

# Monthly GK Digest

February 2022



## Monthly Digest February -2022

**Dear readers,**

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of '**February-2022**'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway's** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

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 **10<sup>th</sup>** 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 IGNCA, 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 disbursal 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 **5<sup>th</sup>** 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 to 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 disbursal 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-in-1 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'.

## Obituaries

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 Dhuan (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 Francoise Barre-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 Nani.
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 Dhwani (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 Vayoshestha 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.

## Important Days

1. The NPCI and the UPI ecosystem have announced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative under which NPCI and the ecosystem will observe UPI Safety and Awareness Week from **February 1 to 7**.  
**Note:** NPCI and the ecosystem comprising leading banks and fintech will observe Feb 1 to 7 as UPI Safety and Awareness Week. Whole month of Feb will be UPI Safety and Awareness Month.
2. Indian Para Military force, **Indian Coast Guard** has celebrated its 46th Raising Day.  
**Note:** From just 7 surface platforms in 1978, the ICG has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory. It is the 4th largest Coast Guard in the world.

3. **Wetlands Action for People and Nature** is the theme of the World Wetland Day 2022, being observed every year on 2nd February.  
**Note:** World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2nd February globally. The objective of the day is to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.
4. World Interfaith Harmony Week is an annual event observed every year from **February 1 to 7**.  
**Note:** The celebration of this event spreads the message of mutual respect, love, and tolerance among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths, and beliefs. This week is especially important to celebrate in today's time as interfaith harmony is central and essential to take the human race forward.
5. **Close the Care Gap** is the theme of the World Cancer Day 2022.  
**Note:** World Cancer Day is celebrated every year on February 4. It is a global uniting initiative led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC). Cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.
6. The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on **4th February**.  
**Note:** The annual event designated by the United Nations honours the religious and cultural diversity present in our world. Amidst rising religious intolerance in parts of the world, International Day of Human Fraternity seeks to showcase how diverse religions and cultures enrich our life and progress as humankind.
7. **Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation** is the theme of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation 2021.  
**Note:** The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6th February to create awareness about ending the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). The day has been marked since 2012 by the United Nations (UN).
8. **Together for a better internet** is the theme of the Safer Internet Day 2022.  
**Note:** Safer Internet Day is observed every year on the second day of the second week of February with the aim of providing a safer and better internet. This year in 2022, Safer Internet Day falls on 08 February 2022.
9. **Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agri-food systems** is the theme of the World Pulses Day 2022, celebrated every year on 10th February.  
**Note:** World Pulses Day is observed every year on 10 February to spread public awareness of the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses as part of sustainable food production.
10. National Deworming Day is observed on **10th February**, to make people aware of the importance of deworming, particularly for children from 1 to 19 years of age.  
**Note:** The Day was launched by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2015**. The main aim of the Day

is to raise awareness on intestinal worms and to attain complete eradication of Soil-Transmitted Helminths in children. Around 24% of the world's population is infected with soil-transmitted helminths (worms).

11. **Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us** is the theme for the 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022.  
**Note:** International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on 11 February to achieve full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls. The day reminds us that women are not only beneficiaries of science but are also agents of change.
12. World Unani Day is observed every year on **11th February** to mark the birth anniversary of "Hakim Ajmal Khan".  
**Note:** The day is observed on February 11, which is the birthday of noted physician Hakim Ajmal Khan, the pioneer of Unani medicine in India. The theme of this conference is "Diet and Nutrition in Unani Medicine for good health and well-being."
13. National Productivity Day is observed every year in India on **12th February**.  
**Note:** The objective of the National Productivity Council is to stimulate and promote productivity and quality consciousness across all sectors in the country. The main observance of the day is to encourage all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes.
14. **Radio and Trust** is the theme of the World Radio Day 2022.  
**Note:** This Day was proclaimed by UNESCO on 3rd November, 2011 during its 36th conference. It was adopted by United Nations General Assembly in 2012 and was first observed in 2013.
15. **Sarojini Naidu's** birth anniversary is celebrated as National Women's Day in India on 13th February every year.  
**Note:** She was a political activist and poet who was an important figure in India's struggle for independence. She was honoured with the title of Nightingale of India or 'Bharat Kokila', by Mahatma Gandhi
16. International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on **Second Monday of February (14th February 2022)**.  
**Note:** International Epilepsy Day seeks to raise awareness and educate the general public on the true facts about epilepsy and the urgent need for improved treatment, better care, and greater investment in research.
17. International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) is observed every year on **15th February**.  
**Note:** The day is a global collaborative campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.

18. Every year India observes the Soil Health Card Day on **19<sup>th</sup> February** to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme.

**Note:** 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme. The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.

**19. Using technology for multilingual learning:**

**Challenges and opportunities** is the theme of the International Mother Language Day.

**Note:** The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on the 21st of February to raise awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. The IMLD day was announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999 and formally recognized by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2002.

**20. Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment** is the theme of the World Day of Social Justice 2022.

**Note:** World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on February 20, since 2009 to raise voice against social injustice and to bring various communities internationally together to eliminate poverty, gender, physical discrimination, illiteracy, religious discrimination to make socially integrated society.

21. World Pangolin Day is celebrated every on **Third Saturday of February (19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022)** to raise awareness about this shy, elusive mammal covered in hard scales from tip to tail.

**Note:** This year marks the 11th edition of the Day. Pangolins are known as the world's most trafficked animals. Two out of eight species of pangolins are listed as 'critically endangered' in the IUCN Red List.

22. World Thinking Day is celebrated every year on **22<sup>nd</sup> February**.

**Note:** The day is observed to think about fellow brothers and sisters around the world, address their concerns and understand the true meaning of guiding.

The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future.

23. Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on **24<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:** In India, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is responsible for administering Customs, Goods, and Service Tax (GST), Central Excise, Service Tax, and Narcotics in India.

24. **Food Futurism** is the theme of the National Protein Day 2022.

**Note:** National Protein Day is observed every year in India on 27th February to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include of this macronutrient in their diet. The day was introduced for the first time in 2020, by the 'Right to Protein', a national-level public health awareness initiative to educate people about the importance of adequate protein consumption for better nutrition, health, and wellbeing.

25. World NGO Day is celebrated every year on **27<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:** It is an international day to recognise, celebrate and honour non-government and non-profit organisations and also those who contribute their time and efforts in making society a better place to live in.

26. National Science Day is celebrated every year on **28<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Note:** On this day, Indian Physicist Sir C.V. Raman announced the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930. In 1986, Government of India designated 28 February as National Science Day. This year the theme of the National Science Day is- Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future.

27. The Rare Disease Day is celebrated every year on **Last day of February (28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022)**.

**Note:** The Rare Disease Day (RDD) is observed every year on the last day of February. This year in 2022 it falls on February 28, 2022. Theme 2022: "Share Your Colors."

## New Appointments

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 Senapati, 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 Debasish 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 Sandago 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, Khadakwasla, 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 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.

### Important News - India

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 **46<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:** The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries. The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.

24. Recently 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Arunachal 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 quit 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. De-notified 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 Klenzaids.
- 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 have 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 **43<sup>rd</sup>**, 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.

### Important News – State

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 Bieznel 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 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 , Mehndi 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) **48<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### Important News - World

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

**3. 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.

**4. North Korea** has tested fired Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) named "Hwasong-12" — **North Korea**.

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

**5. 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.

**6. 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 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.

## Honor & Awards

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, Sarvajanik 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.

## Sports News

- 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:** Owning 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 Airthlings 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 Jatyan** 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.

### Books and Authors

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.

### Science and Defence

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 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.

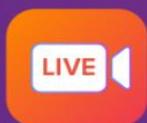
11. 'Cope South 22' is a joint tactical airlift exercise of **US and Bangladesh**.

**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 **ITI Delhi** successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyaachal 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 inception 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).

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