that will improve the end-to-end passenger experience at BLR Airport.
- 34. Ministry of Food Processing Industry** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Department of Animal husbandry (DAHD) facilitate extension of benefits to dairy entrepreneurs and dairy industries through convergence of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
Note: This MoU will facilitate extension of benefits to dairy entrepreneurs and dairy industries through convergence of various schemes of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. This will also help in generating income for sustainable development of the rural poor by providing credit support, strengthening quality control, and providing necessary technology.
- 35.** First-of-its-kind pod hotel has been inaugurated in **Mumbai Central** railway station.
Note: The pod hotel has several small bed-sized capsules and provides affordable overnight accommodation. one has to pay Rs 999 for 12 hours and Rs 1,999 for 24 hours for staying in this pod hotel where facilities like WiFi, TV, a small locker, adjustable mirror, and reading lights, among others, will be provided.
- 36.** This year marks the **552nd** birth anniversary of Sikh founder, Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
Note: It marks the birth anniversary of the first of the ten Sikh gurus, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Sikhs believe that Guru Nanak Dev Ji brought enlightenment to this world. While Diwali falls on the 15th day of the Kartik month as per the Hindu Lunar calendar, Guru Nanak Jayanti falls fifteen days after that on the auspicious occasion of Kartik Purnima.
- 37. Indore** cities has been named as the cleanest city of India by Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Indore has been ranked as the cleanest city of India for the fifth year in a row by Swachh Survekshan 2021. Indore was followed by Surat and Vijayawada with over 10 lakh population. Swachh Survekshan: It is an annual survey of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation in cities and towns across India.
- 38.** India's rank in the list of global bribery risk rankings in 2021 -- **82nd**.
Note: The list by TRACE measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions. According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Venezuela and Eritrea pose the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- 39. Coal Ministry** has decided to establish a Sustainable Development Cell (SDC).
Note: SDC is also formulating future policy framework for environmental mitigation in Coal and Lignite sector of our country. It will also monitor the effective utilisation of the Mine Closure Fund and environment budgets of different coal companies.
- 40. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin** has completed five years of its implementation.
Note: Ministry of Rural Development along with States and UTs have undertaken various activities like Bhoomi Pujan, Gruh Pravesh, visit of beneficiaries to demonstration houses, and sensitization of beneficiaries about PMAY-G to celebrate Awaas Diwas. To achieve the objective of providing Housing to All by 2022, the Centre rolled out the revamped rural housing scheme, PMAY-G was launched on 20th November 2016.
- 41.** Students of **Standard 6th to 12th** are the target audience for the India's Virtual Lab platform launched by Union Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh.
Note: The main aim of the Virtual Lab is to provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium. The new facility will immensely benefit students from Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Government Schools and will help in catching them young.
- 42. CII** will organize its flagship event titled 'Connect 2021', a international conference and exhibition on information & communication technology (ICT) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
Note: It will be held from 26th to 27th November. Theme: Building a Sustainable Deep T'ech'N'ology Ecosystem.

- 43. El Salvador** plans to build the world's first "Bitcoin City", funded initially by bitcoin-backed bonds.
Note: This new city is planned to be developed in the eastern region of La Union and will be initially funded by bitcoin-backed bonds. Bitcoin City will not levy any taxes except for value added tax (VAT).
- 44. Shimla** tops the list of cities scoring highest on urban 2021 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index released by the NITI Aayog.
Note: Coimbatore and Chandigarh were at second and third position in the ranking of urban SDG index. Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Panaji, Pune, Tiruchirapalli, Ahmedabad and Nagpur are among the list of top 10 cities.
- 45. Vigyan Prasar** and Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) collaborated to drive synergies between AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and unique interactivity platform of that entity, Engage With Science (EWS).
Note: Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has collaborated with Vigyan Prasar to drive synergies between AIM's Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and Vigyan Prasar's unique interactivity platform, Engage With Science (EWS). Engage with Science: It will onboard all 9200+ ATL-enabled schools and engage their students, teachers and Principals in perennial activities
- 46.** The theme-based tourist circuit trains **Bharat Gaurav Trains** has been announced by the Minister of Railways, Ashwini Vaishnaw to tap the vast tourism potential of India.
Note: Service Provider will be free to decide theme like Guru Kripa trains for covering important places of Sikh culture, Ramayana trains for places connected with Lord Shri Ram etc. Service Provider will offer all-inclusive package to tourist including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical/heritage sites, tour guides etc.
- 47.** In November 2021, the 1st International Conference on Hydrogen Energy was organized by **Central Board of Irrigation and Power**.
Note: It is being organized by Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP) with the support of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Central Electricity Authority and NTPC. Aim: to bring all the key stakeholders on the same platform to discuss all facets of Hydrogen Energy in India.
- 48.** PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of Noida International Airport in Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, with this Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have five international airports.
Note: Development of this airport is in line with the vision of the Prime Minister towards boosting connectivity and creating a future-ready aviation sector. Uttar Pradesh is poised to become the only state in India to have five international airports.
- 49. IIT Delhi** hosted the 5th World Congress on Disaster Management on the overarching theme of "Technology, Finance and Capacity for Building Resilience to Disasters in the Contexts of Covid-19".
Note: The World Congress on Disaster Management is an initiative of Disaster Management Initiatives and Convergence Society (DMICS) to bring researchers, policy makers and practitioners from around the world on the same platform to discuss various challenging issues of disaster risk management. WCDM aims to promote interaction of science, policy and practices to enhance understanding of risks and advance actions for reducing risks and building resilience to disasters.
- 50. M Venkaiah Naidu** led the Indian delegation in the 13th edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit held virtually.
Note: The ASEM or Asia-Europe Meeting is a platform for the countries in Asia and Europe to exchange views on regional and global issues and strengthen cooperation in a wide range of areas. The grouping comprises 51 member countries and two regional organisations — the European Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- 51. Amazon** brand has emerged as the most purposeful brands in the technology category in the 2021 edition of Kantar's annual BrandZ India report.
Note: The rankings—split into three categories—rated technology, fast moving consumer goods as well as non-tech FMCG brands. While Asian Paints topped the non-FMCG rankings, Samsung and Jio ranked jointly in the second position, followed by MRF, Tata Housing and Airtel. The FMCG category rankings saw Tata Tea top the chart, followed by Surf Excel and Taj Mahal.
- 52. Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated the 1st India Internet Governance Forum 2021.
Note: Organized by: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI). It is centered around the theme 'Empowering India through Power of Internet'
- 53.** According to the 2021 Global Nutrition Report (GNR, 2021) released by the World Health Organization **53 percent** of women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic.
Note: The country featured among the 161 countries documented in the report as having made no progress or said to be worsening with regards to reducing anaemia. Over half of Indian women in the age group 15-49 years are anaemic, according to the report.

54. As per the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the NITI Aayog **Bihar** state has emerged as the poorest state in India.

Note: Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Punjab have registered the lowest poverty across India. The MPI measure uses the methodology developed by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and the UNDP.

55. **Darpan@petrolpump** launched by Indian Oil, BPCL and HPC to enhance service standards and amenities, across their networks.

Note: Three oil PSU's have joined hands to launch Model Retail Outlets to enhance service standards

and amenities, across their networks. The initiative was inaugurated by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri.

56. The 7th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2021 will be held in **Panaji, Goa**.
Note: It is a 4-day festival, that will be held from 10th to 13th December 2021. Organized by: Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Science and Technology, Dept of Atomic Energy, Department of Space and Government of Goa.

Important News - State

1-7th March 2022

1. The First-ever Ice Wall Climbing Competition-2022 was inaugurated in **Ladakh**.

Note: Organized by: Northwest Frontier of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Apart from ITBF, Ladakh Police, Ladakh Mountain Guide Association, Students and team from Nubra are participating in this two-day competition. It will help in creating a rich pool of talent to participate in international competitions like winter Olympics.

2. Greenfield Airport in Hollongi is being constructed in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: It has an estimated cost of Rs.645 crore. This project includes development work i.e. construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building and city side works.

3. The OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition was held in **Chennai**.

Note: The bi-annual conference was held for the first time in India. The theme of the event was "inspire-innovate-sustain".

4. JSW Energy's Kutehr project has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with **Haryana** for supply of 240 MW hydro power.

Note: The PPA is valid for a period of 35 years which can be further extended at mutually agreed terms. The PPA was signed at a levelised ceiling tariff of ₹4.50/kWh (at ex bus-bar). The PPA capacity was selected through competitive bidding underexpression of interest invited by the HPPC in July 2018.

5. To mark the 20th anniversary of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and International Women's Day, a 50-acre exclusive industrial park for women entrepreneurs is all set to be inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.

Note: The FLO Industrial Park, which already has 25 women-led enterprises from diverse sectors, is being taken up in association with the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

6. The Ministry for Fisheries has been rolled out 'Sagar Parikrama' initiative in **Gujarat** in first phase aimed at understanding "challenges, experiences and aspirations of fishermen community.

Note: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Parshottam Rupala outlined that the "Sagar Parikrama" initiative will be aimed at understanding "challenges, experiences and aspirations of fishermen community", look at the scope of seafood exports, as well as to popularise schemes that the fishing community in coastal areas can avail of.

7. **Delhi** state government has inaugurated a teachers university that will offer programmes like BA BEd, BSc BEd, etc.

Note: Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has inaugurated Delhi Teacher's University. Its campus is located in Outram Lane in the Mukherjee Nagar area of the national capital. It will offer a new-age integrated education programme after Class 12.

8. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has collaborated with **Tamil Nadu** state government to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.

Note: To facilitate this, BSE will partner with MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB). As part of the collaboration, BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and

medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements.

9. Sikkim state government will soon implement 'Aama Yojna', a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state.
Note: The scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Govt. will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually. The Sikkim government has sanctioned Rs 32 crore for the scheme this year.

10. **Haryana** state government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme-to provide support to women entrepreneurs.

Note: Under the scheme the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees and who wish to become entrepreneurs in any enterprise, trade or business will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees. Subsequently interest subvention of 7 percent will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.

February 2022

1. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has promulgated an ordinance to enhanced the retirement age for its employees by 2 years to 62.

Note: Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan promulgated the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 to this effect. On January 21, the state Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) Act, 1984 in line with the announcement made by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.

2. Spituk Gustor is an annual celebration of culture and traditional heritage of **Ladakh**.
Note: It is a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated every year. The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.
3. India's first 'geological park' will be set up in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 crores. The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view.
4. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Gujarat** that has been declared Ramsar sites recently.
Note: Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar site No. 2464), a freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch, was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress. The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, the first marine national park in the country.

5. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Uttar Pradesh** that has been designated as Ramsar sites on the occasion of World Wetland Day 2022.

Note: With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49 covering an area of 1,093,636 hectares. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (site no. 2465), a freshwater marsh in the Sant Kabir Nagar district, is the largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

6. The traditional Torgya Festival celebrated in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The traditional Torgya Festival is celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh by Monpa community. The objective of the festival is to welcome a healthy and prosperous new year and ward off any kind of external aggression and protect people from natural disasters.
7. **Uttar Pradesh's** tableau selected as the best state tableau at the Republic Day parade in 2022 _____.
Note: The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product' and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'. The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts'. The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.
8. **Maharashtra** state tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes.
Note: Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME. The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh (36,913 units), Karnataka (28,803 enterprises) and Punjab (24,503 units) respectively.

9. In a bid to spread voter awareness among voters **Punjab** state's Chief Electoral Officer has unveiled its Election Mascot – 'Shera'.
Note: The Election Mascot, 'Shera' represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab. Promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project, the Mascot aims to increase voter awareness and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting.
10. **West Bengal** state government has launched 'Paray Shikshalaya', an open-air classroom for students from class 1 to 7.
Note: The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education. The initiative has been started by the Bengal government keeping in mind the ongoing COVID pandemic situation, which has forced the students to stay back home and attend online classes.
11. **Kerala** state government has inked an MoU with the Social Alpha through its "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC).
Note: Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre(EMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU emphasizes KDISC, EMC, and CEIIC's shared commitment to collaborate in the areas of innovative and clean energy technologies that are aligned with Kerala's programs and initiatives.
12. Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Karnataka** state government to support the growth the women entrepreneurs.
Note: Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online and access a wider market for their products.
13. State-owned THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) has signed a pact to build 10,000-megawatt (MW) solar power projects entailing an investment of Rs 10,000 crore in **Rajasthan**.
Note: THDC India Limited (THDCIL) signed the letter of intent (LoI) of 10,000 MW in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crore for the establishment of renewable energy parks/ projects of 10,000 MW in the august 2021.
14. India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: The plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. It will also produce biochar and methane. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of ₹24 crore.
15. State-run Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with **Rajasthan** government to develop 10,000 megawatt (MW) of solar power projects in the state in the next five years.
Note: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the same will be inked shortly, and the investment is estimated at ₹50,000 crore.
16. WE HUB is an exclusive incubator for women entrepreneurs of **Telangana** state government that has launched a unique incubator programme for rural areas.
Note: The year-long programme targets to accelerate small and medium enterprises, besides strengthening the local supply chain. WE HUB, promoted by the Telangana Government has called for applications for the rural incubation programme.
17. **Telangana** state government and the British Council, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to renew the partnership in Education, English and Arts.
Note: To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana. Under the extended 3 year MoU, the British Council has also signed an agreement with the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) to work closely to engineer new partnerships between universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in the UK and in Telangana.
18. The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) government signed a pact with **New Zealand** for the transformation of the sheep farming sector in the J&K Union Territory (UT).
Note: To improve farmer's remuneration, transfer of technology in research and development, marketing and value addition of sheep products of J&K. The agreement was signed through the virtual mode in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Navin Choudhary, principal secretary of agriculture production and farmers welfare department animal.
19. 'Operation Parivartan' has been initiated by **Karnataka** to eliminate the cultivation of cannabis.
Note: Such an initiative was never been taken up before and it helps the state to fight against the drugs menace. This operation was led by the Andhra Pradesh Police with the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) in Visakhapatnam.
20. **Rajasthan** state govt signed an agreement with the Anil Agarwal Foundation of the Vedanta Group to develop 25,000 Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar in the state.

- Note:** The foundation will develop Nand Ghars by spending about Rs 750 crore (Rs 3 lakh per Anganwadi). The chief minister said the development of Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar will improve their infrastructure as well as provide quality education and nutrition to children. This will also help in further reducing maternal and child mortality.
- 21.** The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed an MoU with **Maharashtra** state govt to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign.
Note: The beginning of a new partnership between UN Environment Programme and the Government of Maharashtra will support the state in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures," said a statement from UN office.
- 22.** Maru Mahotsav is celebrated in **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: It is also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City. It is a 4-day long festival with competitions like Turban tying, Panihari Matka, Mehendi and mandana competitions. Other attractions: Camel Safari, Camel beautification, Camel Polo match, BSF Camel Tattoo, Camel dance, etc.
- 23.** Considered to be second-largest fair in India, the Medaram Jatara is organized in **Telangana** for that Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned Rs. 2.26 Crores for 2022 edition.
Note: Under the AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav, the Government of India has announced that tribal culture and heritage will be the cynosure of 2022. After the Kumbh Mela, Medaram Jatara is the country's second-largest mela which is held for four days.
- 24.** **Gujarat** state govt signed an MoU with QX Global Group Limited for the holistic development of the Information Technology and IT Enabled Services (ITeS) sector in the State.
Note: The Gujarat government's Department of Science and Technology had announced a new IT/ITeS policy for the next 5 years in order to develop a robust ecosystem for the IT and digital sector. The policy also aims from the current Rs 3,000 crore annually to Rs 25,000 crore over the next five years.
- 25.** In **West Bengal** the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women.
Note: Under this programme, SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women in directly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods. Later, each of them is expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants.
- 26.** In February 2022, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed MoUs with **State Government of Bihar** to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.
Note: The first MoU was exchanged by Manish Sinha, General Manager, SIDBI and Pankaj Dixit, IAS Director (Technical Development), GoB. Second MoU was exchanged by Sinha and Bhogendra Lal, ED (H.Q.), BIADA. Bihar is the 14th state of India with which SIDBI has partnered to strengthen MSME. SIDBI will place an expert agency with the state industries department of Bihar.
- 27.** **Mizoram** will soon get a motor racing track, which will be the first of its kind in eastern and northeastern India.
Note: The proposed project worth Rs 10 crores will be constructed at Lengpui, about 31 km north of Aizawl, where the lone state's airport is located. Mizoram State Sports Council (MSSC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) had inked a pact for the construction of REC Motosports Racing Tract and Sports Complex.
- 28.** **Gujarat** state govt has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27 aimed to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
Note: Under this policy, strategic projects, mega and large projects are eligible for special packages. This will attract new investment through anchor units and existing industries and create new employment opportunities in the state
- 29.** This year (2022) **48th** edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival was inaugurated by the Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel.
Note: It is a week-long festival, that will be held till 26th February. This world-famous festival is organized in Khajuraho, Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. It will be participated by renowned artists from across the country and world
- 30.** **Delhi Police** has become the 1st police force in the country to introduce Smart Card Arms License.
Note: It will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders. Smart card arms license has also been integrated with e-beat book through mobile application 'Shastra App'.
- 31.** For the project **REWARD** the World Bank has recently approved loan worth \$115 million for the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha.
Note: Aim: to implement Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme. It will help national and state adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.

- 32. State Government of Assam** has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application (app) for ferry services.
Note: The inaugural night journey of an Inland Water Transport ferry fitted with the system sailed between Guwahati and North Guwahati at 9 pm and completed the return journey also in about an hour. The night navigation mobile application was developed by the transport department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- 33. Lavender** has been designated as Doda brand product.
Note: A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as Doda brand product, to promote lavender under 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government. Doda district in J&K is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution, or the cultivation of Lavender. Though, Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 34. Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** has announced a collaboration with tech giant **Google** for local startups to connect with the global startup community.

Note: This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions. The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solutions.

- 35. State govt of Assam** has launched a four-year mentorship programme called Project Arohan to provide guidance to students and hone their skills.
Note: In this regard, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Anita Rajan, CEO of Tata STRIVE, and skill development of Tata Trusts and sought corporation from them for the project.
- 36. State-owned SJVN** will develop a 400 MW solar park in **Himachal Pradesh**.
Note: According to a company statement, an in-principle approval has been accorded by the ministry for development of this project under Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks of its solar park scheme.

January 2022

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Aequus Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequus Pvt. Ltd. Six toy and toy-component makers have signed MoUs with Aequus 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

December 2021

- 1.** First-ever Aharbal festival was celebrated in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: The festival was a collaborative effort of the Kulgam district administration and the Department

of Tourism, Jammu and Kashmir. The waterfall is a popular tourist site in South Kashmir that attracts locals and people outside the union territory alike.

2. **Arunachal Pradesh** government has roped in Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt as the brand ambassador for 50 Years of its celebration.
Note: Known erstwhile as North Eastern Frontier Agency (NEFA), Arunachal Pradesh came into existence as a Union Territory on 20th January 1972. The month-long state-wide celebrations is scheduled to start on from 20th January 2022 at Ziro in Lower Subansiri district. It will cover all the five river basins of the state after which the first districts were named viz, Kameng, Subansiri, Siang, Lohit and Tirap.
3. **Bihar** is the state partner of the 40th edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2021.
Note: It was organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' as the theme and to further promote the idea of 'Vocal for Local'. An estimated 3,000 exhibitors from India and abroad have participated in the fair. The fair was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19. Piyush Goyal listed five pillars of India as Economy, Exports, Infrastructure, Demand, and Diversity.
4. **Kerala** government has signed an MoU with German Federal Employment Agency, the German government agency in charge of recruitments, for the hiring of nurses.
Note: The German recruitment scheme, christened 'Triple Win', is the first of its kind in India held under the aegis of a government. More than 10,000 job opportunities are expected to come up for nurses in Germany in the post-Covid scenario.
5. According to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **Gujarat** becomes the country's leading manufacturing hub.
Note: Gujarat has left behind Maharashtra to become the country's leading manufacturing hub, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gujarat saw its Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing grow by 15.9 percent annually between FY12 to FY20 to stand at Rs 5.11 lakh crore, data shows. GVA is an economic metric that measures the supply of goods and services in an economy. Meanwhile, Maharashtra's annual growth rate stood at nearly half of Gujarat's at 7.5 percent for the same time period and its GVA for manufacturing stood at Rs 4.34 lakh crore in FY20.
6. The Kazhuveli wetland has been declared 16th Bird Sanctuary of **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The declaration was made under subsection (1) of section 18 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The Kazhuveli wetlands is referred to as the 2nd largest Brackish Water Lake in South India, only after Pulicat lake.
7. **Himachal Pradesh** state government has announced formation of a Commission to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog' to address the grievances of the 'general category'.
Note: The Commission, to be named as 'Samanya Varg Aayog', will be formalised through a legislative enactment in three months' time when the state assembly meets next in February-March 2021 for the budget session of the House. A Scheduled Caste Commission is already in operation in Himachal Pradesh and is chaired by former Shimla MP Virendra Kashyap.
8. **Karnataka** government has signed a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with the UNDP, as part of the state-level initiative 'Code-Unnati' with the aim of improving access to entrepreneurship and employment opportunities among the youth, including women.
Note: The initiative involving United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and supported by SAP India lab's CSR strategies will be implemented in 4 districts of Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Dakshina Kannada. The LoU intends to provide a platform for cooperation between UNDP and the Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports to ensure joint implementation of the activities in close coordination with state/district/college level NSS units.
9. According to a report tabled in the Parliament which state topped the list of States with maximum number of beneficiaries under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) -- **Maharashtra**.
Note: As on December 4, 2021, as many as 6,49,560 beneficiaries were recorded in Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu (5,35,615), Gujarat (4,44,741) and Karnataka (3,07,164), Minister of State for Labour & Employment Rameswar Teli said in written reply to Lok Sabha. In Maharashtra, the beneficiaries have been provided a total of ₹409.72 crore under the scheme to new employees of 17,524 establishments.
10. Health and Family Welfare Department of **Tamil Nadu** has signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Tamil Nadu project.
Note: The project is expected to start from the fourth quarter of FY21 to focus on strengthening the managerial and technical capabilities of health personnel with respect to NCD prevention and control. The death rate related to NCDs accounts for 63 per cent of all deaths and the probability of death from NCDs between the ages of 30 to 70 is 23 per cent, according to UNICEF.

- 11. Haiderpur wetland in Uttar Pradesh** has been designated as the country's 47th Ramsar site and 2,463rd Ramsar site internationally.
Note: Haiderpur Wetland covers an area of 6,908 hectares and is situated on the Muzaffarnagar-Bijnor border in Uttar Pradesh. It was formed in 1984 by the construction of Madhya Ganga Barrage at the confluence of Solani and Ganga rivers and is a part of Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary. A source of freshwater and groundwater recharge, Haiderpur Wetland supports a variety of plant species, and is home to numerous animals, including swamp deer, otters, gharial and fishing cat.
- 12. According to the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Uttar Pradesh** state has the highest number of registered electric vehicles.
Note: In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that 870,141 electric vehicles have been registered in India. Uttar Pradesh (255,700) has the highest registered electric vehicles, followed by Delhi (125,347) and Karnataka (72,544) come in that order. The fourth and fifth spots are grabbed by Bihar (58,014) and Maharashtra (52,506).
- 13. Uttarakhand** government has launched the 'Milk Price Incentive Scheme' to provide incentives benefiting around 53,000 people of the state.
Note: It is a Direct Bank Transfer (DBT) scheme, the amount under the scheme would go directly into the accounts of the beneficiaries through their linked bank accounts. The state government is targeting to spend INR 444.62 crore to open 500 milk sales centres in Uttarakhand. The dairy sector accounts for 4.2% of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- 14. As per the 9th edition of India Skills Report (ISR) 2022,** released by Wheebox Maharashtra has retained the top position in the list of states with the highest poll of employable talent.
Note: The theme of ISR 2022 – 'Rebuilding and Reengineering the Future of Work'. States with Maximum Hiring Activity: Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the 3 states that have a higher job demand. Pune is the city with the most highly employable resources with 78% of the test takers scoring above 60 percent.
- 15. Askot Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Uttarakhand** that has been declared as the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary Eco-sensitive Zone (ESZ).
Note: The notified area extends from 0 to 22 km around the Askot Wildlife Sanctuary. After the new notification, Askot Wildlife Sanctuary has become the first sanctuary in the state without any villages inside it.
- 16. Odisha** government has signed an agreement with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) to empower women economically and drive gender equality in the state.
Note: Under the joint initiative, the launch of Mission Shakti Living Lab was announced. The initiative will also help 10,000 women-led micro-enterprises get better access to affordable market opportunities, capital for business promotion, and market solutions for better linkages.
- 17. Andhra Pradesh** state govt signed an agreement with the UN-FAO and Indian Council of Agricultural Research to help the state farmers in adopting a sustainable agriculture food system.
Note: Through this agreement, there will also be strengthening the capacities of the state government in the agriculture sector. FAO will provide training to farmers, Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) staff, officials, and scientists on new technologies in agricultural allied sectors and training to farmers on best cultivation management practices.
- 18. West Bengal** state top the chart in the 'large states' category on the 'Index on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy' -- an indicator of literacy among children below 10 years that was prepared by 'Institute for Competitiveness' and released by Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman Bibek Debroy.
Note: In the 'small states' category, Kerala grabbed the top spot and Jharkhand was adjudged the worst performer on the index. There are four categories in which regions have been divided -- large states, small states, Union Territories and North East.
- 19. Jharkhand** government has launched Sports Action toward Harnessing Aspiration of Youth (SAHAY) scheme aimed at nurturing young sporting talents in Maoist-hit districts of the state.
Note: Currently, it is launched in Saraikela-Kharsawan, West Singhbhum, Khunti, Gumla and Simdega districts of Jharkhand, and will extend to other districts too. This scheme has been launched to curb the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) which affected 19 of the state's 24 districts. LWE are those groups that try to bring change through violent revolution.
- 20. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** signed an agreement with GreenCell Mobility, to lend INR 275 crore for deployment of 350 electric buses across nine cities of **Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The initiative is part of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME)-II scheme. GreenCell Mobility is an e-mobility platform supported by Governments of India and United Kingdom to boost adoption of

- electric vehicles in the country. The buses will be deployed in key cities of UP including Agra, Meerut, Aligarh, Bareilly, Ghaziabad & Mathura.
- 21. India's first International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) was inaugurated in Hyderabad.**
Note: The IAMC would emerge as one of the top destinations for arbitration and mediation due to Hyderabad being strategically located. The IAMC would be a boon for companies and organisations, both Indian and international, to resolve their disputes. Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK.
- 22. The govt has given in-principle approval for setting up six nuclear power reactors of 1,650 MW each in technical cooperation with France -- Jaitapur nuclear power plant in Maharashtra.**
Note: This would make it the largest nuclear power generating site in the country with a total capacity of 9,900 MW. Currently, techno-commercial discussions to arrive at the project proposal with France are in progress.
- 23. Delhi government has approved a proposal for the establishment of a "teachers' university".**
Note: Admissions to the new university will start in the 2022-2023 academic session. This university is aimed at preparing high-quality and well-trained teachers. The Delhi government will place the 'Delhi Teachers University' Bill 2021 in the state assembly in the coming session.
- 24. Karnataka government has announced to give 1 per cent reservation to transgenders in Police.**
Note: The notification issued is the first by a government department in Karnataka calling for applications from the transgender community. This move will help in changing the perception towards transgenders. It will bring them into mainstream and remove all the prejudices against them in society.
- 25. Jammu and Kashmir UT signed an MoU with University College Birmingham (UCB) at India Global Forum, held in Taj Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
Note: The MoU was signed between the Director Industries and Commerce, Jammu, Anoo Malhotra and International Recruitment, University College Birmingham, Eileen Pryer in the presence of Counsel General of India, Aman Puri. For the first time, UCB has decided to set up an office in Jammu and Kashmir to tie up with local educational institutions to facilitate academic exchange programmes and enable students to secure admissions at reduced fees.
- 26. The Government of India (GoI) and the German development bank KfW signed agreements for a Euro 140 million reduced interest loan and Euro 2 million grant for an energy reform programme in Madhya Pradesh.**
Note: The project will contribute to a more stable, secure and climate and environmentally friendly energy supply in India by upgrading and strengthening distribution networks in Madhya Pradesh. It will contribute to an effective, technically and economically efficient as well as socially and ecologically sustainable energy supply.
- 27. Gujarat state has topped the composite ranking in the Good Governance Index 2021.**
Note: Delhi topped the Union territories category composite ranking. In the indicators launched by Union home minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh showed an 8.9 per cent incremental growth in the period 2019 to 2021 while the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir registered an improvement of 3.7 per cent in the same period.
- 28. Telangana state top among the among the 34 states and Union Territories (UTs) in the implementation of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).**
Note: The mission was launched four years ago to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well planned clusters. Tamil Nadu and Gujarat took the second and third positions respectively.
- 29. Gujarat state government has launched a health service management centre (HSMC) for monitoring various national and state-level health schemes.**
Note: HSMC aims to monitor the benefits received under various government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (PMJAY), Mukhyamantri Amrutam (MA) scheme, nutrition-related schemes, maternal and child health schemes, and other similar government schemes, in addition to tracking the number of beneficiaries enrolled.
- 30. Haryana government recently has launched Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Portal.**
Note: A patrika named 'Vyavastha Parivartan Se Susashan' along with the official calendar of year 2022 was also launched. Now all the problems of the public are being solved easily through CM Window. So far, more than 8.5 lakh issues have been resolved.
- 31. Odisha government has launched Digital Life Certificate system for pensioners.**
Note: Odisha is the first state in the country to implement such a digital service for pensioners. Under the Digital Life Certificate system, identification and life certificates can be submitted

by the pensioners using an Artificial Intelligence-

based video-verification process.

November 2021

- 1. Karnataka** state has topped the State Energy Efficiency Index 2020 (SEEI), scoring 70 points out of 100 and is included in 'Front runner' category.
Note: The Ministry of Power's (MoP) Energy Efficiency Index ranks states on their performance across 68 indicators covering buildings, industry, municipalities, transport, agriculture, distribution companies (DISCOMs), and cross-sector initiatives. The index assesses the states' performance on policy and regulation, financing mechanism, institutional capacity, adoption of energy efficiency measures, and energy savings.
- Union Minister, Rajeew Chandrasekhar has inaugurated first virtual Internet Exchange of NIXI in **Dehradun**.
Note: It will help in enhancing and improving the quality of Internet and Broadband services in Uttarakhand. Next Internet Exchange in Uttarakhand will be at Nainital District.
- 3. Kerala** state has topped Public Affairs Index 2021.
Note: Public Affairs Index (PAI) 2021 analyses governance by looking into growth, equity and sustainability indicators. PAI is released by Public Affairs Centre (PAC).
- 1,000-megawatt (MW) Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project was inaugurated in union territories **Jammu & Kashmir**.
Note: Pakal Dul HE Project (1,000 MW) is being constructed by Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Limited (CVPPPL), a joint venture company of National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC). CVPPPL has been entrusted with 3,094 MW hydro power projects for construction in Jammu and Kashmir.
- 5. Haryana** government has launched the 'Uttam Beej portal' which will benefit the farmers of state by providing quality seeds with transparency.
Note: While launching the portal, the CM congratulated lakhs of farmers of the State also fulfilling their decade-old demand. The State is producing 30-35 lakh quintals certified seed of Wheat and other crops.
- 6. Madhya Pradesh** has launched Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu-dhikar Yojana, the state government will provide plots of land to families who do not have land to build their homes.
Note: The construction of houses comes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. To ensure that every family has the right to a dignified life with basic necessities. Family should consist of a married couple and their unmarried children, and families living in a particular village are eligible.
- 7. 'Bestu Varas'** is the New year day celebrated in **Gujarat**.
Note: The day falls on the Pratipada Tithi of the Kartik month of the Hindu calendar. The Shukla Paksha (brighter phase of the Lunar cycle) marks the beginning of the Gujarati New Year.
- 8. The National Dairy Development Board** signed an MoU with the UP government to manage the Varanasi Milk Union for a period of 5 years.
Note: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed between government of Uttar Pradesh, Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation Ltd (PCDF), Varanasi Milk Union and NDDDB during a virtual ceremony. This will promote dairy sector in the northern State, while providing the dairy farmers required economic resilience.
- 9. Karnataka** government has launched Janasevaka and Janaspandana scheme for doorstep delivery and complaint portal for citizens.
Note: Janasevaka is an initiative to help people avail government services easily. Using a mobile application or website, or by getting in touch via a call centre, people can get up to 56 government services delivered to their doorsteps, including home delivery of ration at subsidised rates, or an Aadhaar card, caste certificate, income certificate, senior citizen card, BBMP khatha transfer and health card.
- 10. Gujarat** state topped in the third LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2021 report.
Note: Gujarat occupied the first spot among 21 states, followed by Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra in that order. The report ranks the states on the basis of their logistics ecosystem, highlights the key logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders and includes suggestive recommendations.
- 11. A new Biotechnology Centre for Northeast tribals** has been inaugurated in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development will greatly help in improving the socio-economic status of tribal people in the State. The Centre aims at conservation and sustainable utilization of the local bio-resources using biotechnological tools and is ably supported by Department of Biotechnology.

- 12. Bihar** is the partner state of the 40th edition of India International Trade Fair 2021.
Note: Theme: Aatmanirbhar Bharat. 40th edition of IITF is a magnum of India Trade Promotion Organization representing India in totality as an ideal destination for numerous business and investment opportunities.
- 13. Odisha** government has launched a first of its kind road safety initiative named as 'Rakshak', to train first responders of road accidents.
Note: Under Rakshak, 300 master trainers will train 30,000 local people, staying or working at the eateries and different business establishments located near accident-prone spots. These 30,000 volunteers will be trained as First Responders to road accidents. They will be equipped to administer first aid and pre-hospital trauma care to accident victims within the golden hour.
- 14. Assam's** Inland Water Transport (IWT) dept, the World Bank has signed an MoU of Rs 770 crore loan to improve river transportation in the state.
Note: Central Govt will refund 80% of the sanctioned amount and the state government would bear the remaining 20%. CM of Assam also flagged off four steel catamaran vessels at Pandu Port recently under World Bank-funded project to integrate high-quality passenger and vehicle ferry services into the state's wider transport network system.
- 15. India's** first 'Grass Conservatory' was inaugurated in **Uttarakhand**.
Note: Funded under the Central Government's CAMPA scheme, the conservatory was developed in three years by the research wing of Uttarakhand Forest Department. Around 90 different grass species have been conserved/demonstrated in this conservation area displaying important scientific, ecological, medicinal and cultural information/aspects related to grass species - ALL FLESH IS GRASS.
- 16. Arunachal Pradesh** state has approved "Kaiser-i-Hind" as state butterfly.
Note: Kaiser-i-Hind' is a large and brightly coloured butterfly. It is an elusive swallowtail butterfly, which carries 'India' in its name. It is found in China and now it has been approved as the State butterfly of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 17. Chhattisgarh** has bagged first rank in Swachh Survekshan 2021.
Note: Chhattisgarh has been ranked first states with over 100 urban local bodies for the third consecutive year in Swachh Survekshan 2021, followed by Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, having more than 100 urban local bodies, have been adjudged the second and third cleanest state in the country. In the category of states with less than 100 urban local bodies, Jharkhand has been ranked first, followed by Haryana and Goa.
- 18. Foundation** stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum has been launched in **Manipur**.
Note: Foundation stone of Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum at Luangkao village in Tamenglong district of Manipur has been launched. It will have an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore.
- 19. Gujarat** government has launched 'Nirmay Yojna' to screen and protect people above 30 years from non-communicable diseases.
Note: The scheme includes the screening of those above 30 years of age against such diseases at primary health centres and community health centres every Friday — also known as Mamta Divas. They will be given a Niramay Card with their health details. The screening and facilities of treatment would save a family's expenses by Rs 12,000 to 15,000.
- 20. Punjab** government has unveiled a career portal aimed at providing professional guidance to students of schools and colleges of the State.
Note: The state education department has launched the portal in association with UNICEF India and Aasman Foundation. During the launch of the portal, <https://punjabcareerportal.com/>, the minister said that one major reason behind the unemployment problem of Punjab is the inability to choose the right career option. If students are able to get adequate career guidance at the opportune time, they can work wonders in accordance with their capability.
- 21. Madhya Pradesh** state's cabinet has given its approval to start Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana to connect educated youths of the State with self-employment.
Note: The benefit of the scheme will be available to the minimum 12th class pass youths of the State between the ages of 18 to 40 years. Under the scheme, projects ranging from one lakh to 50 lakh rupees for manufacturing units and one lakh to 25 lakh rupees for service units or retail businesses will be approved.
- 22. Telangana** was adjudged best performer in inland fisheries in the country by the central government.
Note: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala announced the awards at a programme to celebrate World Fisheries Day 2021 in Bhubaneswar. Balasore in Odisha was named the best marine district, and

- Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the award for the best district in inland fisheries.
- 23. Andhra Pradesh** was named the best marine state in the country by the Centre.
Note: Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala announced the awards at a programme to celebrate World Fisheries Day 2021 in Bhubaneswar. Balasore in Odisha was named the best marine district, and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh received the award for the best district in inland fisheries.
- 24.** Union Home Minister Amit Shah virtually laid the foundation stone for the Rani Gaidinliu Tribal Freedom Fighters Museum to be constructed in **Manipur**.
Note: The museum is being funded by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and built at an estimated cost of Rs 15 crore. The Home Minister affirmed that the government of India is dedicated to giving India's Tribal freedom fighters their due respect and rights.
- 25. Madhya Pradesh** government has decided to set up a tax plan for "cow welfare" in the State.
Note: It has planned to impose surcharge on services provided by local bodies in order to generate Rs 100 crore for meeting the expenses of running cow shelters in Madhya Pradesh. It also asked that, cow products should be promoted and cow phenyl should be used across Government offices.
- 26. Andhra Pradesh** state assembly has passed a bill that will facilitate introduction of green tax on all vehicles, barring motorcycles and autorickshaws.
Note: The State Assembly has passed the AP Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill 2021 facilitating the introduction of green tax. The amendment was due to Centre's recommendation of green tax to save the environment from carbon emissions by way of making vehicle owners pay for pollution.
- 27. Madhya Pradesh** government has approved the proposal to create cyber tehsils in the state.
Note: After this, MP will become the first state in the country to have a cyber tehsil. Cyber Tehsil will make the mutation process easy and people from anywhere in the state can avail of its benefit.
- 28.** GHCL Limited has signed an MoU with which state for investing ₹500 crore in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: As per the MoU, GHCL will set up 40,000 ring spindles in Manaparai, Tiruchirappalli district, to produce synthetic and synthetic blended yarn. GHCL also plans to develop an EHT (extra high tension) power transmission facility in Manaparai to ensure uninterrupted power supply.
- 29. Kerala's** tourism department will launch the Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, Tourism 'STREET' project to take tourism deep into the state's interiors and rural hinterland.
Note: Project would help visitors experience the diversity of offerings in these locales. The project, conceived by the Responsible Tourism Mission, is inspired by the 'Tourism for Inclusive Growth' slogan of The United Nations World Tourism Organization.
- 30. Nagaland** police has launched 'Call your Cop' mobile App' that will enable all citizens in the state, including those in distress, to get in touch with the police directly, as police will be available easily, with just one click away.
Note: The App will enable all citizens of the state especially those in distress to get in touch directly with the police as easily available with just one click away. This initiative is also in keeping with the total modernization of the police department not only in Nagaland but all over the country.
- 31.** India's only certified organic kiwi from **Arunachal Pradesh** was launched at a mega National Tribal Festival called Aadi Mahotsav in Dilli Hat, New Delhi.
Note: The launching ceremony was held in collaboration with support from Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED). This initiative was undertaken as part of the vision with the aim of transforming India into a self-reliant nation under "Atma Nirbharta campaign".
- 32.** Indian Railways is constructing the tallest pier railway bridge of the world in **Manipur**.
Note: It is being built at a height of 141 metres. Currently, tallest pier bridge record is of Mala-Rijeka viaduct built at Montenegro in Europe with 139 metre height.

Important News - World

1-7th March 2022

- Bangladesh** has signed two separate agreements with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for loans worth USD 292 million.
Note: First loan worth USD 157 million is being provided to mitigate flood and riverbank erosion risks along Jamuna, Padma, and Ganges rivers. It is part of 2nd tranche of Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (FRERMIP). ADB has also approved USD 135 million to improve access and quality of inclusive water services.
- Swiss International Air Lines** have agreed with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to use its solar aviation fuel.
Note: Swiss International Airlines will become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel to help power its flights. For this, Synhelion has developed a technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources.
- AN-225 Mriya** is the name of the largest plane that was destroyed by the Russia.
Note: The aircraft was unique to the world. The An-225 aircraft was located at **Hostomel Airport** when Russia launched an attack on the Ukrainian airport on February 24, 2022.
- International Olympic Committee** has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine.
Note: International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 2022 Mobile World Congress (MWC) was organized in **Barcelona, Spain** by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA).
Note: The focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries and economies is the centrepiece of MWC this year which is taking place amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.
- The two-day-long Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
Note: The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister of Bangladesh **Dr Dipu Moni** and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh **Vikram Doraiswami**.

February 2022

- 11th meeting of India and **Oman's** Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) was held in New Delhi.
Note: The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali AL Zaabi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence of Oman. The JMCC is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defence.
- India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding with (MoU) for the construction of a motorable Bridge over **Mahakali** river.
Note: It will connect Dharchula in India to Darchula in Nepal. It will be constructed under Indian grant assistance. The newly announced project to build a bridge over the Mahakali river would strengthen Nepal-India relations.
- USA** was India's top most trading partner in 2021.
Note: The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.
- North Korea** has tested fired Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRMB) named "Hwasong-12"
_____ North Korea.
Note: The launch was the seventh missile test that Pyongyang has conducted since the start of 2022. It is also the longest-range missile that North Korea has launched since 2017. The launch of the "Hwasong-12-type surface-to-surface intermediate- and long-range ballistic missile" was organised by the Academy of Defence Science (ADS), the Second Economic Committee.
- Global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, **ITC Infotech** has partnered with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail'.
Note: The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship. Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers world-wide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.
- India** scored the highest in the Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022, that measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years.
Note: India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% respondents saying they were actively learning digital skills to prepare

- themselves for the future of work. The index is based on a survey of more than 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100.
7. World's first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in **Dubai**.
Note: Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate 'The Jet'. THE JET features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.
 8. **Samsung Electronics** surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021.
Note: While Intel posted relatively flattish results, Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021. Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year. In terms of semiconductor sales in 2020, Samsung was at the second position behind Intel (approximately \$62 billion revenue versus Intel's \$76 billion).
 9. Sergio Mattarella has been re-elected as President of **Italy**.
Note: The 80-year-old emerged as the most popular choice after six days of often tense voting in Rome. Mattarella was reconfirmed with a broad majority, namely 759 votes in favor from a total of 983 lawmakers and regional representatives actively taking part in the ballot.
 10. **Bangladesh** will procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India.
Note: The agreement worth Tk. 231 crore will be implemented within 27 months of the signing of the contract. This project is being implemented with the joint funding of the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.
 11. **India** has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.
Note: The ZyCoV-D which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna On February 05, 2022. It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
 12. World Oil Outlook 2021 is a flagship publication by **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**.
Note: It is a flagship publication by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Govt has been taking up the issue, bilaterally with crude oil-producing countries with OPEC to convey India's serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.
 13. India has agreed to provide grant to **Sri Lanka** to implement 'Unitary Digital Identity framework', apparently modelled on Aadhaar card.
Note: It will be categorized as a national level programme. This will provide personal identity verification device based on biometric data, digital tool that can represent identities of individuals in cyberspace, and identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments.
 14. According to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list **Istanbul** city has emerged as the most congested cities in the world in 2021.
Note: Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list. However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according to the report.
 15. **Norway** ranked 1st in the Economic Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021.
Note: The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries. The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.
 16. **Australia** has announced 'Maitri' Scholars Program under which it will provide over USD 11 million for four years to support Indian students to study in that country's world-leading universities.
Note: The Maitri Fellowships Program will provide USD 3.5 million over four years to build links between future leaders, will support mid-career Australian and Indian professionals to collaborate on strategic research initiatives. Australia will also provide over USD 6 million over four years for the Maitri cultural partnerships to support cultural exchanges and boost the role of the creative industries in our two countries.
 17. India signed agreement with UN World Food Program for distribution of wheat to **Afghanistan**.
Note: India has committed to send relief to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance, to be sent in truck convoys through Pakistan by road. Rome-headquartered WFP thanked India for the agreement to support Afghans who are facing humanitarian crisis.
 18. **France** is the host of One Ocean Summit 2022.
Note: India supported the French initiative of a 'High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction'. Prime Minister Narendra

- Modi attended the conference and said that India is committed to eliminating single-use plastic.
- 19. China's** central bank has launched 'Five-year plan for financial standardisation'.
Note: The plan is to be implemented during the 2021-2025 period. China will strengthen its cross-border yuan payments system and explore setting up infrastructure standards for a digital fiat currency as part of the plan.
- 20. 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'** is the theme of the Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit 2022.
Note: This year the theme of the summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'. It will discuss a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.
- 21. India** will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.
Note: G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance. As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to knowledge, content, technical, media, security, and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.
- 22.** In February 2022, India signed a letter of intent (LoI) with **Australia** for working towards bringing down the cost of renewable energy (RE) technologies.
Note: Both the countries will also focus on scaling up the manufacturing of low cost solar and clean hydrogen. This was signed during the fourth India-Australia energy dialogue.
- 23.** G20 summit in 2022 will be held in **Indonesia**.
Note: In 2021, the G20 summits was held in Rome, Italy. In 2022 the G20 summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia while in 2023 it will be held in New Delhi, India. India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December this year to 30th November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.
- 24. Nepal** will be the first foreign country to adopt India's UPI system, paving the way for transforming the digital economy of the country.
Note: This will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the services in Nepal.
- 25.** In February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual summit with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan the Crown Prince of UAE to firm up Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.
Note: Both leaders were discussed bilateral cooperation and international issues of mutual interest. In recent years, bilateral relations between India and the UAE have strengthened in all areas, and both sides have embarked upon a comprehensive strategic partnership. The Prime Minister visited UAE in 2015, 2018, and 2019 while the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visited India in 2016 and 2017.
- 26.** In February 2022, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla led a Parliamentary delegation to **UAE**.
Note: This is the first-ever visit under the bilateral exchange of Parliamentary Delegations from either side. The Lok Sabha Speaker will have the rare honour of addressing the Federal National Council of UAE on the 22nd of this month.
- 27.** According to the annual Frontiers report released by the UN Environment Programme, in 2021, **Africa** was the most affected region due to wildfires.
Note: In report titled "Noise, Blazes and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern", UNEP has warned that Wildfires are predicted to worsen in the coming years and decades. Wildfires are a natural phenomenon, but are becoming more dangerous and affecting larger areas.
- 28. Dubai International (DXB)** airport continues to be the world's busiest airport by international passenger numbers for the eighth consecutive year.
Note: DXB's annual traffic exceeded forecasts for the year by more than half a million passengers, on the back of a strong last quarter. India continues to be its top destination in passenger volume.
- 29. Israel** has successfully tested naval configuration of the Iron Dome missile defense system, C-Dome.
Note: C-Dome system: naval version of Iron Dome, which has been used to shoot down rockets fired from the Gaza Strip for the past decade. It is being installed on Israel's latest-generation corvette ships, which protect Israel's coastline and offshore natural gas assets in the Mediterranean Sea. Developed by: Israel Missile Defense Organization.
- 30.** In February 2022, India has signed a Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance agreement with **France**.
Note: This tie-up will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans, and ensure that ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law. The agreement was signed between India's External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

31. Israel and India have launched the second edition of Innovation Bridge that will create a synergistic ecosystem in agriculture and Medtech sectors.

Note: It will create synergistic ecosystem in agriculture and MedTech sectors. Indo Israel Innovation Bridge will create avenues to enhance natural partnership and steer it towards mutual benefit and growth

32. India become the second country after China to implement T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner.

Note: The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to fold. Instruction for this was issued by SEBI on 1st Jan, 2022. Before this, settlement period of stocks in India was T+2 (two days after actual buy/selling of stock)

33. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) will establish its first branch in UAE as part of the India-UAE trade deal.

Note: This will be the first time an IIT will be established outside India. Presently, there are 23 IITs in India, which are located in various regions of the country offering undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate level programmes.

December 2021

1. According to the 2021 Worldwide Cost of Living Index released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) **Tel Aviv** has been ranked as world's most expensive.

Note: The index explored the cost of living in 173 cities, 40 more than last year, measured against impactful global events. It stated that prices for goods and services have risen by 3.5 per cent year-on-year, the highest inflation rate seen in the last five years. This year, Tel Aviv, the capital of Israel, has leaped to the top of the list, jumping past Paris and Singapore which are at a joint second ranking, followed by Zurich and Hong Kong.

2. The fifth Indian Ocean Conference - IOC 2021 was held in **Abu Dhabi**.

Note: Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the conference from India. The theme of the Indian Ocean Conference 2021 is "Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic". S Jaishankar has stressed on the importance of respecting and facilitating freedom of navigation and overflight and unimpeded commerce in a globalised world.

3. In December 2021, India has conducted 21st annual summit with **Russia** to discuss the entire gamut of relations, including regional and global issues.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed regional and global developments, including the post-pandemic global economic recovery, and the situation in Afghanistan at the India - Russia Annual Summit.

4. The World Petroleum Congress, the largest triennial gathering for the industry was held in **Houston**.

Note: Topics include the role of U.S. oil and gas in global energy markets, the shale revolution, digital evolution of oil industry, energy transition from oil, gas and coal to wind, solar and other clean technologies, and a future vision and perception of the industry at large, according to the

organizers. The World Petroleum Congress is organized every three years by the London-based World Petroleum Council which includes 65 member countries, representing over 96 per cent of global oil and gas production and consumption.

5. According to UK-based research institute MEPS that specializes in steel market, world's second largest producer of stainless steel - **Indonesia**.

Note: In the current year 2021, global production is set to log 56.8 mt, showing a growth of 11.6 per cent from the previous year. Despite being the world's largest producer by far, China's production is seen constrained by State regulations; but elsewhere in the world production is set to rise. As a result, in 2022, world stainless steel production is forecast to set a record of 58.2 million tonnes (mt) registering a growth of 2.5 per cent.

6. World's First Floating City will be built in **South Korea**.

Note: 'Oceanix,' a company dedicated towards making futuristic floating cities, got backing from the United Nations Human Settlement Programme, UN-Habitat, one of the most credible organizations in the world to build a floating city in South Korea. An MoU was signed between the UN-Habitat, Republic of Korea, and Oceanix to build a full-fledged floating city near the banks of Busan that can withstand floods, tsunamis, and level 5 hurricanes.

7. **United States of America** hosted Summit for Democracy virtually to renew democracy at home and confront autocracies abroad.

Note: Three themes: defending against authoritarianism; addressing and fighting corruption; and advancing respect for human rights.

8. As per Reporters Without Borders (RSF) report, **China** has been declared as the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.

Note: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) has published a report titled 'The Great Leap Backwards of Journalism in China' under which China is the world's biggest captor of journalists with at least 127 reporters currently detained.

9. **Indonesia** is holding the presidency of G20 summit for 2022.

Note: G20's theme 2021: Recover Together, Recover Stronger. G20 Leaders' Summit will be held for the first time in India in 2023.

10. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett visited at **United Arab Emirate** marking the first-ever visit by a Jewish PM to the Arab state.

Note: UAE, part of the Arab League, had boycotted Israel but a normalization deal inked last year has established economic and diplomatic ties between the two. As a part of the visit, Bennett is poised to meet UAE Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed al-Nahyan. Israel had earlier signed the "Abraham Accords," a US-backed initiative to normalize relations between Israel and the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

11. **Saudi Arabia** has banned the Tablighi Jamaat calling it one of the gates of terrorism.

Note: The country's Minister of Islamic Affairs made an announcement on social media directing the mosques to warn people against associating with them during the Friday sermon. Government has also warned people against associating with the Tablighi Jamaat which has been banned in Saudi Arabia. Saudi government also asked mosques to inform people about the danger that Tablighi Jamaat pose to society.

12. **Dubai** has become the world's first government to turn 100 per cent paperless.

Note: It will save around 3 billion Dirham (USD 350 million) and 14-million-man hours. A comprehensive digital government services platform is managing all internal, external transactions and procedures of the Government of Dubai. The Dubai Paperless Strategy was implemented in five consecutive phases, each entity consisting of a different group of the Dubai Government's entities.

13. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) based in **Stockholm, Sweden**.

Note: The former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora has joined the board of advisers for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Stockholm based organization. A 15-member board of advisers is assisted by IDEA, those members are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds. Sunil Arora was the 23rd CEC of India

and held the office from December 2, 2018 to April 12, 2021. He had joined the organization as the Election Commissioner of India on September 1, 2017.

14. **Bhutan** conferred its highest civilian award, Ngadag Pel gi Khorlo, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Note: The award, established in 2008, comes with a Breast Star and Sash Badge. It honours those who have dedicated their lives to serving Bhutan's nation and people. Her Majesty Queen Grandmother Ashi Kesang Choden, His Holiness Je Thrizur Tenzin Dendup, and His Holiness Je Khenpo Trulku Ngawang Jigme Choedra have been the previous recipients.

15. **Malta** has become the first European Union nation to legalize cultivation and personal use of cannabis.

Note: Maltese parliament voted in favour of reform last week, with 36 votes in favour and 27 against. Under this, adults will be allowed to grow four plants at home and carry seven grams of cannabis, with smoking in public or in front of children remaining illegal.

16. **Japan** has created the world's first dual-mode vehicle (DMV) that can run on both roads and rail tracks.

Note: The railbus is set to make its public debut on Saturday in the town of Kaiyo in Japan. The DMV looks like a minibus and runs on normal rubber tyres on the road. It also has steel wheels in its underbelly which descend when it hits the rail tracks. The front tyres are lifted off the track and the rear wheels stay down to propel the DMV onto the railway.

17. **Egypt** set to become the newest member of the New Development Bank (NDB) (BRICS Bank).

Note: Egypt is the fourth new member admitted into NDB, after Bangladesh, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Uruguay, further expanding the bank's global outreach. Egypt is one of the world's fastest-growing countries, a major economy in the African continent and the Middle East region as well as a key player in development finance institutions.

18. **Russia** has successfully conducted third test of its Angara A5 space rocket with a full mock payload.

Note: The Angara is being developed and built by the Khrunichev State Research and Production Space Center in Moscow, Russia. This marks the 3rd launch of the rocket after its maiden launch in 2014.

19. World's longest Metro line opened in **Shanghai**.

Note: With the inauguration of the new Metro lines, the Shanghai subway network will expand largely along 831km. Now, Shanghai city boasts 508 stations. Over 10 million people use the system on an average workday.

November -2021

- 1. India** has launched an online dashboard - the 'Climate Equity Monitor' to assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions besides energy and resource consumption across the world.
Note: The "Climate Equity Monitor" also tracks the climate policies of several countries from the perspective of developing countries. The website has been conceptualized and developed by independent researchers from India -- the Climate Change Group at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai.
- 2. USA** has returned about 250 antiquities worth \$15 million to India in a long-running investigation of a stolen art scheme.
Note: The items, worth an estimated \$15 million, were handed over during a ceremony at the Indian Consulate in New York City. The centrepiece is a bronze Shiva Nataraja valued at \$4 million. The investigation has focused on tens of thousands of antiquities allegedly smuggled into the United States by dealer Subhash Kapoor.
- 3. G20 Leaders' Summit 2021** concluded recently. The motto of the G20 Summit 2021 -- **People, Planet, and Prosperity**.
Note: Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau has concluded his participation at G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, Italy, with focus on the urgent priorities of protecting the environment and fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. Summit concluded with the adoption of the Rome Declaration by G20 Leaders.
- 4. South Korea** has inaugurated World's Largest Hydrogen Fuel Cell Power Plant.
Note: Largest hydrogen fuel cell power plant of the world named as 'Shinincheon Bitdream Fuel Cell Power Plant' has been inaugurated at Seo-gu, Incheo in South Korea. It has a total capacity of 78.96 kWh and can provide electricity to nearly 250,000 households per year.
- 5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has launched Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) on sidelines of climate summit in Glasgow.
Note: It is aimed at achieving sustainable development through a systematic approach to resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The launch of IRIS gives a new hope, confidence and satisfaction of doing something for the most vulnerable countries.
- 6. Telangana** got a rare recognition as it was invited to participate in International Seed Conference that would be held virtually by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).
Note: The programme, International Seed Conference, is being organised to discuss development of seed industry. Representatives, Ministers, scientists and seed experts from 195 countries would participate in the conference.
- 7. United Kingdom** has unveiled a coin to commemorate the life and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi.
Note: The coin is available in a range of standards, including gold and silver. The special collectors' coin was designed by Heena Glover. The coin features an image of a lotus, India's national flower, alongside one of Gandhi's most famous quotes - 'My life is my message'.
- 8. UN Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released a report titled 'Beating the Heat: A Sustainable Cooling Handbook for Cities'.
Note: The UNEP in the report says the world's rapidly growing urban centers should adopt cooling technologies that are cleaner in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen the resilience of communities. According to the report investing in air condition systems that are less carbon-intensive is key to greening the urban environment.
- 9. According to the QS Asia University Rankings 2022**, released by the Quacquarelli Symonds, global higher education think-tank, **National University of Singapore** has come up as Asia's best university for the 4th consecutive year.
Note: National University of Singapore has come up as Asia's best university for the 4th consecutive year. China's Peking University at 2nd position and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, and the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong at 3rd.
- 10. Bhutan** has issued an Letter of Exchange (LoE) with India to formalize 7 additional Entry – exit trade points.
Note: India and Bhutan will have seven additional entry and exit points for trade as part of measures to increase trade connectivity. These include Nagarkata Land Customs Station without commodity restriction; Agartala Land Customs Station; Pandu port (Guwahati Steamerghat), subject to cross border control at Dhubri; Jogighopa port subject to cross border control at Dhubri.

- 11. Norway** ranked first in the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index 2021, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium.
Note: The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico. India's rank is 18 out of 30 countries. It is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation.
- 12. India** has signed a pact with **Israel** aimed at spurring innovation and speeding up the development of dual use technologies by small and medium sized firms in both countries.
Note: The pact was signed between India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel's Directorate of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D). The agreement – known as the Bilateral Innovation Agreement – will “promote innovation and accelerated R&D in startups and MSMEs of both countries for the development of dual use technologies.
- 13. USA** become the 101st member country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
Note: ISA is an alliance of 124 countries. It was initiated by India. Most of the member countries are sunshine countries, lying either partly or completely between Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn. This alliance was launched with the objective of working for efficient consumption of solar energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- 14. Denmark** placed as the highest ranked country in Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022, released by Germanwatch along with Climate Action Network (CAN) and New Climate Institute on the side-lines of the COP26.
Note: The report noted that no country performed well enough in all index categories to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI. Therefore, once again, the top three places in the overall ranking remain empty. Denmark, placed 4th, is the highest ranked country in CCPI 2022. India has retained its spot in the top 10 best performing countries for the third year in a row in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).
- 15. Fumio Kishida** has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan in the parliamentary elections held on 10th November 2021.
Note: His governing party Liberal Democratic Party scored a major victory securing 261 seats in the 465-member lower house. He is the former Foreign Minister of Japan.
- 16. Egypt** will host the upcoming session of the conference COP27 in 2022.
Note: It was announced in the UN climate change conference COP26 in Glasgow. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 2023 edition of the conference. The UN Climate Change Conference is the largest global conference of heads of states and governments on climate and environmental issues.
- 17. Bangladesh** has assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at its 21st Annual Council of Ministers (COM) meeting.
Note: The IORA COM was held in a hybrid format in Dhaka. Bangladesh assumed the Chairmanship of IORA till 2023. IORA is inter-governmental organization aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development within the Indian Ocean region.
- 18. Russia** successfully test-fired the ‘Zircon’ Hypersonic Cruise Missile.
Note: Russia destroyed its own satellite in low-earth orbit using an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Missile named ‘**Nudol**’, which led to the formation of a cloud of space debris that could potentially destroy other orbiting satellites & the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
- 19. Australia** signed a submarine deal with new defence alliances, namely United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK).
Note: The deal seeks to equip Australian Navy with nuclear-powered submarines. The deal was signed by Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton with U.S. and British diplomats. This deal allows the exchange of sensitive “naval nuclear propulsion information” between three countries. It is the first agreement on technology to be publicly signed.
- 20. United Kingdom** will host a summit of Foreign and Development Ministers from G7 in December 2022.
Note: Foreign Secretary of UK, Liz Truss will welcome counterparts from leading economies like US, Germany, France, Canada, Italy, EU and Japan. The summit will be held from December 10 to 12, 2021. It will be second in-person gathering of G7 Foreign Ministers in 2021.
- 21. Fifth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation** was held in which city of India _____ **Kolkata**.
Note: The two-day event was organized by India in partnership with Australia. During the conference, experts from both government and academia from the participating countries will deliberate upon various aspects of maritime security cooperation under four thematic sessions.
- 22. Urban air mobility (UAM) company BLADE India** entered into a partnership with **Airbus** to expand its “on-demand” helicopter services.
Note: The helicopters will be provided to operators by a GIFT-City based leasing company taking advantage of the Centre's new initiative. BLADE will be underwriting flight hours through partner

operators who have been specifically chosen based on their experience in ensuring the highest level of safety standards, equipment maintenance and operating protocols.

- 23. Asian Development Bank** has approved a USD 1.5 billion (around Rs 11,185 crore) loan to India for COVID-19 vaccine procurement.
Note: The loan from ADB will fund at least 66.7 crore COVID-19 vaccine doses for an estimated 31.7 crore people, it added. It will support India's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan which aims to fully vaccinate 94.47 crore people aged 18 years and above, accounting for 68.9 per cent of the population, said the Manila-headquartered agency. Priority groups include healthcare and frontline workers, senior citizens, and those aged 45–59 years with comorbidities.
- 24. World Health Organization** released Global Nutrition Report every year that sets out progress towards global nutrition targets.
Note: Over half of Indian women of 15-49 years are anaemic with increase in number from 52.6% in 2016 to 53% in 2020. Over 17% of Indian children under 5 years of age are under the category of child wasting (low weight for height). Child Stunting: Over 34% of children under 5 years of age are still affected.
- 25. Germany** announced new commitments worth more than €1.2 billion, or Rs 10,025 crore, to India to support its fight against climate change.
Note: The focus of the financial commitment to India will be to tackle climate change and assist in the country's ongoing energy transition. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released earlier this year found that both India and Germany will suffer more extreme events due to climate change. Both countries together account for nearly 9 per cent of global greenhouse gas.

- 26. Maiden 'Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Focused Operation'** is being conducted between the lead Maritime Security Agencies of India, Sri Lanka and **Maldives**.

Note: It is a two-day CSC Focused Operation with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean Region safe and secure for commercial shipping, international trade and conduct of legitimate maritime activities. It would help build understanding and interoperability between the lead maritime security agencies and facilitate the institution of measures to prevent and suppress transnational crimes in the region.

- 27. Bhutan** hosted the 9th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Note: The meeting was attended by BIMSTEC Members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The meeting discussed emerging traditional and non-traditional security threats in the BIMSTEC region.

- 28. Barbados** has become the world's newest republic.

Note: The Caribbean island nation removed Queen Elizabeth II as the head of the state in a ceremony attended by Prince Charles. Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, who was selected to become the first president of Barbados last month, took over as the President of the country.

- 29. Dhanush** has won the Best Actor Award at the sixth edition of BRICS Film Festival.

Note: The 6th BRICS Film Festival was held in India, alongside 52nd IFFI in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2021. Best Film: South African film 'Barakat' and Russian film 'The Sun above Me Never Sets'. Best Actor (Female): Lara Boldorini for On Wheels (Brazil). Special Jury Mention Award: Director Yan Han for A Little Red Flower (China).

Government Schemes

February 2022

1. Govt approves continuation of BIM for 5 years

- BIM: Border Infrastructure and Management
- It is a Central Sector Umbrella Scheme
- It is effective from 2021-22 to 2025-26
- Total cost: Rs 13,020 crore.
- It will strengthen the border infrastructure for improving border management, policing, and guarding the borders.

2. Centre approves continuation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

- It has been approved for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Financial outlay for the scheme: Rs 1,827 crores.
- Income ceiling has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum
- Objective: to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections.

- It was launched in 2008-09.

3. Govt approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme till 31st March 2026

- Outlay: Rs 3,179 crores.
- CD Scheme: Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation)
- Aim: to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling the availability of credible and timely official statistics.

4. Govt approves implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)

- It will be effective from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ICJS: national platform for enabling integration of main IT system used for the delivery of Criminal Justice in India
- It will be implemented as Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 3,375 crores.
- ICJS system would be made available through dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high-speed connectivity.

5. Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE scheme

- It was announced in Budget 2022-23
- It will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council.
- An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crores will be made.
- It will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti, and social development projects.

6. Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022

- Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of under its '**Waste to Wealth**' Mission has announced **Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022**.
- **Aim:** to empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet.
- It is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's PMSTIAC scheme

7. Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

- Central Government has decided to continue 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram' (RYSK) for another five years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26

- Total outlay: around Rs 2,710 crore.
- Aim: to achieve the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

8. 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' (PMKSY)

- Food processing ministry has extended its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' till March 2026
- Total allocation: Rs 4,600 crore.
- It is a comprehensive package that will lead to the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

9. Social Justice & Empowerment Department launches 'SMILE'

- It is an umbrella scheme
- Aim: provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.
- It includes two sub-schemes:
 - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons
 - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging

10. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

- It has been launched for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Communities, who are the most neglected, marginalized, economically & socially deprived community.

11. Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 9 crore rural tap connections in 2.5 years

- Govt has claimed to have provided tap water supply to more than 5.77 crore rural households, taking total number to 9 crores since it's launch in August 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission of the Jal Shakti Ministry
- 'Har Ghar Jal' is a term used for saturation coverage of tap water in a given rural habitation.

12. Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme

- Govt has approved Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme till 31st March 2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier.
- Proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores.

13. Govt approves ' New India Literacy Programme for FYs 2022-27

January 2022

1. PM releases 10th installment of financial benefit under PM-KISAN Scheme

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme is a centrally sector scheme, which was launched in 2019.
- More than Rs 20 thousand crore have been transferred to over than ten crore farmer families.
- Under PM-KISAN scheme, financial benefit of six thousand rupees per year is provided to the eligible family of farmers.
- The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

2. IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched semiconductor mission

- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM): specialized and independent business division within Digital India Corporation.
- It has been set up with the aim to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.
- It is notified by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

3. Intra-State Transmission System of Green Energy Corridor Phase-II

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)
- It will add 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 27,500 MVA transformation capacity of substations
- It will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of 20 GW of Renewable Energy power projects in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, TN, UP
- Total estimated cost: Rs. 12,031.33 crores

- Govt has approved new scheme 'New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027
- It will cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020
- National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

4. Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) program

- Smart Cities Mission has launched SAAR program.
- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Institute of Urban Affairs and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by Smart Cities Mission.

5. Govt launches 6 brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product'

- Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras has launched six brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product' approach under **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM-FMFPEs)** in New Delhi
- **Six products:** Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.
- **PM-FMFPEs:** centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in unorganized segment

6. Union Education Minister launches NEAT 3.0 ed-tech solutions

- It will help more than 12 lakhs socially and economically disadvantaged students have received free ed-tech course coupons worth over ₹253 crore
- National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.

7. UJALA scheme completes 7 years

- Power Ministry has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship UJALA programme.
- It evolved into the world's largest zero-subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

8. Apple, Samsung to make smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore under PLI scheme

- Apple and Samsung are set to manufacture smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore (\$5 billion) in 2022 under government's Production Linked Incentive scheme.
- It will exceed the target set by the government by over 50%.

- PLI give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

9. Govt notifies Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- Govt of India has notified 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)' to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements of drones.
- UAS commonly known as Drones.
- It will boost indigenous manufacturing of Drones and has been notified under Rule 7 of liberalized Drone Rules, 2021, which replaced Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) 2021.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation had approved PLI scheme for drones and drone components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore.

December 2021

1. Ministry of Power launches Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)

- Ministry of Power has launched Reforms-based and Results-linked, Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
- Aim: to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of State owned DISCOMs/ Power Departments by providing financial assistance to DISCOMs for modernization
- Outlay: Rs.3,03,758 crore
- Key interventions: providing support to DISCOMs to undertake activities for ensuring 100% System metering, implementing Prepaid Smart Metering, Energy Accounting, and implementing infrastructure works for Loss Reduction.

2. PM-YUVA Mentorship Scheme

- National Book Trust has announced the results of the all-India contest organized on the theme 'National Movement of India' under PM-YUVA Mentorship Scheme.
- As per the Scheme, 75 Authors were to be selected for a Scholarship-cum-Mentorship Scheme for young authors below the age of 30 years.

3. CBDT notifies e-Verification Scheme, 2021 with effect from Dec 2021

- CBDT has notified e-Verification Scheme, 2021 to verify the mismatch of the information uploaded to the taxpayer's registered account.
- It will be effective from 13 December 2021.
- Scheme will collect information under sections 133, 133B, 133C, will inspect registers of companies under section 134
- As per the Scheme, where the mismatch between amount accepted and amount persists, information after initial e-verification shall be run through risk management strategy

4. Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SRESHTA)

- Government launched SRESHTA for socio economics upliftment and overall development of Scheduled Castes students.
- It will enable bright SC students to have a better future by getting a high-quality education.
- It will also aid in controlling dropout rates of SC students from class 9th to 12th.

5. Cabinet approves continues Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) till March 2024

- Union Cabinet has approved proposal of Department of Rural Development for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) till March 2024

- Under this, financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of the remaining 155.75 lakh houses within total target of 2.95 crore houses.

6. Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme

- Northeastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi) has announced Atmanirbhar Hastshilpkar Scheme for the grass root Artisans of the region under Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER)
- Total of 17 artisans have been provided with credit assistance of Rs.1 lakh per artisan
- Credit facility is collateral free and carries subsidized interest rate of 6% p.a., which is repayable in 24 months

7. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for 2021-26

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved implementation of PMKSY for 2021-26 with total outlay of Rs.93,068 crore.

- Central support of Rs.37,454 crore to States and Rs.20,434.56 crore of debt servicing for loan availed by Government for irrigation development will be provided.
- PMKSY was launched in 2015.
- It is an umbrella scheme, providing central grants to the State Governments for specific activities detailed below.

8. Incentive scheme to promote RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI transactions

- Union Cabinet has approved an incentive scheme to promote RuPayDebit cards and low-value (upto Rs. 2,000) BHIM-UPI transactions (Person-to-Merchant (P2M)) in the country
- Under this, acquiring banks will be incentivised by the Government, by way of paying percentage of value of transactions (P2M) done through RuPay Debit cards and low-value BHIM-UPI modes of payments, at an estimated financial outlay of Rs.1,300 crore for a period of one year w.e.f. April 01, 2021.

November 2021

1. Cabinet approves extension of PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till March 2022

About the scheme:

- Under the scheme all the beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) receives food grains @ 5 kg per person per month.
- Estimated additional food subsidy for Phase V of the scheme is of Rs. 53344.52 Crore and total food-grains outgo for PMGKAY Phase V will be about 163 LMT
- It is operated by the Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

2. Govt selects 42 companies under PLI Scheme for White Goods

- Out of 42, 26 Companies will invest three thousand 898 crore rupees for Air Conditioner Components and 16 Companies will invest 716 crore rupees for LED Component Manufacturing.
- It will envisage creating additional direct employment of about 44 thousand persons.

- Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- Total outlay: 6,238 crore rupees.

3. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched two projects

- Two projects are:
 - 'Revival of Namda craft of Kashmir' as a special pilot project under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 3.0
 - Upskilling of artisans and weavers of Kashmir under Recognition of Prior Learning component of PMKVY
- **Aim:** to boost and preserve the traditional Namda craft of Kashmir and upskill the local weavers and artisans
- Namda craft is a rug made of sheep wool through felting technique

4. IGSTC launches WISER program

- Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) has launched **Women's Involvement in Science and Engineering Research (WISER) program** for

encouraging women researchers in joint research and development (R&D) projects

- It will be in addition to the ongoing flagship 2+2 program
- It is a joint initiative of **Dept of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Govt of Germany.**

5. PM Modi launches 'Ration Aapke Gram' scheme and Sickle Cell Mission in Madhya Pradesh.

- Under the scheme, ration will be distributed in the village itself through ration distribution vehicles. Tribal beneficiaries will no longer have to go to the Panchayat Headquarters to get fair price ration.
- Sickle cell mission has been developed to screen and manage patients suffering from sickle cell anaemia, Thalassemia and other Hemoglobinopathies and to increase public awareness about these diseases, whose impact is seen to be more profound on the janjatiya community of Madhya Pradesh.

6. Union Minister Jitendra Singh has launched first-ever Mentorship Programme for Young Innovators

- It is a pan India Scheme that envisages Star College in every district of India supported by Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- It will help towards the concept of networking, hand holding and outreach.
- The plan envisages organizing workshops, meetings per month; handhold at colleges particularly in the rural areas.

7. Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme

- Union Minister Virendra Kumar has released Training Modules of Central Sector Plan Scheme 'In-service

Training & Sensitization of Key functionaries of Central & State Governments and Local Bodies' in New

- Rehabilitation Council India (RCI) is the nodal agency for implementation of Central Sector Plan Scheme at national level
- Training Modules has been developed in Hindi and English, which will be translated in regional languages as well.

8. Finance Minister launched 'Tejasvini & Hausala schemes' of J&K Bank

- Age group: 18-35 years
- **About Tejasvini Scheme:**
 - Aim: to offer monetary help as much as Rs 5 lakh to younger ladies for establishing gainful self-employment ventures, suited to their expertise, aptitude & native situations.
- **Hausla Scheme 2021 for Women Entrepreneurs:**
 - Aim: empowering women entrepreneurs of respective sectors.
 - It not solely supplies ability improvement, but additionally, credit score assist, advertising assist & mentorship.

9. 'Shikhar & Shikara' Scheme of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and SIDBI Fund

- Shikhar scheme focuses on meeting credit requirements up to Rs. 2 crore for hotel, tour & tourism industry.
- Shikara scheme credit up to Rs. 15 lakh for purchase/repair of Shikaras is provided in Kashmir valley. It is a collateral-free loan.

Important Committee

February 2022

1. SEBI reconstitutes advisory committee under N R Narayana Murthy

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted 20-members alternative investment policy advisory committee.
- Chairman of the committee: **N R Narayana Murthy.**
- It will advise the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry.

• Prior to this, there were 22 members in the committee, which was constituted in March 2015.

2. SEBI revamps advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund.

- Chairman of the committee: **G Mahalingam**, former Whole Time Member of SEBI.
- It is an eight-member committee comprising of Vijay Kumar Venkataraman and Mrin Agarwal,

- Panel was earlier headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of IIM-Ahmedabad.

3. Supreme Court Appointed Panel Submits Interim Report in Pegasus Snooping Case

- Head of the technical committee: **Justice RV Raveendran**
- **Objective:** to look into the allegations of government allegedly using Israeli software Pegasus to spy on politicians, activists, and journalists, has submitted its interim report in the Supreme Court

4. Ravi Chopra resigns as Chairman of Supreme Court appointed Char Dham Panel

- Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as Chairman and member of High Powered Committee (HPC) for Char Dham project, appointed by Supreme Court

- He was assigned the chairmanship of HPC in September 2019 to oversee an all-weather road widening project in the Char Dham circuit.
- Char Dham Road Project: It envisages widening of 10 Mtrs roads to improve accessibility to Char Dham (Four shrines): Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath

5. Sebi directs AMCs to set up audit committee with a minimum three directors

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed mutual fund (MF) industry to set up audit committee at the asset management company (AMC) level.
- This audit committee will have minimum of three directors and at least two-third of them shall be independent directors of AMC.
- This new committee will come into effect from August 1, 2022.
- At present, this type of committee is set up by the trustee of a fund house.

January 2022

1. SEBI Restructures Market Data Advisory Committee

- Headed by: **S Sahoo**, former chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
- SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.
- It is a 20-member committee that was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole time member of Sebi.

2. Panel formed to prepare energy transition roadmap for India

- Headed by: **Tarun Kapoor**, former petroleum secretary.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up **Energy Transition Advisory Committee**.
- **Objective:** Draw up an energy transition roadmap for the oil and gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India's path to net-zero emissions by 2070.

3. SC appoints high-level committee to investigate PM's security breach

- Supreme Court has appointed high-level committee to look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab
- Chairperson of the committee: **former SC Judge, Indu Malhotra**

- look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit on 5th January this year.
- Three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, have passed the order for the same
- Apex court has passed the order after hearing a petition filed by NGO, Lawyers Voice, seeking appropriate directions and or orders in the alleged security breach of the Prime Minister, who was on his way to Punjab to address a rally.

4. Centre forms 3-member committee to probe into PM Modi's security lapse

- Ministry of home affairs constituted three-member committee to probe into the serious lapses in the security arrangement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab's Ferozepur.
- Committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, secretary (security), Cabinet Secretariat.

5. RBI Governor-headed FSDC sub-committee reviews economic situation

- Headed by: Reserve Bank Governor **Shaktikanta Das**
- It has reviewed the economic situation in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and resolved to keep a close

watch on the unfolding developments with a view to ensure financial stability.

6. Indian Railways constitutes a committee to look into NTPC CBT-1 result

- Indian Railways has constituted high power committee to look into the concerns and doubts raised by candidates in regard to the results of 1st Stage CBT of

December 2021

1. RBI appoints 3-member advisory committee to assist RCap's administrator

- RBI has appointed three-member advisory committee for assisting the administrator of Reliance Capital (RCap), appointed to the company in discharging his duties
- Members: Sanjeev Nautiyal, Srinivasan Varadarajan, Praveen P Kadle
- RBI superseded the board of RCap, owing to defaults and governance issues, and said the insolvency proceedings would be initiated against the company soon, making it the third instance of a non-banking financial company (NBFC)

2. Govt constitutes committee to revisit criteria for determining EWS

- Govt has constituted a panel to revisit the criteria for determining reservation for the economically weaker sections
- Panel has been constituted in accordance with the commitment given to Supreme Court for EWS in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of Constitution
- Committee will also examine various approaches so far followed for identifying economically weaker sections, recommend criteria
- Members: **Ajay Bhushan Pandey, V K Malhotra, Sanjay Sanyal**

3. SEBI constitutes 'ALeRTS' committee for early detection of market anomalies

- SEBI has constituted 'Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)' to enhance technological capabilities and explore appropriate technology solutions for early detection of market anomalies
- Head: Madhabi Puri Buch (Ex-Whole Time Member of SEBI)

NTPC issued by Railway Recruitment Boards on 14-15th January.

- Committee will investigate results of 1st Stage CBT and methodology used for shortlisting candidates for 2nd Stage CBT without affecting existing shortlisted candidates.
- Railways postponed its NTPC and 1st Stage CBT following protests by job aspirants.

- It will recommend future roadmaps and improvements in the various ongoing technology projects.
- It will also guide SEBI in designing and framing requirements for the different in-house systems

4. SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports)

- Govt has expanded SCALE committee (Steering Committee for Advancing Local Value-Add and Exports) by adding 3 new members:
 - Manish Sharma
 - Vikram S Kirloskar
 - Jala Dani.
- Currently, 14-member committee is headed by former Mahindra CEO Pawan Goenka.

5. SEBI inducts Aarati Krishnan as a member of MF advisory panel

- Aarati Krishnan has been inducted as a member of the Securities & Exchange Board of India's Advisory Committee on Mutual Funds.
- Committee is chaired by Usha Thorat
- It advises SEBI on matters related to mutual fund regulation to ensure investor protection, development of the industry.

6. Centre forms committee to look into withdrawal of AFSPA in Nagaland

- Move comes after representatives of Nagaland government held a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah.
- Head: Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India Vivek Joshi
- It is a five-member committee that will submit its report in 45 days.

November 2021

1. Govt constitutes committee to revisit criteria for determining economically weaker sections (EWS)

- **Head of the committee:** Former Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- Panel has been constituted in accordance with the commitment given to Supreme Court for EWS in terms of the provisions of the explanation to Article 15 of Constitution
- Members: V K Malhotra and Sanjay Sanyal

2. Committee for Development of Avenues for Ship Acquisition submitted report

- Head: Vandana Aggarwal
- Members: Representatives from Government of India, Gujarat Maritime Board, industry and finance experts, and academicians
- Committee for Development of Avenues for Ship Acquisition, Financing and Leasing from GIFT IFSC in India has submitted Report to International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- It was constituted by IFSCA on 24th June 2021
- Report is titled as S.A.F.A.L. (Ship Acquisition, Financing and Leasing)

3. Govt empowered group to review implementation of PM GatiShakti

- Centre has constituted 20-member Empowered Group of Secretaries (EGoS) to review and monitor mechanism for the development and implementation of PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (NMP).
- Chairperson: Cabinet Secretary.
- Head of Logistics Division will be the Member and Convener.
- Head of Logistics division (Dept of Commerce) will act as convener of EGoS for its Terms of Reference (ToRs).

4. RBI appoints 3-member advisory committee to assist RCap's administrator

- The advisory committee will assist the administrator of Reliance Capital (RCap), appointed to the company in discharging his duties
- Members: Sanjeev Nautiyal, Srinivasan Varadarajan, Praveen P Kadle

Science and Defence

1-7th March 2022

1. **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** dedicated INS Visakhapatnam, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam.

Note: The ship is on her maiden visit to the port city for participating in the PFR and MILAN-2022. INS Visakhapatnam is the lead ship of P15B class of guided-missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on November 21 last year. It symbolises India's matured shipbuilding capability and quest for the 'Make in India' initiative towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

2. **INS Vishakhapatnam** is India's first of the four stealth guided missile destroyers under Project 15B.

Note: In a formal ceremony at the Naval Dockyard, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Jagan Mohan Reddy dedicated the destroyer which has been designed and developed indigenously and built in India. This destroyer, named after the City of Destiny, is on her maiden visit to the City of Destiny for Ex MILAN-22 and the Presidential Fleet Review.

3. **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** has organised the 'National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies'.

Note: This conclave provided a platform to present the innovations showing benefits of energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction potential when deployed at a large scale in industrial and commercial sectors.

4. **148 aircraft** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate their capabilities at Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer.

Note: PM Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Vayu Shakti exercise. It will be participated by Rafale aircraft for the first time in this exercise.

5. India holds the 19th edition of Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting with **USA**.

Note: Meet was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna from Indian side and his US counterpart Stephen D Sklenka. Focus: strengthening the ongoing defense engagements between the two sides and mull on new initiatives under the ambit of the existing cooperation mechanism.

6. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 will be organised in **Jaisalmer** by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
Note: PM Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Vayu Shakti exercise. It will be participated by Rafale aircraft for the first time in this exercise.
7. **NASA** space agency has launched the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-T, a next-generation weather satellite to forecast hazardous environmental conditions.
Note: Once this satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to GOES-18. It will be used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.
8. 9th edition of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX was conducted in 2022.
Note: The exercise was conducted in two phases-the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam followed by the sea phase the Bay of Bengal. SLINEX aimed to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
9. **HANSA-NG** is India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer that has successfully completed sea-level trials at Puducherry.
Note: It has been designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). HANSA-NG was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry, covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr.

February 2022

1. A Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy has been launched at **IIT Dharwad**.
Note: The center is supported by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF). The first phase of the CSR project with HHSIF is to establish equipment for the GCoE-ACE mainly as skill development, fabrication, and R&D equipment.
2. **INS Vagir** would be the name of the fifth submarine of Project 75, of the Scorpene class that has commenced her maiden sea trials.
Note: The submarine, launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), would be named Vagir, after commissioning. Last year, INS Vela, the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines of Project-75, was inducted into the Navy.
3. **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed a contract worth ₹3131.82 crores for the manufacture and supply of Konkurs anti-tank missiles for the Indian Army.
Note: Bharat Dynamics will manufacture and supply Konkurs anti-tank missiles to the Indian Army. Konkurs - M is a second generation, mechanized infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armored vehicle equipped with explosive reactive armour.
4. Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India has been installed and commissioned in **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**.
Note: The system, which is expected to power diverse research and educational pursuits, has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 1,015 operations per second), the premier science research institution based in Bengaluru. It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
5. **Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad** has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by AI that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs.
Note: The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank, while IIT-H provided AI expertise, Visual Quest developed the platform, and Youth4Jobs skilling services. The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible.
6. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in **August 2022**.
Note: This was stated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha. This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline. ISRO will conduct 19 missions till December this year.
7. "Winter Camp" is a joint military exercise of **NATO**.
Note: The "Winter Camp" exercise in northeast Estonia, just 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the Russian border, included some 1,300 British, Estonian and French troops operating in extreme conditions.
8. **Operation AAHT** has been launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to curb human trafficking.
Note: The RPF that rescued more than more than 2,000 women and children between 2017-21 from the clutches of traffickers intensified the crackdown on human trafficking with the increasing number of cases. The National Crime Records Bureau registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.

9. The National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) has been established at **IIT- Bombay**.
Note: The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has established the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.
10. In February 2022, the ISRO successfully launched the earth observation satellite **EOS-4**.
Note: EOS-04, INSPIRESat-1 and INST-2TD were injected successfully into a sun-synchronous polar orbit by PSLV-C52. EOS-04 is designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping.
11. 'Cope South 22' is a joint tactical airlift exercise of **US and Bangladesh**.
Note: Named as Cope South 22, the exercise will be conducted at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh. It will witness the participation of nearly 77 airmen, along with two US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules from the US Air Force (USAF) 36th Airlift Squadron (AS) of the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base in Japan.
12. Asia's largest defence exhibition, DefExpo 2022, will be held in **Gandhinagar**.
Note: More than 900 defence firms and 55 countries are expected to participate in it. A 1,000-drone display is expected to be one of the highlights of the exhibition. This will be the second time such a show is being organised in the country. It was first organised at the Beating Retreat in Delhi on January 29.
13. Fighter aircraft **Tejas MK-1** has been showcased by India in the Singapore Air Show 2022.
Note: India showcased the IAF's 'Made in India' Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark-One(MK-1), a 4th generation fighter aircraft. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.
14. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has conducted sixth edition of Eastern Bridge-VI exercise with **Oman**.
Note: The exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI is in its sixth edition. Exercise Eastern Bridge V was held in October 2019 at the Air Force Base Masirah, Oman. The IAF contingent comprised MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft. It was the first time that MIG-29 fighter aircraft participated in an International Exercise outside India.
15. Multinational 'Exercise Cobra Warrior 22 will be organized by **England**, in which Indian Air Force will also participate with a fleet of five Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA).
Note: Besides the Royal Air Force of the UK, the US, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Belgium will also participate in the exercise. The multi-nation air exercise named "Ex Cobra Warrior 22" will be conducted at Waddington, UK, from March 6 to March 27. The IAF's C-17 aircraft will provide the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction.
16. The undersea submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 is capable of taking **three** person to a depth of 6,000 metres (m), that will be ready for its launch in 2024 for the Samudrayaan Mission.
Note: The vehicle is designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NIOT under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).
17. A joint team of scientists from DRDO and **IIT Delhi** successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres.
Note: It was achieved over commercial-grade optical fibre already available in field. With this, India has demonstrated indigenous technology of secure key transfer for bootstrapping military-grade communication security key hierarchy
18. In February 2022, with the arrival of the latest three aircraft, **35 Rafale fighter aircraft** have been received by India till date from France for which it signed a contract with France in September 2016.
Note: The aircraft took off from a French airbase and were provided mid-air refuelling by the Air Force of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the arrival of the latest three aircraft, India has now received a total of 35 of the 36 Rafale jets for which it signed a contract with France in September 2016.
19. The Indian Navy received its 12th and final anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from **Boeing**.
Note: This is the fourth of four additional aircraft delivered under the options contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in 2016. The Indian Navy became the first international customer for the P-8I in January 2009, when it signed a contract with Boeing for eight P-8I Poseidon aircraft for \$2.17 billion.
20. The biennial exercise multilateral Naval Exercise "Milan 2022" is being organized in **Vishakhapatnam**.
Note: It will be conducted over a duration of nine days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from February 25 and the Sea Phase from 1st March to 4th March. Theme: '**Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration**'. It is a biennial multilateral naval exercise incepted by Indian Navy in 1995 at the Andaman and Nicobar Command
21. **Third** edition of joint military exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' was conducted between India and Japan at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.

Note: It will be conducted from 27th February to 10th March 2022. It is participated by the 15th Battalion of 'Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army'

and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF).

January 2022

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In January 2022, the Indian Navy has conducted a passing exercise with **Russia**.
Note: Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Kochi exercised with Russian Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs. The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.
- Indian Navy has conducted maritime Partnership Exercise with the navy of **Japan** in the Bay of Bengal.
Note: The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmat while JMSDF Ships Uruga and Hirado the participated from Japanese side. Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.
- Philippines** become the first country to buy the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system boosting

- India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware.
- Note:** The Philippines recently signed the 'notice of award' or the acceptance of India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd \$374.96 million (USD 374,962,800) proposal for supplying the missile system for the Philippine Navy's shore-based anti-ship missile acquisition project.
12. Indian navy ship **INS Kochi** participated in the PASSEX exercises with Russian navy ships in the Arabian Sea in January 2022.
Note: Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Kochi exercised with Russian Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs. The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.
 13. **Border Security Force (BSF)** has launched Operation Sard Hawa.
Note: Under the exercise the BSF will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan. The Operation Sard Hawa is conducted during winters and Operation Garam Hawa is conducted during summers.
 14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with **Mauritius** for export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-MkIII.
Note: Mauritius already operates a ALH and Dornier Do-228 aircraft built by HAL. The ALH Mk III is a multi-role, multi-mission helicopter in the 5.5 tonne category
- in extensive use by the Indian armed forces and has also been exported.
15. ISRO Propulsion Complex is located in **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.
Note: The Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission underwent the qualification test for a duration of 25 seconds at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. Two engines have undergone tests under nominal operating conditions for a total duration of 480 seconds.
 16. In coordination with **Canadian Space Agency**, NASA has launched the 'Deep Space Food Challenge' that calls on teams to design, build, and demonstrate prototypes of food production technologies that provide tangible nutritional products -- or food.
Note: The technology will help future astronauts to produce nutritious, tasty, and satisfying meals on long-duration space missions, that require minimal resources and produce minimal waste. The Phase 2 of the challenge includes a prize of \$1 million.
 17. Joint naval exercises CHIRU-2022 was conducted by **Russia, China and Iran**.
Note: The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries. The participants practiced various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical maneuvers as a part of the drill.

December 2021

1. 'Ekuverin' is a Joint Military Exercise between Indian army and military forces of **Maldives**.
Note: The exercise will enhance synergy and interoperability between Armed Forces of both the nations in terms of understanding transnational terrorism both on land and at sea, conducting Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency Operations and sharing best military practices and experiences. Besides rigorous training, the joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations. The exercise will go a long way in strengthening India's relations with Maldives amidst emerging security dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region.
2. **IIT Madras** will launch a Global Energy Consortium to boost the transformation towards a low carbon future.
Note: The institute believes that the energy challenges of the next generation will require inter-disciplinary approaches across multiple domains and need a strong collaborative effort across academia and industry, which will be a key focus of this initiative. The consortium will be launched at the IIT Madras Energy Summit to be held from December 14 to 16. IIT-Madras has seven dedicated research initiatives working on the energy sector. These initiatives will form the core of the Global Energy Consortium.
3. India has signed a contract with **Russia** for the indigenous production of over 6 Lakh AK-203 Assault Rifles at Korwa, UP.
Note: It envisages complete transfer of technology to IRRPL by Kalashnikov in manufacturing of first 70,000 weapons. Rest of the 5.31 lakh weapons will be completely indigenous realizing Govt's vision of Make in India and expanding defence exports. The whole order will be produced in 10 years.
4. The missile has an operational range of 50 to km distance and features mid course inertial guidance through fiber optic gyroscope and active radar homing in terminal phase.
Note: The VL-SRSAM, indigenously designed and developed by DRDO for the Indian Navy, is meant for

- neutralising various aerial threats at close ranges, including sea-skimming targets.
5. The Indian Army is organizing a multi-nation disaster management exercise PANEX-21 involving BIMSTEC countries in **Pune**.
Note: The exercise has been called PANEX 21 and will involve Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand and India—BIMSTEC countries. The aim of the exercise is to foster joint planning and build regional cooperation for responding to natural disasters.
 6. NASA has launched new X-ray Mission titled as Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) in collaboration with space agency **Italian Space Agency**.
Note: It is built to study some of the most energetic objects in the universe like the remnants of exploded stars, powerful particle jets spewing from feeding black holes, and much more.
 7. India's maiden crewed space mission, Gaganyaan will be launched in **2023**.
Note: This will be followed by the second uncrewed mission at the end of 2022 carrying 'Vyommitra', a spacefaring human robot developed by ISRO.
 8. **Supersonic Missile Assisted Torpedo System (SMAT)** was successfully launched by India from Abdul Kalam island, formerly known as Wheeler Island.
Note: During the mission, the full range capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated. The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo. The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.
 9. Recently, **IIT Delhi** has signed an MoU with the Indian Air Force (IAF) for various developmental projects to support the requirements of the IAF.
Note: The joint partnership between the IAF and IIT Delhi aims to accelerate IAF's indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance. Under the ambit of the MoU, the IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards sustenance of various weapon systems. IIT Delhi will provide cooperation and consultancy, duly supported by research, for feasibility studies and prototype development.
 10. Automotive manufacturer **Ashok Leyland** has partnered with Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) to develop and manufacture 600-HP indigenous engine to power futuristic combat vehicles under Atmanirbhar Bharat mission.
Note: The 600-HP engine will undergo rigorous testing in lab and will be qualified for application in tanks. Ashok Leyland will undertake series production of the engine post induction into service. For over five decades, Ashok Leyland has developed and expanded its scope within the defence space. This partnership with CVRDE has given the company an opportunity to further innovate in the mobility space for defence requirements.
 11. The first batch of indigenously developed next-generation armoured engineer reconnaissance vehicles was inducted into the Army. The vehicles were manufactured by **Ordnance Factory Medak & Bharat Electronics Limited**.
Note: The vehicle has been designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak and Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune. It is capable of carrying out reconnaissance of water obstacles and boggy patches for execution of engineer tasks with capabilities to carry out reconnaissance.
 12. The strike range of the indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay' -- **150-500 kilometres**.
Note: The missile is powered with solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies. The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometre and can be launched from a mobile launcher. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.
 13. Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh unveiled indigenously built Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MAR-G 155) – BR which is the only 155mm 39 calibre gun system mounted on 4×4 HMV (High Mobility Vehicle) in the world. It is developed by **Bharat Forge Ltd**.
Note: The Made-In-India Multi-terrain Artillery Gun (MAR-G) 155 – BR is the only 155mm 39 caliber gun system mounted on 4×4 HMV in the world. The vehicle weighs 18 ton and has the capability to be deployed even in mountain regions. The gun system is equipped with shoot and scoot capability, providing advanced technical performance and high integration.
 14. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of indigenously developed HEAT (**High-speed Expendable Aerial Target**) Abhyas.
Note: During its trial, high subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance was demonstrated. Two boosters provided initial acceleration during launch and small turbojet engine was used to sustain high subsonic speed with long endurance. Developed by: Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, along with other DRDO laboratories.
 15. Indian Navy has decommissioned INS Khukri after 32 years of service at a solemn ceremony held at Visakhapatnam. It is the first of the indigenously built **corvettes**.
Note: It had the distinction of being part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets. The corvette was built by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders and commissioned on August 23, 1989.

16. The Indian army, along with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), established a Quantum Lab in Military College of Telecommunication and Engineering (MCTE), Mhow.

Note: Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) is a leading government college

based in Mhow which provides an array of academic courses and programmes. Indian Army has also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre at MCTE with over 140 deployments in necessary fields.

November 2021

1. NASA launches world's first DART Mission to crash Spacecraft into Asteroid

- NASA has launched world's first Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission to change the path of an asteroid by intentionally crashing a spacecraft into it with a speed of 24,000 kms per hour
- Total worth: \$325 million and was launched into orbit from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

2. Indian Navy to commission Scorpene-class submarine INS Vela in Mumbai

About INS Vela

- INS Vela has an indigenous set of batteries and an advanced communication suite of indigenous make
- It is the fourth in that series, following Kalvari, Khanderi and Karanj. It is expected to further boost Indian capability to defend and secure its strategic sea lanes

3. DRDO and India Air Force conducted flight tests of smart anti-airfield weapon

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force have jointly conducted two flight tests of an indigenously developed smart anti-airfield weapon in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- The test has been carried out for two different configurations of the weapon based on satellite navigation and electro-optical sensors.
- Maximum range: 100 kms.

4. ISRO to provide 'solar power calculator'

- It will use satellite data to measure the solar energy potential of any and every region in the world
- It will help to decide the location of solar energy projects across the globe, strengthening One Sun One World One Grid initiative.

5. The 37th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

- It is being held in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) from 23rd to 24th November 2021.
- Indigenously built Indian Naval Ship (INS) Khanjar and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft is participating in the CORPAT
- It was conducted for the first time in 2002
- CORPAT is held twice in a year to ensure safety and security.

6. Biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' underway for IOR stability

- The 15th edition of biennial trilateral exercise 'Dosti' by the coast guard forces of Maldives, India and Sri Lanka is underway in Maldives from 20th to 24th November
- ICGS Vajra and ICGS Apoorva, and Sri Lanka Coast Guard's SLCGS Suraksha participated in the exercise.
- Aim: to strengthen friendship, enhance mutual operational capabilities, interoperability, cooperation

7. India's first Virtual Science Lab for Children under CSIR Jigyasa Programme

- It will also connect students with scientists across the country.
- Main aim of Virtual Lab: To provide quality research exposure and innovative pedagogy for school students based on an online interactive medium.

8. SpaceX launches Indian-origin astronaut Raja Chari-led Crew 3 mission to ISS

- US Space agency NASA and Elon Musk-owned private rocket company SpaceX have launched Crew 3 mission named Endurance fixed to Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida

- Under this, 4 astronauts have been sent to International Space Station (ISS) for a six-month science mission until April 2022.

9. China has launched Earth science satellite named as 'Guangmu'

- China has launched Earth science satellite 'Guangmu' into space from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the northern Shanxi Province from Long March-6 carrier rocket.
- Guangmu: World's first Earth-science satellite dedicated to serving the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- It was developed by Chinese Academy of Sciences.

10. Alphabet has launched a new company in London titled as Isomorphic Labs.

- It will aim to use AI (artificial intelligence) for drug discovery and medicine to find cures for some of humanity's most devastating diseases in the field of biological and medical research.
- CEO of Isomorphic Labs: Demis Hassabis
- It is a commercial venture with the mission to reimagine the entire drug discovery process.

11. India successfully launches 41st Scientific Expedition to Antarctica

- First batch comprising of 23 scientists and support staff reached Indian Antarctic station Maitri.
- 41st expedition has two major programs: Geological exploration of the Amery ice shelf at Bharati station and reconnaissance surveys and preparatory work for drilling of 500 meters of ice core near Maitri
- Indian Antarctic program began in 1981

12. India, Singapore, Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX 21 held

- It is being held from 15 to 16 November 2021 in the Andaman Sea.
- It is being hosted by Royal Thai Navy (RTN) to enhance the cooperation between the participating navies towards augmenting the overall maritime security in the region

13. India and France to hold 6th edition Exercise SHAKTI 2021

- It will be conducted from 15th to 26th November 2021 in Frejus, France.
- Focus: Counter Terrorism operations, military cooperation and inter-operability between the two Armies.
- India and France also carry out biennial airforce training exercise 'Exercise GARUDA' and biennial maritime training exercise 'Exercise VARUNA'

14. 32nd edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT)

- It was conducted from 12th to 14th November 2021 in Andaman Sea.
- It is a three-day bi-annual CORPAT exercise
- It was conducted for the first time in 2005 along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).

15. Seventh Indian Navy frigate of P1135.6 class has been launched at Yantar Shipyard

- It has been formally named as Tushil, a Sanskrit word which means protector shield.
- It has been developed under Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between India and Russia in 2016 for the construction of four additional P1135.6 class ships for Indian Navy.
- It will be commissioned into Indian Navy in mid-2023 followed by its sister ship by the end of 2023.

Honor & Awards

March 2022

1. The 13th ASSOCHAM International Conference cum Awards on Civil Aviation Cargo was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: Frankfinn Institute of Air Hostess Training received the prestigious Award for the 'Best Air Hostess Training Institute – 2021'. The award was handed over by the Honourable Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to Mr. K.S.

Kohli, Founder & Non-Executive Chairman, Frankfinn Group.

2. **Deepak Dhar** will be conferred the prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022 for contribution in the field of statistical physics.

Note: He became the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. He will share the medal with John J Hopfield of Princeton University. The medal

presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference in August 2022 in Tokyo,

Japan.

February 2022

1. Indian hockey player **PR Sreejesh** won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 for his 2021 performances.
Note: He becomes 1st Indian man and only the second Indian to receive the accolade. In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour. Sreejesh was part of the Tokyo Olympics-bronze medal winning side.
2. **Neeraj Chopra** has been nominated for the prestigious 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.
Note: The other 5 nominees are Daniil Medvedev (Australian Open runner-up), Emma Raducanu (British tennis star), Pedri(Barcelona and Spain footballer), Yulimar Rojas (Venezuelan athlete) and Ariarne Titmus(Australian swimmer). The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.
3. **Daryl Mitchell** has been named the recipient of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award.
Note: As a result, Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson. Mitchell won the award for refusing to take a single in the high-pressure T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi on November 10, 2021.
4. In popular choice category award, **Maharashtra** has won first position for Best Tableau among 12 states/UTs category for 2022.
Note: "The second place went to Uttar Pradesh [popular choice], while the tableau of Jammu and Kashmir on theme 'Changing face of Jammu & Kashmir' finished third."
5. **Mangaluru International Airport, Karnataka** has been awarded the 'Voice of the Customer' award by the Airports Council International (ACI).
Note: ACI is a trade association of the world airports. The airport was awarded for demonstrating relentless efforts in gathering passenger feedback on customer needs in 2021 and providing the best-in-class travel experience.
6. **Zara Rutherford** became the youngest female pilot to circumvent the globe, traveling across five continents in five months while flying in a single-seater sport plane.
Note: It took her 155 days, but 19-year-old Zara Rutherford accomplished her goal: to become the youngest woman to fly solo around the world. Rutherford departed Belgium on August 18 in a Shark UL plane, a two-seat ultralight plane equipped with extra fuel tanks, two radios and a parachute.
7. **Rishabh Pant** has been awarded the Test batting award in the 15th edition of the ESPNcricinfo Awards.
Note: The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson for his 5 for 31, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions. England fast bowler Ollie Robinson was named Debutant of the Year for his 37 wickets at 21.16 in eight Tests, which made him England's second highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2021.
8. **Nitin Gadkari** will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.
Note: This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanic Vachanalay. Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.
9. **Sandeep Bakhshi** has been declared as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
Note: Bakhshi took charge in October 2018 amid a controversy around his predecessor, who had to step down over corporate governance issues. Since then, he has not just unhinged the bank from the controversy but also delivered growth on almost all parameters. The second-largest private sector lender in the country is well-capitalised.
10. **South Indian Bank** has won Best Technology Bank of the Year (Small Banks) at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards, instituted by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
Note: The IBA 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards 2021 organised by the IBA was virtually held on 14th February 2022. The IBA Awards 2021 celebrate "Next-Gen Banking" and recognise the technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over 2021.
11. **Coal India Ltd** has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.
Note: CIL received this honor at the "Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by

Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata. Minister of state for Coal, Mines and Railways Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve also complimented CIL for bagging the coveted award.

12. **Bill Gates** has been conferred with 'Hilal-e-Pakistan' the second highest civilian honour in the country.

Note: It is the second highest civilian honour in the country. He has been awarded for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan. Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

13. **Ranveer Singh** received the Best Actor (Male) award in the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Awards 2022.

Note: The award was presented by Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) in

memory of Dadasaheb Phalkeji 'Father of Indian Cinema'. It is India's only independent international film festival. Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and **Kriti Sanon** received awards in the Best Actor and Best Actress category for their performances in movies '83' and 'Mimi'.

14. **Asha Parekh** has been honoured with the Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022.

Note: Known as the 'Hit Girl' of Indian cinema, Asha Parekh had appeared in many commercially successful films throughout her career. She was the highest-paid actor (female) of her time and was one of the most successful actors (female) of the 1960s and 1970s.

January 2022

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.

5. **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.

6. **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.

7. 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.

8. **Harshaali Malhotra** has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.

Note: She received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshiyari (Governor of Maharashtra).She played the

- role of Munni, who was mute young girl from Pakistan in Salman Khan starrer Bajranghi Bhaijaan.
9. **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.
10. **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.
11. **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.
12. 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.
13. **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.
14. 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.
15. **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.
16. **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.
17. 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.
18. **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.
19. **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.

December 2021

- 1. Lionel Messi** has won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record seventh time.
Note: Apart from him, Barcelona's Alexia Putellas (27 years) won the women's Ballon d'Or. She netted in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year. Cristiano Ronaldo finishes outside the top three in the Ballon d'Or for the first time since 2010.
- 2.** Indian Athlete **Anju Bobby George** has won the Woman of the Year Award by World Athletics for grooming talent and encouraging young girls in India to take up sports and fight for gender equality.
Note: She is 2003 World Championships bronze medalist in long jump. She was the first Indian athlete to win bronze medal in long jump at the World Championships in Athletics held in 2013 in Paris. In 2004 Olympics, she finished sixth.
- 3. Dinyar Patel** has won the prestigious Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize 2021 for his book Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism, a biography of one of the most significant figures in modern Indian history, Dadabhai Naoroji.
Note: The New India Foundation announced the winner from a shortlist of six books, which covered a variety of themes and subjects. The prize carries a cash award of Rs 15 lakh and a citation. Instituted in 2018, the Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize celebrates high-quality non-fiction literature on modern and contemporary India from writers of all nationalities, published in the previous calendar year. The prize will be presented to Patel in a ceremony at the Bangalore International Centre.
- 4. Sanjiv Puri** has been awarded the 'Impact Person of the Year 2020' award instituted by the exchange4media Group, to recognize excellence in the Advertising, Media and Marketing domain.
Note: He has been awarded this title for transforming a 100-year-old company, driving ITC to change with the times, making it an incredibly stable and strong conglomerate, flexible, agile, and digitally focused too, along with turning ITC into one of the fastest-growing FMCG companies in India. Smriti Irani, Minister of Women and Child Development, announced the winner, chosen from a wide field of business achievers.
- 5.** Indian-American mathematician **Nikhil Srivastava** has been jointly selected for the inaugural \$5,000 Ciprian Foias Prize for the "highly original work" in Operator Theory by the American Mathematical Society (AMS).
Note: Along with Prof. Srivastava, who teaches at the University of California, Berkeley, the two other

awardees are Adam Marcus and Daniel Spielman. Mr Marcus holds the Chair of Combinatorial Analysis at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Mr Spielman is Sterling Professor of Computer Science, a professor of statistics and data science, and a professor of mathematics.

6. **Rukmini Banerji** has been awarded the world's highest education accolade the 2021 Yidan Prize, for Education Development, for her work in improving learning outcomes.
Note: Among Banerji's pioneering work, along with Pratham's team, is the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) assessment approach that revealed literacy and numeracy gaps among children who have already spent several years at school.
7. **Nilmani Phookan Jr** has been adjudged as the winner of the 56th Jnanpith Award for the year 2021.
Note: Phookan is a poet of renown, having written Surya Henu Nami Ahe Ei Nodiyedi, Gulapi Jamur Lagna, and Kobita. Primarily a poet, he also writes prose and is a pioneering art critic from Assam, with a focus on folklore and folk art.
8. **Damodar Mauzo** has been adjudged as the winner of the 57th Jnanpith Award for the year 2022.
Note: Konkani novelist Damodar Mauzo has won the 57th Jnanpith Award. It is India's highest literary award. The annual Jnanpith is bestowed on writers for "their outstanding contribution towards literature.
9. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has been ranked 37th position in the Forbes' rankings of 100 most powerful women of the world.
Note: This year, Sitharaman is ranked at 37th position, up from 41 last year. In 2019, she held the 34th spot in the Forbes ranking of 100 most powerful women. Jeff Bezos' former wife Mackenzie Scott earned the topmost spot in this year's list.
10. **Mackenzie Scott** secured top position in the list of 100 powerful women of the world.
Note: US Vice-President Kamla Harris is ranked second, and European Central Bank Head Christine Lagarde is at the third position in the top 100 rankings. Every year, Forbes, an American business magazine, releases a list of 100 powerful women of the world.
11. The 70th Miss Universe 2021 event was held in **Eilat, Israel**.
Note: The 21-year-old from Punjab claimed the crown edging out Paraguay's Nadia Ferreira and South Africa's Lalela Mswane. Ms Sandhu was presented the crown by Andrea Meza, former Miss Universe 2020 from Mexico. She has previously been crowned Miss Diva 2021, Femina Miss India Punjab 2019 and was even placed in the Top 12 at Femina Miss India 2019. Previously, only two Indians have worn the crown – Sushmita Sen in 1994, and Lara Dutta in 2000.
12. Indian mathematician **Neena Gupta** has won the 'Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians from Developing Countries 2021' for his/her outstanding work in affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.
Note: She is a mathematician at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata. She becomes the third woman to receive the Ramanujan Prize since its inception in 2004.
13. **Balkrishna Doshi** has been selected for Royal Gold Medal 2022 by Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).
Note: Royal Gold Medal is world's highest honour for architecture. Balkrishna Doshi is an important figure of Indian architecture and his more noteworthy designs include IIM Bangalore, IIM Udaipur, NIFT Delhi, Amdavad ni Gufa, CEPT University, and Aranya Low Cost Housing development in Indore which was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.
14. **Elon Musk** has been named the Time magazine's 2021 "Person of the Year".
Note: Musk is also the founder and CEO of rocket company SpaceX, and leads brain-chip startup Neuralink and infrastructure firm The Boring Company. Times Magazine called him the richest man in the world who does not own a house and has recently been selling off his fortune.
15. **Ashleigh Barty** has won the 2021 WTA Player of the Year Award.
Note: She won the award for the 2nd Time, previously she won the WTA Player of the year in 2019. WTA announced the winners of the WTA Player Awards 2021 as voted by the members of the International media that recognise the outstanding performance from the current season. Ashleigh Barty ended the 2021 season securing WTA's World No.1 ranking for the 3rd consecutive year. She became the 5th woman to achieve this feat after Chris Evert, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Serena Williams.
16. **Nirmala Sitharaman** topped the Fortune India's Most Powerful Women List 2021.
Note: She is followed by Reliance Foundation Chairperson and Goodwill Ambassador Nita Ambani (58) in 2nd position, and Soumya Swaminathan (62), Chief Scientist, World Health Organization (WHO) at 3rd. Nirmala Sitharaman is the 28th finance minister of India.
17. **Simone Biles** has been named as the Time's 2021 Athlete of the Year.
Note: The world's most decorated gymnast was hailed for putting her mental health first when she withdrew from four event finals at the Tokyo Olympics. Biles, a

- four-time Olympic medalist, later revealed that she suffered from what gymnasts called “the twisties” - when you lose the sense of space and dimension in the air.
- 18. Former cricketer Sunil Gavaskar** has been conferred with the prestigious 'SJFI Medal' by the Sports Journalists' Federation of India (SJFI).
Note: Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won silver at the quadrennial extravaganza, was voted as the SJFI Sportswoman of the Year. Neeraj Chopra, who won India's lone gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics, was adjudged the recipient of the SJFI Sportsman of the Year award. The Indian men's team that won the hockey bronze in Tokyo - its first hockey medal in 40 years - was declared the SJFI Team of the Year.
- 19. Kumar Mangalam Birla** has been conferred with the Global Entrepreneur of the Year Award- Business Transformation by the Silicon Valley-based The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE).
Note: He is the first Indian industrialist to receive this award for his leadership of a globally diversified conglomerate during the pandemic. Birla joins an exclusive list of global entrepreneurs to receive the award this year that include Elon Musk (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - Immigrant Entrepreneur), Jeff Bezos (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - First Generation) and Satya Nadella (Global Entrepreneur of the Year - Entrepreneurial CEO).
- 20. Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** has won Golden Peacock Environment Management Award 2021.
Note: Major initiatives by SAIL: Carbon footprint reduction, R&D, creation of carbon sinks, gradual shift to LED, enhancing share of renewable energy, etc. The Award is given to organizations for significant achievements in Environment Management by Environment Foundation (WEF) since 1998.
- 21. Emma Raducanu** has been adjudged as the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for 2021.
Note: Raducanu ended Britain's 44-year wait for a women's Grand Slam singles champion with her remarkable victory at Flushing Meadows. Her fairytale win followed a run to the Wimbledon fourth round in July on her Grand Slam main draw debut. In a public vote, diver Tom Daley placed second and swimmer Adam Peaty was third.
- 22. Divya Hegde** has won the UN Women's Award for Leadership Commitment at the 2021 Regional Asia-Pacific Women's Empowerment Principles Awards ceremony.
Note: She has been recognized for her sustained efforts in advancing gender equality through climate action efforts with her organization, Baeru Environmental Services. She worked in the areas of waste management, creation of livelihoods for rural women, and developing a circular economy in the region.
- 23. Viral Sudhirbhai Desai** has been awarded the prestigious Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award in Dubai.
Note: Among the 28 personalities from 11 countries (which includes the United Kingdom(UK), the United States(US), New Zealand, France, and Malaysia,) who were honoured with this award, Viral Desai was the only Indian to win the honour for climate change
- 24. Anukruti Upadhyay** has won the Sushila Devi Award 2021.
Note: It has been instituted by Ratanlal Foundation. It was announced by Ratanlal Foundation and organizing Committee of the Bhopal Literature and Art Festival
- 25. Shiv Sahay Singh** has won the Ramnath Goenka award in the “Uncovering India Invisible” category for his 2019 story “Death by Digital Exclusion”.
Note: It exposed how the Jharkhand government's insistence on digitisation deprived people living on the margins of the benefits of the public distribution system (PDS). The story detailed the Jharkhand government's decision to plug leakages in the PDS by linking all ration cards to Aadhaar.
- 26. Alia Bhatt** has been named as the 2021 Person of the Year by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
Note: Alia Bhatt is an animal lover and often shares pictures with her pets. This year, Alia Bhatt invested in Phool, the company behind Fleather, which is a vegan leather made from discarded temple flowers. Her vegan kidswear line, Ed-a-Mamma, also won a 2021 PETA India fashion award for helping to nurture kids' love for animals and nature.
- 27. Eminent author Namita Gokhale** won Sahitya Akademi Award for her novel **Things to Leave Behind**.
Note: Ms. Gokhale was awarded for her novel Things to Leave Behind and Ms. Pujari for Iyat Ekhan Aaronya Asil. Seven books of poetry, five of short stories, two plays, one each of biography, autobiography, criticism and epic poetry had won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2021.
- 28. Danish Siddiqui** has been awarded as the 'Journalist of the Year' for 2020 by the Mumbai Press Club.
Note: Danish Siddiqui's wife Frederike Siddiqui received the award. Senior journalist Prem Shankar Jha, 83, was bestowed with the lifetime achievement award "for his long and distinguished career of incisive and analytical writing".

November 2021

- Vax** word has been selected as the Oxford English Dictionary's 2021 Word of the Year.
Note: It is used as a short form for vaccine and means a substance put into a person's body to prevent them from getting a disease. It was used 72 times as much as it was in 2020
- Priyanka Mohite** has been bestowed with the prestigious 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2020' for her outstanding contribution in the field of land adventure.
Note: She will receive the award from President Ram Nath Kovind at a function in the Rashtrapati Bhawan. The 28-year-old Mohite, who started out by trekking in Sahyadri ranges in western Maharashtra and rock-climbing, began summiting mountains from 2010.
- Padma awards has been awarded this year by the President Ram Nath Kovind -- **119**.
Note: The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- Puneeth Rajkumar** has been conferred with the Basavashree award 2021 by the Bruhanmutt.
Note: The award honours people for services to society in their respective fields by following the principles of Lord Basaveshwar. It is presented by Chitradurga Bruhanmutt since 1997. The award includes a Rs 5 lakh cash and a memento.
- Damon Galgut** has won the prestigious Booker Prize 2021 for fiction for his novel 'The Promise'.
Note: It was his ninth book that states the decline of one dutch family in South Africa over four decades from the apartheid era to the present day. It is a tale of a troubled Afrikaner family and its broken promise to a Black employee. With this recognition, Damon Galgut won 50,000 pounds (\$69,000) as an award amount. Booker prize is the world's most prestigious literary honours which is also called Oscars of world literature.
- IIT Bombay** has bagged a grant worth \$250,000 from the XPRIZE Foundation, which is part of the Elon Musk Foundation at the COP26 summit in Glasgow.
Note: Four students and two teachers from IIT Bombay have won a grant of \$250,000 (approximately ₹1.85 crore) for the new-age technology at the Sustainable Innovation Forum at COP-26 in Glasgow. The grant has come from XPRIZE Foundation in collaboration with Elon Musk Foundation.
- Falguni Nayar** became India's seventh woman billionaire and the wealthiest self-made billionaire.
Note: She established Nykaa in 2012. She holds 53.5% stake in Nykaa and has a net worth of USD 7.48 billion. This comes after the IPO of FSN E-Commerce Ventures which is Nykaa's parent entity. This is also the first woman-led unicorn to list on the stock exchange.
- The first-ever Sports Authority of India's Institutional Awards have been conferred to **162** athletes.
Note: They have been conferred awards in the Outstanding Award and Best Award category for their performance in national and international competitions. The awards acknowledge the exceptional performance of the SAI athletes and coaches under the various sports promotion schemes at the national and international level from 2016.
- Hema Malini and Prasoon Joshi** will be awarded the Indian Film Personality of the Year award at the 52nd International Film Festival of India 2021 in Goa.
Note: Actor Hema Malini is 2 time BJP MP from Mathura while lyricist Joshi is former chairperson of CBFC. The IFFI will kick off on 20th November in a hybrid — virtual and physical — format.
- Pratham** organization has been awarded with the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021.
Note: Pioneering civil society organization, Pratham has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2021. It has been awarded for its pioneering work to ensure that every child has access to quality education, digital technology for education, providing skills to young adults, for its regular evaluation of the quality of education, etc.
- Abhinandan Varthaman** has been awarded the Vir Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
Note: He shot down Pakistani F-16 jet during a dogfight over the Line of Control (LoC) in 2019. Vir Chakra: India's third highest wartime gallantry award after Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra.
- The ABU – UNESCO Peace Media Awards 2021 was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia** in which TV and Radio shows produced by Doordarshan and All India Radio respectively got multiple awards.

Note: Doordarshan's programme 'DEAFinitely Leading the Way' won an award under 'Living Well with Super Diversity' category, while All India Radio's programme 'Living on the edge – The coastal lives' won another award in the category of 'Ethical & Sustainable Relationship with Nature'. The awards were given by UNESCO in collaboration with Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) under 'Together for Peace' (T4P) initiative.

13. Tamal Bandyopadhyay has won the Tata Literature Live! award for his book Pandemonium: The Great Indian Banking Tragedy.

Note: Published by Roli Books, Pandemonium was selected under the business book of the year category. Bandyopadhyay, who writes the Banker's Trust column, had earlier received an award at Kalinga Literary Festival for Pandemonium — touted as a definitive insider story on the rot in India's banking system.

14. Tehran has won the International Emmy Awards 2021 for Drama series.

Note: The 49th edition of International Emmy Awards has been held in New York City to recognize excellence in television programs produced and aired originally outside the U.S., and non-English language US primetime program.

- Best Actor: David Tennant for Des (UK)
- Best Actress: Hayley Squires for Adult Material (UK)
- Best Drama Series: Tehran (Israel)
- Best Comedy Series: Call My Agent Season 4 (France)
- Best Documentary: Hope Frozen: A Quest To Live Twice (Thailand)
- Best Telenovela: The Song Of Glory (China)
- Best TV Movie / Mini-Series: Atlantic Crossing (Norway)
- Best Arts Programming: Kubrick By Kubrick (France)
- Best Short-Form Series: INSiDE (New Zealand)

- Best Non-Scripted Entertainment: The Masked Singer (UK)
- Best Non-English Language U.S. Primetime Program: 21st Annual Latin GRAMMY Awards (USA)

15. Sadar Bazar police station, Delhi has been ranked as the best police station in the country as part of the annual home ministry exercise to grade police stations based on parameters including handling of crime, infrastructure, and approachability of personnel.

Note: Gangapur PS in Ganjam district of Odisha was adjudged as the second best police station and Bhattu Kalan PS in Fatehabad, Haryana as the third best.

16. Ringu Wandering has won the Golden Peacock Award at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Note: For the first time: The BRICS film festival was hosted alongside IFFI, OTT platforms participated and 75 creative young minds of cinema were felicitated at IFFI.

- The Golden peacock award: Ringu Wandering (Masakazu Kanyeko)
- The best director: Vaclav Kadrnka for 'Saving One Who Was Dead'.
- Best actor male went to Jitendra Joshi (Godavari).
- Best actor female: Angela Molina (Paraguay)
- The Special Jury award: Renata Carvalho (Brazil)

17. Lingui, The Sacred Bonds film won the ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal at 52nd edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Note: Lingui was co-produced by Belgium France Germany and was made in Arabic and French. It reflects the story of the sacred relationship between a mother and daughter and their survival against the harsh laws set by men.

Sports News

1-7th March 2022

1. Malaysia will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games.

Note: The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh.

2. Name the Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event in the year's first ISSF World Cup, in March 2022.

Note: He defeated Michael Schwald of Germany by 16-6 in the gold medal match of Men's 10m Air Pistol event. Apart from him, Russian Artem Chernousov bagged bronze medal at the event.

India's Shreya Agrawal narrowly missed in World Cup's 10m air rifle event semi finals.

3. The 2022 edition of ICC Women's World is being organized in **New Zealand**.

Note: ICC Women's world cup will have a total of 8 teams: India, Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa, England, West Indies. The

tournament is being held in New Zealand. It is being played in a round-robin format

4. Indian women cricketer Mithali Raj has recently achieved the feat of becoming the first women to appear in six ICC Women World Cups.

Note: She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.

February 2022

1. **Magnus Carlsen** has won the Tata Steel Masters chess 2022.

Note: Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12th and penultimate round of the tournament. The Norwegian, who will get a win by forfeit (over Daniil Dubov) in the final round, is a full point ahead of his closest competitors — Richard Rapport and Mamedyarov.

2. India defeated **China** to win bronze medal at 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament.

Note: Sharmila Devi and Gurjit Kaur scored goals from India's side. It was held from 21st to 28th Jan 2022 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, Oman. Meanwhile, Japan defeated South Korea to win gold at Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament.

3. **Chennai Super Kings** have become the first-ever sports Unicorn in the country.

Note: CSK is four-time Indian Premier League (IPL) winners. MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated mighty Kolkata Knight Riders last year to win their record-extending fourth IPL title in Dubai.

4. In February 2022, **Qi Fabao** got selected as the Torchbearer of Winter Olympic 2022 by the China Government.

Note: The Winter Olympics was opened in a lavish ceremony to be attended by President Xi Jinping and more than a dozen world leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, five Central Asian Presidents and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He "took the flame from Wang Meng, China's four-time Olympic short track speed skating champion, at Winter Olympic Park.

5. Arif Khan is associated **Skiing**, who is the lone Indian athlete to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Note: The 31-year-old Arif will be the lone Indian competitor at the Games, having qualified in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. India sent a six-member contingent to the Games including a coach, a technician and a team manager. Arif is the first Indian to secure qualification in two events of the same edition of the Games.

6. **Senegal** won the African Cup of Nations title in football.

Note: Sadio Mané scored the winning spot kick to start the celebrations and make up for missing a penalty in the seventh minute of the game. The final had ended 0-0 after extra time. Senegal had lost two finals previously, including at the last African Cup in Egypt in 2019, when Mané was left inconsolable.

7. India has won the record fifth time ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title by defeating **England**.

Note: India lifted a record fifth ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title after beating England by four wickets in the summit clash at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua. Earlier, India had won the U19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.

8. **China** has won the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Football tournament.

Note: China PR defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on February 06, 2022. This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.

9. Veteran cricketer Suranga Lakmal plays for **Sri Lanka** who announced his retirement from international cricket.

Note: The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement. Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches

across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.

- 10. The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named as Gujarat Titans.**

Note: The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named "Gujarat Titans" by its owner CVC Capital. Hardik Pandya has been declared as the Captain of this team. Earlier in January 2022, Lucknow's IPL team was named as "Lucknow Super Giants" by its owner RPSG Group.

- 11. Kerala** won the women's title in the National senior volleyball championship.

Note: Defending champion Kerala defeated Railways 25-21, 17-25, 25-21, 25-17 and won the women's title in the National senior volleyball championships at the KIIT indoor stadium, Bhubaneswar. It was Kerala's fourth straight triumph in the Nationals.

- 12. Chelsea** football club have won their first FIFA Club World Cup 2022 by defeating Brazil's Palmeiras in extra-time in the final in Abu Dhabi.

Note: Chelsea defeated South American counterparts in the final at Mohamed bin Zayed Stadium by 2-1. The winner came from the penalty spot in the 117th minute. Chelsea Football Club is an English professional football club based in Fulham, West London.

- 13. Mumbai** will host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session.

Note: It will be held at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The last of IOC session was hosted by India in 1983 in New Delhi. IOC session for 2022 was held in Beijing, China.

- 14. Sakibul Gani** belongs of **Bihar** has become the first player in the history of the cricket to score a triple century on his first-class debut.

Note: He scored 341 off 405 balls, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground in Kolkata. Gani has played List A cricket before this, scoring 377 runs from 14 matches including a century. In 11 domestic T20s, he has made 192 runs.

- 15. Indian tennis star Manika Batra** has been roped in as the brand ambassador of **Adidas**.

Note: Owing to her 'Impossible Is Nothing' attitude, Manika joins Adidas' rich roster of women athletes, consisting of names like Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Hima Das, and Nikhat Zareen.

- 16. Norway** bagged the maximum number of medals at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Note: Norway tallied the most gold medals, 16, and the highest total number of medals, 37, of all the countries competing in Beijing. Norway's 16 gold medals represent the most ever won at a single Winter Games.

- 17. Italy** will host the 2026 Winter Olympics Games.

Note: The Presidency of the Games was formally handed-over to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy, to host the 2026 Winter Olympics. Italy first became the host country for the Olympics during the 1956 Winter Games, which were held in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

- 18. Indian Grand Master, R Praggnanandhaa** has defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of Airthings Masters Chess competition.

Note: He won with black pieces in 39 moves to halt Carlsen's run of three straight wins. Prior to this, Indian registered solitary win versus Levon Aronian along with recording 2 draws and 4 defeats

- 19. Indian Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu** won the Gold Medal in the Singapore International Weightlifting tournament.

Note: India has concluded its campaign at Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 with eight medals, including six golds and silver and bronze each. Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore International won medals and secured their spots at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in July-August.

- 20. Tan Kim Her** of **Malaysia** has been appointed as India's doubles coach in badminton till the Asian Games in 2026.

Note: He has been credited with shaping the careers of doubles specialists Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. In his first stint (2015-2019) as doubles coach in India

- 21. Indian boxer, Nikhat Zareen** has won the gold in 52kg category in the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Note: Nitu prevailed 5-0 over Italy's Erika Prisciandaro, a former youth world championship bronze-medallist. Zareen, on the other hand, outpunched Ukraine's Tetiana Kob, a three-time European Championships medallist 4-1.

22. Pooja Jatyán became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships.

Note: Pooja lost to Italy's Patrilli Vincenza in the final to be content with the silver medal. The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamy and Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.

23. Rafael Nadal has won the 2022 Mexican Open tennis tournament.

Note: This is 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season. This is the 4th time that

Rafael Nadal has won Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020.

24. Sadia Tariq is associated with **Wushu** sports who won the Gold medal recently in a world championship _____ **Wushu**.

Note: The 15-year-old from Srinagar participated in the Moscow Wushu Stars championship amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Sadia Tariq won the gold medal in junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022. She had recently bagged Gold medals in the 19th and 20th Junior National Championship which was held in Haryana and Jalandhar respectively.

January 2022

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 plummed 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 Subramaniam 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. Subramaniam 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. **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.

6. 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.
7. **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.
 8. **Busanan Ongbamrunghan** has won the women's single Indian Open (Badminton) 2022.
Note: Busanan Ongbamrunghan of Thailand won the Women's Single title. Ongbamrunghan, ranked world no. 12, won the women's singles final 22-20, 19-21, 21-13.
 9. 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.
 10. **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.
 11. **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.
 12. **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.
 13. **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.
 14. **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.
 15. **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.
 16. **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.
 17. 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.
 18. **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.

December 2021

1. **Argentina** has won the men's Junior hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium, Odisha.
Note: They defeated six-time champion Germany by 4-2 and won the title after a 16-year gap. Argentina sealed their second men's Junior World Cup title when Franco Agostini fired into an empty net in the final minute. France has defeated India to claim the 3rd place in the tournament.
2. **Malaysia** has won the Asian team squash championships 2021 held in Kuala Lumpur.

- Note:** Malaysia defeated India in the final by 2-1. India had lost in the summit clash before in 1981 and 2012 also. Malaysia has also won the women's final of the Asian team squash championships defeating Hong Kong 2-1 in the final.
3. **Viktor Axelson** has won the 2021 BWF World Tour men's Final held in Bali, Indonesia.
Note: He defeated Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand by 21-12, 21-8 in just 43 minutes to wrap up the men's singles title. South Korea's An Seyoung has won BWF World Tour Finals in women's category by defeating India's PV Sindhu.
4. **An Seyoung** has won the 2021 BWF World Tour women's Final held in Bali, Indonesia.
Note: Men's doubles, Japan's Hoki Takuro and Kobayashi Yugo beat Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo from Indonesia.
5. **Russia** has won the Davis Cup title 2021.
Note: They defeated Croatia 2-0 in the summit clash in Madrid. Andrey Rublev defeated Borna Gojo 6-4, 7-5 in the opening match and then the victory was sealed by Daniil Medvedev after he outclassed Marin Cilic. Medvedev defeated Cilic 7-6, 6-2 to seal the victory for Russia.
6. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the inaugural Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, which is scheduled to be held on 12th December, is the last race of '2021 Formula One World Championship', which will decide 2021's Winner. Currently the top position is shared by Max Verstappen & Lewis Hamilton with 369.5 points each.
7. **Weightlifter** Sanket Mahadev Sargar won a gold medal recently.
Note: For the top-podium finish, the Indian lifted the weight of 113kg. With this lift, Sargar also created the new snatch national record. The Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships 2021 is currently being held concurrently in Tashkent along with World Weightlifting Championships 2021 from December 7 to 17.
8. **Jhilli Dalabehera** has won gold medal the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
Note: Indian weightlifter Jhilli Dalabehera has won the gold medal in the women's 49kg category at the Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
9. **Max Verstappen** has won the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Hamilton's Mercedes team secured the constructors' championship for an unprecedented eighth successive year but Verstappen, 24, ended a run of double dominance dating back to 2014. Verstappen ended the season with 10 wins to Hamilton's eight, having also led more laps and taken more poles and podiums.
10. **Thailand** hosted the Asian Rowing Championship 2021 in which India won total of six medals, including two gold and 4 silver medals.
Note: Senior rower Arvind Singh bagged a gold in the lightweight Men's single sculls event while his compatriots won three silver medals. India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four. In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.
11. Arvind Singh is associated with **Rowing** who won gold medal recently.
Note: India bagged silver medals in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls, Men's Quadrapul Sculls and in Men's Coxless Four. In Lightweight Men's Double Sculls, India's Ashish Phugat and Sukhjinder Singh won the silver.
12. **Magnus Carlsen** has won 2021 FIDE World Chess Championship held in Dubai, UAE.
Note: He defeated Ian Nepomniachtchi, who faded badly after going toe-to-toe in the early games. Carlsen wins 60% of the 2 million-euro prize offered by the championship. FIDE World Chess Championship 2021 was played during Expo 2020 at Dubai Exhibition Centre in Dubai, UAE, between 24 November and 12 December 2021.
13. Indian badminton player **Kidambi Srikanth** won the historic silver medal in the World Badminton Championships in Spain.
Note: A former world no. 1, Srikanth lost Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. He becomes the first Indian men Badminton player to win a silver in BWF World Championships. The maiden silver placed Srikanth alongside P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who had finished runner-up in the past. Akane Yamaguchi of Japan clinched the women's title beating World No. 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.
14. Loh Kean Yew of **Singapore** has defeated Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth in the final of

the BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain and won the gold.

Note: Kidambi Srikanth becomes the first Indian men Badminton player to win a silver in BWF World Championships. The maiden silver placed Srikanth alongside P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal, who had finished runner-up in the past. Akane Yamaguchi of Japan clinched the women's title beating World No. 1 and top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei.

15. Akane Yamaguchi has won the women's title (gold medal) in the BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain.

Note: Second seeded Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai won the mixed doubles title as they beat third-seeded Japanese duo Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino in straight game, 21-13, 21-14 in the final match. Loh Kean Yew of Singapore won the gold medal in BWF World Badminton Championships in Spain by defeating Indian badminton player Kidambi Srikanth.

16. Sports person Lewis Hamilton has been bestowed with the knighthood by the Prince of Wales Charles at Windsor Castle in Windsor.

Note: The Mercedes driver was made a Knight Bachelor by Prince of Wales Charles at Windsor Castle in Windsor. Hamilton holds an incredible seven Formula One World Titles. Hamilton missed out on his record eighth title at the Yas Marina circuit during the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

17. India will host Women's Under-18 and Under-19 SAFF championships in 2022.

Note: While SAFF Under-18 Women's Championship will be held from 3rd to 14th March and SAFF Under-19 Championship will take place from July 25 to August 3. Participants for SAFF U-18 Women's Championship: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India

18. Pankaj Advani has won 2021 National Billiards Title.

Note: Sitwala, displaying excellent in-offs, pots and cannons, surged ahead by pocketing the third game with a sizeable break of 84. He was on course to even wrest the fourth game after he compiled a wonderful effort of 101, but a costly lapse by him gave a window of opportunity to Advani.

19. Bangladesh Under-19 Women's team won SAFF U-19 Women's Football Championship in Dhaka.

Note: Only goal of the game came in the 80th minute when Anai Mogini scored a goal to make Bangladesh victorious. 2021 SAFF U-19 Women's Championship: It is an international football competition for women's under-19 national teams organized by SAFF. It was the 2nd edition of SAFF U-19 Women's Championship.

20. Aanchal Thakur associated with **Skiing** sports.

Note: She finished 3rd with an overall timing of 1:54:30. With this, Aanchal has become first Indian Ski athlete to win two medals at international level. She has previously won bronze medal in the 2018 FIS Alpine 3200 Cup held in Turkey.

21. Himachal Pradesh has won their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy beating Tamil Nadu in the final in Jaipur.

Note: Himachal Pradesh skipper Rishi Dhawan won the toss and put Dinesh Karthik-led Tamil Nadu to bat. Youngster Shubham Arora came out all guns blazing with his maiden List A century as Himachal downed five-time champions Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu have been the best domestic side in the country in white-ball cricket since the 2019-20 season.

22. Team Radiant has won the Pro Tennis League 2021.

Note: Davis Cupper Saketh Myneni led the Team Radiant. Saketh outclassed reigning National champion Niki Poonacha 5-0 in the third rubber to gain a four-point lead for the team which proved decisive in the eventual analysis.

23. Moyuka Uchijima has won her maiden 20th edition of the NECC Deccan \$25,000 Women's ITF Championships.

Note: The 20-year-old outlasted Diana Marcinkevica of Latvia 6-2, 7-5 in the singles final. With junior Sara Saito winning two back-to-back ITF junior events earlier in December, Uchijima capped the hat-trick for Japan with her victory.

24. Uttar Pradesh has won the 11th Junior National Men's Hockey Championship 2021.

Note: UP maintained its 100 percent record in the tournament. Top scorer of tournament: Sharda Nand Tiwari. Hockey Association of Odisha edged out Haryana by 3 - 2 in a closely contested affair to clinch 3rd place in the Championship.

November 2021

1. Indian ace table tennis players **Archana Girish Kamath and Manika Batra** clinched the women's doubles title in the WTT Contender tournament in Lasko, Slovenia.
Note: The Indian duo defeated the Puerto Rican team of Melanie Diaz and Adriana Diaz in straight sets by 11-3, 11-8, 12-10. Manika Batra and Archana Girish Kamath entered the finals of the women's doubles event of the WTT Contender tournament after defeating the team of Wang Yidi and Liu Weishan.
2. Nagpur based teenager Sankalp Gupta has become India's **71st** Grandmaster.
Note: The 18-year-old secured the three required GM norms in just 24 days by playing three tournaments on the trot. To achieve the GM title, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 Elo points.
3. Indian women shooter **Manu Bhaker** has won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the inaugural ISSF President's Cup with Iran's Javad Foroughi.
Note: The Indo-Iranian pair got the better of the French-Russian duo of Mathilde Lamolle and Artem Chernousov 16-8 in the gold medal match. Among the other Indians in the field, Abhishek Verma paired up with Ukrainian Olena Kostevych to finish sixth while the pairing of Saurabh Chaudhary and Swiss Heidi Gerber Diethelm also made it among the top eight semi-finalists to finish seventh.
4. Akash Kumar is associated **Boxing** sports has won a bronze medal recently in a world championship.
Note: With this win he became the 7th Indian male boxer who won a medal at the World Boxing Championships and also received \$25,000 as prize money and a belt for his accomplishment. He suffered a 0-5 loss against Kazakhstan's Makhmud Sabyrkhan.
5. **West Indies** Veteran cricketer Dwayne Bravo announced his retirement from international cricket.
Note: Dwayne Bravo hails from Santa Cruz, Trinidad. Dwayne Bravo has played in all seven T20 World Cups and he has been a part of the West Indies team that won the T20 Title in 2012 and 2016. He has scored 1245 runs at an average of 22.23 and a strike rate of 115.38 and he has picked up 78 wickets.
6. **Max Verstappen** has won the Mexico City Grand Prix 2021.
Note: Starting from the second row, Verstappen made a brilliant move on the outside going into Turn 1 to take over Mercedes-Benz AMG's Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton, who started at pole and second place, respectively. Verstappen was never unsettled from there and comfortably took the win, with Hamilton eventually crossing the line in second place some 16 seconds behind after managing to hold off local hero Sergio Perez.
7. **Mitrabha Guha** has become India's 72nd chess Grand Master by bagging his third and final GM norm during a tournament in Serbia.
Note: The 20-year old Guha achieved the GM title after securing the final norm at the ongoing GM Mix 220 tourney in Novi Sad, Serbia. The Indian, who beat GM Nikola Sedlak of Serbia in the ninth round, has so far scored seven points with six wins, two draws and a loss to Russian GM Vladimir Zakhartsov in the seventh round.
8. **Novak Djokovic** has won 2021 Rolex Paris Masters final title.
Note: This is the sixth Paris Masters title for the Serbian Djokovic and overall 37th ATP Masters 1000 title. Rolex Paris Masters: It is the annual tennis tournament for male professional players. It is a part of the ATP Tour Masters 1000.
9. **Lewis Hamilton** has won the won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2021, and gained momentum in his Formula One title fight.
Note: Hamilton, a seven-time world champion, beat Verstappen despite starting from 10th position on the grid due to a penalty. Verstappen, the winner of the race's previous edition in 2019, finished second and saw his lead in the driver's championship shrink to 14 points. The winner of a race gets 25 points.
10. **Australia** has won their maiden T20 World Cup title held the Dubai International Stadium.
Note: Chasing a stiff target of 173, the Aussies overhauled New Zealand's score with seven balls remaining. David Warner was chosen as Player of The Tournament for his effort with the bat.

11. Women's cricket T20 tournament will be making its debut in 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Note: This will be 1st time that women cricket will be included in Commonwealth Games. Earlier, cricket was played as List A men's tournament at 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 2022 matches will be played under Twenty20 format and there will only be women's tournament.

12. Pakistan will host the 2025 ICC Men's Champions Trophy.

Note: This will also be the first major global cricket tournament played in Pakistan since 1996. India gets 2026 T20 World Cup jointly with Sri Lanka, 2029 Champions Trophy and the 2031 World Cup jointly with Bangladesh. In October 2028 the T20 World Cup will be played in Australia and New Zealand and 12 months later India will host the Champions Trophy.

13. Garbiñe Muguruza held from Spain country who has won her first WTA Finals Championship.

Note: In doubles, Czech's Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková beat Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Elise Mertens (Belgium) by 6-3, 6-4 points. Garbiñe has won the biggest title of her career and it was her 3rd title of the year. Garbiñe becomes the first Spaniard to win the WTA Finals singles title in the event's history.

14. Lewis Hamilton has won F1 Qatar Grand Prix 2021, which was held on November 21, 2021.

Note: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) has won 2021 F1 Qatar Grand Prix, that was held on November 21, 2021. Max Verstappen (Red Bull - Netherlands) came second, followed by Fernando Alonso (Alpine- Spain).

15. Erik Kynard belongs to US who was upgraded to a 2012 Olympic high jump gold medal after original gold medalist Ivan Ukhov of Russia was previously stripped for doping, the IOC announced.

Note: Kynard's leap of 2.33 meters placed second behind Ivan Ukhov, who was proven years later to have taken part in the Russian state-backed steroid doping program. Ukhov was banned for four years in 2019 at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. He went back to the same court last year for an appeal hearing but failed to overturn the ruling.

16. West Bengal's school and higher education department have won the prestigious SKOCH GOLD awards.

Note: School Education Department and Higher Education Department of GoWB - both have won the prestigious SKOCH GOLD awards. Instituted in 2003, the Skoch award recognizes efforts in digital, financial, social inclusion, governance, inclusive growth, technology and applications and corporate leadership.

17. Union Minister for Commerce, Industry, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal virtually launched India's first Food Museum in Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

Note: The museum has been established by Food Corporation of India (FCI) in association with Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum (VITM), Bengaluru, at an investment of about ₹1.1 crore. Spread over an area of 1,860 square feet, the museum showcases the evolution process - the transformation of the nomadic hunter gatherers' to settled agriculture producers leading to the beginning of civilizations. Models of various ancient grain storage methods, both global and indigenous, are displayed at the museum.

18. In which year India and Bangladesh will jointly host the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup -- 2031.

Note: The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process which was overseen by a board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden along with Sourav Ganguly and Ricky Skerritt. The ICC confirmed the 14 host countries for the ICC men's white ball events from 2024-2031. It includes 11 full members and three associate members who will host two ICC Men's World Cups, four ICC Men's T20 World Cups and two ICC men's Champions Trophy events.

19. Tamil Nadu team has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title in New Delhi.

Note: Tamil Nadu became the most successful team as they won their 3rd title. Batsman Shahrukh Khan pulled off a stunning heist as he hit 33 runs of 15-ball, including a last-ball six when Tamil Nadu needed 5 runs in the last delivery of their 152-run chase. 2021 was the 13th edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (Twenty20 competition of India)

20. Alexander Zverev has won 2021 ATP Finals title, after defeating World No.2 Daniil Medvedev of Russia.

Note: This is Zverev's second Nitto ATP Finals title, after winning the first in 2018. Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut of France clinched the

men's double title by defeating Rajeev Ram of US and Joe Salisbury of UK.

21. RuPay has bag the title sponsor of the Prime Volleyball League for three years which is scheduled to take place in early 2022.

Note: The card payment network has acquired the title sponsorship rights of the sporting league for three years of the league, which is scheduled to take place in early 2022.

22. Harshwanti Bisht has been elected as the first woman president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).

Note: She won 60 out of a total of 107 votes to get elected to the post IMF's President. She scaled Nanda Devi peak in 1981 for which she was honored with the Arjuna award. IMF: It is an apex national body to organize and support, mountaineering and rock-climbing expeditions at high altitudes in Himalayas. It was founded in 1958.

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