

Monthly GK Digest

March 2022



Monthly Digest March -2022

Dear readers,

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

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to the second advance estimates of national income released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), **8.9%** would be the India's GDP growth rate in FY 2021-22.
Note: Gross Value-Added (GVA) is expected to grow by 8.3% this financial year, from 4.8% contraction in 2020-21. India's GDP shrunk 6.6% in 2020-21, with the first half of the year recording a sharp contraction.
2. The government of India has approved **up to 20 percent** of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under 'automatic route' in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.
Note: It is aimed at attracting long-term foreign investors to the issue. IPO – An IPO is the selling of securities (shares of the company) to the public in the primary market (usually to institutional investors and retail investors).
3. Recently Japan and India have renewed the Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) of **\$ 125 billion**.
Note: The Bank of Japan, acting as an agent for the Minister of Finance Japan, and the RBI signed the amendment and restatement agreement of the bilateral swap agreement (BSA). Essentially, BSA is a two-way arrangement where both authorities can swap their local currencies in exchange for dollars.
4. Bank of Maharashtra has partnered with Mahagram to roll out 'Bank Sakhi' project in **Odisha**.
Note: As part of the tie-up, the company has onboarded more than 11,000 bank sakhis (women) on the BharatATM platform to help the rural citizens avail basic banking services at their doorstep or the next door Kirana stores
5. In association with **HDFC Bank** the NSE International Exchange (NSE IFSC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India launched trading in India's first Unsponsored Depository Receipts.
Note: This will offer Indian retail investors an opportunity to invest in the US stocks, listed on exchanges like NYSE and NASDAQ, in an easy and affordable way. NSE-IFSC kick-started trading in 8 prominent US stocks such as Alphabet, Amzon, Tesla, Meta Platforms (Facebook), Microsoft, Netflix, Apple and Walmart.
6. **Mahindra Group** has announced a collaboration with Google Cloud to fuel the conglomerate's digital transformation strategy and its next phase of business growth.
Note: Mahindra Group's Digital, Data and Cloud Center of Excellence, referred to as Mahindra Digital Engine (MDE), will leverage Google Cloud's "secure and reliable" infrastructure and advanced data analytics technology to drive innovation across the group's multiple business units, including its core operations, its customer-facing channels, and its employee experience.
7. **Reliance Group** has announced invest Rs 1670 cr to create a joint venture (JV) with U.S.-listed Sanmina Corp for making electronic products in Chennai.
Note: The JV aims to make hardware for 5G communications, cloud infrastructure, healthcare systems, and defense and aerospace, Reliance said in a regulatory filing. Reliance will hold a 50.1 per cent stake in the JV after the investment in Sanmina's existing Indian entity through a Reliance unit. Sanmina will contribute its existing contract manufacturing business to the JV.
8. **Tata Motors** has launched 'Anubhav,' showroom on wheels, a doorstep car buying experience for the rural customers.
Note: Tata Motors' Anubhav showroom on wheels was developed with assistance from the company's Commercial Vehicles Fully Built Vehicles (FBV) Division. The showroom on wheels is based on the Tata Intra V10 and will be operated by dealerships under the company's guidance and supervision.
9. Payment wallet, **Paytm** has partnered with IRCTC to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations.
Note: It is the first time that Indian Railways is providing a digital payment option for providing ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs. QR codes can be scanned on ATVMs installed at railway stations. Paytm Passengers have multiple payment

options like Paytm UPI, Wallet, Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later), etc

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: The next generation Intellect Quantum solution is built on cutting edge API first, cloud-native and cloud-agnostic microservices architecture supported by a rich set of packaged business components. It supports over 100 million transactions, over 250 commercial banks, 35 state government and union territories along with a number of Central Government ministries.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21. 'DigiSaathi', a 24×7 Helpline for Digital Payments has been launched by **RBI**.

Note: The Reserve Bank of India along with National Payment Corporation India launched the DigiSaathi, which will help customers of payments systems including cards. This initiative will help customers address queries in the digital payments umbrella including cards. Right now it is available in two languages – English and Hindi

22. BE (A)WARE, a booklet featuring modus operandi of financial frauds has been released by **RBI**.

Note: The booklet aims to enhance public awareness about various types of financial frauds perpetrated on gullible customers while carrying out digital payments and other financial transactions.

23. **UPI123pay** is the name of the UPI facility launched by RBI for feature phones.

Note: One is UPI123pay- which provides a UPI payment facility on feature phones and the second is "DigiSaathi" which is a 24×7 Helpline for Digital Payments. The UPI123pay will provide the users of feature phones the option to use Unified Interface Payments (UPI) for making payments.

24. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has increased the investment limit for retail investors applying in public issues of debt securities with the facility to block funds through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism to **Rs 5 lakh**.

Note: The market watchdog Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the limit for investment through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) mechanism to ₹5 lakh for investors applying in public issues of debt securities based on discussions with market. The increased limit of ₹5 lakh via UPI mode will be effective on public issues of debt securities which will open on or after May 1, 2022.

25. In partnership with **NSDL Payments Bank** and NPCI, software company ToneTag has recently rolled out its VoiceSe UPI digital payments for feature phone users.

Note: The announcement comes in the wake of the Reserve Bank of India launching UPI 123Pay facility that enables UPI payments for feature phone users.

26. **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance** company has signed a bancassurance partnership agreement with Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd.

Note: This collaboration facilitates a common platform to reach out to the bank's five lakh plus customers with relevant life insurance solutions. The

agreement will provide life insurance support to more than 5 lakh customers of the bank.

27. **Rs 5,000 crore** will be the initial authorized share capital of National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC).

Note: For setting up NLMC, the Centre allocated an initial authorised share capital of Rs 5,000 crore and paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore. National Land Monetisation Corporation will undertake monetisation of surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and other Government agencies.

28. Under **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934** the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will regulate and supervise the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID).

Note: It will now be guided under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Currently RBI has four AIFIs: EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID: Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

29. **Axis Bank** has kicked off the 'HouseWorksWork' initiative, offering opportunities to those who want to rejoin the professional space.

Note: It has been launched as the bank feels that the participation of urban educated women in the workforce is still not at desired levels. Through this initiative, bank aims to get these women back to work, by giving them confidence that they are employable, they have skills and they can fit in various job roles.

30. **LivQuik** becomes the first Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuer to have achieved full interoperability as mandated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for their PPIs.

Note: RBI, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act) mandated all PPI Issuers to facilitate interoperability for full-KYC (Know Your Customers) wallets by March 31, 2022. The interoperability provides choice to customers for optimizing their payments and spending across wallets by attaching a card on Visa and RuPay networks and can also enable UPI (Unified Payments Interface).

31. Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has slashed the interest rate on provident fund deposits for 2021-22 at **8.10%**.

Note: Interest rate on PF deposit was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20. This decision was taken at the 230th meeting of the Central Board of Trustees, EPF under the Chairmanship of Bhupendra Yadav (Union Minister for Labour & Employment). EPFO: Statutory body responsible for the regulation and management of provident funds in India.

- 32. IIFL Securities Limited** has launched India's first primary markets investment platform, 'OneUp' for investing in initial public offerings (IPOs), non-convertible debentures (NCDs) and sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), among others.
Note: It enables buyers to analyse, transact and handle new investment alternatives, all on one single platform. The benefits of the platforms can be utilized by IIFL Securities and non-IIFL Securities clients with none signup necessities.
- 33. Bank of India (BOI)** has entered into a co-lending partnership with Vijayawada-based IKF Finance to offer commercial vehicle loans.
Note: The public sector bank will leverage the reach of the NBFC to build its MSMEs portfolio. The disbursement under the Co-Lending arrangement has commenced on 9th March 2022.
- 34. Vodafone Idea** cellular company has a gaming portal in partnership with Nazara Technologies Ltd.
Note: Nazara is an India-based diversified gaming and sports media company. Its games offering will initially offer casual games and gradually expand to host social games and esports in the future.
- 35.** Digital payments company, **Paytm** expanded its partnership with IRCTC to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVM) installed at railway stations across the country.
Note: This is the first time Indian Railways is providing an option to pay digitally for ticketing services through UPI on ATVMs to promote cashless commuting among railway passengers. The ATVMs placed at the railway stations are touch-screen based ticketing kiosks that will allow passengers to pay digitally, without requiring smart cards.
- 36. IDBI Bank** has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers.
Note: LMS and G-LMS provide real-time, web-based and formula driven liquidity management solution," said the private sector in a statement. These solutions provide tools to institutions for enhanced visibility of liquidity position across the organisation, helping them in forecasting and projecting the cash positions at a glance.
- 37. Edelweiss Housing Finance** has announced a strategic co-lending partnership with Standard Chartered Bank, for extending loans against property (LAP) to prospective customers, especially MSMEs.
Note: Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain 20 per cent of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80 per cent will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank. The co-lending partnership will help the bank grow its loan portfolio, it would provide an alternate model for

loan disbursals that is asset-light and creates a sound revenue model for sustainable business for EHFL.

- 38.** Axis Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Airtel to strengthen the growth of the digital ecosystem in India, through a range of financial solutions.
Note: The partnership would enable access to credit and various digital financial offerings from Axis Bank to Airtel's 340 million-plus customers. These will include first-of-its-kind co-branded credit card 'Airtel Axis Bank Credit Card' with industry-leading benefits, pre-approved instant loans, Buy Now Pay Later offerings and many more.
- 39.** E-commerce company, **Flipkart** has entered into a multi-year strategic partnership with Google Cloud to help fast-track its innovation and cloud strategy.
Note: The partnership will propel Flipkart into its next phase of growth and advance its vision of onboarding India's next 200 million shoppers and lakhs of sellers. The companies didn't reveal the value of this deal.
- 40.** Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has collaborated with **Tamil Nadu** state government to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.
Note: To facilitate this, BSE will partner with MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB). As part of the collaboration, BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements. Further, the BSE will also provide all intellectual and manpower support to create awareness among SMEs across Tamil Nadu, about benefits of listing.
- 41.** The Insolvency regulator IBBI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Banks Association (IBA)** to collaborate on capacity building for financial creditors on topics related to insolvency, bankruptcy and related subjects.
Note: To improve the processes under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), Ravi Mital urged bankers to share their suggestions and feedback regarding the IBC ecosystem with the IBBI.
- 42.** Private sector bank, **ICICI Bank** has announced a tie-up with Emirates Skywards, a loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, to launch a range of co-branded credit cards.
Note: Named, 'Emirates Skywards ICICI Bank Credit Card', the cards will enable customers to earn reward points, called Skywards Miles, on travel, lifestyle and everyday spends. The bank is the first Indian bank to partner with Emirates Skywards, to offer an exclusive range of credit cards in the country.
- 43.** **Niva Bupa Health Insurance** has announced a customized group plan for comprehensive coverage of

cancer treatment at an annual premium of just ₹1499, plus taxes.

Note: This product has been developed by Niva Bupa in consultation with the Indian Cancer Society (ICS). This group insurance plan is designed for low and middle-income families and not only covers hospitalisation but also day-care expenses like radiation, chemotherapy, etc. This family floater plan offers ₹5 lakh coverage for up to two adults and three children (for families that do not have cancer).

44. DBS Bank has announced the launch of its Green Deposit Programme for corporate clients providing a simple way for companies to support environmentally friendly projects or avenues.

Note: "DBS Bank is one of the few banks globally to integrate Sustainable Development Goals by offering lending & trade credit solutions to sustainable and environmentally friendly green sectors and now offering a Green Deposit product. Under the Bank's sustainability programme, Green Deposits will fund green industries and initiatives such as green building sustainable water initiatives that include wastewater management, renewable energy and clean transportation. The Green Deposits proposition combines all the benefits of a regular fixed deposit with a commitment from DBS to support green and sustainable loans disbursed by the bank.

45. SoftBank-backed Quick Commerce start-up Blinkit, earlier known as Grofers, has signed a merger deal with food delivery company **Zomato**.

Note: Reportedly, it will be an all-stock deal where Blinkit's investors will gain proportionate shares in Zomato. The deal is likely to be completed in 60 days time. The companies have signed a term sheet about two-three weeks ago and are preparing to file an application with the Competition Commission of India for approval of the transaction.

46. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank launched Industry's first digital onboarding facility for its micro banking customers through its app.

Note: The Ujjivan SFB Assisted app provides the facility to update mobile numbers for individual banking transactions through paperless and secured manner. It is an OTP and biometric authentication based process. Customers can update their mobile number once every six months through the platform and at any point in time by visiting any branch of the small finance bank.

47. Axis Bank has been awarded IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year, for its breadth of coverage and depth of expertise in the Asian investment banking space.

Note: The award acknowledges the bank's outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments. Axis Bank was the only local house to serve as a global coordinator for the record Rs. 183 Bn Paytm IPO, and

was also the global coordinator for MacroTech Developers' Rs. 25 Bn IPO.

48. The RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India joined hands with **IIT Madras** to work together in developing the ecosystem necessary to support and scale fintech startups in India.

Note: Through this strategic collaboration, the two organizations will jointly provide incubation support and nurture early-stage startups with innovative and disruptive solutions and accelerate their scale-up journey. In addition, IITM Incubation Cell and RBIH may collaborate on projects including policy whitepapers, research papers under this partnership.

49. Moody's Investors Service has revised India's economic growth projection in the calendar year 2022 to **9.1 percent**.

Note: For 2023, the global rating firm expects India's gross domestic product to expand 5.4%, marginally lower than its previous projection of 5.5%. India's GDP grew 8.2% in 2021, after a 6.7% contraction the year before.

50. Karnataka Bank has won the "Best MSME Bank of the year – Winner" award among private sector Banks at the 8th MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit.

Note: Karnataka Bank has bagged 'Best MSME Bank of the year - Winner' award among private sector Banks at 8th edition of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises's Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit instituted by ASSOCHAM at New Delhi. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM): non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in New Delhi.

51. The increased timeline for startups to convert debt investments (convertible note) made in the company into equity shares is 10 years.

Note: This decision is likely to give a relief to budding entrepreneurs to deal with the impact of Covid-19 pandemic. Earlier the option of changing convertible notes into equity shares was allowed for up to five years from the day when initial convertible note was issued. An investor can invest in a startup through convertible notes, which is a kind of debt/loan instrument.

52. State Bank of India (SBI) plans to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at **Hyderabad**.

Note: This will build in-house capability to bolster its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation. The center will be operational in six to nine months of on-boarding a consultant. It will help the bank to develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills for the introduction of new products and services.

53. HDFC Bank has decided to launch an application 'AutoFirst' that will offer fully automated auto loans.

- Note:** The 'AutoFirst' application will provide completely automated loans as the bank looks to triple its monthly merchant loan output. HDFC Bank is also likely to initiate a dedicated platform for vehicle loan customers.
- 54.** HDFC Bank set to launch set the SmartHub Vyapar program for merchants that will handle all payment platforms like cards, UPI, SMS-based payments, QR Code and tap pay.
Note: The bank set to launch the SmartHub Vyapar program for merchants that will handle all payment platforms like cards, UPI, SMS-based payments, QR Code and tap pay. HDFC Bank has planned to on-board 20 million merchants within the next three years.
- 55.** Government has extended Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt for Stressed Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs upto **31st March 2023**.
Note: The scheme was launched on 24th June, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs. The scheme has been further extended on the basis of the requests received from the stakeholders of the scheme.
- 56.** Electronics and smartphone maker Samsung will invest Rs 1,588 crore in India to set up a new compressor manufacturing plant in **Tamil Nadu**.
Note: Leading South Korean consumer electronics and smartphone maker Samsung will invest Rs 1,588 crore in India to set up a new compressor manufacturing plant at its existing facility at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. The new facility will spread over 22 acres and have a capacity to roll out 8 million compressor units per annum and this will be expanded in the future also, Samsung said in a statement.
- 57.** Card service provider VISA and Transcorp have teamed up with Mahila Money to launch the Mahila Money Prepaid Card, a product created for women entrepreneurs to use digital payments more effectively.
Note: The partnership leverages the deep expertise of Visa, the global leader in payments, Transcorp PPI, and the highly engaged community of Mahila Money. The Mahila Money Prepaid Card, in partnership with Visa, is designed with the needs of digital entrepreneurs, small business owners and women in mind.
- 58.** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has come out with the 'on-device' wallet feature for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) users, which will be known as "**UPI Lite**".
Note: This is aimed at reducing stress on the banking system and making the transaction process even simpler. UPI Lite will process transactions in near offline mode i.e., debit offline and credit online, and at a later point, UPI Lite will process transactions in complete offline mode i.e., debit and credit both offline.
- 59.** According to the ministry of finance **SBI** will provide \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items.
Note: The finance ministry said State Bank of India (SBI) will provide \$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka for procurement of food, medicines and other essential items. Earlier, the Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) had extended a line of credit of \$500 million for financing the purchase of petroleum products to Sri Lanka which is facing a financial crisis.
- 60.** Kotak Mahindra Bank has entered into an MoU with Business France, the French national agency in charge of the development of exports and international investments in France, to support companies in the Indo-French corridor.
Note: The MoU will try to promote business and start-up ecosystem cooperation and identify business and investment opportunities in India and France
- 61.** According to a Mercom India report, India added how much new solar open access capacity in 2021, marking a growth of 222% year-over-year (YoY) **1.2 GW**.
Note: The cumulative installed solar capacity in the open access market crossed 5 GW. The country added 298 MW of new solar open access capacity in the fourth quarter (Q4) of calendar year 2021, a 75% increase compared to the same period in 2020.
- 62.** SBI Card, joins hand with **Nature's Basket** grocery store brand to launch International Gourmet Card.
Note: This card will introduced in two variants - 'Nature's Basket SBI Card' and 'Nature's Basket SBI Card Elite'. The annual membership fee of Nature's Basket SBI Card and its Elite version will be Rs. 1499 and Rs. 4,999 respectively.
- 63.** In March 2022, Fitch Rating reduces India's FY23 growth forecast by 180 basis points to **8.5%**.
Note: Fitch Rating downgrades the forecast citing sharply higher energy prices. The economic sanctions on Russia have led to high energy prices, supply-chain disruptions, raw material shortages, and record inflation rates. Forecast growth for FY23; 1. Moody's - 9.1%; 2. S&P - 7.8%
- 64.** In March 2022, for the first time ever, India has achieved the target of **400 billion dollars** of goods exports.
Note: On average, every hour USD 46 million goods are exported, USD 1 billion goods are exported everyday and USD 33 billion every month. The exports in the financial year 2020-21 were USD 292 billion while the exports in 2021-22 are USD 400 billion with a 37 per cent rise.
- 65.** **ICICI Bank** has launched the co-branded credit card for in partnership with Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

- Note:** Christened 'Chennai Super Kings ICICI Bank Credit Card,' the card has been specially designed with a range of exclusive privileges for cricket fans of the iconic team. ICICI Bank CEO - Sandeep Bakhshi
66. In March 2022, Kotak Mahindra has acquired **7.84%** stakes in ONDC for 10 crore rupees.
Note: This network develops and transform the Indian digital commerce ecosystem for both goods and services. It is an initiative of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
67. ICICI Lombard has recently tied up with **Airtel Payment Bank** for the insurance of smartphone.
Note: This insurance facility is available on the Airtel Thanks app. This provides financial protection against damage to the phone and its screen from accidents or liquid spills. Customers can get an insurance till ten days after their purchase. Price of smartphone lies between the range of ₹10,000 to ₹ 100,000.
68. Mobility firm, **Ola** has recently acquired Avail Finance.
Note: This acquisition provides financial services to working class. The acquisition will strengthen the Ola in the fintech space.
69. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has inaugurated Reserve Bank Innovation Hub in **Bengaluru**.
Note: The RBI has set up the RBIH as a Section 8 under Companies Act, 2013. RBIH is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI with an initial capital contribution of ₹100 crore.
70. Priya Village Roadshow (PVR), announced its merger with **INOX** entertainment company.
Note: After the formalities of merger, the company will be known as PVR Inox Limited. Ajay Bijli will be MD of PVR Inox Limited, Sanjeev Kumar will be executive director and Pavan Kumar Jain will be non-executive chairman of the consolidated board.
71. EaseMyTrip partners with **DBS Bank** to launch environment-- friendly green international debit card.
Note: This card is made using 99% recycled polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material. Green Debit Card provides exclusive travel-related offers and rewards to customers for adopting eco-friendly practices.
72. **HDFC Life** has recently launched digital the education platform 'KlarifyLife' to simplify life insurance complex topics.

- Note:** 'KlarifyLife' is available on social media platforms like Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook.
73. Recently, RBI has set up the ink manufacturing unit of BRBNMPL named 'Varnika' in **Mysuru**.
Note: Varnika has an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT, which helps to enhance the security of banknotes.
74. In March 2022, ICRA has reduced the India GDP forecast for FY23 to **7.2%**.
Note: ICRA projected GDP expansion in FY22 at 8.5%. The reason for the cut in GDP forecast is the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which increases commodity prices and the lockdown in China.
75. In March 2022, **US\$ 69.56 billion** is the trade deficit between India and China's bilateral trade.
Note: India's exports to China increased by 34.28% year on year to reach US\$28.03 billion. India's imports from China witnessed an increase of 46.14% to reach US\$97.59 billion.
76. Cabinet has approved **\$808 million** for the improvement and acceleration of the performance of MSME.
Note: The new scheme is expected to commence in financial 2022-23. Out of the total amount, \$ 500 million would be a loan from the World Bank, and the remaining amount of \$ 308 million will be funded by the government of India.
77. **HDFC ERGO** firm has launched the industry's first digital reward program, VAULT.
Note: VAULT program leads the way in customer loyalty. It is the industry's first digital customer engagement and rewards program.
78. Central government is planning to sell **5%** of stake in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to raise over ₹3,000 crore through an offer for sale.
Note: Of these, a minimum of 25% of the shares will be reserved for mutual funds and insurance companies, 10% for retail investors, and 075% for employees. Divestment target for FY22 - Rs 78,000 crore. Divestment target for FY 23 - Rs 65,000 crore.

Obituaries

1. Cricket Sonny Ramadhin who passed away recently represented **West Indies**.
Note: He was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950. He made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1950. Ramadhin ended up playing 43 Tests and taking 158 wickets at an average of 28.98.
2. Renowned personality Jaiprakash Chouksey passed away recently, he was veteran **Film critic**.

- Note:** Chouksey has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011), and was also involved in writing for television serials.
3. Renowned cricketer Rod Marsh passed away recently; he used to play for **Australia**.
Note: Marsh had been in an induced coma after suffering a heart attack when he attended a charity event. The 74-year old played 96 Tests for Australia

and was the first wicket-keeper from his country to score a century.

4. Legendary **Australian** spin bowler Shane Warne passed away recently.
Note: He made his cricket debut in 1992, played 145 Tests for Australia, and picked up 708 wickets. He had retired from all formats of cricket in July 2013 and was regarded as one of the greatest bowlers in the history of cricket. He took 708 Test wickets (most ever for an Australian), and the second-most of all time behind Muttiah Muralitharan.
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6. Renowned personality Rafiq Tarar passed away recently, he was former President of **Pakistan**.
Note: Muhammad Rafiq Tarar was born on 2 November 1929 in Peer Kot, Pakistan. He served as a Supreme Court judge from 1991 to 1994. He also served as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court from 1989 to 1991. Later, he became Pakistan's President for the period of 1997 to 2001.
7. Renowned personality Rupiah Banda who passed away recently was former President of **Zambia**.
Note: The former president, who ruled the country from 2008 to 2011, passed away. He was diagnosed with colon cancer in 2020 and since then his health has been failing. He received treatment in Dubai on several occasions.
8. Renowned personality V Ravi Rama Krishna passed away recently, he was a veteran **Bureaucrats**.

Note: Senior Indian Information Service officer and former Prasar Bharati Kabul Correspondent V Ravi Rama Krishna passed away. He was working as Additional Director General in PIB, Vijayawada.

9. Renowned personality Eugene Parker passed away recently he was a veteran **Astrophysicist**.
Note: Parker was hailed as a visionary who laid the foundations for the field of heliophysics, the science of understanding the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the Solar System, including space weather. In 2018, he became the first person to witness the launch of a spacecraft bearing his name, NASA's Parker Solar Probe.
10. **Former Chief Justice of India** R C Lahoti passed away recently.
Note: Justice Lahoti was appointed as the **35th chief justice of India** on June 1, 2004. He retired on November 1, 2005.
11. Stephen Wilhite passes away, he is known as a creator of **Animated GIF**.
Note: The Oxford American Dictionary named GIF the word of the year in 2012. He was also honoured with a Webby Lifetime Achievement award in 2013. GIF refers to Graphics Interchange Format
12. Miguel Van Damme passed away, was related to sports of **Football**.
Note: Belgian footballer Miguel Van Damme passed away following a long-running battle with leukaemia. He was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2016.
13. Former chief minister of **Sikkim, Bhim Bahadur Gurung** passed away recently.
Note: B. Gurung served as a teacher and a staff reporter in a Calcutta (Kolkata)-based newspaper the Amrita Bazar Patrika and he also edited the first news-based Nepali Journal of Sikkim, called Kanchenjunga.

Important Days

1. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers is celebrating the Janaushadhi Diwas from **1st March to 7th March 2022**.
Note: The theme of 4th Janaushadhi Diwas: "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi". The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.
2. **Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi** is the theme of the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas that was celebrated on 7 March 2022.
Note: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers will organize the Janaushadhi Diwas from 1st March to 7th March 2022. On 7th March 2022, the 4th Jan Aushadhi Diwas will be celebrated. The Government has set a target to increase the number of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) to 10,500 by the end of March 2025.
3. Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated every year on **1st March**.
Note: The observance is aimed at promoting equality and fairness, both before the law and in practice. "Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower," is the powerful theme under which UNAIDS aims to address the urgent need for action against discriminatory laws.
4. World Civil Defence Day is annually observed across the globe on **1st March**.
Note: The day is celebrated to honour the significance of Civil Defence and the personnel who have sacrificed their lives for it. The theme of World Civil Defence Day 2022 is "Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics".

5. **From 1st to 8th March** the Ministry of Women and Child Development celebrate the International Women's Day week in 2022.

Note: As a part of the week-long celebration for International Women's Day, the Ministry will organize various events and social media campaigns covering a variety of themes related to women's safety and empowerment.

6. The 46th Civil Accounts Day was celebrated on **2nd March**.

Note: Nirmala Sitharaman is the Chief Guest of the occasion. Finance Minister has launched a major e-governance initiative – the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system as part of ease of doing business and Digital India eco-system. A Budget 2022-23 announcement, the e- Bill system will be implemented across all Central Ministries and Departments.

7. World Wildlife Day is observed every year on **3rd March** to raise awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora.

Note: Theme 2022: Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration. The day was proposed by Thailand and recognized by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2013. March 3 has been chosen as it is the day of signature of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

8. World Hearing Day is observed every year on **3rd March**.

Note: On World Hearing Day 2022, WHO will focus on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course. In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlighted the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss.

9. In India, National Security Day (Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas) is celebrated every year on **4th March**.

Note: The day aims to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security, who sacrifice their life in maintaining the peace and security of the people of the country. Apart from this, National Security Week 2022 is being celebrated from March 4 to March 10, 2022.

10. The National Safety Day is observed every year on **4th March**.

Note: The National Safety Council established the holiday to raise public awareness of all safety principles, including road safety, workplace safety, human health safety, and environmental safety. The holiday is also intended to reaffirm employees' and the general public's commitment to working safely throughout the year.

11. In 2022, CISF observed its **53rd edition** of Raising Day celebrations.

Note: CISF was set up under an Act of the Parliament of India on 10 March 1969, to provide security cover to industrial units, government infrastructure projects and facilities and establishments located all over India. Eventually, it was made an armed force of the Republic of India by another Act of Parliament passed on 15 June 1983. CISF is one of six paramilitary forces in India and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

12. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated globally every year on **8th March**.

Note: The day recognises the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The event celebrates women's achievements and raises awareness about women's equality and lobbies for accelerated gender parity.

13. On which date every year the No Smoking Day is celebrated across the world.

Note: This year No Smoking Day will be celebrated on **9th March**. The day is celebrated to help those who wish to quit smoking as well as to raise awareness about the implications of smoking on an individual's health.

14. World Kidney day is celebrated every year on Second Thursday of March.

Note: This year, it is being observed on **March 10**. World Kidney Day is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness of the importance of our kidneys. World Kidney Day aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

15. The CISF Raising Day is celebrated every year on **10th March**.

Note: In the year 1969, the CISF was set up on March 10 and three battalions were formed under the CISF act 1968, which was passed by the Parliament of India. Since then, the day is celebrated as CISF Raising Day every year. Central Industrial Security Force, is for the central armed police force in India. It is one of the six paramilitary forces in India functioning under the Union Home Ministry.

16. International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on **10th March**.

Note: On this day, the United National reaffirms its commitment to develop and implement appropriate and effective strategies and plans for the advancement of women in the judicial system and institution at the managerial and leadership level.

17. World Rotaract Day is celebrated every year on **13th March** to acknowledge the services provided by the rotaractors across the world.

Note: The theme of World Rotaract Day 2022 is "Rotary Making a Difference". World Rotaract Week will be held from 11 March 2022 to 18 March 2022.

- Rotary Club is the community service organization for young men and women.
18. International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is observed globally every year on **14th March**.
Note: It is also known as the **Pi Day** because the mathematical constant π (**pi**) can be rounded down to **3.14**. It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics in science and technology, improve quality of life, empower women and girls, and contribute to sustainable development. This is a relatively new event that was created just a couple of years back. The theme for 2022 IDM is **"Mathematics Unites!"**.
19. United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed **15th March** as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
Note: The 193-member UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram under agenda item Culture of peace, to proclaim March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.
20. **Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World** is the theme of the World Sleep Day 2022 that is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep.
Note: The World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep. In 2022, World Sleep Day falls on 18th March 2022.
21. The Global Recycling Day is observed every year on **18th March**.
Note: Theme - 2022: "recycling fraternity". The theme recognises the people who put themselves on the frontline to collect waste and recycle during the multiple lockdowns. The Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 by the London-based Global Recycling Foundation to promote the concept and practice of recycling.
22. For the first time the 83rd Raising Day program of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was celebrated outside the national capital in **Jammu**.
Note: This is the first time, CRPF is celebrating its Raising Day outside the national capital. The CRPF Raising Day is held on March 19 after India's first HM Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel presented colors to the CRPF following the enactment of the CRPF Act by the Parliament in 1950
23. The International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on **20th March**.
Note: The United Nations started celebrating this day in 2013, but the resolution for the same was passed on July 12, 2012. The resolution was initiated by Bhutan which shed the light on the importance of National Happiness. The theme for the 2022 International Day of Happiness campaign is "Build Back Happier".
24. World Sparrow Day is observed every year on **20th March** to raise awareness about the importance of House Sparrow and other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
Note: Theme of 2022 World Sparrow Day: I LOVE Sparrows. World Sparrow Day was first celebrated in 2010. Sparrow is native to most of Europe, Mediterranean Basin, and Asia. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) included house sparrow under Endangered species in 2002.
25. World Oral Health Day is observed every year on **20th March**.
Note: To raise global awareness of the issues around oral health and the importance of oral hygiene so that governments, health associations and the general public can work together to achieve healthier mouths and happier lives. The theme for World Oral Health Day 2021-2023 is: Be Proud of Your Mouth.
26. The International Day of Forests was celebrated every year on **21st March**.
Note: The day was founded by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations in 2012. The aim behind observing the International Day of Forests is to 'celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.'
27. World Water Day is celebrated globally every year on **22nd March**.
Note: The day aims to highlight the importance of freshwater. It is used to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The World Water Day theme 2022 is "Groundwater, Making the Invisible Visible".
28. World Meteorological Day is celebrated globally every year on **23rd March**.
Note: The day is celebrated as the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and it concentrates on the behaviour of Earth's atmosphere. The day also helps people be aware of their role in protecting Earth's atmosphere. World Meteorological Day is celebrated with a different motto every year. This year World Meteorological Day is celebrated keeping the theme of Early Warning and Early Action.
29. In India, every year **23rd March** is observed as **Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas)**.
Note: The day was observed to pay tribute to the death anniversary of the freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who laid their lives for the freedom of India. Also, 30 January is observed as Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi.
30. **Invest to End TB. Save Lives** is the theme of the World Tuberculosis Day 2022, that is observed annually on March 24 every year.
Note: World TB Day is observed every year on March 24. To raise awareness about the infectious disease.

On March 24th, 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes tuberculosis.

- 31. 24th March** is observed as International Day for the Right to the Truth.

Note: This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. Monsignor Romero was actively engaged in denouncing violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable individuals in El Salvador.

- 32. Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism** is the theme of International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2022 which is observed on 25th March every year.

Note: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade observed on 25th March every year. Theme for 2022 - Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism.

- 33.** The United Nations observes the International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on **25th March**.

Note: This is a day to mobilize action, demand justice and strengthen our resolve to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, as well as our colleagues in the non-governmental community and the press.

- 34.** In March 2022, Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has announced to celebrate 5th October every year as **National Dolphin Day**.

Note: This day will celebrate to create awareness for the conservation of Dolphins. Dolphins has been

categorised as endangered species on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List.

- 35.** World Theatre Day is celebrated annually on **27th March**.

Note: This year, the World Theatre Day celebration will focus on the young, the next generation, the emerging artists, who have been a strong special focus of ITI in the recent past. Through this 60-year-old ITI flagship event, ITI wishes to offer the next generation of artists and art professionals a platform to exchange ideas and present themselves to the world.

- 36.** World Bipolar day observed on **30th March**.

Note: The theme of World Bipolar Day 2022 is Bipolar Together. March 27 observed a World Theatre Day

- 37.** World Backup Day is marked every year on **31st March** to protect our precious digital documents as we've become more reliant on technology.

Note: It is a day for people to learn about the increasing role of data in our lives and the importance of regular backups. Originally, World Backup Day began as World Backup Month, by a hard drive company named Maxtor which was later acquired by Seagate Technology.

- 38.** The International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) occurs annually on **31st March** to raise awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide.

Note: The day is dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as celebrating their contributions to society.

New Appointments

- 1. Hasmukh Adhia** has been nominated again as the chairman of state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB).

Note: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal of the Department of Financial Services for re-nomination of Adhia as non-executive chairman of the BoB. His term has been extended by another two years as chairman with effect from March 1, 2022. BoB is the third biggest public sector lender after State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank.

- 2. Akshaye Widhani** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yash Raj Films.

Note: Prior to this, he was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business Affairs and head of operations at YRF Studios. He joined Yash Raj Films as a studio manager in 2005.

- 3. Sunil Agrawal** has been appointed as the chief financial officer (CFO) of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).

Note: Prior to this, LIC executive director Shubhangi Sanjay Soman was holding charge as CFO of the insurance behemoth. Agrawal was earlier the CFO of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance for over 12 years. He was also associated with ICICI Prudential Life Insurance for 5 years.

- 4. T S Ramakrishnan** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of LIC Mutual Fund.

Note: Ramakrishnan, as the MD and CEO, LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management, will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Wholetime Director and CEO. Ramakrishnan is a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons.) and PGDIM and has been awarded Fellowship from the prestigious Insurance Institute of India.

- 5.** Vidya Balan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.

Note: She as the brand ambassador will help in promoting the #DoTheSmartThing champion of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture of Bharti, India's leading business

- group and AXA, one of the world's leading organizations in financial protection and wealth management.
6. **Nitin Chugh** has been appointed as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of State Bank of India.
Note: Chugh would be responsible for driving growth of customer acquisition through digital channels, along with defining and implementing digital strategies. The seasoned banker and a digital banking expert, with an experience of nearly three decades, served Ujjivan Small Finance Bank as its MD and CEO. He also served 18 years at HDFC Bank in several leadership roles in retail banking.
 7. **DN Patel** has been appointed as the Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).
Note: He will succeed Justice Shiva Kirti Singh. His tenure shall be governed by Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021 and Tribunal (Conditions of Service) Rules, 2021
 8. Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava has been appointed as the Chief Justice of **Rajasthan High Court**.
Note: President appointed senior-most Judge of the Rajasthan High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice under Article 223 of the Constitution of India. He will succeed Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi. Prior to Rajasthan, he was heading the Tripura High Court.
 9. **Sanjiv Kapoor** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Jet Airways.
Note: Prior to this, was the president of Oberoi Hotels and has also worked as chief operating officer at SpiceJet and chief strategy and commercial officer at Vistara. Apart from him, former Sri Lankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatileka as the chief financial officer. Jalan Kalrock Consortium is the new promoter of Jet Airways.
 10. **B Chandra Sekhar** took over charges as Commandant of Air Force Academy, Indian Air Force.
Note: He is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College Wellington, College of Defence Management, Flying Instructors School and National Defence College New Delhi. He has more than 5400 hrs of incident-free flying on various aircraft. He also holds the distinction of landing first MLH class of helicopter in the Siachen Glacier
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 14. T Raja Kumar belongs of **Singapore** has been elected as the new President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
Note: T. Raja Kumar of Singapore has been appointed as the next President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF). He will assume office with effect from July 01, 2022. for a fixed period of two-year term. Mr. Kumar will replace Dr. Marcus Pleyer of Germany.
 15. **Yoon Suk Yeol** has been elected as the new president of South Korea.
Note: He defeated his ruling liberal party opponent Lee Jae-myung. With more than 99 percent of the ballots counted, Yoon won 48.6 percent of the votes, narrowly edging his rival Lee Jae-myung of Democratic Party, who garnered 47.8 percent.
 16. **MC Mary Kom** has been appointed as brand ambassador of Lupin Ltd for its Shakti campaign.
Note: The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about heart diseases among women through interactive social media sessions, sharing informative videos from doctors, and in-clinic awareness activities for patients.
 17. **Prabha Narasimhan** has been appointed as the CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited.
Note: She succeeded Ram Raghavan, who has been promoted to the role of President, Enterprise Oral Care, at Colgate Palmolive Company. Prior to this, she was working as executive director of Hindustan Unilever (HUL).
 18. Ashwani Bhatia is Managing Director of **State bank of India**, who has been appointed as whole-time member (WTM) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
Note: According to some sources, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has also approved Ashwani Bhatia's appointment as a whole-time member of SEBI for three years from the date of his assumption of the command.
 19. **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the chairman of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) for a period of three years.
Note: Pandey, a 1984-batch Maharashtra cadre IAS officer, retired as revenue secretary in February last

- year. Prior to becoming revenue secretary, he was chief executive of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Post retirement, Pandey headed a committee to revisit the criteria for determining the economically weaker sections to provide them reservation.
- 20. Justice AK Sikri** has been appointed as the head of the high-powered committee constituted by it to “consider the cumulative and independent impact of the Char Dham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana.
Note: A Bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Surya Kant requested Justice Sikri to accept the assignment. The current head of the committee, Ravi Chopra had opted to quit. The project will provide all-weather connectivity to Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.
- 21. Debasish Panda** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), the regulator of the insurance sector.
Note: The appointment of IRDAI chairman comes nearly 9 months after the vacancy was created following Subhash Chandra Khuntia completing his term. He retired as financial services secretary in January this year after a 2-year stint. He was also on the board of the RBI.
- 22. Tapan Singhel** is Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** whose term has been extended by five years.
Note: Under Singhel's leadership, the company has emerged as one of the largest and most profitable private general insurers in the country ensuring growth, profitability, and customer-centricity. In his decade-long stint as the MD and CEO, the company has achieved a cumulative underwriting profit of more than Rs 350 crore.
- 23. N Chandrasekaran** has been appointed as the chairman of Air India.
Note: AI founder J R D Tata remained the airline's chief for decades after its nationalisation. He was chairman till February 1978 when the Morarji Desai government moved him from the post. In 1982, the Indira Gandhi government reappointed JRD to the board of Air-India (as it was written then with the hyphen).
- 24. Ranjit Rath** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL).
Note: He is currently chairman and managing director of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL). Oil India's current chairman and managing director Sushil Chandra Mishra will superannuate on June 30 this year.
- 25. Bhagwant Mann** has been sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Punjab.
Note: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and other senior party leaders participated in the swearing-in ceremony. The Aam Aadmi Party romped home winning 92 seats in the 117-member Punjab Assembly, decimating the Congress and the SAD-BSP combine.
- 26. Katalin Novak** has been elected as the first female president of **Hungary**.
Note: Novak, who most recently served as a minister for family policy, portrayed her election as a victory for women. She was elected to the mostly ceremonial role by 137 votes to 51 in the parliament dominated by Orban's right-wing Fidesz party ahead of opposition challenger Peter Rona, an economist.
- 27. Ramesh Murthy** has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**.
Note: As a CFO, he will be responsible for formulating and guiding bank's strategy for growth, while also leading the Finance and Accounts functions. MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank: Ittira Davis. Headquarters of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited: Bangalore.
- 28. N Biren Singh** took oath as the Chief Minister of Manipur.
Note: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came back to power with a landslide victory in the recently concluded assembly election. Singh was unanimously elected as leader of the legislature party of the BJP during a meeting. Prior to entering politics, Singh was a footballer and also had a career in journalism.
- 29. Indian American Ashish Jha** has been appointed as the new White House Covid-19 Response Coordinator.
Note: Dr Jha who replaces Jeff Zeints is a physician of Indian origin who lives in the US. He is an infectious disease expert and the Dean of Brown University's School of Public Health. He has worked on the ebola virus and served as co-chair of a panel to combat the disease's breakout in West Africa in 2014.
- 30. Rajesh Gopinathan** has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Tata Consultancy Services for five years.
Note: The company has also re-appointed N Ganapathy Subramaniam as the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director from February 21, 2022, to May 19, 2024, as per the retirement age policy of the Company.
- 31. Jai Shah** has been reappointed as the President of Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for a period of 1 year.
Note: He has been unanimously given an extension of the tenure during the annual general meeting of ACC. He was appointed as the President of ACC in January 2021, replacing Nazmul Hassan, (President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)). Jay Shah is also the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) since 2019.
- 32. Name the Indian economist Jayati Ghosh** has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

to a new high-level advisory board on effective multilateralism.

Note: She is a Prof. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She was previously a professor of economics and chairperson of the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is also a member of the UN's high-level Advisory Board on Economic and Social Affairs.

33. Serdar Berdymukhamedov has been elected as the President of **Turkmenistan**.

Note: He is son of Central Asian country's acting President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. Serdar Berdymukhamedov secured 72.97 percent of votes in election to lead the gas-rich country and succeed his father.

34. Yogi Adityanath sworn-in as CM of Uttar Pradesh for second time, he won the assembly election from **Gorakhpur (Urban)** constituency.

Note: He won election from Gorakhpur (urban) Constituency. BJP-led alliance won 273 of 403 seats in the recent Assembly polls.

35. In March 2022, **Ravindra Jadeja** has been appointed as a captain of Chennai Super Kings.

Note: Now he handed over his captaincy to Ravindra Jadeja. Under the captaincy of Dhoni, CSK won 4 times – 2008, 2011, 2018, 2021

36. **Justice Harish Chandra** has been sworn-in as Lokayukta of Delhi.

Note: The oath ceremony was administered by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal in Raj Niwas. The post of Lokayukta was vacant since the retirement of Rewa Khetrapal in December 2020. He will hold office for a term of five years.

37. **Pralay Mondal** has been appointed as interim MD and CEO of CSB Bank for the period of three month from 1st April 2022.

Note: C.VR. Rajendran, the present MD & CEO announced his early retirement from the position due to health reasons. CSB Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala

38. Hisashi Takeuchi has been appointed as a MD and CEO of **Maruti Suzuki**.

Note: This decision will come into effect from April 01, for a period of three years. Current MD and CEO Kenichi Ayukawa term will be ended on March 31, but he will continue as executive vice chairman and whole-time director till September 30.

39. On 28th March 2022, Pramod Sawant sworn-in as CM of Goa, he won assembly election from **Sanquelim** constituency.

Note: Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai administered him the oath of office at Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Stadium, Panaji. In the recent state Assembly polls, the BJP won 20 seats in the 40-member state Assembly.

40. **Wilfried Brutsaert** has won the Stockholm Water Prize 2022.

Note: He received this prestigious award for his groundbreaking work to quantify environmental evaporation, helping to make accurate predictions of the impact that climate change has on local rainfall patterns and water sources. He is also known as 'Mr Evaporation'.

41. **Robert Abela** has won the general election in **Malta**.

Note: He took Malta's helm in January 2020. Labour Party has won 55.11% of the total vote against the Nationalist Party's 41.7%. Prime Minister of Portugal - António Costa

42. The governing body of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) elected **Gilbert F. Hounbo** as the 11th Director-General of ILO.

Note: He is a former Prime Minister of Togo. Guy Ryder - current Director-General of ILO. Jens Stoltenberg- Secretary General of NATO. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - Director-General of WHO

43. **Shashi Sinha** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India.

Note: Chief Executive Officer of IPG Mediabrands India, Shashi Sinha, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) India. Sinha also worked with the Advertising Agencies Association of India.

44. Former CAG **Vinod Rai** has been appointed as a Chairperson of Kalyan Jewellers.

Note: Founder of Kalyan Jewellers, TS Kalyanaraman will continue as MD on the company's board.

45. In March 2022, **Jens Stoltenberg** has been appointed as the new Secretary- General of NATO.

Note: He is a former PM of Norway. He appointed for the NATO Secretary-General in October 2014. This is the second time that his term has been extended.

46. In March 2022, **Ritu Khanduri** has been elected as a first woman speaker of Uttarakhand Assembly.

Note: Ritu Khanduri won the 2022 assembly elections from the Kotdwar. Recently, Pushkar Singh Dhami sworn in as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

47. **CS Rajan CS Rajan** will take charge as Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) on April 3, 2022, after the completion of the tenure of Uday Kotak.

Note: CS Rajan, MD of IL&FS, will take charge as Chairman and Managing Director for six months, from April 3 by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

48. **Himanta Biswa Sarma** has been appointed as president of the Badminton Association of India from 2022 to 2026.

Note: He has remained president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI) since 2017.

49. **Raj Subramaniam** has been set to replace Frederick W Smith, to be named the CEO of FedEx.

Note: He is set to replace the founder of FedEx, Frederick W Smith. Currently, Subramaniam is

serving as President and Chief Operating Officer of FedEx.

50. **Renu Singh** has taken charge of Forest Research Institute as the new Director.

Note: She will be the second woman director of Forest Research Institute. She is an officer of the IFS of the 1990 batch of Madhya Pradesh cadre.

Important News – India

1. 'National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav' has been launched by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.
Note: During iconic week, Ministry of MSME will launch Phase II of 'National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav' through which more than 1 lakh students from 1300 colleges will be motivated to take up entrepreneurship. Ministry of MSME is also launching Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive in 46 aspirational districts.
2. According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of **1.5°C**.
Note: The report also warns about temporarily exceeding this warming level leading to additional, severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. Lucknow and Patna would reach wet-bulb temperature of 35°C if emissions continued to rise. Global sea levels will likely rise 44-76 cm if not given attention.
3. Along with **IIT Madras**, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai jointly hosted, for the first time in India, the OCEANS 2022 conference & Exposition.
Note: It is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers on February 21-24, 2022. It was held in a hybrid format. 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain' was the main theme of the conference.
4. The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched in the year **2008**.
Note: PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.
5. India's first e-waste eco-park will come up in **New Delhi**.
Note: He also announced the framing of Delhi Film Policy 2022 to make the city a brand for shooting locations and promoting tourism. At present, Delhi produces 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year.
6. India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in **Chennai**.
Note: Launched by Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth, the Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
7. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). IMPO/IITM located in **Pune**.
Note: Setting up the IMPO reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy. It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
8. **Arogya Vanam**, hub of medicinal herbs and plants launched by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.
Note: The Arogya Vanam has been developed in a 6.6 acre area and it has 215 types of medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Bel, Arand, Arjun, Ashwagandha and Harsingar. Aroma Garden, Lotus Pond, Water Channels, Yog Manch and a ViewPoint are also part of Arogya Vanam.
9. Ministry of Women and Child Development will launch the 'Back to School' Campaign in partnership with **UNICEF**.
Note: On 7th March 2022, 'Back to School' Campaign will be launched jointly by MoWCD and UNICEF India as 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav', focusing on supporting out-of-school girls.
10. **NITI Aayog** will release the National Gender Index in India.
Note: The index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.
11. India will soon launch the third phase of Monsoon Mission. In **2012** was the first Monsoon Mission was launched to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.
Note: Aim: to achieve further improvement in our understanding about the monsoons, thus helping achieve a quantum leap in the predictions. Monsoon Mission was launched for the first time in 2012. It has been a flagship project undertaken by the MoES to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.
12. **Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit** is the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

- Note:** The New Motto is 'Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit'. The Minister interacted with the children from different States and also visited the exhibition based on stories of freedom fighters during their childhood organised by Border Security Forces (BSF) in collaboration with NCPCR and remembered their sacrifices.
- 13. Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government** is the theme of the 3rd edition of NIC Tech Conclave 2022 being organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
Note: The two-day event being organized by the National Informatics Centre NIC. The event will be attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and other dignitaries from Centre and State Governments. NIC has been organizing Tech Conclave focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance.
- 14.** India ranked at **third** in terms of having most billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022.
Note: Number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% in 2021 to 145 billionaires, highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific region. UHNWIs: Individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m (Rs 226 crore) or more. India's UHNWI is expected to grow by 39% from 2021 to 2026.
- 15.** MeitY Startup Hub and **Google** have announced to cohort 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups and help them to build high-quality global apps and games.
Note: They were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process. Under this 6-month programme, 100 startups will be trained through a customized curriculum that includes virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, mentorship sessions
- 16. Ujjain** has created Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes, on the occasion of Mahashivratri 2022.
Note: A five-member delegation of Guinness Book of World Records saw the mammoth effort and offered the record certificate to Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- 17.** The ministry of Women & Child Development has launched 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with **NIMHANS** organisation to improve the mental health of women population across the country.
Note: The project would emphasise on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India. The project also focusses on self-care techniques for OSC staff and counselors.
- 18.** India ranked **120th** in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021.
Note: Top performers: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Belgium. Index measures the total progress of India towards achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 19. Kavach** is the name of Indian Railway's indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP), a train collision protection system.
Note: The two trains will hurtle towards each other at full speed, one with the railway minister on board and the other with the Chairman of the Railway Board. TCAS or Kavach includes the key elements from already existing, and tried and tested systems like the European Train Protection and Warning System, and the indigenous Anti Collision Device.
- 20. Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the Pune Metro Rail Project that cost Rs 11,420 Crore.
Note: The project is being built at a cost of more than Rs 11,400 crore. Modi also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC).
- 21.** Under **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana** the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E) has launched 'Donate-a-Pension' programme for people to contribute to the pension fund to their support staff.
Note: It is an initiative under (PM-SYM) pension scheme where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc. According to the labour ministry website, the PM-SYM is a 50:50 voluntary and contributory pension scheme in which the beneficiary makes a stipulated age-specific contribution and the Central Government matches it.
- 22.** India's flagship 12th edition of Nanotech event focussing on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology was inaugurated in **Bengaluru**.
Note: The three-day nano event has the participation of more than 2,500 delegates and 75 national as well as internationally renowned speakers. The event is being organised virtually by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka, KSTePS and JNCASR.
- 23.** Partnering with **Ministry of Art and Culture** ministry the Ministry of Textiles organizing a programme called "Jharokha-Compendium of Indian handicraft/ handloom, art and culture" to celebrate the traditional Indian handicrafts, handlooms, and art & culture.
Note: Jharokha: PAN India programme that will be held at 16 locations in 13 states and UTs. Its first event is organized in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh at

Rani Kamalapati Railway Station from 8th March 2022 (Women's Day). It will continue for 8 days and will include folk performances by local artists.

24. India's status in the "Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule" by Freedom House, a US-based NGO is **Free, Partly Free**.
Note: The report is published every year since 1973 by Freedom House (US NGO that assesses political-civil liberties). India was a free country till 2020 with 71 score. In 2022, 85 countries were free, 56 as partly free, 69 as not free
25. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has announced its partnership with **Snap** to drive Augmented Reality (AR) skilling among the Indian youth.
Note: The partnership is initially for 2 years and is expected to train over 12,000 teachers affiliated with Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality, enabling the reach of the program to millions of students affiliated with ATL's network of schools. Snap Inc also announced its partnership with Atal Incubation Centers (AICs).
26. The Government of India (GoI) has approved the establishment of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (WHO GCTM) in **Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
Note: The WHO GCTM will be established in Jamnagar under the Ministry of AYUSH. This would be the first and only global outpost Centre (office) for traditional medicine across the globe.
27. Under the administrative jurisdiction of **Ministry of Finance**, the Union Cabinet has approved to set up National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) as a wholly owned company of Government of India.
Note: NLMC shall be a wholly-owned Government of India company. It will be set up under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance.
28. India's largest reclining statue of Lord Buddha is being built at **Bodh Gaya**.
Note: The giant statue is being built by Buddha International Welfare Mission, one of the top Buddhist Temples in West Bengal (also known as Kolkata Temple). Its construction started in the year 2019. Bodh Gaya is the place of enlightenment of Lord Buddha, and famous pilgrimage site for Buddhism, visited by devotees from all over the world.
29. **3rd edition** of the National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) was convened this year by Lok Sabha Secretariat and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
Note: It is being held on 10th and 11th March 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.
[Imm]=Objective: to hear the voice of the youth,

between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who will join various careers in coming years.

30. India's first 100% women-owned industrial park was established in **Hyderabad**.
Note: Industrial park is promoted by FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in partnership with the state government of Telangana. It is spread over a 50-acre area in Sultanpur near Patancheru industrial area. Estimated investment cost of the project: Rs 250 crores.
31. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has signed a memorandum of understanding with which **IIT Roorkee** for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor'.
Note: This would be the 1st Standardization Chair established by BIS in an Institute for activities on Standardization and Conformity Assessment. It will help in sensitizing students on how standards can encourage and facilitate innovation and will help in grooming students making them better prepared for their future challenges.
32. **Narayan Rane** has launched the MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR) along with MSME IDEA HACKATHON 2022.
Note: Details of the sub-schemes:
 - Incubation: promote and support untapped creativity with assistance of up to Rs. 15 lakh per idea
 - Design: Bring Indian manufacturing sector and Design experts on a common platform with assistance up to Rs. 40 lakh for design project
 - IPR (Intellectual Property Rights): improve the IP culture in India.
33. Recently published 'UDISE+ report is associated with **Education**.
Note: Ministry of Education (MoE) has released the report on Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21 on school education of India. Under UDISE+ system, improvements have been made in the data capture, data mapping and data verification areas.
34. According to the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2020-21 **53.8%** is the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in 20-21 in higher secondary level.
Note: The current report relates to UDISE+ data for the reference year 2020-21 and states that total number of students enrolled in schools from primary to higher secondary stood at 25.38 crore in 20-21 which means there is an increase of 28.32 lakh enrolments as compared to the 25.10 crore enrolment in 2019-20. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in 20-21 stand at 92.2% in upper primary,

- 99.1% in elementary, 79.8% in secondary and 53.8% in higher secondary respectively.
- 35.** According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 **Odisha** becomes the top state in the list of full immunization in India with 90.5 per cent coverage under Mission Indradhanush.
Note: Intensified Mission Indradhanush 4.0 (IMI) was rolled out on 7 March 2022, in Odisha to provide preventive health care for mothers and children and for boosting full immunization coverage. 20 districts of Odisha were found above 90 percent in full immunization and remaining 10 districts were less than 90 percent. Districts such as Ganjam, Cuttack, Kendrapara, Jharsuguda, Koraput, Keonjhar, Malkangiri, Khurda, Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj, and Sundargarh districts were selected for inclusion under IMI.
- 36.** India's first medical city 'Indrayani Medicity' to come up in **Pune**.
Note: It will come up in 300-acre of land area in the Khed taluka of Pune. It is estimated to attract investment worth Rs. 10,000 crores. Indrayani Medicity will have hospitals, medical research centre, pharmaceutical manufacturing, wellness and physiotherapy.
- 37.** A new campus building complex has been dedicated to the nation by the PM Narendra Modi at **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU), Gandhinagar**.
Note: It is an Institution of National Importance, that commenced its operations on 1st October 2020. It provides different academic courses to meet the need for high quality trained manpower in various wings of policing, criminal justice correctional administration.
- 38.** Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has organised 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Conclave' at India Habitat Centre in **New Delhi**.
Note: During the conclave, the minister also launched 'India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-up Challenge' under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme. It has been launched on MyGov platform. MoHUA Ministry will select 100 start-ups for funding support of Rs.20 lakhs as well as mentorship.
- 39.** The RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RailTel) ranked at **124th** in the 8th Edition Fortune India The Next 500 (2022 edition) of top midsize companies operating in India.
Note: It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India. RailTel is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services providers in the country. Besides RailTel, there are five more private telecom players on the list. Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309.
- 40.** India ranked **5th position** in terms of market capitalization this year.
Note: India's equity market has broken into the world's top five club in terms of market capitalization for the first time. The country's total market cap stands at \$3.21 trillion, which is higher than that of the UK (\$3.19 trillion), Saudi Arabia (\$3.18 trillion), and Canada (\$3.18 trillion). This year, India has climbed two positions, despite a 7.4 per cent drop in its market cap.
- 41.** According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021, **India** ranked first in terms of importers of arms between 2017-21.
Note: The report places India at the top of the list. Egypt, Australia and China were the next three largest importers with respective shares of 5.7%, 5.4% and 4.8%. Paradoxically, India was the only country among the top five whose imports had declined during the said period.
- 42.** The country's first Digital Water Bank 'AQVERIUM' was launched in **Bengaluru**.
Note: It is formed by AquaKraft Group Ventures. It is a very unique innovation combining sustainable & green technologies along with information technology, skill development & entrepreneurship.
- 43.** The MSME Ministry has announced the extension of the Rs 20,000-crore Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) till **31st March 2023**.
Note: Initially the scheme was up to March 31, 2021. The government later extended this scheme up to March 31, 2022. The 'Distressed Assets Fund-Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs' was created on May 13, 2020 under the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' economic package. The CGSS was approved by the Government on June 1, 2020 and the scheme was launched on June 24, 2020 to provide credit facility through lending institutions to the promoters of stressed MSMEs viz. SMA (Special Mention Account)-2 and NPA accounts, who are eligible for restructuring.
- 44.** Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated pilot project for Hydrogen based advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV). The project has been launched by the **Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd**.
Note: It has been launched by Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd. along with International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT). It will be first of its kind project in India aimed at spreading awareness about Hydrogen, FCEV technology and disseminating its benefits to support hydrogen-based society for India.
- 45.** MV Ram Prasad Bismil became the longest vessel ever to sail through **Brahmaputra** river, achieving a landmark in sailing history.
Note: The vessel is 90 meters long flotilla is 26 meters wide, loaded with a draft of 2.1 meters. With

- this, it successfully completed the aspiring pilot run of heavy cargo movement from Haldia Dock in Kolkata. The vessel along with two barges DB Kalpana Chawla and DB APJ Abdul Kalam were flagged off from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Haldia.
46. As per the latest data released by the Registrar General of India **103** was the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) during the period between 2017-2019. **Note:** From 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19, this ratio has decreased, witnessing an 8.8 % decline. MMR has gradually decreased in the country, falling from 130 in 2014-2016 to 122 in 2015-17, 113 in 2016-18, and 103 in 2017-19.
47. **United Service Institution of India (USI)** the Indian Army has announced the establishment of General Bipin Rawat Memorial Chair. **Note:** Army Chief Gen MM Naravane announced setting up of a 'Chair of Excellence' in memory of India's first Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat at the United Service Institution of India (USI).
48. India's first World Peace Center is being established in **Gurugram**. **Note:** For this, the Haryana Government has allotted a plot to the organization in Sector 39 of Gurugram opposite Medanta Hospital and adjacent to Delhi-Jaipur Highway. The organization would soon start the construction of the World Peace Center (WPC) on this plot.
49. **Visakhapatnam** become the first station in the East Coast railway to implement the the Centre's 'One Station, One Product' concept. **Note:** FM Sitharaman announced the 'One Station, One Product' concept in the recent Union Budget to help local businesses and supply chains. The concept is based on the 'One District, One Product' scheme. It aims to promote the supply chain of local products using the Indian Railways network, turning each station into a showcase destination and promotional hub for local products.
50. **136th** is India's rank in the 10th edition of the World Happiness Report 2022 published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network. **Note:** This year the report was published ahead of the annual International Day of Happiness on March 20. Finland has again topped the list as the happiest country in the world for the fifth time in a row. It was followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.
51. **34th** edition of Surajkund International Crafts Mela has been inaugurated recently. **Note:** During the inauguration session, Dattatraya in his address pointed out the importance of art and crafts in the development of civilization and culture. This years' Suraj Kund Crafts Mela is special as organized when we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
52. The 36th International Geological Congress was held in **New Delhi**. **Note:** The three-day event provided a unique platform for knowledge and experience sharing in the field of geosciences and professional networking. It will give first-hand information on latest technologies in mining, mineral exploration and management of water, mineral resource and the environment. The theme of the event is Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future.
53. Asia's largest event on civil aviation, Wings India 2022 held in Hyderabad with theme **India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry**. **Note:** The fifth edition of the biennial air show, take off at Begumpet Airport. India, which currently has 153 operational airports, envisages increasing the number of airports to 190-200 by 2040.
54. In the year 2020, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana was implemented which is recently, extended for 6 months from April 2022. **Note:** In 6th phase, each beneficiary will get an additional five kilos of free ration per person every month to the normal quota of food grain. The program comes under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
55. PM Narendra Modi attended 5th BIMSTEC summit that was chaired by **Sri Lanka**. **Note:** The Virtual summit will be hosted by Sri Lanka, the current BIMSTEC chair. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also visit Sri Lanka from March 28 to March 30 where he will attend the meeting of the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers.
56. The second leg of the 11th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 was inaugurated in **Warangal, Telangana**. **Note:** The second leg of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022 event was held in Warangal, was inaugurated by the Telangana governor, Tamilisai Soundararajan.
57. **2613** is the total number of rhinos in Kaziranga after the census conducted by the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. **Note:** Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve conducted the census. The total number of rhinos increased from 2413 to 2613.
58. India ranked 4th in the HURUN Global U40 Self-Made Billionaires report 2022, which is topped by the USA followed by China. **Note:** The Hurun Global Forty and Under Self-Made Billionaires 2022 report released by Hurun Research Institute, ranks the self-made billionaires in the world (in terms of US dollars) under40. According to the report, the USA (37 billionaires), China (25 billionaires), followed by the UK (8), India (6) and Sweden (3) respectively in the top five.

59. By the year 2025, the government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to **220**.

Note: The government has also planned to create 33 new domestic cargo terminals, and set up 15 new flight training schools, with a focus on drone sector. 15% of pilots in India would be women against the global average of 5%. India will have 96 carbon neutral airports, which will run on renewable energy by 2024.

60. Currently, India's operational nuclear power capacity is **6780 MW**.

Note: India is planning to start the construction activities for 10 'fleet mode' nuclear reactors over the next three years. The construction of 700 MW atomic power plant in Karnataka's Kaiga will begin from 2023. A 700 MW reactor at Kakrapar in Gujarat was connected to the grid in Jan 2021, but it is yet to start commercial operations. India's first pair of pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) of 220 MW each were set up at Rawatbhata in Rajasthan in the 1960s with Canadian support.

61. In March 2022, **Living Root Bridges of Meghalaya** have been included in the tentative list of World Heritage Sites of the UNESCO.

Note: The root under the name of 'Jingkieng Jri: Living Root Bridge Cultural Landscapes of Meghalaya' have been included in the list. At present, there are about 100 known living root bridges spread across 72 villages in the state. Khasi and Jaintia communities of Meghalaya are the caretakers of these bridges for over 600 years.

62. In partnership with FICCI the Ministry of Civil Aviation has organized Wings India 2022 from March 24 to 27 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.

Note: Theme of Wings India 2022 – 'India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry' Indian Air Force's Sarang helicopter team performed a fly past during the Wings India 2022 exhibition in Hyderabad. Hansa-NG (designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratory, Bengaluru) was showcased. Wing Commander Dilip Reddy was flying the aircraft.

63. Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, a museum dedicated to prime ministers of India is being developed at **Teen Murti Bhavan**.

Note: The museum covers the life and times of all the 14 Indian prime ministers. The museum has been built at a cost of Rs 271 crores adjacent to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Teen Murti Bhavan.

64. At **New Delhi**, the Ministry of MSME and the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, have organized a 'Mega International Summit on MSMEs'.

Note: As per Central Statistics Office, Ministry of Statistics & Program Implementation, the share of MSME in GDP at current prices (2011-12) for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 were 30.5% and 30.0% respectively. MSMEs' share in total manufacturing during the year 2018-19 and 2019-20 was 36.9% and 36.9% respectively. Share of MSMEs' in India's total exports – 49.8% and 49.5% in 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively.

Important News – State

1. The First-ever Ice Wall Climbing Competition-2022 was inaugurated in **Ladakh**.

Note: Organized by: Northwest Frontier of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). Apart from ITBF, Ladakh Police, Ladakh Mountain Guide Association, Students and team from Nubra are participating in this two-day competition. It will help in creating a rich pool of talent to participate in international competitions like winter Olympics.

2. Greenfield Airport in Hollongi is being constructed in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

Note: It has an estimated cost of Rs.645 crore. This project includes development work i.e. construction of airport pavements, air side work, terminal Building and city side works.

3. The OCEANS 2022 Conference and Exposition was held in **Chennai**.

Note: The bi-annual conference was held for the first time in India. The theme of the event was "inspire-innovate-sustain".

4. JSW Energy's Kutehr project has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with **Haryana** for supply of 240 MW hydro power.

Note: The PPA is valid for a period of 35 years which can be further extended at mutually agreed terms. The PPA was signed at a levelised ceiling tariff of ₹4.50/kWh (at ex bus-bar). The PPA capacity was selected through competitive bidding underexpression of interest invited by the HPPC in July 2018.

5. To mark the 20th anniversary of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) and International Women's Day, a 50-acre exclusive industrial park for women entrepreneurs is all set to be inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.

Note: The FLO Industrial Park, which already has 25 women-led enterprises from diverse sectors, is being taken up in association with the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TSIIC) and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

6. The Ministry for Fisheries has been rolled out 'Sagar Parikrama' initiative in **Gujarat** in first phase aimed at understanding "challenges, experiences and aspirations of fishermen community.

Note: Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Parshottam Rupala outlined that the "Sagar Parikrama" initiative will be aimed at understanding "challenges, experiences and aspirations of fishermen community", look at the scope of seafood exports, as well as to popularise schemes that the fishing community in coastal areas can avail of.

7. **Delhi** state government has inaugurated a teachers university that will offer programmes like BA BEd, BSc BEd, etc.

Note: Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has inaugurated Delhi Teacher's University. Its campus is located in Outram Lane in the Mukherjee Nagar area of the national capital. It will offer a new-age integrated education programme after Class 12.

8. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has collaborated with **Tamil Nadu** state government to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.

Note: To facilitate this, BSE will partner with MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB). As part of the collaboration, BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements.

9. Sikkim state government will soon implement 'Aama Yojna', a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state.

Note: The scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Govt. will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually. The Sikkim government has sanctioned Rs 32 crore for the scheme this year.

10. **Haryana** state government has announced Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme-to provide support to women entrepreneurs.

Note: Under the scheme the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees and who wish to become entrepreneurs in any enterprise, trade or business will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees. Subsequently interest subvention of 7 percent will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.

11. **Karnataka** state government has launched 'Women@Work' programme to provide five lakh jobs within 2026 to women with necessary employable skills.

Note: The program aims to focus on the efforts of corporate programs on attracting women workforce. It has been developed by Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) in association with KTECH, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.

12. Government of India, World Bank and **West Bengal** state government have signed \$125 million IBRD loan to support efforts to help poor and vulnerable groups access social protection services in the state.

Note: WB runs more than 400 programs for social assistance, care services, and jobs under umbrella platform called Jai Bangla. West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection Project will support these interventions at the state level.

13. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a new scheme titled 'Kaushalya Matritva Yojana' to give financial assistance of Rs 5000 to women on the birth of second girl child.

Note: The scheme aims to give financial assistance of Rs 5000 to women on the birth of second girl child. During the launch of the scheme, CM Baghel gave away cheques of Rs 5,000 each to five women beneficiaries for safe motherhood.

14. **Odisha** state government and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) signed an agreement for the creation of fisheries infrastructure to boost fish production.

Note: The agreement was signed between Principal Secretary, Finance, Vishal Dev and NABARD chief general manager C Udayabhaskar. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF) will help in creation of infrastructure facilities in marine and inland sectors of Odisha. For the development in the sector around Rs 119.8 crore initially approved.

15. **Andhra Pradesh** state bagged the number 1 spot in the SKOCH Governance Report Card for 2021.

Note: It ranks the states according to their performance in various projects at the state, district, and municipal levels. Andhra Pradesh bagged the number 1 spot for the 2nd consecutive year. Other states in the top five include West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

16. **Haryana** state government has signed an MoU with Welspun One Logistics Parks (WOLP) for the development of large scale warehousing facilities in the state.

Note: The project aims to explore the available government land parcels to build Grade A warehousing facilities across key warehousing micro-markets. Welspun Group will invest under the integrated fund Rs 1,500 crores in Haryana for the warehousing infrastructure and development.

17. **Nagaland** state has created history by becoming the 1st State Assembly in the country to implement the

National e-Vidhan Application programme to become completely paperless.

Note: The Nagaland Assembly Secretariat has attached a tablet or e-book on each table for the 60 members. Now members can use electronic devices to participate in House proceedings. NeVA will help the Chair of the House to conduct the proceedings of the House smoothly in a Paperless manner.

18. Jammu and Kashmir is the 'theme state' of the 35th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2022.

Note: Hundreds of artists from Jammu & Kashmir will be performing different folk arts and dances. From traditional dances art forms to exquisite crafts, there is a bouquet of heritage and culture from Jammu & Kashmir to enthrall the audience. Replicas of Vaishno Devi temple, Amar nath temple, Apna Ghar representing architecture from Kashmir, live demonstration of House Boat and Commemorative gate 'Mubarak Mandi – Jammu' promises to be the main attractions of this year's Mela.

19. Tamil Nadu state got the Geographical Indication tag for Narasingapettai Nagaswaram under the category of musical instruments of class 15.

Note: The unique feature of the nagaswaram is its production process - it is handmade in Narasingapettai village in Thanjavur, unlike the other machine-made ones. The Geographical Indications Registry of Government of India accorded the recognition based on an application from Thanjavur Musical Instruments Workers Cooperative Cottage Industrial Society Limited.

20. The Survey Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) unit of **Karnataka** revenue introduced Dishaank app for land records.

Note: The Dishaank app is developed under the Geographical Information System (GIS) program of the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Applications Center (KRSAC). The KRSAC provides satellite data to agencies such as the SSLR unit for innovative use. Dishaank leverages Karnataka's decision to digitize land records under the Bhoomi project.

21. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has entered into a tripartite MoU with Eker Group (Norway) and Vaan moto to build high speed boats in **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note: These boats are high end boats with smart, flexible solutions with superior maneuverability which can be operated from shore up to maximum speed of 75 Knots, with a complement of 4 crew and 4 passengers and equipped with Navigation and Communication gadgets. These platforms can easily adapt to the roles of Search and Rescue, surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare, Mine Countermeasures, ambulance, fire, harbor control and close protection.

22. Recently, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly passed a bill to make **Marathi** language as a compulsory for official work of local authorities.

Note: The use of English or Hindi by local authorities for certain government works, like communicating with foreign ambassadors is allowed.

23. New Delhi has recently presented budget for 2022-23 with the name of Rozgar Budget _____ **New Delhi**.

Note: Budget Name - Rozgar Budget. The budget amount - ₹75,800 crore. 20 Lakh Jobs by 2027. Introduction of the 'Delhi Film Policy'. ₹9,769 crore allocated for the health sector. ₹16,278 crore for the education sector

24. Under the mission called waste to wealth, a decentralised waste management technology park will be inaugurated in **East Jaffrabad**, Delhi.

Note: An initiative under the office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Modi government named, The Waste to Wealth Mission, in collaboration with the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC), a decentralised waste management technology park, will be inaugurated in New Delhi's East Jaffrabad.

25. To eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats, **Karnataka** state will launch the Vinaya Samarasya scheme on April 14 on Ambedkar Jayanti.

Note: This drive aims to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state. April 14 celebrates the birth anniversary of the father's the Indian Constitution, B R Ambedkar.

26. Uttar Pradesh state has been conferred with the 3rd National Water Awards in the category of the Best State.

Note: President Ram Nath Kovind presented the 3rd National Water Awards to Uttar Pradesh for exemplary work in water management, followed by Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. The National Water Awards are given by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

27. Meghalaya state of India got recognition on the tentative list of World's Heritage Sites for the living root bridge.

Note: Living root bridges are the type of simple suspension bridge formed by the method of tree shaping from living plant roots across a stream or river. These bridges are locally known as Jingkieng Jri.

28. March 30, observed as a foundation day of **Rajasthan**.

Note: Rajasthan observed 73rd Foundation Day on March 30. On March 30, 1949, the four states, namely Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, and Jaisalmer, joined with the United State of Rajasthan

29. Maharashtra government has offered personal loans for prisoners to improve their family living conditions.

Note: Under the scheme, Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank will provide loans upto Rs 50,000 at an interest rate of 7 per cent.

30. Maharashtra state has won the National Para-Swimming Championships 2022.
Note: Maharashtra won the 21st National Para-Swimming Championship 2022 with 306 points at the Maharana Pratap Khel Gaon, Udaipur. The tournament was jointly organised by the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) and Narayan Seva Sansthan.

31. Delhi Government has created a task force, in collaboration with Salaam Baalak Trust and Youth Reach NGOs for the rehabilitation of street children.
Note: The task force will focus on a five-pillar model of rehabilitation: education and vocational training, counselling and medical support, sponsorship, guardianship and shelter for the child. ₹10 crore was set aside to create a residential school that will not only provide education but also emotional and psychological support to vulnerable children.

Important News – World

- Bangladesh** has signed two separate agreements with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for loans worth USD 292 million.
Note: First loan worth USD 157 million is being provided to mitigate flood and riverbank erosion risks along Jamuna, Padma, and Ganges rivers. It is part of 2nd tranche of Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (FRERMIP). ADB has also approved USD 135 million to improve access and quality of inclusive water services.
- Swiss International Air Lines** have agreed with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to use its solar aviation fuel.
Note: Swiss International Airlines will become the first airline to use solar aviation fuel to help power its flights. For this, Synhelion has developed a technology for manufacturing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from renewable energy sources.
- AN-225 Mriya** is the name of the largest plane that was destroyed by the Russia.
Note: The aircraft was unique to the world. The An-225 aircraft was located at **Hostomel Airport** when Russia launched an attack on the Ukrainian airport on February 24, 2022.
- International Olympic Committee** has stripped Russian President Vladimir Putin of the Olympic Order award in response to the invasion of Ukraine.
Note: International Olympic Committee urged sports federations and organisers to exclude Russian and Belarusian athletes and officials from international events following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 2022 Mobile World Congress (MWC) was organized in **Barcelona, Spain** by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association(GSMA).
Note: The focus on 5G and maximizing its potential for benefiting countries and economies is the centrepiece of MWC this year which is taking place amid an ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.
- The two-day-long Study in India (SII) 2022 meeting was inaugurated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
Note: The event organised by the High Commission of India was inaugurated by the Education Minister

- of Bangladesh **Dr Dipu Moni** and the High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh **Vikram Doraiswami**.
- Iran** successfully launched a military satellite, Noor-2, into orbit at an altitude of 500 kilometres (311 miles) from the earth.
Note: It was launched from three-stage Qased, or Messenger, carrier from Shahroud space port. This is the 2nd military satellite launched by the Islamic Republic. First military satellite, 'Noor' was launched in April 2020 at an orbit of 425km (265 miles) above earth's surface.
- Russia** is the most sanctioned country of the world.
Note: Russia faced 2,778 new sanctions since 22nd February 2022, led by the US and European nations, bringing the total sanctions to 5,530. It was already having 2,754 sanctions in place before February 22. Before this, Iran was the most sanctioned country, facing 3,616 sanctions against it over last decade.
- India signed MoU with **Bangladesh and Nepal** countries to implement the 'BBIN' Motor Vehicles Agreement.
Note: The two-day meeting held in Delhi. Bhutan participated in the meeting as an observer. This is the first meeting of the group since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The last meeting was held in February 2020 in New Delhi.
- As per the study conducted by International Finance Corporation (IFC) **Bangladesh** tops the list in terms of women on board of listed companies in South Asia.
Note: According to data, there was an increase in the percentage of women who are independent directors on listed companies from 5% in 2020 to 6%, despite COVID-19. 2020 IFC-DSE study showed at the time around 18% of listed company board directors were women, which has remained the same.
- \$ 1 billion** of credit line has been approved by India for Sri Lanka to help the island country in importing food, essential items and medicine.
Note: Sri Lanka is currently facing a severe economic crisis. LoC is being extended by India in line with its efforts to assist its neighbouring

country in fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, and to mitigate its adverse impact and its developmental priorities.

12. **Israel-based** technology company, Coralogix announced its foray into the India cyber security market with the launch of security venture Snowbit.
Note: The company, which will initially focus on the Indian and Israeli markets, is a full-service cybersecurity venture focussed on empowering cloud-native companies to secure themselves against growing cyber risks in a quick, efficient, and cost-effective manner. Founded and led by tech veterans and former Amazon Web Services (AWS) executives Navdeep Manaktala and Zack Barak, Snowbit will have operations across Tel Aviv and New Delhi/Gurgaon.
13. As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration, a "Green Triangle" named after Mahatma Gandhi, was inaugurated in **Madagascar**.
Note: The Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle was jointly inaugurated by India's Ambassador to Madagascar Abhay Kumar and Mayor of Antananarivo, Naina Andriantsitohaina. The naming of this park as Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle is an apt tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.
14. **New Zealand** is not among the top five in the 10th edition of the World Happiness Report 2022.
Note: Finland has again topped the list as the happiest country in the world for the fifth time in a row. It was followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. The World Happiness Report is based on two key ideas – happiness or life evaluation measured through opinion surveys, and identifying key elements that determine well-being including levels of GDP, life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, across countries.
15. Prasar Bharti has signed an MOU with **Australia's** public service broadcaster to boost co-operation in the field of broadcasting.
Note: The MoU will facilitate the reach of DD News, DD India, and multiple language services of DD News amongst the Indian Diaspora in Australia. Under this MoU, the two broadcasters will explore opportunities in co-production and joint broadcasting of programmes spanning multiple genres.
16. With **Sri Lanka**, India has signed an agreement for developing a 100 megawatt solar power plant.
Note: India and Sri Lanka have signed an agreement for developing a 100 megawatt solar power plant in the eastern port district Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, as part of the efforts to strengthen bilateral economic partnership, including through cooperation in the renewable energy sector. The Joint endeavor and Shareholders' Agreement (JVSHA) for the Trincomalee Power Company Limited (TPCL) — a

joint venture between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited from India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) for fostering the 100 megawatt solar power plant at Sampur — has been signed.

17. The first ever consignment of GI-tagged Kashmiri carpets with quick response (QR) code with details of artisans and the material used were exported to **Germany**.
Note: The Jammu and Kashmir government has finally started a Geographical Indication (GI) registry for the famed Kashmiri carpet with a quick response (QR) code with details of artisans and the material used. The first ever consignment of GI-tagged carpets were exported to Germany from New Delhi. The Geographical Indication Registry of the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry granted GI tag to Kashmiri carpets in June 2016 but the registered carpets were certified from this year.
18. **Elon Musk** is the richest person in the world according to the Hurun Global Rich List 2022.
Note: While Elon Musk retained the top spot, Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian to secure a place in the top 10. Elon Musk is the world's richest person for the second consecutive year with \$205 billion, up \$8 billion from last year. Jeff Bezos second with \$188 billion. Globally Mukesh Ambani is the 9th richest person.
19. In March 2022, **Kuwait** became the hottest place on the Earth.
Note: The country continues to burn oil for electricity and ranks among the top global carbon emitters per capita, according to the World Resources Institute.
20. **Thailand** is ready to ban the use of digital assets to pay good and services from April 1st, 2022.
Note: The move was taken with earlier discussions between the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Bank of Thailand (BOT). Such activity could impact the country's financial stability and economy.
21. **Bangladesh** has celebrated its 52nd Independence Day on 26th March 2022.
Note: President M Abdul Hamid and PM Sheikh Hasina paid their tributes to the martyrs of the liberation war at the National War Memorial in Dhaka. On 26 March 1971, Bangladesh was announced as an independent nation by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
22. The USA has organised the largest drill named 'Balikatan 2022' with **The Philippines**.
Note: This exercise takes place across Luzon in the Philippines region near Taiwan from March 28 to April 8, 2022

23. According to UNEP report on Noise Pollution, **Islamabad** city ranked at third as noisiest city in the world.

Note: Top 5 noise polluter - Dhaka (Bangladesh), Moradabad (UP, India), Islamabad (Pakistan), Rajshahi (Bangladesh), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam). Top 5 quietest cities - Irbrid at 60 dB, Lyon, Madrid, Stockholm, and Belgrade

24. **Malaysia** will host four nations namely Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United Kingdom, annual Bersama Shield 2022 military exercise.

Note: The exercise, referred to as BS22. It has been conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA, a series of bilateral and multilateral defence agreements established in 1971.

25. A financial aid of **USD 152 million** as humanitarian assistance has been announced by the US for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Note: The announcement was made after the visit of the US Ambassador to Bangladesh Peter Haas to Cox's Bazar where the majority of the Rohingya refugees reside.

26. **Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous**

Economies, Healthy People is the theme of the 5th BIMSTEC Summit, which was recently held under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka virtually.

Note: PM Narendra Modi participated in the 5th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Summit which was hosted by Sri Lanka, the current chair of BIMSTEC virtually.

Honor & Awards

1. The 13th ASSOCHAM International Conference cum Awards on Civil Aviation Cargo was held in **New Delhi**.

Note: Frankfinn Institute of Air Hostess Training received the prestigious Award for the 'Best Air Hostess Training Institute – 2021'. The award was handed over by the Honourable Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Jyotiraditya M. Scindia to Mr. K.S. Kohli, Founder & Non-Executive Chairman, Frankfinn Group.

2. **Deepak Dhar** will be conferred the prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022 for contribution in the field of statistical physics.

Note: He became the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal. He will share the medal with John J Hopfield of Princeton University. The medal presentation ceremony will be held during the StatPhys28 conference in August 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

3. **The Power of the Dog** won the Best Film Award at the 75th British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2022.

Note: Given below is the list of winners at the 2022 BAFTAs in main categories

- Best Film – The Power of the Dog
- Best Director – Jane Campion, The Power of the Dog
- Best Actress in Leading Role – Joanna Scanlan, After Love
- Best Actor in Leading Role – Will Smith, King Richard.
- Best Supporting Actress – Ariana DeBose, West Side Story
- Best Supporting Actor – Troy Kotsur, CODA.

4. **Bangladesh's** Syeda Rizwana Hasan has been bestowed with the International Women of Courage Award 2022 by the US Department of State.

Note: The US Department of State has decided to recognise Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan with the International Women of Courage Award 2022. Rizwana Hasan is a lawyer who demonstrates exceptional courage and leadership in her mission to protect the environment and defend the dignity and rights of marginalized Bangladeshis.

5. **Shreyas Iyer** has been awarded the ICC 'Men's Player of the Month' February 2022.

Note: Iyer pipped fellow nominees, UAE's Vriitya Aravind and Nepal's Dipendra Singh Airee to claim the award. Iyer earned the award on the back of his brilliant white-ball exploits during the home series against West Indies and Sri Lanka respectively in February 2022.

6. **17th** edition of Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) will be held from 29th May to 4th June, 2022 at Films Division complex, Mumbai.

Note: Filmmakers can now submit their entry in Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation category of films up to 20th March 2022. Eligibility: Films that are completed between Sept 2019 and Dec 2021. Components: Golden Conch, silver conch, trophies, certificate, cash reward. V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award will also be conferred.

7. Karolina Bielawska of **Poland** was honoured with the Miss World 2021 crown at the 70th edition of the event at the Coca-Cola Music Hall in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Note: Miss World 2019 Toni-Ann Singh of Jamaica crowned her successor at the finale. 1st Runner Up: Shree Saini (United States). 2ns Runner Up: Olivia Yace (Cote d'Ivoire)

8. **Morgan Stanley** Bank has been honoured with the Bank of the year award at the IFR Asia Award 2021.

- Note:** The awards are organized by IFR Asia, a Hong Kong-based provider of capital markets intelligence. India's third-largest private sector bank, Axis Bank has won IFR Asia's Asian Bank of The Year 2021. Axis Bank has been awarded for its outstanding performance in equity and debt issuance, across all major products and segments.
- 9. Fifth edition** of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) was organized by the NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
Note: WTI Awards will be conferred on 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'. Awards will be given by an equally exceptional group of women: Kiran Bedi, Lakshmi Puri, Tessy Thomas, Arundhati Bhattacharya, Debjani Ghosh, Ila Arun, Salma Sultan, Sangeeta Reddy, Shivani Malik. It will be conferred in 7 categories.
- 10. Neeraj Chopra** has been awarded with the coveted 'Sportstar of the Year (Male)' award at the 2022 Sportstar Aces Awards.
Note: Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, who won the silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics, received the 'Sportstar of the Year (Female)' award. Lovlina Borgohain (Sportswoman of the Year, Individual Sports), Avani Lekhara (Parathlete of the Year, Female), Pramod Bhagat (Special Recognition award), Savita (Sportswoman of the Year, Team Sports), and Rupinder Pal Singh (Sportsman of the Year, Team Sports) were some of the awardees present at the event.
- 11. Radhey Shyam Khemka** who has been awarded the Padma Vibhushan – the nation's second-highest civilian honour – posthumously, was associated with the field of **Religious Literature**.
Note: Reportedly, born in 1935 to an elite Marwari family in the Munger district of Bihar, Khemka moved to Kashi in 1956 before securing a Master of Arts from Banaras Hindu University. Khemka would go on to join the family business but he would begin to craft his true legacy in 1982 when he first edited the November and December issues of 'Kalyan,' the flagship magazine of Gita Press.
- 12. Professor Narayan Pradhan** has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences.
Note: Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences. Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. It carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. The recipient is chosen by a selection board, whose present head is professor Chandrima Shaha, the president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- 13. Dennis Parnell Sullivan** has been awarded with the Abel Prize 2022 for his work in topology and its branches.
Note: He has been awarded for his work in topology and its branches specifically "for his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects." Abel Prize is an annual prize given annually to a person by the King of Norway. The annual award for mathematics is named after the great Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel.
- 14. President Ram Nath Kovind** has awarded the prestigious President's Colour to **INS Valsura**.
Note: The President's Colour is a recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation, both in peace and in war. INS Valsura was established in 1942 is a premier training establishment of the Indian Navy.
- 15. For The Eyes of Tammy Faye**, Jessica Chastain has won the 94th Academy award for "Best Actress".
Note: Best picture – CODA; Best Actress - Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye); Best Director - Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog) (Third female winner of the best director award after Chloe Zhao in 2021 and Kathryn Bigelow in 2010); Best Actor - Will Smith (King Richard)
- 16. Max Verstappen** won the Formula One Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2022 held at Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Saudi Arabia.
Note: This is the 21st title of his career. He defeated Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who placed in the second position.
- 17. Deepika Padukone** has been honoured to create mental health awareness at TIMES 100 Impact Awards ceremony held in Dubai.
Note: She also got on the list of one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2018 by TIME.
- 18. Namit Malhotra** led the DNEG, visual effects company, which has received 94th Academy Award in the 'Best Visual Effects' category for its work on 'Dune'.
Note: Best Actor - Will Smith, "King Richard"; Best Actress - Jessica Chastain (The Eyes of Tammy Faye); Best Picture – CODA; Best International Feature Film - Drive My Car; Documentary Short Subject - The Queen of Basketball; Best Directing - Jane Campion (The Power of the Dog)
- 19. Cocin International Airport** airport has been awarded with the Covid champion award for successfully implementing project named 'Mission Safeguarding' during the pandemic time.
Note: Wings India is an Asia's largest event on civil aviation, jointly organised by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and FICCI at the Begumpet airport in Hyderabad.
- 20. Virat Kohli** topped the Duff & Phelps Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 in India.
Note: Virat Kohli's brand valuation dipped to \$185.7 million last year from a high of \$237.7 million in 2020.

21. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has been awarded the 3rd edition of the BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year award.

Note: In 2021 in Tokyo Olympics, Mirabai Chanu created history by becoming the first Indian weightlifter to clinch a silver medal at the Tokyo

Olympics. 'BBC Emerging Player' award – Shafali Verma (youngest female cricketer who played for India in Women's T20 International match in 2019). BBC Lifetime Achievement award – weightlifter Karnam Malleswari (1st Indian woman to win a medal at Olympics)

Sports News

- 1. Malaysia** will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games.
Note: The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh.
- Name the Indian shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event in the year's first ISSF World Cup, in March 2022.
Note: He defeated Michael Schwald of Germany by 16-6 in the gold medal match of Men's 10m Air Pistol event. Apart from him, Russian Artem Chernousov bagged bronze medal at the event. India's Shreya Agrawal narrowly missed in World Cup's 10m air rifle event semi finals.
- The 2022 edition of ICC Women's World is being organized in **New Zealand**.
Note: ICC Women's world cup will have a total of 8 teams: India, Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa, England, West Indies. The tournament is being held in New Zealand. It is being played in a round-robin format
- Indian women cricketer Mithali Raj has recently achieved the feat of becoming the first women to appear in six ICC Women World Cups.
Note: She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- S L Narayanan is associated with **Chess**.
Note: Meanwhile his compatriot R Praggnanandhaa came second. The 24-year old S L Narayanan from Thiruvananthapuram, earned the title of Grandmaster in 2015 and is the 41st Grandmaster from India.
- Priyanka Nutakki** becomes the 23rd and latest Woman Grandmaster (WGM) of India.
Note: She became India's twenty-third Woman Grandmaster. She is from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Priyanka Nutakki scored her first WGM-norm in January 2019 and crossed the 2300 rating criteria in the next two months.
- Indian cricketer, **S Sreesanth** has announced his retirement from all form of cricketer in March 2022.

- Note:** He had played 27 Tests and 53 ODIs for India, taking 87 and 75 wickets respectively. He has also taken seven wickets in 10 T20 Internationals. He was banned for alleged spot-fixing for a seven-year punishment in September 2020 that was originally meant to be for life and was aggressively contested by the flamboyant bowler.
- Indian badminton player, **Lakshya Sen** settles for silver in in the German Open 2022 men's singles final at Mulheim.
Note: Lakshya Sen was chasing his second BWF title of the year, having won the India Open Super 500 title back in January. He bagged a bronze at the world championships late last year. Indian shuttlers will be next seen in action at the All England Open 2022.
- Badminton** player Pramod Bhagat won two silver and a bronze medal recently in an international event.
Note: He won men's singles SL3 Silver and mixed doubles SL3-SU5 Bronze at the Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022. Apart from him, Sukant Kadam won the Bronze medal in Spanish Para-Badminton International 2022, after losing to World no 1 Lucas Mazur from France.
- Mondo Duplantis** sets a new world record in pole vault with a 6.19-meter clearance at the Belgrade Indoor Meeting.
Note: Duplantis set the record of 6.18 in February 2020 indoors in Glasgow. With all of his opponents finished, Duplantis opened his series with 5.61, 5.85 and 6.00 all on his first tries.
- Sandeep Nangal was shot dead in Punjab's Jalandhar was associated with **Kabaddi**.
Note: As per the reports, Sandeep was shot dead during a kabaddi tournament in Jalandhar, Punjab. Besides being a regular member of the Indian national team, Sandeep was a frequent player in leagues in UK, US, New Zealand, Australia.
- India** will host the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad 2022.
Note: It was originally scheduled to be hosted in Russia. FIDE has recently announced that it pulled out from Russia following the Ukraine invasion. After

the announcement, Tamil Nadu government and All-India Chess Federation made a joint bid to host the tournament.

- 13. Viktor Axelsen** defeated India's Lakshya Sen in the All England Open Badminton World Championships 2022 to win men's single title.

Note: Viktor Axelsen of Denmark won the men's single title in All England Open Badminton World Championships 2022. Other winners of the event were:

- ❖ Women's singles title: Yamaguchi Akane, Japan
- ❖ Men's doubles title: Muhammad Shohibul Fikri & Bagas Maulana (Indonesia)
- ❖ Women's doubles title: Matsuyama Nami & Shida Chiharu (Japan)
- ❖ Mixed doubles title: Yuta Watanabe & Arisa Higashino (Japan)

- 14. Hyderabad FC** has won their first Indian Super League title in 2022.

Note: They defeated Kerala Blasters' in a penalty shootout in the final at the Fatorda Stadium in Goa. While Hyderabad won the trophy in their first final appearance, this is Blasters' third defeat in an ISL final and their second in a shootout as their wait continues.

- 15. Former cricketer Suresh Raina** has been felicitated with the prestigious 'Sports Icon' award at the Maldives Sports Awards 2022.

Note: He was nominated alongside 16 international sportspersons, including former Real Madrid player Roberto Carlos, Jamaican Sprinter Asafa Powell, former Sri Lankan captain and cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya and Dutch football legend Edgar Davids. Raina was presented with the award for his various achievements throughout his career.

- 16. Pankaj Advani** has won the 19th Asian Billiards Championship 2022 in Doha, Qatar.

Note: It was his eighth title at the Asian Billiards Championship and 24th international title. Earlier, he defeated Myanmar's Pauk Sa in the semi-final to enter finals. Asian Billiards Championship is organized by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports, since 1984.

- 17. Charles Leclerc** has won the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 at the Bahrain International Circuit.

Note: It was his first victory since the 2019 Italian Grand Prix. He was followed by Carlos Sainz Jr. (Ferrari – Spain), who came second, and Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain).

- 18. In Sprinting** sports event Pranav Prashant Desai wins India's first gold in World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2022 held in Dubai.

Note: Athletics Grand Prix claimed the top prize in the men's 200m T64 final. T64 classification is for athletes with a leg amputation, who compete with prosthetics in a standing position.

- 19. Byju's** named as official partner of **FIFA World Cup 2022**.

Note: The event will be organised from November 21 to December 18 in Qatar. BYJU'S is now become the first Indian ed-tech firm to be associated with the World Cup.

- 20. After defeating Busanan Ongbamrunghpa**, Badminton player PV Sindhu has notched the Swiss Open Women's Singles title 2022.

Note: After this win, PV Sindhu notched up her second women's singles title of the season. Sindhu had won her first title of 2022 in the Syed Modi International Super 300 in Lucknow.

- 21. After defeating Bangladesh**, India won the title of SAFF U-18 Women's Championship title 2022.

Note: India lost to Bangladesh by 0-1 but still emerged as champions of the tournament. The highest goal scorer of the tournament was Lynda Kom, she scored five goals in the tournament.

- 22. India Railway** won Obaidullah Khan Hockey Cup 2022.

Note: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the tournament at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Arjun, player of Railway's was adjudged Man of the Tournament.

- 23. Pritam Siwach Academy** has won the Khelo India Women's Hockey League (U-21).

Note: The Sonapat-based academy is run by the former captain of the India women's hockey team Pritam Rani Siwach; she is also won the Dronacharya Award winner in 2021.

Books and Authors

- 1. Mithilesh Tiwari** has authored the book titled "Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki" about Captain AD Manek that was released by the famous Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota.

Note: The program was well organized by Shailesh B Tiwari of P Club Education Pvt Ltd. It highlights the life

journey, struggle and success story of Captain AD Manek. Capt AD Manek is the founder of "The Skyline Aviation Club".

- 2.** The book titled "One Among You" is an autobiography of **MK Stalin**.

- Note:** This is the first part of the autobiography that contains his early life experiences. Stalin is the president of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party.
3. **Srishti Jha** is the author of the biography 'The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup'.
- Note:** The book was originally written in Hindi titled "Ullas Ki Naav" by author Vikas Kumar Jha. "The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup" is the English translation of the book, translated by the writer's daughter Srishti Jha.
4. Originally written as "Ullas Ki Naav" is biography of **Usha Uthup** has been translated in English as 'The Queen of Indian Pop'.
- Note:** The book was originally written in Hindi titled "Ullas Ki Naav" by author Vikas Kumar Jha. "The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup" is the English translation of the book, translated by the writer's daughter Srishti Jha.
5. **Amitava Kumar** has authored the book titled 'The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal'.
- Note:** The Blue Book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics. The author has used watercolour drawings as well as words to depict the experience, both individual and collective, of the pandemic.
6. **Abhay Kumar** is the author of the book-length poem titled 'Monsoon' published by the Sahitya Akademi.
- Note:** Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954. Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was its first President. The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956. It was a translation from Marathi into Hindi.
7. **Gita Piralal** has authored the first authorized biography of Rahul Bajaj titled "Rahul Bajaj: An Extraordinary Life".
- Note:** The book is based on the life of the late iconic industrialist Rahul Bajaj. It highlights his life's journey, struggle and challenges in becoming one of the most well regarded business personalities in the world.
8. The book titled "Indian Agriculture towards 2030: Pathways for Enhancing Farmers' Income, Nutritional Security and Sustainable Food and Farm Systems" that was released by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has been published by **Springer**.
- Note:** The book captures the progress of the efforts of NITI Aayog, Ministries of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and FAO towards improvement in the agriculture sector.

Science and Defence

1. **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** dedicated INS Visakhapatnam, the indigenously designed and constructed guided-missile stealth destroyer named after the City of Destiny – Visakhapatnam.
- Note:** The ship is on her maiden visit to the port city for participating in the PFR and MILAN-2022. INS Visakhapatnam is the lead ship of P15B class of guided-missile stealth destroyers and was commissioned on November 21 last year. It symbolises India's matured shipbuilding capability and quest for the 'Make in India' initiative towards achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
2. **INS Vishakhapatnam** is India's first of the four stealth guided missile destroyers under Project 15B.
- Note:** In a formal ceremony at the Naval Dockyard, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Jagan Mohan Reddy dedicated the destroyer which has been designed and developed indigenously and built in India. This destroyer, named after the City of Destiny, is on her maiden visit to the City of Destiny for Ex MILAN-22 and the Presidential Fleet Review.
3. **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** has organised the 'National Innovation Conclave on Low Carbon Technologies'.
- Note:** This conclave provided a platform to present the innovations showing benefits of energy savings and greenhouse gas emission reduction potential when deployed at a large scale in industrial and commercial sectors.
4. **148 aircraft** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will demonstrate their capabilities at Exercise Vayu Shakti that will take place at Pokharan range in Jaisalmer.
- Note:** PM Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Vayu Shakti exercise. It will be participated by Rafale aircraft for the first time in this exercise.
5. India holds the 19th edition of Military Cooperation Group (MCG) meeting with **USA**.
- Note:** Meet was co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna from Indian side and his US counterpart Stephen D Sklenka. Focus: strengthening the ongoing defense engagements between the two sides and mulled on new initiatives under the ambit of the existing cooperation mechanism.
6. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2022 will be organised in **Jaisalmer** by the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Note:** PM Narendra Modi will be the Chief Guest of this event. 148 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF)

- will participate in Vayu Shakti exercise. It will be participated by Rafale aircraft for the first time in this exercise.
7. **NASA** space agency has launched the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-T, a next-generation weather satellite to forecast hazardous environmental conditions.
Note: Once this satellite gets positioned in its geostationary orbit it will be renamed from GOES-T to GOES-18. It will be used by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to forecast weather and hazardous environmental conditions in the Western Hemisphere.
 8. **9th** edition of Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise SLINEX was conducted in 2022.
Note: The exercise was conducted in two phases-the harbour phase at Visakhapatnam followed by the sea phase the Bay of Bengal. SLINEX aimed to enhance inter-operability, improve mutual understanding and exchange best practices and procedures for multi-faceted maritime operations between both navies.
 9. **HANSA-NG** is India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer that has successfully completed sea-level trials at Puducherry.
Note: It has been designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). HANSA-NG was flown from Bengaluru to Puducherry, covering a distance of 140 nautical miles in 1.5 hours at a cruising speed of 155 km/hr.
 10. The joint military exercise, "Dharma Guardian-2022" was held between India and **Japan**.
Note: It is being participated by 15 Maratha LIRC UNIT and Japan 30 Infantry regiment. It covers platoon-level joint training on operations in the jungle and semi-urban and urban terrain. Insertion by helicopter into the 'area of operation' is being carried out in the Regimental Center.
 11. The supercomputer **PARAM Ganga** designed and commissioned Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) at IIT Roorkee under Phase II of National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
Note: PARAM Ganga has a supercomputing capacity of 1.66 Petaflops. NSM is a joint initiative of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 12. First Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) of India has been launched at **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru**.
Note: It is promoted by a not-for-profit foundation set up by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru, with a seed capital of Rs.230 crores from State and Central govt. It intends to use futuristic technologies with a focus on creating a globally leading artificial Intelligence and Robotics Innovation ecosystem in India.
 13. In **Norway** the NATO has organized the massive military drill 'Cold Response 2022'.
Note: The exercise is held in Norway every second year, for NATO Allies and partners. The Norwegian-led exercise provides an opportunity to train together in cold weather conditions over challenging terrain and demonstrates NATO's ability to respond decisively to any threat, from any direction. It is the largest 'Cold Response' being exercise conducted in Norway since the 1980s.
 14. With **IIT Kharagpur**, the National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) has signed an MoU for 'Drone-Based Mineral Exploration' on a virtual platform.
Note: After this, NMDC will be the first CPSE in India to conduct Drone-based Geophysical Surveys and Hyperspectral Studies for Mineral Exploration in the country. It will open a new chapter and set a benchmark in the field of mineral exploration.
 15. With **Seychelles's** defence forces the Indian Army has conducted the 9th Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE-2022).
Note: It is being held at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA) from 22nd to 31st March 22. It is a biennial training, which is conducted in Seychelles since 2001. It will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and validation exercise.
 16. At the campus of **IIT Madras** new water management and policy centre, AquaMAP has been inaugurated by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. K. VijayRaghavan.
Note: AquaMAP aims at providing solutions for complex and challenging water problems by designing and evolving smart and optimal water management practices and implementing them in the field, at different locations across the country, as a scalable model by leveraging best practices in management and innovative technologies. AquaMAP is a national water centre and IIT Madras is collaborating with IIT Dharwad around the broad theme of 'Data Science for Water Security and Agriculture Sustenance'.
 17. **Goa Shipyard Limited** has signed a deal of Rs 473 crore with Ministry of Defence to construct eight Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard.
Note: The deal was signed by Joint Secretary (Maritime & Systems) Dinesh Kumar and Chairman and MD, GSL Commodore BB Nagpal (Retd) in New Delhi. These patrol vessels will be designed, developed, and manufactured by GSL under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.
 18. Security Exercise **Prasthan** has been conducted by Western Naval Command in Mumbai offshore.

Note: This exercise is conducted after every six months. The Naval exercise received participation from the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, Jawahar Lal Nehru Port Trust, Customs, state fisheries department, Mercantile Marine Department, and the Marine Police.

19. 20th edition of the joint naval exercise of Varuna 2022 between Indian and French navies is being held in the Arabian Sea.

Note: The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise, VARUNA between Indian and French Navies is being conducted in the Arabian Sea from 30 Mar – 03 Apr 22. The Bilateral Naval Exercises were initiated in 1993.

20. Indian Oil Corporation which organisation Indian Air Force has launched the Fleet Card - Fuel on Move.

Note: Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, has launched the Fleet Card- Fuel on

Move card. Fleet Card permits the convoy to refuel at any IOCL fuel stations.

21. West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has inaugurated “PARAM Shakti” – a Petascale Supercomputer at **IIT-Kharagpur**.

Note: The supercomputer, developed under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), will boost the R&D ecosystem in the insitute. National Supercomputing Mission is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Science and Technology (DST).

22. Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** for construction of eight Fast Patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard at a total project cost of Rs 473 crore.

Note: These surface platforms will be indigenously designed, developed and manufactured by GSL under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) Category.

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