

The background of the cover features a blurred image of a person with glasses sitting at a desk, using a laptop. A large purple arrow graphic points from the left towards the center, framing the text.

**RBI Grade B 2022**

**GK Tornado PDF  
(Capsule)**

## GK-Tornado RBI Grade B (Phase-1) Exam 2022

**Dear Aspirants,**

This **GK Tornado** is a complete docket of important **Banking Awareness & Current Affairs news** and events that occurred in the last **4.5 months (1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**. This file is important and relevant for all competitive exams like RBI Grade B and ECGC PO exam 2022.

### News related to RBI

(1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

**1. RBI restricts withdrawals from Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Kolhapur**

**Note:** RBI has imposed several restrictions on Shankarrao Pujari Nutan Nagari Sahakari Bank Limited, Kolhapur, including on withdrawals, in view of the lender's worsening financial position. However, 99.84 per cent of the depositors are fully covered by the DICGC insurance scheme. Under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) insurance scheme, deposits of up to Rs 5 lakh are insured.

**2. RBI allows banks to lend to NBFCs for priority sector loans on an on-going basis**

**Note:** RBI has decided to allow banks to lend to NBFCs for on-lending to priority sectors on an on-going basis. Small finance banks are also allowed to continue on-lending to NBFC-MFIs. This facility was earlier allowed till March 31, 2022. Now, bank credit to NBFCs, including housing finance companies (HFCs), for on-lending to priority sectors will be allowed up to an overall limit of 5% of an individual banks' total priority sector lending. Similarly, small finance banks will be allowed up to an overall limit of 10% of an individual bank's total priority sector lending. These limits shall be computed by averaging across four quarters of the financial year, to assess the compliance to the prescribed cap. Small finance banks will be allowed to lend to registered NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs who have a gross loan portfolio of up to Rs 500 crore as of March 31 of the previous financial year.

**3. RBI hikes repo rate by 40 bps in an emergency meet**

**Note:** Recently, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held an unscheduled meeting and made some important announcements. The MPC unanimously decided to increase the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 40 basis points to 4.40% with immediate effect. Other Rates are as follows:

- ❖ Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate: 4.15%.
- ❖ Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate: 4.65%.
- ❖ Bank Rate: 4.65%.
- ❖ Cash reserve ratio hiked by 50 bps to 4.5% effective May 21.
- ❖ Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%

#### Current Policy Rates: May 2022

<b>Policy Repo Rate</b>	4.40% (0.40% increase)
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	3.35%
<b>Marginal Standing Facility Rate</b>	4.65%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	4.65%
<b>CRR</b>	4.50% (0.50% increase)
<b>SLR</b>	18%

**4. Rajiv Ranjan has been appointed as MPC ex-officio member by RBI**

**Note:** The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of executive director Rajiv Ranjan as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Ranjan will be succeeding Mridul Sagar, who is understood to have retired. The MPC has six members. There are three officials who are from the RBI and there are three external members who are nominated by the central government. This committee's chairperson is the Governor of the RBI. The MPC was first proposed by the Urjit Patel Committee. This committee came into existence on 27th June 2016.

**5. RBI's Report on Currency and Finance**

**Note:** According to recent Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Report on Currency and Finance (RCF), the Indian economy may take more than a decade to overcome the losses caused by the outbreak of

Covid-19 pandemic. The theme of the report is "Revive and Reconstruct" in the context of nurturing a durable recovery post-Covid-19 and rising trend growth in the medium-term. According to the report, the Indian economy is likely to take over 12 years to overcome the COVID-19 losses. Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6% for 2020-21, 8.9% for 2021-22, and assuming a growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23, and 7.5% beyond that, India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35.

#### 6. India's foreign exchange reserves drop by \$1.7 billion: RBI

**Note:** According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, India's forex reserves declined by USD 1.774 billion to USD 595.954 billion for the week ended May 6 on the back of a fall in the core currency assets. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had declined by USD 2.695 billion to USD 597.728 billion. The fall in the reserves was on account of a decline in the Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, and gold reserves, as per RBI's weekly data.

### April 2022

#### 1. RBI imposes ₹1.12 cr penalty on Bank of Maharashtra

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.12 crore on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the central bank, including those related to Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. The RBI said the penalty is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

#### 2. RBI modifies norms for banks on short term crop loan scheme under KCC

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India has modified norms for banks to claim the amount of interest subvention provided to farmers under the Kisan Credit Card (short-term crop loan scheme) during the last fiscal. Pending claims for the 2021-22 financial year can be submitted by June 30, 2023. Loan amount under KCC – Rs 3 lakhs; Interest rate – 7% p.a.; Interest subvention – 2%; An additional 3% interest subvention is provided to farmers who pay their loans promptly. For such farmers, the effective interest rate is 4%. The circular is titled as 'Modified Interest Subvention Scheme for Short Term Loans for Agriculture and Allied Activities availed through Kisan Credit Card (KCC)' during 2021-22.

#### 3. RBI launches quarterly industrial outlook survey

**Note:** The RBI has launched the 98th round of the quarterly industrial outlook survey of the country's manufacturing sector for the reference period April-June 2022. M/s Genesis Management & Market Research Pvt. Ltd. has been authorised to conduct the survey for April-June 2022 on behalf of the Reserve Bank. RBI has launched the 33rd round of the quarterly Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey (SIOS) for the reference period April-June 2022. M/s Genesis Management & Market Research Pvt Ltd. will conduct the survey.

#### 4. RBI's new rules for credit, debit cards

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released master directions for credit and debit card issuance. The RBI (Credit Card and Debit Card - Issuance and Conduct) Directions, 2022 shall apply to all Scheduled Banks (except Payments Banks, State Co-operative Banks, and District Central Cooperative Banks) as well as all Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) operating in India. The new directions shall be effective from July 01, 2022. Issue of unsolicited cards, or unsolicited upgrading of cards is strictly prohibited. Debit cards shall only be issued to customers having savings bank or current accounts. Terms may be altered by card-issuer, but 30 days' notice of the change shall be given to the cardholder to enable the customer to withdraw if they choose.

#### 5. RBI has allowed the NBFCs to issue credit cards with the prior permission of RBI.

**Note:** Non-banking finance companies (NBFC) will need approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to issue credit cards. Companies will need a certificate of registration. Net-owned fund of Rs 100 crore will be a prerequisite for entering the credit card business for any finance company, including a non-deposit taking one. The RBI said that regional rural banks can issue credit cards in collaboration with their sponsor bank or other banks. Further, financially sound and well managed scheduled urban cooperative Banks (UCBs) with minimum net worth of Rs 100 crore which are core banking system enabled (CBS) enabled can issue credit cards, subject to some conditions.

#### 6. RBI sets 3-year deadline for non-individual borrowers to get tracking code

**Note:** RBI has set a 3-year timeline for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore or more to obtain Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) codes (20-character alpha-numeric code used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide). Those with exposure above Rs 25 crores from banks and financial institutions will have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2023. For those with exposure between Rs 10 to 25 crores will get more year (till

April 30, 2024) and those with Rs 5 to Rs 10 crore have to get LEI code on or before April 30, 2025.

**7. RBI allows rural co-operative banks to raise funds from preference shares**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India allowed Rural Cooperative Banks (RCBs) to raise funds from people in their area of operation or existing shareholders through a variety of instruments. RCBs, which include state co-operative banks and district central co-operative banks, can raise funds from preference shares and debt instruments.

**8. RBI expands scope of exemptions for banks to open current, cash credit and overdraft accounts**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of exemptions under its circular for “opening of current accounts and cash credit (CC)/overdraft (OD) accounts” by banks, permitting them to open and operate inter-bank accounts and accounts of All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), among others. Further, the RBI has brought accounts attached by the orders of Central or State governments, regulatory bodies, courts, investigating agencies etc, wherein the customer cannot undertake any discretionary debits, within the purview of exemptions. The four AIFIs referred to in the consolidated circular are EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI.

**9. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Manappuram Finance for non-compliance of KYC, PPI norms**

**Note:** Manappuram Finance Limited was fined Rs 17.63 lakh by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for failing to comply with Know Your Customer (KYC) and Prepaid Payment Instruments regulations (PPIs). Manappuram Finance Limited has been fined Rs 17,63,965 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for failing to comply with certain provisions of the Master Direction on Issuance and Operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) dated October 11, 2017 (as updated on February 28, 2020) and the Master Direction – Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction dated February 25, 2016 (as updated on April 20, 2020).

**10. RBI further tightens regulations for non-bank lenders**

**Note:** RBI has amended its 2021 circulars on scale-based regulations for NBFCs. These amendments have brought NBFCs-Upper Layer (large NBFCs) on par with Banks, in terms of credit risks. In this regard, RBI issued four separate circulars: Large exposures framework for NBFCs — upper layer; Disclosures in their financial statements; Scale-based regulation for capital requirements – upper layer; and Regulatory restrictions on their loans and advances. Large exposures framework for NBFCs — upper layer: It aims to address credit risk concentration in NBFCs; identify large exposures; refine the criteria for grouping of connected counterparties; to set the reporting norms for large exposures.

**11. Reserve Bank introduces principles for mid, large NBFCs**

**Note:** RBI has mandated the NBFCs in the Upper Layer and Middle Layer to put in place a board approved policy and compliance function including the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer latest by April 1, 2023 and October 1, 2023. The Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) would be the nodal point of contact between the NBFC and the regulators and supervisors and would be a participant in the structured or other regular discussions held with RBI. There shall not be any ‘dual hatting’, the CCO shall not be given any responsibility which brings elements of conflict of interest, especially any role relating to business. Eligibility & Tenure of CCO – The CCO should be appointed for at least a 3 years tenure and should be a senior executive of the NBFC with a position not below two levels from the CEO.

**12. RBI Proposes to Simplify Process for Settlement of Payment for Traders**

**Note:** RBI proposed to modify the existing norms for simplifying and rationalising the settlement of the payment process for importers and exporters through e-commerce. It issued draft guidelines on ‘Processing and Settlement of small value Export and Import related payments facilitated by Online Export-Import Facilitators (OEIF) (erstwhile OPGSP)’. Purpose – to modify the existing norms to simplify and rationalise the process for settlement of payment for exports and imports through e-commerce. On import transactions, the payment facility shall be available for online import of goods and digital products of value not exceeding USD 3,000. In case of exports, the limit has been proposed at USD 15,000. Currently, banks have to enter into standing contract with Online Payment Gateway Service Providers (OPGSPs) for offering these payment services for export and import of goods and services.

**13. RBI has introduced Standing Deposit Facility (SDF), new liquidity absorbing tool**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) — a new tool for absorbing liquidity. With this, the RBI has almost made the reverse repo irrelevant. The SDF will replace the fixed rate reverse repo (FRRR) as the floor of the LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) corridor. Both the standing facilities viz., the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and the SDF will be available on all days of the week, throughout the year. The FRRR rate, which is retained at 3.35 per cent, will remain as part of the RBI’s toolkit and its operation will be at the discretion of the RBI for purposes specified from time to time. The FRRR, along with the SDF, will impart flexibility to the RBI’s liquidity management framework.

**14. RBI imposes penalties of Rs 93 lakh each on Axis and IDBI Bank**



**Note:** Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 93 lakh on Axis Bank for various violations, including those related to KYC guidelines. The central bank has also slapped a fine of Rs 93 lakh on IDBI Bank. A monetary penalty of Rs 93 lakh has been imposed on Axis Bank for non-compliance of certain directions issued by RBI.

#### 15. **RBI imposes curbs on Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita**

**Note:** RBI imposed several restrictions on Bengaluru-based Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita, including a withdrawal cap of Rs 5,000 per account, following a deterioration in the lender's financial position. The directions shall remain in force for a period of six months from the close of business on April 7, 2022, and are subject to review, the Reserve Bank said in a statement. The co-operative bank cannot, without prior approval from RBI, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability and accept fresh deposits, among other restrictions.

#### 16. **RBI fixes Ways and Means Advances limit for states at Rs 47,010 cr**

**Note:** Reserve Bank decided to reduce the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and Union Territories to Rs 47,010 crore from Rs 51,560 crore. WMA are temporary advances given by the RBI to the government to tide over any mismatch in receipts and payments. The limit for WMA for the Government of India for the first half of the financial year 2022-23 has been set at Rs 1,50,000 crore.

#### 17. **RBI decided not to activate countercyclical capital buffer**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank has decided not to activate the countercyclical capital buffer at this point in time as it is not required. The framework on the countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) was put in place by the Reserve Bank in terms of guidelines in February 2015 wherein, it was advised that the CCyB would be activated as and when the circumstances warranted and that the decision would normally be pre-announced. The framework envisages the credit-to-GDP gap as the main indicator, which may be used in conjunction with other supplementary indicators.

#### 18. **RBI extends timelines for banks to use lockable cassettes in ATMs by a year**

**Note:** RBI has decided to extend the timeline for the implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs till March 31, 2023. In 2018, RBI issued a circular mandating the banks to equip their ATMs with the lockable cassettes, which can be swapped periodically at the time of cash replenishment at the ATMs. The framework for cassette swap was recommended by the Committee on Currency Movement (CCM) [Chair: Shri D.K. Mohanty, Executive Director], which was formed in 2016 to suggest recommendations for ensuring the safety of currency in transit. Open cash replenishment/ top-up of ATMs was found to be risky by the committee. Thus, it suggested the cassette swap framework.

#### 19. **Current account deficit widens to 2.7 per cent of GDP in Q3: RBI**

**Note:** According to RBI's data, India's current account deficit stood at \$23.0 billion (2.7% of GDP) in the third quarter (Q3) of 2021-22 due to higher trade deficit. The current account deficit was 2% of GDP in April-December 2021.

### March-2022

#### 1. **RBI Governor dedicates Varnika Ink Manufacturing Unit of BRBNMPL**

**Note:** Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) has set up an Ink Manufacturing Unit named "Varnika" at Mysuru, Karnataka, with an annual ink manufacturing capacity of 1,500 MT to enhance the security of banknotes. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI. Shaktikanta Das (Governor of RBI) has dedicated "Varnika", the Ink Manufacturing Unit of Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL) to the nation.

#### 2. **RBI sets Rs 1-trillion infrastructure lending target for DFI**

**Note:** RBI has set a target of about Rs 1 trillion for government-backed National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) for sanctioning loans to the infrastructure sector in the FY23. The government has infused Rs 20,000 crore as

equity in the DFI, and an additional Rs 5,000 crore has been given as grants to NaBFID. The DFI will get 10-year tax concession so that it can provide long-term funds at an affordable cost to the infrastructure sector.

#### 3. **RBI unveiled framework for geo-tagging of payment system touch points**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the framework for geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints. The framework is part of the central bank's focus for deepening digital payments and providing inclusive access to all citizens of the country. Geo-tagging of payment system touchpoints will enable proper monitoring of the availability of payment acceptance infrastructure like Points of Sale (PoS) terminals, Quick Response (QR) codes, etc. Geo-tagging refers to capturing the geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) of payment touch

points deployed by merchants to receive payments from their customers.

#### 4. **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated RBIH in Bengaluru**

**Note:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) in Bengaluru on Thursday, which was established with a Rs 100 crore initial capital contribution to foster and nurture financial innovation. According to the central bank, the Hub has an independent Board with Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan as Chairman and other notable people from industry and academics as members. The RBIH was established as a Section 8 business under the Companies Act of 2013, with an initial capital contribution of Rs 100 crore, to stimulate and develop financial innovation in a long-term institutional setting. RBIH intends to build an ecosystem that promotes access to financial services and goods for the country's low-income people. The Hub would bring together several stakeholders in the financial innovation area (BFSI sector, startup ecosystem, regulators, and academia).

#### 5. **RBI has lifted all curbs on HDFC Bank's new digital launches**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on the new digital business-generating activities of private lender HDFC Bank under its Digital 2.0 programme. The Central bank in December 2020 had asked HDFC Bank to stop all launches of its upcoming digital business-generating activities and sourcing of new credit card customers after repeated outages at its data centre which impacted operations. In addition, the RBI had also directed the bank board to examine the lapses and fix accountability.

#### 6. **RBI has cancelled the licence of Kanpur-based People's Co-operative Bank Ltd.**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the licence of People's Co-operative Bank Limited, Kanpur over lack of adequate capital and earning prospects. The cooperative bank's licence was cancelled as it does not have adequate capital and earning prospects and it failed to comply with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act. The continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors, and with its present financial position, it would be unable to pay its present depositors in full. People's Co-operative Bank has been prohibited from conducting the business of 'banking', which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits, with immediate effect.

#### 7. **Reserve Bank of India removes interest cap for microfinance loans**

**Note:** RBI has allowed the NBFC-microfinance institutions to decide their interest rates to bring microfinance lenders including banks, small finance banks, NBFC and not-for-profit companies on a

uniform regulatory platform. The RBI also raised the annual household income to Rs 3 lakh for a collateral-free loan to be classified as microfinance loan. So far, such loans given to households with an annual income of Rs 1.25 lakh in rural India and Rs 2 lakh in urban and semi-urban areas were classified as microfinance loans. Banks remain the largest microfinance lenders with an about 40% market share, followed by NBFC-MFIs, small finance banks, other NBFCs and NGOs. The changes will come into effect on April 1, 2022. NBFC-MFIs are mandated to raise their net-owned fund to Rs 7 crore by March 31, 2025 and to Rs 10 crore by March 31, 2027 from Rs 5 crore at present. It reduced the minimum requirement of microfinance loans in the total loan assets of NBFC-MFIs to 75% from 85%, to reduce the risk concentration. RBI also removed certain exemptions applied to not-for-profit entities with Rs 100 crore and directed them to register as NBFC-MFIs within 3 months to bring them within its ambit.

#### 8. **RBI Bars Paytm Payments Bank From Onboarding New Customers**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India directed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd to stop onboarding new customers with immediate effect and conduct a comprehensive audit of its IT system, citing "material supervisory concerns". Onboarding of new customers by Paytm Payments Bank will be subject to specific permission to be granted by RBI after reviewing report of the IT auditors. For the year-ended March 31, 2021, Paytm Payments Bank, which has the largest scale among all payment banks, had recorded net profit of Rs 17.88 crore on sales of Rs 1,987.84 crore.

#### 9. **NaBFID to be regulated as AIFI under RBI Act**

**Note:** Reserve Bank of India has announced that National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) will be regulated and supervised by it as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the RBI Act, 1934. NaBFID will be regulated and supervised by RBI as an AIFI under Sections 45L and 45N of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Presently RBI has four AIFIs under it namely EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB and SIDBI. NaBFID will be the fifth AIFI under RBI. NaBFID has been set up as a Development Financial Institution (DFI) to support the development of long-term infrastructure financing in India.

#### 10. **RBI extends Interest subsidy scheme for exporters**

**Note:** With the aim of expanding export shipments, the Reserve Bank of India extended the interest equalisation scheme for pre and post-shipment rupee loans for MSME exporters through March 2024. The 'Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit' provides a subsidy to exporters. The scheme was first extended until the end of June last year, and then again until September 2021.

## 11. RBI releases booklet on modus operandi of financial frauds

**Note:** Reserve Bank of India has launched a booklet named “BE(A)WARE” which features common modus operandi used by fraudsters and precautions to be taken while carrying out various financial transactions. 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. Booklet: provides safeguards against commonly used fraudulent techniques like SIM swaps, vishing/phishing links, lottery, fake loan websites and digital apps etc. The booklet emphasises the need for always keeping one’s personal information confidential, being mindful of unknown calls/emails/messages, etc., and also outlines the due diligence measures to be followed while undertaking financial transactions.

## 12. UPI123Pay: RBI launches new UPI service for feature phones

**Note:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched UPI for feature phones called UPI123Pay. He also launched 24x7 helpline for digital payments – DigiSaathi. UPI on feature phones will help people in rural areas who cannot afford a smartphone. UPI (unified payments interface) '123PAY' is a three-step method to initiate and execute services for users which will work on simple phones.

UPI 123Pay will allow customers to use feature phones for almost all transactions except scan and pay. It doesn't need an internet connection for transactions. Customers have to link their bank account with feature phones to use this facility.

DigiSaathi: A 24x7 helpline for digital payments has also been set up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The helpline christened 'Digisaathi' will assist the callers/users with all their queries on digital payments via website and chatbot. Users can visit [www.digisaathi.info](http://www.digisaathi.info) or call on 14431

and 1800 891 3333 from their phones for their queries on digital payments and grievances.

## 13. RBI selects Intellect Design Arena for Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution

**Note:** Intellect Design Arena said that the RBI has chosen Intellect to implement the upgraded version of the Cloud Native Intellect Quantum Core Banking solution to power the next stage of their digital transformation agenda. 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. Intellect Design Arena's consolidated net profit jumped 25.9% to Rs 101.31 crore on a 33% surge in net sales to Rs 508.29 crore in Q3 FY22 over Q3 FY21.

## 14. RBI exempts UCBs' investment in Umbrella Organisation from non-SLR holding limits

**Note:** RBI has exempted investments made by urban co-operative banks (UCBs) for subscribing to the capital of the Umbrella Organisation (UO) from the limits imposed on holding of non-Statutory Liquidity Ratio (non-SLR) securities. The move is expected to encourage UCBs to subscribe to the capital of UO and acquire its membership. The UO will be a non-banking finance company (NBFC).

## 15. RBI cancelled licence of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank

**Note:** RBI has cancelled the license of Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank, Sangli, Maharashtra, as it did not have adequate capital and earning prospects. With the cancellation of the licence, Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank Ltd has ceased to carry on banking business with effect from the close of business hours on 2 March. The bank is not complying with various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).

## February 2022

### 1. RBI amends payments systems rules

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

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

### 2. RBI cautions against car pooling app sRide

**Note:** The Reserve bank of India cautioned public against car pooling app sRide, citing that the firm was operating a semi-closed pre-paid instrument

without authorization from the central bank. sRide Tech Private Limited is a registered company, with registered office in Gurgaon, Haryana. This company is operating a semi-closed (non-closed) pre-paid instrument (wallet) through its 'sRide' carpooling app. Thus, RBI cautioned that persons dealing with the app will be doing at their own risk.

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

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

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

**Note:** RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept key interest rates unchanged. It retained the

accommodative stance in its first policy after Union Budget 2022. This is the tenth consecutive time that, MPC has maintained the status quo. The three-day RBI MPC meeting started on February 8, and concluded on February 10. Last MPC was held in December 2021, keeping benchmark interest rate unchanged at 4 percent. It decided to continue with its accommodative stance amid the emergence of new coronavirus variant Omicron.

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

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to prematurely redeem sovereign gold bonds (SGBs), which were issued in 2016 at a price of Rs 4,813 per unit of SGB. Under central government rules, the premature redemption is permitted after the fifth year from the date of issue of such gold bonds on the date on which interest is payable. SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold. They are substitutes for holding physical gold. Investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. The bond is issued by the RBI on behalf of the Government of India.

## January-2022

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

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

### 2. **RBI holds special repo auction**

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

### 3. **Rise in Banking Ombudsman complaints**

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

### 4. **RBI sets up fintech dept**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up an internal "FinTech department" for focusing on the dynamically changing financial landscape in India. As per RBI circular, the FinTech department was set up on January 4, 2022. Decision to set up the department was taken in a bid to further focus on the area and innovation in FinTech sector in keeping pace with dynamically changing landscape. The FinTech department will also provide a framework to conduct further research on subject that can aid the policy interventions by the Bank.

### 5. **RBI List of Scheduled Banks**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently included Airtel Payment Bank in the second schedule of RBI Act, 1934. And HDFC, ICICI and SBI are to remain as D – SIB. D – SIB is Domestic Systemically



Important Banks. The bank should belong to the category of CET 1. CET 1 is Common Equity Tier 1. It is a precautionary to self-protect from financial crisis. This comes under the BASEL III norms. The BASEL III norms are international rules. It was introduced to improve supervision and regulation. It is divided into Tier I and Tier II. The Tier I is divided into CET 1 and AT1. AT 1 is Additional Tier 1. In CET 1, the performance of the bank is evaluated based on its return. The CET 1 is the ratio between bank's capital and assets.

#### 6. RBI prompts primary dealers to trade in Retail Direct

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

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

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

#### 8. RBI releases framework for offline digital payments

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a framework for small-value offline transactions in digital mode. As per framework, offline payments can be made using any channel or instrument such as wallets, mobile devices or cards. However, they shall be made in proximity, or in face-to-face mode only. Authorised payment system operators (PSOs) and payment system participants (PSPs) including banks and non-banks, which wants to offer payments in offline mode will require to comply with the requirements under the prescribed framework. Offline payment transactions can be offered without additional factor of authentication (AFA).

## Highlights Economic Survey 2021-22

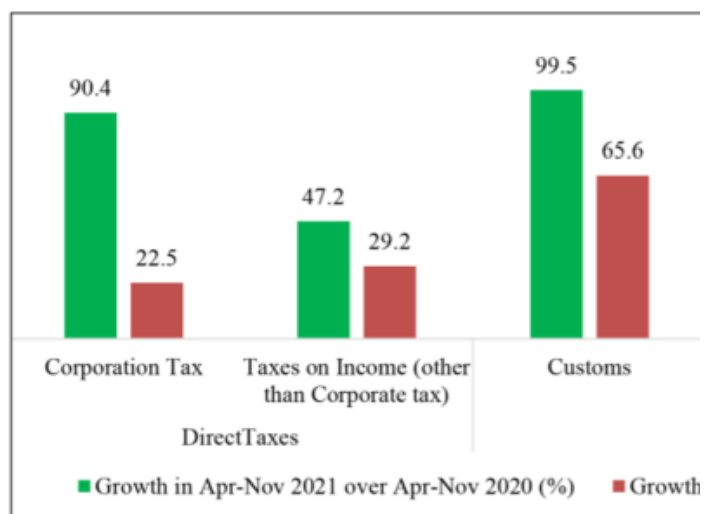
### 1. State of the Economy

- Government's flexible and multi-layered approach is partly based on "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops for monitoring of real-time data.
- For this, govt use eighty **High Frequency Indicators (HFIs)** in an environment of extreme uncertainty.
- As per first advance estimate, Indian economy is estimated to grow by 9.2% in real terms in 2021-22, subsequent to a contraction of 7.3% in 2020-21.
- GDP projection: **Growth of 8% to 8.5% in real terms in 2022-23.**
- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook, India's real GDP is projected to grow at 9% in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1% in 2023-2024, making India the fastest growing major economy in the world.
- **Sectoral Trends:**
  - **Agriculture and allied sectors:** It is expected to grow by 3.9% in 2021-22
  - **Industry:** It will grow by 11.8% in 2021-22
  - **Services sector:** It will grow by 8.2% in 2021-22.
- Consumption is estimated to grow by 7.0% on demand side.
- **Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):** to grow by 15%.

- Exports will grow by 16.5% and imports by 29.4% in 2021-22.
- **India's Consumer Price Index inflation:** 5.6% YoY in December 2021.
- Economic impact of "Covid's second wave" was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.
- Government opted to use safety-nets for vulnerable sections on one hand while responding iteratively based on Bayesian-updating of information.

### 2. Fiscal Developments

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



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

### 3. External Sectors:

- India's merchandise exports and imports has rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during current financial year.
- Current account balance of India turned into deficit of 0.2% of GDP in the first half (H1) of 2021-22.
- **Net capital flows:** US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- **India's external debt** increased from US \$ 556.8 billion in 2020 to US \$ 593.1 billion at end-September 2021.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves touched US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- On November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world, after China, Japan and Switzerland.
- Top export destinations in April-November 2021: **USA followed by UAE and China.**
- Largest import sources for India in April-November, 2021: **China, UAE and USA.**
- **Major Schemes & Initiatives to boost exports:**
  - Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)
  - Developing District as Export Hub

- Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors.
- Electronic Platform for Preferential Certificate of Origin (CoO)
- Infusion of capital in EXIM Bank
- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC)
- Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme
- Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)
- Market Access Initiatives (MAI)
- Special Economic Zone (SEZ) scheme

### 4. Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:

- **Repo rate** was maintained at **4% in 2021-22.**
- RBI took various measures like **G-Sec Acquisition Programme** and **Special Long-Term Repo Operations** to provide liquidity in the market.
- **Bank credit growth** accelerated gradually from 5.3% in April 2021 to 9.2% as on 31st December 2021.
- **Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)** declined from 11.2% at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9% in September, 2021.
- **Net Non-Performing Advances ratio** declined from 6% to 2.2%.
- **Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs** increased from **13% in 2013-14 to 16.54% in September 2021.**
- Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks remain positive for the period ending September 2021.
- During April-November 2021, Rs. 89,066 crore was raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues.
- Sensex and Nifty touched peak at 61,766 and 18,477 respectively in October, 2021.

### 5. Prices and Inflation:

- **Average headline CPI-Combined inflation** decreased to 5.2% in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6% in 2020-21.
- Decline in retail inflation was due to ease of food inflation.
- Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9% in 2021-22 as against 9.1% in 2020-21.
- Measures were taken to control price rise in pulses and edible oils.
- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States eased petrol and diesel prices.
- **Wholesale inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** rose to 12.5% during **April to December 2021-22.**

- Divergence between CPI-C and WPI Inflation has been observed, that can be explained by factors like:
  - Variations due to base effect
  - Difference in scope and coverage of the two indices
  - Price collections
  - Items covered and difference in commodity weights.

## 6. Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- India's score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard: 66 in 2020-21. The rank was 60th in 2019-20
- **Number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99):** 22 States and UTs in 2020-21
- Across North East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.
- India has tenth largest forest area across the world.
- India ranked 3rd globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020.
- Forest covers 24% of India's total geographical, that accounts for 2% of the world's total forest area.
- Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) in the Ganga and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.
- **New Measures:**
  - Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified to phase out single use plastic by 2022
  - Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
  - PM Modi announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021
  - 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) movement was underlined.
- India continued significant climate leadership at **International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** and **Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT Group)**.

## 7. Agriculture and Food Management:

- Agriculture sector registered growth of **3.6% in 2020-21** and **3.9% in 2021-22**.
- **Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy** to promote crop diversification is used extensively.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the recent Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.

- **Livestock sector** has grown at CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of average monthly income.
- Government also facilitated food processing measures like subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- Government has extended coverage of food security network through schemes like **PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY)**.

## 8. Industry and Infrastructure:

- **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** It grew at 17.4% (YoY) during April-November 2021.
- **Capital expenditure for Indian railways** increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 and it has been budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22, which is five times increase in comparison to 2014 level.
- Extent of road construction per day increased 30.4% to 36.5 Kms per day in 2020-21 from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6% in July-September 2021-22.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme gave major boost to physical as well as digital infrastructure, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

## 9. Services:

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

- A total of 44 Indian start-ups bagged unicorn status in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83.

Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to provide buffer for unorganized labor in rural areas during Covid.

## 10. Social Infrastructure and Employment:

- **Covid vaccination:**
  - Union Budget 2021-22 has allocated 35,000 crore for procurement of vaccines under COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
  - 156.76 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines has been registered as on 16th January 2022
  - With this, 93% of 18 year and above aged persons have been vaccinated with first dose and about 70% with second dose.
- As per quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data, employment in urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- Gross enrolment ratio in higher education reached 27.1% in 2019-20.
- **Expenditure on social services (health, education and others)** by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE)
- As per **National Family Health Survey-5:**
  - **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16
  - **Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)** improved.
  - 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts under Jal Jeevan Mission.
  - Increased allotment of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment

### Highlights of Union Budget 2022-23

#### Pillars of Union Budget 2022-23

Union Budget 2022-23 comprises of **four Pillars**:

- PM Gati Shakti
- Inclusive development
- Productivity Enhancement & Investment, Sunrise Opportunities, Energy Transition, and Climate Action
- Financing of investments

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

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

#### India at 75 to India at 100

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

## 11. Tracking Development through Satellite Images & Cartography

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

#### Capital Expenditure

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

#### Fiscal Deficit

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

#### Four Pillar Approach

#### PM Gati Shakti Masterplan

- It is a **National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity** that intends to bring together 16 infrastructure related Ministries.



- PM Gati Shakti will encompass 7 engines for multi-modal connectivity to facilitate faster movement of people & goods including railways, roads, ports, airways, etc.
- It will enrich the economy, create jobs and opportunities for the youth.
- **Roadways:** National Highways (NH) Network to be expanded by 25000 Km in 2022-23 with Rs 20,000 crores finance mobilization.
- **Logistic Parks:** Four Multimodal Logistics Parks will be implemented through PPP mode in 2022-23
- **Railways:**
  - 'One Station One Product' to help local businesses & supply chains.
  - Railway network of 2000 Km to be brought under Kavach, indigenous world class technology and capacity augmentation in 2022-23.
  - 400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains to be manufactured in the next three years.
  - 100 Cargo Terminals under PM Gati Shakti will also be developed in the next few years.
- **Parvatmala (National Ropeways Development Program):** Contracts for 8 ropeway projects of 60 Km length will awarded in 2022-23 on PPP mode.

### Inclusive Development

#### Farmers and Agriculture

##### **MSP:**

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

##### **Agriculture financing:**

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

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

##### **Use of drones:**

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

#### **Other Areas**

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

#### **Ken Betwa project**

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

#### MSME

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

#### Skill Development

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

#### Education

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

#### Health

- **National Digital Health Ecosystem platform** to be rolled out.
- **National Tele Mental Health Programme** for counselling and care services to be launched.
- Network of 23 tele-mental health centres of excellence will be set up, with NIMHANS as nodal

centre and International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIITB) providing technology support.

- Two lakh anganwadis will be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis.

### **Har Ghar, Nal Se Jal**

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

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

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

### **Banking**

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

### **e-Passport**

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

### **Urban Planning**

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

### **Land Records Management**

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

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

#### **Accelerated Corporate Exit**

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

### **Telecom Sector**

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

### **Export Promotion**

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

### **Defence**

- Sector observed 68% of capital procurement earmarked for domestic industry in 2022-23
- Defence R&D to be opened up for industry, startups and academia with 25% defence R&D budget earmarked.
- For meeting testing and certification requirements, Independent nodal umbrella body will be set up

### **Sunrise Opportunities**

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

### **Energy Transition and Climate Action:**

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

### **Financing of investments**

#### **Public Capital Investment**

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

### **Digital Rupee**

RBI to introduce Digital Rupee in 2022-23.

### **GIFT-IFSC**

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

### Mobilising Resources

- Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems to be upgraded to infrastructure status.
- Venture Capital and Private Equity investment to be scaled up
- Blended funds to be promoted for sunrise sectors.
- Sovereign Green Bonds for mobilizing resources for green infrastructure to be issued

### Greater Fiscal Space to States

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

### Tax Proposals

#### Direct Tax

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

- TDS on payment made in relation to transfer of virtual digital asset is at the rate of 1%.
- Gift of virtual digital asset will also to be taxed in the hands of the recipient.
- **Tax incentives to IFSC:**
  - Income of non-resident from offshore derivative instruments.
  - Income from over the counter (OTC) derivatives issued by an offshore banking unit.
  - Income from royalty and interest on account of lease of ship.
  - Income received from portfolio management services in IFSC.
- **Surcharge**
  - Surcharge on Association of Persons (AOPs) capped at 15%.
  - Surcharge on long term capital gains on transfer of any type of assets capped at 15%.
- **Health and Education Cess:** Any surcharge or cess on income and profits not allowable as business expenditure.
- **Discouragement against tax-evasion:** Budget discourages tax invasions and allow any loss against undisclosed income detected during search and survey operations.

#### Indirect Tax

- **GST:** GST revenues goes buoyant despite the pandemic. Gross GST collections for the month of January 2022 is Rs 1,40,986 crore, which is the highest since the inception of the tax in 2017
- **Special Economic Zones:** Customs Administration of SEZs to be fully IT driven and Customs National Portal will be implemented by 30th September 2022.
- Customs Reforms and duty rate changes
- Faceless Customs service has been fully established.
- Certain exemptions for advanced machineries that are not manufactured within India shall continue.
- Few exemptions introduced on inputs, like specialized castings, ball screw and linear motion guide will encourage domestic manufacturing of capital goods.
- More than 350 exemption entries to be gradually phased out.
- **Electronics:** Duty concessions to parts of transformer of mobile phone chargers and camera lens of mobile camera module and certain other items.
- **Gems and Jewellery:** Customs duty on cut and polished diamonds and gemstones has been reduced to 5% and Nil customs duty to simply sawn diamond.
- Customs duty exemption for steel scrap extended for one more year.

- Unblended fuel to attract an additional differential excise duty of Rs 2 per litre from 1st October 2022.

## Ranking, Indexes, Reports and Survey

### May 2022

#### 1. 2022 World Press Freedom Index released

- Released by: Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
- It assesses the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories.
- Top performers: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, and Finland
- India falls 8 positions to 150th rank in 2022 World Press Freedom Index
- India's neighboring countries: Pakistan (157th), Sri Lanka (146th), Bangladesh (162nd), and Myanmar (176th)
- Worst performer: North Korea at 180th rank.

#### 2. State of the World's Forests 2022

- The report says that world has lost 420 million hectares (mha), approximately 10.34% of its total forest area in the last 30 years.
- This is due to deforestation, though forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31%) of the earth's geographical area.
- Some 47 mha of primary forests were lost between 2000 and 2020.
- More than 700 mha of forest (18% of total forest area) is in legally established protected areas.

- Report estimated the cost of global strategies to prevent pandemics based on reducing illegal wildlife trade, avoiding land-use change and increasing surveillance to be \$22 billion to \$31 billion.
- According to the report, around billion people in sub-Saharan Africa will keep relying on polluting fuels like charcoal and fuelwood till 2025.

#### 3. The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022

- India has been featured in top as the fourth most-represented nation with Turkey with 64 universities.
- As per the THE rankings, apart from Calcutta University (14<sup>th</sup> rank), two universities are in the top 100.
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham was ranked 41, and Lovely Professional University secured 74th rank globally.
- Institutes like OP Jindal Global University (JGU), Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Amity University, Chitkara University rank in the top 800 list.

### April 2022

#### 1. India's unemployment rate falls to 7.6% in March from 8.1% in Feb 2022: CMIE Report

- As per the data from **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)**, overall unemployment rate in India fell to 7.6% in March 2022.
- This rate was 8.10% in February 2022.
- The report also stated that though overall unemployment rate in the country is falling, it is still high for a poor country like India.
- Highest unemployment rate in March 2022: **Haryana** at 26.7%, followed by **Rajasthan (25%)**

and **Jammu and Kashmir (25 %)**, **Bihar (14.4%)**, **Tripura (14.1%)** and **West Bengal (5.6%)**.

- Least unemployment rate: **Karnataka and Gujarat**

#### 2. Nykaa Founder Falguni Nayar among top 10 in Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022

- Hurun Research Institute has released Richest Self-Made Women list in the World 2022 which features 8 Chinese women, while 1 each from US, UK and India in the top 10.



- Overall, there are 124 women from 16 countries in the list, including three Indians.
- List of Top Five Richest Self-Made Women
  - Wa Yajun
  - Fan Hongwei
  - Wang Laichun
  - Zhong Huijuan
  - Chen Lihua
- List of Indian billionaires
  - Falguni Nayar (10th) - Nykaa
  - Kiran Mazumdar Shaw (26th) - Biocon
  - Radha Vembu (25th) - Zoho

### 3. Elon Musk tops Forbes Billionaires List 2022, Mukesh Ambani richest Indian (10th)

- Tesla and SpaceX chief Elon Musk has topped Forbes Billionaires List 2022 to emerge as richest person in the world with net worth of \$219 billion.
- He is followed by Amazon chief Jeff Bezos and Louis Vuitton chief Bernard Arnault.
- Top Indian in the list: Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of \$90.7 billion (10<sup>th</sup> rank).
- Top Women in the list: Françoise Bettencourt Meyers with a net worth of \$74.8 billion.
- The list ranks a total of 2,668 billionaires in the 36th edition of the annual ranking of world's richest people by Forbes.

### 5. Gujarat tops NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)

- NITI Aayog has launched State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round I, that ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters:
  - DISCOM's Performance
  - Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy
  - Clean Energy Initiatives
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Environmental Sustainability
  - New Initiatives
- Top Three States among Larger States Category:
  - Gujarat
  - Kerala
  - Punjab
- Top Three States among Smaller States Category:
  - Goa

- Tripura
- Manipur
- Top Three UTs
  - Chandigarh
  - Delhi
  - Daman & Diu/Dadra & Nagar Haveli

### 6. World Bank Report States Extreme Poverty in India Decline by 12.3% between 2011-2019

- The extreme poverty rate in India fell from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019 as per World Bank Policy Research Working Paper.
- This represents a decline of 12.3% points in extreme poverty count between 2011 to 2019
- While reduction in rural poverty dropped by 14.7% points, poverty in urban areas dropped by 7.9 percentage points.
- The paper titled 'Poverty has Declined over the last decade But Not as Much As Previously Thought' was jointly authored by economists Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide

### 7. NITI Aayog releases draft battery swapping policy

- According to this, all metropolitan cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritized for the development of a battery swapping network under the first phase.
- All major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters, and cities with populations above 5 lakh will be covered under the second phase.
- Importance has been given to the two-wheeler and three-wheeler vehicle segments in growing cities.
- Nodal Agency: Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is responsible for the rollout of EV public charging infrastructure.
- India has signed UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreement in 2021.

### 8. WWF Report on Online Wildlife Trade

- Released by: World Wildlife Fund
- It shows illegal purchases of wildlife online are growing in Myanmar in a threat both to public health and to endangered species.
- It found that enforcement of bans on such transactions has weakened amid political turmoil following a 2021 military takeover.
- Number of such dealings rose 74% over a year earlier to 11,046

- For 173 species traded, 54 are threatened with global extinction.

## 9. International Religious Freedom Report 2022

- Released by: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
- It has recommended that India be designated 'Country of Particular Concern' (CPC) for the third time.
- Country of Particular Concern (CPC): category of governments performing most poorly on religious freedom criteria.
- CPC lists include India, Pakistan, Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria and Vietnam.

## 10. QS World University Rankings 2022

- Released by: **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).**

**March 2022**

### 1. India ranks 3rd in billionaire population globally

- India has been ranked 3rd in terms of most billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022
- Top Performers: **United States** and **China**
- 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
- Number of UHNWIs globally increased by 9.3% in 2021 to 6,10,569, from 5,58,828 in the previous year.
- Highest growth of UHNWIs in 2021: Bengaluru, followed by Delhi and Mumbai.

### 2. State of India's Environment Report 2022

- Released by: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).
- Focuses on climate change, migration, health, and food systems, biodiversity, forest and wildlife, energy, etc.

- It started in 2004 and is an annual publication of university rankings.
- It featured 1,300 Universities from around the world
- Its methodology consists of 6 metrics: Academic Reputation (40%), Employer Reputation (10%), Faculty/Student Ratio (20%), Citations per faculty (20%), International Faculty Ratio (5%), International Student Ratio (5%).
- Top performers: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA, University of Oxford, UK and Stanford University, USA.
- India's position: IIT-Kharagpur has been ranked 37th in 2022. Jadavpur University is the only state university in India in arts and humanities category in 2022.
- Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) bagged 9th rank in engineering and technology.

- **Economy:** The target for to raise GDP to nearly \$4 trillion by 2022-23. But by 2020, economy has grown only to USD 2.48 trillion.
- **Employment:** Target was to increase female labor force participation rate to at least 30% by 2022-23. It stood at 17.3% in January-March 2020.
- **Housing:** Targets are to construct 29.5 million housing units under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Rural and 12 million units under PMAY-Urban. Only about 46.8% and 38% respectively of the targets have been achieved.
- **Drinking Water:** Target is to provide safe piped drinking water to all by 2022-23 and only 45% of the target has been achieved.
- **Agriculture:** Target is to double farmers' income by 2022. Share of income from crop production in the average monthly income of an agricultural household has dropped to 37.2% in 2018-19, from 48% in 2012-13.
- **Digitization of Land Records:** Another target is to digitize land records by 2022. While states like MP, West Bengal and Odisha have made good progress, states like J&K, Ladakh and Sikkim languish at 5%, 2% and 8.8% digitization of land records, respectively.
- **Air Pollution:** Target is to bring down Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 levels in Indian cities to less than

50 micrograms per cubic metre. In 2020, when vehicular movement was restricted due to COVID, 23 of 121 cities monitored for PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceeded 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

- **Forest Cover:** Target is to increase it to 33.3% of geographical area, as envisaged in National Forest Policy, 1988. By 2019, 21.6% of India was under forest cover.
- **Energy:** Target is to achieve renewable energy generation capacity of 175 GW by 2022. Only 56% of this target has been achieved thus far.

### 3. India ranks 120th in Sustainable Development Report 2021

- India has been ranked 120th in the Sustainable Development Report 2021 or Sustainable Development Index 2021 with a score of 60.07.
- Top performers: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and Belgium.
- Index measures the total progress of India towards achieving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- These 17 SDGs were adopted by UN General Assembly in September 2015 as a part of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- India was ranked 117th in SDG report 2020
- South-Asian countries: Bhutan (75<sup>th</sup> rank), Sri Lanka (87<sup>th</sup>), Nepal (96<sup>th</sup>), and Bangladesh (109<sup>th</sup>)

### 4. 'Innovation in India's Rural Economy report

- Released by: Bain & Company and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- Full report is titled as "Innovation in India's Rural Economy: disruptive business models are stimulating inclusive growth in agriculture and rural finance"

#### Key findings:

- Agriculture sector has grown by CAGR of 11% during 2015-2020 and it contributes to approximately 37% of total rural GDP.
- Around 30% of rural ecosystem is adopting digital payment and digital commerce.
- Agri credit has grown at 10% CAGR in the last five years, and its 35% comes from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

### 5. Q4 & 2021 Annual India Solar Market Update

- Released by: Mercom India Research.
- As per the report, India installed a record 10 GW of new solar capacity in 2021, which is 210% increase as compared to 3.2 GW installed in 2020.
- Cumulative installed solar capacity in India at the end of Q4 2021 was approx. 49 GW.
- Top three large scale solar installations state: Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh
- Solar power accounted for 62% of new power capacity additions in 2021

### 6. India ranked 'partly free' in Freedom of the World 2022 report

- India has been termed as 'partly free' country in terms of democracy and free society, as per the annual report titled '**Freedom in the World 2022 – The Global Expansion of Authoritarian Rule**' for the second consecutive year with a score of 66.
- India's freedom scores are like that of Bolivia, Hungary, and Albania.
- India was a free country till 2020 with 71 score
- In 2022, 85 countries were free, 56 as partly free, 69 as not free
- Worst scorer: South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea, and North Korea.
- Top Scorer: Switzerland, New Zealand and Denmark
- Freedom of the World Report:
  - It is published every year since 1973 by Freedom House (US NGO)
  - The report uses 25 indicators, grouped into the categories of political and civil rights

### 7. India emerges as the largest importer of arms in 2017-21: SIPRI Report

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its latest report titled Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021.
- Largest Arms Importers in 2017-21: India, followed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Australia, and China

- Both India and Saudi Arabia accounted for 11% of all global arms sales.
- Largest Arms Exporters in 2017-21: USA, with 39% share, retained its position as the world's largest arms exporters, followed by Russia, France, China, and Germany

India's Maternal Mortality Ratio improved to 103 in 2017-19

- Registrar General of India has released the official data showing the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in India which is significantly improved at 103 for 2017-19
- MMR was 122 in 2015-17 and 113 in 2016-18
- MMR: number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births during a given period.
- Number of states that have met SDG objective has increased from 5 to 7.
- Best Indian states wrt MMR: Kerala (30), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (56), Tamil Nadu (58) and Andhra Pradesh (58).

#### 8. RailTel ranks 124 in Fortune India Next 500 list

- RailTel jumped 67 positions to be ranked 124th in the recently announced 'Fortune India Next 500 list of Year 2022'. list.
- It was ranked 197 in the 2021 list of top midsize companies operating in India.
- Apart from RailTel, IRCTC is the only Railway PSU featuring in the list, at the rank of 309.
- RailTel: One of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure services providers in the country. It is the only telecom PSU on the list.
- There are 10 (including RailTel) India government companies in the list.

#### 9. New Delhi is the world's most polluted capital city: Air Quality Report

- New Delhi has been ranked as the world's most polluted capital city for the second consecutive year as per IQAir's 2021 World Air Quality Report.
- Prepared by: Swiss organization IQAir
- Top 5 polluted capital cities: New Delhi, followed by Dhaka (Bangladesh), N'Djamena (Chad), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Muscat (Oman)
- Most polluted city of India: Bhiwadi, followed by Ghaziabad, Delhi, Jaunpur

- Most polluted country: Bangladesh, followed by Chad, Pakistan, Tajikistan and India.

#### 10. India ranks 136th in the World Happiness Report 2022

- India has been ranked 136th in the World Happiness Report 2022, out of 146 countries
- Top performer: Finland, followed by Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, and The Netherlands
- US is at the 16th spot
- Worst performers: Afghanistan (146th), Lebanon (145th), Zimbabwe (144th), Rwanda (143rd), and Botswana (142nd).
- Ranking is done on a three-year average based on 'Life Evaluation' survey conducted by Gallup World Poll
- The report is published by Sustainable Development Solutions Network

#### 11. Care at work: Investing in care leave and services for a more gender equal world of work

- Released by: International Labour Organization (ILO)
- As per the report, universal childcare and long-term care services can generate up to 299 million jobs by 2035.
- Among 299 million jobs, women will have 234 million jobs.
- Annual investment of USD 5.4 trillion will be required for this job creation potential by 2035.
- Globally, only 89 out of 179 countries have a statutory provision of public long-term care services for older persons.

#### 12. Hurun Global Rich List 2022

- It ranked a total of 3,381 billionaires from 2,557 companies and 69 countries.
- Top performer: China with 1,050 billionaires owning \$3,756 billion and US with 523 billionaires owning \$3,554 billion.
- India ranked third in the list with 119 billionaires accounting \$474 billion.
- States with largest number of dollar millionaires: Mumbai, followed by Delhi and Kolkata.



### 13. Global Power of Retailing 2022

- Released by: Deloitte
- Top performer: Walmart, followed by Jeff Bezos-owned Amazon and US-based Costco Wholesale Corporation.
- Reliance Retail has been ranked 56<sup>th</sup> on the list of top 250 global retailers.

### 14. Annual Frontier Report, 2022

- Released by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- As per the report, Dhaka (Bangladesh) has been ranked as the world's most noise polluted city with 119 decibels (dB) noise pollution in 2021
- Dhaka is followed by Moradabad and Islamabad
- World quietest city: Irbid (Jordan), followed by Lyon (France) and Madrid (Spain).
- Four most noise polluted cities in India: Kolkata, Asansol, Jaipur, and Delhi.

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## January 2022

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

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

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

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

### 15. The 7th edition of Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2021 titled 'Digital Acceleration 2.0'

- Released by: Duff & Phelps.
- Most valued celebrity in India: Indian cricketer Virat Kohli with brand value of USD 185.7 million in 2021.
- He is followed by Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar

### 16. Gujarat tops Export Preparedness Index 2021

- Gujarat has retained the top position in the 2nd edition of NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2021.
- Prepared by: NITI Aayog and Institute of Competitiveness
- Top 10 states: Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- Top UTs: Delhi, followed by Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh and Puducherry.
- Himalayan states: Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim and Manipur.

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

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

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

- Base value of the index is set at 10,000 and base date is 1 April 2018

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

- It outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in electric mobility ecosystem.
- It provides considerations and recommendations to inform inclusion of EVs in RBI's PSL guidelines.
- Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore (USD 5 billion) by 2025

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

- Itb reveals that COVID-19 pandemic has heightened economic inequalities across the world.
- Key highlights:
  - Wealth of world's 10 richest men doubled since COVID began.
  - Collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (\$ 775 billion) in 2021.
  - Number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 during COVID.
  - 84% of households suffered a decline in their income in a year.

#### 6. Environment Minister releases Forest Survey report 2021

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 11. Global Risks Report 2022

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

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

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

## Economy News

(1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

### 1. Adani Group to buy 49% in Quintillion Business Media

**Note:** Billionaire Gautam Adani's AMG Media Networks, a unit of Adani Enterprises, will buy a 49% stake in Raghav Bahl-curated digital business news platform Quintillion Business Media Pvt Ltd for an undisclosed sum. In March, Adani Enterprises announced its foray into the media business by acquiring an unspecified minority stake in Quintillion Business Media Ltd (QBML). Quintillion is Raghav Bahl-curated digital business news platform.

### 2. Adani Group becomes India's 2nd largest cement maker with \$10.5 billion acquisition of Ambuja-ACC

**Note:** Billionaire Gautam Adani clinched a \$10.5 billion deal that grants his conglomerate a 63.19 per cent stake in Swiss cement major Holcim Ltd's India operations, Ambuja Cements Ltd and its subsidiary ACC. With this, the Adani Group became the second largest cement producer in the country after the Aditya Birla Group owned UltraTech Cement.

### 3. GAIL awards contract to set up one of India's largest PEM based Green Hydrogen project

**Note:** In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL (India) Limited has awarded a contract to set up one of the largest Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolyser in India. The project would be installed at GAIL's Vijaipur Complex, in Guna District of Madhya Pradesh, and would be based on renewable power. The Project has been designed to produce around 4.3 Metric Tons of Hydrogen per day (approx. 10 MW capacity) with a purity of about 99.999 Volume %. It is scheduled to be commissioned by November 2023. The National Hydrogen Mission has the target of producing 5 million tonnes of Green Hydrogen by 2030.

### 4. India bans wheat export with one exception

**Note:** India banned wheat exports with some exceptions. This announcement came days after the central government had announced that this year record shipments of wheat are being targeted. This decision was

taken by the government as scorching heatwaves in the country's northern parts have curtailed output resulting in skyrocketing domestic prices. The decision was taken to manage India's overall food security and to support the needs of the vulnerable and neighbouring countries.

### 5. Retail Inflation Surges To 7.79% In April, Highest In 8 Years

**Note:** According to the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), retail inflation in April is 7.79%. The consumer price-based inflation figure stayed well above Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance limit for the fourth consecutive month. In April, the CPI inflation expanded at its highest pace in eight years. The previous high was recorded at 8.33 per cent in May 2014. The highest inflation rate is seen in West Bengal, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Telangana.

### 6. SEBI forms advisory committee for ESG-related matters

**Note:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India has formed an advisory committee for advising on Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) related matters pertaining to the securities markets. The committee will be chaired by Navneet Munot, the chief executive officer of HDFC Asset Management Company. The terms of reference of the committee include Enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings, and ESG investing. It will examine evolving disclosures/metrics relevant to the Indian context and suggest areas for assurance and a plan for implementation.

### 7. The biggest-ever initial public offering (IPO) of India is by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

**Note:** The blockbuster initial public offering (IPO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the country's largest life insurer, was subscribed 2.95 times by the end of sixth and final day of bidding. The price band of LIC IPO is Rs 902-949 per share and the company offered a discount of Rs 60 per share for its policyholders and Rs 45 apiece for

retail investors and LIC employees. It has been fully booked under all the offered categories

**8. L&T Infotech, Mindtree announce merger to create country's 5th-largest IT services provider**

**Note:** Recently, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) announced the merger of its two software companies, Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) and Mindtree. The combined entity will be known as "LTIMindtree". Currently, TCS ranks first among the IT firms with the highest market valuation. TCS is followed by Infosys, HCL Tech, and Wipro.

**9. Unemployment rate at 8.7% in October-December 2021: NSO survey**

**Note:** The unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above in urban areas slipped to 8.7 per cent in October-December 2021 from 10.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter, showed a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The unemployment rate for persons of age 15 years and above in July-September 2021 was 9.8 per cent in urban areas, the 13th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed.

**10. International conference on insolvency, bankruptcy**

**Note:** The first two-day International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), jointly with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). The two-day research conference was held under the aegis of the Misra Centre of Financial Markets at IIMA. Other associate partners of the conference include the National Stock Exchange, State Bank of India, BSE Investors' Protection Fund, and National Institute of Securities Markets.

**11. All-time high GST collections in April 2022**

**Note:** India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit a new high of ₹1.68 lakh crore in April 2022. For the first time, gross GST collection has crossed the ₹1.5 lakh crore mark. There were wide variations in growth trends across States. While Tamil Nadu's collections grew 10% in April, Odisha saw collections rise by 28%. Six States and Union Territories reported a contraction in revenues from a year ago, including Bihar (-2%), Manipur (-33%), Mizoram (-19%) and Tripura (-3%). Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest growth of GST revenue during April 2022 vis a vis April 2021, with a record 90% jump in GST collection.

**12. Coal shortage in India**

**Note:** Currently, India is undergoing a second major power crisis since October 2021. The main reason for the coal shortage is the increasing power demand. In 2022, the demand increased to 132 billion units (BU) per month, from 106.6 BU a month in 2019. Another reason is the reduction in coal imports. The global coal prices increased due to global energy shortage and supply disruptions caused by the Russia-Ukraine war. There are also supply constraints within India due to shortage of rail rakes. The number of trains committed by the Indian

Railways per day is 415, which is 8.4% lower than the 453 required by the power utilities.

**13. India's pharma exports increase to Rs 1.83 lakh crore in 2021-22**

**Note:** Pharma exports have touched Rs 1,83,422 crore in 2021-22 against Rs 90,415 crore in 2013-14. India's pharma exports in 2021-22 sustained a positive growth despite the global trade disruptions and drop in demand for COVID related medicines. By virtue of price competitiveness and good quality, Indian pharma companies have made a global mark. India is a major exporter of Pharmaceuticals, with 60% of the world's vaccines and 20% of generic medicines coming from India. More than 200+ countries are served by Indian pharma exports. India supplies over 50% of Africa's requirements for generic medicines. India is a leading supplier of DPT, BCG, and Measles vaccines. 70% of WHO's vaccines (as per the essential Immunization schedule) are sourced from India. Thus, India has been serving as the 'pharmacy of the world'.

**14. Swiggy signs deal with Times Internet to acquire Dineout**

**Note:** Food delivery giant Swiggy said it has entered into a definitive agreement with Times Internet to acquire Dineout, leading dining out and restaurant tech platform. Dineout will continue to operate as an independent app post the acquisition. Designed to capitalise on Dineout's unique assets and leading position in the dining out space, the acquisition will enable Swiggy to cater to every food occasion. Swiggy will double down on the synergies with Dineout's offerings, including dining out table reservations and events.

**15. SEBI grants recognition to NSDL Database Management as accreditation agency for 3 yrs**

**Note:** SEBI has granted recognition to NSDL Database Management Ltd (NDML) as an accreditation agency for three years. The entity is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL). The agency will issue accreditation certificate to "accredited investors".

**16. SEBI amends InvITs rule; specifies draft filing fees for initial offer, rights issue**

**Note:** SEBI has changed certain norms for Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs) with regards to the payment of fees for initial public offer and rights issue. Now, InvITs are required to pay non-refundable filing fees of 0.1% in case of IPO and payment of 0.05% in case of rights issue of the total issue size. At present, 15 InvITs are registered with Sebi and 7 of them are listed on the stock exchanges.

**17. Reliance became 1st Indian company to cross USD 100 bn annual revenue**

**Note:** Reliance Industries become the first Indian company to record annual revenue of more than a whopping \$100 billion. The company has recorded a 22.5% rise in net profit for the quarter ended March 2022. Reliance has recorded strong growth in retail, digital services, and the oil & gas business. The company



has also reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) of Rs 33,968 crores (28% up) year-on-year.

#### 18. Nexcharge commences mass production of lithium-ion battery packs in Gujarat

**Note:** Nexcharge, a joint venture between India's Exide Industries Limited and Switzerland-based Leclanché SA, announced the inauguration of its new manufacturing plant at Prantij in Gujarat. The company's new state-of-the-art, fully automated manufacturing facility is spread across 6,10,098 sq. feet and is claimed to be the largest in India for the production of lithium-ion battery packs and modules.

#### 19. Tata Power Solar gets ₹5,500 crore order from SJVN

**Note:** Tata Power Solar Systems has bagged India's largest solar engineering procurement and construction (EPC) order for 1 GW project worth ₹5,500 crore from state-owned hydroelectric power generation company SJVN Ltd. This project in Rajasthan aims at reducing around 22,87,128 kg of carbon emission and is expected to generate around 2500 million units annually. The project will be developed under the central public sector undertaking (CPSU) scheme of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) and will be completed within a period of 24 months.

April 2022

#### 1. India's Labour Force Participation Rate

**Note:** Recently, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows that India's Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) has fallen to just 40% from an already low 47% in 2016. This suggests not only that more than half of India's population in the working-age group (15 years and older) is deciding to sit out of the job market, but also that this proportion of people is increasing. According to the CMIE, the labor force consists of people who are 15 years or older, and belong to either of the following two categories:

- ❖ Are Employed
- ❖ Are unemployed and are willing to work and are actively looking for a job.

These two categories have people "demanding" jobs. This demand is what LFPR refers to. Thus, the LFPR essentially is the percentage of the working-age (15 years or older) population that is asking for a job.

#### 2. NABARD plans Farmer Distress Index (FDI)

**Note:** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is planning to formulate a farmer distress index (FDI) to track, identify and support the real needy and distressed farmers. According to a study jointly conducted by NABARD and Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS), a farmers producers' organization, in Punjab, more than 60% of the 'very high' and 'high' distress small and marginal farmers did not receive farm loan waiver benefits.

#### 20. Adani Wilmar became India's largest FMCG company surpassing HUL

**Note:** Adani Wilmar Limited became the largest Fast Moving Consumer Goods Company (FMCG) in India beating Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), after the announcement of its Quarter Four results for the financial year 2022 (Q4FY2022). AWL has reported total operating revenue of Rs 54,214 crore in the Financial Year 2022 whereas HUL reported a revenue of Rs 51,468 crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

#### 21. ReNew Power inks PPAs, long term agreements for solar power supply

**Note:** ReNew Power has signed five power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Centre and State government entities for providing around 1.5 gigawatts (GW) of solar power. The involved state govts are spread over Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Apart from this, Renew Power has signed five solar PPAs with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL), as well as multiple long-term purchase agreements with corporate buyers together totalling around 2 GW. The company's gross total portfolio has now increased to around 12.1 GW from 10.2 GW at the beginning of 2022.

#### 3. Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd to buy govt's 51% stake in Pawan Hans helicopter service provider

**Note:** The government will sell its 51 per cent stake in Pawan Hans to Star9 Mobility Pvt Ltd for Rs 211 crore. Pawan Hans has been incurring losses in the last three years. It has a fleet of 42 helicopters, of which 41 are owned by it. The owned helicopters have an average age of 20 years, and the original equipment manufacturer has stopped manufacturing three-fourths of them.

#### 4. IndiGo becomes first airline to use indigenous navigation system GAGAN

**Note:** IndiGo becomes the first airline in Asia to land its aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN. This is a huge leap for Indian Civil Aviation and a firm step toward Aatmanirbhar Bharat, as India becomes the third country in the world to have its own SBAS system after the USA and Japan. The flight was conducted using an ATR-72 aircraft and landed at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan on Wednesday (April 27) morning, using GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN), which has been jointly developed by the Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

#### 5. Reliance Industries and UAE-based TA'ZIZ sign agreement for chemical project

**Note:** Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ) have signed a formal shareholder agreement for setting up a

chemical project at TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemicals Zone, Ruwais in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Reliance is India's largest diversified conglomerate and a strategic partner with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ADQ, an Abu Dhabi-based investment and holding company, in TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC, a world-scale chemicals development at the TA'ZIZ Industrial Chemicals Zone in Ruwais, UAE.

**6. India's gold imports increased by 33.34% to Rs 46.14 billion in 2021-22**

**Note:** According to the official data, the import of gold in India has been rose by 33.34% to Rs 46.14 billion on account of higher demand in 2021-22. The import of gold in 2020-21 was about Rs 34.62 billion. The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to \$192.41 billion, against \$102.62 billion in 2020-21. India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China. The imports are largely driven by the jewellery industry. The export of gems and jewellery grew by about 50% to about \$39 billion during 2021-22.

**7. Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022**

**Note:** India's GDP growth has been forecasted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to 7.5 per cent in 2022-23 from 2021-22's estimated 8.9 per cent. The report has also suggested that the growth will pick up and reach 8 per cent in 2023-2024. In its Asian Development Outlook report, the ADB has highlighted that with the increase in commodity prices food prices are also expected to rise.

**8. SEBI Forms Panel To Strengthen Governance Of Stock Exchanges**

**Note:** SEBI has constituted a committee that will review and make recommendations for the strengthening of governance norms at market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) and stock exchanges. The committee consists of six members and G Mahalingam, a former whole-time member of SEBI, will be chairing this committee. The committee will be making recommendations on various measures so that the role played by governing committees and boards of MIIs is strengthened.

**9. India's Trade Deficit Rose 88% In 2021-22**

**Note:** The trade deficit of India rose by 87.5 percent from USD 102.63 billion in 2020-21 to USD 192.41 billion in 2021-22. The total export in the last fiscal year touched a record margin of USD 417.81 billion, the imports for the same period imports too soared to touch USD 610.22 billion, thus, leaving USD 192.41 billion trade gap. In March 2022, the country's trade deficit was USD 18.69 billion, while during the entire period of 2021-22 it was USD 192.41 billion.

**10. Cabinet approves Nutrient Based Subsidy rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for Kharif Season**

**Note:** The central government announced that the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers for this year's Kharif season

which is from April to September 2022 will be increased to Rs 60,939 crore, as against Rs 57,150 crore for the whole of 2021. This increase in subsidy will insulate the farmers from the global price increase of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and other non-urea nutrients.

**11. Indian steel exports jump 152 per cent between 2013-14 and 2021-22**

**Note:** There has been a 152 per cent jump in iron and steel exports, in value terms, in April-January 2021-22, over the same 10-month period in 2013-14. India's finished steel exports (globally) were at 10.78 million tonnes in 2020-21, against 8.3 million tonnes in 2019-20. In the last fiscal year, total production stood at 96.2 million tonnes, while consumption was at 94.89 million tonnes. According to data available on the Ministry of Steel website, 11.142 million tonnes of finished steel was exported in the 10-month period of FY22; an increase of 26 per cent YoY (over 8.84 million tonnes in April-January of FY21).

**12. counter China's BRI, MEA launches Global Innovation Partnership (GIP)**

**Note:** India and the United Kingdom have launched their Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) as both countries look to bolster their innovation ecosystem to benefit the start-ups. GIP is expected to provide a model for utilizing the Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) Fund for projects with other countries like Germany, Japan, the European Union, France, etc that are willing to work with India on the field of development and innovation. The GIP will be co-financed by India and the UK.

**13. Household Consumer Expenditure Survey**

**Note:** The All-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey is set to resume this year (2022) after a prolonged break. The results will include separate data sets for rural and urban parts, and splice spending patterns for each State and Union Territory, as well as different socio-economic groups. Since 2011-12, the country hasn't had any official estimates on per capita household spending. This estimate is used to check the poverty levels in different parts of the nation and to review other economic indicators such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The last survey in 2017-18 was junked by the government citing issues in data quality. The 2022-23 survey will be conducted from July and it will be completed by June 2023.

**14. World Bank's Global Growth Forecast**

**Note:** The World Bank has reduced the global growth forecast for 2022 from 4.1 percent to 3.2 percent. The growth forecast has been reduced due to the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The World Bank has proposed a new 15-month crisis financing target of USD 170 billion, out of which USD 50 billion will be committed over the next three months. The proposed financing target will be covering from April 2022 to June 2023. The

World Bank stated that there will be a 4.1 percent contraction in Central Asia and the European region that comprises Russia, Ukraine, Russia, and other surrounding countries. Also, the forecasts are being cut for many advanced as well as developing economies due to the rise in prices of energy and food caused due to the war-related supply disruptions. The Word Bank had earlier implemented a USD 160 billion COVID-19 financing program.

#### 15. World bank Report States Extreme Poverty in India Decline by 12.3%

**Note:** The extreme poverty rate in India fell from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019 as per World Bank Policy Research Working Paper. This represents a decline of 12.3 percentage points in extreme poverty count between 2011 to 2019 in the country. The decline in rural areas was much higher than in urban areas. While the reduction in rural poverty dropped by 14.7 percentage points, the poverty in urban areas dropped by 7.9 percentage points. The paper titled 'Poverty has Declined over the last decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought' was jointly authored by economists Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide.

#### 16. World Bank cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 8% from 8.7% in FY23

**Note:** The World Bank has slashed India's GDP forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 to 8% from 8.7% predicted earlier, citing worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. South Asia's growth outlook, excluding Afghanistan has also been slashed to 6.6 percent. According to the World Bank, India's household consumption will be constrained due to the labour market's incomplete recovery from

inflationary and COVID-19-related pressures. High food and oil prices due to the war in Ukraine will also have a negative impact on the real incomes of the people.

#### 17. WTO Projection on Global Trade Growth

**Note:** The World Trade Organization (WTO) has revised its global trade growth forecast this year from 4.7 percent to 3 percent due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war. The WTO has also warned about a potential food crisis that might be caused price surges. This WTO report has stated that the conflict which is now in its seventh week has damaged the economy of the world that was at a critical point due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### 18. Foreign Trade Policy 2015-2020 extended for 6 months till September 2021

**Note:** The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 has been extended by the government by six months up to 30th September 2022. Till 31st March 2022, the existing Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 was valid. It has now been extended till 30th September 2022. This announcement was done by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. After the Covid-19 pandemic started, this policy was first extended by a year to March 2020's end and later till 30th

#### 19. India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

**Note:** Recently, India signed a historic trade agreement with Australia, the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (Ind- Aus ECTA). In February 2022, India and Australia announced that they were going to sign such an agreement. The negotiations for India-Australia ECTA were formally re-launched in September 2021 and concluded on a fast-track basis by the end of March 2022.

### March 2022

#### 1. India Ratings lowers India's FY23 GDP growth forecast to 7-7.2%

**Note:** India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) has revised downwards the GDP growth forecast for India in FY23 to 7-7.2 per cent. Earlier in January, the rating agency Ind-Ra had forecast this rate at 7.6 per cent.

#### 2. ICRA cuts India's GDP growth forecast in FY23 to 7.2%

**Note:** Rating agency ICRA has lowered the growth forecast for India's GDP in 2022-23 (FY23) to 7.2 per cent. Earlier this rate was 8 per cent. The ICRA Ltd. has projected the GDP growth forecast for 2021-22 (FY22) at 8.5%, lower than the official advance estimate from the National Statistical Office of 8.9%.

#### 3. Russia- Ukraine Conflict affect on India's GDP growth

**Note:** According to a UN report, India's projected economic growth for 2022 has been downgraded by more than 2% to 4.6 percent, a decrease attributed

to the ongoing war in Ukraine. New Delhi is expected to face restrictions on energy access and prices, as well as trade sanctions, food inflation, tightening policies, and financial instability.

#### 4. PFRDA and Irdai granted licence to FinMapp to sell NPS, insurance

**Note:** FinMapp, a financial services firm, announced that it has been granted a licence under the National Pension Scheme by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). It has also obtained a registration certificate as a corporate agent from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).

#### 5. OECD projects India's GDP for FY23 at 8.1%

**Note:** The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has retained the outlook for India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at 5.5% in FY24, lower than 8.1% in 2022-23.

**6. Fitch Ratings reduce India's FY23 growth forecast to 8.5%**

**Note:** Fitch Ratings has slashed India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal FY 2022-2023 to 8.5 per cent in its Global economic Outlook-March 2022. Earlier this rate was estimated at 10.3%. The downwards projection is due to sharply higher energy prices because of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The Rating agency Fitch has revised upwards the GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal FY 2021-2022, by 0.6 percentage points to 8.7 percent.

**7. Central Record keeping Agency under NPS: launched by CAMS**

**Note:** The go-live and opening of the Central Record Keeping Agency (CRA) under the National Pension System has been announced by Computer Age Management Services Limited (CAMS), India's largest registrant and transfer agent of mutual funds (a SEBI regulated business). CAMS was chosen as a CRA by the sector regulator, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), to broaden the services available to NPS subscribers and the ecosystem.

**8. Moody's lowers India's GDP forecast for CY22 to 9.1%**

**Note:** Rating agency Moody's has revised downwards the economic growth forecast of India by 40 basis points to 9.1 per cent in the Calendar Year 2022 (CY2022), due to adverse effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the global economy. Earlier in February 2022, Moody's estimated India's GDP in CY2022 to 9.5 percent. Moody's has projected India's GDP growth forecast for the Calendar Year (CY) 2023 at 5.4 percent.

**9. India entered into world's top five club in terms of market capitalisation**

**Note:** As per Bloomberg's recent data on Market capitalization, for the 1st time, India's equities market has entered the world's top 5 in terms of market capitalization. India is ranked 5th with an overall market capitalization of USD 3.21 trillion. The total world market cap stands at USD 109.22 trillion. The US topped the ranking with an overall market cap of USD 47.32 trillion, followed by China (USD 11.52 trillion), Japan (USD 6 trillion) and Hong Kong (USD 5.55 trillion).

**10. EPFO lowers the interest rate on PF deposits to 8.1% for 2021-22**

**Note:** The retirement fund body, Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has slashed the interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.10% for 2021-22. This rate is 0.4% lower than the previous year. The interest rate on PF deposits was 8.5% in 2020-21 and 2019-20.

**11. Limit of Public Debt Investment via UPI increased upto Rs 5 Lakhs by SEBI**

**Note:** SEBI has raised the investment limit for retail investors applying in public debt securities issuance via the universal payments interface (UPI) mechanism to Rs 5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh previously. The move comes after the National Payments Corporation of India NPCI decided to increase the per transaction limit for UPI-based applications supported by blocked amount ASBA initial public offering.

**12. CDSL becomes first depository to register more than 60 million Demat accounts**

**Note:** The Central Depository Services (India) announced that it now has more than six crores (i. e. equivalent to 60 million) active Demat accounts. A Demat account is a kind of account that can be used to keep online copies of securities and shares. A Demat account is a dematerialized account in its entire form. The main purpose of a Demat account is to keep shares that have been bought or dematerialized (that means conversion from physical to electronic form of shares), making online share trading easier for users.

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

**Note:** This financial year, India is set to export around 7 million tonnes of wheat. This would be one of the highest exports of wheat by India. India is the world's second biggest producer of wheat, accounting for 13.53% of global production. But it only accounts for 1% of global wheat exports. Annually India produces around 108 million tonnes of wheat. However, majority of the production goes for domestic consumption. India exported a record 6.5 million tonnes in the financial year 2012-13. By the end of February 2022, India already exported 6.6 million tonnes of wheat.

**14. India, Canada set for FTA talks**

**Note:** India and Canada decided to restart negotiations on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The benefits of India-Canada CEPA were highlighted by "India-Canada CEO Round Table" held in 2008. It was decided that bilateral trade would get boost by elimination of tariffs. In 2010, the benefits were reiterated in the report based on joint study conducted by both the countries. In the same year, Prime Ministers of India and Canada announced the launch of India-Canada CEPA in Seoul, to realize the benefits. Later, the negotiations for India-Canada CEPA were formally launched in New Delhi.

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

**Note:** According to a research report by the independent consulting firm Oxford Economics,



YouTube's ever-growing creator ecosystem contributed Rs 6,800 crores to the Indian economy in 2020. Not only that, the platform became a primary source of income for millions of creators, generating 6,83,900 full-time jobs in the country.

#### 16. Draft framework on Sustainable Financial Lending

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

#### 17. FM launches e-Bill processing system

**Note:** Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Electronic Bill (e-Bill) processing system under the Digital India ecosystem and ease of doing business. This e-governance initiative was announced in the Budget 2022-23 by the FM. Across all departments and central ministries, the e-Bill system will be implemented. Implementing this system will help in enhancing efficiency, transparency, and a paperless-faceless payment system.

Through this system contractors and suppliers will be able to submit their claim online and it will be trackable on a real-time basis.

#### 18. PFRDA's guaranteed return scheme

**Note:** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to launch a guaranteed return scheme called Minimum Assured Return Scheme (MARS). This scheme will be launched to provide people from salaried class an option for their investments. PFRDA has appointed EY Actuarial Services LLP as a consultant, in order to help in designing the proposed MARS under National Pension Scheme (NPS). It will be the first scheme from pension regulator, to offer a guaranteed return

to investors. However, only the floor is set in proposed scheme. Consultant is likely to work out the framework within some months.

#### 19. Second advance estimates of national income

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

#### 20. NDB first multilateral agency to open office in GIFT city

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

#### 21. MSME-Technology Centres

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

### February-2022

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

**Note:** India received total foreign direct investment of USD 60.3 billion during April to December 2021 which is 10.6 per cent lower compared to the USD 67.5 billion of FDI received in the same period of 2020-21, according to a government's data. During the same time period the previous year, inflows stood at USD 51.47 billion. Total FDI inflows (reinvested earnings, equity inflows, and other capital) totaled USD 60.34 billion in the first nine months of this fiscal year, compared to USD 67.5

billion the previous year. In the 3rd quarter of this fiscal (October-December 2021), the equity inflows declined to USD 12 billion. In the corresponding time period of 2020, the amount stood at USD 21.46.

#### 2. Sustainable Cities India Program

**Note:** Recently, the World Economic Forum and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) signed a MoU to collaborate on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India program'. The 'Sustainable Cities India' intends to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce

emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems. This initiative is in synergy with India's commitment to turn net zero by 2070 as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

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

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

### 4. **Green Financing Critical to Decarbonizing the Indian Transport Sector**

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

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

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

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

**Note:** Prime minister Narendra Modi flagged off 100 Kisan drones in different cities and towns of India to spray pesticides in farms across India. This move will prove to be a milestone in development of drone sector and will also open sky to unlimited

possibilities. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced major stimulus for farming and agriculture sector in Budget 2022-23. As a part, Centre will promote Kisan Drones, public-private partnerships to deliver digital & high-tech services and chemical-free natural farming, to farmers across India during financial year 2022-23.

### 7. **Department of commerce set for a revamp**

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

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

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

### 9. **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement**

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

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

**Note:** Asia's largest Bio-CNG plant will virtually be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Indore. Indore is considered as one of the cleanest cities India. With the inauguration of bio-CNG plant, it will set another high standard in cleanliness. The Bio-

CNG plant will be operated using 100 per cent wet waste. It is estimated to produce 18,000 kg gas per day. As per estimates of Indore Municipal Corporation, amount of Bio-CNG will help in running around 400 buses in the city daily. The bio-CNG plant has a total capacity of 550 MT. It will produce CNG with 96 per cent pure methane gas.

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

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

**12. LIC: India's largest Initial Public Offering**

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

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

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

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

**Note:** Seven AAI airports namely Chennai, Kolkata, Goa, Pune, Patna, Bhubaneswar & Chandigarh that participated in ACI-ASQ survey in 2021, have been

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

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

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

**16. India's first Biomass-based hydrogen plant**

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

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

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

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

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

Optical Fibre Cable network, Integrated Traffic Management System and Toll collection system.

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

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

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

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

**21. Govt sets up National Land Monetisation Corporation**

**Note:** According to Economic Survey, central government has set up a "National Land Monetisation Corporation" in a bid to FastTrack the

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

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

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

**January -2022**

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

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

**2. Plastic Park in Ganjimutt gets final approval**

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

KIADB. The KIADB will be create a special purpose vehicle under its purview to implement the project. Also, KIADB is the major promoter.

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

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

**4. SEBI launches Saaṡthi mobile app for investor education**

**Note:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) launched "Saaṡthi" – a mobile app on investor education in Mumbai. The new app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market. The application uses both



Hindi and English. It is available for both iOS and android users. In future, the app will be made available in local languages as well.

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

**Note:** India's exports to China rose by 21 per cent to USD 22.9 billion in the 2021 calendar year while imports surged by 49 per cent to USD 87.5 billion during the same year. Bilateral trade between the two countries rose to USD 110.4 billion in 2021 against USD 77.7 billion in 2020, registering a year-on-year growth of 42.2 per cent. When compared with 2019 data, India's exports to China rose by 33.9 per cent in 2021. India's exports to China have risen consistently in the last three years despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

**6. IMF World Economic Outlook**

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

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

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

**8. ILO World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022**

**Note:** Recently, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released a report titled World Employment and Social Outlook - Trends (WESO Trends) 2022. The

Outlook remains fragile because the future path of the pandemic remains uncertain. The WESO Trends includes comprehensive labour market projections for 2022 and 2023. It gives assessments of how labour market recovery has unfolded worldwide, reflecting different national approaches to pandemic recovery and analysing the effects on different groups of workers and economic sectors.

**9. National Technical Textiles Mission**

**Note:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of a National Technical Textiles Mission at a total outlay of ₹1,480 crores. It aims to position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market. The Mission will aim at taking domestic market size to \$40 billion to \$50 billion by 2024. A Mission Directorate will be operational in the Ministry of Textiles. It will be implemented for four years starting from 2020-2021. It will focus on research, development and innovation with an outlay of ₹1,000 crores.

**10. Retail inflation for industrial workers rises to 5.56%**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** India and South Korea have set to achieve bilateral trade target of 50 billion USD by 2030. The target was set during the summit held in 2018. The target is to be achieved by giving fresh momentum to the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement). Also, the governments will hold back-to-back discussions with their respective industrial leaders to boost the trade.

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

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

**15. India-South Korea bilateral trade talks**

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

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

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

**17. Govt. helplines to aid e-commerce firms**

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

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

**Note:** The AgFunder and Omnivore, a capital released the "India AgriFood Startup – Investment Report". According to the report, the investment in agri and food tech start ups increased by 97% in 2020-21. It increased to 2.1 billion USD. The investments are mainly driven by restaurant funding. The investment in the agri tech and food tech investments doubled. It was 1.1 billion USD in 2019-20. The number deals signed by the startups increased from 133 in 2019-20 to 189 in 2020 – 21. The restaurant market places raised 1.33 billion USD. It is 64% of total agri food tech funding.

**19. Varanasi fast emerging as an agri export hub**

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

**20. Koppal Toy Cluster to be operational in March**

**Note:** The Koppal Toy Cluster (KTC), the first such infrastructure in the country, will be operational in March 2022. KTC is being set up by Aequs Infra, a group company of Belagavi-based Aequs Pvt. Ltd. Six toy and toy-component makers have signed MoUs with Aequs Infra while another three players, including Viscon Polymers, manufacturer and exporter of custom rubber moulded products, have started construction of their production facilities at KTC.

**21. IRDAI guidelines on Surety Insurance**

**Note:** The IRDAI recently issued guidelines for surety insurance. Under the guidelines, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has capped the surety insurance to 10% of the premium. And the maximum threshold was set to five hundred crores of rupees. Surety insurance are guarantees

without collateral. It protects the lender against default by contractor, failure of projects or poor services. The guidelines say that the surety or guarantee shall not exceed 30% of project value. Only the insurance registered under the Insurance act shall issue surety insurance.

## 22. Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS)

**Note:** Wholly-owned subsidiary of national Payments Corporation of India, NPCI BillPay Ltd. (NBBL) introduced a unique functionality called “Unified Presentment Management System (UPMS) with the aim of enriching and simplifying bill payments in India. UPMS will help the customers to set up standing instructions, for any mode and from any

channel on their recurring bill payments. Bills will be fetched automatically from the billers and will be presented to customers for their action, in terms of bill payment and auto-debit management.

## 23. 2021 Gold Import in India

**Note:** India reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports in 2021. India bought more than double tonnage, as compared to previous tonnage, as a price drop favoured retail buyers. 2021 gold import bill got doubled the \$22 billion, which were spent in 2020. It also surpassed the previous high set in 2011. In 2011, \$53.9 billion gold import was reported. India imported 1,050 tonnes of gold in 2021, in volume term. It is far more than 430 tonnes import in 2020.

# Banking & Financial Awareness

1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.12 crore on **Bank of Maharashtra** for non-compliance.

**Note:** The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 25 lakh on Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited for non-compliance with its directions on Housing Finance. RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 12 lakh on Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with ‘Interest Rate on Deposits.

2. **NABARD** is planning to prepare a farmer distress index to identify, track, and support distressed farmers.

**Note:** Under this, the government and the financial institutions can decide on an appropriate package of support instead of a distress package for all the farmers across the board. This index will not be uniform across the nation, as it will depend upon the place’s stress levels.

3. **Indian Bank** has unveiled a pre-approved personal loan (PAPL) product under Project World of Advance Virtual Experience (WAVE).

**Note:** Aims: To provide customers with instant loan disbursements. The loan would carry an interest rate of 10% p.a. with no foreclosure charges. The service is available for existing customers (regular income and pension accounts) and can be availed of through a mobile application, website, and internet banking facility.

4. Which life insurance company has signed up for the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) with the objective of sustainable growth and long term value creation \_\_\_\_ **HDFC Life**.

**Note:** The Company currently has Assets Under Management of over Rs. 2 lakh crores. The company focuses on better understanding the investment implications of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

5. **HDFC ERGO** has announced to launch of its ‘Pay as you Drive’ program, this insurance offers distance-based insurance to reduce upfront costs of premium.

**Note:** The program will be available for owners of new Maruti Suzuki cars in selected cities up to May 14, 2022. This program is applicable for 10,000 policies or ₹50 lacs of premium whichever happens earlier. The driving distance will be measured with the help of a telematics device in the vehicle.

6. **DBS Bank** has partnered with Anthill Ventures (startup venture capital fund) and Headstart Network Foundation (evangelist network) to launch DBS Business Class founded.

**Note:** This forum will help modern-day founders, innovators, and game-changers to foster co-innovation and collaboration in the startup ecosystem. The first event of DBS BusinessClass founded was held in Hyderabad with actor Rana Daggubati.

7. Fintech API platform, **FidyPay** has joined hands with Yes Bank to expand the digital facility to a wide range of enterprises, including SMEs, fintech companies, and start-ups.

**Note:** The fintech platform will provide Yes Bank customers with a smooth connected banking experience as part of the partnership. FidyPay will also serve as UPI services solution provider. FidyPay is backed by Mr. Pratekk Agarwal (the former CBO of BharatPe) and Mr. Ram Pathade (CEO of Mahagram).

8. **30%** is the maximum investment ceiling for insurance companies in the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector has been set by The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai).

**Note:** The existing sectoral investment cap of 25% has been fully utilised by most insurance firms. This will help insurance companies to take a higher exposure in the BFSI sector.

9. **Eqaro Surety** financial guarantee provider has signed an MoU with the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) to set up a digital lending platform for MSMEs in the country.

**Note:** The platform will provide collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to fulfil MSMEs need for urgent funds post due diligence of their businesses. The credit for MSMEs would be backed by guarantees from Eqaro.

10. The current repo rate is **4.40%**.

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the Repo rate by 40 basis points to 4.40% and the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.50%. To bring down the raised inflation to the desired level and tackle the impact of geopolitical tensions. The hike in CRR by 50 bps will suck out Rs 87,000 crore from the banking system.

11. **Canara Bank** in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) has launched 'skill loans'.

**Note:** Under this facility, the loan is ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹1.5 lakh. This loan can be availed of by students who are pursuing skill training programmes which are offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies. Collateral free loans will be provided to students and have a repayment period of three to seven years.

12. **Seven** years have been completed for Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) of providing social security net.

**Note:** The schemes were launched by PM Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal. PMJJBY: More than 12.76 crore Cumulative Enrolments; PMSBY: More than 28.37 crore Cumulative Enrolments; APY: Over 4 Crore subscribers

13. **Indian Bank** has unveiled a digital broking solution named E-Broking, which allows customers to open a Demat and trading account.

**Note:** E-Broking is a strategic step toward a complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers. IndOASIS (mobile banking application) also offer a seamless experience from Demat and trading account opening to discounted broking services.

This will help the bank to increase its CASA (current account, savings account).

14. **Reliance Industries** becomes the first Indian company to record annual revenue of more than a whopping \$100 billion.

**Note:** The company has recorded a 22.5% rise in net profit for the quarter ended March 2022. The company has also reported the highest-ever quarterly EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation) of ₹33,968 crores (28% up) year-on-year.

15. **Market Ka Eklavya** is the National Securities Depository Limited's (NSDL) investor awareness programme for students which was launched by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

**Note:** To introduce the basics of the securities market and also impart training on financial markets for students. NSDL has launched a new investor awareness programme as part of its silver jubilee celebration.

16. **Equitas Small Finance Bank** has got RBI approval to merge with Equitas Holdings Ltd.

**Note:** The merger will comply with the RBI norms on small finance banks which mandate the promoter to reduce the stake in the subsidiary to 40% within five years of commencement of operations by the SFB (Small Finance Bank).

17. Under the chairmanship of Navneet Munot, SEBI has constituted a committee for advising on **Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG)** in the securities market.

**Note:** The terms of reference of the committee include Enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings, and ESG investing. It will examine evolving disclosures/metrics relevant to the Indian context and suggest areas for assurance and a plan for implementation.

18. **Xpress Car Loans** is an end-to-end digital car loan scheme which was launched by the HDFC Bank for its existing customers as well as new customers.

**Note:** Buyers can apply for a maximum of Rs 20 lakh and the loan amount will be credited to the dealers' accounts within 30 minutes. The facility is currently available for four-wheelers and will be soon rolled out to two-wheelers as well. To simplify the car purchase process and increase car sales.

19. **ICICI Bank** has partnered with Santander bank in Britain in a pact aimed at facilitating the banking requirements of corporates operating across both countries.



**Note:** The memorandum of understanding (MoU) between ICICI and Santander UK Plc is designed to establish a framework of the partnership between the banks to meet the financial service requirements of corporate customers operating within the India-UK corridor.

20. **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** company has launched its financial literacy campaign 'InspiHERs- enabling an empowered future'.

**Note:** It is a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women about financial decisions for a secured future. Bharti AXA Life Insurance is a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA.

21. **7.6%** would be India's growth forecast for FY23 estimated by the Morgan Stanley.

**Note:** The reason: a slowdown in global growth, higher commodity prices and risk aversion in global capital markets expose Asia's third-largest economy to downside risks. Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also revised downwards its growth projection for FY23 to 7.2% from 7.8%. The World Bank also slashed its FY23 growth forecast for India to 8%.

22. The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) will extend its financial support of USD 190 million to **SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL)**.

**Note:** Projects: Metro Express Project and other infrastructure projects in Mauritius. The credit facility is an additional tranche to the existing Credit of USD 500 million which has been extended to SBMIDCL on the terms and conditions contained in the Dollar Credit Line Agreement dated May 27, 2017.

23. **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched a digital solution named 'Trade nxt' to enable corporates as well as MSMEs to transact all cross-border export-import transactions.

**Note:** This online platform offers absolute entry and processing of letters of credit (LoC), bank guarantees, export and import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward & inward remittances, dealer financing, and much more. Managing Director & CEO of Union Bank of India: Rajkiran Rai G

## April 2022

1. Mobile payment app, **Google Pay** offers the Tap to Pay for Unified Payment Interface (UPI) users in partnership with Pine Labs.

**Note:** Tap to Pay was available for cards, but now this payment function is available on the phone also. Near Field Communication (NFC) enabled Android smartphones can do transactions using any Pine Labs Android POS terminal across the country.

2. **Microsoft** has launched the Startups Founders Hub platform in India to provide support of USD 300,000, including technology and tools from the tech giant and partners.

**Note:** After the USA and China, India is the third-largest ecosystem for startups globally. The hub was set up with an aim to empower entrepreneurs to innovate and grow by connecting them with mentors.

3. In April 2022, **USD 143 million** financial aid has been provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to Bangladesh to support government efforts to speed up the growth by improving the efficiency, predictability, and security of cross-border trade.

**Note:** The ADB loan package includes a \$90 million International policy-based loan, a \$53 million project loan that will construct integrated land

customs, and \$1.5 million in technical assistance. ADB established in 1966, President - Masatsugu Asakawa

4. The US-based Citibank group is selling its India business to Axis Bank for **Rs 12,325 crore**.

**Note:** The deal will be closed in the mid of the 2023 calendar year. As per the deal, Citibank must exit from consumer franchises in 13 markets, including India. Currently, Axis Bank is the fourth-largest issuer of credit cards.

5. India has signed an Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement with **Australia**.

**Note:** Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Trade, Tourism and Investment Minister of Australia Dan Tehan signed this agreement. The agreement was signed in a virtual ceremony in the presence of PM Modi and the PM of Australia Scott Morrison.

6. IREDA has sanctioned a loan of over Rs 267 cr to **BluSmart Mobility** for the purchase of three thousand electric cars.

**Note:** IREDA is a Mini Ratna Company under the administrative control of the New and Renewable Energy Ministry. BluSmart company is working on India's path to zero-emission mobility, improving the quality of life of the driver-partners.

7. In March 2022, in terms of volume the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has crossed the mark of **Rs 500-crore**.

**Note:** It is close to touching the ₹10-lakh crore milestone in value terms in March 2022. UPI processed as many as 540.56 crore payments last month amounting to ₹9,60,581.66 crore. It had processed 452.74 crore transactions worth Rs. 8,26,843 crore in February this year.

8. The RBI has decided to extend the timeline for implementation of cassette swap in all ATMs till **March 31, 2023**.

**Note:** Cassette Swap is lockable cassettes that are swapped at the time of cash replenishment in the ATMs. The framework for cassette swap was recommended by the Committee on Currency Movement Chaired by D.K. Mohanty

9. **1,42,095 crore** is the gross collection of GST has collected in March 2022.

**Note:** The government has collected CGST is 25,830 crore rupees, SGST is 32,378 crores, IGST is 74,470. In March 2022, revenues from the import of goods were 25% higher, and the revenues from the domestic transaction were 11% higher than in the same month last year.

10. **7.1%** is the current interest rate of the Public Provident Fund for first quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year.

**Note:** Due to high inflation, the Ministry of Finance has not revised the interest rates of small saving schemes for the first quarter of the 2022-23 fiscal year. National Savings Certificate: 6.8%; Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana: 7.6%; Five-year senior citizens' savings scheme: 7.4%; Savings deposits: 4%; Term deposits (1 to 5 years): 5.5-6.7% ; Kisan Vikas Patra: 6.9%; EPF: 8.1%

11. **34%** is the dearness allowance (DA) of the central government employees after a hike of 3%.

**Note:** The DA has been hiked by 34% from 31% earlier. The hike came into effect on January 1, 2022.

12. Mortgage lender HDFC will merge with **HDFC Bank** to create India's third-biggest financial entity in terms of market capitalization.

**Note:** With the proposed merger, HDFC Bank can build its own housing loan portfolio and also enhance its existing customer base. HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders.

13. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to cut the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for states and Union Territories to **Rs 47,010 crore** from Rs 51,560 crore.

**Note:** WMA are temporary advances that the RBI gives to the government over any mismatch in receipts and payments. WMA limit for the Government of India for the first half of the financial year 2022-23 has been set at Rs 1,50,000 crore.

14. **State Bank of India (SBI)** bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Border Security Force to offer special benefits through the Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP) Scheme.

**Note:** MoU includes Child education and the marriage of girl children of deceased BSF personnel. Benefit for retired personnel: Personal Accidental (Death) Insurance

15. In **Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022** report Asian Development Bank (ADB) has forecasted 7% combined growth for South Asian countries in 2022.

**Note:** India's economy will grow 7.5% in 2022 and 8% in 2023. Factors affecting the economy: Covid new variant, Russia-Ukraine crises (higher global oil and commodity prices)

16. **Union Bank of India** has launched a super-app named 'UnionNXT' with the digital transformation project SMBHAV.

**Note:** Investment outlay of around Rs 1,000 crore for the current financial year 2022-23. The bank also announced to launch of "Digital Bank within Bank". Other projects to launch: pre-approved personal loan, union cash (pensioner loan), Shishu Mudra loan, branch token and mobile app-based deposit module.

17. According to the government data, India's trade deficit rose by **87.5%** to USD 192.41 billion in 2021-22.

**Note:** The total exports in the last fiscal year have increased to USD 417.81 billion and imports also increased to USD 610.22 billion which leaves a trade gap of USD 192.41 billion. The trade deficit in March 2022 was USD 18.69 billion.

18. The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will grant **Rs 7,500 crore** loans for the Gujarat government's Mission School of Excellence project.

**Note:** The project aims to improve the quality of education in the state. The state government will spend Rs 10,000 crore in the coming 5 years. The funds will be spent on building new classrooms, smart classrooms, new computer labs and tinkering labs.

- 19. ICICIdirect** has its partnership with CoverStack to offer insurance that will be powered by CoverStack.  
**Note:** CoverStack operates Coverfox Insurance (coverfox.com) which follows a plug-and-play model. It provides technological solutions and insurance infrastructure to banking, financial services, and Insurance players. ICICIdirect offers insurance products from several insurance companies.
- 20.** Exports of Indian agricultural products have crossed a mark of **\$50 billion** dollar for 2021-22 with an increase of 20 per cent.  
**Note:** The export of wheat is almost quadrupled from \$568 million in 2020-21 to \$2.12 billion in 2021-22. The growth in exports has been mostly achieved on account of an increase in shipments of rice, marine products, sugar, buffalo meat, raw cotton, and wheat.
- 21. 7.2%** would be the GDP forecast by RBI for FY23.  
**Note:** Indian Monetary Policy Committee headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has released Monetary Policy 2022. The committee keeps the rate unchanged. RBI also extended the Rationalisation of risk weights for individual housing loans till March 31, 2023.
  - Forex reserves: \$606.5 billion
  - Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
  - Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
  - Bank Rate: 4.25%
  - CRR: 4%
  - SLR: 18.00%
- 22.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed **Rs 93 lakh** monetary penalty on Axis Bank for non-compliance on loans and advances, KYC guidelines, and non-maintenance of minimum balances in savings accounts.  
**Note:** On IDBI Bank, Rs 90 lakh has been imposed for various violations of regulatory compliance. Penalties have been imposed under the provisions of section 47 A (1) (c) read with section 46 (4) (i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the Act).
- 23. Only Scheduled commercial banks** can open Digital Banking Units (DBUs).  
**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the guidelines for Scheduled Commercial Banks to establish digital banking units (DBUs). An announcement was made in the Union Budget 2022-23, regarding the setting up of 75 DBUs in 75 districts. Scheduled commercial banks that have past digital banking experience can set up DBU.
- 24. Vikas Siri Sampat-1111** is the name of the new deposit scheme which was launched by P Gopi Krishna, Chairman of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank.  
**Note:** The tenure of this scheme is of 1,111 days with an interest rate of 5.70% for the general public and 6.20 % for senior citizens. It also offers the highest rate of annualized return of 6.03% for the general public and 6.60% for senior citizens. Under the scheme, the account holder can deposit ₹10,000 to ₹2 crores.
- 25. Axis Bank** has signed a USD 150 million Partial Guarantee Facility Agreement (PGFA) with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support supply chain financing for impact sectors.  
**Note:** The programme will have a special focus on ESG (environmental, social and governance). The deal will help Axis Bank to boost its support of SMEs, contribute to economic growth, and create jobs that improve people's lives.
- 26. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has formed two separate expert panels to examine the eligibility criteria, roles, and functions of trustees and sponsors at asset management companies (AMCs).  
**Note:** Sponsor task: promoter who provides funds for setting up an AMC. Trustee task: supervisory role and protects investor interests. Sponsors group chaired by: Balasubramanian, CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC. MF trustees: Manoj Vaish, Independent Trustee, Mirae MF.
- 27.** According to the official data, the import of gold in India has been rose by **33.34%** to ₹46.14 billion on account of higher demand in 2021-22.  
**Note:** The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to \$192.41 billion, against \$102.62 billion in 2020-21. The export of gems and jewellery grew by about 50% to about \$39 billion during 2021-22.
- 28.** The government of India has signed USD 2 mn Project Readiness Financing Loan with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for **Nagaland**.  
**Note:** Focus area: Designing climate-resilient urban infrastructure; Strengthening institutional capacity; and improving municipal resource mobilization in 16 districts. Towns and cities of Nagaland are facing long-term challenges of lack of basic amenities, climate change, and poor connectivity.
- 29.** On 8th April 2022, **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** have completed seven years of its implementation.

**Note:** The scheme was launched in 2015 by PM Modi for providing financial support of up to 10 Lakh rupees to non-corporate, non-farm small, or micro-enterprises. More than 34 crores 42 lakh loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since the launch of the scheme. 68% of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs.

30. World Trade Organisation (WTO) has cut the world merchandise trade volume expected growth in 2022 to **3%**.

**Note:** Due to the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. WTO also forecasted that trade volume is expected to grow to 3.4% in 2023. World GDP at market exchange rates is expected to increase by 2.8% in 2022 after rising 5.7% in 2021.

31. The Retail inflation in India in March 2022 is **6.95%**.

**Note:** Retail inflation in India in February month was 6.07%. Inflation is based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased sharply due to rising food and oil prices. As per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, the inflation in the food basket was 7.68% in March which is up from 5.85% in February 2022.

32. **Fino Payments Bank** payment bank has approved a minority strategic investment in fintech Paysprint Pvt Ltd of up to 12.19%.

**Note:** Paysprint is a rapidly growing financial technology company which is offering next-generation APIs in the areas of insurance, investment, banking, payments, and more. The partnership will transform the digital banking space in coming days.

33. **Punjab National Bank** has celebrated its 128th Foundation Day on April 12, 2022.

**Note:** On the occasion of foundation day, MD & CEO of PNB, Atul Kumar Goel has launched a cardless cash withdrawal service and a virtual debit card for its customers. Bank also launched various services on its mobile app named PNB One for safe banking transactions. The bank was founded by eminent freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai.

34. **8%** would be India's GDP forecast for the fiscal year 2022-23 by World Bank.

**Note:** Worsening supply bottlenecks and rising inflation risks which were caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. World Bank also cut a full percentage point of the growth outlook for South Asia to 6.6% (excluding Afghanistan).

35. Up to **20%** percent the government has amended the rules of the Foreign Exchange Management Act

(FEMA) to open the way for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

**Note:** The government is also planning to dilute its stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO). SEBI has also given approval to the draft papers and the insurer is in the process of filing a request for a proposal with changes.

36. **₹5,000 crores** have been invested by the government in NICL, OICL, UICL insurance companies.

**Note:** ₹3,700 crores in NICL, ₹1,200 crores in OICL, and Rs 100 crores in UICL. This authorized capital will be used to subscribe to the share capital of the respective public sector general insurance companies and issuance of shares to the Centre against the subscription. The three state-owned general insurers that cover 20% market share have been unprofitable.

37. **PhonePe** payment app has come up in a partnership with internet exchange point, Extreme IX to enable faster digital payments.

**Note:** This partnership helps PhonePe to decrease the latency for its users irrespective of their location or ISP in India. PhonePe has become the first digital payments platform to participate in an Internet Exchange in India.

38. **Nexo** Cryptocurrency lender has joined hands with global payments company Mastercard to launch the world's first "crypto-backed" payment card.

**Note:** Electronic money firm DiPocket is Nexo's card issuer. Interest remains at 0% for customers who maintain a loan-to-value ratio of 20% or below. This move by crypto and incumbent financial networks forces digital assets to become more mainstream. Initially, The card will be available in selected European countries.

39. **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised 3-year funds of \$500 million through a syndicated loan facility at "very fine pricing" through its IFSC Gift City branch.

**Note:** This is the first offshore USD Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) linked syndicated loan raised by SBI through its Gift City branch. MUFG, Bank of America, and JP Morgan were the Joint lenders for this offering.

40. According to the World Bank, **3.2%** would be the global growth forecast for 2022.

**Note:** Due to the impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The reason for lowering the projection is that people are facing reduced commercial activity and trade, and the debt crisis and currency depreciations have placed a heavy burden on the



poor. The world is also facing reversals in development in education, health, and gender equality.

- 41. 14.55%** is the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in India for the month of March 2022.

**Note:** In February, WPI inflation was 13.11% on the hardening of prices of crude oil and non-food items. The WPI food index has increased from 8.47% in February to 8.71% in March. The food index includes food articles from the primary group and food products from the manufactured products group.

- 42. must not exceed 20% of its capital base** is the Large exposure lending limit set by the Reserve bank of India (RBI) for the Upper layer of NBFC.

**Note:** Board can allow an additional 5%. NBFCs that are into infrastructure finance can have exposure of 25%, with an option of an additional 5% of Tier I capital to a single counterparty. Norms will come into effect from October 1, 2022.

- 43. 10%** percent stakes will be sold by the HDFC in HDFC Capital Advisors to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) to raise funds of Rs 184 crore.

**Note:** ADIA is an important investor in the alternative investment funds managed by HDFC Capital. HDFC Capital was set up in 2016 as the investment manager for HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Funds 1, 2 and 3.

- 44. Sunil Bajpai** is the head of the advisory committee on enhancing the regulator's technology capacity and on exploring appropriate technological solutions for early detection of market anomalies by SEBI.

**Note:** The seven-member committee was set up in December 2021 and was earlier chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch.

- 45. The total enrolments (subscribers) under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Scheme as of March 2022 is over 4.01 crore.**

**Note:** Around 71% of the enrolments are done by PSBs, 19% by RRBs, 6% by Private Sector Banks, and 3% by Payment and Small Finance Banks. Banks like State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Bank of India, BoB, and Central Bank of India have achieved their annual targets in the Public-sector Bank category.

- 46. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has launched a joint initiative named Fincluvation to collaborate with the Fintech Startup community.

**Note:** To co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion. Start-ups will develop solutions and tailored products and services for customers. India Post Payments

Bank (IPPB) is a 100% government-owned entity under the Department of Posts (DoP).

- 47. According to the 2022 edition of the Chiratae-Zinnov India SaaS report titled, "India SaaS - Punching Through the Global Pecking Order by 2026 the Indian SaaS (Software As A Service) industry is set to clock in \$100 billion in revenues.**

**Note:** The industry in India is witnessing a 'coming-of-age' moment, "with an incredible bull run that has firmly anchored its position on the global stage. Indian SaaS witnessed massive growth at approx 55 per cent CAGR in 2021.

- 48. BHIM UPI** has been activated by NPCI International Payments Ltd at NEOPAY terminals in **UAE**.

**Note:** This initiative will empower millions of Indians who travel to the UAE to safely and conveniently make payments using BHIM UPI across NEOPAY-enabled shops and merchant stores. NIPL and NEOPAY partnered last year, to create the acceptance infrastructure in the UAE. NEOPAY is the payment subsidiary of Mashreq Bank.

- 49. The Reserve Bank of India** has issued new guidelines for the Credit card and debit cards company, these guidelines will come into effect from **July 1, 2022**.

**Note:** The RBI has asked card companies not to issue unsolicited credit cards or upgrade existing cards without the explicit consent of the customer. Failing which they would be liable to pay double the amount billed as a penalty.

- 50. The RBI** has extended the guidelines on Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) to large borrowers **NBFCs and Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs)**.

**Note:** The RBI further advised that non-individual borrowers enjoying aggregate exposure of ₹5 crores and above from banks and financial institutions (FIs) shall be required to obtain LEI codes as per the given timeline. The Legal Entity Identifier is a 20-digit number used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions globally.

- 51. M S Sahoo** is the head of the advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.

**Note:** The panel will now have 21 members. Nithin Kamath; Ranjit Pawar; Sreekanth Nadella; Suhas Tuljapurkar are also included in the committee.

- 52. Dhanlaxmi Bank** has signed a pact with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for tax collection.

**Note:** The bank has been authorised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on recommendation from the Controller General of Accounts for collection of various taxes. This

MoU will help customers to pay their direct taxes and GST payments and other indirect taxes through the branch network and digital platforms of the bank.

- 53. Airtel Payments Bank** has partnered with IndusInd Bank to offer fixed deposit (FD) facilities to its customers.

**Note:** A customer can open FD of Rs 500 up to Rs 190,000 on the Airtel Thanks app. With this partnership, customers of Airtel Payments Bank savings account will get an interest rate of up to 6.5 %p.a. and senior citizens will get an additional 0.5% on all fixed deposits. Customers can book multiple FDs for a fixed duration of either 1, 2 or 3 years.

- 54. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has expanded its strategic partnership with SBI Cards to power digital transformation

**Note:** TCS had helped the SBI cards to transform its core cards sourcing platform and digitized a significant portion of the process. TCS will digitalize and transform the online onboarding processes to enable a faster turnaround and frictionless experience.

- 55. FinMapp** has collaborated with Bajaj Finance to introduce a fixed deposit feature on its platform by adding a new icon for an improved customer experience.

**Note:** The fintech firm is offering an interest rate of 7.35% on the fixed deposit of app users. FinMapp offers multiple tenures to choose from for their fixed deposits of 15, 18, 22, 30, 33, and 44 months, or opt for one, three, and five years, respectively. FinMapp had received a POP-SE license from PFRDA under NPS.

- 56. India** has topped in the real-time transactions in 2021 as per the ACI Worldwide Report.

**Note:** India has extended to 48.6 billion in 2021. India's transaction volume is seven times greater than the combined volumes of Germany, USA, UK, Canada, and France. Top Five countries: India(48.6 billion); China (18.5 billion); Thailand(9.7 billion); Brazil(8.7 billion); South Korea (7.4 billion). Published by: ACI Worldwide, the Centre for Economics and Business Research, and GlobalData.

- 57. PencilKey** is the name of the contactless keychain which was launched by Pencilton (teen-focused fintech).

**Note:** Launched in a partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Transcorp. Users can load money, check spends, block/unblock the account, set limits on their card through the Pencilton app, and can buy their PencilKey and PencilCard for ₹150 and ₹100 respectively. Presently, the PencilKey is equipped

with the benefits of NCMC which works at the Delhi Airport Metro and Goa buses.

- 58. bob World Gold** is the new feature launched by the Bank of Baroda on its bob World mobile banking platform for seniors and the elder.

**Note:** It is a unique digital banking platform that has been designed to provide its senior customers with a simple, smooth and secure mobile banking experience. This platform has easy navigation, large fonts, sufficient spacing and clear menus. BoB Chairman: Hasmukh Adhia; Managing Director & CEO: Shri Sanjiv Chadha

- 59. For the Mission Karmayog**, the World Bank has approved a USD 47 million financial support to the Government of India.

**Note:** The loan of \$47 million provided from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 11 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years. Mission Karmayogi was launched by Union Cabinet on 2nd September 2020.

- 60. Rs. 820 crores** are the additional funding that has been approved by the Union Cabinet for India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).

**Note:** with this grant, the project outlay for setting up of India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been revised from Rs.1435 crore to Rs.2255 crore. The Cabinet has also granted in-principle approval for a future fund of Rs.500 crore for meeting regulatory requirements and technological upgradation.

- 61. The government offers 2% interest subvention** annually to banks on short-term crop loans up to Rs 3 lakh to farmers at an interest rate of 7%p.a.

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended norms for banks to claim the amount of interest subvention which is provided to farmers under the short-term crop loan scheme through Kisan Credit Card (KCC). Pending claims for the 2021-22 FY can be submitted by June 30, 2023, by the statutory auditor's certification.

- 62. ICICI Bank** has launched India's first comprehensive digital ecosystem for all Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the country, which can also be used by the customers of other banks.

**Note:** Anyone can use the benefits of digital solutions on the InstaBIZ app. MSMEs customers of other banks can avail of a host of services by logging in as a 'Guest' in the app. It provides sanctions of instant and paperless overdraft facility up to Rs 25 lakh through 'InstaOD Plus'.

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 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 disbursements 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.

## February 2022

1. Public sector company, **GAIL (India) Limited** has begun India's maiden project of mixing hydrogen into the natural gas system at Indore.  
**Note:** This is a first-of-its-kind project in the country. The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) company with HPCL, operating in Indore.
2. E-wallet company, **Paytm** has introduced "India's first" intelligent messenger called 'Pops'.

- Note:** 'Pops' Messenger will allow its user to receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements, all in one place. It will also serve as a marketplace to offer sophisticated stock recommendations, new insights and new services.
3. Direct to Home (DTH) platform, Tata Sky has rebranded itself with a new name and identity and will now be called as **Tata Play**.  
**Note:** The DTH company has joined hands with Netflix to offer new OTT (over the top) content

centric channel packs as well. With the OTT combo packs, Tata Play users will be able to get a subscription to both the OTT platforms in the Binge service as well as the normal TV channels. Tata Play Binge will hosts content from 13 leading OTT apps through a single User Interface while offering the flexibility of single subscription and payment.

4. **State Bank of India** has launched a dedicated centralized processing cell - Surya Shakti Cell in collaboration with Tata Power Solar Systems.  
**Note:** The Surya Shakti Cell will process all the loan applications for Solar Projects (capacity up to 1 MW) sourced from across India, for installation by business entities as well as households. With this digital initiative, SBI will offer a complete solution at competitive rates for Solar projects.
5. **NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd** has acquired 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL).  
**Note:** NVVN has purchased the shares of PXIL from NSE Investment, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL. NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL would enable a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a good position in the power trading market.
6. **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation** has marked its foray into non-fuel retailing sector by inaugurating its Retail Store under brand name HaPpyShop.  
**Note:** Located at the company-owned retail outlet at the upmarket Nepean Sea Road near Malabar Hills, this is the company's latest offering at its "Club HP" retail outlet. The store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.
7. With **₹5000 crores** initial authorized capital the Government of India sets up a National Land Monetisation Corporation.  
**Note:** So far, CPSEs have referred 3,400 acres of land and other non-core assets for monetisation from CPSEs including MTNL, BSNL, BPCL, B&R, BEML, HMT Ltd, Instrumentation Ltd. Top five sectors including roads, railways, power, oil and gas pipelines and telecom account for around 83 per cent of the aggregate value.
8. In Phase I of its operation the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL) or bad bank **Rs 50,000 crore** aggregate amount of about 15 accounts will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year.  
**Note:** A total of 38 NPA accounts worth Rs 82,845 crore have been identified to be transferred to NARCL initially. In the Phase I 15 accounts worth Rs 50,000 crore will be transferred to NARCL in the current financial year.
9. Vedanta Ltd has tied up a facility of ₹8000 crore with **Union Bank of India** to take over majority of

the syndicated facility after discussions with lenders.

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

10. Union Government has approved the continuation of the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs) with an outlay of **Rs. 1875 crore**.  
**Note:** It is the main source of funding for the preparation of national teams for all major national, international competitions. Funding will be used by National Sports Federations to conduct national coaching camps and provide training of international standards to athletes.
11. **Punjab National Bank** and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).  
**Note:** The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and is available in two variants – PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select. Both the co-branded cards offer a hassle-free credit service to purchase day-to-day Patanjali products, along with cash backs, loyalty points, insurance cover and more.
12. Online platform, **Dukaan** has partnered with Simpl, a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform to provide BNPL services to its merchants.  
**Note:** Simpl is a marquee buy-now-pay-later platform. Dukaan is a Bangalore-based startup that enables D2C and SMB merchants to set up online stores and sell products digitally.
13. According to domestic rating agency CRISIL, **7.8 per cent** will be the real GDP growth in FY 2022-23.  
**Note:** This estimate is owing to Budget proposals focused on loosening the purse strings by boosting capital expenditure and going slow on fiscal consolidation. The agency said global growth is expected to slow this year as major economies see a withdrawal of monetary and fiscal stimulus.
14. According to the London-based Brand Finance, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is ranked as **10<sup>th</sup>** most valued insurance brand globally.  
**Note:** Also, LIC is ranked third in brand strength globally after Poste Italiane of Italy and Mapfre of Spain and is also the 10th most valued insurance brand globally. The market value of LIC will become Rs 43.40 lakh crore or \$59.21 billion by 2022, and Rs 58.9-lakh crore or \$78.63 billion by 2027.
15. In February 2022, the Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the licence of **Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

the current financial year. Out of the 44 companies that achieved the unicorn status, 11 are based in the state

21. Ministry of Finance has released the monthly Post Devolution Revenue Deficit (PDRD) Grant of **Rs. 9,871 crore** to 17 States.

**Note:** The Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended a total Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant of one lakh 18 thousand 452 crore rupees to 17 States in the financial year 2021-22. An amount of over one lakh 8 thousand crore rupees has been released to the eligible States so far.

22. **Go Digital, Go Secure** is the theme of the theme of Financial Literacy week 2022, observed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from 14th to 18th February 2022.

**Note:** The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.

23. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed Financial Literacy week 2022 from **14th to 18th February**.

**Note:** The theme is aligned with one of the strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been conducting Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since 2016 to propagate financial education messages on a particular theme across the country.

24. **10,990.17 crore** was the total corpus under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21.

**Note:** The disbursal included Rs 1,000 crore for migrant welfare and over Rs 1,392 crore for procurement of Covid vaccine doses. The fund recorded nearly Rs 494.91 crore as foreign contributions and over Rs 7,183 crore as voluntary contributions during the fiscal.

25. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry **USD 339.55 billion** of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows, India has received in the last five years.

**Note:** There has been a continuous increase in the inflow of FDI in recent years. It increased from USD 45.15 billion in 2014-15 to USD 81.97 billion in 2020-21. During the year 2019-20, the FDI inflows to India stood at USD 74.39 billion. In 2018-19, it stood at USD 62 billion. In 2017-18, it was USD 60.97 billion and in 2016-17, the FDI inflow to India stood at USD 60.22 billion.

26. The **Reserve Bank of India** ranks **2<sup>nd</sup>** in terms of buying Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021.

**Note:** Central Bank of Thailand (Bank of Thailand) was the highest buyer of Gold in 2021 and bought 90

metric tonnes of gold. As per Goldhub, India's official gold reserves is ninth-largest in the world. Goldhub is the official website of World Gold Council that maintains all the data regarding precious metal.

- 27. Razorpay** has bought a majority stake in a Malaysian payments start-up named "Curlec" for a valuation of more than \$19 million.

**Note:** This is Razorpay's fourth acquisition overall and comes just over a month after raising \$375 million in funding. Prior to this, Razorpay acquired TERA Finlabs, Opfin and Thirdwatch. The Kuala Lumpur-based, Curlec builds solutions for recurring payments for businesses.

- 28. Social media platform, Instagram** has launched the campaign named 'Take a Break'.

**Note:** Take a Break will alert users scrolling on Instagram to periodically take breaks from the platform and focus on other things. The platform will also alert users of the new inclusion with a notification.

- 29. The increased limit on the e-RUPI digital voucher** from current cap of ₹10,000 to **₹100,000**.

**Note:** This was announced by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das. The move will further facilitate the delivery of various government schemes to the beneficiaries more efficiently, he added. The e-RUPI prepaid digital voucher, developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), was launched in August 2021 and runs on the UPI platform.

- 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a conservative real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in FY23.**

**Note:** While announcing the review of the monetary policy on Friday, the six-member monetary policy committee of the RBI retained the growth forecast for FY22 at 9.5 per cent, while CPI inflation projection was revised downward, from 5.7 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

- 31. As per the latest Monetary Policy released by the RBI, ₹3 crore** would be the NACH mandate limit for TReDS settlements that will fulfill the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs.

**Note:** Governor Shaktikanta Das said it will increase National Automated Clearing House (NACH) mandate limit for Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) settlements from Rs 1 crore at present to Rs 3 crore. Transactions in TReDS are settled through the NACH system. This was proposed keeping in view the requests received from stakeholders and to further enhance the ease of financing and the growing liquidity requirements of MSMEs.

- 32. State Bank of India's Strategic Training Unit** has entered into a partnership with NSE Academy to promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill.

**Note:** Learners can start to enroll from February 9 for the five inaugural Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) of SBI on the NSE Knowledge Hub platform. The five MOOCs that the Bank is offering are: "Banking Fundamentals", MSME Lending in a Nutshell", "Electronic Payment System in India", "Priority Sector Lending Norms" and "NRI Business & Compliance".

- 33. Paisabazaar.com**, a digital platform for consumer credit, has tied up with **RBL Bank** to offer 'Paisa on Demand' (PoD), a credit card.

**Note:** The credit card will be exclusively available on the Paisabazaar platform. As per a press release, the credit card from RBL Bank will be lifetime free with a digital onboarding process. Along with features of a credit card, the product will provide customers the option of availing personal loans from RBL Bank, using the same credit limit at normal personal loan rates.

- 34. Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Ltd** has signed a bancassurance agreement with **Utkarsh Small Finance Bank** for the distribution of health insurance products across India through the Bank's network.

**Note:** This bancassurance partnership will help further strengthen our distribution and unlock growth opportunities through the Bank's wide network. This tie-up will help us reach the tier II and tier III markets with insurance solutions thereby increasing insurance penetration in the country. Through the current partnership, ABHICL has 12 bancassurance partners with over 51,120 direct distributors across India.

- 35. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the investment limit in Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) from Rs. 1,50,000 crores to Rs. 2,50,000 crores.**

**Note:** The Reserve Bank of India had introduced the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) for investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in debts in 2019 with an investment limit of ₹1,50,000 crore. Out of this, around ₹1,49,995 crore have been availed so far in three tranches.

- 36. According to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list 5<sup>th</sup> is the rank of Mumbai as most congested cities in the world in 2021.**

**Note:** Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index's global top 25 list. However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according to the report.

- 37. Public Sector Undertaking, RailTel** has won the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) award for excellence in financial reporting for the year 2020-21 in Public Sector Entities Category.



**Note:** The company was adjudged as winner in the category plaque. The award was given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), the premier accounting body which has been holding the annual competition for these awards since 1958.

- 38. Axis Bank** is set to buy Citigroup Inc.'s India retail banking business in a transaction that could be valued at about \$2.5 billion.

**Note:** An agreement for the consumer unit may be announced as soon as the next few weeks and is contingent on approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The deal would include a cash component of less than \$2 billion, accounting for the consumer business's liabilities.

- 39. RBL Bank** has partnered with Creditas Solutions for its 'Neo Collections' platform.

**Note:** The private sector lender will utilise the SaaS-based platform to accelerate efficiency in collections across the loan cycle. Powered by AI and ML technology, the platform is built to automate strategies for reaching out to customers individually in an empathetic manner and motivate them to repay loan.

- 40. Yes Bank** has announced the launch of an annual startup enabler Agri Infinity program \_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank**.

**Note:** It seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field. Those meeting the eligibility criteria will receive the guidance and support necessary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain.

- 41. NABARD** has launched 'JIVA' programme to promote natural farming, under which it will invest **Rs 50,000** per hectare.

**Note:** Under this, NABARD will invest Rs 50,000 per hectare. It will be implemented on the existing completed (or near completed) projects of watersheds and wadis programme in around 11 states covering 5 agroecological zones, which are in ecologically fragile and rain-fed areas.

- 42. Reliance Jio** has formed a joint venture with **SES, Luxembourg** to provide affordable broadband services in India leveraging satellite technology.

**Note:** Jio Platforms will own 51% stake in the joint venture while SES, a leading global satellite-based content connectivity solutions provider will own 49% stake. The total value of the contract is around \$100 million.

- 43. In February 2022, IndusInd Bank** has been empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for transactions between farmers and traders across the country.

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

- 44. Karur Vysya Bank** has joined hands with the Chennai-based UNANU Technologies for digital freight finance to fund transport contractors. using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.

**Note:** UNANU has built the Freight Financing System within their suite of software platforms. Using the module "U-Turbo – a marketplace", one can on-board logistics companies and shippers to Freight Financing programme.

- 45. The Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI)** projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) deflator for FY23 at **3 to 3.5 percent**.

**Note:** The Government's own projection on real GDP growth for FY23 is at 7.6-8.1 percent and the union budget projected nominal GDP growth rate to be 11.1 percent for FY23. Economic Survey 2021-22 projected a real GDP growth rate of 8-8.5 percent in FY23. GDP Projection in the Budget is based on advance estimates of 'National Statistical Office' (NSO).

- 46. Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company, Dabur India Limited** has become India's 1st 100% Plastic Waste Neutral company.

**Note:** It claimed to be the first Indian consumer goods company to achieve this landmark. Dabur has collected, processed and recycled around 27,000 MT of post-consumer plastic waste from all over India in the 2021-22 financial year. Dabur's plastic waste management initiative was rolled out in the year 2017-18.

- 47. Vedanta** has signed an MoU with Taiwanese electronics manufacturing company, Hon Hai Technology Group (Foxconn) to form a joint venture for manufacturing semiconductors in India.

**Note:** According to the MOU signed between the two companies, Vedanta will hold the majority of the equity in the joint venture, while Foxconn will be the minority shareholder. This first-of-its-kind joint venture between the two companies will support Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to create an ecosystem for semiconductor manufacturing in India.

- 48. IndiGo airline** has announced a partnership with **Indian Oil** for its 6E Rewards Ka-ching credit cardholders under which cardholders will earn accelerated reward points of up to 4 per cent on fuel.

**Note:** Under the partnership, Ka-ching cardholders will earn accelerated reward points of up to 4 per

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

49. Automobile company, **Renault India** has joined hands with Common Services Center e-Governance Services to support the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan.

**Note:** To digitally empower citizens in rural areas by training them to operate computers, laptops, browse the internet, access government websites, banking service and undertake digital payments. The aim of the program is to empower rural citizens in the age group of 14 to 60 years.

50. DMI Finance Private Limited has launched a digital personal loan product on **Google Pay** to provide reliable credit access to pre-qualified users of wallet.

**Note:** Through the partnership, DMI Finance intends to disburse up to Rs 1 lakh per loan, which would be repayable over a maximum of 36 months. The product is being launched across more than 15,000 pin codes. The launch of the loan product will include the advantages of the digital loan disbursement process of DMI Finance and the Google Pay's customer experience.

51. LKP Securities Ltd has signed an agreement with **HDFC Bank** to offer a special 3-in-1 online account.

**Note:** The 3-in-1 account facilitates swift fund transfer between the bank account and trading account as clients no longer have to go through a lengthy authentication process. To deliver an efficient experience by offering ease of opening trading, demat and bank account in a seamless manner.

52. In association with **PhonePe**, NITI Aayog will be hosting the first-ever open-to-all hackathon that aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the fintech ecosystem.

**Note:** The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code. It aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the Fintech Ecosystem.

53. As per the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops **316.06 million tonnes** is the estimated food grains production in the year 2021-22.

**Note:** Further, the production during 2021-22 is higher by 25.35 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of foodgrains. Total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 127.93 million tonnes.

54. **IndusInd Bank** has been empaneled by the SFAC to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on e-NAM portal for the transactions between farmers and traders across India.

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

55. Wealth tech company, Fisdom has partnered with **Bank of Maharashtra** to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank.

**Note:** This partnership is to distribute the wealth products and services through the bank's network of more than 2,000 branches and its digital platforms, including the mobile banking app and internet banking. The wealth management services will be made accessible to bank customers through both physical and digital mode.

56. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has partnered with Ezetap to provide integrated Point of Sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India.

**Note:** The initiative will strengthen the bank's presence in the digital payments market space. The partnership will enable it to scale up its PoS product base across merchant segments, including retail enterprises and government customers.

57. Twitter Inc has partnered with **Paytm's payment gateway** to improve the support for its 'Tips' feature in India.

**Note:** Using the Tips feature, users can send payments to their favourite content creators on twitter. Tips is available since November to all Twitter users above 18 years of age in India. It is available in Indian languages including Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi and Tamil.

58. **Edelweiss Asset Management** has launched eInvest- a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience.

**Note:** eInvest is an easy-to-use app for investors to give them a smooth investing experience where they can perform all financial transactions and access their investment from anywhere at any time with speed and ease.

59. **TransUnion CIBIL** has launched a MSME consumer education program that will help small businesses gain awareness on credit management, CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information.

**Note:** It will teach them on how to build good credit history and CIBIL Rank to avail easier and faster loans. It will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura.

60. The NHPC Ltd has set a wholly owned subsidiary named **NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd** for development of renewable energy, small hydro and green hydrogen-based businesses.

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

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

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

66. **HDFC Bank** has collaborated with the Indore Clean Energy Private Ltd for the development of 550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste to Compressed Biogas plant - the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia.  
**Note:** Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd (ICEPL) is promoted by Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF), which is the largest climate impact fund in India with anchor investors like NIIF & Government of UK. Earlier on February 19, 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the municipal solid waste based Gobar-Dhan plant and dedicated it to the citizens of Indore City, Madhya Pradesh.
67. **Edelweiss General Insurance** has joined hands with Ashv Finance, a tech-led NBFC present in over 100 locations in India, to offer financial protection to latter's business loan borrowers.  
**Note:** Under this, EGI will utilize Ashv Finance reach of small business owners across India and offer them easy and friendly, tech powered solutions, coupled with superior customer experience. Ashv will offer timely credit to small businesses and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) while EGI will provide health insurance cover to all the customers of Ashv Finance in all major cities across the country.
68. TripMoney, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip has partnered with **SBM Bank** to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card.  
**Note:** "The TripMoney Global card offers multiple value-added benefits including zero forex mark-up, lifetime free validity and 100 per cent digital in-app card management. The card is powered by Visa and can be used across over 150 countries.
69. The RBI has asked the certain class of NBFCs to mandatorily implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' **by Sep 2025** in order to provide seamless customer interface as well as have a centralised data base.  
**Note:** The RBI has decided that NBFCs – Middle Layer and NBFCs – Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 1, 2022 shall be mandatorily required to implement CFSS. CFSS is akin to the Core Banking Solution (CBS) adopted by banks.
70. As per Moody's Investor Services, **9%** is the estimated GDP growth forecast for India in the calendar year 2022.  
**Note:** It maintained a forecast for 5.5 per cent growth in CY2023. In its update on Global Macro Outlook 2022-23, Moody's said sales tax collection, retail activity and Purchasing Managers Index suggest solid momentum.

71. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Rakesh Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **IDBI Bank**.  
**Note:** This re-appointment is as per approval of the Reserve Bank of India received in this regard. He was previously appointed as the MD & CEO of the bank in October 2018.
72. **Union Bank of India** in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), launched 'MSME RuPay Credit Card' for meeting business related operational expenses of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).  
**Note:** It is a first of its kind initiative to provide simplified and digital delivery of Finance to Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), to meet their business-related operational expenses. This dedicated card for MSMEs will be available to eligible borrowers of Union Bank of India.
73. **Standard Chartered** has partnered with International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch payment platform 'IATA Pay' for airline industry in India.  
**Note:** IATA Pay's rollout will enable participating airlines to offer instant payment options like UPI Scan and Pay. Service leverages Unified Payment Interface (UPI), enabling consumers to instantly pay for airline tickets from bank accounts
74. **New Development Bank** will become first multilateral agency to open an office in Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT).  
**Note:** NDB has received approval for the same and will open the office in May 2022 in GIFT City. NDB announced Director General position for India Regional Office and will be responsible for origination-implementation of operations in India
75. In a bid to boost the production of biofuel in the country to curb carbon emissions, among others, agri co-op giant NAFED signed an MoU with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.  
**Note:** The MoU was signed to set-up Bio-fuel projects, Plants for post-processing of products viz Cattle feed & Marketing of end products of CBG. The project will benefit Farmers, communities, and Environment in the region & contribute to Hon. PM vision 2021 for making India a 'Net Zero Emission Country by 2070.
76. **Paytm Payments Bank Limited** payments bank has become an official acquiring partner for e-RUPI vouchers, further making it accessible at offline stores across the country.  
**Note:** e-RUPI, which is a government initiative, is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present via SMS or QR Code. Paytm's merchant partners can then scan, enter the amount to be paid and receive the payment directly in their bank account. This will benefit beneficiaries (users), even those who do not have access to formal banking services or smartphones to avail the convenience of digital payments.
77. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificate of registration issued to **PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd**.  
**Note:** Accordingly, PC Financial Services will not be able to transact the business of a NBFI (Non-Banking Financial Institution). PC Financial Services was primarily engaged in mobile app-based lending operations through an app called 'Cashbean'.

## January 2022

1. **NTPC Ltd** acquire 5 per cent equity stake in **Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL)** that provides various electricity trading options.  
**Note:** The PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, which has been providing various electricity trading solutions and connecting buyers as well sellers since 2008. the authorised share capital of the PXIL is Rs 120 crore and paid-up capital is Rs 58.47 crore.
2. As per the **framework** issued by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for allowing offline digital payments **Rs 2,000** will be the total limit for offline digital transactions on a payment instrument at any point of time.  
**Note:** An offline digital payment means a transaction which does not require internet or telecom connectivity. Under this new framework, which is applicable with immediate effect, offline payments can be made in face-to-face (proximity) mode only. Such transactions will not require an Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA). The upper limit of an offline payment transaction will be ₹200.
3. The government has kept the interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) unchanged at **7.1%** percent for 4th quarter of FY 2021-22.  
**Note:** The central government has kept the interest rates on small savings schemes, including NSC and PPF, unchanged for the fourth quarter of 2021-22 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) will continue to carry an annual interest rate of 7.1 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively.
4. Digital marketplace for consumer credit, paisabazaar.com has partnered with **Axis Bank** to launch a pre-qualified program for unsecured loans on its platform.  
**Note:** Axis Bank customers, both salaried and self-employed, who are eligible for pre-qualified



personal loans from the bank, will now be able to view and apply for the same offers through the Paisabazaar platform as well. This integration would lead to instant access to credit for these select customers through an end-to-end digital process.

5. **Fino Payments Bank** has received the Reserve Bank of India's approval for commencing international remittance business.

**Note:** It received approval from central bank under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS). It will be undertaking inward cross-border money transfer activities in association with an overseas principal, the details of which are being worked out. It also has plans to commence outward remittance services soon.

6. NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India has introduced a unique functionality called 'UPMS'.

**Note:** Through UPMS, NBBL will enable the customers to set up standing instructions – from any channel and for any mode on their recurring bill payments. The bills will be automatically fetched from the billers and presented to customers for their action, in terms of auto-debit and bill payment management. UPMS will help in democratizing recurring bill payments and making them further convenient for customers.

7. **SBI General Insurance** has launched #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao campaign to increase awareness of Indians around the need to buy health insurance to save tax.

**Note:** The campaign #BahaneChhodoTaxBachao will also underline other benefits of opting for health insurance. The campaign has a humorous tone to bring out the barriers people have for not buying or procrastinating to buy health insurance.

8. In January 2022, **Airtel Payments Bank** has been categorised as a scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**Note:** With this, Airtel Payments Bank can now pitch for government-issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and primary auctions and undertake both central and state government business, besides participating in government-operated welfare schemes. Airtel Payments Bank is among the fastest-growing digital banks in the country, with a base of 115 million users.

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

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

SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement is applied to it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14. **Bharti Airtel Limited** has announced a joint venture with Hughes Communications India Private Limited (HCIPL) to provide satellite broadband services in India.

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

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

**Note:** The collaboration aims to leverage the deep distribution reach and digital payments stack of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle.

Park+ will offer its entire suite of FASTag services including issuance, acquiring, recharge, and technology support to Airtel Payments Bank.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 19. In January 2022, SJVN Ltd.** has been given the category 'I' licence for the inter-state trading of power in the entire country by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

**Note:** If the licensee fails to undertake trading in electricity within one year from the date of licence, the licence will be liable for revocation in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Trading Licence Regulations.

- 20. AIC STPINEXT Initiatives,** a special purpose vehicle of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has signed two MoUs with **HDFC Bank** to enhance the tech startup ecosystem in India.

**Note:** These partners would play critical role in supporting and handholding the startups in the growth journey through technical guidance &

assistance, mentoring, pitching to investors, funding support, and market connect & access etc.

- 21. Edelweiss Housing Finance Ltd (EHFL) and ECL Finance Ltd (ECLF)** have entered into co-lending partnership with **Indian Bank** for lending to priority sector areas.

**Note:** Agriculture, micro enterprises and advances to weaker sections of the society are amongst the categories that form the priority sector in lending space. The lenders recently signed a (Memorandum of Understanding) MoU under RBI's Co-Lending Model (CLM), thus significantly expanding their portfolio of lending products available to the target customers, increasing their access to credit.

- 22. Federal Bank** has launched an online lending platform to facilitate quick and hassle-free credit approvals of up to ₹50 lakh for MSMEs across India.

**Note:** The platform enables borrowers to avail loans in less than 30 minutes digitally by uploading their income tax returns, bank account statement and online verification of GST details, per the private sector bank's statement. The platform also uses algorithms to read and analyse data points from various sources such as I-T returns, GST data, bank statements, Credit Bureau, capturing the borrower's basic details using analytics.

- 23. Axis Bank** has entered into a partnership with MinkasuPay to offer biometric authentication solution for its customers, whereby the transaction time to execute net banking payment will be reduced from about 50-60 seconds currently, to just 2-3 seconds.

**Note:** India's third largest private sector bank said customers' biometric authentication will be done with Fingerprint or Face ID authentication. This will also increase transaction success rates significantly.

- 24. Adani Group** has and South Korean steel major POSCO have signed an agreement to explore opportunities, including setting up of an integrated steel mill at the western state of Gujarat.

**Note:** POSCO and Adani intend to utilize renewable energy resources and green hydrogen to make it an environmentally friendly integrated steel mill. The company also runs POSCO-Maharashtra, a 1.8-million-ton cold-rolled and galvanized mill, and four processing centres in Pune, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

- 25. India and South Korea** set a bilateral trade target of **\$50 billion**.

**Note:** India and South Korea set a bilateral trade target of \$50 billion before 2030, as South Korea's Trade Minister Yeo Han-Koo held talks with Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi. The two ministers held wide-ranging discussions covering the whole gamut of bilateral trade and investment-related aspects.

26. According to the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects Report 2022, released in January 2022, **8.3%** will be India's annual growth rate in the current fiscal year (2021-22).  
**Note:** As per the report Global economic growth will dip sharply from 5.5% in 2021 to 4.1% in 2022 and 3.2% in 2023. The report also flagged the risks posed by growing inequality and rising inflation.
27. The **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode's** Business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) has signed an MoU with **Indian Bank** to launched a startup funding scheme.  
**Note:** The inked agreement launched a startup funding scheme, 'IndSpring Board' to support early-stage startups by providing loans up to ₹50 crore. The loan amount disbursed to startups under the IndSpring Board scheme from IIMK LIVE and Indian Bank will be used to meet a startup operational expenditure and capital expenditure which includes working capital, purchase of fixed assets and other expenses.
28. In partnership with the NPCI **UCO Bank** has launched a 'RuPay Select Contactless Debit Card' with a host of benefits for its premium/HNI (High Networth Individuals) customers.  
**Note:** This launch was made on the occasion of the 79th Inauguration Day of the bank i.e. January 6, 2022. The card offers an ATM (Automated Teller Machine) withdrawal limit of Rs 50000 along with a purchase of up to Rs 2 lakh at POS (Point of Sale) or E-Commerce. All RuPay Select Contactless Debit cardholders are eligible for the Insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakhs (Death due to personal accident and permanent disability).
29. NABARD has forged a partnership with **Arthimpact Digital Loans** for providing end-to-end fintech solution including skilling, micro financial services and forward linkage support to self-help group members.  
**Note:** ARTH will provide credit, payments and insurance solutions support to micro-MSME enterprises. Both organisations will work to provide micro financial services and forward linkage support to SHGs. The specialized entities across occupations to 500 enterprises across Uttar Pradesh impacting 2500 households
30. **HDFC Bank** has been adjudged Best Private Bank in India at the Global Private Banking Awards 2021, organised by Professional Wealth Management (PWM).  
**Note:** Professional Wealth Management (PWM) specialises in analysing the growth strategies of private banks and the regional financial centres in which they operate. The award was given for contributing to accelerate key trends, including digitalisation, communication and investment in environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategies.
31. **Paytm Payments Bank** becomes the largest and fastest growing UPI beneficiary bank in India.  
**Note:** It becomes the first beneficiary bank in the country to achieve the landmark of over 926 million UPI transactions in a single month. Beneficiary banks are the banks of the account holder who is receiving money. Paytm Payments Bank has also gained rapid traction as a remitter bank for UPI payments.
32. E-Commerce company **Snapdeal** has joined hands with BOB Financial and NPCI to launch a co-branded contactless RuPay credit card.  
**Note:** This co-branded credit card aims to popularise the adoption and usage of credit cards among the growing number of online buyers from India's smaller cities and towns. The Snapdeal-BoB co-branded contactless card will be rolled out by March 2022. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), one of India's largest public sector banks. Established in 1994, BFSL issues Bank of Baroda credit cards.
33. **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Mecwin Technologies Ltd to introduce farmer-friendly solar-powered pump-sets using bank finance.  
**Note:** The MoU will benefit farmers since Mecwin Technologies Ltd is specialised in the production and management of solar irrigation pump-sets. Apart from this, the bank has the largest branch network in rural areas. KVGB was the first bank to introduce solar loan schemes.
34. **Tata Consultancy Services** has been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs for the 2nd phase of the Passport Seva Programme, the country's largest mission-critical e-governance programme.  
**Note:** Launched in 2008, the PSP saw TCS transforming the delivery of passport-related services, digitizing the processes, and setting global benchmarks in timeliness, transparency, and reliability. In the next phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports.
35. Fintech company Lendingkart has entered into a co-lending partnership with **Canara Bank** to provide low-cost business loans of up to ₹10 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the country.  
**Note:** The loans will be provided with fast turnaround time for approvals powered by "Lendingkart 2gthr" platform using 'zero touch' technology. Through this alliance it aims to broaden its reach to support MSME borrowers to enhance

financial inclusion under the Reserve Bank's Priority Sector initiative.

- 36. MobiKwik** has collaborated with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) Bharat BillPay to launch ClickPay for its customers.

**Note:** Through ClickPay, MobiKwik customers will be able to pay recurring online bills, such as mobile, gas, water, electricity, DTH, insurance and loan EMIs with ease by eliminating the need to remember individual bill details and due dates.

- 37.** According to the report titled "World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022", released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), **207 million** will be the global unemployment in 2022.

**Note:** The International Labour Organization (ILO) has released a report titled 'World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022'. The report warns of a slow and uncertain recovery, as the pandemic continues to have a significant impact on global labour markets.

- 38.** In association with Equirus Wealth, **Federal Bank** has launched a "US Dollar offshore fund" exclusively for their customers.

**Note:** This is in collaboration with SCUBE Capital, a Singapore-based global fund management company. Both NRI and Resident customers of Federal Bank will be able to invest in this fund.

- 39.** As per the latest RBI data, **304.06** is the Digital Payment Index (DPI) in September 2021.

**Note:** RBI-DPI Index continues to demonstrate significant growth in adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country. The Index captures the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. As per latest RBI data, the total volume of digital payments rose about 57.50 per cent year-on-year to 645.84 crore in November 2021 against 410.07 crore in November 2020.

- 40.** As per the latest RBI data, released on January 2022, the total volume of digital payments rose by **57.50%** year-on-year in November 2021.

**Note:** As per latest RBI data, the total volume of digital payments rose about 57.50 per cent year-on-year to 645.84 crore in November 2021 against 410.07 crore in November 2020. The total value of digital payments was up 32 per cent y-o-y to ₹1,48,03,884 crore in November 2021 against ₹1,11,99,549 crore in November 2020.

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

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

payment infrastructure factors, with a weightage of 10 per cent each.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 48. Rs 650 crore** has been sanctioned by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for AU SFB and Jana SFB – to provide funds to finance companies and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs). **Note:** The financial assistance has been extended out of the Special Liquidity Facility sanctioned by the Reserve Bank of India. This liquidity line has been provided to SIDBI to meet the challenges being faced by the MSMEs due to the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic situation

- 49. Axis Bank** has tied up with MinkasuPay, a mobile payments company based in Silicon Valley,



California, to offer a smooth net banking payment experience to its customers through biometric authentication solution.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** The partnership highlights TVS Motor Company's commitment to strengthen electrification across diverse mobility segments and align with Swiggy's many efforts to enable the adoption of EVs in its delivery fleet. As part of the agreement, TVS Motor and Swiggy will test the implementation of TVS Motor's EV for food delivery and other on-demand services of Swiggy.

53. Marwadi Financial Services (MFS) partnered with **NSDL Payments Bank** to allow its clients an integrated 3-in-1 savings account that combines the features of savings, demat and trading accounts.

**Note:** Using this account, investors will be able to seamlessly transfer funds in real time and execute trades in almost no time. Users will also be able to avail margins without actually moving funds between their savings and trading accounts.

54. **Reliance Industries** is the most valued company in terms of Mcap.

**Note:** This is due to the domestic equity benchmarks witnessed heavy selling in line with the global

market. Benchmark indices witnessed nearly a 4% cut last week as FPIs booked profits across large-caps and select mid-caps.

55. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has signed an MoU with GIFT SEZ enabling both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system for alternative investment funds and global custody services.

**Note:** The MoU will enable both to work together towards greater enhancement of the financial services eco-system for alternative investment funds and global custody services. Both KMBL and GIFT SEZ will cooperate towards wide-ranging activities to improve overall financial services.

56. In January 2022, Food delivery company **Swiggy** has become a Decacorn by almost doubling its valuation to \$10.7 billion.

**Note:** Swiggy's latest valuation is almost double that of Zomato before the latter went for its initial public offering. Zomato was valued at \$5.4 billion before its IPO.

57. Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs) **Fullerton India** has partnered with Paytm to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.

**Note:** With this partnership, the fintech users will get Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later) feature on the Paytm platform. Besides, the partnership is set to offer lending products like merchant loans.

58. India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) partnered with **Muthoot Homefin** to offer mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products to later's customer.

**Note:** Muthoot Homefin aims to leverage mortgage guarantee as a risk mitigation tool as demand for affordable and mid-income housing increases. The tie-up with IMGC will help Muthoot Homefin deepen its penetration in existing markets across its 108 branches/locations.

59. **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** will spend \$150 million in the creation of data centres that will primarily serve emerging Asia.

**Note:** This project is being AIIB's 1st data centre project. The Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a private equity company managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha), will route funds through the Beijing-based AIIB, of which India is a significant founding member.

60. According to Brand Finance's Global 500 study for 2022 **Apple** has retained its title as the world's most valuable brand.

**Note:** The brand valuation of Apple was recorded at \$355.1 billion in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.

61. According to the **World Economic Outlook report** released in January 2022, **9.0%** will be India's economic growth rate in the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22).  
**Note:** Earlier this was estimated at 9.5%. IMF has projected the growth forecast for India in 2022-23 (FY23) at 7.1%. IMF has projected the global growth rate in 2022 to 4.4%, and in 2023 to 3.8%.
62. **Bharat Electronics Limited** has signed a contract with Hyperion Global Group, LLC, to develop, manufacture and supply Internet of Things (IoT) devices for the US market.  
**Note:** BEL will manufacture and supply IoT devices worth \$73 million to Hyperion during the first year of commencement of supply with a provision to negotiate and supply upgrades of the products, worth \$365 million, in the next five years. Hyperion's next generation global telecommunications infrastructure is said to be the key to unlocking unprecedented levels of performance and speed made possible by the combination of IoT and 5G. Hyperion would accomplish this by strategically implementing a six-phase strategy to meet its customer demands.
63. In association with which **Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd.**, the Agri-tech start-up FAARMS has introduced customized digital insurance solutions for the rural population especially the farmers.  
**Note:** The partnership is aimed at offering comprehensive financial protection to the uninsured individuals of the country. Faarms is a single point e-commerce platform for farmers for all farming related inputs from seeds, agrochemicals, machinery and animal feed in India.
64. CVC and Ministry of Finance have extended the scope of the existing Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) to cover all fraud cases involving an amount of **Rs. 3 Crore and above**.  
**Note:** The probity watchdog had issued an order in this regard to the chief executives and CVOs of all public sector banks and insurance companies. The CVC had on January 6 expanded the ambit of the Advisory Board for Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF), which conducts first level examination of large bank frauds, to cover all such cases involving amounts of Rs 3 crore and above besides examining the role of all levels of officials.
65. **TerraPay** has signed an MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) that will allow Indian customers with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts.  
**Note:** NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) is the International arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). TerraPay is Headquartered in The Netherlands.
66. **TVS Motor Company Ltd** has announced the acquisition of 75 percent stake in the Swiss e-Mobility Group (SEMG) for \$100 million.  
**Note:** The valuation of the company (SEMG) is \$100 million. So, the acquisition cost is \$100 million. The acquisition has been made in an all-cash deal through TVS Motor's Singapore Subsidiary TVS Motor (Singapore) Pte Ltd.
67. Tata Group has regained control of Air India after 69 years -- **Rs 18,000 crore**.  
**Note:** The total value of the deal is Rs 18,000 crore (US\$2.4 billion). The strategic disinvestment transaction of Air India includes transfer of 100 percent stake of GoI in Air India to Tata Sons, along with management control.
68. The Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank is merged with **Unity Small Finance Bank**.  
**Note:** The amalgamation came into force with effect from the date of the notification of the scheme i.e. January 25, 2022. According to the press release, the scheme of amalgamation notified envisages taking over of all the assets and liabilities of PMC Bank, including deposits, by the USFBL in terms of the provisions of the scheme.
69. **City Union Bank** has launched a wearable payment solution called CUB fitness watch debit card, in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform GOQii and powered by the NPCI.  
**Note:** Customers need to hold this wristwatch in front of the PoS device during payment like tapping the card on PoS. For payments above Rs 5,000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN. The introductory price of a smartwatch debit card is Rs 3,499, as compared to an actual cost of Rs 6,499).
70. **Google** will invest \$1 billion in the Bharti Airtel as part of its India Digitization Fund.  
**Note:** Google and Bharti Airtel will partner on a long-term, multi-year agreement to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Google will make an equity investment of \$700 million for a 1.28% stake in Bharti Airtel at a price of Rs 734 per share.
71. **State Bank of India** has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance on India INX GIFT IFSC.  
**Note:** The lender is the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond, which is a bond issued in Taiwan. SBI was the first issuer whose Green bonds were dually listed in November 2021 on Luxembourg Stock Exchange through a MOU that has been entered into by both Exchanges.
72. According to the date released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, **35%** of growth has been registered in the export of the marine products during April to Dec 2021.  
**Note:** The exports of Marine Products touched over \$ 720 mn, registering a growth of over 28 per cent.

The overall exports of Marine Products in the last Financial Year was \$ 5.96 bn. Top 5 export

destinations: USA, China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand.

### Banking & Financial terms

1. **AEPS** – Aadhar Enabled Payment System
2. **APBS** – Aadhar Payment Bridge System
3. **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine
4. **ALM** - Asset Liability Management
5. **AIIB** - Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
6. **AMFI** - Association of Mutual Funds in India
7. **BIS** - Bureau of Indian Standards
8. **BBPS** – Bharat Bill Payment System
9. **BCA** -Baseline Credit Assessment
10. **BHIM** - Bharat Interface for Money
11. **BLRA**: Bank Led Resolution Approach
12. **CBL** - Chest Balance Limit
13. **CMFRI** - Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
14. **CBS** – Core Banking System
15. **CIDR** - Central Identities Data Repository
16. **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System
17. **CDR** - Corporate Debt Restructuring
18. **CASA** – Current Account Saving Account
19. **CAD** – Capital Account Deficit
20. **CRA** - Counterparty Risk Assessment
21. **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio
22. **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service
23. **DNS** - Domain Name System
24. **DEAF** - Depositor Education and Awareness Fund
25. **EFTPOS** - Electronic funds transfer at point of sale
26. **EFT** – Electronic Fund Transfer.
27. **FRBM** - Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management
28. **LGD** - Loss Given Default
29. **LTV**- Loan To Value
30. **LRS** - Liberalized Remittance Scheme
31. **LCR** - Liquidity Coverage Ratio
32. **GNFV** - Gross Negative Fair Value
33. **SFTs**: Securities financing transactions
34. **HCE** - Host Card Emulation
35. **PFE** - Potential Future Exposure
36. **IIP** - Index of Industrial Production
37. **IBBI** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
38. **IFC** - International Finance Corporation
39. **IDRBT** - Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
40. **Ind As** - Indian Accounting Standards
41. **ICAAP** - Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process
42. **IFSC** - Indian Financial System Code
43. **IMPS** - Immediate Payment Service
44. **IMPS** - Interbank Mobile Payment Service
45. **MMID** - Mobile Money Identifier
46. **MPIN** - Mobile Personal Identification Number
47. **NPA** – Non- Performing Assets
48. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
49. **NPCI** - National Payment Corporation of India
50. **NFS** – National Financial Switch
51. **NSFR** - Net Stable Funding Ratio
52. **NACH** – National Automated Clearing House
53. **NEFT** – National Electronic Fund Transfer
54. **NFC** - Near field communication
55. **NDTL** – Net Demand and Time Liabilities.
56. **NASSCOM** - National Association of Software and Services Companies
57. **NIIF** - National Investment and Infrastructure Fund
58. **OTC** – Over the Counter
59. **PIN** – Personal Identification Number
60. **PAC** - Personal Access Code
61. **PCA** - Prompt Corrective Action
62. **PCR** – Public Credit Registry
63. **PCR** - Provisioning Coverage Ratio
64. **PSPs** - Payment Support Providers
65. **TC-CCP** - Third-Country Central Counterparty
66. **TRR** - Temporary Recognition Regime
67. **TReDS** - Trade Receivables Discounting System
68. **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement
69. **USSD** - Unstructured Supplementary Services Data
70. **UIDAI** - Unique Identification Authority of India
71. **VPA** - Virtual Payment Address.
72. **WMA** - Ways and Means Advances
73. **TIEA** - Tax Information and Exchange Agreement
74. **NRETP** - National Rural Economic Transformation Project
75. **IBC** - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code
76. **GSP** - Generalised System of Preferences
77. **IFFCO** - Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative
78. **PMJAY** - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
79. **NBFC** - Non-banking finance companies
80. **SWIFT** - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
81. **NHB** – National Housing Bank
82. **NGT** - National Green Tribunal
83. **DSIB** – Domestically Systematically Important Bank
84. **RWAs** - Risk Weighted Assets
85. **TCs** - Trade credits
86. **CSO** - Central Statistics Office
87. **ASSOCHAM** - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India
88. **WPI** - Wholesale Price Index
89. **FTA** - Free Trade Agreement
90. **NHB** - National Housing Bank

- 91. YONO - You only need one
- 92. ARC - Asset Reconstruction Company
- 93. D-SIBs - Domestic Systemically Important Banks
- 94. MFIs - Micro Finance Institutions
- 95. FPIs - Foreign portfolio investors
- 96. FVCIs - Foreign venture capital investors
- 97. PPF - Public Provident Fund
- 98. NSC - National Savings Certificate
- 99. CbC - Country-by-Country
- 100. WEF - World Economic Forum

- 101. MPI - Multidimensional Poverty Index
- 102. UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
- 103. UPI - Unified Payments Interface
- 104. NPCI - National Payments Corporation of India
- 105. CII - Confederation of Indian Industry
- 106. NBCC - National Buildings Construction Corporation
- 107. NSSO - National Sample Survey Office
- 108. EMV - Europay, MasterCard, Visa.
- 109. FATF - Financial Action Task Force

### Agreement & Deals

(1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

#### 1. MoU between Ministry of Agriculture and UNDP

**Note:** The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). As per the MoU, UNDP will provide technical support to two government programs: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Kisan Credit Card-Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS). By leveraging its expertise, UNDP will provide technical assistance to effectively implement agriculture credit and crop insurance schemes. It will also help the government in the capacity development of small and marginal farmers, women farmers, sharecroppers, & tenant farmers.

#### 2. INCOIS signs MoU with Indian Navy

**Note:** Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Navy to provide training services and support to the School of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (SNOM) for conduct of various courses related to operational oceanography. Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Navy to provide training services and support to the School of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (SNOM) for conduct of various courses related to operational oceanography.

#### 3. MoRD, Amazon ink pact to turn rural women into entrepreneurs

**Note:** Ministry of Rural Development and Amazon have signed an MOU to enable SHG entrepreneurs under NRLM to offer their products to the buyers across India through Amazon Saheli Storefront and help SHG women achieve good price for their varied products.

#### 4. Prasar Bharati and ORTM inked MOU on cooperation and collaboration in Broadcasting

**Note:** Prasar Bharati, India's national broadcaster, has signed an MoU with Madagascar's official ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) for broadcasting cooperation and collaboration. Indian Ambassador

Abhay Kumar and ORTM Director General Jean Yves signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU intends to exchange programmes, investigate co-production of programmes, and exchange persons.

#### 5. WEF partnered with NITI Aayog to focus on emerging technologies to help small, marginal farmers

**Note:** NITI Aayog and World Economic Forum (WEF) have partnered to use artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain and drones for the benefit of farmers, particularly small and marginal. In 2018, the WEF has established the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), India in Mumbai, in collaboration with the NITI Aayog. C4IR has already launched the Sagu Bagu Pilot Project in Telangana for using AI in agriculture.

#### 6. NHAI Signs Two MOUs in Lucknow to Enhance Highway Infrastructure

**Note:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed two MOUs to enhance National Highway infrastructure and will contribute to sustaining environment in Uttar Pradesh and other states. A first of its kind MOU was signed between NHAI and State Rural Livelihood Mission, Uttar Pradesh to involve the self-help groups in taking up the plantations along the National Highways. The initiative will also be introduced in other states like Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. The second MOU was signed between NHAI and AMMANN India Pvt. Ltd. Both entities have collaborated to create a talent pool of highly skilled workforce, fully trained on advanced technologies in Highway construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance.

#### 7. MHA and SECI sign MoU to realize India's green energy initiative

**Note:** Ministry of Home Affairs and Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) have signed an MOU for collaboration in the field of green energy. Under the MOU, SECI will generate solar power up to 71.68



megawatts and provide the energy to a large number of security establishments across India.

**8. Railway Protection Force (RPF) has signed an MoU with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for curbing child trafficking.**

**Note:** Railway Protection Force is entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway property, passenger area and passengers. It has been discharging responsibility as mandated by the Standardized Operating Procedure for rescue of children issued by Ministry of Railways and working with other stakeholders to rescue more than 50,000 children since 2018 under "Operation Nanhe Farishte". It has recently launched "Operation AAHT" to take stringent action against human trafficking through rail and has been rescuing victims of Human Trafficking from the clutches of traffickers.

**9. India, Denmark Ink 9 Agreements During PM Modi's Visit**

**Note:** India and Denmark signed 9 agreements during PM Modi's visit to the European nation. Some important are as follows:

1. Agreement on Migration and Mobility
2. Letter of Intent for creating Centre of Excellence in Green Shipping
3. Cultural Exchange Program from 2022-2026
4. India has joined the International Centre for Anti-Microbial Resistance Solution (ICARS) as the mission partner
5. Agreement for cooperation on water, skill development, animal husbandry and dairying sector, setting up Energy Policy Dialogue at Ministerial level
6. Agreement between Invest India and Technical University of Denmark for start-up collaboration

**10. Ayana Renewable and Greenstat Hydrogen tie up to develop green hydrogen project**

**Note:** Ayana Renewable Power and Greenstat Hydrogen India have partnered for development of green hydrogen projects in India. Under this partnership, the companies will develop large scale green hydrogen solutions, to provide long term supply of green hydrogen to industrial and commercial customers in India. An initial pilot project will be launched in Karnataka. Ayana is powered by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund's (NIIF). Greenstat is a subsidiary of Norway-based Greenstat ASA.

**11. IIT Bombay and IMD signed MOU to develop user-friendly weather forecasting app**

**Note:** The IIT Bombay has partnered with the Ministry of Earth Sciences' India Meteorological Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions for stakeholders at the village, city, and district levels. The partnership will aid the institute in the development of sensors and drone-based smart monitoring systems, climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, intelligent and automated early warning systems, climate and health, smart power grid management, wind energy forecasting, and heat wave forecasting.

**12. C-DOT and C-DAC sign agreement for cooperation in telecom, ICT**

**Note:** Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) have signed an MOU for cooperation in the areas of telecom and information and communication technology. Established in 1984, C-DOT is an autonomous Telecom R&D centre under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications. Established in 1988, C-DAC is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The MOU was signed during India's 1st Conference on Semiconductors in Bengaluru.

**April 2022**

**1. BHEL signs MoU with GE Power Conversion**

**Note:** Bharat Heavy Electricals has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GE Power Conversion (located in France) for development of integrated full electric propulsion systems for the Indian Navy. GE Power Conversion is a world leader in electric propulsion, with equipment installed on some of the latest platforms of the US Navy and the Royal Navy, including the Queen Elizabeth class of aircraft carriers.

**2. IIM-K signs pact to promote sustainable agriculture in over 30 countries**

**Note:** IIM-Kozhikode and African Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) have signed an MOU for promoting sustainable agriculture and rural

development practices in the 33 member-AARDO, which includes 31 countries in the Asian-African region. Both parties will promote and collaborate in research, consultancy, technical and knowledge support.

**3. Railways and C-DoT sign MoU for modernisation of telecom services**

**Note:** The Ministry of Railways signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) to establish a collaborative working partnership. The partnership entails coordination and resource sharing with respect to provision of telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-DoT's Telecom Solutions and services in Railways.

4. **NTPC inks MoU with Energy Vault for gravity-based energy storage technology**  
**Note:** NTPC Ltd. Signed an MoU with Energy Vault Holdings, Inc., a leader in sustainable, grid-scale energy storage solutions. The objective of the MOU is to collaborate and formalise a long-term strategic partnership for deployment of Energy Vault's EVx™, a gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions based on the outcome of a joint feasibility study. The technology also offers beneficial utilisation of coal ash for manufacturing of composite blocks.
5. **ONGC ties up with Norway's Equinor for clean energy**  
**Note:** ONGC has signed an MoU with Equinor ASA, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company for for collaboration in areas of upstream exploration & production, midstream, downstream and clean energy options. As per the agreement, both ONGC and Equinor will collaborate with each other in the field of upstream oil and gas, midstream, marketing and trading, besides exploring further options in low carbon fuel, renewables, carbon capture storage as well as carbon capture utilization and sequestration opportunities in India
6. **IFSCA signs a Memorandum of Understanding with the NIA**  
**Note:** The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Insurance Academy with the goal of creating capacity and establishing a qualified talent pool in the insurance sector in International Financial Services Centres.
7. **Posoco ties up with IIT Delhi for research**  
**Note:** Power System Operation Corp. Ltd.'s (Posoco) Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre signed a memorandum of understanding with Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi) to encourage research on issues relating to India's power sector and strengthen interaction between academia and industry.
8. **India and UK have signed two government-to-government MOU for cooperation on Global Innovation Partnership and Nuclear Energy Partnership.**  
**Note:** The MoU on Cooperation on Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership was signed between India's Department of Atomic Energy and the UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Another MoU on Implementation of Global Innovation Partnership between India's Ministry of External Affairs and UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office was also signed. The Global Innovation Partnership is a cooperation initiative which India and the UK agreed to co-finance, up to USD 100 million to support the transfer and scale innovations for SDGs and climate-related goals.
9. **NITI Aayog, UNICEF India sign Statement of Intent on SDGs with focus on children**  
**Note:** NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children. This seeks to formalize a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the State of India's Children – Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development.
10. **APEDA inks MoU with National Research Development Corporation NRDC**  
**Note:** The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed an MOU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for the implementation of the Agri Export Policy and to strengthen the export value chain.
11. **India, Maldives sign seven MoUs for projects under India grant assistance**  
**Note:** India and Maldives have signed seven MoU for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) through local bodies. 7 new HICDP have been launched by Maldives under Indian grant assistance promoting youth empowerment, health, sports and heritage preservation.
12. **IIT-Guwahati has partnered with NTPC to develop energy-efficient tech to capture carbon dioxide from power plants.**  
**Note:** IIT-Guwahati has partnered with NTPC to design and develop a highly energy-efficient plant for CO2 capture from power plants. This indigenous technology, which may so on be patented, was developed by a research team led by Bishnupada Mandal, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Guwahati.
13. **SJVN signs pact with BHEL, REMC to develop renewable projects for Indian Railways**  
**Note:** SJVN (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam) has signed an MOU with BHEL and Railway Energy Management Company (REMC) Ltd to develop renewable energy projects for Indian Railways. SJVN aims to create 5,000 MW by 2023, 25,000 MW by 2030 and 50,000 MW installed capacity by 2040 of renewable energy.
14. **UIDAI tieup with ISRO for technical collaboration**  
**Note:** Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), MeitY has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO, Hyderabad for technical collaboration. NRSC will develop a Bhuvan-Aadhar portal for providing information and locations about the Aadhaar centres across India.
15. **India has signed an MOU with Nepal to set up a wastewater management project in Nepal.**

**Note:** The Embassy of India signed the MoU with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal & Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality, Solukhumbu for the construction of the Khumjung Khunde Waste Water Management Project. The construction of this project will improve the health and quality of life of the people living in Khumjung village, Solukbumbuproviding them with safe water and improved sanitation, which are essential for improving public health.

**16. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK)**

**Note:** The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK), for promoting Commerce Education among students of the Union Territory. The MoU has been signed for a period of five years during the outreach meeting held with principals of Kashmir valley.

**17. Bangladesh signs deal with Adani group for Indian Economic Zone**

**Note:** Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) has signed an agreement with the Indian company Adani Ports and SEZ Limited to set up an Indian Economic Zone at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of Chattogram. The Indian Economic Zone will provide facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh. India has given a Line of Credit worth USD 115 million for

development of this zone. The agreement for establishing the Indian Economic Zone was signed in 2015. Among the Government to Government economic zones being set up in Bangladesh, the Indian Economic Zone is going to be the second largest one after the Japanese Economic Zone.

**18. Indian Overseas Bank, Software Technology Park of India ink MoU**

**Note:** Indian Overseas Bank has signed an MOU with the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and STPINEXT (a Section 8 company of STPI) for leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative. The FinBlue initiative of STPI is an integrated programme for incubating start-ups. It provides access to the financial technology ecosystem that consists of bankers, financial institutions, mentors, investors among others.

**19. Bharat Dynamics signs MoU with Tawazun Economic Council, UAE**

**Note:** Bharat Dynamics (BDL) and Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), United Arab Emirates have exchanged Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence. Tawazun Economic Council (Tawazun) is the UAE defense and Security acquisition authority for the UAE armed force and also manages the procurement and contract of the UAE armed forces, covering administrative, technical, contractual and functional aspects.

**March 2022**

**1. India has signed an MOU with Sri Lanka to build hybrid power projects in three islands off Jaffna.**

**Note:** This is the third power project that India is developing in Sri Lanka, after NTPC's solar project in eastern Sampur town and Adani Group's project in Mannar and Pooneryn in the north. India and Sri Lanka have also agreed to set up a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in the latter. Bharat Electronics will develop the centre. The project involves a \$6 million worth of grant. India (Goa Shipyard Ltd) is developing a floating dock for Sri Lanka and also providing a Dornier Reconnaissance Aircraft. India has extended \$2.4 billion support to Sri Lanka since the beginning of this year.

**2. GMR Airports, Airbus collaborate to study on sustainable aviation fuel**

**Note:** Airport operators Groupe ADP and GMR Airports together with Airbus, Axens and Safran (all France-based companies) have signed an MOU to conduct a joint study on Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) and

their potential in India to understand and evaluate the demand, the challenges and opportunities of supply, infrastructure and fuelling, as well as to prepare a business case for SAF production and use in India for all kind of aviation purposes. SAF can reduce CO2 emissions up to 85% across the entire SAF lifecycle. The aviation sector globally contributes to 2-3% of CO2 emissions as compared to other sectors.

**3. IIE signs MoU with MoRD to enhance the impact of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)**

**Note:** Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship-Guwahati, Assam, under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Rural Development to promote entrepreneurship amongst the rural youth through the 'start-up village entrepreneurship programme' (SVEP). SVEP is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) — which aims to support entrepreneurs in rural

- areas to set-up enterprises at the village-level in non-agricultural sectors. The IIE will act as a National Resource Organisation (NRO) to provide support for the successful implementation of the SVEP scheme. IIE was established in 1993 as an autonomous organisation under the M/o Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
4. **Tata Steel, Indo-German Science and Technology Centre join hands for Scientific Cooperation**  
**Note:** Indo-German Science and Technology Centre (IGSTC) has signed an MOU with Tata Steel to collaborate on climate change, greening of the industrial sector, emerging technologies in new materials, joint research & innovation for emerging technologies, and technology development for scaling-up. IGSTC has been established by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt of India, and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). IGSTC has also signed a Letter of Intent with BASF Chemicals India Pvt Ltd for scientific cooperation partnerships to foster science and technology led innovations and research partnerships in PPP mode.
  5. **Indian Potash signs MoU with Israel Chemicals for MOP supply**  
**Note:** Indian Potash Limited signed an agreement with Israel Chemicals Limited (ICL) for the supply of Muriate of Potash (MOP) for the next five years. An MoU between the two firms was signed in New Delhi. As per the deal, Israel Chemicals Limited has agreed to supply 6 to 6.5 LMT of Muriate of Potash to India yearly from 2022 to 2027.
  6. **NMDC Sign MoU with IIT Kharagpur for drone-based mineral exploration**  
**Note:** The country's largest iron ore producer, NMDC Ltd, has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for drone-based mineral research with IIT Kharagpur. The National Mining and Development Corporation (NMDC) is increasingly dependent on technical innovation and the digitisation of its exploration and mining database. The government has taken the first step in regulating and monitoring drone usage and operations in India, which are now employed in agriculture, urban planning, forestry, mining, disaster management, surveillance, and transportation, among other industries.
  7. **HSL inks MoU with Eker Group, Vaanmoto to build speed boats**  
**Note:** Hindustan Shipyard Limited has entered into an MOU with Eker Group of Norway and Vaanmoto (Kerala-based vehicle parts manufacturing company) to explore opportunities in the field of manufacturing speed boats. Eker designs, constructs and sells ferries, leisure boats and professional boats, especially suitable for defence and law enforcement.
  8. **BRO signs MoU with GRSE for construction of 27 double-lane class 70 modular bridges in border areas**  
**Note:** Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has signed an MOU with Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd for the construction of 27 double-lane bridges of carriageway 7.5 meters of 'load class 70'. A bridge on important "Flag Hill-Dokala" Road in Sikkim was constructed at an altitude of 11,000 feet by Karamyogis of Project Swastik in February 2021.
  9. **HAL signs pact with SASMOS to work together in aerospace domain**  
**Note:** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based company SASMOS to work together on advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optic interconnections in the aerospace domain. HAL's subsidiary Naini Aerospace Limited (NAEL) was also a signatory to the MoU, SASMOS'. Under the MoU, HAL and SASMOS will "work together in the field of advanced electronics, electrical and fibre optics interconnections in the aerospace domain"
  10. **Bureau of Indian Standards signs MoU with IIT Roorkee for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor'**  
**Note:** Bureau of Indian Standards, has signed an MOU with IIT Roorkee for establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at IIT Roorkee. This would be the first Standardization Chair established by BIS in an Institute for activities on Standardization and Conformity Assessment.
  11. **Tripartite MoU signed between Ministry of Ayush, CSIR, and ICAR for collaboration in areas of common interest**  
**Note:** A tripartite MOU has been signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Ayush and, the CSIR for facilitation of R&D and deployment of technologies related to medicinal plants and ayurvedic food for the benefit of humans and animals to study the traditional agricultural practices of India and undertake joint research and development (R&D) activities for facilitating socio-economic growth. A joint working group will be formed for ensuring effective implementation of the MOU.
  12. **MoU to develop daylight harvesting technologies**  
**Note:** Technology Development Board, a statutory body of Department of Science & Technology, has signed an MOU with Skyshade Daylights Private Limited, Hyderabad to promote the Start-up in order to reduce carbon footprint and improve the building energy efficiency. The startup has already developed two innovative solutions named Human centric-climate adaptive building facades and Central integrated daylighting system. Daylighting is basically bringing natural sunlight inside the rooms. This technology reduces the consumption of electricity and thus, contribute towards sustainable development.



### 13. India & International Telecommunication Union Sign Host Country Agreement

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

### 14. DST tieup with Intel India to boost AI readiness

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

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

### 15. HPCL signed MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India

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

## February 2022

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

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

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

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

### 3. India and France sign Roadmap on Blue Economy

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

### 4. TransUnion tieup Ficci for MSME consumer education programme

**Note:** TransUnion CIBIL has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

(FICCI) to launch a unique nationwide MSME consumer education program to support MSME. This program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura and aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** Amazon India signed an MoU with Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) to support the growth of women entrepreneurs. Amazon India will launch 'Sanjeevini-KSRLPS' in its platform and

extend benefits of the 'Saheli' Programme to train and empower thousands of rural women entrepreneurs and also provide online access to a wider market for their products. The Saheli Programme offers training and skill development workshops to help women entrepreneurs.

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with Policybazaar to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India. This is LIC's first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products. To

facilitate seamless digital distribution of life insurance products and boost financial inclusion across India.

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

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

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

**Note:** The State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund (NCF) of the Ministry of Culture, for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design (ABCD) at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, in Delhi. The main objective of Project ABCD is to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign to give a boost to Economic Value Addition to GI products from India.

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

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

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

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

## January 2022

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

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

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

**Note:** Social media giant Meta has partnered with industry body the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) to support five lakh

women-led small businesses across India. Meta will undertake this initiative under its #SheMeansBusiness programme, in partnership with FICCI's 'Empowering the Greater 50%' initiative. The initiative will create a supportive ecosystem for women and inspire them to become contributors to the overall development of the country.

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

**Note:** TerraPay has signed MoU with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) to allow Indian customers with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's

- secure payments technology. It will enable a seamless and convenient cross-border remittances experience. NIPL is an international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
4. **Google to invest upto \$1 Billion in Bharti Airte**  
**Note:** Bharti Airtel and Google have announced a long-term partnership agreement, to accelerate the growth of India's digital ecosystem. Under the deal, Google will invest USD 1 billion in Airtel. From the total investment, Google will invest USD 700 million to acquire a 1.28 per cent stake in Bharti Airtel Ltd. The remaining USD 300 million will go toward multi-year commercial agreements with Airtel, including devices built together by the two tech giants.
  5. **Jio tie-up with Finland's University of Oulu to accelerate 6G research**  
**Note:** Jio Platforms (JPL) has signed a pact with the University of Oulu, Finland, to accelerate research and standardization in 6G technology. JPL and the University of Oulu will collaborate in Research and Development (R&D) of aerial and space communication, holographic beamforming, 3D-connected intelligence in cybersecurity, microelectronics, and photonics.
  6. **IIMK LIVE and Indian Bank ink MoU to disburse loans upto Rs 50 Crore for Startups**  
**Note:** Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode's (IIMK) Business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Bank to financially support early-stage startups. Under the MoU, a startup funding scheme, 'IndSpring Board' has been launched. Under this scheme loans up to Rs, 50 Crore will be disbursed to the startups.
  7. **Odisha And The United Nations World Food Programme To Bolster Food Security Of Small Farmers**  
**Note:** In a participatory pilot initiative, climate advisories will be tailored to enable smallholder farmers to adapt to the impact of climate change. Smallholder farmers, who constitute 90 percent of farming communities in Odisha, will be able to select the right farming and livelihood options to improve their food security and incomes.
  8. **Indifi tie-up with GPay to offer instant digital credit to SMEs**  
**Note:** Small businesses-focused online lending platform Indifi Technologies has collaborated with Google Pay to provide instant loans to eligible medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs) merchants through the Google Pay platform. The borrowing process is entirely digital and eligible merchants on the Google Pay for the Business app can click on loan offerings from Indifi and submit an application online. The loans will be in the range of Rs 2.5 to Rs 3 lakh.
  9. **Axis Bank tie-up with MinkasuPay for biometric-based banking payments**  
**Note:** Axis Bank has tied up with MinkasuPay to offer a biometric authentication solution for net banking payments in merchant apps using Fingerprint or Face ID, without the need for usernames, passwords, and One-Time Passwords (OTPs). This Solution will reduce the time of payment from 50-60 seconds to just 2-3 seconds and also increase the transaction success rate.
  10. **LazyPay tie-up with SBM Bank India to Launch LazyCard**  
**Note:** LazyPay, a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) solution by PayU Finance, announced its partnership with SBM Bank India to launch LazyCard, a prepaid payment instrument backed by a credit line that works on the Visa payment network. To empower financially underserved Indians with easy access to credit as their card has limited credit options. LazyCard reaches over 62 million pre-approved users of LazyPay, with a credit limit of up to 5 lakhs. Consumers could avail the Lazycard at zero joining fees and zero annual fees along with multiple transactional benefits and rewards
  11. **Adani Group sign agreement with South Korea's POSCO to develop steel mill**  
**Note:** Adani Group and South Korea's largest steelmaker POSCO have signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to explore business opportunities in India. This includes the establishment of a green, environment-friendly integrated steel mill at Mundra, Gujarat. The estimated investment of the project is up to \$5 billion (approx. Rs 37,000 crore). The non-binding MoU also intends to collaborate at the group business level in various other sectors such as renewable energy, hydrogen, and logistics in response to carbon reduction requirements.
  12. **Airtel Payments Bank tie-up with Park+ to offer FASTag-based Parking Solutions**  
**Note:** Airtel Payments Bank and Park+ have collaborated to offer FASTag-based smart parking solutions to marquee commercial and residential properties across India. This partnership will utilize the reach of Airtel Payments Bank to digitize the parking ecosystem using FASTag associated with the vehicle. Park+ is backed by Sequoia Capital and Matrix Partners and is engaged in automating parking spaces through FASTag.

### May

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
Tony Brooks	British racing driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won six Formula One Grand Prix in 1950s</li> <li>Nicknamed as “Racing Dentist”</li> </ul>
Salim Ghouse	Film and TV actor	Wrote the roles of Rama, Krishna, and Tipu Sultan in Shyam Benegal’s TV Series Bharat Ek Khoj.
Rajat Kumar Kar	Eminent Odia litterateur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipient of Padma Shri in 2021</li> <li>known for his commentary during Ratha Jatra (Jagannath culture) on TV and radio.</li> </ul>
Pandit Shivkumar Sharma	Indian music composer and santoor player	Recipient of Padma Shri in 1991, and Padma Vibhushan in 2001
Yuri Averbakh	Russian chess grandmaster	Chaired the Chess Federation of USSR from 1972 to 1977
Pandit Sukh Ram	Veteran Himachal Pradesh Congress leader	Sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for corruption when he was Communications Minister in 1996.
Leonid Kravchuk	Former communist and first president of independent Ukraine	-
Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan	UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi	-
Rama Kant Shukla	Sanskrit and Hindi Scholar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Founding chairman and editor of Arvacinasamskrtam journal in Sanskrit</li> <li>Conferred with Sanskrit Rashtrakavi, Kaviratna, and Kavi Siromani</li> </ul>
Andrew Symonds	Former Australian all-rounder	Top-rate fielder and was a key part of Australia’s back-to-back 50-over World Cups triumphs in 2003 and 2007.

### April

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievements
Manju Singh	Hindi television presenter and actor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produced Swaraj, Ek Kahani, Show Time shows.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fondly called 'didi'</li> <li>Anchor of Khel Khilone show.</li> </ul>
Bilquis Bano Edhi	Pakistani humanitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referred to as Mother of Pakistan</li> <li>Recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz and Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service</li> </ul>
Prafulla Kar	Lyricist, Singer, and Music Director	Recipient of Padma Shri in 2015
J.D. Rymbai	Former CM of Meghalaya	
K Sankaranarayanan	Senior Congress leader and Governor of Maharashtra	
Binapani Mohanty	Odia Writer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipient of Padmashree, Odisha Sahitya Akademi, Sahitya Akademi Award and Sarala Award.</li> <li>Chairperson of Odisha Lekhika Sansad.</li> </ul>
Mwai Kibaki	Former President of Kenya	
M. Vijayan	Structural biologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recipient of Padma Shri in 2004.</li> <li>President of Indian National Science Academy.</li> </ul>
Ravi Parthasarathy	Former non-executive chairman of IL&FS	Credited with building IL&FS into big financial services
Arun Kumar Bhaduri	Former director of Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research	Awarded Raja Ramanna Fellowship post retirement and Humboldt Research Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany
Elvera Britto	Former Indian women's hockey team captain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arjuna Award in 1965.</li> <li>President of Karnataka State Women's Hockey Association and selector for national women's team.</li> </ul>

### March

Name of the Personality	Field	Achievement
Sonny Ramadhin	West Indian Cricketer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Indian cricketers of Indian origin</li> <li>One of the five Wisden Cricketers of Year in</li> </ul>

		1951
Alan Walbridge Ladd Jr.	American Film Industry Executive and Producer	Recipient of Academy Award for Best Picture in 1996.
Shane Warne	Legendary Australia Spinner	One of the greatest-ever bowlers of the world
General S F Rodrigues	Chief of Indian Army from 1990 to 1993 and Governor of Punjab from 2004 to 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participated in Sino-Indian War of 1962, Indo-Pakistan War 1965, and Indo-Pak War 1971.</li> <li>Recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal</li> </ul>
Rodney William Marsh	Former Australia Cricketer (wicketkeeper)	-
RC Lahoti	Former Chief Justice of India	Quashed Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act on migrants to Assam.
Jaiprakash Chouksey	Noted Film Critic and Writer	Penned movies like 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011),
Rafiq Tarar	Former Supreme Court Judge and President of Pakistan	-
Rupiah Banda	Former President of Zambia	-
Scott Hall	WWE Hall of Famer	-
Kumudben Manishankar Joshi	Former Governor of Andhra Pradesh	-
Eugene Newman Parker	American Astrophysicist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed the existence of solar wind and Parker spiral</li> <li>NASA named its Parker Solar Probe in his honor in 2017</li> </ul>
Soumeylou Boubèye Maïga	Former Prime Minister of Mali	-
Shahabuddin Ahmed	Former President of Bangladesh	Responsible for holding "free and credible" election in February 1991.
Stephen Wilhite	Creator of Graphics Interchange Format (GIF)	Recipient of Webby Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.
Miguel Van Damme	Veteran Belgian Footballer	-
Bhim Bahadur Gurung	3rd Chief Minister of Sikkim	-

## February 2022

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

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

Association and the Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association.

2. Renowned personality Amitabh Dayal passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.

**Note:** Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film

- Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's Dhuaan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).
3. Legendary playback singer **Lata Mangeskar** awarded the nation's highest civilian honour in **2001**, who passed away recently.  
**Note:** Mangeskar began singing in her teens, and in a career spanning 73 years sang more than an estimated 15,000 songs in 36 languages. She is known as the 'Nightingale of India'. She was awarded the nation's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in March 2001.
  4. Renowned personality Chandupatla Janga Reddy passed away recently, he was a veteran **Politician**.  
**Note:** Reddy was one of the only two BJP Lok Sabha MPs elected in the 1984 general elections, conducted after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The other BJP MP was A K Patel, who was elected from Mehsana in Gujarat.
  5. Renowned personality Christos Sartzetakis passed away recently, he was a former president of **Greece**.  
**Note:** Christos Sartzetakis, the former President of Greece, has passed away. Sartzetakis, who was a jurist by profession, served as the President of Greece from 1985 to 1990.
  6. Renowned personality Praveen Kumar Sobti passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.  
**Note:** Besides playing the role of Bheem, which made him a household name, Kumar also starred in many films including Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Shehensha and Dharmendra's Loha. Other films to his credit include Aaj Ka Arjun, Ajooba, and Ghayal, among others.
  7. Nobel laureate Luc Montagnier passed away recently, he was a **Virologist**.  
**Note:** His co-discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus sparked a global search for an AIDS cure. The scientist from the Pasteur Institute in Paris shared the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Francoise Barre-Sinoussi and Germany's Harald zur Hausen, whose work on the viral causes of cervical cancer was recognized in the same year.
  8. Renowned personality Sandhya Mukherjee passed away recently, he was a veteran **Singer**.  
**Note:** She sang under the direction of famous composers such as S D Burman, Roshan and Madan Mohan. She received the National Film Award for best female playback singer in 1970 for the movies Jay Jayanti (a Bengali remake of Sound of Music) and Nishi Padma. This year she refused the Padma award.
  9. Renowned personality Bhargavi Narayan passed away recently, she was a veteran **Actor**.  
**Note:** Bhargavi Narayan was a renowned actor in the Kannada film industry. She was married to Belavadi Nanjundaiah Narayanan, fondly called Makeup Nani10.
  10. Renowned personality Bappi Lahiri passed away recently, he was a veteran **Composer**.  
**Note:** Best known for popularising disco music to the Indian mainstream, the singer was fondly known as Bappi da, and experienced huge success in the 1980s and 90s. He earned the title 'Disco King'.
  11. Renowned personality Dr Chennaveera Kanavi passed away recently, he was a prominent writer and poet of **Kannada** language.  
**Note:** He was also known as 'Samanvaya Kavi' (Poet of Reconciliation). Dr Kanavi received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his work Jeeva Dhvani (Poetry).
  12. Surajit Sengupta was associated with **Football** who passed away recently.  
**Note:** Sengupta had been associated with Kolkata's three big clubs, Mohun Bagan (1972-1973, 1981-1983), East Bengal (1974- 1979) and Mohammedan Sporting (1980). He represented the national team from 1973 to 1979 and was in the national team for the 1978 Asian Games.
  13. 102-year-old Gandhian leader Shakuntala Chowdhary held from Assam passed away recently.  
**Note:** She worked towards the welfare and empowerment of women. Shakuntala Chaudhary spent a large portion of her life at the Kasturba Ashram, since 1947. She was a recipient of Vayosheshta Samman - National Awards For Senior Citizens 2021, from the government of India.
  14. Renowned personality Sadhan Pande passed away recently, he was veteran **Politician**.  
**Note:** Pandey represented Kolkata's Burtolla assembly constituency 5 times since 1987, when he was in the Congress, and the Manicktala constituency 3 times since 2011. He joined the TMC after its formation in 1998.
  15. Renowned personality KPAC Lalitha passed away recently she was a noted **Actress**.  
**Note:** She acted in over 500 films in Malayalam and Tamil in her career spanning around five decades. She won the national award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in Malayalam film 'Amaram' and 'Santham'.
  16. Renowned personality Hemananda Biswal passed away recently, he was former chief minister of **Odisha**.  
**Note:** He was the first tribal chief minister of Odisha. Mr. Biswal was elected chief minister for the first time for the period December 7, 1989, to March 5, 1990, and again from December 6, 1999, to March 5, 2000.

January 2022

1. Veteran **Conservationist** Richard Leakey passed away recently.  
**Note:** He spearheaded campaigns against the ivory trade to save the dwindling African elephant population. For years, Mr. Leakey served in various roles in the government, including as director of the state-run National Museums of Kenya and twice as board chairman at the Kenya Wildlife Service.
2. Renowned personality Sindhutai Sapkal passed away recently, he was a veteran **Social Worker**.  
**Note:** He is fondly known as 'orphan children's mother'. She raised over 1,050 orphan children and could boast of having 207 sons-in-law and 36 daughters-in-law. Marathi biopic on her 'Mee Sindhutai Sapkal' was released in 2010.
3. Lawrence N. Brooks, the oldest World War II veteran and believed to be the oldest man in the country passed away in January 2022 at the age of 112.  
**Note:** His death was announced by the National World War II Museum and confirmed by his daughter. Brooks, born on Sept. 12, 1909, was known for his good-natured sense of humor, positivity and kindness. Brooks was working at a sawmill when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1940.
4. veteran **lyricist** Marilyn Bergman passed away recently.  
**Note:** Bergman and her collaborator husband Alan, was nominated for 16 Academy Awards over the course of her career, winning three. The song "The Way We Were" from the Barbara Streisand movie of the same name was one of those Oscar wins, which also won two Grammys.
5. Veteran **Actor** Bob Saget passed away recently.  
**Note:** Saget was in Florida as part of his "I Don't Do Negative Comedy Tour." Following his first round of sitcom fame, Saget worked steadily in film and television roles but became known to a new generation of sitcom fans on CBS's "How I Met Your Mother," acting as narrator and the voice of future Ted Mosby
6. Noted writer Professor Chandrashekhar Patil passed away recently, he used to write in **Kannada** language.  
**Note:** He was one of the prominent 'Bandaya sahithi' in Kannada literary school of thought and was an important voice in public discourse of Karnataka for over half a century. His street play Jagadambeya was against the imposition of Emergency by then PM Indira Gandhi.
7. Renowned personality Mihir Das passed away recently, he was a veteran **actor**.  
**Note:** The popular actor was suffering from renal ailments for years. The versatile actor had won the State government's best actor award for his performance in 'Laxmi Pratima' (1998), and 'Pheria Mo Suna Bhauni' (2005).
8. David Sassoli, the President of European Parliament held from **Italy** passed away recently.  
**Note:** Sassoli, 65, was first elected at the European Parliament in 2009. He won another term in 2014 and served as the Parliament's vice president.
9. Renowned personality Kamal Khan passed away recently he was veteran **Journalist**.  
**Note:** Kamal's reportage over the last decades stood out for its perceptiveness, integrity & the way he delivered hard truths with poetic dexterity. Khan was working as Executive Editor with NDTV. He was a recipient of Ramnath Goenka Award, and Ganesh Shanker Vidyarthi Award from the President of India.
10. Renowned personality Sidney Poitier passed away recently.  
**Note:** Apart from his successful acting career, Sidney was also a tireless civil rights activist. He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work. A dual citizen of the US and the Bahamas, he served from 1997-2007 as Bahamian Ambassador to Japan.
11. Renowned **Kathak Maestro** Pandit Birju Maharaj passed away recently.  
**Note:** A recipient of the country's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan was born in a well-known family of Kathak dancers. Pandit Birju Maharaj donned several hats during his lifetime. While he was best known as a Kathak dancer, he was an equally prolific singer, poet and painter.
12. Renowned **Environmental** Prof M K Prasad passed away recently.  
**Note:** He was a prominent figure in the historic grassroot level movement to save the evergreen tropical rain forests in Kerala's Silent Valley from destruction. He had also led the popular science movement, 'Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishath'. That had undertaken campaigns for popularisation of science in everyday life.
13. Veteran **actor** Sidney Poitier passed away recently.  
**Note:** Apart from his successful acting career, Sidney was also a tireless civil rights activist. He was awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 by President Obama for his work.
14. **Social Worker** Shanti Devi, also known as Lugdi Devi passed away.  
**Note:** Shanti Devi Ji will be remembered as a voice of the poor and underprivileged. She worked selflessly to remove suffering and create a healthier as well as just society. In 2021, she was felicitated with the Padma Shri Award by President Ram Nath Kovind.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**19. Renowned personality Thich Nhat Hanh** passed away.

**Note:** He was one of the world's most influential Zen masters, spreading messages of mindfulness, compassion and nonviolence. A prolific author, poet, teacher and peace activist, Thich Nhat Hanh was exiled from Vietnam after opposing the war in the 1960s.

**20. Renowned Football** Subhash Bhowmick passed away.

**Note:** He was Suffering from diabetes and kidney disease since a long time. Popularly known as 'Bhombol da' in Kolkata, Bhowmik was a successful footballer as well as coach.

**21. Noted Archaeology** Ramachandran Nagaswamy passed away.

**Note:** He was the first director of Tamil Nadu government's Department of Archaeology and was known for his work on temple inscriptions and art history of Tamil Nadu.

**22. Former sports person Charanjit Singh** passed away recently, he was associated with **Hockey** sports.

**Note:** Charanjit was also a member of the team which won silver at the 1960 Rome Olympics. He represented India in two Asian Games as well and was honoured with the Arjuna Award in 1963 and the Padma Shri the next year.

**23. Renowned author** Anil Awachat passed away due to a prolonged illness.

**Note:** Awachat was the founder-director of the Muktangan Rehabilitation Centre in Pune and associated with several social causes. Known for his books including Purnia, Awachat regularly wrote for Marathi magazines and other publications. He also had a stint as a journalist and was known for his reportage.

**24. Renowned classical dancer Milena Salvini** from France passed away recently, she was associated with **Kathakali** dance.

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

**25. Spiritual Leader** Iqbal Singh Kingra passed away.

**Note:** He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 2022 for his contributions in the field of social work. He established Eternal University in 2008 and Akal University, Guru ki Kashi in 2015.

## Appointments

### List of Cabinet Ministers of India 2021 and their Constituency

Prime Minister		
Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space;	Varanasi(Uttar Pradesh)

	All important policy issues and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.		
Cabinet Ministers			
Sr.No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio	Constituency
1	Shri Raj Nath Singh	Minister of Defence	Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
2	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
3	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways	
4	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)
5	Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Morena(Madhya Pradesh)
6	Kiren Rijiju	Minister of Law and Justice	Arunachal West(Arunachal Pradesh)
7	Shri Virendra Kumar	Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.	Tikamgarh (Madhya Pradesh)
8	Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Minister of External Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)
9	Shri Dharmendra Pradhan	Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship	Deogarh (Odisha)
10	Shri Arjun Munda	Minister of Tribal Affairs.	Khunti(Jharkhand)
11	Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani	Minister of Women and Child Development	Amethi(Uttar Pradesh)
12	Shri Mansukh Mandaviya	Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers	Palitana (Rajya Member from Gujarat)
13	Shri Bhupender Yadav	Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Minister of Labour and Employment	Rajya Sabha member (Rajasthan)
14	Shri Piyush Goyal	Minister of Commerce and Industry; Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of Textiles	Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)
15	Shri Narayan Tatu Rane	Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	Rajya Sabha Member
16	Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minister of Minority Affairs.	Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)
17	Shri Pralhad Joshi	Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal and Minister of Mines.	Dharwad(Karnataka)
18	Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Minister of Heavy Industries	Chandauli(Uttar Pradesh)
19	Shri Giriraj Singh	Minister of Rural Development; and Minister of Panchayati Raj	Begusarai(Bihar)
20	Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Minister of Jal Shakti.	Jodhpur(Rajasthan)
21	Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of AYUSH	
22	Shri	Minister of Civil Aviation	Rajya Sabha Member from Madhya

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

### List of Ministers of State (Independent Charge)

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

### List of Ministers of State

S. No	Name of the Minister	Portfolio
1.	Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism
2.	Shri Faggansingh Kulaste	Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
3.	Shri Prahalad Singh Patel	Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries
4.	Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey	Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
5.	Shri Arjun Ram	Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of

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



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

## National and International Appointment

**May 2022**

Name of the Person	Designation
Rajiv Kumar	Chief Election Commissioner of India after

	succeeding Sushil Chandra
Rajesh Unni	Vice-Chair at Maritime Anti-Corruption Network
Alkesh Kumar Sharma	Secretary, Ministry of Electronics, and Information Technology (MeitY).
Pushp Kumar Joshi	Chairman and Managing Director of HPCL
Sudhanshu Dhulia and Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala	Judge of Supreme Court
Sudarshan Venu	Managing Director of TVS Motor Company
Venkataramani Sumantran	Chairman of IndiGo Board
Arvind Krishna	Board of Federal Reserve Bank of New York
Nand Mulchandani	First Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
Tarun Kapoor	Advisor to PM Modi
Sangeeta Singh	Chairman of CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes), after succeeding P C Mody
Sahas Malhotra	CEO of JioSaavn
BS Raju	Vice Chief of Indian Army, after succeeding Manoj Pande
Vinay Mohan Kwatra	India's new Foreign Secretary, after succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla

### April 2022

Name of the Person	Designation
Harsh Shringla	Chief Coordinator for the coming G20 Summit
Urjit Patel	Vice President of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), after succeeding D J Pandian
Sitaram Yechury	General Secretary of Communist Party of India
S. Iqbal Singh	Chairman of National Commission for Minorities (NCM)
Manoj Soni	New Chairman of UPSC
Vikas Kumar	New Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)
Manoj Pande	New Army Chief
Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas	Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission
Ali Sabry	New Finance Minister of Sri Lanka
Shanti Sethi	New Defense Advisor to Smt. Kamala Harris (Vice President of USA)
Ajay Sood	New Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India
Emmanuel Macron	President of France
Vishwas Patel	Chairman of Payments Council of India (PCI)
S Raju	Director-General of Geological Survey of India (GSI)
Mahesh Verma	Chairperson of National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH)
Aprajita Sharrma	Vice-Chairperson of International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council Standing Committee
Amir Khan	Brand Ambassador of PharmEasy's
Arunabha Ghosh	UN Chief to High-Level expert group on net-zero

	emissions commitments
Vinay Mohan Kwatra	New Foreign Secretary
Murli Natarajan	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of DCB Bank
Iqbal Singh Lalpura	Chairperson of National Commission for Minorities
Vikram Dev Dutt	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Asset Holding (AIAHL)
Bimal Kothari	New Chairman of India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA)
Satya Easwaran	Wipro Country Head of India
Jasleen Kohli	MD & CEO of Digit Insurance
Manoj Kumar Katiyar	Next Director-General of Military Operations
LV Vaidyanathan	CEO of Procter & Gamble India
IAS officer Naresh Kumar	New Chief Secretary of Delhi
Babita Singh	Global Peace Ambassador 2022
Ajay Kumar Sood	Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India
Ashwin Yardi	CEO of Capgemini
Vishakha Mulye	Next Chief Executive Officer of Aditya Birla Capital
AP Abdullahkutty	Chairperson of the Haj Committee of India
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Tata Digital
Krishnan Ramanujam	NASSCOM Chairperson for 2022-23
Bruce de Broize	MD & CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance
Vijay Sampla	NCSC Chairperson for Second term
Anshul Swami	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Shivalik Small Finance Bank

### March 2022

Name of the Person	Designation
Madhabi Puri Buch	Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Bhushan Patwardhan	Chairman of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
Sanjay Pandey	New Mumbai Police Commissioner
Junaid Kamal Ahmad	Vice President of the International Lending Agency
Akshaye Widhani	CEO of Yash Raj Films (YRF)
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand Ambassador of UpGrad
TS Ramakrishnan	MD and CEO of LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Limited
DN Patel	Chairperson of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)
Vidya Balan	Brand Ambassador of Bharti AXA Life Insurance
Sanjiv Kapoor	CEO of Jet Airways
Nitin Chugh	Group Head of Digital Banking at the level of Deputy MD by SBI
Yoon Suk-yeol	New President of South Korea
Ashwani Bhatia	Whole-Time member (WTM) of Securities and

	Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Chairman of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
Prabha Narasimhan	CEO and MD of Colgate-Palmolive (India) Limited
Debasish Panda	Chairman of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
N Chandrasekaran	Chairman of Air India
Munish Varma	Managing Partner at SoftBank
Harish Chandra Mishra	Lokayukta of Delhi
Chacko Purackal	MD & CEO of TATA Coffee
Kalpesh Tiwari	Chief HRO for Vahdam India
Noel Naval	Tata Additional Director and Vice Chairman of Tata Steel
Sumant Sinha	President of ASSOCHAM
Ajay Singh	Vice-President of ASSOCHAM
Gaurav Negi	CFO of Indigo Airlines
Indian American Raj Subramaniam	CEO of FedEx
Rajneesh Narang	Director of Finance of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
T Raja Kumar	President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
Ranjit Rath	Chairman & MD of Oil India Ltd
Prashant Jhaveri	New CEO of Flipkart Health+
Rajesh Gopinathan	MD and CEO of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
Jayati Ghosh	Member of UN's Advisory Board
Pralay Mondal	Interim MD and CEO of CSB Bank
Hisashi Takeuchi	MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki
Vinod G. Khandare	Adviser in Defence Ministry
Gilbert Hougbo	Next Director-General of International Labour Organization
Shashi Sinha	Chairman of Broadcast Audience Research Council India
Himanta Biswa Sarma	President of Badminton Association Of India
Renu Singh	Director of Forest Research Institute (FRI)
Serdar Berdimuhamedow	New President of Turkmenistan

### February 2022

- Manoj Pande** assumed charge as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Army staff.  
**Note:** Lt Gen Pande was serving as the Eastern Army Commander before assuming the new role. Lt Gen RP Kalita has been appointed as the new chief of Kolkata-headquartered Eastern Army Command. Lt Gen Pande was commissioned in the Bombay Sappers in Dec1982.
- GAV Reddy** has been appointed as the Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency.  
**Note:** General Reddy would be succeeding Lt Gen KJS Dhillon. The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organisation and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff.
- Ravi Mittal** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).  
**Note:** The appointment comes little over four months after the post fell vacant following the retirement of M S Sahoo who completed his five-year term on September 30, 2021. In October 2021, IBBI Whole Time Member Navrang Saini was given the additional charge as the chairperson.
- M Jagadesh Kumar** has been appointed as Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC).  
**Note:** This is the second time he has been given the charge of chairman of UGC. Kumar held the charge of Chairman, UGC from 14 January 2017 to 2 February 2017. He was a member of UGC for three years (24 June 2016 to 23 June 2019).



5. In February 2022, **Hrithik Roshan** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of 'RummyCircle' by Games24x7.  
**Note:** As part of the partnership, Roshan will be seen in multimedia campaigns by RummyCircle, spanning across TV, digital and social media platforms.
6. **IndiGo** airline has recently appointed Rahul Bhatia as its Managing Director.  
**Note:** The company is the parent of the country's largest airline IndiGo. Bhatia is the Co-founder and Promoter of InterGlobe Aviation. Ronjoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo. IndiGo is India's biggest airline by market share. It is headquartered at Gurgaon, Haryana.
7. In February 2022, **Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit** has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).  
**Note:** She is currently the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Savitribai Phule University. Ms. Pandit will be the first woman Vice Chancellor of JNU. Her appointment is for a period of five years.
8. **Dinesh Prasad Saklani** has been appointed as the new Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), for five years.  
**Note:** He is currently a professor of history at the HNB Garhwal University, in Uttarakhand. Saklani succeeds Hrushikesh Senapaty, whose five-year term ended in November 2020.
9. **Disha Patani** has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of the Bata India Limited.  
**Note:** Patani will be seen promoting various popular labels under the Bata umbrella. The move comes as Bata aims to appeal younger shoppers and position itself as a "fashion forward" brand.
10. Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** In 2017, Akshay Kumar was also named Uttarakhand's brand ambassador for 'Swachhata Abhiyan'. The actor did not charge any fee for the same and added that it was an honour for him to be associated with the campaign. Apart from Akshay Kumar, cricketer Rishabh Pant was also appointed as Uttarakhand's brand ambassador in December 2021.
11. **S Unnikrishnan Nair** has been appointed as the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).  
**Note:** He was previously serving as the director of the Human Space Flight Centre, Isro. He succeeds S Somanath, who recently took over as the chairman of Isro. VSSC is a key space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
12. **Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed the official brand ambassador of MediBuddy, one of India's largest digital healthcare platforms.  
**Note:** As part of the deal, Bachchan will be seen endorsing various services available on the platform, while highlighting the need to prioritise one's health. With the deal in place, MediBuddy is looking at further amplifying its reach across India. Leveraging the veteran actor's popularity, especially across tier II and tier III cities, the brand aims to position itself as a household name.
13. **Sanjay Malhotra** has been appointed as Secretary in Department of Financial Services (DFS) in the Ministry of Finance with immediate effect.  
**Note:** Prior to this, he was serving as the Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd. He succeeded Debashish Panda, who completed his term as DFS Secretary on Jan 31, 2022. DFS covers functioning of Banks, Financial Institutions, Insurance Companies, National Pension System, International banking
14. **G Mahalingam** will now chair the eight-member committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF), restructured by the capital markets regulator SEBI.  
**Note:** The advisory committee on IPEF is an eight-member committee which will take G Mahalingam, former Whole Time Member of SEBI, as its new Chairperson. In 2013, the committee was established by the SEBI to find out ways and means to best utilize the investor protection and education fund. Earlier the committee was headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A), Gujarat.
15. **Pradip Shah** has been appointed as the Chairman of Pfizer India.  
**Note:** Pradip Shah is the ex-managing director and a founding member of Crisil. He has also served as a consultant to USAID, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank.
16. Frank-Walter Steinmeier has been re-elected as President of **Germany** for second term.  
**Note:** He was elected with a big majority by a special assembly comprising of the members of lower house of parliament and representatives of 16 states of Germany. He became president in 2017. Before that, he served two stints as foreign minister of Chancellor Angela Merkel and as chief of staff to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.
17. **Debashis Mitra** has been appointed as the President of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).  
**Note:** Prior to this, he was serving as the Vice-President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for 2021-22. After being part of Central Council for 2016-19, he is serving his 2nd consecutive term for 2019-22.
18. **Pankaj Tripathi** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the agritech platform, Krishi Network.

- Note:** The actor has also invested in the start-up. The start-up said the fresh funds would be used to expand their AI-based technology platform across India and grow rapidly.
19. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba has been declared as President of **Burkina Faso**.  
**Note:** In the month of January, officers led by Damiba forced out the country's elected president, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. The country has been suspended from the West African bloc ECOWAS, although it escaped sanctions following last week's restoration of the constitution.
20. **Mehmet Ilker Ayci** has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Air India.  
**Note:** Expected to take charge on or before April 1, Ayci (51) until recently was the Chairman of Turkish Airlines and was also on its Board of Directors prior to that. Born in Istanbul in 1971, Ayci was once the Advisor to the country's current President, R.T. Erdogan, when the latter was the Mayor of Istanbul.
21. **Vineet Joshi** has been appointed as the new Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).  
**Note:** He replaces IAS Manoj Ahuja, who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Vineet Joshi is also the Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA). In 2010 as well he got the responsibility of CBSE chairman.
22. **G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as the India's first national maritime security coordinator (NMSC).  
**Note:** G Ashok Kumar is an alumnus of Sainik School, Amravathi Nagar and National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla, Pune. He was commissioned into the executive branch of the Indian Navy on July 1, 1982. Ashok Kumar has held various challenging staff and command assignments during his distinguished career in the Navy for over three decades.
23. **Chetan Ghate** has been appointed as the Director of the Institute of Economic Growth.  
**Note:** He succeeds Professor Ajit Mishra. Mr Ghate is a former member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020.
24. **Vipula Gunatilleka** has been appointed as the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Jet Airways.  
**Note:** His appointment is made by new promoters of Jet Airways, Jalan Kalrock Consortium. He was the CEO of SriLankan Airlines till January 2022. He was also the CFO and board member of TAAG Angola Airlines from November 2015 to July 2018 under Emirates Management.
25. **Takuya Tsumura** has been appointed as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India Ltd (HCIL) with effect from April 1, 2022.
- Note:** He was in-charge of South Asian countries including India from 1997 to 2000 while working at head office of Honda. He will succeed Gaku Nakanishi, who has been appointed as General Manager, Automobile Business of Asian Honda (Regional office-Bangkok, Thailand). Honda Cars India Ltd was established in 1995.
26. Emma Terho belongs of **Finland** has been re-elected as the Chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC).  
**Note:** She is a double Olympic bronze medallist and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team. She was appointed as the Chair of the Commission on August 06, 2021, for the first time during Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.
27. **K.N. Raghavan** has been appointed as the Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) for a period of two years.  
**Note:** Raghavan is currently the Executive Director of Indian Rubber Board and Head of the Indian delegation to IRSG. India has taken over the chair of the IRSG from Cote d'Ivoire. IRSG is an intergovernmental organisation of natural rubber (NR) and synthetic rubber (SR) producing and consuming countries.
28. **Sharukh Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Thums Up.  
**Note:** Earlier this month, The Coca-Cola Company announced that the home-grown Thums Up brand became a billion-dollar brand in 2021—the first to reach the milestone from its portfolio of drinks in India. The new campaign has been launched to mark this key milestone.
29. **Sudha Ragunathan** has been appointed as the member of Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC) by Ministry of Culture.  
**Note:** CABC established to provide policy advice to Ministry of Culture on developing programmes. CABC Presided over by Minister of Culture of the Government of India. CABC's member provide policy advice, along with aiding participative decision-making and provide an integrated view of the different ideas and interests from various domains of culture.
30. **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been appointed as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).  
**Note:** Sanyal, who is currently serving as the Finance Ministry's principal economic adviser, had been working since the 1990s with the financial markets. His addition to the EAC-PM is expected to aid the top advisory body.
31. **Nitin Pranjape** has been appointed as the as the Non-Executive Chairman of the FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) with effect from March 31, 2022.

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

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

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

## January 2022

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

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

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

**Note:** He replaced Leslie Thing, who was the CEO from July 16, 2017 to December 31, 2021. He started his stint with Vistara as Chief Strategy Officer in June 2019 and took over as Chief Commercial Officer in January 2020. **Deepak Rajawat** has been elevated to the role of Vistara's chief commercial officer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** He will replace Nisha Biswal, who has been appointed the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Senior Vice President of International Strategy and Global Initiatives and South Asia. Mr. Keshap was also previously the U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the

- Maldives. He was posted to India in the 2005-2008 period and more recently in 2021 as Chargé d'Affaires.
- 11. TS Tirumurti** has been named as the new Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).  
**Note:** Prior to taking up his current position as Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, in May 2020, Tirumurti served as Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, handling the Economic Relations portfolio.
- 12. Zhang Ming** has taken charge as the new Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).  
**Note:** He succeeded Vladimir Norov, former diplomat from Uzbekistan. Before joining SCO, he served as the head of the Chinese mission to the European Union. SCO comprises: India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- 13. Ajay Kumar Choudhary** has been appointed as the head of the newly formed 'fintech department' for financial technology by the RBI to facilitate innovation, and help identify and address challenges & opportunities in the new-age sector.  
**Note:** The central bank has appointed Ajay Kumar Choudhary, executive director, to head the department. All matters related to inter-regulatory and international coordination on fintech shall also be dealt with by the department, which will report to the RBI's centralised administration division.
- 14. Urjit Patel** has been appointed as the Vice President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a three-year tenure.  
**Note:** He will succeed D J Pandian, who is in charge of sovereign, non-sovereign lending of AIIB in South Asia, Pacific Islands and South-East Asia. He will be one of the five Vice Presidents of the AIIB, which is headed by the President and Chair of the Board of Directors Jin Liqun (China).
- 15. Haitham Al Ghais** has been appointed as the Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).  
**Note:** He is appointed for a three year tenure (2022-2025) and will take the charge as the SG from 1st August 2022. Haitham Al Ghais, previously served as the Governor of OPEC between 2017 to June 2021, then as the Director of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPU).
- 16. Viresh Kumar Bhawra** has been appointed as the Director General of Punjab Police.  
**Note:** He replaced officiating DGP Siddharth Chattopadhyaya. He was the DGP of Punjab Home Guards. After assuming the charge, Punjab Police will ensure smooth conduct of elections, and will be eradicating drug menace and terrorism from the state.
- 17. Raghuvendra Tanwar** has been appointed as the chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).  
**Note:** Prof Tanwar who joined KU as a lecturer in August 1977 has an outstanding academic record, with two gold medals in MA History. He was appointed an open selection professor in 1997 and has also worked as the KU's dean of academic affairs and dean of social sciences.
- 18.** In January 2022, **Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas** has been appointed as the chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).  
**Note:** He will replace Gita Gopinath, who is joining the IMF management team this month. As Economic Counsellor, he will serve as director of the IMF's Research Department. In December, Georgieva appointed Gopinath as the Fund's second-ranking official, putting her in a wide-ranging policy role overseeing IMF surveillance activities, research and flagship publications.
- 19. Indu Malhotra** has been appointed as the chairperson of the three-member inquiry committee by the Supreme Court to look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit.  
**Note:** Former Justice Indu Malhotra was the first woman judge to be appointed to the Supreme Court Bench directly from the Bar, joining the ranks of six other women who have been appointed as SC judges in India since Independence. She served as judge in SC for close to three years from April 2018 to March 2021.
- 20. S Somnath** has been appointed as the 10th chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).  
**Note:** He replaces Kailasavadivoo Sivan. K Sivan, the outgoing chairperson, will be completing his extended term on 14th January 2022. Before his appointment as the ISRO chief, he was serving as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.
- 21.** Anup Bagchi has been re-appointed as the Executive Director of **ICICI Bank** for a period of 3 years.  
**Note:** The shareholders of the bank at its Annual General Meeting in August last year had approved Bagchi's re-appointment for five years effective February 1, 2022. ICICI Bank has two more executive directors — Sandeep Batra and Vishakha Mulye.
- 22. Navrang Saini** has been assigned the additional charge of the chairperson of **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India**.  
**Note:** The Centre had in Oct last year assigned additional charge of chairperson of IBBI Saini for a period of three months. The IBBI Chairperson is appointed by the center on the recommendations of the selection committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary. M S Sahoo, who was the first Chairperson of IBBI since October 1, 2016.
- 23. Narendra Kumar Goenka** has been appointed as the chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).  
**Note:** He succeeded Padma Shri awardee A Sakthivel. Prior to this, he was the Vice Chairman of AEPC and has been associated with AEPC for more than two decades



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

## Books and Authors

1 -15 May 2022

1. **Dr. Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi** is the author of Marathi book on Union Home Minister Amit Shah that chronicles his political journey.

**Note:** Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra BJP leader) has released a book titled 'Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal' records the life and journey of Shah and his contribution to building the BJP. The book has been translated into Marathi by Dr. Jyostna Kolhatkar. The book is published by Bloomsbury India.

2. **Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan** is the editor of the 'INDO-PAK

WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors' book which was released by Rajnath Singh at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture.

**Note:** The book has 50 Swarnim articles which are penned in detailed narrations by veterans. Air Chief Marshal PC Lal was commissioned in the IAF in 1939 and awarded the Padma Bhushan (1966) and Padma Vibhushan (1972).

## April 2022

1. The 'Birsa Munda - Janjatiya Nayak' titled book was written by **Prof Alok Chakrawal, Vice-Chancellor of Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya Bilaspur.**

**Note:** Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released a book on tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda. Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu village (now in Jharkhand). He belongs to the Munda tribe.

2. **Vinod Rai** is the author of 'Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI'.

**Note:** He was a chairman of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) formed by the Supreme Court for BCCI in 2017 for 33 months. Recently, Rai has been appointed as chairman and independent non-executive director of Kalyan Jewellers.

3. **Geetanjali Shree** is the author of 'Tomb of Sand'.

**Note:** The first Hindi novel to be shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. Daisy Rockwell has translated the book. The book explores the story of a woman who decided to confront her teenage trauma of India and Pakistan partition.

- Other books:
- 'Cursed Bunny' by Bora Chung
- 'A New Name: Septology VI-VII' by Jon Fosse

- 'Heaven' by Mieko Kawakami
- 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Piñeiro
- 'The Books of Jacob' by Olga Tokarczuk

4. The 'Hear Yourself' has been **authored by Prem Rawat.**

**Note:** This is the New York Times bestseller book which is already available in 58 countries and five languages. This book assists people to understand their own potential, develop better self-understanding, and help them to find out peace in a noisy world.

5. The book titled "The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution" which was released on the occasion of the 131st birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar written by **Rajesh Talwar.**

**Note:** The book was published by Ponytale Books. The book seeks to inform the challenging boyhood and growing up years of India's first law minister. The facts are based largely on Ambedkar's own recollection of his childhood.

6. **French journalist Roger Faligot** is the author of a book titled "Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping".

**Note:** It is translated by writer, editor and translator, Natash Lehrer. The foreword of the book is written by Vikram Soohrde, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's foreign intelligence agency.

## March 2022

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 Piramal** 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.

## February 2022

1. **Navdeep Singh Gill** is the author of the biography of the Tokyo Olympic Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra titled "Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra".  
**Note:** The biography on Tokyo Olympics-2021 gold medalist Neeraj Chopra was released by chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad Surjit Patar and president of Punjabi Sahit Akademi Lakhwinder Singh Johal, amid the presence of the author and his family members. It is the seventh book written by Navdeep and the sixth placing focus on the sports as well as the sportspersons.
2. **Ramesh Thamilmani** is the author of the graphic novel titled 'Atharva - The Origin', in which Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva.  
**Note:** Dhoni unveiled the first look of his upcoming graphic novel Atharva - The Origin. The project is created by Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals. The graphic novel has been written by Ramesh Thamilmani.
3. **J Sai Deepak** has authored the book titled 'India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution'.  
**Note:** The book is the first part of a comprehensive trilogy, which examines the far reaching impact of European 'colonial consciousness' on Bharat. Upon a thorough reading of the book, what really lingers is the well-researched arguments put forth.
4. **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia** has authored the book titled "India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons".

**Note:** The book is published by Routledge India. The book also provides a detailed exploration of India-Africa partnership in all its critical dimensions. The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualise the evolution of the India - Africa engagement.

5. **Sagarika Ghose** has authored the book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee", the biography on the former Prime Minister of India.  
**Note:** It is a biography on the former Prime Minister of India. Sagarika Ghose is a journalist. She has also authored a book titled "Indira: India's Most Powerful Prime Minister".
6. **Bill Gates** is the author of the book titled "How to Prevent the Next Pandemic".  
**Note:** In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world. Bill Gates' last book 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster' was published in 2021.
7. **RO Khanna** has authored the book titled "Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us".  
**Note:** The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress. It also mentioned about the digital divide i.e unequal access to technology and the revenue, as it is one of the most pressing issues faced by the United States.

8. **Samuel Moyn** has authored the book titled "Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War."  
**Note:** The book is published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York, United States of America (USA). The book highlights the United States of America (USA) strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.
9. **Priyam Gandhi Mody** has authored the book titled 'A Nation to Protect'.  
**Note:** The book highlights the role of PM Narendra Modi during the Covid crisis in the past two years. The book documents the Centre's leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.
10. **Uma Das Gupta** has authored the book titled, "A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction".  
**Note:** It is published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint. Tagore's work in 'village reconstruction' at Sriniketan is not as widely known as his work at Santiniketan, popularly known today as a university town. The idea of doing something to redeem the neglected village came to Tagore when he first went to live in his family's agricultural estates in East Bengal during the 1890s.
11. **Jimmy Soni** has authored the book titled 'The Founders: The Story of PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley'.  
**Note:** This book explores the origin of PayPal and its founding team, comprising of Elon Musk, Amy Rowe Klement, Peter Thiel, Julie Anderson, Max Levchin, Reid Hoffman, and many others whose stories have never been shared. PayPal: US-based multinational financial technology company.
12. **Anirudh Suri** has authored the book titled 'The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations'.  
**Note:** It has been published by HarperCollins India publication. The book lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan to succeed in this technology-dominant era. He is the founding partner and managing director of India Internet Fund.

### January 2022

1. **Jayanta Ghosal** has authored the titled "Mamata: Beyond 2021".  
**Note:** The announcement about the release of the book was made on 5th January 2022, the birthday of Mamata Banerjee, the Chief Minister (CM) of West Bengal and the leader of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) party. The book will be published on 24th January 2022.
2. **Dhirendra K. Jha** has authored the book titled "Gandhi's Assassin: The Making of Nathuram Godse and His Idea of India".  
**Note:** The book is published by Vintage Books. The book explores Godse's relationship with the organizations that influenced his view and gave him a sense of purpose and draws out the gradual hardening of Godse's resolve that led to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.
3. **Thomas Matthew** has authored the book titled 'Ratan N. Tata: The Authorized Biography', the authorized biography of Ratan Tata.  
**Note:** The book is set to hit the stands in November 2022. It will be published by HarperCollins. The book chronicles Ratan Tata's childhood, college years, and early influences, among other things.
4. The book titled "Indomitable: A Working Woman's Notes on Life, Work and Leadership" is an autobiography of **Arundhati Bhattacharya**.  
**Note:** Arundhati Bhattacharya is a retired Indian banker and former first-ever woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India. Indomitable features the story of Arundhati Bhattacharya's life as a banker and the difficulties she faced in the male-dominated sector.
5. **MR Sharan** has authored the book titled "Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar's Villages".  
**Note:** The book is an account of the author's field study in a group of villages in Bihar. The book lays bare how the best of policies, crafted with the best of intentions, get subverted by local village-level power structures.
6. **Subhash Chandra Garg** has authored the book titled "The \$10 Trillion Dream".  
**Note:** The book claims to explore the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s. The book scheduled to publish by end of Feb 2022. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
7. **Kiran Bedi** has authored the book titled 'Fearless Governance'.  
**Note:** Dr. Kiran Bedi is the former Lt Governor of Puducherry and IPS (retd). This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr.



Bedi as Lt. Governor of Puducherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service.

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** The has been released by Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The Book is the story of a lesser-known tribal hero, Birsa Munda,

who courageously fought against the oppressive British Raj for the rights of his tribal community.

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## Summit and Conference

May -2022

### 1. PM addressed inaugural session of 'JITO Connect 2022'

- Organized by: Gangadham Annex, Pune
- This 3-day event is an endeavor to help business and industry by providing an avenue for mutual networking and personal interactions.
- JITO (Jain International Trade Organisation): Global organization connecting Jains worldwide.

### 2. PM Modi participated in second India-Nordic Summit in Denmark

- Hosted by: Denmark.
- 1st India-Nordic Summit took place in 2018 in Stockholm.
- It will help in expanding India's multifaceted cooperation with the Nordic region.
- Focus: post-pandemic economic recovery, climate change, innovation and technology, renewable

energy, the evolving global security scenario and India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region.

- Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden.

### 3. Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022 at Coimbatore

- Inaugurated by MSME Minister Narayan Rane and Minister of State for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma.
- Coir Board also introduced new coir products like coir composite fruit bowl, geo-textile shadow lamp, coir buttons, auto mirror covers as well as Manual of Technologies.

### 4. Three-day Utkarsh Mahotsav in Delhi

- Organized by: Central Sanskrit University, Lal Bahadur National Sanskrit University, New Delhi and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati.

- Objective: to promote Sanskrit language across the country and beyond.
- Focus: New Educational Era - Moving Towards a Global Orientation of Sanskrit Studies.

#### 5. Union Minister Bhagwant Khuba attended Intersolar Europe 2022

- It was held from 11th May to 13th May 2022 in Munich, Germany.
- Organized by: Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF).
- Intersolar Europe: world's leading exhibition for the solar industry and takes place annually at the Messe München exhibition center.

#### 6. PM Modi participated in second global summit on Covid

##### About the summit

- Hosted by: US President Joe Biden.

**April 2022**

#### 1. Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022

- Venue: Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- Organized by: Ministry of AYUSH
- It will be held from 20th to 22nd April 2022
- Aim: to bring together leading startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers for a specially curated event on innovation.
- Key Initiatives:
  - Ayush mark for Ayush products.
  - Ayush parks to encourage promotion and research
  - Ayush Aahar
  - Launch of Ayush Export Promotion Council and four Ayush ICT initiatives
  - Release of comic book 'Professor Ayushman'

#### 2. World Dairy Summit (WDS) 2022

- Host: Delhi, India
- It will be held from 12th to 15th September 2022.
- Organized by: International Dairy Federation (IDF)
- Theme 2022: Dairy for nutrition and livelihood
- It is going to be held after two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- It intends to galvanize new actions to address the challenges of the pandemic and build a stronger global health security architecture.
- It will also be attended by heads of state/government of Belize in its capacity as Chair of CARICOM, Senegal as Chair of African Union, Indonesia as President of G20 and Germany as President of G7 respectively.

#### 7. National Level Logistics Seminar Logisem Vayu - 2022'

- Conducted by: **Indian Air force**
- The seminar focuses on the need for exploiting advancements in digital technologies, which would aid in sustaining logistics stamina in support of operations.
- A document on logistics philosophy of IAF titled 'Tenets of Logistics' and a book on history of Logistics in IAF titled 'Footprints in Sands of Time' were released.

- India had last hosted International Dairy Congress in the year 1974.

#### 3. Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC)

- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated 3-day Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC) at New Delhi.
- Theme: Optimizing human resources
- Focus: Issues related to future challenges in Hi-tech and evolving operational scenario and threats posed by drones.

#### 4. Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization conference

- It is a 3-day conference that will be held in Surat, Gujarat.
- Organized by: **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** in association with **Surat Smart City Corporation Development Limited.**
- Digital Duniya' pavilion, virtual hub for collaboration on urban transformations and an integrated data portal AMPLIFI (Assessment & Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive, and Future-ready urban India) has also been launched

#### 5. National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2022-23

## Key findings

- The conference was inaugurated by Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar in Delhi.
- Foodgrain production target for 2022-23 is set at 328 million tonnes (MT), which is 3.8% higher as compared to previous year.
- Kharif foodgrain production target has been fixed at 163.15 million tonnes
- Rabi foodgrain production target has been fixed at 164.85 million tonnes.

## 6. 12th Ministerial Conference (MC) of World Trade Organization

- It will be held in Geneva, Switzerland from 12th-15th June 2022.
- It will be attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the member nations.
- It occurs every two years bringing all members of the WTO together, all of which are countries or customs unions.
- Chair of 12th MC: Timur Suleimenov of Kazakhstan.
- the 11th MC was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2017 December.

## 7. Two-day Indo-Israel bilateral workshop on Quantum Technologies (I2QT-2022)

- Organized by: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE), IIT Delhi.
- It was attended by Indian and Israeli delegations consisting of academic experts, R&D professionals, and Industry partners.

## 8. 20th meeting of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)

- Venue: Pakke Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh
- It is organized under chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Bhupender Yadav
- It is for the first time in history that the NTCA meeting is taking place outside national capital.
- During this, NTCA has released Standard Operating Protocol, Forest Fire Audit Protocol and Technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves

## 9. National Conference on Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals

- Organized by: Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Aim: to facilitate the devolution of the 3 Fs: Funds, Functions and Functionaries to Panchayati Raj Institutions for efficient and effective functioning of local self-governments for the holistic development in rural areas and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## 10. Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized National Conference on Good governance

- It was being held from 11th April to 17th April, 2022.
- In this context, Sushasan – Sugamta se Sampanta would be organized at SCOPE Auditorium (Convention Centre), SCOPE Complex, New Delhi
- The event would be attended by representatives/ Senior Officials and Policymakers from different States and Resource Persons involved in Governance domain & improving services to citizens, along with various industry experts

## 11. Rajnath Singh inaugurates DefConnect 2.0

- Organized by: Innovations for Defence Excellence, Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) in New Delhi.
- It will be attended by innovators and investors from India's leading industries in the defence sector.
- iDEX was introduced in 2018 to provide unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors.

## 12. Fifth BIMSTEC Summit Chaired by Sri Lanka

- PM Modi participated in 5th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit.
- Hosted by: Government of Sri Lanka, which was the chair nation of BIMSTEC.
- Theme: "Towards a Resilient Region, Prosperous Economies, Healthy People"
- At the conclusion of the Summit, Thailand took over as chair nation of BIMSTEC.

## 13. Fourth India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held in Washington

- It provides a platform for covering all bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.
- Indian delegation was led by Rajnath Singh and S. Jaishankar, while US was led by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.
- It was first held in New Delhi in September 2018, followed by Second edition in Washington DC in 2019, while the third one again in New Delhi in October 2020

#### **14. Conference of Culture and Tourism Ministers 'Amrit Samagam' in New Delhi.**

- Organized by: Ministry of Culture
- Aim: to deliberate on the progress of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav so far, and gather best practices and idea on the strategies to be adopted for the remaining period of the celebration, especially for upcoming crucial initiatives.

#### **15. First introductory meeting of All Women Ambassadors' Group**

- Organized in: New Delhi
- Led by: Meenakshi Lekhi
- All the Female Ambassadors to India, spouses of male ambassadors and female Charge d'Affaires of all embassies attended the meeting.

#### **16. Waterways Conclave 2022 in Dibrugarh, Assam.**

- Organized by: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways along with Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
- Industry partner: FICCI
- During this, six MoUs were signed
- It is focused on harnessing domestic and international potential of waterways ecosystem in

**March-2022**

#### **1. Ministry of Civil Aviation organizing 'WINGS INDIA 2022' in Hyderabad**

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA)** and **FICCI** are jointly organizing Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation (Commercial, General and Business Aviation), titled as **'WINGS INDIA 2022'**

the Northeastern region of India and will be held in physical and hybrid format.

#### **17. 48th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) in Bhopal**

- Organized by: Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- For the first time, this 2-day AIPSC will be attended by police forces, units, social scientists, forensic experts and stakeholders along with officers of correctional administration.

#### **18. PM Modi inaugurates 7th edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi.**

- It is a 3-day event, where ideas defining the emerging global realities, challenges, and solutions were discussed.
- Chief guest: President of European Commission Ursula Von Der Leyen.
- Theme: Terranova, impassioned, impatient, imperiled.

#### **19. Naval Commanders' Conference of 2022 in New Delhi**

- The conference serves as a platform for naval commanders to discuss important maritime matters at the military-strategic level as well as interact with senior government functionaries through an institutionalized forum.

#### **20. Semicon India Conference 2022**

- Venue: Bangalore
- It is envisioned as the launch pad to kick start country's ambition in becoming the global semiconductor hub and nurture the chip design and manufacturing ecosystem.

- The event focuses on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity.
- It is being held from 24th to 27th March 2022, **Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad.**
- Theme: **India@75: New Horizon for Aviation Industry**
- WINGS INDIA AWARDS will also be conferred during this event.



## 2. 12th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav 2022

- Inaugurated by: Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER, G. K Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan
- Venue: Government Art College grounds in Rajahmundry (Rajamahendravaram), Andhra Pradesh.
- It was held from March 26 to April 03, 2022 in the Telugu states of Andhra Pradesh & Telangana, under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

## 3. International Summit on Plastics Recycling & Waste Management 2022 in New Delhi

- Organized by: Ministry of MSME and All-India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA).
- During this, MSME Ministry has launched two special initiatives 'Sambhav' and 'Svavlamban' to promote entrepreneurship amongst youth, especially in aspirational districts all across the country.

## 4. Mansukh Mandaviya delivers keynote address at "Aksha-Lessons from India"

- Organized by: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- It was participated by Country Heads and Representatives from Development Partners such as WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, USAID, ADB and BMGF
- It was organized to take key lessons and share experiences and best practices from India's COVID management and vaccination journey.

## 5. Second India-Australia Virtual Summit held

- Led by: PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison
- The summit reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.
- The 1st edition of the summit was held in June 2020

## 7. 36th International Geological Congress held in New Delhi

- It was held virtually from 20th to 22nd March 2022.

- Theme: Geosciences: The Basic Science for a Sustainable Future
- It is a joint endeavor of Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian National Science Academy and Science Academies of Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- It is also known as Olympics of Geosciences

## 8. The 6th Joint Meeting of India-Japan Act East Forum in New Delhi.

- Co-chaired by Foreign Secretary and Ambassador of Japan to India H.E. Mr. Suzuki Satoshi.
- It was attended by representatives of relevant Ministries and State Governments of the Northeastern Region of India.
- Forum reviewed the progress of ongoing projects in various areas including connectivity, hydropower, forest management, water supply and sewerage, etc.

## 9. The 17th Annual Conference on 'Road Development in India'

- Addressed by: Nitin Gadkari
- During his address, he emphasized on reduction of cement and steel by using different waste materials like waste rubber and plastic in road construction.

## 10. Third National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF) begins in New Delhi

- Organized by: Lok Sabha Secretariat and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- It is being held on 10th and 11th March 2022, in the Central Hall of Parliament, New Delhi.
- 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.

## 11. 5th India-Canada Ministerial Dialogue on Trade & Investment

- Venue: Delhi
- Dialogue concluded with formally re-launch the negotiations for India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- It also considers an Interim Agreement or Early Progress Trade Agreement (EPTA) for commercial gains to both the countries.

## 12. OCEANS 2022

- It is bi-annual event of global marine researchers, that is being held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Organized by: Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- It was held for the first time in

February 2022

### 1. 28th edition of DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit held

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh addressed 28th edition of DST-CII India-Singapore Technology Summit
- Singaporean Minister, S Iswaran showcased the data on Bi-lateral trade between India and Singapore, that is increased by 35% from 19.8 billion dollars to 26.8 billion dollars from 2020 to 2021.
- Focus areas of the summit: Smarter Cities, Space, Industry 4.0 and Advanced Engineering, Healthcare, Precision Medicine, Mobility etc.

### 2. Telangana IT Minister KTR inaugurates 19th edition of BioAsia conference in Hyderabad

- It is the annual flagship event of the life sciences industry.
- It will be addressed by about 50 celebrities from various organizations, including Bill Gates
- Telangana attracted investments of over 6 thousand 400 crore rupees in the life sciences sector from around 215 enterprises the previous year.

### 3. NITI Aayog, WRI India conducted Financing for Decarbonization of Transport

- NITI Aayog, World Resources Institute (WRI), India, with the support of GIZ India have conducted virtual workshop on 'Financing for Decarbonization of Transport' as part of NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project
- NDC-TIA: Joint programme of seven organizations that engages India, China and Vietnam in promoting comprehensive approach to decarbonizing transport
- It is part of the International Climate Initiative
- Implementing partner for India component: NITI Aayog

### 4. Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurates 'Industry Connect 2022' seminar in New Delhi

- Theme: 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain'
- It has been organized for global maritime professionals to learn and innovate in the protection and utilization of the world's largest natural resource Oceans.

- Organized by: Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- Focus: R&D Laboratory, skill gap analysis for human capital in petrochemicals sector, providing indigenous technology, etc.

### 5. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw flags off NITI Aayog's Fintech Open Summit

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with PhonePe, AWS and EY has organized 3-week summit, titled 'Fintech Open' to showcase importance of fintech industry.
- It was held from 7 to 28 February.
- It brings together regulators, fintech professionals, enthusiasts, industry leaders, start-up community, developers to collaborate, exchange ideas and innovate
- It has three objectives:
  - Encourage an open ecosystem
  - Foster innovation and growth
  - Ensure financial inclusion

### 6. PM Modi virtually addressed One Ocean Summit

- It was held from 9 to 11 February 2022 in Brest, France
- It was organized by France, UN and World Bank.
- Aim: to bring together international community for taking concrete action towards preserving and supporting sustainable ocean ecosystems
- 2022 edition was held under the chairmanship of French President Emmanuel Macron.
- 2021 to 2030 has been declared as 'Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development'

### 7. PM addressed TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit

- PM Narendra Modi virtually delivered an inaugural address at The Energy and Resources Institute's

(TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit today.

- This 3-day Summit is TERI's annual flagship event.
- Theme 2022: '**Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**'.
- It discusses a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

#### **8. Ministry of Culture to organize Global Summit 'Reimagining Museums in India'**

- It will be held on 15th and 16th February 2022.
- It will bring together leading experts and practitioners of museum development and management field.
- It is being organized in partnership with Bloomberg.
- It will encompass four broad themes: Architecture and Functional Needs, Management, Collections and Education and Audience Engagement.

#### **9. TEPC organizes exclusive International Business Expo 'India Telecom 2022'**

- Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) has organized Exclusive International Business Expo titled as 'India Telecom 2022'

**January 2021**

#### **1. 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave**

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has virtually addressed 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference Principals' Conclave and urged all schools attending the conclave to reflect how inclusive our leading schools are.
- It is being organized by Doon School.
- IPSC started in 1939 with a few residential schools now has a strength of 81 schools including Sainik Schools and Military Schools.

#### **2. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate 24th Conference on e-Governance 2020-21 in Hyderabad**

- Organized by: Dept of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Electronics, and Information Technology in association with Govt of Telangana
- Theme: India's Techade: Digital Governance in a Post Pandemic World

- It is being held from 8th to 10th February
- Aim: to provide opportunities to the Indian telecom stakeholders to meet qualified overseas buyers
- It will be held under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications and Indian missions in different countries.

#### **8. Two-day conference on temple architecture**

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture hold a two-day international conference 'Devayatanam ' An odyssey of Indian temple architecture began at Hampi, Karnataka.

#### **9. Fourth India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue held**

- The 4th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue has been held in virtual mode.
- Indian delegation was led by Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and UK delegation was led by Permanent Secretary, Home Office, Mathew Rycroft.
- Dialogue covered wide range of issues including Homeland Security, Cyber Security, Extradition cases, Migration & Mobility, etc.
- The dialogue concluded with both sides agreeing to deepen security-related bilateral engagement.

- It will be presented under 6 categories to 26 e-Governance initiatives at Central, State, District levels and Academic-Research Institutions and PSU

#### **3. PM Narendra Modi addressed World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda**

- During the address PM proposed the a 'P-3' approach: "pro-planet-people"
- The three main areas of concern at the summit are Climate Action, Pandemic Recovery, and Economic and Social Resilience.

#### **4. PM Narendra Modi to host first meeting of India-Central Asia Summit**

- Participants: Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan
- The summit is a reflection of India's growing engagement with the Central Asian countries, which are a part of India's extended neighbourhood.
- It coincided with the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.

## 5. India, ASEAN approve digital work plan to combat use of stolen mobile handsets

- India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022 was approved during 2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers meeting.
- India and ASEAN nations have jointly approved work plan under which they will develop a system to combat the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, among other things.
- Meeting was co-chaired by ministers from India and Myanmar.

## 6. IAMAI organized 16th India Digital Summit

- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal has virtually addressed 16th India Digital Summit, 2022.
- It was a two-day virtual event, that was organized by Internet And Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).
- Theme of the summit: “Supercharging Startups”
- It is the oldest event of the digital industry in India.
- During the summit, Minister unveiled ‘LEAP’ as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem.

## Important Days

### May 2022

Date	Day	Theme
1st May 2022	International Labour Day or May Day	-
1st May 2022	Maharashtra Day	-
1st May 2022	Gujarat Day	-
1st May 2022	World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May)	-
3rd May 2022	Press Freedom Day	Journalism under Digital Siege
3rd May 2022	World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)	Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
4th May 2022	International Firefighter's Day	-
7th May 2022	World Athletics Day	-
8th May 2022	World Red Cross Day	#BeHumanKind
8th May 2022	World Thalassaemia Day	Be Aware. Share. Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge
8th May 2022	Mother's Day (Second Sunday of May)	
9th May 2022	Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti	
11th May 2022	National Technology Day	Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future
12th May 2022	International Nurses Day	Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health
15th May 2022	International Day of Families	Families and Urbanization
16th May 2022	Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima	
17th May 2022	World Telecommunication Day	Digital technologies for Older Persons and Healthy Ageing
17th May 2022	World Hypertension Day	Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer
18th May 2022	World AIDS Vaccine Day	



18th May 2022	International Museum Day	The Power of Museums
20th May 2022	National Endangered Species Day (Third Friday in May)	Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
21st May 2022	National Anti-Terrorism Day	-
21st May 2022	Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday of the May)	-
22nd May 2022	International Day for Biological Diversity	Building a shared future for all life
31st May 2022	National Memorial Day (last Monday of May)	-
31st May 2022	Anti-Tobacco Day	-

### April 2022

Date	Day	Theme
1st April 2022	Utkal Diwas	-
2nd April 2022	World Autism Awareness Day	Inclusion in the Workplace
4th April 2022	International Day for Mine Awareness	Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home
5th April 2022	National Maritime Day	Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19
7th April 2022	World Health Day	Our Planet, Our Health
10th April 2022	World Homeopathy Day	People's Choice For Wellness
11th April 2022	National Safe Motherhood Day	-
14th April 2022	B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti	
18 April 2022	World Heritage Day	Heritage and Climate
19th April 2022	World Liver Day	-
21st April 2022	Civil Services Day	-
22nd April 2022	Earth Day	Invest In Our Planet'
23rd April 2022	World Book and Copyright Day	Read, so you never feel low
24th April 2022	National Panchayati Raj Day	-
25th April 2022	World Malaria Day	Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives
26th April 2022	World Intellectual Property Day	IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future
27th April 2022	World Veterinary Day	Strengthening Veterinary Resilience
28th April 2022	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Act together to build a positive safety and health culture
29th April 2022	International Dance Day	
30th April 2022	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	-

### March 2022

Date	Day	Theme
1st March 2022	Zero Discrimination Day	Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower

2nd March 2022	46th Civil Accounts Day	--
3rd March 2022	World Wildlife Day	Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration
3rd March 2022	World Hearing Day	To hear for life, listen with care
4th March 2022	National Safety Day	Nurture young minds – Develop safety culture
4th March 2022	National Security Day	--
4th March 2022	World Obesity Day	Everybody Needs to Act
4th to 10th March 2022	National Safety Week	-
7th March 2022	Jan Aushadhi Diwas	Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi
8th March 2022	International Women's Day	Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
9th March 2022	No Smoking Day	-
10th March 2022	World Kidney Day	Kidney Health for All
14th March 2022	International Day of Mathematics	Mathematics Unites
15th March	World Consumer Rights Day	Fair Digital Finance
16th March 2022	National Vaccination Day	Vaccines work for all
18th March 2022	Global Recycling Day	Recycling Fraternity
18th March 2022	World Sleep Day	Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World
20th March 2022	World Sparrow Day	I love sparrows
20th March 2022	International Day of Happiness	Build Back Happier
21st March 2022	International Day of Forests	Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption
21st March 2022	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Voices for Action Against Racism
22nd March 2022	World Water Day	Groundwater-Making the Invisible Visible
23rd March 2022	Shaheed Diwas	-
23rd March 2022	World Meteorological Day	Early warning and early action
24th March 2022	World Tuberculosis (TB) Day	Invest to End TB. Save Lives
25th March 2022	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery	Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism
25th March 2022	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members	-
26th March 2022	Earth Hour	-

### February 2022

Date	Day	Theme
2 February	World Wetlands Day	Wetlands Action for People and Nature

4 February	World Cancer Day	Close the Care Gap
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation
10 February	National Deworming Day	
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	
12 February	National Productivity Day	Self-Reliance Through Productivity
13 February	World Radio Day	Radio and Trust
13 February	International Women's Day	Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow
20 February	World Day of Social Justice	Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment
21 February	International Mother Language Day	Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities
24 February	Central Excise Day	-
27 February	World NGO Day	-
28 February	National Science Day	Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future
28 February	Rare Disease Day	-

### January 2022

Date	Day	Theme
1st January	64th Foundation Day of DRDO	-
3rd January	Birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule	-
4th January	World Braille Day	-
6th January	World Day of War Orphans	-
9th January	Pravasi Bhartiya Divas or Non-Resident Indian Day	-
10th January	World Hindi Day	-
10th January to 16th January	Startup India Innovation Week by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry	-
11th January	National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	-
12th January	National Youth Day	'It's all in the mind'
14th January	Armed Forces Veterans Day	-
15th January	Indian Army Day	-
16th January	National Startup Day	-
17th January to 21st January	Open Data Week by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs	-
19th January	Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)	-
23rd January	Parakram Diwas	-

24th January	International Day of Education	Changing Course, Transforming Education
24th January	National Girl Child Day	-
25th January	National Voters' Day	'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'
25th January	National Tourism Day	-
26th January	73rd Republic Day of India	-
26th January	International Customs Day (ICD)	Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem
27th January	International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust	Memory, Dignity, and Justice
30th January	74th Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas	-
30th January	World Leprosy Day	United for Dignity
30th January	World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases

### December 2021

Date	Day	Theme
1 December	World AIDS Day	End Inequalities, End AIDS
2 December	National Pollution Control Day	
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	
2 December	World Computer Literacy Day	
3 December	World Day of the Handicapped or International Day of Persons with Disabilities	
4 December	Indian Navy Day	
5 December	World Soil Day	Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day	Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	
10 December	Human Rights Day	EQUALITY - Reducing inequalities, advancing human rights
11 December	International Mountain Day	
11 December	UNICEF Day	
12 December	Universal Health Coverage Day	
14 December	National Energy Conservation Day	Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Energy Efficient India' and 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav: Clearer Planet
16 December	Vijay Diwas	
18 December	International Migrants Day	Harnessing the potential of human mobility
19 December	Goa's Liberation Day	



20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	
22 December	National Mathematics Day	Mathematics for a Better World
24 December	National Consumer Rights Day	
25 December	Christmas Day	
25 December	Good Governance Day (India)	-

### November 2021

Date	Name of Important Days	Theme 2021
1 November	World Vegan Day	–
1 November	All Saints' Day	–
1 November	Rajyotsava Day (Karnataka Formation Day)	–
2 November	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists	-
5 November	World Tsunami Awareness Day	–
6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	-
7 November	Infant Protection Day	-
7 November	National Cancer Awareness Day	–
8 November	International Day of Radiology	Interventional Radiology – Active care for the patient
8 November	World Urbanism Day	–
9 November	Legal Services Day	–
10 November	World Science Day	Building Climate-Ready Communities
11 November	National Education Day	-
12 November	Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for Poshana (Nutrition)
12 November	Public Service Broadcasting Day	-
12 November	World Pneumonia Day	-
13 November	World Kindness Day	Kindness: The World We Make – Inspire Kindness
14 November	World Diabetes Day	Access to Diabetes Care If Not Now, When?
14 November	Children's Day	-
16 November	International Day for Tolerance	-
16 November	National Press Day	-
17 November	National Epilepsy Day	-
17 November	World Prematurity Day	Zero Separation: Act now! Keep parents and babies born too soon together
18 to 24 November	World Antimicrobial Awareness Week	Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance
19 November	International Men's Day	-
19 November	World Toilet Day	-
20 November	Universal Children's Day	-
21 November	World Television Day	-
21 November	World Day of Remembrance for	-

	Road Traffic Victims	
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	-
26 November	Constitution Day of India	-
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	-
30 November	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	-

## Important News – National (India)

### 1-15th May

- 103** percent of Pharma exports of India have been recorded since 2013-14 to 2021-22.  
**Note:** 90, 415 crores rupees in 2013-14 to 1,83,422 crores rupees in 2021-22. The export of Pharma Sector has performed best export performance in 2021-22. The exports grew by almost 10 billion US dollars in 8 years. The pharma exports in 2021-22 have shown positive growth despite the drop in demand for COVID-related medicines and global trade disruptions.
- India has signed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with **UAE** on 18 February 2022 which is officially entered into force.  
**Note:** BVR Subrahmanyam (Secretary, Department of Commerce) has flagged off the first consignment of goods comprising Jewellery products from India to UAE. The agreement is expected to escalate the total value of bilateral trade in goods and trade in services to over US\$100 billion and US\$ 15 billion respectively, within five years.
- Rs 1,67,540** is the Revenue collection of GST in the month of April 2022.  
**Note:** The gross revenue collection of Goods and Services Tax (GST) in the month of April 2022 is Rs 1,67,540 crore out of which CGST is Rs 33,159 crores, SGST is Rs 41,793 crores, IGST is Rs 81,939 crores. The gross GST collection in April 2022 is Rs 25,000 crores more than the collection in March 2022 (Rs. 1,42,095 crores). This is the tenth month in a row that the GST revenues have crossed Rs 1 lakh crore mark.
- Narayan Rane (Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises)** has launched the MSME Sustainable Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Certification Scheme.  
**Note:** MSMEs will get subsidies as per the following structure, on the cost of ZED certification - Micro Enterprises: 80%; Small Enterprises: 60%; Medium Enterprises: 50%. An additional subsidy of 10% for the MSMEs owned by Women/SC/ST Entrepreneurs OR MSMEs in NER/Himalayan/LWE/Island territories/aspirational districts.
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** software developer company has signed a pact with Ministry of Railways for the modernization of Telecommunication in Indian Railways for Public Safety and Security Services.  
**Note:** It will be done using the LTE-R following world standards, 5G Use Cases in Indian Railways in line with Make in India policy, Internet of Things, Unified Network Management System, Network Management System, Chatting application, Routers and Switches.
- In **Bengaluru campus** Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah has inaugurated National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID).  
**Note:** We should have an in-built mechanism for continuous up-gradation and will create a database of modes operandi of various crimes committed within the country. It will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all States and Union Territories. Technology partner: C-DAC, Pune.
- Railway Protection Force(RPF)** has launched a focused effort under “Operation Satark” from 5th April to 30th April 2022.  
**Note:** Aim: Taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold and any other items which are being transported through the railway network for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling. RPF is an armed force under the ownership of the Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways.
- The RailTel Corporation of India Ltd** had designed and established a “Health Cloud” at Visakhapatnam premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ).

**Note:** AMTZ is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. The "Health Cloud" has been inaugurated by Louise Agersnap (Head of WHO Innovation Hub). Health Cloud can also be operationalised on wheels and can dispense the medicines by Health ATM through Mobile App having a digital payment interface.

9. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has addressed the inaugural session of Jain International Trade Organisation's - JITO Connect 2022 by video conferencing.

**Note:** JITO is a global organisation which connects Jains all over the world. JITO Connect is an attempt to help businesses and industries by providing a direction for mutual networking and personal interactions. This is a three-day event being organized at Gangadham Annex, Pune from 6th May 2022.

10. The second phase of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts will come into effect on **June 1, 2022**.

**Note:** This phase will cover additional three caratages of gold jewellery and artefacts - 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats. BIS also has made a provision to permit a consumer to get the purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested at any of the BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.

11. **180 km per hour** is the speed of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) train sets are being manufactured under Make In India initiative.

**Note:** India's first semi-high-speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) has been handed over to National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) at Alstom's Savli plant in Gujarat. It will be brought to Duhai Depot in Uttar Pradesh. Implementing agency of India's first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut: NCRTC.

12. **Tata Sons** company has approached the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for a merger of Air India with Air Asia India.

**Note:** AirAsia India was launched as a joint venture between the Tatas and Malaysia's AirAsia Group. Tatas had raised its stake in AirAsia India to 83.67% in December 2020. In January 2022, Tata acquired Air India and Air India Express. Tata group aviation companies: Air India, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia India and Air India SATS Airport Services

13. **Mindtree** company L&T Infotech has announced a merger to create India's fifth-largest IT services provider.

**Note:** This combined entity will be known as LTMindtree. This proposed integration will see

Mindtree and LTI join strengths to create an efficient and scaled up IT services provider exceeding USD 3.5 billion. It will create a more distinctive employee value proposition.

14. **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has signed MoU with Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) to promote renewable energy thereby moving towards a carbon neutral economy in Delhi.

**Note:** This MoU envisages collaboration between the two parties for jointly undertaking installation of Solar Rooftop PV Power Plants. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has estimated the total solar power potential of 71.68 MWs in the campuses of CAPFs & NSG.

15. **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has signed MoU with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for a trafficking free nation.

**Note:** It will enhance the scale, reach and effectiveness of Operation AAHT (Action against Human Trafficking) launched by RPF across the nation. RPF is entrusted with the responsibility of security of railway property, passenger area and passengers. RPF has also set up Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) at more than 740 locations across India

16. **Shekhar Kapoor (Renowned Film Director)** has inaugurated National Seminar titled 'Indian Cinema and Soft Power' in Mumbai.

**Note:** Organized by: Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Key topics: Cinematic colonialism, Indian Cinema as a Vehicle of spreading awareness about idea of India abroad, regional cinema and its global influence, Indian cinema's engagement with foreign audience, global influence of Indian cinematic music.

17. In association with **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)** the first International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy was organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).

**Note:** Rao Inderjit Singh (Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation) has highlighted the journey of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. Chairperson of IBBI: Dr. Navrang Saini

18. In **Kevadiya in Gujarat** Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated a three-day Swasthya Chintan Shivir (Health Summit).

**Note:** Aim: Detailed discussion on various topics and policies related to the health sector and recommend ways and means for better implementation of these

policies/programmes. This summit is being organized as a part of the 14th Convention of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW).

19. **Union Minister, Kailash Choudhary** has inaugurated Conference of Cluster-Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) under Scheme of Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur.

**Note:** Focus areas: expectations from CBBOs, Knowledge sharing by CBBOs on best practices, discussion on Training and Capacity Building of Stakeholders, and Open discussion on various issues/suggestions.

20. India will be the Official 'Country of Honour' in **Marché Du Film in France** upcoming film festival.

**Note:** The festival will be organised from 17th May 2022. This is for the first time when such an honour is being bestowed on any country. The theme of the India Pavilion 2022 is 'India the Content Hub of the World'. R Madhavan's film 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', based on the life of Nambi Narayanan will also premiere.

21. According to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on the Civil Registration System report 2020, **Ladakh (1104)** has recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020.

**Note:** Followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala. Lowest sex ratio at birth: Manipur (880) followed by D& N Haveli & Daman & Diu (898) and Gujarat (909). Published by: The Registrar General of India (Ministry of Home Affairs).

22. **Priyanka Mohite (Satara in western Maharashtra)** the Maharashtra girl becomes the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres after her 5th climb Mount Kanchenjunga.

**Note:** Priyanka received the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020. Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m) is the third highest mountain on the planet. She had climbed world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849 m), Mount Lhotse (8,516 m) in 2018, Mount Makalu (8,485 m), Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in 2016, Mt Annapurna (8,091 m).

23. Mini Ratna PSU **RailTel** has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme based on access to its Public Wi-Fi services across 100 railway stations across the country.

**Note:** This service was virtually launched by RailTel chairman and managing director Puneet Chawla. Android users can access this Wi-Fi network by downloading the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' from Google Play Store. This app has been developed in association with C-DOT.

24. **Ministry of Tourism** has participated in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai-2022 under its 'Incredible India' brand line.

**Note:** Showcase India's tourism potential and provide a platform to the tourism stakeholders. It also aimed to promote India as a 'Must See, Must Visit' destination. The India Pavilion was inaugurated in the presence of Satpal Maharaj (Uttarakhand Tourism Minister) and other dignitaries.

25. **Etsy (global marketplace)** has partnered with the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHHDC) and signed an MoU to support small sellers, weavers and artisans.

**Note:** This will help to provide them with market access and enablement support. To equip artisans, creators and small entrepreneurs in the Indian handicrafts sector to start and manage online businesses.

26. **33** domestic cargo terminals will be set up by 2024-2025.

**Note:** Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia addressing the annual event of the Air Cargo Forum India. It will allow India's cargo sector to flourish and grow. Industry players need to focus on the transportation of smaller cargo loads from Tier II and III cities to metros to achieve the target of 10 million metric tons in cargo.

27. **Prasar Bharati** has signed an MoU on cooperation and collaboration in Broadcasting withh ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) in Madagascar.

**Note:** It was signed by Abhay Kumar (India's Ambassador to Madagascar) and ORTM DG Belalahy Jean Yves. This MoU will give international exposure to the Prasar Bharati as Madagascar National Television (TVM) will broadcast programmes from internal productions of Prasar Bharati.

28. **National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)** has collaborated with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has started the Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) at Delhi campus.



**Note:** To make Khadi trendier by diversifying its fabrics and clothing line and upgrading the quality standards. Narayan Rane (Union Minister of MSME) also launched CoEK spokes in Gandhinagar, Shillong, Kolkata and Bengaluru virtually.

29. **Northern Zone** of Indian Railways has added a 'baby berth' to their trains, an unusual setup allows women to travel by train while sleeping peacefully next to their children.

**Note:** On the occasion of Mother's Day, the Lucknow Division of Northern Railways experimented with a baby berth in coach No.194129/B4, berths 12 and 60. The infant seat is collapsible and has a safety stopper. Division of Northern Railways: Lucknow and Delhi collaborated on the infant berth.

30. **Ministry of Tourism** has initiated the establishment of 'YUVA Tourism Clubs' as a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations.

**Note:** To nurture and develop young ambassadors of Indian tourism. To support this initiative, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has come forward and issued directions to all CBSE affiliated schools regarding the formation of Yuva Tourism Clubs.

31. **BHARAT TAP** initiative was launched by the Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep S Puri at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition.

**Note:** This exhibition caters to a fundamental service in the development of the nation: water and sanitation. He also launched NARDECO MAHI's 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative which will work for saving 500 crore ltr of water per year.

32. The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **United Nations Development Programme** for the

implementation of combined agriculture credit and crop insurance.

**Note:** Aim: To provide technical support towards the Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana scheme (PMFBY) and Kisan Credit Card - Modified Interest Subvention Scheme. Chief Executive Officer of PMFBY: Ritesh Chauhan

33. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has participated in the Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on the invitation of the President of the USA, Joseph R. Biden.

**Note:** The theme of the summit: Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness. Highlights: India adopted a people-centric strategy to combat the pandemic; India plays an active role by sharing its low cost indigenous COVID mitigation technologies.

34. **GatiShakti Sanchar portal** ([www.sugamsanchar.gov.in](http://www.sugamsanchar.gov.in)) portal launched by the Union Minister for Communications, Electronics & IT and Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw for Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals in line with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan.

**Note:** The portal has been developed keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission (NBM). NBM was set up by the Department of Telecommunication in 2019.

35. **Bhupender Yadav (Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister)** has led an Indian delegation at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) of the UNCCD at Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire.

**Note:** The theme of COP 15: Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity. Aim: To bring together world leaders to drive progress in the future sustainable management of land and will explore links between land and other key sustainability issues.

## April -2022

1. Chief Justice of India, N V Ramana has launched **FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records)** platform to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the Supreme Court to concerned authorities through a secured electronic communication channel.

**Note:** The aim: Eliminate the delay in to release of inmates even after the Supreme Court grants them

bail. A digital platform FASTER was initiated led by the CJI Ramana bench.

2. In April 2022, President Ram Nath Kovind had embarked on two-nation tour of **Turkmenistan and the Netherlands**.

**Note:** During the first leg of the tour, the President is visiting Turkmenistan. This will be the first-ever visit of an Indian President to Turkmenistan. On

the second leg, President Kovind will be on a four-day visit to the Netherlands.

3. Environment awareness mascot **Prakriti** was launched by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.

**Note:** Aim: To spread mass awareness of small changes in lifestyle can bring better environmental sustainability. It also creates awareness about various efforts and initiatives of the ministry in order to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.

4. **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has signed an agreement with Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) for blending green hydrogen in Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network.

**Note:** Aim: decarbonization of the cooking sector and self-sufficiency for the nation's energy requirements. Production of green hydrogen: Use of electricity from the existing 1 MW floating solar project of NTPC Kawas.

5. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has announced the formation of 17 member advisory committee to direct the government on a Rs 76,000 crore semiconductor mission.

**Note:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has announced the formation of 17 member advisory committee to direct the government on a Rs 76,000 crore semiconductor mission. Chairperson of the committee: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Electronics, and Information Technology.

6. **Ministry of AYUSH** has organized Yoga Mahotsav at Red Fort, New Delhi on World Health Day on April 7.

**Note:** Chief Guest at Yoga Mahotsav: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. 8th International Day of Yoga 2022 will be organized by the AYUSH Ministry, the nodal ministry of International Yoga Day.

7. Under operation **Operation Upalabdh** the Railway Protection Force (RPF) detained 1,459 touts and blocked 366 IRCTC agent IDs and 6,751 personal IDs.

**Note:** The 'Operation Upalabdh' push was launched following the reinstatement of long-distance train services, with the expectation that the festival and summer rush would result in a sharp increase in demand for reserved train tickets. The RPF's field units gathered information from the field, the digital world, and the cyber

world, then consolidated, vetted, and analysed it before launching the campaign across the country on March 1, 2022.

8. **Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs** has launched a website 'Temple 360' for digital darshan.

**Note:** During an event organized by the Ministry of Culture at IGNCA Ampitheatre, Indira Gandhi National Centre of Arts, New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Temple 360 is a digital platform where anyone can visit or do darshan of 12 Jyotirlinga and Char Dham from any location, making everyone's life convenient while also keeping people connected.

9. **Veera** is the name of mascot of the Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021).

**Note:** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Governor of Karnataka, TC Gehlot launched the logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the Khelo India University Games 2021 (KIUG 2021) on April 01, 2022, at the SreeKanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. The theme song has been composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty. The KIUG 2021 will be held in Karnataka between April 24 and May 3, 2022.

10. Central government scheme **Stand-Up India scheme (launched on 5th April 2016)** has completed its 6 years.

**Note:** Under the Stand-Up India Scheme, over 30 thousand 160 crore rupees have been sanctioned to more than 1 lakh 33 thousand 995 accounts since the launch of the Scheme. Aim: Loan facility between 10 lakh and one crore rupees to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, and women. Stand Up India scheme was extended till 2025.

11. The **The Broadcast Seva Portal** was launched by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur.

**Note:** Aim: Promotion of ease of doing business. An online platform will provide a single point facility for the stakeholders to request required permission, registrations and licenses.

12. Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the Foreign Trade Policy by **six months (till September 2022)**.

**Note:** The decision was taken amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis, as the war has disrupted global trade. The existing Foreign Trade Policy came into existence on April 1, 2015, for five years.

13. **Tata Neu** a unified digital application has been announced by the Tata Group.

**Note:** It is designed as a Super app that offers everything from daily grocery, electronics, finance solutions, flights, holidays, and more. Each brand on Tata Neu is connected by a common reward called NeuCoins.

14. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has released **72,124 Dollars** to the UNESCO Fund for Elimination of Doping in Sport in 2022.

**Note:** In the 7th COP, the State Parties had agreed for the contribution of 1% of the regular budget of the respective nations to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. India has contributed USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund in 2021.

15. The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) by **March 2023**.

**Note:** Aim: Develop 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs), 101 Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), set up 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres and sponsor 200 entrepreneurs through the Atal New India Challenges. More than Rs 2000 crore will be incurred as the total budgetary expenditure.

16. **Smriti Zubin Irani** has chaired the Zonal Conference of State Governments and Stakeholders of the North-East region on the Ministry schemes in Guwahati.

**Note:** This is the third Zonal meeting in Guwahati in the series, before this the first meeting and second meeting were held in Chandigarh and Bengaluru respectively. Objective: Laid down the details of Poshan 2.0 Abhiyan, Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya

17. **Bhupender Yadav** has chaired the 20th NTCA which was held in Pakke tiger reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Note:** This is the first-ever NTCA meeting that was held outside of the National Capital. The NTCA has prepared the Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves, which was released by Bhupender Yadav

18. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the annual Madhavpur Mela at **Porbandar, Gujarat**.

**Note:** This fair is a symbol of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat which is being organized as part of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav. This fair has been organized by the Cultural Ministry in collaboration with the Gujarat government since 2018.

19. The first-ever flight of Made in India 17-seater **HAL Dornier Do-228** was flagged off from Dibrugarh in Assam to Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Note:** The Centre-run Alliance Air had signed an agreement with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to lease two 17-seater Dornier 228 aircraft. This will be the nation's first commercial airline to operate an Indian-made aircraft for civil operations.

20. '**SVANidhi se Samriddhi**' program scheme which was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in addition to 126 cities across 14 States and UT.

**Note:** SVANidhi se Samriddhi is an additional program of PM-SVANidhi which was launched in January 2021 in 125 cities in Phase one. Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) has been implementing since June 2020

21. The High Commissioner of India Vikram Doraiswami has laid the foundation stone for the first IT/ Hi-Tech Park at **Keraniganj near Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

**Note:** This is the first park under the Line of Credit (LOC) extended by the Indian government to Bangladesh. With a committed LOC of over USD 7.86 bn Bangladesh becomes India's largest development partner.

22. The Union government has extended the grant of ₹40 cr to the Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) by **up to 2025-26**.

**Note:** The scheme to provide grants to CTRC was launched in 2015. Purpose: To meet the administrative expenses of settlement offices and social welfare. Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir are the major concentration of the Tibetan refugees

23. "**AVSAR**" (**Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans Of The Region**) scheme was launched by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to encourage the talent of women, artisans, and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities.

**Note:** Under the scheme, the space will be allocated to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region. The space is being allotted to the self-help groups for 15 days, turn on turn basis.

24. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has signed an MoU with **GVFL**

**Limited** for cooperation and collaboration to support and facilitate the FinTech ecosystem in GIFT IFSC.

**Note:** The MoU focuses on the exchange of information, undertaking diverse initiatives for the growth of FinTech in the GIFT IFSC. GVFL Limited is promoted by the World Bank and the Government of Gujarat in 1990.

- 25. Jio-bp** comes in an agreement with **TVS Motor Company** to work on the creation of a strong public EV charging infrastructure for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers in the country.

**Note:** Under this agreement, the customers of TVS electric vehicles will provide access to the widespread charging network of Jio-bp. Jio-bp operates its EV charging and swapping stations under the brand Jio-bp pulse.

- 26. Gujarat** state has topped the NITI Aayog's State Energy and Climate Index (SECI)-Round One, followed by Kerala and Punjab.

**Note:** Smaller states (Top 3): Goa, Tripura, and Manipur. Bottom states: Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Jharkhand SECI-round 1 includes six parameters: discoms performance; access affordability and reliability of energy; clean energy initiatives; energy efficiency; environmental sustainability; and new initiative

- 27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti at **at Teen Murti Bhavan in Delhi.**

**Note:** This museum has been dedicated to all Prime Ministers of the country. There are a total of 43 galleries in the Sangrahalaya. The logo of PradhanmantriSangrahalaya represents the hands of the citizens of India holding the Dharma Chakra symbolizing the nation and democracy.

- 28. six years** have been completed of a pan-India online trading portal, National Agriculture Market (e-NAM).

**Note:** This flagship programme was launched by PM Modi in 2016 with an aim to join the physical wholesale markets and mandis of States/UTs to facilitate the electronic trading of agricultural goods. e-NAM is totally funded by the Central Government. Implemented by: Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium

- 29. To boost the textile industry,** the Ministry of Finance has issued a notification regarding the

exemption on the import of cotton from customs duties by **6 months (till 30th of September 2022).**

**Note:** The waive-off will benefit the textile chains: yarn, fabric, garments, and made-ups; Textile exports and consumers will also get relief. Earlier, the customs duty was 10%, in which 5% on basic customs duty on cotton import and another 5% on Agriculture Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC).

- 30. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has organised 'Sabka Vikas Mahaquiz'.

**Note:** To create awareness among the citizens about the schemes and initiatives of the government. The first quiz was on Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.

- 31. Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** has developed 'e-DAR' (e-Detailed Accident Report) portal.

**Note:** Digitalized DAR will be uploaded on the portal for easy access. It is designed by the government in consultation with insurance companies. It will provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families.

- 32. PM Narendra Modi** has unveiled 108-feet statue of Lord Hanuman in **Morbi, Gujarat.**

**Note:** The statue is the second of the four statues being set up in the four directions across the country, as part of 'Hanumanji Char dham project. First statue of this series was set up at the Jakhu hills in the north in Shimla in 2010 and has been sculpted by a Rajasthan sculptor. The work on the statue in the south at Rameswaram has been started.

- 33. NITI Aayog** will launch National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in May to provide government data in a user-friendly format, promoting data-driven decision making and research.

**Note:** Aim to standardize data across govt sources and provide flexible analytics that make it easy for users to analyze information using multiple datasets. It will have 200 datasets from more than 46 ministries at the launch time. New datasets will be added up to village level in the future



34. PM Narendra Modi has virtually dedicated 200-bed K K Patel Super Speciality Hospital to the nation at **Bhuj in Kutch district of Gujarat**.  
**Note:** It has been built by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, Bhuj and is the first charitable super specialty hospital in Kutch region. It will guarantee quality medical treatment for people of Kutch including lakhs of soldiers, par military personnel and traders. It is in line with the policy of Central govt to set up at least one medical college.
35. **40th edition** of HunarHaat has been inaugurated by Anurag Thakur (Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports).  
**Note:** The 40th 'HunarHaat' is a feasible platform to promote 'Swadeshi' products in Mumbai from 16th to 27th April 2022. Under the initiative of Tejas skilling programme the skilled manpower will be sent to UAE.
36. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, **Prime Minister of Mauritius** has arrived in Mumbai on an eight-day visit to India.  
**Note:** Mauritius PM participated in the Ceremony of the WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar on 19th April and the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit at Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 20th April. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth also visits Varanasi. The visit improves the bilateral relations between the two nations.
37. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has unveiled a bronze statue of PinnamaneniKoteswara Rao in **Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh**.  
**Note:** PinnamaneniKoteswara Rao served as Krishna Zilla Parishad Chairman for over 27 years in Machilipatnam. VP will participate in various programmes arranged at Swarna Bharat Trust, Atkuru near Vijayawada.
38. PM Modi has inaugurated WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in **Gujarat**.  
**Note:** During his three-day visit to Gujarat, he visit the Command and Control Centre for Schools in Gandhinagar. He dedicated the Banas Community Radio Station, to provide farmers key scientific information related to agriculture and animal husbandry.
39. **Radio Aksh** is India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired.  
**Note:** It was launched in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The Blind Relief Association Nagpur and SamdrushtiKshamata Vikas AvamAnusandhan Mandal jointly launched the pioneers of the concept. This initiative will help the visually impaired to gain seamless access to audiobooks and education resources.
40. The sugar in India from 2013-14 to 2021-22 is **291%**.  
**Note:** India's sugar export was USD 1,177 million in the financial year 2013-14 to USD 4,600 million in the last financial year. The sugar export has jumped 65% in 2021-22 corresponding to the previous year. The country had exported sugar worth 1,965 million US dollars in 2019-20, which increased to 2,790 million US dollars in 2020-21.
41. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will build the world's highest tunnel at 16,580 feet to connect Himachal Pradesh to Ladakh near **Shinku La Pass**.  
**Note:** The construction will begin by July this year and be completed by 2025. The Centre has already made 'Project Yojak' of BRO to execute this ambitious project.
42. The nation's first portable solar rooftop system has been inaugurated in **Gujarat (Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in Gandhinagar)**.  
**Note:** The 10 Photovoltaic Port has been manufactured by Servotech Power Systems Ltd (New Delhi). It is designed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft fur InternationaleZusammenarbeit (GIZ).
43. The export of India's non-basmati rice in FY 2021-22 is **USD 6115 million**.  
**Note:** Export of non-basmati rice has registered a growth of 27% in 2021-22. West African country, Benin is one of the major importers of non-basmati rice from India. As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS) data, India exported rice to over 150 countries across the globe in 2021-22.
44. Skill India in alliance with the Directorate General of Training (DGT) organized **Apprenticeship Mela** across the country on 21st April 2022.  
**Note:** Aim to support the hiring of more than one lakh apprentices and assist employers in tapping the right talent. The National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship was launched by the Prime Minister on July 15, 2015, to recognize apprenticeship to a skilled workforce with adequate compensation.
45. **National Insurance Academy (NIA)** has signed an MoU with International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to provide skilled talent pool in the insurance sector in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs).

**Note:** This MoU undertakes to build the required skilled manpower for the IFSC. IFSCA had already executed an MoU with the Insurance Institute of India (III) with the focus to address needs of IFSC Insurance entities.

46. The First Conference of Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022 held in **Mumbai** on May 14-15, 2022.

**Note:** Event will be organised by the Mumbai Port Authority. He also launched the event website [www.iiicc2022.in](http://www.iiicc2022.in), logo and mascot named 'Captain Cruzo'. The iconic sea-cruise terminal coming up at BPX Indira Dock Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned by 2024.

47. **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** has collaborated with Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to utilize the residues produced in the sewage treatment plants (STP) of DJB to convert them into green energy.

**Note:** The torrefied waste sludge was fired from NTPC's unit 4 Boiler at Dadri. This green technological solution helps to convert STP sludge into energy and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In Delhi NCR alone, STP produces up to 800 MT of sludge per day.

48. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 33 National Highway projects worth Rs 9,240 crore in **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.

**Note:** These road projects will ease the connectivity of Chhattisgarh with the states of Odisha, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. The road network connects the backward areas with the developed areas of the state and cultural and tourist places.

49. **NITI Aayog** has signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) with UNICEF India on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children.

**Note:** Both organisations jointly launch a report on the 'State of India's Children: Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development'. The joint efforts will contribute to India's commitments to the 2030 Agenda and provide a set of policy recommendations and achieve their holistic development.

50. 48th edition of the All India Police Science Congress has been inaugurated by Amit Shah, Union Home and Cooperation Minister.

**Note:** The event was held at the Central Police Training Academy, Bhopal. He also attends the conference of forest committees and bonus distribution program to the Tendupatta pluckers at Jamboori Maidan, Bhopal. He will

also start the process of transformation from forest village to revenue village.

51. **NITI Aayog** has released a draft battery swapping policy.

**Note:** According to the which all metropolitan cities with a population above 40 lakh will be prioritized for the development of battery swapping network under the first phase. All major cities such as state capitals, UT headquarters, and cities with populations above 5 lakh will be covered under the second phase.

52. The '**Kisan Bhagidari, Prathmikta Hamari**' campaign was organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare from April 25 to April 30, 2022, under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in the association with various other Ministries and Departments.

**Note:** The Department of Agriculture Research and Education will also organise a Krishi Mela at each Krishi Vigyan Kendra and a field exhibition on natural farming. Union Agriculture Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar

53. **Ursula Von Der Leyen (President of the European Commission)** was the chief guest at the 7th edition of the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi which was inaugurated by PM Modi.

**Note:** Theme - Terranova, impassioned, impatient, imperilled. There are six broad thematic pillars of the Dialogue which include Rethinking Democracy, End of Multilateralism, Water Caucuses, and Achieving Green Transitions.

54. **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) has organized Asia's biggest international food and hospitality fair AAHAR 2022 in New Delhi.

**Note:** APEDA has also created stalls for exporters from the NorthEast Region, Himalayan states, women entrepreneurs, Start-Ups, and exporters of millets. More than 80 exporters will participate in the fair from different segments.

55. The SVAMITVA scheme (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) has completed **2 years** on 24th April 2022.

**Note:** It is a Central Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj with an aim to provide the record of rights to village household owners in rural areas and issue Property Cards. Drone technology has been used for the first time to map actual property area of landowners.

56. **Prasar Bharati** has signed an MoU with the Public Broadcaster of Argentina Radio Television Argentina (RTA) for collaboration in the field of broadcasting.

**Note:** The MoU encompasses a range of fronts in Media and Broadcasting that is set to exemplify the communication and transmission networking of both nations. India and Argentina share cordial relations and developmental partnerships in the areas of political, economic, scientific and technological cooperation.

**57. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K)**

has signed an MoU with The Indian Navy's Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology (NIETT) to build collaboration and exchange of best practices in the field of Educational Psychology, Instructional Leadership, and Management.

**Note:** NIETT celebrating its 50 years in the service of the nation and this MoU achieves the exchange of expertise in the field of management of education.

**58. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)-NRLDC.

**Note:** To encourage research on issues related to India's power sector as well as strengthen academia and industry interaction with the goal of sharing knowledge. POSOCO is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Government of India enterprise under the Union Ministry of Power.

**59. NITI Aayog** has organized a National Level Workshop on Innovative Agriculture under the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in New Delhi.

**Note:** The first session was chaired by Dr. Ravi Kumar (Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog). Yogi Adityanath (CM of Uttar Pradesh), CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan (MP), CM Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy (Andhra Pradesh), and CM Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand) have joined the first technical session of the workshop virtually.

**60. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the construction of the 540 Megawatt Kwar Hydro Electric project in the Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir. This project is located on the **Chenab river**.

**Note:** The committee was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The project will be implemented by Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (JV between NHPC and JKSPDC). The committee has approved an investment of over 4,526.12 crore rupees for this project.

**61. Samba district, J&K** has become the first district in India to cover 100% of households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)- SEHAT scheme.

**Note:** Samba district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden

cards. This scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme, fully financed by Government. Under this scheme, the people with Ayushman Bharat Golden Card get free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh.

**62. Jamtara district in Jharkhand** has become the first district in India where all gram panchayats have community libraries.

**Note:** The population of the district is about eight lakh and has a total of 118-gram panchayats under six blocks. The library will be open for students from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Career counselling sessions and motivational classes are also provided.

**63. National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** has signed an MoU with the Himachal Pradesh government for the development of seven ropeway projects in Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, Sirmour and Bilaspur districts.

**Note:** The MoU was signed in the presence of road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari and chief minister Jai Ram Thakur in New Delhi.

**64. Netflix** has joined hands with the I&B ministry to launch some short films on women changemakers named 'Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya'.

**Note:** The videos are narrated by actor Neena Gupta and produced by Netflix. It would be shared on social media and broadcast on Doordarshan. Aims: To bring out inspiring stories of Indians which empower more people to achieve their goals

**65. Flipkart** has signed an MoU with the West Bengal government to support and train local artisans, weavers and handicraft makers.

**Note:** Aim: To leverage its e-commerce platform to scale up small businesses nationally. Flipkart Samarth programme will empower artisans/weavers in the state.

**66. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has signed an MoU with Equinor ASA, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company for two years.

**Note:** Aim: To collaborate in areas of upstream exploration and production, midstream, downstream and Clean energy options. Equinor is the leading operator on the Norwegian continental shelf and is present in 30 countries worldwide.

**67. PM Modi inaugurates Semicon India Conference 2022 in Bengaluru.**

**Note:** Aim: to visualize as the launchpad to start India's ambition of becoming the global semiconductor hub and nurturing the chip design and manufacturing ecosystem. The conference focused on policy, talent, and the

government's role and efforts in creating a successful growth environment.

- 68. PM Modi** has inaugurated the Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) via video conferencing in **Surat**.

**Note:** The summit was organised under the 'Mission 2026' to provide momentum for the socio-economic development of the Patidar community. The theme of GPBS 2022 is "Aatmanirbhar Community to Aatmanirbhar Gujarat and India"

- 69. Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has signed an agreement with IIT Bombay to jointly pursue their research and development work in the green hydrogen value chain.

**Note:** Both organizations will contribute to the green hydrogen industry and develop next-generation technology. Hydrogen is produced through electrolysis process by using renewable energy which is known as green hydrogen, it has no carbon footprint.

- 70. Telangana Government** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Google to provide benefits of digital economy to the youth and women entrepreneurs.

**Note:** The state government has been working with Google since 2017 on improving digital literacy. Google and WE Hub, Govt. of Telangana, will jointly carry out Women Will programme to deliver digital, business, and financial skills to nano, micro, and small women-led businesses.

- 71. IndiGo** has become the first airline in Asia to use the indigenous navigation system GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN) to land its aircraft.

**Note:** The flight was conducted using an ATR-72 aircraft and landed at the Kishangarh airport, Rajasthan. The system has been developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). India becomes the third country in the world to have its own SBAS system after the USA and Japan.

- 72. Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Narayan Rane** has inaugurated Enterprise India (Ministry's Mega Event) under the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

**Note:** "Enterprise India" is a month-long series of commemorative entrepreneurship development events and activities being held from 27.04.2022 up to 27.05.2022. Aim to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of the Ministry of MSME.

- 73. Tata Power Limited** has signed a pact with the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), Maharashtra to install up to 5,000 EV charging points across the properties of NAREDCO's members.

**Note:** The MoU was signed in the presence of Aaditya Thackeray (Minister of Tourism & Environment, Government of Maharashtra). This move will give a boost to EV adoption in the State.

### March -2022

- 1. 'National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav'** has been launched by **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**.

**Note:** During iconic week, Ministry of MSME will launch Phase II of 'National Level Awareness Programme – Sambhav' through which more than 1 lakh students from 1300 colleges will be motivated to take up entrepreneurship. Ministry of MSME is also launching Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive in 46 aspirational districts.

- 2. According to a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),** The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of **1.5°C**.

**Note:** The report also warns about temporarily exceeding this warming level leading to additional, severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. Lucknow and Patna would reach wet-bulb temperature of 35°C if emissions continued to rise.

Global sea levels will likely rise 44-76 cm if not given attention.

- 3. Along with IIT Madras,** the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai jointly hosted, for the first time in India, the OCEANS 2022 conference & Exposition.

**Note:** It is a bi-annual event of global marine researchers on February 21-24, 2022. It was held in a hybrid format. 'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain' was the main theme of the conference.

- 4. The Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** was launched in the year **2008**.

**Note:** PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.

- 5. India's first e-waste eco-park** will come up in **New Delhi**.



**Note:** He also announced the framing of Delhi Film Policy 2022 to make the city a brand for shooting locations and promoting tourism. At present, Delhi produces 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste every year.

6. India's first ambulance for street animals has been launched in **Chennai**.  
**Note:** Launched by Madras High Court Justice Dr Anitha Sumanth, the Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with an on-board veterinarian to provide on-site treatment to injured and sick street animals.
7. Recently, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the International Monsoons Project Office (IMPO) at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM). IMPO/IITM located in **Pune**.  
**Note:** Setting up the IMPO reiterates the importance of monsoons for the national economy. It would encompass activities and connections related to international monsoon research that would be identified and fostered under the leadership of the World Climate Research Programme and the World Weather Research Programme.
8. **Arogya Vanam**, hub of medicinal herbs and plants launched by President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan to promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on human body.  
**Note:** The Arogya Vanam has been developed in a 6.6 acre area and it has 215 types of medicinal plants like Neem, Tulsi, Bel, Arand, Arjun, Ashwagandha and Harsingar. Aroma Garden, Lotus Pond, Water Channels, Yog Manch and a ViewPoint are also part of Arogya Vanam.
9. Ministry of Women and Child Development will launch the 'Back to School' Campaign in partnership with **UNICEF**.  
**Note:** On 7th March 2022, 'Back to School' Campaign will be launched jointly by MoWCD and UNICEF India as 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav', focusing on supporting out-of-school girls.
10. **NITI Aayog** will release the National Gender Index in India.  
**Note:** The index will serve as a tool to map the progress of states and Union Territories (UTs) on defined gender metrics and build the foundation for positive change. The index will support policy action and advocacy around gender and will be aligned to the framework of Sustainable Development Goals.
11. India will soon launch the third phase of Monsoon Mission. In **2012** was the first Monsoon Mission was launched to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.  
**Note:** Aim: to achieve further improvement in our understanding about the monsoons, thus helping achieve a quantum leap in the predictions. Monsoon Mission was launched for the first time in 2012. It has been a flagship project undertaken by the MoES

to improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.

12. **Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit** is the new motto of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).  
**Note:** The New Motto is 'Bhavishyo Rakshati Rakshit'. The Minister interacted with the children from different States and also visited the exhibition based on stories of freedom fighters during their childhood organised by Border Security Forces (BSF) in collaboration with NCPCR and remembered their sacrifices.
13. **Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government** is the theme of the 3rd edition of NIC Tech Conclave 2022 being organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).  
**Note:** The two-day event being organized by the National Informatics Centre NIC. The event will be attended by the Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and other dignitaries from Centre and State Governments. NIC has been organizing Tech Conclave focused on Emerging Technologies applicable especially in e-Governance.
14. India ranked at **third** in terms of having most billionaires' population globally in 2021, as per Knight Frank's latest edition of The Wealth Report 2022.  
**Note:** Number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India increased by 11% in 2021 to 145 billionaires, highest percentage growth in Asia Pacific region. UHNWIs: Individuals with net assets of US\$ 30m (Rs 226 crore) or more. India's UHNWI is expected to grow by 39% from 2021 to 2026.
15. MeitY Startup Hub and **Google** have announced to cohort 100 Indian early to mid-stage startups and help them to build high-quality global apps and games.  
**Note:** They were chosen from over 400 applications following an in-depth selection process. Under this 6-month programme, 100 startups will be trained through a customized curriculum that includes virtual instructor-led webinars, self-learning material, mentorship sessions
16. **Ujjain** has created Guinness record by lighting 11.71 lakh clay lamps (diyas) in 10 minutes, on the occasion of Mahashivratri 2022.  
**Note:** A five-member delegation of Guinness Book of World Records saw the mammoth effort and offered the record certificate to Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
17. The ministry of Women & Child Development has launched 'Stree Manoraksha Project' in collaboration with **NIMHANS** organisation to improve the mental health of women population across the country.

**Note:** The project would emphasise on the psychosocial well-being and aim to improve the mental health of women in India. The project also focusses on self-care techniques for OSC staff and counselors.

18. India ranked **120<sup>th</sup>** 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 Kamlapati 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 outposted 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.

**Jmm]=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 **124<sup>th</sup>** 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 **5<sup>th</sup> 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. 136<sup>th</sup>** 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. **34<sup>th</sup>** 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 year's 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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) under 40. 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.

## February 2022

1. Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation (SeHAT) is scheme implemented by **Ministry of Defence** under which home delivery of medicines has been started.

**Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had launched SeHAT scheme in May 2021. SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled personnel and their families.

2. **Hoysala temples** has been finalised for nomination for the UNESCO World Heritage sites for the year 2022-2023.

**Note:** 'Sacred Ensembles of Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's tentative list since April 15, 2014. The Hoysala temples represent human creative genius and stand testimony to the rich historical and cultural heritage of our country.

3. **Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram** has been declared as India's first "other effective area-based conservation measures" (OECM) site by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Note:** The OECM tag does not bring any legal, financial or management implications, but designates the area as a biodiversity hotspot on the international map. The OECM tag is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to areas that are not protected but support rich biodiversity.

4. Government has approved the Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP) for continuation from 2021-22 to till **31 March 2026**.

**Note:** IFLDP has been approved by the cabinet for continuation till March 31, 2026, or till further review, whichever is earlier. The programme aims at development of infrastructure for the leather sector, address environmental concerns specific to the leather sector, facilitate additional investments, employment generation and increase in production.

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Statue of Equality' to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti saint Sri Ramanujacharya in **Hyderabad**.

**Note:** The statue will encourage youth and will be a symbol of knowledge, detachment, and ideals. PM Modi landed in the city earlier this afternoon where he also attended the 50th-anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.

6. The world's third-largest cricket stadium is going to be built in **Jaipur** city of India.

**Note:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone of the project virtually. This stadium is being built on the Jaipur-Delhi bypass.

7. **Surat** is set to become the first station to be ready between Mumbai – Ahmedabad Bullet Train route for India's first futuristic High Speed Rail project.

**Note:** The MAHSR corridor will cover 12 stations in total- Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Bilimora, Bharuch, Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi stations. Once the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project is ready, the journey time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be 2.07 hours (limited stops), 2.58 hours (halting at stations) vis a vis existing train journey duration of seven-eight hours.

8. PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will provide support for **17,788** rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 High Focus States.

**Note:** PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission which was earlier known as Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana, is one of the largest pan-India scheme for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. The scheme was announced in the Budget speech of Financial Year 2021-22 on 1st February last year with an outlay of 64 thousand 180 crore rupees over six years till the year 2025-26

9. **IIM, Ahmedabad** IIM will establish the country's first research chair in ESG in collaboration with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIF).

**Note:** The newly formed 'NIIF Chair in ESG at IIMA' will work closely with the Arun Duggal ESG Centre for Research and Innovation at IIMA. It will function

as the principal hub of knowledge and insights that allows businesses and policy makers to incorporate ESG principles in their long-term business and governance decisions.

10. The Central Government has decided to continue the Scheme of "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram, RYSK for another **five years**.

**Note:** The decision was taken with a view to achieving the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation building activities. Government of India also decided to continue the NSS(National Service Scheme) over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of Rs. 1,627 Crore. NSS is implemented in Senior Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities in all States and UTs across the country.

11. An igloo cafe named 'Snowglu', claimed to be world's largest cafe of its kind has been opened in **Jammu & Kashmir**.

**Note:** The cafe has been set up at the famous ski resort of Gulmarg. Syed Wasim Shah, the creator of the igloo, claimed the structure to be the world's largest cafe of its kind.

12. **Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market** is the theme of the ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy, being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs of Government of India.

**Note:** The High Level Conference focused on the theme: "Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market". The ASEAN-India High-Level Conference featured five technical sessions, which would facilitate peer-to-peer discussions between experts from India and ASEAN on themes of mutual interest.

13. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partnered with **NITI Aayog**, under the SAMRIDH scheme to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India.

**Note:** The initiative aims to improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions. Under this partnership, AIM and SAMRIDH have announced a Call for Proposals for healthcare innovators and entrepreneurs in India.

14. **Jammu and Kashmir** became the first Union Territory to be integrated with the National Single Window System (NSWS).

**Note:** National Single Window System (NSWS) was launched in September 2021 by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. It is a digital platform that serves as a guide for investors to identify and to

apply for approvals as per their business requirements.

15. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till **March 2026**.

**Note:** PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.

16. The flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of **Rs 4,600 crore**.

**Note:** PMKSY is a comprehensive package which will lead to creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. The scheme will boost growth of food processing sector but also help in providing better prices to farmers and creating huge employment opportunities.

17. **Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council** has organized Exclusive International Business Expo titled as 'India Telecom 2022'.

**Note:** It is being held from 8th to 10th February. Irto provide opportunities to the Indian telecom stakeholders to meet qualified overseas buyers It will be held under Market Access Initiative Scheme (MAI) of Department of Commerce and with support of Department of Telecommunications and Indian missions in different countries.

18. Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched a dedicated storefront for ayurvedic products on **Amazon**.

**Note:** This Ayurveda product storefront will enhance the visibility of unique Ayurveda products like skin-care supplements, immunity boosters, oils, juices and more from small businesses and startup brands. It will make shopping easier as product selection has been done according to focus areas and health benefits like pain management, immunity boosters, etc.

19. Atal Tunnel has officially been certified by the World Book of Records, as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet', the length of the tunnel is **9.02 km**.

**Note:** Notably, Atal Tunnel was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 3, 2020. The 9.02 km long, strategically significant, Atal Tunnel, that runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway under the challenging conditions of freezing temperatures in extremely difficult terrain.

20. As per 'Women in the Boardroom report' released by the Deloitte Global, **17.1 per cent** of Women representation of board seats in India in 2021.  
**Note:** However, only 3.6 per cent of the board chairs are women, down by 0.9 per cent since 2018. Austria, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the UK, and the US saw the most notable increases in women in board chairs.
21. India's ranked at 3rd in the 9th annual ranking of top 10 countries outside of the United States (US) for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021 released by the US Green Building Council (USGBC).  
**Note:** It has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021, followed by Canada at 2nd position with 205 projects. The ranking highlights countries and regions outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, and resilient building design, construction, and operations.
22. The central government has approved the continuation of a mega police modernisation scheme for five years up to 2025-26 with an outlay of **Rs 26,275 crore**.  
**Note:** The total financial outlay of the scheme will be Rs 26,275 crore. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) since 1969-70. This scheme comprises all relevant sub-schemes that contribute to the modernisation and improvement.
23. India's rank in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index 2021 is **46<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries. The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government, electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.
24. Recently 17<sup>th</sup> edition of Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films (MIFF-2022) was held.  
**Note:** Films that were completed between September 01, 2019 to Dec 31, 2021 are eligible for entry in MIFF-2022. It is organized by Films Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with support from Govt of Maharashtra, since 1990
25. By the year **2024** India will achieve zero-diesel use in agriculture and replace fossil fuel with renewable energy.  
**Note:** For this, states should develop action plan to achieve the assigned targets and specific agency dedicated for energy efficiency and conservation. This initiative is a part of government's commitment to increase the share of non-fossil fuels by 2030 and become a net zero emitter by 2070.
26. Kameng sector in Arunachal seven army personnel died in an avalanche.  
**Note:** All the seven personnel were later found deceased. The area is located at an altitude of 14,500 feet and had been witnessing heavy snowfall since the last few days. The Army had lost six personnel to avalanches and snow-slides in the Siachen Glacier in 2019, and 11 others in other parts of the country.
27. **REC** is the nodal agency the hackathon, Powerthon-2022 that was launched by the Union Power Ministry.  
**Note:** Union Power Minister R K Singh launched a hackathon, named Powerthon-2022, to find tech-driven solutions for quality power supply. It is launched under RDSS (Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme). New ideas and concepts will be rewarded with licence.
28. Indian Railways is setting up country's biggest and world class wrestling academy to support wrestling as a sport in **Delhi**.  
**Note:** The academy would be the biggest in the country, equipped with advanced training facilities. The sports facility being made at Delhi will be exclusively for wrestling and will provide opportunities for wrestlers to enhance their skills and become 'world champions' in the coming years.
29. **Which organization** has organized a hackathon named Darkathon-2022 from February 15 to April 22 to find solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets.  
**Note:** The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets. This hackathon is being organised in three phases starting today and concluding on 22nd April.
30. First of its kind two-day Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India' was held in **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** Union Ministry of Culture is organized the first of its kind summit to celebrate the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, as part of Azadi Ka Amritmahotsav marking 75 years of Independence of the Country. Over thousand museums from the country and abroad has showcased cultural heritage on the occasion to for educating future generations as part of the summit.
31. **Prime Minister** will be the head of the Apex Committee on G20 Secretariat, formed to oversee the preparations for G20 India Summit 2023.  
**Note:** The G20 Secretariat will be guided by an Apex Committee headed by Prime Minister and it will have the following members. Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister and G20 Sherpa (Piyush Goyal) will be the members of the committee.
32. The Ministry of Education (MoE) approved a new scheme "New India Literacy Programme" to be implemented from 2022 to **2027**.



**Note:** The ministry has also decided to use “Education For All” instead of “Adult Education” as the previous term did not appropriately represent all non-literates in the 15 years and above age group. The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism via online mode.

33. The Ministry of Education (MoE) approved a new scheme “New India Literacy Programme” under which the term “Adult Education” will be replaced by **Education for All**.

**Note:** The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of 15 years and above in the country. Now, Govt. has replaced the term “Adult Education (प्रौढ़ शिक्षा)” as ‘Education for All’ in the country. It will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.

34. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled the much-awaited water taxi service in **Mumbai**.  
**Note:** The initiative will help in promoting tourism as well as reducing traffic congestion in the city. The WT services are expected to cut the commuting time between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai by almost 45 minutes to an hour.

35. **World Heath Organization** organization has launched ‘Quit Tobacco App’ to help people to quite tobacco in all forms.

**Note:** The ‘WHO Quit Tobacco App’ is the latest tobacco control initiative by the WHO South-East Asia Region. It was launched during WHO’s year-long ‘Commit to quit’ campaign.

36. **12.758 km long** main tunnel of T-49, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section of Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project that has been connected successfully.

**Note:** It is constructed between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section USBRL. It the longest tunnel of Indian Railways. T49 is a tunnel of length 12.758 km long and it is going to be the longest tunnel of Indian Railway.

37. **Rs 200 crore** is the outlay of the Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNT/NT/SNTs (SEED) launched by the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).

**Note:** It is an umbrella scheme for the empowerment and welfare of the most deprived and economically weaker Indian communities’ viz. De-notified Tribes (DNTs), Nomadic Tribes (NTs) and Semi Nomadic Tribes (SNTs). It has been formulated with four components that affect their livelihood. Its outlay is ~Rs 200 crore to be spent over five years beginning 2021-22 to 2025-26.

38. The 12th edition of President’s Fleet Review was conducted at **Visakhapatnam** as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

**Note:** The 12th edition of President’s Fleet Review is being conducted at Visakhapatnam as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was also present at the event.

39. Under chairmanship of **N R Narayana Murthy**, the SEBI has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space.

**Note:** Chairman of the committee: N R Narayana Murthy. It will advise the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry. Prior to this, there were 22 members in the committee, which was constituted in March 2015.

40. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) is located in **Mumbai** where two new Centres called ‘Centre of Demography of Gender’ and ‘Centre for Ageing Studies’ are inaugurated recently.

**Note:** Here two new Departments and two new Research Centres were inaugurated by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharati Pawar. The newly inaugurated departments are ‘Department of Survey Research and Data Analytics’ and the ‘Department of Family and Generations’.

41. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has organized a Chintan Shivir ‘Heal by India’ for strengthening the country’s educational institutions in the health sector.

**Note:** Union Health Ministry has organized Chintan Shivir — ‘Heal by India’ for two days. Heal by India initiative: Generate job opportunities abroad for India’s trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.

42. Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route has been awarded to **SpiceJet** airline company under the UDAN 3.0.

**Note:** With this, 405 routes would be operationalized under the UDAN-RCS (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik- Regional Connectivity Scheme). The Delhi-Khajuraho-Delhi route was awarded to SpiceJet airline under the UDAN 3.0.

43. 550-tonne capacity ‘Gobar-Dhan’ Bio-CNG plant has been inaugurated in **Indore** by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Note:** It is based on the concept of waste-to-wealth innovation. The municipal solid waste based Gobar-Dhan plant is in line with PM’s vision of creating “garbage-free cities” under the Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.

44. The central government has launched a doorstep distribution drive 'Meri Policy Mere Hath' under **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.  
**Note:** The doorstep campaign aims to ensure all farmers are well aware and equipped with all information on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. The campaign will be launched in all implementing states in the upcoming Kharif season.
45. In February 2022, India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with **UAE**.  
**Note:** It will cover goods, services and digital trade, among others, that will allow 90% of the country's exports a duty-free access to the Emirates. The bilateral trade pact is India's first in the region and the first comprehensive trade agreement with any country in a decade. UAE is India's third-biggest trading partner behind the US and China.
46. The Government has approved the scheme of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for continuation till **2026**.  
**Note:** The proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores. It has been envisaged to support around 1600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.
47. India's first Biosafety level-3 containment mobile laboratory was launched in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.  
**Note:** The mobile laboratory has been set up to investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings. The laboratory has been designed and built by the Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Mumbai based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaid.
48. **Ricky Kej and Bickram Ghosh** has composed the signature tune for "Vande Bharatam" that was released by Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi.  
**Note:** The tune is composed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej and Oscar contender Bickram Ghosh. It was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New Delhi for Republic Day event 2022.
49. With financial outlay of **Rs 1,827 crores** the Central Govt has approved continuation of Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.  
**Note:** Financial outlay for the scheme: Rs 1,827 crores. Income ceiling for the scheme has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum
50. The 'Kisan Drone Yatra' was inaugurated virtually by PM Modi, was organised at **Manesar**.  
**Note:** The PM labelled it a "milestone" for Indian agriculture. A raft of recent policy relaxations and incentives, including proposals in the Union Budget 2022-23, has opened up India's vast agriculture sector for commercial use of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles.
51. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has approved the continuation of the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) till **2025-26**.  
**Note:** In eligibility criteria minor changes has been made such as increasing income ceiling from Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum. The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically-weaker sections to deter them from dropping out at class 8 and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage.
52. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Nikarshan Sadan" - The Dredging Museum in **Visakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** It displayed models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos, and historical milestones of this dredging behemoth from the Eastern Port City of Vizag. He also inaugurated skill development facility - Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) in Visakhapatnam, improving employability.
53. **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to implement Sustainable Cities India program.  
**Note:** The partnership gains significance on the backdrop of India's commitment at COP26 summit in Glasgow to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070. The 'Sustainable Cities India' intends to enable cities to decarbonise in a systematic and sustainable way that will reduce emissions and deliver resilient and equitable urban ecosystems.
54. International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) has launched a cybersecurity hub in **Bengaluru** to address the concerns of its clients across the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.  
**Note:** The security hub will be one of the only two centres globally. The other one is in the US. The IBM global analysis report for 2022 states that Asia emerged as the top-most targeted region for cyberattacks, representing 26% of attacks analyzed in 2021.
55. Indian Railways along Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), has Successfully commissioned India's first Solar Photovoltaic Plant of 1.7-MegaWatt (MW) at **Bina, Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The plant will directly feed power to traction systems of Indian Railways. The move to create a solar plant was taken after Indian Railways decided to be self-reliant for its energy needs and solarise

railway stations by utilizing its vacant lands for Renewable Energy (RE) projects. The Ministry of Railways has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands on mega scale.

56. The central government has recently launched an Ombudsperson App for **MNREGA**.

**Note:** It will facilitate hassle free reporting, categorization of grievances and disposal of complaints by Ombudsperson. It will also ensure tracking and timely passing of awards by Ombudsperson. The app will ensure transparency and accountability in the ecosystem of MNREGA

57. India's rank in the International Intellectual Property Index 2022 is **43<sup>rd</sup>**, compiled by US Chambers of Commerce.

**Note:** Overall score of India has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition. It is released by Global Innovation Policy Center of U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Top countries: USA, followed by UK, Germany, Sweden, and France.

58. **Cochin International Airport** is the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, that is set to become power-positive.

**Note:** CIAL's solar plants together generate two lakh units of power a day whereas the daily consumption of power in the airport stands at 1.6 lakh units. The airport became the first in the world in 2015 to be fully powered by solar energy.

59. In Bhasha Sangam mobile app people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in **22** many Indian languages.

**Note:** The 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' initiative is encouraging people to upload their selfies with the

certificate from their social media accounts using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie. Using the app, people can learn 100+ sentences of daily use in as many as 22 scheduled Indian languages.

60. **Operation Ganga** has been launched by Indian government for the evacuation of Indian Nationals from Ukraine due to Russia-Ukraine war.

**Note:** Due to the ongoing tension between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine has been declared as a no-fly zone by the authorities for the safety and security of the nations. Due to this many Indian nationals were left stranded in Ukraine. To help the Indian citizens come back to the country, the government of India decided to conduct a special evacuation mission named Operation Ganga.

61. Union Minister for MSME, Narayan Rane announced establishment of MSME-Technology Centre at **Sindhudurg**.

**Note:** The MSME-Technology Center to be set up at Sindhudurg at a cost of about Rs 200 crore will enhance the competitiveness of MSME industries. MSME RuPay Credit card will enable the user to avail the facility of digital payment at any time.

62. BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL), a subsidiary of Reliance Infrastructure-backed BSES has commissioned India's first 'Smart Managed EV Charging Station' in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** Supported by Nordic Innovation, an organisation promoted by the governments of Nordic countries, and executed by Fortum Charge & Drive, it will be the first BYPL operated and managed Smart EV Charging Station.

## January 2022

1. India's first state-of-the-art water taxi services will be commissioned in **Mumbai**.

**Note:** The services would be formally launched in January by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the exact dates are being finalised. The project is a joint initiative of Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT), City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB). Infinity Harbour Services LLP and West Coast Marine will be the two service operators.

2. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, **Bharati Pawar** has inaugurated Central Government Health Scheme, CGHS Wellness Centre in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.

**Note:** After this, Nashik will be 4th city in Maharashtra after Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur to have CGHS Wellness Centre. It will provide OPD Treatment including issue of medicines, indoor

treatment at Government and Empanelled Hospitals, cashless facility available for treatment in empanelled centers for pensioners and other identified beneficiaries.

3. The foundation stone for the Heartfulness International Yoga academy for setting new benchmarks in yoga training has been laid down in **Hyderabad** by the Union Ayush Minister, Sarbananda Sonowal.

**Note:** It comprises Yoga halls that can accommodate 100 Yoga students in each hall, therapeutic Yoga rooms for consultation, one to one training spaces or small group classes, pre-natal Yoga rooms, lecture hall with 200 sitting capacity, full-fledged recording studio, etc. It will have trainers from India, Europe, Australia, Uzbekistan and US

4. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** is organizing Climate Change Awareness Campaign and National Photography Competition.  
**Note:** Campaign will have Municipal Commissioners and key heads of urban local bodies and Smart City CEOs creating awareness about Urban Climate Change and Sustainability. The competition will be open to all participants till 26th January 2022 on climate change
5. Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport is located in **Agartala** city where Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building recently.  
**Note:** The airport is a blend of Tripura's culture, natural beauty and modern facilities. It will play a big role in enhancing air connectivity in the North East. This is turning Tripura into a new hub of business and industry as well as a trade corridor.
6. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) is flagship scheme of **Ministry of Power** that has completed seven years of its implementation.  
**Note:** The initiative evolved into the world's largest zero subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country. Launched in 2015, the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) succeeded in bringing down the retail price of LED bulbs from ₹300-350 a bulb to ₹70-80.
7. 'Gram Ujala programme' is a flagship scheme of **Ministry of Power**.  
**Note:** It was launched by the Union minister of power and new and renewable energy RK Singh in March 2021. State-owned CESL has achieved a milestone of 50 lakh LED bulb distribution under the flagship Gram Ujala programme.
8. **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has released draft National Air Sports Policy (NASP) for public feedback.  
**Note:** As per an official release issued by the ministry the policy seeks to leverage India's potential for air sports and places a strong focus on ensuring international best practices in safety. The vision of the policy is to make India one of the top air sports nations by 2030.
9. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award, that is being awarded for **Public Administration** sector.  
**Note:** The award is being awarded for excellence in Public Administration" - to acknowledge, recognize and reward the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts/ Organizations of the Central and State Governments. Recently, Union Minister of State Dr Jitendra Singh today launched the Web Portal for PM's Excellence Award.
10. The tagline of the 25th National Youth Festival 2022 to be held in Puducherry from 12th to 16th January 2022 -- **Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva**.  
**Note:** He also unveiled the tagline of National Youth Festival, Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva meaning Capable Youth- Forceful Youth, Able Youth- Strong Youth. National Youth Festival is organized by Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States.
11. **NHPC Ltd.** has signed a Promoters Agreement with the Green Energy Development Corporation of Odisha (GEDCOL) for the development of 500 megawatts (MW) floating solar projects on different water bodies in the state.  
**Note:** The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the same was signed between NHPC and GEDCOL in July 2020. NHPC and GEDCOL agree to establish a joint venture (JV) company for implementation of 500 MW floating solar power projects in Odisha and other such projects in subsequent periods as may be decided from time to time.
12. 24th conference on e-Governance (NceG) was held in **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:** The conference was inaugurated by Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Science and Technology and Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions). The national awards for e-Governance 2021 were presented under six categories during the event.
13. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by **2024**.  
**Note:** The ₹3.6 trillion JJM scheme aims to ensure assured tap water supply or 'Har Ghar Jal' to all rural households by 2024, with several states having presented their commitment to provide tap water connections to all rural households before 2024. Drinking water supply schemes totaling ₹6,872.28 crore have been approved in Rajasthan under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
14. The RPF has deployed 244 Meri Saheli teams at major railway stations across the country to provide security to lady passengers in long distance trains particularly travelling alone.  
**Note:** RPF collects feedback from these lady passengers at the end of their journeys to assess the efficacy of the initiative.
15. Total outlay of the second phase of the Green Energy Corridor of the intra-state transmission system that was approved by the union cabinet in January 2022 -- **₹ 12,000 crore**.  
**Note:** The scheme will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of about 20 GW of renewable energy (RE) projects in seven states — Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme will help



in achieving the target of 450 GW installed RE capacity by 2030.

16. The Akshaya Patra Foundation (TAPF) has partnered with **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** to enhance the effectiveness of the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman.  
**Note:** The partnership is a strategic force multiplier bringing deep work and experience together. India was strategically important for School Meals Coalition that was launched in 2020 with WFP as a coordinating body, as it implemented the largest school feeding programme in the world. A steering committee formed between these organisations would plan, discuss and mobilise financial resources to implement various activities.
17. **DPIIT** has organized the first ever Startup India Innovation Week from 10th to 16th January 2022.  
**Note:** This virtual week-long innovation celebration aims to commemorate the 75th year of India's independence 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. This is designed to showcase the spread and depth of entrepreneurship across India. India is emerging as a global innovation hub, boasting the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.
18. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in India's first multi-dimensional adventure sports expedition conducted by National Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports in **France**.  
**Note:** The expedition was conducted in November last year and the team comprising 12 people - eight Army personnel and four youths of Arunachal Pradesh. Mr Singh interacted with some of the members of the team present in New Delhi. He distributed appreciation certificates and commended the team for completing the expedition without any injuries to the members.
19. **Doon School** has organized 82nd Indian Public Schools' Conference (IPSC) Principals'.  
**Note:** It is being organized by Doon School. IPSC started in 1939 with a few residential schools now has a strength of 81 schools including Sainik Schools and Military Schools.
20. **Kevadiya Railway Station** has been renamed as **Ekta Nagar** railway station.  
**Note:** Statue of Unity's Kevadiya railway station falls under the Vadodara division. New station code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be EKNR. Numerical code of Ekta Nagar railway station will be 08224620.
21. **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** works under **Ministry of MSMEs**.  
**Note:** Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), under the Ministry of MSME, has launched two new products- Khadi babywear and handmade paper 'Use and Throw' Slippers. Beginning from January 14, Khadi and Village Industries

Commission (KVIC) is starting the sale of Khadi handmade paper "Use & Throw" slippers for the use of devotees and workers.

22. According to the **Henley Global Mobility Report 2022**, Indian passport has been ranked at **83<sup>rd</sup> position**.  
**Note:** However, in 2020, its rank stood at 84 while in 2016, India was ranked 85th along with Mali and Uzbekistan. Japan and Singapore top the index. The current rankings are for first quarter of 2022 and India shares the position with Sao Tome and Principe in Central Africa, behind Rwanda and Uganda.
23. In January 2022, an 'MSME Technology Centre' was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in **Puducherry**.  
**Note:** The centre was inaugurated during the inauguration event of the 25th National youth Festival (12th & 13th January 2022) in Puducherry. He also inaugurated the 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam', a modern auditorium with an open-air theatre in Puducherry.
24. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **Andhra Pradesh** state recorded maximum forest cover increase in two years.  
**Note:** In 2021, the total forest and tree cover in India is 80.9 million hectares. This is over 24.60 percent of the geographical area of the country. According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km).
25. According to the biennial India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **24.62%** percent of geographical area of the country is under forest and tree cover.  
**Note:** The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover are Andhra Pradesh (647 sq km), Telangana (632 sq km), Odisha (537 sq km), Karnataka (155 sq km) and Jharkhand (110 sq km). The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). In the year 2022, 17th edition of the report is released by the environment minister Bhupender Yadav.
26. **Meenakashi Lekhi** has launched the 'North East on Wheels Expedition' in New Delhi to promote the Culture of Northeastern States.  
**Note:** It is scheduled to be held between 8th to 16th April this year to mark the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. 75 Bikers participating in this expedition will be selected from all over the country and will cover about 9000 km in the North-East Region in 6 groups.
27. **Gurugram** will get India's first heli-hub designed to have many aviation facilities like heliport, hangars, repairs, and any other related services.

**Note:** The heli-hub is proposed to be built in Gurugram & would be near the metro facility along with easy connectivity to industrial areas (Noida & Bhiwadi).

- 28. Chennai International Airport, Chennai** has been ranked eight for on-time performance among large international airports globally for 2021 by Cirium — a provider of aviation data to the travel, finance, aerospace and aviation industries.

**Note:** In a review conducted by Cirium, an organisation that specialises in offering aviation data to travel, finance, aerospace, and aviation industries, the airport has been ranked 8th for 'on-time performance' for the year 2021. Besides that, Chennai airport is the only Indian airport to figure in the top 10 positions of the list.

- 29. Tata Consultancy Services** has been selected by the Ministry of External Affairs for the 2nd phase of the Passport Seva Programme, the country's largest mission-critical e-governance programme.

**Note:** Launched in 2008, the PSP saw TCS transforming the delivery of passport-related services, digitizing the processes, and setting global benchmarks in timeliness, transparency, and reliability. In the next phase, TCS will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports.

- 30. Zojila project, Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel** will connect Ladkha with **Srinagar**.

**Note:** The project of the NHIDCL, being executed by the MEIL, is envisaged to ensure connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh throughout the year. Zojila project, Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel, is a challenging development project in India for strategic reasons too.

- 31. The theme of the 16th India Digital Summit, 2022 -- Supercharging Startups.**

**Note:** It is the oldest event of the digital industry in India. During the summit, Minister unveiled 'LEAP' as the way forward to further strengthen our Startups ecosystem.

- 32. Union govt has dedicated India's first BHEL-built 'coal to methanol' (CTM) pilot plant to the nation in Hyderabad.**

**Note:** The 0.25 TPD capacity CTM pilot plant is currently producing methanol with purity of more than 99% from high-ash coal. This conversion of high-ash Indian coal to methanol through the gasification route is the first-of-its-kind technology demonstration in India.

- 33. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** conducting the open data week from 17th to 21st January 2022, to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India's urban ecosystem.

**Note:** The Open Data Week is being conducted from 17th to 21st January 2022. It is a part of a series of pre-event initiatives leading up to the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav – Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization' conference to be held next month.

- 34. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** has organized the 26th CISO Deep Dive Training program under Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative.

**Note:** The training is aimed to equip participants with better understanding of emerging cyber threat landscape, understand best practices in cyber security. It will cover topics such as Governance Risk and Compliance and Data Privacy, Network Security, End Point Security, Application and Data Security, Cloud Security, Mobile Security, Cryptography, Cyber Security related provisions in IT Act.

- 35. India's Supermom tigress, popularly known as 'Collarwali' passed away at Pench Tiger Reserve.**

**Note:** She was known for giving birth to 29 cubs during her lifetime, which is believed to be a world record. Official name given to the tigress by forest department was T-15 but she was fondly called 'Collarwali' by the native people

- 36. Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship** has signed MoU with **IGNOU** to further strengthen the vocational and technical training framework.

**Note:** Aim: to link vocational education and training with higher education, making India's youth employable by creating avenues for them to access better work opportunities. The trainees attached to National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI), Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), PMKK and JSS.

- 37. On the occasion of the 74th Army Day (15th January), 'Monumental National Flag,' the world's largest national flag made from Khadi, was displayed Longewala. The Longewala is located in Rajasthan.**

**Note:** Longewala, in the western part of the desert state's Jaisalmer district, was the site of the iconic Battle of Longewala in 1971, which was fought during that year's war between the two neighbours.

- 38. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was erected to honour thousands of Indian soldiers who martyred during Indo-Pak War 1971.**

**Note:** The Amar Jawan Jyoti was erected as a memorial to fallen soldiers of the 1971 operations that led to the freedom of Bangladesh. It is housed inside the India Gate, a British era memorial to soldiers who lost their lives in pre-independence operations.

- 39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched India-assisted Social Housing Units project in Mauritius.**

**Note:** Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects are being undertaken under India's development support in Mauritius.

40. India's first state-of-the-art, high-performance para-badminton academy with advanced equipment and facilities has been set up in **Lucknow**.  
**Note:** The centre has been launched by Dronacharya awardee and head national coach of Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance. Khanna also unveiled the Ageas Federal 'Quest for Fearless Shuttlers' programme to spot and nurture new talent for the 2028 and 2032 Paralympics.
41. **NITI Aayog** has released a report titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**' in collaboration with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India.  
**Note:** Report provides considerations and recommendations to inform inclusion of EVs in RBI's PSL guidelines. Banks and NBFCs in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle financing market size of Rs 40,000 crore (USD 5 billion) by 2025.
42. The Gujarat government named an under-bridge in Rajkot after **General Bipin Rawat**.  
**Note:** General Rawat died on December 8 when his military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu. All 14 on board, including the general's wife, perished in the incident.
43. India's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 released by the Transparency International -- **85<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The ranking has been topped jointly by three countries- Denmark, Finland and New Zealand (Score of 88). This ranking measures how corrupt each country's public sector is perceived to be. The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). 180 countries are ranked in it.
44. In association with Amar Chitra Katha, **Ministry of Culture** has prepared the comic book titled 'India's Women Unsung Heroes'.  
**Note:** The unique book has been prepared by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in partnership with Amar Chitra Katha. It beautifully portrays the tales of valor of our forgotten women freedom fighters.
45. Shivangi Singh held from **Uttar Pradesh**, became the first woman fighter pilot to fly Rafale as part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the Republic Day parade.  
**Note:** Shivangi is from Varanasi and is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab. Shivangi Singh joined the Indian Air Force in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
46. **Rs 120 crore** has been allocated under PLI scheme for drones and drone components.  
**Note:** The PLI scheme came as a follow-through of the liberalised Drone Rules, 2021, released by the MoCA on August 25, 2021.
47. **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu** has been awarded the prestigious international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population since 2010.  
**Note:** Nepal's Bardia National Park was also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers. The Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in Erode district, and now houses 80 tigers in its 1408 sq. km campus.
48. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation on the 92nd birth anniversary Pandit Jasraj, who was a legendary **Vocalist**.  
**Note:** During the launch PM called for the globalization of Indian Music. He also urged people to take Indian music to the world and said that people should be setting up startups based on music.
49. India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) will be setup in **Thrissur, Kerala**.  
**Note:** This will be a joint venture between Pune-headquartered Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (CMET), Digital University Kerala (DUK), Tata Steel Limited and other industries. Earlier this week, the MeitY gave IICG an 'in-principle' approval.
50. With technical assistance of **Israel**, the union government has decided to convert as many as 150 villages into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 states.  
**Note:** Already, the Israeli government has established 29 Centre of Excellence (CoEs) in 12 states. The 150 villages that are located around CoEs will be converted into 'Villages of Excellence.'
51. The theme of the 30th Foundation Day celebration of National Commission for Women (NCW) -- **She The Change Maker**.  
**Note:** "The theme of the programme is 'She The Change Maker', aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields. The State Commissions for Women and Department of Women and Child Development in State Govt will participate.
52. The govt has mandated storage of international calls, satellite phone calls, conference calls and messages made over normal networks as well as on the internet for a period of at least **two years**.  
**Note:** The move follows an amendment made in the unified licence (UL) in Dec by the DoT. UL holders are telecom companies like Bharti Airtel, Reliance Jio, Vodafone Idea, BSNL for providing all kinds of telecom services, except satellite phone services.
53. India's largest 100-point electric vehicle charging station for four-wheelers was inaugurated in **Gurugram**.  
**Note:** The station is bound to attract city residents to switch to electric vehicles in the near future. The project was launched by the National Highway for Electric Vehicle. It is a private entity which has

expertise in carrying out pilot projects and is working with government agencies and the NITI Aayog.

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

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

## Important News – State

### 1st- 15th May 2022

1. In **Purnia district**, CM Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's first ethanol plant in Bihar.

**Note:** The plant has been set up by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited at a cost of ₹105 crores. Bihar came up with an ethanol production promotion policy in the first half of 2021. It is the country's first grain-based ethanol plant. Ethanol production will help to reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.

2. In **Puducherry** Mega Health Festival has been inaugurated.

**Note:** Dr. TAMILISAI Soundararajan (LG of Puducherry) and CM N. Rangasamy have inaugurated a Mega Health Festival, which is jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Puducherry Health and Family Welfare Services Department. The Mela is being organised at the Puducherry Rock Beach. Super-speciality medical consultation to the common public would be given free of cost.

3. **Karnataka** state government has signed an MoU with ISMC Analog Fab Private Limited (Israel-based) for setting up a semiconductor fab plant in the state at a cost of Rs 22,900 crore (USD 3 billion).

**Note:** The project will be implemented over a period of seven years and generate 1,500 jobs. The ISMC has also requested 150 acres of land in Mysuru's Kochanahalli Industrial area. Karnataka Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot; Chief minister: Basavaraj Bommai

4. **Maharashtra** state government cabinet has approved to set up of a gene bank project in the state to conserve native and endangered animals and biological species.

**Note:** The Gene Bank will work on freshwater, grassland biodiversity, protection, marine, crop, veterinary, and management of forest right areas, and regeneration of forests. An amount of ₹172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas. The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB).

5. **Narayan Rane (Union Minister for MSME)** has inaugurated the Maharashtra MSME Expo 2022 in Mumbai.

**Note:** The MSME sector contributes 50% of the country's total exports and 30% to economic growth. MSME will set up 37 clusters in Maharashtra in the next two years. During an event, he also launched the magazine 'Maharashtra MSME Achievers'. The event was organized in collaboration with the MSME ministry and MSME Development Organization named "Zhep, Udyoginichi" and "We MSME".

6. Khandra, Panipat, is the native village of **Neeraj Chopra** where Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has announced to build a stadium.

**Note:** A stadium would cost ₹10 crores to the government. In 2021, Chopra (Javelin thrower) became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Olympic track and field. Khelo India Youth Games-2021 will be organised by the Haryana Government from June 4 to June 13.

7. **Chhattisgarh** state government has launched a doorstep delivery scheme named Mukhyamantri Mitaaan Yojna (Mitaaan stands for a friend).

**Note:** The scheme will be implemented as a pilot project in 14 civic bodies. Citizens of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services, including delivery of birth, caste, income and marriage certificates, at their doorstep under a new scheme launched by the state government.

8. **Telangana Government** state government has announced the extension of insurance coverage to handloom and power loom weavers under 'Nethanna Bima' (Weaver's Insurance) Scheme.

**Note:** The State Government has extended the insurance coverage of 5 lakh rupees for weavers under the Insurance Scheme on par with Rythu Bima insurance scheme. The insurance coverage would be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years. Telangana Governor: TAMILISAI Soundararajan; CM: K. Chandrashekar Rao

9. **Haryana** state government has launched a Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) mobile app to track the vehicles carrying sand and other mining material.

**Note:** The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana. All vehicle details including



- vehicle type, vehicle number, moving from, moving to, and driver details will be stored in it. The non-registered individual will not be permitted to enter the zone of sand mining.
- 10. Manipur** state has launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for 18,000 registered farmers under Horticulture Department for Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER), Phase- III (2020-23).
- Note:** DBT of Rs. 11,250 per farmer, for the components of assistance for on-farm input for both 1st year and 2nd year and for off-farm inputs production for 1st was transferred to the individual registered farmer's account.
- 11.** By the year **2030**, Delhi government has set a target to encourage, facilitate, and support 15,000 startups.
- Note:** The Delhi cabinet has approved the "Delhi Startup Policy" with an aim to create an ecosystem for people to launch startups and provide them with fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, collateral-free loans, and free consultancy from experts, lawyers, and CA. The 20 members task force will be set up including government officials and experts from business and trade.
- 12. Odisha** state has come up with an observatory that will establish a repository on the health of the tribal population in the state.
- Note:** This will be India's only tribal health observatory. An MoU was signed between the ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC (Regional centre of ICMR). It will perform systematic and ongoing observation on disease burden, health-seeking behaviour and healthcare delivery system pertaining to tribal health in the state.
- 13. Tamil Nadu** state government has announced that all government primary school students from 1st to 5th standards will be provided nutritious breakfast on all working days.
- Note:** Tamil Nadu is set to become the first state to offer breakfast along with midday meals. This includes the launch of integrated urban health centres within the Corporation and Municipal limits. Earlier, he also announced schools with modern facilities will be established.
- 14. Under e-Adhigam scheme** Haryana government distributed nearly three lakh tablets to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.
- Note:** These tablets have pre-loaded content along with personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB of free data. The country has set a target to implement the New Education Policy (NEP) by 2030, but the Haryana government it is 2025.
- 15. Shaili App** is the mobile application launched by the Kerala government to diagnose and control lifestyle diseases among people in the southern State.
- Note:** The app will help the citizen to provide an accurate picture of such ailments both locally and at the State-level. The app was set up under the e-Health initiative, and will provide data to the government so that health plans can be formulated to control such diseases.
- 16.** Poumai tribe of **Manipur** has declared that Poumai inhabited areas to be a Drug-Free Zone supporting the State government's War on Drug campaign.
- Note:** Tribes also informed CM N. Biren Singh that the poppy plantation will not be allowed in the Poumai areas. The Poumai Naga are one of the major Naga tribes in Manipur.
- 17. Ayodhya** 's crossing of Uttar Pradesh will be named after legendary singer late Lata Mangeshkar \_\_\_\_.
- Note:** The Ayodhya administration has received directions from CM Yogi Adityanath to identify a prominent crossing in Ayodhya and send a proposal to the state government in the next 15 days for renaming it. Construction of the Ram temple is likely to be completed by December 2023.
- 18. Delhi** government will provide free sewer connections under the Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana to 25,000 households in East Delhi.
- Note:** These free connections will be provided in 12 colonies in Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad. The household sewage system will be connected to the existing sewer network, which will carry the waste to the Yamuna Vihar sewage treatment plant. The decision was taken by the DJB chaired by Water Minister Satyendar Jain.
- 19. Haryana, JP Dalal (Haryana agriculture minister)** state government has launched the 'Chaara-Bijae Yojana' scheme to provide financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per acre to grow fodder framers.
- Note:** Farmers need to grow fodder on up to 10 acres of land around the gaushalas (cowsheds) and provide it to them through mutual consent. The amount will be credited to the bank accounts of farmers through direct benefit transfer (DBT) mode.
- 20. Near Haji Ali in Mumbai, Maharashtra** the nation's first organic waste-powered EV charging station has been inaugurated.
- Note:** The station will generate 220 units of electricity from food waste collected from its nearby areas. This station powers street lights and charge electric

vehicles too. The project was done by the civic body in association AeroCare Clean Energy.

21. **Chhattisgarh government** has issued a notification to restore the old pension scheme effective from April 1, 2022.

**Note:** Also, the 10% deduction for monthly contribution from the salary of government employees as a contribution to the new pension scheme will be abolished from April 1, 2022. However, a minimum of 12% of the basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.

## April -2022

1. **The Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple** was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage tentative list with the Monolithic Bull (Nandi) at Lepakshi, Andhra Pradesh.

**Note:** The Sri Veerabhadra Swamy temple is also known as the Lepakshi temple is dedicated to Veerabhadra (Shiva). Currently, India has 40 UNESCO sites.

2. GudhiPadwa is observed as a New year in **Maharashtra (Marathi New Year Day)**.

**Note:** The same day is celebrated as the first day of Chaitra Navratri in North India and Ugadi in Andhra Pradesh. GudiPadwa is also popularly known as SamvatsaraPadvo and it literally means the first day of the new Samvat.

3. **Uttar Pradesh** state has become the largest producer of vegetables in India in 2021-22 Crop Year (CY) (July-June).

**Note:** The second-largest producer of vegetables in India is West Bengal, followed by Bihar, and Maharashtra. With 18.01 million tonnes of fruit production, Andhra Pradesh has remained the top fruit producer in India, followed by Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, and Gujarat.

4. **Hobby Hubs** scheme was launched by the Delhi government for government schools in Delhi to promote extra-curricular activities.

**Note:** Aim: optimum use of school infrastructure and promote these extra-curricular activities. Categories of activities: Dance, music, technical, literary and others such as yoga, garment work, photography, and radio jockey.

5. **Chittoor police** in Andhra Pradesh has set up three 'She Auto' stands in Tirupati.

**Note:** Three 'She Auto' stands have been set up in RTC Bus Stand, Mahila University, and Ruia Hospital. Aim: Women and girls student's safety

6. Tata Power Renewables Energy Ltd (TPREL) has commissioned a solar project of **300 MW project** capacity in Dholera, Gujarat.

**Note:** The project will generate 774 million units annually and reduce approximately 704340 MT/year of carbon emission. 1320 Acre area has been used for the installation. The renewables capacity in operation for Tata Power is 3,400 MW - Solar: 2,468 MW and Wind: 932 MW.

7. **Andhra Pradesh** state has launched 13 new districts in the state, and now the total number of districts is 26.

**Note:** Aims better administration and transparency, create a smooth and effective delivery mechanism for welfare schemes. New Districts: ParvathipuramManyam, Alluri Seetharamaraju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Konaseema, Eluru, NTR, Palanadu, Bapatla, Nandyala, Sri Satya Sai, Annamayya and Tirupati

8. **Uttarakhand** state has about to launch Him Prahari scheme.

**Note:** Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has met with Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs to ask for their cooperation in the smooth implementation of Him Prahari scheme. Him Prahari aims to stop the migration of people from the state's international border.

9. A community museum was inaugurated in **Gya-Sasoma villages of Leh district, Ladakh**.

**Note:** Aims to preserve and forward Ladakh's rich cultural heritage to future generations. Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh Chairman/CEC TashiGyaltson has inaugurated the Community Museum in Gya - Sasoma.

10. **Nandini Ksheera Samridhi Cooperative Bank** has been set up by the Karnataka government to provide greater financial strength for the milk producers.

**Note:** Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah has released the logo Cooperative Bank. Capital of proposed cooperative bank: Rs. 360 crores (State government: Rs.100 cr and the Milk

Federation and Cooperatives contributing Rs. 260 crores)

11. **Tamil Nadu** state government has launched the 'Kaal Uthavi' app to seek police assistance during an emergency.

**Note:** The app is containing sixty features that are used to send an emergency alert to the police control room. By pressing the emergency red button, the user's live location will be shared with the control room.

12. **School Chalo Abhiyan** campaign was launched by the Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath to ensure 100% enrolment in primary schools across all districts in the state.

**Notes:** The campaign has been launched from one of the state's lowest literacy districts, Shravasti. The campaign soon will be expanded to Bahraich, Balrampur, Badaun and Rampur.

13. **Madhya Pradesh** state government has launched the Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojna.

**Note:** Under the scheme, the state govt will provide Rs 1 lakh to 50 lakh loans for MSME start-ups. The govt will also give a 3% per year interest subsidy and bank loan guarantee fee for 7 years.

14. **Kangra Tea** brand is likely to win the European Union Geographical Indication Tag (GI Tag).

**Note:** This tag helps Kangra tea to get an opportunity to enter the European market. Kangra tea received the Indian GI tag in 2005.

15. **1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App** mobile app which was launched by the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

**Note:** This mobile application has been developed by the vigilance department, Uttarakhand. It helps the citizens to lodge corruption-related complaints directly with the authorities.

16. **The Odisha Government** state government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to take crucial steps toward the proliferation of green energy in the state.

**Note:** Tenure of MoU: 5 years. Odisha is the single largest manufacturer of steel in the country and contributes 33% of steel manufacturing in India. BPCL also planning to invest Rs 25,000 crore to build a renewable energy capacity of 10 gigawatts by 2040.

17. **Tamil Nadu** has observed 'Equality Day' on the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar on April 14.

**Note:** The government also informed that swift action taken on any representation aimed at the growth of all the Tamils. The DMK government already declared Periyar's birth anniversary on September 17 as social justice day.

18. **I Sea PONDY-2022, sea festival** was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan in Puducherry.

**Note:** The four days festival will be celebrated in Puducherry Gandhi Beach, Pondy Marina, and Sandunes of Paradise Beach. Various cultural events and contests organised during the festival.

19. **Robin Uthappa** has been appointed by the Karnataka government as the brand ambassador for Brain Health Initiative which was started by the Karnataka Health Department.

**Note:** The KA-BHI was launched in association with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, NITI Aayog, and the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, Karnataka.

20. The new name of Chindwara oranges is **Satpuda oranges**.

**Note:** The authorities have also created a QR code for the fruit which reveal all the information about the variety. Chhindwara oranges have a thin cover and are sweet and juicy. With these distinct qualities, cultivators can directly sell fruit to multinational companies.

21. PM Modi has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated the various projects worth 22,000 crore rupees in **Dahod, Gujarat**.

**Note:** Dahod District Southern Area Regional Water Supply Scheme, constructed at Narmada River Basin (Rs 840 crore); Dahod Smart City (Rs 335 crore). Manufacturing project of 9,000 HP Electric Locomotives at the Railway Production Unit in Dahod, 10,000 tribals of Panchmahal and Dahod districts (provided Rs 120 crore under PMAY).

22. **Jammu and Kashmir** has launched Jan Nigrani mobile application to help people lodge complaints related to various schemes online.

**Note:** The app was launched by Jammu and Kashmir under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj. Aim of this app is to report and resolve the grievances of the residents of J&K, against various government schemes launched by the department.

23. Small Industries Development Bank of India has provided the first approval under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF) to the Maharashtra government of **₹600 crores**.

**Note:** The aid has been approved for reviving/ upgrading ITIs/polytechnics run by the Directorate of Vocational Education and Training under the Department of Skills,

Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation. SIDBI is the principal financial institution focused on the promotion, financing, and development of MSMEs.

- 24. Palli village in Samba district** of Jammu has become the nation's first panchayat to become carbon neutral, fully powered by solar energy.

**Note:** This project (500 KW solar plant) with the help of villagers was completed in a record time of three weeks. 1,500 solar panels were placed in a total area of 6,408 sq mt to provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme. J&K Governor: Manoj Sinha

- 25. 300 rupees per day** is the minimum wages of the daily wagers (including casual labourers) in all Government Departments of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Note:** The Labour department has intimated that the process shall be completed within 3 months. The daily wagers are playing a crucial role in the development of UT and the interim measure has been taken to benefit a sizable portion of the workforce.

- 26. Maharashtra** has inaugurated the city's first completely digital bus with a unique 'Tap-in Tap-out' feature.

**Note:** From the Gateway of India to the Churchgate route. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is the nation's first bus service that is completely digital. At the initial stage, the 'Tap-in Tap-out' feature will be available in two buses only.

- 27. Agra (UP)** has become the first city in India to have vacuum-based sewers.

**Note:** The corporation has connected vacuums to 240 such houses (near the Taj Mahal) where conventional sewer systems can not be used. The estimated cost for the work of sewer connection is Rs 100 crore. The Maintenance and complete care will be done by the Netherlands company for up to five years.

- 28. Rampur Gram Panchayat Patwai of development block Shahbad of Uttar Pradesh** has prepared the India's first-ever Amrit Sarovar.

**Note:** 75 water bodies were picked to develop and rejuvenate in each district as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The construction work on the pond in Gram Panchayat Singan Kheda with the largest area has also begun

### March -2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** The PPA is valid for a period of 35 years which can be further extended at mutually agreed terms. The PPA was signed at a levelised ceiling tariff of ₹4.50/kWh (at ex bus-bar). The PPA capacity was

selected through competitive bidding underexpression of interest invited by the HPPC in July 2018.

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

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

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

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



7. **Delhi** state government has inaugurated a teachers university that will offer programmes like BA BEd, BSc BEd, etc.  
**Note:** Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has inaugurated Delhi Teacher's University. Its campus is located in Outram Lane in the Mukherjee Nagar area of the national capital. It will offer a new-age integrated education programme after Class 12.
8. **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has collaborated with **Tamil Nadu** state government to promote awareness among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) of the state about the benefits of listing.  
**Note:** To facilitate this, BSE will partner with MSME Trade and Investment Promotion Bureau (M-TIPB). As part of the collaboration, BSE will provide the capacity building and soft support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Tamil Nadu for fulfilling listing requirements.
9. **Sikkim** state government will soon implement 'Aama Yojna', a scheme for helping non-working mothers & 'Bahini Scheme' benefitting girl students of the state.  
**Note:** The scheme aims to inculcate the habit of saving among non-working mothers in the state and hence the Govt. will provide them Rs. 20,000 each in their bank accounts annually. The Sikkim government has sanctioned Rs 32 crore for the scheme this year.
10. **Haryana** state government has announced **Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme** to provide support to women entrepreneurs.  
**Note:** Under the scheme the women whose family annual income is less than 5 lakh rupees and who wish to become entrepreneurs in any enterprise, trade or business will be provided access to soft loans by financial institutions to the extent of 3 lakh rupees. Subsequently interest subvention of 7 percent will also be provided for three years through the Haryana Women Development Corporation.
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.

February 2022

1. **Andhra Pradesh** state government has promulgated an ordinance to enhance the retirement age for its employees by 2 years to 62.  
**Note:** Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan promulgated the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 to this effect. On January 21, the state Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the AP Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) Act, 1984 in line with the announcement made by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy.
2. Spituk Gustor is an annual celebration of culture and traditional heritage of **Ladakh**.  
**Note:** It is a two-day annual celebration of Ladakhi culture and traditional heritage celebrated every year. The main attraction of the festival was the colourful mask dance locally called Chams performed by the monks of the monastery in their best robes depicting different deities such as Mahakala (Gonbo), Paldan Lhamo (Shridevi), White Mahakala, Protector Deity.
3. India's first 'geological park' will be set up in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Approval for the park has been granted by Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of Rs 35 crores. The geological park will be built in Lamheta, because this place is among significant places in the world, from the geological point of view.
4. Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Gujarat** that has been declared Ramsar sites recently.  
**Note:** Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary (Ramsar site No. 2464), a freshwater wetland near the coast of the Gulf of Kutch, was formed following the creation of a bund (dike) in 1920 by the then ruler of the erstwhile princely state of Nawanagar to protect farmlands from saltwater ingress. The sanctuary is now part of Marine National Park, Jamnagar, the first marine national park in the country.
5. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary is located in **Uttar Pradesh** that has been designated as Ramsar sites on the occasion of World Wetland Day 2022.  
**Note:** With this, the total number of Ramsar sites in India goes up to 49 covering an area of 1,093,636 hectares. Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary (site no. 2465), a freshwater marsh in the Sant Kabir Nagar district, is the largest natural floodplain wetland of eastern Uttar Pradesh.
6. The traditional Torgya Festival celebrated in **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The traditional Torgya Festival is celebrated in Arunachal Pradesh by Monpa community. The objective of the festival is to welcome a healthy and prosperous new year and ward off any kind of external aggression and protect people from natural disasters.
7. **Uttar Pradesh's** tableau selected as the best state tableau at the Republic Day parade in 2022 \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Note:** The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product' and Kashi Vishwanath Dham'. The second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on 'Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts'. The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on 'Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies & SHGs'.
8. **Maharashtra** state tops India's list in the number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) owned by entrepreneurs from the Scheduled Castes.  
**Note:** Tamil Nadu with 42,997 enterprises and Rajasthan with 38,517 units occupy the second and third slots, according to the data furnished by the Office of the Development Commissioner in the Union Ministry of MSME. The fourth, fifth and sixth slots belong to Uttar Pradesh (36,913 units), Karnataka (28,803 enterprises) and Punjab (24,503 units) respectively.
9. In a bid to spread voter awareness among voters **Punjab** state's Chief Electoral Officer has unveiled its Election Mascot – 'Shera'.  
**Note:** The Election Mascot, 'Shera' represents the rich cultural heritage of Punjab. Promoted under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) project, the Mascot aims to increase voter awareness and participation in the elections to increase voter turnout and promote ethical voting.
10. **West Bengal** state government has launched 'Paray Shikshalaya', an open-air classroom for students from class 1 to 7.  
**Note:** The aim of this initiative is to encourage students who dropped out of schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue their education. The initiative has been started by the Bengal government keeping in mind the ongoing COVID pandemic situation, which has forced the students to stay back home and attend online classes.
11. **Kerala** state government has inked an MoU with the Social Alpha through its "Clean Energy International Incubation Centre (CEIIC).  
**Note:** Kerala Development & Innovation Strategy Council (KDISC) and Energy Management Centre(EMC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The MoU emphasizes KDISC, EMC, and CEIIC's shared commitment to collaborate in the

areas of innovative and clean energy technologies that are aligned with Kerala's programs and initiatives.

12. Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Karnataka** state government to support the growth the women entrepreneurs.  
**Note:** Amazon India would launch Sanjeevini-KSRLPS in its marketplace and extend benefits of the 'Saheli' programme to train and empower thousands of women entrepreneurs to come online and access a wider market for their products.
13. State-owned THDC India Ltd (THDCIL) has signed a pact to build 10,000-megawatt (MW) solar power projects entailing an investment of Rs 10,000 crore in **Rajasthan**.  
**Note:** THDC India Limited (THDCIL) signed the letter of intent (LoI) of 10,000 MW in Rajasthan with an estimated investment of Rs 40,000 crore for the establishment of renewable energy parks/ projects of 10,000 MW in the august 2021.
14. India's first commercial-scale biomass-based hydrogen plant will come up in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day, from 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock. It will also produce biochar and methane. The plant is being put up by a joint venture of Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of ₹24 crore.
15. State-run Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam has signed a letter of intent (LoI) with **Rajasthan** government to develop 10,000 megawatt (MW) of solar power projects in the state in the next five years.  
**Note:** A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the same will be inked shortly, and the investment is estimated at ₹50,000 crore.
16. WE HUB is an exclusive incubator for women entrepreneurs of **Telangana** state government that has launched a unique incubator programme for rural areas.  
**Note:** The year-long programme targets to accelerate small and medium enterprises, besides strengthening the local supply chain. WE HUB, promoted by the Telangana Government has called for applications for the rural incubation programme.
17. **Telangana** state government and the British Council, an international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural exchange, have signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to renew the partnership in Education, English and Arts.  
**Note:** To facilitate research between institutions and assist to expand higher education globally, to offer global opportunities for the youth of Telangana. Under the extended 3 year MoU, the British Council has also signed an agreement with the Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) to work closely to engineer new partnerships between

universities, research institutions and centres of excellence in the UK and in Telangana.

18. The Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) government signed a pact with **New Zealand** for the transformation of the sheep farming sector in the J&K Union Territory (UT).  
**Note:** To improve farmer's remuneration, transfer of technology in research and development, marketing and value addition of sheep products of J&K. The agreement was signed through the virtual mode in the presence of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Navin Choudhary, principal secretary of agriculture production and farmers welfare department animal.
19. 'Operation Parivartan' has been initiated by **Karnataka** to eliminate the cultivation of cannabis.  
**Note:** Such an initiative was never been taken up before and it helps the state to fight against the drugs menace. This operation was led by the Andhra Pradesh Police with the Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) in Visakhapatnam.
20. **Rajasthan** state govt signed an agreement with the Anil Agarwal Foundation of the Vedanta Group to develop 25,000 Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar in the state.  
**Note:** The foundation will develop Nand Ghars by spending about Rs 750 crore (Rs 3 lakh per Anganwadi). The chief minister said the development of Anganwadi centres as Nand Ghar will improve their infrastructure as well as provide quality education and nutrition to children. This will also help in further reducing maternal and child mortality.
21. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has signed an MoU with **Maharashtra** state govt to support its 'Majhi Vasundhara' campaign.  
**Note:** The beginning of a new partnership between UN Environment Programme and the Government of Maharashtra will support the state in the implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures," said a statement from UN office.
22. Maru Mahotsav is celebrated in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** It is also known as Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City. It is a 4-day long festival with competitions like Turban tying, Panihari Matka , Mehendi and mandana competitions. Other attractions: Camel Safari, Camel beautification, Camel Polo match, BSF Camel Tattoo, Camel dance, etc.
23. Considered to be second-largest fair in India, the Medaram Jatara is organized in **Telangana** for that Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned Rs. 2.26 Crores for 2022 edition.  
**Note:** Under the AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav, the Government of India has announced that tribal culture and heritage will be the cynosure of 2022. After the Kumbh Mela, Medaram Jatara is the country's second-largest mela which is held for four days.



- 24. Gujarat** state govt signed an MoU with QX Global Group Limited for the holistic development of the Information Technology and IT Enabled Services (ITeS) sector in the State.  
**Note:** The Gujarat government's Department of Science and Technology had announced a new IT/ ITeS policy for the next 5 years in order to develop a robust ecosystem for the IT and digital sector. The policy also aims from the current Rs 3,000 crore annually to Rs 25,000 crore over the next five years.
- 25. In West Bengal** the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for women.  
**Note:** Under this programme, SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women in directly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods. Later, each of them is expected to become a trainer for replicating and disseminating the knowledge among other aspirants.
- 26. In February 2022**, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed MoUs with **State Government of Bihar** to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.  
**Note:** The first MoU was exchanged by Manish Sinha, General Manager, SIDBI and Pankaj Dixit, IAS Director (Technical Development), GoB. Second MoU was exchanged by Sinha and Bhogendra Lal, ED (H.Q.), BIADA. Bihar is the 14th state of India with which SIDBI has partnered to strengthen MSME. SIDBI will place an expert agency with the state industries department of Bihar.
- 27. Mizoram** will soon get a motor racing track, which will be the first of its kind in eastern and northeastern India.  
**Note:** The proposed project worth Rs 10 crores will be constructed at Lengpui, about 31 km north of Aizawl, where the lone state's airport is located. Mizoram State Sports Council (MSSC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) had inked a pact for the construction of REC Motorsports Racing Tract and Sports Complex.
- 28. Gujarat** state govt has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27 aimed to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.  
**Note:** Under this policy, strategic projects, mega and large projects are eligible for special packages. This will attract new investment through anchor units and existing industries and create new employment opportunities in the state
- 29. This year (2022) 48<sup>th</sup> edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival** was inaugurated by the Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel.  
**Note:** It is a week-long festival, that will be held till 26th February. This world-famous festival is organized in Khajuraho, Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. It will be participated by renowned artists from across the country and world
- 30. Delhi Police** has become the 1st police force in the country to introduce Smart Card Arms License.  
**Note:** It will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders. Smart card arms license has also been integrated with e-beat book through mobile application 'Shastra App'.
- 31. For the project REWARD** the World Bank has recently approved loan worth \$115 million for the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha.  
**Note:** Aim: to implement Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme. It will help national and state adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.
- 32. State Government of Assam** has launched India's first Night Navigation mobile application (app) for ferry services.  
**Note:** The inaugural night journey of an Inland Water Transport ferry fitted with the system sailed between Guwahati and North Guwahati at 9 pm and completed the return journey also in about an hour. The night navigation mobile application was developed by the transport department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- 33. Lavender** has been designated as Doda brand product.  
**Note:** A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate Lavender as Doda brand product, to promote lavender under 'One District, One Product' initiative of the Modi Government. Doda district in J&K is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution, or the cultivation of Lavender. Though, Lavender cultivation is practiced in almost all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir.
- 34. Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)** has announced a collaboration with tech giant **Google** for local startups to connect with the global startup community.  
**Note:** This wider network enables local startups to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams to help scale up their solutions. The collaboration will enable Kerala's startups to join a wider network to leverage Google's programme comprising mentorship and training of startup teams for scaled-up solutions.
- 35. State govt of Assam** has launched a four-year mentorship programme called Project Arohan to provide guidance to students and hone their skills.  
**Note:** In this regard, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Anita Rajan, CEO of Tata STRIVE, and skill development of Tata Trusts and sought corporation from them for the project.

36. State-owned SJVN will develop a 400 MW solar park in **Himachal Pradesh**.

**Note:** According to a company statement, an in-principle approval has been accorded by the ministry

for development of this project under Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks of its solar park scheme.

## January 2022

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note:** The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 billion years to around 55 million years of the Earth's history. These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kilometres of distance from the surface of the earth.

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

**Note:** Interventions by Institute for implementing STC, was finalized based on systematic need

assessment by conduct of Focus groups among two tribes 'Malasar' and 'Malai malasar' tribes belonging to Nagaroothu, Old Sarkarpathy, Chinnarpathy.

7. **Telangana** stood first in the country in the list of highest number of open defecation free (ODF Plus) villages under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II programme till December 31, 2021.

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

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

**Note:** Ujjwalla Yojna was started by the Centre government with the view to free the women of the country from indoor pollution. Along with this, the Himachal government also started the Grihini Suvidha Yojana to benefit as many women as possible, under the scheme.

9. Five-day National Youth Festival 2022 will be held in **Puducherry**.

**Note:** National Youth Festival will be held to celebrate the 159th birth anniversary of spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda. The five-day festival will be held in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The festival aims to ignite, unit, motivate and activate the youth of India towards nation building.

10. The 9th edition of the North East Festival was held in **Guwahati**.

**Note:** The festival aimed to promote and highlight the commercial and tourism potential of the North East Region. The festival held in the format of a carnival also discussed the business, economic, socio-political issues of the region.

11. **Maharashtra** government has announced that a mini Olympics will be organized in order to promote and encourage Olympic sports among the youth.

**Note:** Competition will be arranged around 1st May, to mark Maharashtra Day. This event will be called 'Maharashtra State Olympic Competition'. 'Olympics Vision Document' will be prepared considering requirements of 2024, 2028, 2032 Olympics

12. Van Vihar National Park and Zoo located in **Madhya Pradesh** state where India's oldest sloth bear, named as Gulabo (40 years) passed away recently.

**Note:** India's oldest sloth bear, named as Gulabo (40 years) passed away at the Van Vihar National Park and Zoo, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh due to failure of internal organs. She was the oldest sloth bear of the country and was one of the star attractions in the park. She was rescued from a street performer (Madaari) in May 2006.

13. According to biennial India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover in the country.

**Note:** The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI). In the year 2022, 17th edition of the report is released by the environment minister Bhupender Yadav. This report was first published in the year 1987.

14. Kachai Lemon Festival is celebrated in **Manipur**.

**Note:** Theme: 'Organic Kachai Lemon for Safe Environment and Rural Transformation'. Kachai Lemon has been accorded Geographical Indication (GI) registration tag and widely grown in Kachai Village of Ukhrul district, Manipur.

15. **Odisha** has topped the medal chart at the recently concluded IndiaSkills 2021 National Competition.

**Note:** This event was organised in New Delhi by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). From over 150 winners, 59 of them won gold medals with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh. Furthermore, 73 won silver medals with prize money of ₹ 75,000 while 53 received bronze medals and a cash prize of ₹ 50,000.

16. **Jammu and Kashmir** has signed an MoU with UAE's pioneering financial services company, Century Financial that will invest 100 million dollars.

**Note:** Investment will cover 3 hotels and one commercial cum residential complex in Jammu & Kashmir. The owner of Century Financial Sh. Bal Krishen is originally a native of the Doda district of Jammu and has been a forerunner in supporting his home region.

17. **Tamil Nadu** will install a statue of Colonel John Pennycuik in the United Kingdom, a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895.

**Note:** Colonel John Pennycuik was a British engineer who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895 in Kerala's Idukki. The dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu government.

18. **Chhattisgarh** government has decided to set up an employment mission to create around 15 lakh job opportunities in the state in the next 5 years.

**Note:** The mission will be headed by CM Bhupesh Baghel. Under the mission, the State government will also leverage expertise of premiere institutions such as the IIT, IIIT, IIM and NIT, in the State to generate employment opportunities.

19. **Telangana** government has approved 'Mana ooru, mana badi' programme aimed at allround

development and creation of effective basic infrastructure in schools across the State.

**Note:** The programme will be implemented in three years with a budget of ₹7,289 crore to benefit 19.84 lakh children of 26.065 schools. The amount will be spent on setting up digital classrooms, construction of additional classrooms and taking up repairs to schools.

20. **Karnataka** has won the maximum number of awards at the 2nd National Startup Awards 2021.

**Note:** Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Piyush Goyal presented the National Startup Awards 2021. This is second edition of the award conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

21. **India** announced a USD 500 million credit line to help Sri Lanka purchase petroleum products.

**Note:** India is poised to provide another \$1 billion in credit facility to Sri Lanka for importing food, essential items and medicines. India had recently extended foreign exchange support of more than \$900 million to Sri Lanka

22. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has joined hands with **Odisha** state to improve the food security of small and marginal farmers by strengthening their resilience to climate change.

**Note:** In a pilot initiative, advisories will be provided to small farmers of the state, which is particularly prone to cyclones, to help them adapt to impact of the climate crisis. The WFP and the Agriculture Department will develop toolkits, modules, and guidelines during the project to provide services to small farmers.

23. **Arunachal Pradesh** government has decided to establish an Infrastructure Financing Authority on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations.

**Note:** This was decided during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Arunachal Pradesh as an independent state. The state of Arunachal Pradesh was created in 1972. In 2022, the state has celebrated its 50th anniversary.

24. **Haryana** state govt the Himachal Pradesh govt has signed MoU to revive the Saraswati river.

**Note:** Under this, Haryana Government will construct a dam and a reservoir in Adi Badri area near Yamunanagar district, which is situated on the border of Himachal Pradesh. Cost of the project is estimated at Rs 215.33 crore and will be borne entirely by Haryana govt.

25. **Karnataka** has set up India's first Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Center of Excellence recently.

**Note:** Karnataka was the first Indian state to introduce an AVGC policy in 2012. The state is now home to the country's first to set up such a centre,

which is also said to be the biggest in Asia, the government said in a release.

- 26. Ladakh** women's team has won the ninth national women's ice hockey championship organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India in Himachal Pradesh.

**Note:** The championship was held in Kaza area of Himachal Pradesh from January 15-21. Six teams from Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police participated in the championship.

- 27. Karnataka** govt has launched 'Grama One', a technology-driven programme that would offer services of various government departments in rural areas.

**Note:** It would offer services of various government departments in rural areas of 12 districts. The services will be extended to all districts across Karnataka by the end of March.

- 28. Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in **Rajasthan**.

**Note:** The Centre also announced the development during the 4th Asia ministerial conference on tiger

conservation. The Centre has already given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary, along with MM Hills in Karnataka, Guru Ghasidas National Park in Chhattisgarh.

- 29. Tamil Nadu** government has established its own drone manufacturing corporation.

**Note:** The corporation will design, manufacture and trade all types of drones and allied systems. Drones were used by the State police department and later by the Disaster Management Department to conduct surveys in mines and for aerial photography.

- 30. Andhra Pradesh** state government has formed 13 new districts.

**Note:** Parliamentary constituencies were used to construct the districts. With this, the state of Andhra Pradesh now has a total of 26 districts.

- 31. Social activists of Andhra Pradesh** have built a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters.

**Note:** Aim: to inculcate patriotism among the youth by remembering the sacrifices of freedom fighters. Statues of freedom fighters and social activists were erected in the park with the help of donors.

## Important News – World

**1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

- 1. Bangladesh** country has discovered a new gas field with the capacity to produce 20 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMCFD) at the Koilastila Gas field.

**Note:** Koilastila Gas Field is one of the five gas fields which was purchased from the Shell Oil company by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. Now, it is possible to supply 17-19 million cubic feet of gas daily to the national grid from the newly discovered well number 6 by May 10.

- 2. UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025** plan was launched by the United Nations to catalyze large-scale action and support needed for transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions.

**Note:** Energy Compact Action Network was also launched to match those govt seeking support for their clean energy goals with those govt and businesses that have pledged over \$600 billion. It sets out a framework for collective action by nearly 30 UN and international organizations

- 3. 150<sup>th</sup>** is the rank of India in Reporters Without Borders (RSF) which has released the 20th World Press Freedom Index 2022.

**Note:** Index topped by: Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Estonia, and Finland. India's neighbouring countries: India (150<sup>th</sup>, falls 8 positions), Pakistan (157<sup>th</sup>), Sri

Lanka (146<sup>th</sup>), Bangladesh (162<sup>nd</sup>), and Myanmar (176<sup>th</sup>). North Korea is placed at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries.

- 4. 8 Indian universities** have been placed in the top 300 universities in the world in the 2022 edition of Impact Rankings.

**Note:** The ranking is topped by Western Sydney University (Australia); followed by Arizona State University (The US), Western University (Canada). In India: Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham (41<sup>st</sup>), Lovely Professional University (74<sup>th</sup>). The Times Higher Education (THE) also publishes THE World University Rankings.

- 5. Kami Rita (Nepali Sherpa)** has scaled Mount Everest (Height: 8,848.86m) mountain for the 26<sup>th</sup> time along the traditional southeast ridge route leading 10 other Sherpa climbers.

**Note:** Rita scaled Mt Everest for the first time on May 13, 1994. Besides Mt Everest, he has also scaled Mt Godwin-Austen (K2), Mt Lhotse, Mt Manaslu and Mt Cho Oyu. He also holds the record for most climbs over 8000m.

- 6. India** has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities



(AAEA) for 2022-2024 at the meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, Philippines.

**Note:** Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA. The new member of the Executive Board now includes Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Taiwan and the Philippines.

7. **Czech Republic** has received approval from the UN General Assembly to replace Russia on the world organizations leading human rights body after its suspension over horrific rights violations by Russian soldiers in Ukraine.

**Note:** The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the 47-member Human Rights Council. Out of 193 members, 180 of the General Assembly have deposited ballots (157 countries in favour).

8. **National Intelligence Service South Korea (spy agency)** has become the first in Asia to join NATO's Cyber Defense Group (CDG).

**Note:** The cyber defense group was founded in Tallinn in 2008 in response to a cyberattack that disrupted Estonia's state networks. It focuses on cyber security research, training, and exercises. NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (CCDCOE) now includes 27 NATO member countries and five non-NATO partners.

9. **Oil giant Saudi Aramco** has dethroned Apple Inc. to become the world's most valuable company, underscoring the recent surge in oil prices that have boosted the energy giant this year.

**Note:** The current worth of Aramco is about \$2.43 trillion as compared with Apple's \$2.37 trillion. Saudi

Aramco has reported a 124% surge in net profit in the last year from \$49.0 billion in 2020 to \$110.0 billion in 2021. President and CEO of Saudi Aramco: Amin H. Nasser

10. **Lionel Messi** has topped the list of Forbes Highest-Paid Athletes 2022 with a reported income of \$130 million, followed by Basketball player, LeBron James with \$121.2 million while Cristiano Ronaldo was third with \$115m.

**Note:** Messi had moved from Barcelona to Paris Saint-Germain in August 2021 and Cristiano Ronaldo rejoined Manchester United from Juventus in the same month. Forbes calculates the estimates based on prize money, salaries and bonuses, and sponsorship deals.

11. **India** has topped the foreign remittance list by receiving USD 89 billion followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion, and China at USD 53 billion in 2021 as per the World Bank.

**Note:** The officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2% in 2022 to reach USD 630 billion. Bangladesh was the 7th highest recipient of remittance from abroad in 2021. Report: Migration and development brief

12. India has been contributed **USD 800,000** to the United Nations to promote the Hindi language in the United Nations.

**Note:** India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra handed over a cheque for the UN project (Hindi @ UN project) launched.

## April-2022

1. **The Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA)** has signed a deal to set up an Indian Economic Zone with Adani Ports and SEZ Limited.

**Note:** The Indian Economic Zone (IEZ) will be set up at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of Chattogram. Aim: Facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh

2. **United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA)** has released a report titled 'State of the World Population 2022: Seeing the Unseen'.

**Note:** The report shows that nearly half of all pregnancies were unintended. The report highlights over 60% of unintended pregnancies ended in

abortion, with 45% of all abortions considered unsafe, causing 5-13% of all maternal deaths.

3. **Elon Musk** has taken the 9.2% stake in Twitter Inc worth nearly \$3 billion.

**Note:** Elon Musk has become the largest shareholder of Twitter Inc. Musk has 27% of the company's shares which is more than four times the 2.25% holding of Twitter founder Jack Dorsey.

4. **Three Indians Falguni Nayar, Radha Vembu, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** have been listed in the Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022 released by the Hurun Research Institute.

**Note:** With US\$7.6bn, Mumbai-based Falguni Nayar, Nykaa marks her presence in the Top 10. With US\$3.9bn, Radha Vembu, Zoho is the third richest self-made woman billionaire in India.

5. **Elon Musk (net worth of \$219 billion)** has been topped the list of the 36th annual World's Billionaires List 2022 released by Forbes.

**Note:** Followed by Jeff Bezos (\$171 B), Bernard Arnault & family (\$158 B), Bill Gates. Ambani (\$90.7 billion) has been placed on 10th position, followed by Gautam Adani (\$90 billion) in 11th position. World's Richest Woman 2022: Francoise Bettencourt Meyers (granddaughter of L'Oréal's founder)

6. **Madagascar** has become the 30th country to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

**Note:** CDRI partner: National governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions. CDRI was launched by PM Modi in September 2019.

7. The new covid variant XE was first detected in **United Kingdom**.

**Note:** This variant is more transmissible than any strain of COVID-19. Xe is a recombinant variant of BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron strains. It is a recombinant variant refers to when a patient is infected from multiple variants of Covid.

8. **Yellow Tulip** variety of flowers has been named Maitri by President Ram Nath Kovind in the Keukenhof, during his visit to Amsterdam.

**Note:** This is the first presidential visit to the Netherlands comes after 34 years since the visit of President Venkataraman in 1988. Both countries also celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations.

9. The United States and Britain have been collaborated with **Australia** to increase the hypersonic missile strikes and defence capacity.

**Note:** Reason: Russia is increasing its capabilities in the field of hypersonic missiles with China. Hypersonic missiles features: Speed of Mach 5, Manoeuvrability capability, carry nuclear and conventional warheads.

10. PM Narendra Modi with his Nepalese counterpart PM Sher Bahadur Deuba has inaugurated **Solu corridor** 132 KV Power transmission line and substation in Nepal.

**Note:** PM Narendra Modi and visiting Nepalese PM Sher Bahadur Deuba jointly flagged off the 1st India-Nepal passenger rail link. They also launched the RuPay payment card in Nepal. This is Deuba's 1st bilateral visit abroad after becoming PM in July 2021.

11. **University of Oxford(UK)** has been topped in the category of Arts and Humanities of the 12th QS World University Rankings 2022.

**Note:** IIT-Bombay at 65th and IIT-Delhi at 72nd in the engineering and technology list this year. The top institute's rankings: Engineering and Technology: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA). Natural Sciences: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)(USA). Life Sciences & Medicine: Harvard University (USA). Social Sciences & Management: Harvard University(USA).

12. India has delivered the consignment 3 lakh 25 thousand doses of Made in India Covishield vaccines to **Cambodia**.

**Note:** India has committed to donate 500,000 doses of Covid vaccines to the Indo-Pacific under the Quad vaccine initiative. The Quad Vaccine Partnership was announced by the Quad Leaders at their first Summit in 2021. Ambassador of India to Cambodia: Devyani Khobragade

13. **India** will host the National Delphic Games in 2023.

**Note:** Aim: Encompassing arts and cultures from 36 States/UT to celebrate the vast diversity of India's cultures. It includes 6 categories of the arts: Musical Arts and Sounds, Performing Arts and acrobatics, Language Arts and Rhetoric, Visual Arts and Crafts, Social Arts and communications, Ecological Arts & Architecture.

14. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM) jointly announced **\$2.2 million** for climate action.

**Note:** For 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India. The first round of funding will be done by the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window. This helps to enhance the local climate action and spur the achievement of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

15. The first device which was to detect COVID-19 in breath samples, which has recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration of the United States

of America (USA) is **InspectIR COVID-19 Breathalyzer**.

**Note:** The device was 91.2% accurate at identifying positive test samples and 99.3% accurate at identifying negative test samples. The test can provide results in less than three minutes and the test must be done under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

16. The Bangla new year which was celebrated across Bangladesh on April 14, 2022, with enthusiasm and festivity is **Pohela Boishakh**.

**Note:** This festival is also known as Bangla Noboborsho. PohelaBoishakh marks the first day of the initial month of Baishakh of the Bengali solar calendar. PohelaBoishakh celebrates with other regional festivals like Puthandu in Tamil Nadu, Baisakhi in Punjab, Vishu in Kerala, and Bihu in Assam.

17. According to the World Bank report, the poverty in India has been declined in 2019 as compared to 2011 is **12.3%**.

**Note:** The poverty headcount rate has declined from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019. Poverty depletion was higher in rural areas as compared to urban India. Rural poverty declined by 14.7% while the urban poverty rate declined by 7.9% from 2011 to 2019.

18. **Twitter** has recently adopted a limited-term shareholder rights plan to prevent anyone from having more than 15% stake in company, the plan is also called a 'poison pill'.

**Note:** This will make it harder for Elon Musk to acquire the social media company. Currently, Elon Musk has around 9% of Twitter's shares and he has offered to acquire all the shares in Twitter he does not own for 54.20 dollar per share, valuing the company at 41.4 billion dollar.

19. According to the International Monetary Fund(IMF) World Economic Outlook report, the global growth for the calendar year 2022 is **3.6%**.

**Note:** Reason: Due to commodity price volatility and disruption of supply chains caused by the war. IMF also cut its forecast for India's FY23 GDP growth to 8.2% from 9%.

20. The Prime Minister of United Kingdom is **PM Boris Johnson**.

**Note:** He arrived in India for a two-day visit. He visits Gandhi Ashram, Gujarat Biotechnology University, the plant of JCB Company, and the Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar. Johnson holds bilateral talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two Prime Ministers will also review the implementation of the 2030 Roadmap and set their vision for further intensifying cooperation across the full spectrum of bilateral ties.

21. **Dr Cyrus S. Poonawalla, Chairman of Serum**

**Institute of India(SII)** has topped the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022 with a new value of USD 26 billion.

**Note:** He is followed by Thomas Frist Jr & Family of HCA Healthcare, Li Xiting and Xu Hang of Mindray (Net value of USD 19 billion). China (34) followed by the USA (16), Switzerland (15), Germany (11), and India (9) have the most healthcare industry.

22. **Indonesia** has suspended agriculture imports from India.

**Note:** As authorities in New Delhi have failed to register laboratories that test food safety and issue a certificate of analysis (COA). Countries like Vietnam and Thailand were able to register their laboratories providing COAs well ahead of time.

23. **India** has been elected to four bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

**Note:** The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the UN System established by the UN Charter in 1945. It consists of 54 members of the United Nations elected by the General Assembly.

24. **Iron Beam** is a new laser-based air defence system successfully tested by Israel.

**Note:** A new laser missile-defence system can destroy any airborne object. Iron Beam is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses a laser beam to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets, mortars, long-range missiles, anti-tank missiles etc.

25. **Guadalajara (Mexico)** has been declared the World Book Capital for the year 2022 on the recommendation of the World Book Capital Advisory Committee.

**Note:** The declaration was made by the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay. The city has already been recognized a UNESCO Creative City since 2017. The city was selected for its comprehensive plan for policies around the book to trigger social change, combat violence and build a culture of peace.

26. **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), India** will host 21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA) for the first time in 118 years.

**Note:** The event will be held from November 18 to 21 after outbidding France. The event will be held at Jio World

Convention Centre in Mumbai. The theme for 2022 would be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'.

**27. Elon Musk has acquired Twitter in 44 billion dollars.**

**Note:** Under the terms of the deal, shareholders will receive 54.20 dollars in cash for each share of Twitter stock they own. The acquisition deal goes through regulatory and other approvals then the social media giant will be taken private. Earlier, Musk had acquired a 9.2% stake in Twitter.

**28. India has been designated as Guest of Honour Country at the Paris Book Festival 2022 which was organized from 21st to 24th April 2022.**

**Note:** The National Institute of Design (NID) has designed the India Pavilion. Digital and physical exhibitions displayed in various Indian languages representing the works of 65 Indian publishers.

**29. Seven Indian were listed by the WEF 2022 list of Young Global Leaders (Under 40).**

**Note:** Raghav Chadha (AAP leader), Mykhailo Fedorov (Ukrainian Vice PM and Minister of Digital Transformation), and Radhika Gupta (Edelweiss MF CEO) were named by the WEF 2022 list of Young Global Leaders who are under 40. Other Indians: Manasi Joshi (Athlete), Ritesh Malik (founder of Innov8 Coworking), Suhail Sameer (Bharat Pe, CEO), Vineeta Singh (Sugar Cosmetics CEO), and Jaideep Bansal (Global Himalayan Expedition CEO).

**30. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), India is placed at third in military expenditure.**

**Note:** Top Five: The United States, China, India, the United Kingdom, and Russia. Military spending in India is amounting to \$76.6 billion in 2021 which grew by 0.9% from 2020.

**31. The World Bank has approved the financial assistance of USD 600 dollars to Sri Lanka to meet the payment requirements for essential imports.**

**Note:** Sri Lanka has also talked with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial assistance, but the country needs 3 to 4 billion dollars in bridge financing to help meet its essential expenses. India has helped Sri Lanka by assisting with USD 1.9 billion.

**32. PM Narendra Modi will attend the 6th edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations.**

**Note:** PM Narendra Modi will embark on a three-day visit to Germany, Denmark and France from May 2. PM will hold bilateral talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and co-chair the 6th edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations. He will also participate in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit being hosted by Denmark. PM will also meet President of France Emmanuel Macron as India and France are celebrating 75 years of diplomatic relations in 2022.

## March 2022

**1. 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.

**2. 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.

**3. 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.

**4. 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.

**5. 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.



6. 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**.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. **\$ 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

## February 2022

**1. 11th meeting of India and Oman's Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC)** was held in New Delhi.

**Note:** The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali AL Zaabi, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Defence of Oman. The JMCC is the highest forum of engagement between India and Oman in the field of defence.

**2. India and Nepal** signed a Memorandum of Understanding with (MoU) for the construction of a motorable Bridge over **Mahakali** river.

**Note:** It will connect Dharchula in India to Darchula in Nepal. It will be constructed under Indian grant assistance. The newly announced project to build a bridge over the Mahakali river would strengthen Nepal-India relations.

**3. USA** was India's top most trading partner in 2021.

**Note:** The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion. In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.

4. **North Korea** has tested fired Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRMB) named “Hwasong-12”

**North Korea.**

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

5. Global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company, **ITC Infotech** has partnered with Microsoft for its launch of ‘Microsoft Cloud for Retail’.

**Note:** The company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades. The ‘Microsoft Cloud for Retail’ collaboration is expected to further strengthen the relationship. Sonata Software delivers solutions for retailers world-wide, leveraging world-class IPs, in-house migration and modernisation tools.

6. **India** scored the highest in the Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index 2022, that measures global employee sentiments and readiness to acquire the key digital skills needed by businesses today and over the next five years.

**Note:** India had the highest digital readiness score of 63 out of 100, with 72% respondents saying they were actively learning digital skills to prepare themselves for the future of work. The index is based on a survey of more than 23,500 workers in 19 countries, with an average global readiness score of 33 out of 100.

7. World’s first hydrogen-powered flying boat is all set to be manufactured and launched in **Dubai**.

**Note:** Swiss startup THE JET ZeroEmission has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and US-based DWYN to manufacture and operate ‘The Jet’. THE JET” features cutting-edge characteristics and technologies, making it capable of flying in silence over the waters at a cruising speed of 40 knots.

8. **Samsung Electronics** surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world’s leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021.

**Note:** While Intel posted relatively flattish results, Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021. Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year. In terms of semiconductor sales in 2020, Samsung was at the second position behind Intel (approximately \$62 billion revenue versus Intel’s \$76 billion).

9. Sergio Mattarella has been re-elected as President of **Italy**.

**Note:** The 80-year-old emerged as the most popular choice after six days of often tense voting in Rome. Mattarella was reconfirmed with a broad majority, namely 759 votes in favor from a total of 983 lawmakers and regional representatives actively taking part in the ballot.

10. **Bangladesh** will procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India.

**Note:** The agreement worth Tk. 231 crore will be implemented within 27 months of the signing of the contract. This project is being implemented with the joint funding of the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.

11. **India** has become the first country in the world to administer a DNA vaccine against COVID-19.

**Note:** The ZyCoV-D which is the World’s first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer Zydus Cadila and it was administered for the first time in Patna On February 05, 2022. It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.

12. World Oil Outlook 2021 is a flagship publication by **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**.

**Note:** It is a flagship publication by Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Govt has been taking up the issue, bilaterally with crude oil-producing countries with OPEC to convey India’s serious concerns over crude oil price volatility.

13. India has agreed to provide grant to **Sri Lanka** to implement ‘Unitary Digital Identity framework’, apparently modelled on Aadhaar card.

**Note:** It will be categorized as a national level programme. This will provide personal identity verification device based on biometric data, digital tool that can represent identities of individuals in cyberspace, and identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital and physical environments.

14. According to TomTom Traffic Index’s global top 25 list **Istanbul** city has emerged as the most congested cities in the world in 2021.

**Note:** Delhi and Pune ranked 11th and 21st among 404 cities across 58 countries, according to TomTom Traffic Index’s global top 25 list. However, the congestion level in Delhi during 2021 was 14% less than 2019 while in Mumbai, Bengaluru and Pune, the level dropped by 18%, 32% and 29% respectively, according to the report.

15. **Norway** ranked 1st in the Economic Intelligence Unit’s Democracy Index 2021.

**Note:** The report described the state of democracy in 165 countries. The report was prepared based on five parameters viz. functioning of the government,

electoral process and pluralism, political participation, civil liberties and political culture.

- 16. Australia** has announced 'Maitri' Scholars Program under which it will provide over USD 11 million for four years to support Indian students to study in that country's world-leading universities.

**Note:** The Maitri Fellowships Program will provide USD 3.5 million over four years to build links between future leaders, will support mid-career Australian and Indian professionals to collaborate on strategic research initiatives. Australia will also provide over USD 6 million over four years for the Maitri cultural partnerships to support cultural exchanges and boost the role of the creative industries in our two countries.

- 17. India** signed agreement with UN World Food Program for distribution of wheat to **Afghanistan**.  
**Note:** India has committed to send relief to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance, to be sent in truck convoys through Pakistan by road. Rome-headquartered WFP thanked India for the agreement to support Afghans who are facing humanitarian crisis.

- 18. France** is the host of One Ocean Summit 2022.  
**Note:** India supported the French initiative of a 'High Ambition Coalition on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the conference and said that India is committed to eliminating single-use plastic.

- 19. China's** central bank has launched 'Five-year plan for financial standardisation'.

**Note:** The plan is to be implemented during the 2021-2025 period. China will strengthen its cross-border yuan payments system and explore setting up infrastructure standards for a digital fiat currency as part of the plan.

- 20. 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'** is the theme of the Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit 2022.  
**Note:** This year the theme of the summit is 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'. It will discuss a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security.

- 21. India** will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.

**Note:** G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance. As per practice, a G20 Secretariat is being established to handle work relating to knowledge, content, technical, media, security, and logistical aspects of India's G20 Presidency.

- 22. In February 2022, India** signed a letter of intent (LoI) with **Australia** for working towards bringing down the cost of renewable energy (RE) technologies.

**Note:** Both the countries will also focus on scaling up the manufacturing of low cost solar and clean hydrogen. This was signed during the fourth India-Australia energy dialogue.

- 23. G20 summit in 2022** will be held in **Indonesia**.

**Note:** In 2021, the G20 summits was held in Rome, Italy. In 2022 the G20 summit will be held in Bali, Indonesia while in 2023 it will be held in New Delhi, India. India will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December this year to 30th November 2023, culminating with the G20 Summit in India in 2023.

- 24. Nepal** will be the first foreign country to adopt India's UPI system, paving the way for transforming the digital economy of the country.

**Note:** This will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) and Manam Infotech to provide the services in Nepal.

- 25. In February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi** held a virtual summit with Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan the Crown Prince of UAE to firm up Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

**Note:** Both leaders were discussed bilateral cooperation and international issues of mutual interest. In recent years, bilateral relations between India and the UAE have strengthened in all areas, and both sides have embarked upon a comprehensive strategic partnership. The Prime Minister visited UAE in 2015, 2018, and 2019 while the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi visited India in 2016 and 2017.

- 26. In February 2022, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** led a Parliamentary delegation to **UAE**.

**Note:** This is the first-ever visit under the bilateral exchange of Parliamentary Delegations from either side. The Lok Sabha Speaker will have the rare honour of addressing the Federal National Council of UAE on the 22nd of this month.

- 27. According to the annual Frontiers report** released by the UN Environment Programme, in 2021, **Africa** was the most affected region due to wildfires.

**Note:** In report titled "Noise, Blazes and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern", UNEP has warned that Wildfires are predicted to worsen in the coming years and decades. Wildfires are a natural phenomenon, but are becoming more dangerous and affecting larger areas.



**28. Dubai International (DXB)** airport continues to be the world's busiest airport by international passenger numbers for the eighth consecutive year. **Note:** DXB's annual traffic exceeded forecasts for the year by more than half a million passengers, on the back of a strong last quarter. India continues to be its top destination in passenger volume.

**29. Israel** has successfully tested naval configuration of the Iron Dome missile defense system, C-Dome.

**Note:** C-Dome system: naval version of Iron Dome, which has been used to shoot down rockets fired from the Gaza Strip for the past decade. It is being installed on Israel's latest-generation corvette ships, which protect Israel's coastline and offshore natural gas assets in the Mediterranean Sea. Developed by: Israel Missile Defense Organization.

**30.** In February 2022, India has signed a Roadmap on Blue Economy and Ocean Governance agreement with **France**.

**Note:** This tie-up will help to explore the potential for collaboration in marine science research for a better understanding of oceans, and ensure that ocean remains a global common, a space of freedom and trade, based on the rule of law. The agreement was signed between India's External Affairs Minister

S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

**31. Israel and India** have launched the second edition of Innovation Bridge that will create a synergistic ecosystem in agriculture and Medtech sectors.

**Note:** It will create synergistic ecosystem in agriculture and MedTech sectors. Indo Israel Innovation Bridge will create avenues to enhance natural partnership and steer it towards mutual benefit and growth

**32. India** become the second country after China to implement T+1 stock settlement mechanism in a phased manner.

**Note:** The system will be starting with select stocks and then gradually adding others to fold. Instruction for this was issued by SEBI on 1st Jan, 2022. Before this, settlement period of stocks in India was T+2 (two days after actual buy/selling of stock)

**33. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** will establish its first branch in UAE as part of the India-UAE trade deal.

**Note:** This will be the first time an IIT will be established outside India. Presently, there are 23 IITs in India, which are located in various regions of the country offering undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate level programmes.

## January 2022

**1.** Abdalla Hamdok resigned as Prime Minister of **Sudan**.

**Note:** Hamdok, a former United Nations official seen as the civilian face of Sudan's transitional government, was reinstated in November amid international pressure in a deal that called for an independent technocratic cabinet under military oversight led by him. Hamdok's resignation came after Sudanese security forces violently dispersed the pro-democracy protesters against the October 25 military coup, killing at least two people.

**2. France** takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time in 14 years with effect from 1st January 2022 till 30 June 2022.

**Note:** Presidency of the Council (Council of Ministers) organizes meetings, brokers compromise, submits conclusions and ensures the coherency and continuity of the decision-making process. Each Member State of EU holds the presidency of Council of the European Union for six months on a rotational basis.

**3. Antigua and Barbuda** become the 102nd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

**Note:** The Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne signed the framework agreement in the presence of Indian High Commissioner Dr K. J. Srinivasa to catalyze global energy transition

through a solar-led approach. K. J. Srinivasa became the High Commissioner of India to Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and the 15-member CARICOM (Caribbean Community and Common Market) in 2019.

**4.** Sri Lanka has signed a deal with which **Indian Oil Corporation** to lease 75 oil tanks, as the island moved closer to securing a \$500 million fuel credit line from India.

**Note:** The signing of the deal comes ahead of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Colombo this weekend, with China also vying for clout in Sri Lanka. Previously Sri Lanka had agreed to lease all of its 99 tank oil farms to India in 2003.

**5.** India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Turkmenistan** on cooperation in disaster management that was approved by the Union cabinet in January 2022.

**Note:** The MoU between India and Turkmenistan seeks to put in place a system whereby both countries will be benefitted from the disaster management mechanisms of each other. It will also help in strengthening the areas of preparedness, response and capacity building in the field.

**6.** The first Colombo Security Conclave Virtual Workshop was conducted by **India**.

**Note:** Delegates from Member and Observer States of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) including Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Bangladesh participated in the workshop.

7. Alikhan Smailov has been appointed as the prime minister of **Kazakhstan**.  
**Note:** Smailov, 49, served as first deputy prime minister in the previous cabinet which Tokayev dismissed last week amid violent unrest in the oil-rich Central Asian nation. Kazakh security forces have detained 9,900 people over the unrest.
8. Maya Angelou, who became the first Black woman to appear on the US quarter, in a new version of the coin unveiled by the US Mint was a **poet**.  
**Note:** The poet and writer, who died in 2014, was the author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, in which she wrote about the racial discrimination she experienced growing up. The author of 36 books – and the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees – she read her poem *On the Pulse of the Morning* at Bill Clinton's 1992 inauguration, and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2010.
9. Two countries passport shares top rank in the Henley Passport Index 2022, released in January 2022 -- **Japan and Singapore**.  
**Note:** Germany and South Korea hold onto joint 2nd spot on the latest ranking, with passport holders able to access 190 destinations visa-free, while Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, and Spain share 3rd place, with a score of 189. India's passport power has improved this quarter compared to 2021. It now ranks at 83rd position in the Henley Passport Index, climbing seven places from 90th rank last year.
10. **Bangladesh** has discovered huge potential natural gas hydrate deposits of 0.11 to 0.73 trillion cubic feet in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).  
**Note:** It is equivalent to 17-103 TCF of natural gas reserves. The study undertaken over the last three years was conducted by the Petrobangla, Bapex, local experts and the National Oceanography centre in Southampton, UK.
11. International Folk Art Festival was held in **Dubai**.  
**Note:** Lavani is a genre of music popular in Maharashtra and is a combination of traditional song and dance, which is particularly performed to the beats of Dholki, a percussion instrument. It is noted for its powerful rhythm and has contributed substantially to the development of Marathi folk theatre.
12. **China** has built an "artificial moon" research facility that will enable them to simulate low-gravity environments using magnetism.  
**Note:** The gravity of this place can be controlled using powerful magnets by scientists to such low levels that it could successfully simulate the moon's

gravity. The artificial moon research facility is scheduled for official launch in the year 2022.

13. 'Infinity Bridge' is an impressive construction in **Dubai** that was opened to traffic for the first time.  
**Note:** Its design resembles mathematical sign for infinity ( $\infty$ ). It represents limitless, infinite goals of Dubai. It consists of six lanes in each direction and combined 3-metre track for pedestrians and cyclists.
14. In January 2022, **Oxfam India** has released a report titled 'Inequality Kills' that reveals that COVID-19 pandemic has heightened economic inequalities across the world.  
**Note:** Wealth of world's 10 richest men doubled since COVID began. Collective wealth of India's 100 richest people hit a record high of Rs 57.3 lakh crore (\$ 775 billion) in 2021. Number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142 during COVID.
15. The theme of the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda Virtual Summit 2022 -- **The State of the World**.  
**Note:** During his speech, he talked about some of the pressing issues like Covid, climate change, cryptocurrency, reforms and initiatives taken by his government for ease of doing business. This is the second consecutive year that the forum has had to host the summit digitally due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
16. **Bangladesh** decided to make Unique Business ID (UBID) mandatory for all e-commerce entities in the country.  
**Note:** According to Zunaid Ahmed Palak (State Minister for IT), all digital commerce operators in the country will be required to register with the government using the UBID. The use of these mechanisms to regulate the e-commerce sector will restore public confidence in the digital business.
17. As per new state capital law, Indonesia is shifting its capital from Jakarta to **Nusantara**.  
**Note:** The new law has been formulated as Jakarta is prone to flooding amid climate change and also suffers from chronic congestion and air pollution. Initial relocation will start from between 2022 and 2024.
18. **Mauritius** has inaugurated the 'India-assisted social housing units project'.  
**Note:** They also launched the Civil Service College and 8MW Solar PV Farm projects in Mauritius that are being undertaken under India's development support. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister Modi said, India and Mauritius are united by history, ancestry, culture, language, and the shared waters of the Indian Ocean.
19. **Afghanistan** has not participated in the 1st India-Central Asia Summit.  
**Note:** Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan will

participate. Apart from regional security and the Afghanistan issue, the key focus will be trade and connectivity, development partnership, culture, and people-to-people ties.

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

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

- 21.** The "clinker boats" of **Nordic countries** has been inscribed in Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).  
**Note:** For thousands of years, wooden sailboats have allowed northern Europeans to spread influence,

trade, and even conflict across continents and seas. The UNESCO designation was requested jointly by Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

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

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

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

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

## Government Schemes

### May 2022

#### **1. Chhattisgarh becomes first state to restore old pension scheme**

- Chhattisgarh has sent a proposal to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for the withdrawal of Rs 17,000 crore accrued under National Pension Scheme since November 2004.
- Old pension scheme will be effective from April 1, 2022.
- 10% deduction for monthly contribution from the salary of government employees as a contribution to new pension scheme will be abolished from April 1, 2022.
- Minimum of 12% of basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.

#### **2. Pilot project for Skilling tribal youth launched from Bhopal, MP**

- Inaugurated by: Minister of State of MeitY, Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched Pilot Project for Skilling Tribal Youth - Rural Tribal Technical

Training at the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance CRISP, Bhopal.

- Pilot project envisages training for 250 beneficiaries of 17 clusters of 17 districts of 6 states.
- Name of the Rural Tribal Technical Training Program: Grameen Udhayami Project.
- It envisages training for about 250 beneficiaries of 17 clusters of 17 districts selected from 6 states: Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Odisha

#### **3. Madhya Pradesh govt launches 2nd phase of Ladli Laxmi scheme to make girls self-reliant**

##### **About the scheme**

- It is an innovative initiative to encourage daughters to pursue higher education and make them self-dependent.
- In Madhya Pradesh, more than 42 lakh girls have been registered till April this year under Ladli Laxmi Yojana.
- So far, more than 9 lakh girl students have been paid a scholarship amount of Rs 231 crore.

- Birth rate of girl child in the state has also increased from 927 to 956 per thousand.

#### **4. PMJJBY, PMSBY And Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Complete 7 Years of Providing Social Security Net**

- These three social security schemes are dedicated to welfare of the citizens, recognizing the need for securing human life from unforeseen risks/losses and financial uncertainties.
- Aim: to ensure that the people from the unorganized section of the country are financially secure, the Government launched two insurance schemes: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY); and introduced Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to cover exigencies in the old age.

#### **5. Haryana Govt Launches 'e-Adhigam' Scheme**

- Under this scheme, 3 lakh tablets were distributed to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.
- These devices come with pre-loaded content along with personalised and adaptive learning software, and 2GB free data.

#### **6. Rameev Chandrasekhar launches Digital India RISC-V Microprocessor (DIR-V) Program**

- **Aim:** to enable the creation of Microprocessors for the future in India, for the world and achieve industry-grade silicon and Design by December 2023.
- It will see partnerships between Startups, Academia and Multinationals, to make India not only a RISC-V Talent Hub for the World but also supplier of RISC-V System on Chips for Servers, Mobile devices, Automotive and Microcontrollers across the globe.

**April 2022**

#### **1. 6 months extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY)**

- Centre has extended PM-GKAY from April to September 2022.
- 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.
- PM-GKAY was implemented first on 26th March 2020.
- The program comes under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

- 21 out of 34 states and Union Territories got less than a 5% hike, and 10 states got more than a 5 per cent hike.
- States with no change in rates: Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura.
- The change will come into effect from 1st April 2022.
- Maximum increase: Goa (Rs 315 per day)
- Lowest increase: Meghalaya (Rs 226 per day)
- MGNREGA: Indian labour law and social security measure that aims to guarantee 'right to work'.

#### **2. Karnataka government launched Vinaya Samarasya scheme on April 14.**

- Aim: To eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats across the state.
- This scheme was also added in the recently announced Karnataka Budget for 2022-23.
- April 14 celebrates the birth anniversary of father of Indian Constitution, B R Ambedkar.

#### **3. MGNREGA wages revised for 2022-23**

#### **4. Centre extends existing foreign trade policy (FTP) by six months until September 2022**

- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has announced an extension in the existing Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20 by another six months till September 30, 2022, to ensure policy continuity in external trade.
- This is the fourth extension to the existing FTP policy.

#### **5. Cabinet approves extension of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) till March 2023**



- Total budget expenditure of more than Rs 2000 crore has been allocated for 2022-23.
- Objective: To create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country through interventions at school, university, research institutions, MSME and industry levels.
- AIM was set up under the NITI Aayog, in accordance with Finance Minister's declaration in the 2015 Budget Speech.

#### 6. AAI launches 'AVSAR' Scheme

- Airport Authority of India (AAI) has launched 'AVSAR' initiative to encourage talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities.
- AVSAR: 'Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of The Region'.
- Under AVSAR, AAI will allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region.
- An area of 100-200 square feet has been earmarked at each AAI operated airport for this.

#### 7. Phase II of 'SVANidhi se Samridhhi' launched to cover 28 lakh street vendors

- It is an additional program of PMSVANidhi, launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- It maps the socio-economic profile of PM SVANidhi beneficiaries and their families and assess potential eligibility of the beneficiaries for various Central welfare schemes and facilitate the linkages to these schemes.
- Phase I: Launched in 2020-21 in 125 cities to cover approximately 35 lakh street vendors and their families.
- Phase II: launched in 126 cities to cover 28 lakh street vendors and their families.
- A total target of 20 lakh scheme sanctions has been set under Phase II for FY 2022-23.

#### 8. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package: Insurance Scheme for Health Workers fighting COVID-19 extended for 180 days

- This will be effective from April 19, 2022.

- The extension has been given to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients.
- PMGKP was launched in 2020 to provide comprehensive personal accident cover of Rs. 50 Lakh to 22.12 lakh healthcare providers, including community health workers and private health workers dealing with COVID-19 patients.

#### 9. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) total enrolments crossed 4 crores

- This milestone is achieved by the active participation of all Banks.
- Around 71% of the enrolments are done by PSBs, 19% by RRBs, 6% by Private Sector Banks, and 3% by Payment and Small Finance Banks.
- Banks like SBI, Indian Bank, Bank of India, BoB, and Central Bank of India have achieved their annual targets in the Public-sector Bank category.

#### 10. Haryana Cabinet gave nod to horticulture crop insurance scheme

- Haryana Cabinet has approved the implementation of Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana (MBBY)
- MBBY: It is an assurance-based scheme to compensate crop losses due to adverse weather & natural calamities for farmers growing horticulture crops.

#### 11. Stand-Up India Scheme completes 6 years

- The scheme re-imbursed loans of over '30,160 Cr sanctioned to over 1,33,995 accounts
- It was launched in 2016 to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level especially for promoting economic empowerment and employment generation among SC, ST and women entrepreneurs.

#### 12. Govt approves continuation of revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan till March 2026

- It will be extended to all States and Union Territories of the country.
- It will develop governance capabilities of Panchayats Cabinet approved Rs 5,911 crores for Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan
- The scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme and aims to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

### 11. Samba becomes first district in India to cover 100% households under ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Samba district of Jammu division has become the first district in India to cover 100% households under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY)-SEHAT scheme.

- It was achieved after the conclusion of special registration drive organized by State Health Agency (SHA).
- SEHAT: Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine.

## March 2022

### 1. Credit Guarantee Scheme for Subordinate Debt (CGSSD) extended up to 2022

- CGSSD was launched on 24th June 2020 under Distressed Assets Fund - Subordinate Debt for Stressed MSMEs component of Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Package
- Aim: Provide credit facility through lending institutions to promoters of stressed MSMEs like SMA-2 and NPA accounts who are eligible for restructuring as per RBI guidelines on the books of the Lending institutions

### 2. Mission Indradhanush: Odisha tops list of full immunization with 90.5% cove

- Odisha becomes the only state in the country to achieve 90.5% of immunization apart from the successful vaccination against Covid-19 infection under Mission Indradhanush 4.0
- 20 districts of Odisha were found above 90% in full immunization and the remaining 10 districts were less than 90%
- **Mission Indradhanush** : Health mission launched in 2014 to drive towards 90% full immunization coverage of India.

### 3. Haryana CM ML Khattar announces Haryana Matrushakti Udaymita Scheme

- Aim: to provide financial support to women entrepreneurs.
- Under this, those women who wish to become entrepreneurs will be provided access to soft loans
- Eligibility: Women whose families annual income is less than Rs 5 lakh based on Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) verified data
- Maximum Loan amount: Rs 3 lakh
- Interest subvention of 7% will be provided

### 4. Narayan Rane launches MSME Innovative Scheme (Incubation, Design and IPR)

About the scheme

- **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 IP culture in India

### 5. Govt approved Modernization Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)

- It will be in effect from 1st Feb 2022 to 31st March 2026
- Total financial outlay: Rs.1,523 crore
- It is to be implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs
- It will equip CAPFs with modern state-of-the-art weapons and equipment as per their operational requirement, keeping in view their deployment pattern in different theatres.

### 6. 'Stree Manoraksha Project'

- Launched by: Women and Child Development Ministry and NIMHANS Bengaluru
- Aim: to improve mental health of women
- The project would focus on building on capacity building of One-Stop Center functionaries on the tools and techniques as to how to handle the cases of women approaching these Centres.

### 7. Govt launches Donate-a-Pension programme

About the programme:

- It is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) where citizens can donate the premium contribution of their immediate

support staff such as domestic workers, drivers, helpers etc.

## February 2022

### 1. Govt approves continuation of BIM for 5 years

- BIM: Border Infrastructure and Management
- It is a Central Sector Umbrella Scheme
- It is effective from 2021-22 to 2025-26
- Total cost: Rs 13,020 crore.
- It will strengthen the border infrastructure for improving border management, policing, and guarding the borders.

### 2. Centre approves continuation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)

- It has been approved for a period of five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- Financial outlay for the scheme: Rs 1,827 crores.
- Income ceiling has been increased from Rs 1.5 lakh per annum to Rs 3.5 lakh per annum
- Objective: to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections.
- It was launched in 2008-09.

### 3. Govt approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme till 31st March 2026

- Outlay: Rs 3,179 crores.
- CD Scheme: Ongoing Central Sector Scheme of MoSPI (Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation)
- Aim: to augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling the availability of credible and timely official statistics.

### 4. Govt approves implementation of Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)

- It will be effective from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ICJS: national platform for enabling integration of main IT system used for the delivery of Criminal Justice in India
- It will be implemented as Central Sector Scheme with an outlay of Rs 3,375 crores.
- ICJS system would be made available through dedicated and secure cloud-based infrastructure with high-speed connectivity.

### 5. Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North-East, PM-DevINE scheme

- It was announced in Budget 2022-23
- It will be implemented through the North-Eastern Council.
- An initial allocation of Rs. 1,500 crores will be made.
- It will fund infrastructure, in the spirit of PM GatiShakti, and social development projects.

### 6. Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022

- Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of under its 'Waste to Wealth' Mission has announced **Swachhta Saarthi Fellowship 2022**.
- **Aim:** to empower young innovators who are engaged in community work of waste management as Swachhta Saarthis and implement actions to reduce waste for a greener planet.
- It is one of the nine national missions of the Prime Minister's PMSTIAC scheme

### 7. Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram

- Central Government has decided to continue 'Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram' (RYSK) for another five years from 2021 -22 to 2025-26
- Total outlay: around Rs 2,710 crore.
- Aim: to achieve the objectives of developing the personality and leadership qualities of the youth and to engage them in nation-building activities.

### 8. 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana' (PMKSY)

- Food processing ministry has extended its flagship scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)' till March 2026
- Total allocation: Rs 4,600 crore.
- It is a comprehensive package that will lead to the creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.

### 9. Social Justice & Empowerment Department launches 'SMILE'

- It is an umbrella scheme
- Aim: provide welfare measures to the Transgender community and the people engaged in the act of begging.

- It includes two sub-schemes:
  - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation for Welfare of Transgender Persons
  - Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging

#### **10. Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)**

- It has been launched for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Communities, who are the most neglected, marginalized, economically & socially deprived community.

#### **11. Jal Jeevan Mission achieves 9 crore rural tap connections in 2.5 years**

- Govt has claimed to have provided tap water supply to more than 5.77 crore rural households, taking total number to 9 crores since it's launch in August 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission of the Jal Shakti Ministry

**January 2022**

#### **1. PM releases 10th installment of financial benefit under PM-KISAN Scheme**

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme is a centrally sector scheme, which was launched in 2019.
- More than Rs 20 thousand crore have been transferred to over than ten crore farmer families.
- Under PM-KISAN scheme, financial benefit of six thousand rupees per year is provided to the eligible family of farmers.
- The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.

#### **2. IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw launched semiconductor mission**

- India Semiconductor Mission (ISM): specialized and independent business division within Digital India Corporation.
- It has been set up with the aim to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.
- It is notified by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

#### **3. Intra-State Transmission System of Green Energy Corridor Phase-II**

- 'Har Ghar Jal' is a term used for saturation coverage of tap water in a given rural habitation.

#### **12. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme**

- Govt has approved Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme till 31st March 2026 or till further review, whichever is earlier.
- Proposal entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore out of which Central Share is Rs. 8120.97 crores and the State Share is of Rs. 4808.19 crores.

#### **13. Govt approves ' New India Literacy Programme for FYs 2022-27**

- Govt has approved new scheme 'New India Literacy Programme for the period FYs 2022-2027
- It will cover all the aspects of Adult Education to align with National Education Policy 2020
- National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the scheme on Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II for Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS)
- It will add 10,750 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 27,500 MVA transformation capacity of substations
- It will facilitate grid integration and power evacuation of 20 GW of Renewable Energy power projects in Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, TN, UP
- Total estimated cost: Rs. 12,031.33 crores

#### **4. Smart cities and Academia Towards Action & Research (SAAR) program**

- Smart Cities Mission has launched SAAR program.
- It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Institute of Urban Affairs and leading Indian academic institutions of the country.
- Under the program, 15 premier architecture & planning institutes of the country will be working with Smart Cities to document landmark projects undertaken by Smart Cities Mission.

#### **5. Govt launches 6 brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product'**



- Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras has launched six brands developed as part of 'One District-One Product' approach under **Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises Scheme (PM-FMFPEs)** in New Delhi
- **Six products:** Amrit Phal, Cori Gold, Kashmiri Mantra, Madhu Mantra, Somdana, and Whole Wheat Cookies of Dilli Bakes.
- **PM-FMFPEs:** centrally sponsored scheme to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in unorganized segment

#### 6. Union Education Minister launches NEAT 3.0 ed-tech solutions

- It will help more than 12 lakhs socially and economically disadvantaged students have received free ed-tech course coupons worth over ₹253 crore
- National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) is an initiative to provide the use of best-developed technological solutions in the education sector to enhance the employability of the youth on a single platform for learners' convenience.

#### 7. UJALA scheme completes 7 years

- Power Ministry has successfully completed seven years of distributing and selling LED lights under its flagship UJALA programme.

- It evolved into the world's largest zero-subsidy domestic lighting programme with more than 36.78 crore LEDs distributed across the country.

#### 8. Apple, Samsung to make smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore under PLI scheme

- Apple and Samsung are set to manufacture smartphones worth Rs 37,000 crore (\$5 billion) in 2022 under government's Production Linked Incentive scheme.
- It will exceed the target set by the government by over 50%.
- PLI give companies incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in domestic units.

#### 9. Govt notifies Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems

- Govt of India has notified 'Certification Scheme for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)' to ensure minimum safety and quality requirements of drones.
- UAS commonly known as Drones.
- It will boost indigenous manufacturing of Drones and has been notified under Rule 7 of liberalized Drone Rules, 2021, which replaced Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) 2021.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation had approved PLI scheme for drones and drone components with an allocation of Rs 120 crore.

### Important Committee

**May 2022**

#### 1. SEBI constitutes advisory committee on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matters

- **Head of the committee:** Navneet Munot (CEO of HDFC Mutual Fund)
- Other members: R. Mukundan, C Siva Kumar, Amit Talgeri, Sharad Kalghtagi, Amit Tandon, J N Gupta, Rama Patel and Ramnath.
- It will have total 19 members and further, four Sebi officials will be secretariat to the committee as well as coordinator.
- It will facilitate enhancements in business responsibility and sustainability report, ESG ratings and ESG investing.

#### 2. Govt-appointed panel to finalise RoDTEP rates for special economic zones (SEZs)

- Head of the committee: Gopal Krishna Pillai (Former commerce secretary)
- It will finalize the rates for the export-boosting scheme Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) towards exports from SEZs and export-oriented units (EOUs).
- RoDTEP scheme is applicable from January 1st, 2021.

#### 3. SEBI restructured 18-member secondary market advisory panel

- **Head of the committee:** G Mahalingam (Former whole-time member of SEBI)

- Earlier, panel had 17 members and was headed by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.
- It will have CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members.
- Aim: advises the regulator on matters related to the secondary market, including suggesting steps to improve market safety, efficiency and transparency.

#### 4. IRDAI panel advises introduction of Combi Micro insurance (MI) product

April-2022

#### 1. SEBI constituted to strengthen governance of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)

- **Head of the committee:** G Mahalingam (Former whole-time member of SEBI)
- It is 6-member committee
- Other members: J N Gupta, Aarti Nihalani, Sandip Bhagat, and Uttam Bagri
- Purpose: Review and recommendation for further strengthening of governance norms at stock exchange and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

#### 2. Advisory committee for semiconductor manufacturing in India

- **Head of the committee:** Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology
- Government has appointed 17-member advisory committee for semiconductor manufacturing in India.
- Purpose: To provide key inputs for building a resilient supply chain, promoting investments, financing mechanisms, global engagement, research & innovation, and IP generation for semiconductors.
- Vice-chairperson: Rajeev Chandrashekhar
- Convenor: Secretary (MeitY)
- Other members: Vinod Dham, Ajit Manocha, Neelkanth Mishra Prof. A Paulraj, Prof. Pradeep Khosla, Prof. V. Kamakoti, and Dr. Ajai Chowdhry,
- Committee will meet at least once in three months.

#### 3. Oversight expert panel for Delhi-Dehradun Expressway

- **Head of the committee:** Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- Constituted by: **Supreme Court of India**

- Head of the panel: **Yegnapiya Bharath**
- Combi MI product developed on a modular basis giving flexibility to the insurer to offer coverage to different groups and individuals as per their specific protection needs
- It comprises of members from NGOs, independent consultants, and others with experience insurance and regulatory fields.

- **Aim:** To monitor the compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.
- Anil Prakash Joshi have also been included as additional members in the committee.
- **Delhi-Dehradun Expressway:** It will directly connect the two cities after criss-crossing areas like Loni, Baghpat, Shamli, Saharanpur, and Ganeshpur in Uttar Pradesh.

#### 4. Haj Committee of India

- Head of the committee: A P Abdullakutty
- For the first time, two women have been elected as its vice-chairpersons: Munnawari Begum and Mafuja Khatun.
- Haj Committee of India: statutory body under Ministry of Minority Affairs. It is set up under Haj Committee Act, 2002.

#### 5. Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALERTS)

- Head of the committee: **Sunil Bajpai**, former Principal Advisor (IT) at Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- Constituted by: Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- It is a 7-member Advisory committee and was set-up by SEBI in December 2021.

#### 6. SEBI restructures Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)

- Head of the committee: M S Sahoo (Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson of IBBI).

- Aim: recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.
- It will now have 21 members (earlier 20).
- It also includes CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.

## 7. AVGC promotion task force

- **Head of the task force:** Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

- **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** constitutes Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) Promotion Task Force
- Other members: Secretaries of
  - Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
  - Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education
  - Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
  - Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

## March 2022

### 1. High Powered Committee on Char Dham project

- Supreme Court appointed ex-judge A.K. Sikri as the chairperson of High-Powered Committee on Char Dham project
- Aim: To look after the environmental concerns and other issues related to the Char Dham highway project.
- Prior to him, environmentalist Ravi Chopra was heading the High-Powered Committee.
- Chardham Project will improve connectivity to the Chardham pilgrimage centres in Himalayas i.e. Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri, making journeys faster, safer, and more convenient.

### 2. Uttarakhand CM announced expert panel to examine the possibility of applying UCC in the State

#### About Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- One law to all religious communities for marriage, divorce, inheritance, and adoption.
- It will replace the system of fragmented personal laws, which currently governs interpersonal relationships and related matters within different religious communities.
- It comes from Article 44 of Directive Principles of State Policy
- This panel will comprise legal experts, retired people, intellectuals, and other stakeholders

## February 2022

### 1. SEBI reconstitutes advisory committee under N R Narayana Murthy

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted 20-members alternative investment policy advisory committee.
- Chairman of the committee: **N R Narayana Murthy**.
- It will advise the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) industry.
- Prior to this, there were 22 members in the committee, which was constituted in March 2015.

### 2. SEBI revamps advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund.

- Chairman of the committee: **G Mahalingam**, former Whole Time Member of SEBI.
- It is an eight-member committee comprising of Vijay Kumar Venkataraman and Mrin Agarwal,
- Panel was earlier headed by Abraham Koshy, former professor of IIM-Ahmedabad.

### 3. Supreme Court Appointed Panel Submits Interim Report in Pegasus Snooping Case

- Head of the technical committee: **Justice RV Raveendran**
- **Objective:** to look into the allegations of government allegedly using Israeli software Pegasus to spy on politicians, activists, and journalists, has submitted its interim report in the Supreme Court

#### 4. Ravi Chopra resigns as Chairman of Supreme Court appointed Char Dham Panel

- Veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra has resigned as Chairman and member of High Powered Committee (HPC) for Char Dham project, appointed by Supreme Court
- He was assigned the chairmanship of HPC in September 2019 to oversee an all-weather road widening project in the Char Dham circuit.
- Char Dham Road Project: It envisages widening of 10 Mtrs roads to improve accessibility to Char Dham (Four shrines): Yamunotri, Gangotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath

#### 5. Sebi directs AMCs to set up audit committee with a minimum three directors

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has directed mutual fund (MF) industry to set up audit committee at the asset management company (AMC) level.
- This audit committee will have minimum of three directors and at least two-third of them shall be independent directors of AMC.
- This new committee will come into effect from August 1, 2022.
- At present, this type of committee is set up by the trustee of a fund house.

January 2022

#### 1. SEBI Restructures Market Data Advisory Committee

- Headed by: **S Sahoo**, former chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
- SEBI has restructured its advisory committee on market data that recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.
- It is a 20-member committee that was earlier headed by Madhabi Puri Buch, ex-whole time member of Sebi.

#### 2. Panel formed to prepare energy transition roadmap for India

- Headed by: **Tarun Kapoor**, former petroleum secretary.
- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up **Energy Transition Advisory Committee**.
- **Objective:** Draw up an energy transition roadmap for the oil and gas sector that could prove to be a key step on India's path to net-zero emissions by 2070.

#### 3. SC appoints high-level committee to investigate PM's security breach

- Supreme Court has appointed high-level committee to look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab
- Chairperson of the committee: **former SC Judge, Indu Malhotra**
- look into the alleged security breach of Prime Minister's Punjab visit on 5th January this year.
- Three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana and comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, have passed the order for the same
- Apex court has passed the order after hearing a petition filed by NGO, Lawyers Voice, seeking appropriate directions and or orders in the alleged security breach of

the Prime Minister, who was on his way to Punjab to address a rally.

#### 4. Centre forms 3-member committee to probe into PM Modi's security lapse

- Ministry of home affairs constituted three-member committee to probe into the serious lapses in the security arrangement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab's Ferozepur.
- Committee will be led by Sudhir Kumar Saxena, secretary (security), Cabinet Secretariat.

#### 5. RBI Governor-headed FSDC sub-committee reviews economic situation

- Headed by: Reserve Bank Governor **Shaktikanta Das**
- It has reviewed the economic situation in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and resolved to keep a close watch on the unfolding developments with a view to ensure financial stability.

#### 6. Indian Railways constitutes a committee to look into NTPC CBT-1 result

- Indian Railways has constituted high power committee to look into the concerns and doubts raised by candidates in regard to the results of 1st Stage CBT of NTPC issued by Railway Recruitment Boards on 14-15th January.
- Committee will investigate results of 1st Stage CBT and methodology used for shortlisting candidates for 2nd Stage CBT without affecting existing shortlisted candidates.
- Railways postponed its NTPC and 1st Stage CBT following protests by job aspirants.



**1. IndiGo becomes first airline to land aircraft using indigenous navigation system GAGAN**

- Flight was conducted using ATR-72 aircraft and landed at Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan, using GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN)
- GAGAN has been developed by Centre-run Airports Authority of India (AAI) and ISRO.
- GAGAN will provide lateral and vertical guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway for landing.

**2. Qualcomm India partners with MeITY's C-DAC to help Indian chipset startups**

- Qualcomm India conducted Qualcomm Semiconductor Mentorship Program 2022 for select startups from the semiconductor space in India.
- Aim: To provide and facilitate mentorship, technical training, and industry outreach for startups. This year Qualcomm India has announced a collaboration with C-DAC.
- Under this collaboration, C-DAC, and Qualcomm India plan to help in innovation, product development, technical advancements, and intellectual-property-driven innovation.

**3. Indian Coast Guard Inducts New Vessel 'Urja Pravaha'**

- Indian Coast Guard Ship (Auxiliary Barge) named 'Urja Pravaha' has been inducted into Indian Coast Guard at Gujarat's Bharuch.
- Urja Pravaha arrived in Kochi and will be under operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe).
- It is 36m long & is designed to carry Cargo Ship Fuel, Aviation Fuel & Fresh Water.
- It will enhance the desired logistics support for ships deployed at far-flung areas in the Maritime Operational area including EEZ and Lakshadweep/Minicoy islands.

**4. User-Friendly Weather Forecasting App**

- India Meteorological Department (IMD) has signed MoU with IIT Bombay to work together for developing climate solutions for the stakeholders

at village, city, and district levels through user-friendly weather forecasting applications.

- It will help the institute to develop sensors and drone-based smart monitoring systems, climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, etc.

**5. New plant species discovered in Idukki, Kerala**

- It has been discovered by researchers at postgraduate and research department of Botany at St. Albert's College in Kochi.
- They fall under genus Peperomia and newly discovered plant has been named 'Peperomia Albertiae' in recognition of the work carried out by researchers.
- It was identified at Chokramudi Kudi at Bison Valley in Idukki, during botanical expedition focusing on vascular epiphytes of tropical forests of the Southwestern Ghats.

**6. Russia launches secret military spacecraft into orbit around Earth**

- The launch has been conducted from Plesetsk cosmodrome using Angara-1.2 light launch vehicle.
- Launch took place from north-western Russia's Arkhangelsk Oblast region was to deliver a secret military satellite to use against Ukraine.

**7. Indian Navy to Acquire Spy Satellite GISAT-2 to Boost Capability in IOR**

- Aim: to boost modernization and network-centric warfare and communications programme, the Indian Navy is looking to acquire a dedicated earth imaging satellite — Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT-2) in this fiscal year.
- GISAT-2: It is among 21 planned procurements, including some long-term acquisitions according to reports.
- Once operational, it is expected to enhance the navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region, which is strategically and geopolitically important, especially in the backdrop of increasing Chinese presence.
- Geo Imaging Satellite: Indian imaging satellite class for geostationary orbit with a high temporal

resolution, meant for providing near real time imaging with fast revisit capability and real time monitoring.

## 8. India's largest lithium-ion battery plant starts production in Gujarat

- Exide Industries and joint venture partner Switzerland's Leclanche SA have begun mass production of largest lithium-ion battery plant in the western state of Gujarat.
- Nexcharge has so far invested 2.5 billion rupees (\$33 million) in building and setting up the plant, which also has a cell testing lab.
- The plant has total installed capacity of 1.5 Gigawatt hours (GWh), six automated assembly lines on which it will produce batteries for automobiles and energy storage applications, Nexcharge.

## 9. Bellatrix Aerospace tests green satellite propulsion

- Bellatrix Aerospace has tested eco-friendly propulsion system for satellites that cuts new path from hydrazine-dependent fuel systems and offers potential 20% jump in fuel efficiency for space satellites.
- Satellite thrusters run on toxic compound hydrazine that have severe environmental impact, pushing space researchers to scout for eco-friendlier alternatives.

## 10. Scientists discover almost 35 million years old rare snake fossil from Ladakh

- Scientists have reported spotting of Madtsoiidae snake fossil from the molasse deposits of Ladakh Himalaya for the first time indicating their prevalence in the subcontinent for much longer time than previously thought.

- Madtsoiidae: Extinct group of medium-sized to gigantic snakes, firstly appeared during late Cretaceous.

## 11. Indian Army to set up residential coaching centre in Manipur

- It will belong to economically weaker and underprivileged sections of North-East region for making them prepared for all-India competitive examinations, including engineering and medical entrance.
- For this, Army has signed MoU with State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO).
- Centre is named as "Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness" and it will be located in Bishnupur district of Manipur.
- It is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of Fifty students by the first week of July 2022.

## 12. ISRO successfully tests human rated HS200 rocket booster for the Gaganyaan mission

- Human-rated solid rocket booster (HS200): human-rated version of the well-proven S200 rocket booster of GSLV Mk III satellite launch vehicle, popularly known as LVM3
- Design and development of HS200: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, and propellant casting was completed at SDSC, Sriharikota.
- LVM3 has been identified as the launch vehicle for gaganyaan mission because of its success in previous launches including Chandrayaan.

**April 2022**

## 1. Pixxel launches first commercial satellite 'Shakuntala' satellite with SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket

- It has been launched by Falcon-9 rocket of Elon Musk-run SpaceX from Cape Canaveral in the US under SpaceX's Transporter-4 mission.
- It is a low-orbit imaging satellite, installed with one of the highest-resolution hyperspectral commercial cameras ever flown to space.

- The satellite will help to track the invisible changes of Earth like deforestation, natural gas leakages, pollution, declining crop health, melting ice caps, and other data critical for climate change assessments.

## 2. IAF Commemorates 60 years of Glorious Service by Chetak Helicopters

- Indian Air Force has organized a conclave at Air Force Station, Hakimpet on 02 April 2022, to commemorate 60 years of glorious service by Chetak Helicopter in IAF.
- It was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.
- Raksha Mantri released Special Cover, Coffee Table Book and Commemorative Movie on Chetak Helicopters during the conclave.
- Chetak helicopter:
  - oldest operational flying machine with the Indian Air Force.
  - It has been made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the licence agreement.
  - It was inducted into the Indian Air force in 1962

### **3. 4th edition of India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS) concludes in Kochi**

- IBMS: India's only and most influential Boat and Marine industry related exhibition.
- Organized by: Kochi-based Cruz Expo.
- IBMS 2022 showcased leading international brands as well as indigenous boat manufacturers from across the country.
- Around 45 exhibitors from all over India and two international exhibitors participated in the expo

### **4. 20th India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA - 2022' kicks-off in Arabian Sea**

- It was being held from March 30 to April 3, 2022.
- This Bilateral Naval Exercises is being held since 1993 and the exercise was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001.
- Various ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters will be participating in the VARUNA-2022 exercise

### **5. Maiden IONS Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) concludes in Goa and Arabian Sea**

- First edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise 2022 (IMEX-22) has been concluded
- It was being held from March 26 to 30, 2022 in Goa and in Arabian Sea.

- Objective: to enhance interoperability of the navies of member nations in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- Harbour Phase of IMEX 22 was held at Marmugao port, Goa while the Sea Phase took place in the Arabian Sea.

### **6. India- Seychelles Joint Military Exercise Lamitiye 2022 Concluded**

- The 9th edition of Lamitiye 2022 held at Seychelles Defence Academy, Seychelles was concluded.
- It is a 10 days long exercise
- Focus: enhancing interworking to develop the capability to undertake joint operations in a semi-urban environment.

### **7. India conducts successful flight-test of anti-tank guided missile 'Helina' in Pokhran**

- Flight trials were conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH), and missile was fired successfully, engaging a simulated tank target in the Pokhran desert ranges.
- HELINA: most advanced anti-tank weapons in the world.
- It has a maximum range of 7 kilometers.
- Developed by: Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.

### **8. India successfully flight-tested Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System**

- **DRDO** and **Indian Army** has successfully flight-tested **Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS)** and **Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM) rocket systems** at the Pokhran firing ranges
- EPRS: upgraded version of Pinaka variant, which has been in service with Indian Army for the last decade.
- It has been upgraded with advanced technologies and enhanced range for emerging requirements
- Developed by: DRDO lab- Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.

### **9. DRDO successfully flight-tests Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology off Odisha coast**

- SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds.
- It has a high projected range of 350 km.
- SFDR has been developed by **Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad** in collaboration with other **DRDO laboratories** like **Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad** and **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune**.

#### **10. China successfully launches new satellite Gaofen-3 03 for Earth Observation**

- It will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation by forming a network with the orbiting Gaofen-3 and Gaofen-3 02 satellites.
- They will then capture reliable, stable synthetic aperture radar (SAR) images, to help Beijing safeguard its maritime rights and interests.
- Earth Observation (EO) satellites produce large number of SAR images every day, which are characterized by all-weather operation, high spatial resolution, among other things.

#### **11. 9th India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Concludes at Himachal Pradesh**

- This joint training exercise strengthened the existing bond between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- Special Forces contingents from India and Kyrgyzstan shared their expertise and best practices of tactics, techniques, and procedures to counter existing and emergent threats.

#### **12. Israel successfully tested new laser missile defense system**

- It can intercept many kinds of aerial objects ranging from missiles, rockets, anti-tank missiles and even drones.
- Developed by: Rafael Advanced Defense Systems
- It is using directed-energy weapon system and can go a long way in providing aerial defense.
- It is the world's first energy-based weapons system that uses laser to shoot down incoming UAVs, rockets & mortars at \$3.50 per shot

#### **13. IAF ties up with IIT Madras to develop solutions to maintain weapon systems**

- Aim: to accelerate IAF's indigenization efforts for achieving 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.
- Under this, IAF has identified key focus areas involving technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems.

#### **14. India launches sixth Scorpene-class submarine 'INS Vagsheer' in Mumbai**

- Vagsheer (sixth submarine, Yard 11880) of the P75 project of the Indian Navy was launched at Mazgaon Dock Ltd.
- This is the last of the Scorpene-class submarines made under the P75 project and can join the Navy fleet after sea trials.
- Designed by: French naval defence and energy company DCNS
- Manufacturer: Mazagon Dock Limited, Mumbai
- Submarines: INS Kalvari(2017), INS Khanderi(2019), INS Karanj(March 2021), INS Vela (November 2021), INS Vagir(November 2020, under sea trial)

#### **15. IAF successfully test-fires BrahMos missile from Su30-MkI fighter jet**

- The missile hit a decommissioned Indian Navy ship under close coordination with the Indian Navy.
- The BrahMos can be fired from submarines, ships, fighter jets and land.
- In 2016, the government decided to integrate the Brahmos into over 40 Sukhoi fighter jets.
- Chief of the Air Staff: Vivek Ram Chaudhari

#### **16. Russia successfully test-fired RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile**

- Russia's most powerful ICBM is the RS-28 Sarmat, dubbed "Satan 2" by NATO.
- It is a super-heavy, thermonuclear-armed intercontinental-range ballistic missile.
- Sarmat was supposed to take the place of the Soviet-built Voevoda, which had three warheads and was designed in 1962.
- It weighs 200 metric tonnes (220 tonnes) and has a longer range, allowing it to fly across the North and South poles and strike targets anywhere on the planet.

**March 2022**



### 1. India's first Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK)

- First Artificial Intelligence & Robotics Technology Park (ARTPARK) of India has been launched at IISc campus, Bengaluru.
- 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.

### 2. IIT Roorkee gets Petascale Supercomputer 'PARAM Ganga'

- Deployed under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)
- Capacity: 1.66 Petaflops.
- It is designed and commissioned by C-DAC under Phase 2 of NSM.
- Availability will accelerate the research and development activities in multidisciplinary domains of science and engineering.
- Focus: to provide computational power to the user community of IIT Roorkee and neighbouring academic institutions.
- NSM: It is being steered jointly by Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY) and Dept of Science and Technology (DST). It is implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

### 3. Iran successfully launches second military satellite Noor-2 into orbit

- 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.

### 4. India, Japan holds joint military exercise in Karnataka

- India and Japan are conducting an annual joint military exercise titled 'Dharma Guardian 2022' at

Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belgaum, Karnataka from 27th February to 10th March

- 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

### 5. UK scientists identified 16 new genetic variants of COVID

- Scientists in United Kingdom has identified 16 new genetic variants that make a person more susceptible to a severe COVID-19
- It is a part of research project, GenOMICC (Genetics of Mortality in Critical Care)
- **GenOMICC:** It brings together clinicians and scientists from around the world to find the genetic factors that lead to critical illnesses. It is indulged in study of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome), MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome), flu, sepsis, and other forms of illness.

### 6. Scientists unearthed oldest octopus's species fossil with 10 arms

- It is unearthed in central Montana and named as Syllipsimopodi bideni.
- Around 300 known octopus' species are dwelling in the world's oceans with 8 arms characteristic.
- Unearthed fossil is so well preserved that it reveals two parallel rows of suckers up and down each arm, dates to about 328 million years ago.
- Characteristics: It is 4-3/4 inches (12 cm) long, torpedo-shaped body and squid-like appearance.
- It is the oldest-known creature with suckers, which enable the arms to better grasp prey and other objects.

### 7. India and Seychelles kicks off 9th Joint Military Exercise 'LAMITIYE-2022'

- 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.
- Seychelles: Archipelagic Island country consisting of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean.

#### 8. NATO military exercises 'Cold Response 2022' kick off in Norway

- The exercise is held in Norway every second year, for NATO Allies and partners
- It provides an opportunity to train military 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 1980s

#### 9. Israel-based Coralogix forms cyber security venture in India, Snowbit

- Coralogix will focus on the Indian and Israeli markets and is a full-service cybersecurity venture focused on empowering cloud-native companies to secure themselves against growing cyber risks in a quick, efficient, and cost-effective manner.
- Snowbit's Managed Extended Detection and Response (MxDR) also incorporate SaaS platform and expert services.

#### 10. ISRO successfully conducts ground test of solid booster stage for SSLV

- It completes the ground testing of all three stages of the launch vehicle.
- Vehicle is now ready for its first development flight, which is scheduled for May 2022.
- Other stages of SSLV like SS2 & SS3 have successfully undergone necessary ground tests and are ready for integration.

#### 11. Third edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise begins

- The exercise is titled '**EX-DUSTLIK**' and is being conducted at Yangiariq, Uzbekistan
- Last edition of DUSTLIK was conducted in **Ranikhet, Uttarakhand** in March 2021

- Focus: counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain under a United Nations Mandate.
- It will focus primarily on sharing tactical level drills and learning of best practices from each other
- **Grenadiers Regiment** is participating from Indian side

#### 12. India successfully test fires surface to surface BrahMos

- The extended range missile hit its target with pinpoint accuracy.
- It is a mid-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile
- It has been developed by India's DRDO and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya.

#### 13. Western naval command conducts offshore security exercise Prasthan

- '**Prasthan**' was conducted in **Mumbai** on 23 March 2022.
- The exercise is **conducted in every six months** to ensure offshore security which aims to integrate efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defence.
- This exercise led by the Indian Navy, the exercise is also participated by from the Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Mumbai Port Trust, JLN Port Trust, Customs, State Fisheries Department, Mercantile Marine Department, and the Marine Police.

#### 14. Indian Navy's Western Naval Command conducts 'Prasthan' exercise

- The exercise is conducted every six months, to ensure offshore security.
- Apart from the Naval forces, exercise saw 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 Marine Police.

#### 15. Indian Army conducts airborne rapid response exercise near Siliguri Corridor

- Indian Army conducted 2-day airborne insertion and rapid response exercise near Siliguri Corridor, from March 24 to March 25, 2022, to test readiness of rapid response teams..

- Siliguri Corridor is a strategically important region and is also known as Chicken's Neck. It is a stretch of land in Siliguri city of West Bengal. It borders Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and connects the northeastern states with the rest of India.

## 16. Malaysia to host 4 nations for Bersama Shield 2022 military exercise

- Malaysia will host armed forces from 4 nations namely, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the UK in the annual Bersama Shield 2022 (BS22) training exercise. Bersama means together in Malay.
- It will involve sea and air drills, mostly in international waters but also in part of Malaysia's exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea.
- It is conducted within the framework of the Five Power Defense Arrangements (FPDA).

## February 2022

1. A Global Center of Excellence in Affordable and Clean Energy has been launched at **IIT Dharwad**.  
**Note:** The center is supported by the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) donation from Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation (HHSIF). The first phase of the CSR project with HHSIF is to establish equipment for the GCoE-ACE mainly as skill development, fabrication, and R&D equipment.
2. **INS Vagir** would be the name of the fifth submarine of Project 75, of the Scorpene class that has commenced her maiden sea trials.  
**Note:** The submarine, launched in November 2020 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), would be named Vagir, after commissioning. Last year, INS Vela, the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines of Project-75, was inducted into the Navy.
3. **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed a contract worth ₹3131.82 crores for the manufacture and supply of Konkurs anti-tank missiles for the Indian Army.  
**Note:** Bharat Dynamics will manufacture and supply Konkurs anti-tank missiles to the Indian Army. Konkurs - M is a second generation, mechanized infantry anti-tank guided missile, to destroy armored vehicle equipped with explosive reactive armour.
4. Param Pravega, one of the most powerful supercomputers in India has been installed and commissioned in **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**.  
**Note:** The system, which is expected to power diverse research and educational pursuits, has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops (1 petaflop equals a quadrillion or 1,015 operations per second), the premier science research institution based in Bengaluru. It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
5. **Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad** has launched the beta version of 'Swarajability', a job portal powered by AI that helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills and find jobs.  
**Note:** The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank, while IIT-H provided AI expertise, Visual Quest developed the platform, and Youth4Jobs skilling services. The platform will analyse the profiles of the job seekers and suggest the skills they would require to become eligible.
6. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will make its third venture to the Moon through the Chandrayaan-3 mission in **August 2022**.  
**Note:** This was stated by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in a written reply to Lok Sabha. This year is expected to be quite busy for ISRO as major projects such as Gaganyaan and Aditya solar mission are also in the pipeline. ISRO will conduct 19 missions till December this year.
7. "Winter Camp" is a joint military exercise of **NATO**.  
**Note:** The "Winter Camp" exercise in northeast Estonia, just 100 kilometres (62 miles) from the Russian border, included some 1,300 British, Estonian and French troops operating in extreme conditions.
8. **Operation AAHT** has been launched by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to curb human trafficking.  
**Note:** The RPF that rescued more than more than 2,000 women and children between 2017-21 from the clutches of traffickers intensified the crackdown on human trafficking with the increasing number of cases. The National Crime Records Bureau registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.
9. The National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) has been established at **IIT- Bombay**.  
**Note:** The Department of Science & Technology (DST) has established the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilisation (NCOE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay.
10. In February 2022, the ISRO successfully launched the earth observation satellite **EOS-4**.  
**Note:** EOS-04, INSPIRESat-1 and INST-2TD were injected successfully into a sun-synchronous polar orbit by PSLV-C52. EOS-04 is designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions for applications such as agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping.
11. 'Cope South 22' is a joint tactical airlift exercise of **US and Bangladesh**.

**Note:** Named as Cope South 22, the exercise will be conducted at Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh. It will witness the participation of nearly 77 airmen, along with two US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules from the US Air Force (USAF) 36th Airlift Squadron (AS) of the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota Air Base in Japan.

12. Asia's largest defence exhibition, DefExpo 2022, will be held in **Gandhinagar**.

**Note:** More than 900 defence firms and 55 countries are expected to participate in it. A 1,000-drone display is expected to be one of the highlights of the exhibition. This will be the second time such a show is being organised in the country. It was first organised at the Beating Retreat in Delhi on January 29.

13. Fighter aircraft **Tejas MK-1** has been showcased by India in the Singapore Air Show 2022.

**Note:** India showcased the IAF's 'Made in India' Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark-One(MK-1), a 4th generation fighter aircraft. Singapore Air Show is a biennial event that provides a platform for the Global Aviation Industry to showcase its products.

14. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has conducted sixth edition of Eastern Bridge-VI exercise with **Oman**.

**Note:** The exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI is in its sixth edition. Exercise Eastern Bridge V was held in October 2019 at the Air Force Base Masirah, Oman. The IAF contingent comprised MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft. It was the first time that MIG-29 fighter aircraft participated in an International Exercise outside India.

15. Multinational 'Exercise Cobra Warrior 22 will be organized by **England**, in which Indian Air Force will also participate with a fleet of five Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA).

**Note:** Besides the Royal Air Force of the UK, the US, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Belgium will also participate in the exercise. The multi-nation air exercise named "Ex Cobra Warrior 22" will be conducted at Waddington, UK, from March 6 to March 27. The IAF's C-17 aircraft will provide the necessary transport support for induction and de-induction.

16. The undersea submersible vehicle MATSYA 6000 is capable of taking **three** person to a depth of 6,000 metres (m), that will be ready for its launch in 2024 for the Samudrayaan Mission.

**Note:** The vehicle is designed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and developed by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NIOT under the aegis of Deep Ocean Mission (DOM).

17. A joint team of scientists from DRDO and **IIT Delhi** successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres.

**Note:** It was achieved over commercial-grade optical fibre already available in field. With this, India has demonstrated indigenous technology of secure key transfer for bootstrapping military-grade communication security key hierarchy

18. In February 2022, with the arrival of the latest three aircraft, **35 Rafale fighter aircraft** have been received by India till date from France for which it signed a contract with France in September 2016.

**Note:** The aircraft took off from a French airbase and were provided mid-air refuelling by the Air Force of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). With the arrival of the latest three aircraft, India has now received a total of 35 of the 36 Rafale jets for which it signed a contract with France in September 2016.

19. The Indian Navy received its 12th and final anti-submarine warfare aircraft P-8I from **Boeing**.

**Note:** This is the fourth of four additional aircraft delivered under the options contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in 2016. The Indian Navy became the first international customer for the P-8I in January 2009, when it signed a contract with Boeing for eight P-8I Poseidon aircraft for \$2.17 billion.

20. The biennial exercise multilateral Naval Exercise "Milan 2022" is being organized in **Vishakhapatnam**.

**Note:** It will be conducted over a duration of nine days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from February 25 and the Sea Phase from 1st March to 4th March. Theme: '**Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration**'. It is a biennial multilateral naval exercise incepted by Indian Navy in 1995 at the Andaman and Nicobar Command

21. **Third** edition of joint military exercise 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022' was conducted between India and Japan at Belagavi (Belgaum), Karnataka.

**Note:** It will be conducted from 27th February to 10th March 2022. It is participated by the 15th Battalion of 'Maratha Light Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army' and 30th Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF).

## January 2022

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

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



- the CSL. The construction of water metro terminals is also progressing.
2. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Kalpana Chawla Centre for Research in Space Science & Technology at **Chandigarh University**.  
**Note:** He also launched Scholarship Scheme, worth Rs 10 crore, for the wards of Defence Personnel of the three Services. It is established with the objective of training students in space science, satellite development and meet future challenges in space research. It would be the Ground Control Station for the Chandigarh University's Student Satellite.
  3. Multinational naval exercise Milan was conducted in **Visakhapatnam**.  
**Note:** The theme of this 11th edition of exercise Milan is camaraderie, cohesion and collaboration. This exercise was initiated in 1995 and held biennially and conducted with friendly navies. The countries that have been extended invitations for participation include Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, Iran, France, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Brazil, United Arab Emirates, among others.
  4. Capacity of the India's first indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC) Vikrant -- **40,000-tonne**.  
**Note:** It is planned to be inducted in August 2022. The 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier is the largest and most complex warship to be built in India. It successfully completed a five-day maiden sea voyage in August and underwent 10-day sea trials in October 2021.
  5. Multi-national exercise 'Sea Dragon' that focuses on anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training in Indo-Pacific region was led by **USA**.  
**Note:** Participating members are Quad nations (United States, Australia, India and Japan), Canada and South Korea. It includes more than 270 hours of in-flight training, classroom sessions for pilots, flight officers
  6. In January 2022, an extended range sea-to-sea variant of which missile was successfully test-fired by India from the Indian Navy's newly commissioned INS Visakhapatnam **BrahMos**.  
**Note:** BrahMos, deployed by the Navy on its warships first in 2005, has the capability to hit sea-based targets beyond radar horizon. The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, respectively.
  7. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of MPATGM.  
**Note:** The indigenously developed anti-tank missile is a low weight, 'fire and forget' missile and is launched from a man portable launcher, integrated with thermal sight. While the Indian Army has been mainly using various imported anti-tank guided missiles in the past, the DRDO has been working on ATGMs to be launched from different platforms as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
  8. In collaboration with **ISRO & CBSE**, the NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) recently launched 'ATL Space Challenge 2021'.  
**Note:** It was launched in collaboration with ISRO and CBSE. The challenge was designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers across the country. It witnessed over 2500 submissions from both ATL and Non-ATL students across the country from which 75 top innovators were selected and announced.
  9. In January 2022, the Indian Navy has conducted a passing exercise with **Russia**.  
**Note:** Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Kochi exercised with Russian Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs. The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.
  10. Indian Navy has conducted maritime Partnership Exercise with the navy of **Japan** in the Bay of Bengal.  
**Note:** The Indian side was represented by Indian Naval Ships (INS) Shivalik and INS Kadmat while JMSDF Ships Uraga and Hirado the participated from Japanese side. Strengthening bilateral relations, promoting defence cooperation, enhancing mutual understanding and interoperability, and sharing best practices between IN and JMSDF.
  11. **Philippines** become the first country to buy the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system boosting India's efforts to become a major exporter of defence hardware.  
**Note:** The Philippines recently signed the 'notice of award' or the acceptance of India's BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd \$374.96 million (USD 374,962,800) proposal for supplying the missile system for the Philippine Navy's shore-based anti-ship missile acquisition project.
  12. Indian navy ship **INS Kochi** participated in the PASSEX exercises with Russian navy ships in the Arabian Sea in January 2022.  
**Note:** Indian Navy's indigenously designed and built guided missile destroyer INS Kochi exercised with Russian Federation Navy's destroyer Admiral Tributs. The exercise showcased cohesiveness and interoperability between the two navies and included tactical manoeuvres, cross-deck helicopter operations and seamanship activities.
  13. **Border Security Force (BSF)** has launched Operation Sard Hawa.  
**Note:** Under the exercise the BSF will increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Rajasthan. The Operation Sard Hawa is conducted during winters and Operation Garam Hawa is conducted during summers.
  14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a contract with **Mauritius** for export of one Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH)-MkIII.

**Note:** Mauritius already operates a ALH and Dornier Do-228 aircraft built by HAL. The ALH Mk III is a multi-role, multi-mission helicopter in the 5.5 tonne category in extensive use by the Indian armed forces and has also been exported.

15. ISRO Propulsion Complex is located in **Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:** The Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan human space mission underwent the qualification test for a duration of 25 seconds at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. Two engines have undergone tests under nominal operating conditions for a total duration of 480 seconds.

16. In coordination with **Canadian Space Agency**, NASA has launched the 'Deep Space Food Challenge' that calls on teams to design, build, and demonstrate

prototypes of food production technologies that provide tangible nutritional products -- or food.

**Note:** The technology will help future astronauts to produce nutritious, tasty, and satisfying meals on long-duration space missions, that require minimal resources and produce minimal waste. The Phase 2 of the challenge includes a prize of \$1 million.

17. Joint naval exercises CHIRU-2022 was conducted by **Russia, China and Iran**.

**Note:** The maritime drills conducted in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries. The participants practiced various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical maneuvers as a part of the drill.

## Honor & Awards

1-15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

1. **Doordarshan** TV network has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series for its TV series based on pet care 'Best Friend Forever' at 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA).

**Note:** Best Friend Forever: Half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National. Here, two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues.

2. Bengaluru-based neo banking startup **Open** has become the country's 100th unicorn after raising \$50 Mn from IIFL.

**Note:** Open operates neobank that offers small and medium-sized businesses as well as enterprises nearly all the features of the bank with additional tools to better serve the customer's needs. Co-founder and chief executive of Open: Anish Achuthan. The company is led by Google, Temasek, Visa, and Japan's SoftBank Investments.

3. **Cynthia Rosenzweig** has been awarded World Food Prize 2022.

**Note:** She is an agronomist and climatologist and spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate. She was awarded \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modeling of the impact of climate change on food production. She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

4. Reuters photojournalist **Danish Siddiqui (Reuters)** has been posthumously honoured with his second prestigious Pulitzer Prize in the feature

photography category with other three Indian journalists.

**Note:** Other three Indians: Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave. He was honoured with the prestigious award in 2018 for their coverage of the Rohingya crisis.

5. Union Home Minister, Amit Shah presents the President's Colours award to **Assam** state Police for exemplary service during the past 25 years.

**Note:** Assam becomes the 10th state in the country to receive President's Colours honour. President's Colours is the highest honour that is given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation.

6. **Gurusamy Krishnamoorthy (chief executive officer of Penlon)** will receive the Member of the Royal Order of British Empire (MBE) recognition from the Queen to meet the Ventilator requirement challenges in British during the pandemic.

**Note:** He started his career with Wipro GE Medical Systems and later co-founded a Med-tech startup in Chennai. Penlon deals with the design and manufacture of anaesthesia ventilators, anaesthesia machines and vaporizers.

7. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has conferred Gallantry Awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony-2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

**Note:** He presented Shaurya Chakras (13) including six posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces for displaying courage, gallantry, and devotion to duty. He also conferred Param Vishisht Seva Medals (14), Uttam Yudh Seva Medals(4), and

Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (24) for distinguished service of an exceptional order.

8. **Bengali** language translation of the French novel “Meursault, contre-enquête” (The Meursault Investigation) has won the 5th Romain Rolland Book Prize 2022.

**Note:** The award was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati. Meursault, contre-enquête, originally written by Algerian writer and journalist Kamel Daoud. This is the first time Patra Bharati has received such a prestigious award.

9. **Frank Wilczek** has been awarded the 2022 Templeton Prize.

**Note:** He received the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physics along with David J. Gross, and H. David Politzer for his 1973 breakthrough in explaining the unusual properties of the strong force. Templeton Prize was established in 1972 by the late philanthropist Sir John Templeton.

10. **Mamata Banerjee** has been awarded the Bangla Academy Award for her Kabita Bitan.

**Note:** Mamata Banerjee’s ‘Kabita Bitan’ was launched at the 2020 Kolkata Book Fair. The book contains 946 poems written by the TMC supremo. Mamta Banerjee was given the award at the “Ravi Pranam” function organised by the government’s information and culture department on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore’s birth anniversary.

## April -2022

Media Foundation has administered Chameli Devi Jain Award since 1981.

4. **Prof Ramdarash Mishra** has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2021 for his collection of poems ‘Mein to Yahan Hun’.

**Note:** The prestigious literary award Saraswati Samman was instituted in 1991. Awarded to: Literary work written in any Indian language by an Indian citizen and published within the last 10 years.

5. Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, Jatin Goswami, Dr. Sonal Man Singh and Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiak Kalyanasundaram were conferred with **Sangeet NatakAkademi Fellowship**.

**Note:** Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred the Sangeet NatakAkademi Fellowship to four, Sangeet Natak Awards to 40 and the National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi to 23 personalities. Sangeet NatakAkademi has organized a festival of Performing Arts in New Delhi.

6. **Kamloops Residential School** titled photograph taken by Canadian photographer Amber Bracken won the title of World Press Photo of the Year 2022.

**Note:** The photograph shows the death of children due to cruelty at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Photo Story of the Year prize: Australian photographer Matthew Abbott for National Geographic/Panos Pictures

7. **Bishesh Huirem** has become the first transgender actress who was honoured with the Best Actor

1. **The Naval Contingent** Contingent has received the Best Marching Trophy for Republic Day Parade 2022.

**Note:** The contingent was led by Lt CdrAanchal Sharma with Lt Shubham Sharma as platoon commanders and comprised 96 young sailors. Uttar Pradesh won the best state tableau for Republic Day 2022 for the showcase of One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham.

2. **64th** edition of Grammy Awards 2022 was held in Las Vegas.

**Note:** Album of the Year: 'We Are' by Jon Batiste  
Record of the Year: 'Leave the Door Open' by Silk Sonic

- Song of the Year: Leave the Door Open
- New Artist: Olivia Rodrigo
- Best Global Music Performance: Mohabbat by Arooj Aftab (First Pakistani)
- Best Global Music Album: Mother Nature by Angelique Kidjo
- Falguni Shah has won the Grammy Award for her 2021 album 'A Colorful World'.
- Indian composer Ricky Kej won his second Grammy at the 64th Grammy Awards 2022

3. **Journalist Aarefa Johari (Scroll.in)** has been selected for the Chameli Devi Jain Award.

**Note:** She won the award in the category of an Outstanding Woman Media person 2021. The

Award in the prestigious Manipur State Film Awards.

**Note:** She received the award for exceptional performance in the film 'ApaibaLeichil' (floating clouds) for portraying a transgender character. She also clinched the Special Mention Award. Best Feature Film: 'Eikhoigi Yum' directed by Romi Meitei. Best Direction Award: Bobby Haobam for the film 'Rongdaife'

8. **Eminent Assamese poet Nilamani Phookan** has been conferred with the country's highest literary award, 56th Jnanpith at Guwahati.

**Note:** NilmaniPhookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after MamoniRoisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. 57th Jnanpith Award 2022: Novelist DamodarMauzo was chosen for his contribution to Indian literature.

9. **Veteran Bengali author Amar Mitra** has been awarded the O.Henry award 2022, for a short story that he wrote 45 years back.

**Note:** The title of the short story is 'Gaonburo', a Bengali short fiction written in 1977. This story was translated into English (The Old Man OfKusumpur). He was also awarded the Sahitya Academy award in 2006.

10. **PM Modi** will be honoured with the inaugural Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award which is instituted in the memory of the veteran singer of Lata Mangeskar.

**Note:** The award ceremony will be held on April 24 which marks the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar (singing legend's father). Other awardees: Singer Rahul Despande, Veteran actress Asha Parekh, Actor Jackie Shroff and the Mumbai Dabbawalas, represented by Nutan Tiffin Suppliers.

11. **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** under the Ministry of Steel has been awarded with one gold and one silver award in the 80th SKOCH Summit in New Delhi.

**Note:** The Theme 80th SKOCH Summit 2022 is 'State of BFSI & PSUs'. NMDC won gold in the category of social responsibility and silver in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation. NMDC Headquarters: Hyderabad, Chairman & MD: Sumit Deb.

12. **Mumbai** has been recognised as 'Tree City of the World' for 2021 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNFAO) and Arbor Day Foundation.

**Note:** Mumbai has received recognition for its commitment towards growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities. CEO of Arbor Day Foundation: Dan Lambe

13. Actress **Divyanka Tripathi** has been honoured with Madhya Pradesh Champion Of Change Award 2021 for her phenomenal work as an artist.

**Note:** The event was organized by the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy (IFIE) at Kushabhau Thackeray auditorium in Bhopal. Other awardees: Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Former Governor of UP and Mizoram: Dr Aziz Qureshi. Music performer: Padma Vibhushan Teejan Bai .Mayor of Indore: Malini Laxmansingh Gaur

14. **Prabhat Patnaik** has been selected for the Malcom Adiseshiah Award 2022.

**Note:** The award is given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist. He taught at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning in the School of Social Sciences at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi and was serve as the Vice Chairman of the Kerala State Planning Board.

15. **Founder & CEO of Nykaa, Falguni Nayar** has won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021.

**Note:** She will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEYO) on 9 June 2022 at Monaco. A.M. Naik from Larsen & Toubro has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

16. **Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and SahyogKushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat** has been awarded the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 by the Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.

**Note:** The award is instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation. Both Dr. Bhushan Kumar and SahyogKushtha Yagna Trust have been working to raise awareness about leprosy and in providing care to those afflicted with it.

17. Flagship scheme of Civil Aviation Ministry, **UdeDesh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** has been selected for Prime Minister's Award for Excellence



in Public Administration 2020 under the category Innovation (General) - Central.

**Note:** UDAN scheme emphasizes on Good Governance, Qualitative achievements, and last mile connectivity rather than only on achievement of quantitative targets. Award consists of trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs 10 lakh.

- 18. IndusInd Bank** has been awarded with the global 'Celent Model Bank' award under the category of 'Payments System Transformation' for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH).

**Note:** The award recognises the Bank's outstanding journey in creating a cloud-based central payments hub. This payment hub is capable of seamlessly processing high transaction loads originating across all forms of payment instructions, and across all originating client touchpoints.

- 19. Tim Southee (New Zealand pace bowler)** has been awarded with the Sir Richard Hadlee Medal at the New Zealand Cricket (NZC) Awards.

**Note:** Women's Super Smash Player of the Year: Amelia Kerr (Wellington Blaze); Men's Super Smash Player of the Year: Michael Bracewell (Wellington Firebirds); International Women's ODI Player of the Year: Amelia Kerr (Wellington Blaze); International Men's ODI Player of the Year: Will Young (Central Stags); Winsor Cup for first-class bowling: Tim Southee (Northern Districts); PhylBlackler Cup for women's domestic bowling: Eden Carson (Otago Sparks); New Zealand Umpire of the Year: Chris Gaffaney.

- 20. Churu (Rajasthan), and Bishnupur (Manipur)** have conferred the prestigious Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2021 for Best Performance in the implementation of Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through the Khelo India Scheme.

**Note:** The award ceremony was held on the occasion of the 15th Civil Services Day (April 21, 2022) function in New Delhi.

- 21. Sir David Attenborough** has been awarded the Champions of the Earth Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

**Note:** Policy Leadership: Mia Mottley (Prime Minister of Barbados); Inspiration And Action: Sea Women of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands);

Entrepreneurial Vision: Maria Kolesnikova (Kyrgyz Republic)

- 22. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC)** has been conferred the Public Relations Awards 2022 by the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI).

**Note:** Shri Srinivasa Rao, DGM (Corporate Communications) received the awards on behalf of the Navratna PSU. NMDC Chairman: Sumit Deb

- 23. Kishroe Kumar Das (Bangladesh)** has been chosen for the Commonwealth Points of Light Award for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.

**Note:** He started an educational charity named Bidyanando in 2013 with just 22 students. He also started a meal programme named Ek takay aahar (Meal for one Taka) which has provided more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people (particularly children, homeless).

- 24. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky** has selected the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for acting to protect democracy 2022.

**Note:** Zelenskyy was selected because he marshaled the spirit, patriotism, and untiring sacrifice of the Ukrainian people in a life-or-death fight for their country. Caroline Kennedy and Jack Schlossberg will present the awards on May 22 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston.

- 25. Meghalaya** planning department's key initiative of an e-proposal system has won a coveted UN Award - World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prizes, 2022.

**Note:** Category of the role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies for development. The e-proposal system is a part of Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA) which helped to eliminate 75% physical work of files.

- 26. F1 champion Max Verstappen** has been named the 2022 Laureus Sportsman of the Year 2022.

**Note:** Olympic sprinter Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jamaica) has been named Sportswoman of the Year. Breakthrough of the Year prize: Emma Raducanu (British); Laureus Sporting Icon Award: Valtentino Rossi; Exceptional Achievement Award: Robert Lewandowski; World Team of the Year Award: Italy Men's Football Team; World Comeback of the Year Award: Sky Brown (Skateboard)

- 27. Atal Tunnel** has received the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award.

**Note:** It was built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). DG BRO, Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry received the award during the 25th annual Convention of IBC. The tunnel was built using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM). Atal Tunnel connects the Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti districts.

**28. Ardeshir B.K. Dubash** has received the Order of "Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru Jose Gregorio Paz Soldan" by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru.

**Note:** Ambassador of Peru in India, H.E. Carlos R. Polo has conferred the award to him. Dubash was designated as Honorary Consul of Peru in 1973. The Order of Merit was instituted in 2004, named after José Gregorio Paz Soldán.

**29. Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd** has received the 'India Pharma Innovation of the Year' Award as part of the India Pharma & India Medical Device Awards 2022.

**Note:** Indian Pharma Leader of the Year: Cipla Ltd. ; Indian Pharma (Formulation): Micro Labs Ltd. ; Indian Pharma CSR of the year: Zydus Lifesciences Ltd ; India Medical Device Leader of the Year: Poly Medicure Ltd. ; India Medical Device Company of the Year: Trivitron Healthcare Pvt Ltd.

**30. Charudutt Mishra** has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for the second time.

**Note:** He received his first Whitley Gold Award in 2005. He has received this award for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems. Princess Anne has presented the award to Mishra at London's Royal Geographic Society.

### March 2022

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

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

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

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

**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. 17<sup>th</sup>** 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). 2nd 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)

## February 2022

1. Indian hockey player **PR Sreejesh** won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 for his 2021 performances.

**Note:** He becomes 1st Indian man and only the second Indian to receive the accolade. In 2020, Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honour. Sreejesh was part of the Tokyo Olympics-bronze medal winning side.

2. **Neeraj Chopra** has been nominated for the prestigious 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.

**Note:** The other 5 nominees are Daniil Medvedev (Australian Open runner-up), Emma Raducanu (British tennis star), Pedri(Barcelona and Spain footballer), Yulimar Rojas (Venezuelan athlete) and Ariarne Titmus(Australian swimmer). The winners will be revealed in April following a vote by the Laureus World Sports Academy, made up of 71 sporting greats.

3. **Daryl Mitchell** has been named the recipient of the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award.

**Note:** As a result, Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson. Mitchell won the award for refusing to take a single in the high-pressure T20 World Cup semi-final against England in Abu Dhabi on November 10, 2021.

4. In popular choice category award, **Maharashtra** has won first position for Best Tableau among 12 states/UTs category for 2022.

**Note:** "The second place went to Uttar Pradesh [popular choice], while the tableau of Jammu and Kashmir on theme 'Changing face of Jammu & Kashmir' finished third,".

5. **Mangaluru International Airport, Karnataka** has been awarded the 'Voice of the Customer' award by the Airports Council International (ACI).

**Note:** ACI is a trade association of the world airports. The airport was awarded for demonstrating relentless efforts in gathering passenger feedback on customer needs in 2021 and providing the best-in-class travel experience.

6. **Zara Rutherford** became the youngest female pilot to circumvent the globe, traveling across five continents in five months while flying in a single-seater sport plane.

**Note:** It took her 155 days, but 19-year-old Zara Rutherford accomplished her goal: to become the youngest woman to fly solo around the world. Rutherford departed Belgium on August 18 in a Shark UL plane, a two-seat ultralight plane equipped with extra fuel tanks, two radios and a parachute.

7. **Rishabh Pant** has been awarded the Test batting award in the 15th edition of the ESPNcricinfo Awards.

**Note:** The Test bowling award went to Kyle Jamieson for his 5 for 31, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions. England fast bowler Ollie Robinson was named Debutant of the Year for his 37 wickets at 21.16 in eight Tests, which made him England's second highest wicket-taker in Tests in 2021.

8. **Nitin Gadkari** will be facilitated for the first time with the 18th late Madhavrao Limaye award in the category of Karyakram Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) for the year 2020-21.

**Note:** This award will be facilitated by Nashik Public Library, Sarvajanic Vachanalay. Earlier, the award was given to Karyaksham Aamdaar, an efficient Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) from Maharashtra.



9. **Sandeep Bakhshi** has been declared as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.  
**Note:** Bakhshi took charge in October 2018 amid a controversy around his predecessor, who had to step down over corporate governance issues. Since then, he has not just unhinged the bank from the controversy but also delivered growth on almost all parameters. The second-largest private sector lender in the country is well-capitalised.
10. **South Indian Bank** has won Best Technology Bank of the Year (Small Banks) at the 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards, instituted by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).  
**Note:** The IBA 17th Annual Banking Technology Conference and Awards 2021 organised by the IBA was virtually held on 14th February 2022. The IBA Awards 2021 celebrate "Next-Gen Banking" and recognise the technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over 2021.
11. **Coal India Ltd** has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.  
**Note:** CIL received this honor at the "Energy Meet and Excellence Award" function organized by Industry Chamber "ASSOCHAM" in Kolkata. Minister of state for Coal, Mines and Railways Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve also complimented CIL for bagging the coveted award.
12. **Bill Gates** has been conferred with 'Hilal-e-Pakistan' the second highest civilian honour in the country.  
**Note:** It is the second highest civilian honour in the country. He has been awarded for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan. Gates is on a day-long visit to Pakistan and has met with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.
13. **Ranveer Singh** received the Best Actor (Male) award in the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) Awards 2022.  
**Note:** The award was presented by Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) in memory of Dadasaheb Phalkeji 'Father of Indian Cinema'. It is India's only independent international film festival. Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and **Kriti Sanon** received awards in the Best Actor and Best Actress category for their performances in movies '83' and 'Mimi'.
14. **Asha Parekh** has been honoured with the Outstanding Contribution To Film Industry award at the Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022.  
**Note:** Known as the 'Hit Girl' of Indian cinema, Asha Parekh had appeared in many commercially successful films throughout her career. She was the highest-paid actor (female) of her time and was one of the most successful actors (female) of the 1960s and 1970s.

### January 2022

1. **Zishaan A Latif** has won the Ramnath Goenka Award in the Photojournalism category.  
**Note:** He won the award for his photo essay, The arduous struggle for inclusion in the NRC, which was published in The Caravan in October 2019. He documented the plight of people who were dropped from the National Register of Citizens (NRC), and put a face to an untold human story.
2. The prize money for the PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2021-22 -- **Rs. 20 lakh**.  
**Note:** India's governance model has become a Jan Andolan with people responding to the Prime Minister's call for Jan Bhagidari in major schemes. The prize money was also doubled this year from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh to the awarded District/Organization which is to be utilized for implementation of project/programme or bridging resource gaps in any area of public welfare.
3. **JC Chaudhry** has achieved a Guinness World Record recently he is noted **numerologists**.  
**Note:** He educated about ancient science to around 6000 participants, enthusiasts of numerology from USA, UK, Middle East and India. The initiative was organized by Chaudhry Nummero Pvt Ltd (CNPL) and Indian Institute of Numerology to create awareness regarding numerology, which was prevalent across ancient cultures like Greece, Egypt and India.
4. **The Hindu Group** has won the WAN-IFRA South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021.  
**Note:** They include 'Bring Back Milk Bikis Classic', a week-long campaign for FMCG giant Britannia for the relaunch of Milk Bikis Classic won gold in best in audience engagement category and bronze in best branded/sponsored content campaign category. WAN-IFRA's South Asian Digital Media Awards 2021 received over 140 entries this year.
5. **The Power of The Dog** won the 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022 for Best Motion Picture – Drama.  
**Note:** The Power of The Dog won the two biggest awards - Best Motion Picture (Drama) and Jane Campion won the Best Director. Will Smith took

home his first Golden Globe. He won the Best Film Actor (Drama) for King Richard.

6. **Nicole Kidman** won the best actress in Motion Picture-Drama award at 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022.

**Note:** The Power of The Dog won the two biggest awards - Best Motion Picture (Drama) and Jane Campion won the Best Director. Will Smith took home his first Golden Globe. He won the Best Film Actor (Drama) for King Richard.

7. Kenneth Branagh wins 'Best Screenplay Motion Picture' at 79th Golden Globe Awards 2022 for **Belfast**.

**Note:** 'Belfast' is a 2021 coming-of-age comedy-drama film written and directed by Kenneth Branagh. The film stars Caitriona Balfe, Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds, Colin Morgan, and newcomer Jude Hill. The movie centres around a young boy's childhood amidst the tumult of Belfast, Northern Ireland, in the 1960s.

8. **Harshaali Malhotra** has been awarded the 12th Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar Award 2022.

**Note:** She received the award from Bhagat Singh Koshiyari (Governor of Maharashtra). She played the role of Munni, who was mute young girl from Pakistan in Salman Khan starrer Bajrangi Bhaijaan.

9. **Navdeep Kaur** has won the Best National Costume award at the prestigious Mrs World 2022 pageant in Nevada, Las Vegas.

**Note:** She is the winner of Mrs India World 2021 and was representing the country at Mrs World 2022. She wore a striking gold Avant Garde outfit inspired by Kundalini Chakra and was designed by Eggie Jasmin.

10. **Robert Lewandowski** has won the Best FIFA Men's Player 2021 award.

**Note:** Lewandowski won the Best FIFA Men's Player Award for the second straight year, after getting the first one in 2020. Spain midfielder Alexia Putellas Best FIFA Players 2021 award in women's category. Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the FIFA Special Best Men's award.

11. **Alexia Putellas** has been awarded the Best FIFA Women's Player 2021 award.

**Note:** Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the FIFA Special Best Men's award. The Best FIFA Football Awards 2021 ceremony was held virtually in Zurich, Switzerland to crown outstanding players for excellent achievement in football.

12. **46** startups have been declared the winners of National Startup Awards 2021.

**Note:** This is second edition of the award conceived by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). A total of 46 Startups have been recognized as winners of National Startup

Awards 2021 along with 1 incubator and 1 accelerator.

13. **Shaylyn Ford** has been declared the winner of the Mrs World 2022 beauty pageant.

**Note:** Mrs Jordan, Jaclyn Stapp and Mrs UAE, Debanjali Kamstra, were declared as the runner ups, respectively.

14. Former cricketer **Clive Lloyd** has been given the knighthood for his service towards the game of cricket.

**Note:** The Clive Llyod knighthood investiture was performed by the Duke of Cambridge at Windsor Castle. Along with Clive Llyod Current England ODI and T20 Skipper Eoin Morgan received a CBE for his services to Cricket.

15. **Ratan Naval Tata** has been bestowed with the highest civilian award of Assam 'Asom Baibhav'.

**Note:** Assam governor Jagdish Mukhi will confer the award to the former chairman of Tata sons on 24 January, 2022. The Assam government is conferring 'Asom Baibhav' to Ratan Tata for his contribution to setting up cancer treatment facilities in the state.

16. **Prajakta Koli** has become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.

**Note:** The title has been conferred to her following her contribution towards mental health, women's rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns. UNDP aims to eliminate poverty, achieve sustainable growth and scale up human development in countries where it is required the most.

17. A new species of frog discovered in Panama's tropical rainforest has been named after **Great Thunberg**.

**Note:** The new species of the frog is named *Pristimantis gretathunburgae*. The team, which discovered the new species, was led by Abel Batista from Panama and Konrad Mebert from Switzerland.

18. **Sushmita Sen** has been honoured with International Association of Working Women Award at Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021.

**Note:** She has been felicitated for outstanding performance by a female actor in TV series for her show 'Aarya 2'. Aarya 2 series is created by Ram Madhvani and had released on Disney+Hotstar. DCSAFF 2021 is organized virtually from 16 to 30 January, to showcase the best in alternative cinema.

19. **Smriti Mandhana** has been conferred with Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year 2021.

**Note:** Apart from her, Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan) has been conferred with Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

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

## Sports News

1-15<sup>th</sup> May 2022

1. India has won a silver medal at the second Asian Girls Youth Beach Handball Championship which was held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.  
**Note:** The team of Indian girls has defeated Hong Kong. India was represented by Anushka Chauhan, Jassi, Sanjana Kumari, Chetna Devi, Vanshika Mehta, and Isha Majumdar. With this medal, the team also earned a spot in the World Youth Beach Handball Championship. The senior women's team has finished with a bronze.
2. **Harshada Sharad Garud** has become the first Indian to win a gold medal at IWF Junior World Championships 2022 in Heraklion, Greece.  
**Note:** She lifted 153-kilogram in the 45-kg weight category, that included 70 kg in Snatch and 83 kg in Clean and Jerk to finish on top of the podium. Turkey's Bektas Cansu bagged silver medal and Moldova's Teodora-Luminita Hincu won the bronze medal.
3. **Kerala** team has defeated the 32-time champion West Bengal in a penalty shootout to win its 75th Santhosh Trophy National Tournament for the seventh time at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala.  
**Note:** This is the first time that Kerala has won on home soil since 1993. Player of the Tournament: Jijo Joseph (Midfielder, Kerala). Top goalscorer: Jesin Tk.

Thonikkara (Forward, Kerala), 9 goals; Best goalkeeper: Priyant Singh (West Bengal)

4. **JAIN University(Deemed-to-be University)** has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games 2021 with 20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals.

**Note:** Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 golds has placed second and Punjab University placed third with 15 gold medals. Siva Sridhar has emerged as the star swimmer by winning 11 gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG was held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru.

5. **Ronnie O'Sullivan (English snooker player)** has won his seventh World Snooker Championship crown after beating Judd Trump (English snooker player) by 18-13.

**Note:** With this win, he has been equalled Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven world titles. O'Sullivan has won his first world title in 2001. He has also claimed snooker's biggest prize in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2013 and 2020 before his triumph over the Bristolian.

6. Olympian discus thrower **Kamalpreet Kaur** has been suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) for testing positive for a banned substance.

**Note:** The AIU has found the presence/use of the prohibited substance anabolic steroid called stanozolol in her sample. Kaur had finished sixth with a throw of 63.7m in the Tokyo Olympics final. Stanozolol was used by sprinter Ben Johnson during the Seoul Olympics in 1988.

7. **Shooter Dhanush Srikanth** has won gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition in the 24th Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

**Note:** Shourya Saini has also won the bronze in the same event. Later, the Indian badminton team also won gold after beating Japan by 3-1 in the final to make it a double celebration for the country. Vedika Sharma won the bronze medal in the 10 m air pistol at the ongoing Deaflympics 2021 in Caxias do Sol, Brazil.

8. **India cricket team** has been ranked as the world's number one in ICC T20 team ranking.

**Note:** New Zealand has bagged the top spot in the ODI rankings, followed by England, Australia, and India. Men's Test Team Rankings: Australia, India, and New Zealand. International Cricket Council Chairman: Greg Barclay; CEO: Geoff Allardice; Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

9. Khelo India Youth Games 2021 will be held in **Haryana**.

**Note:** Mascot, Logo and Jersey and theme song of Khelo India Youth Games were launched in a special ceremony held at Indra Dhanush Stadium in Panchkula, Haryana. The Mascot and theme was launched by Haryana's Chief Minister Manohar Lal along with Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Anurag Thakur.

10. Abhinav Deshwal has won the second gold medal for India in **Shooting** at the ongoing 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil.

**Note:** He was tied with silver winning Ukrainian Oleksii Lazebnyk before winning gold in a shoot-off. India has four medals in the shooting competition at the 24th Deaflympics. Men's 10m air rifle: Dhanush Srikanth (Gold); Shourya Saini (Bronze). Women's 10m air pistol: Vedika Sharma (Bronze).

11. **Max Verstappen** has won the inaugural Miami Grand Prix for Red Bull after defeating the Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc.

**Note:** Leclerc (Ferrari) finished second and Spanish teammate Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) placed third in the Miami Grand Prix 2022.

12. **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** has clinched the men's singles Madrid Open title 2022 after beating the defending champion Alexander Zverev (Germany).

**Note:** Alcaraz has also defeated Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic (world No.1) to reach the final. It is his second Masters 1000 crown after Miami 2022 and his fourth title of the year. Ons Jabeur (Tunisia) has clinched women's singles title to become the first African player to win a WTA 1000 event.

13. Indian Grandmaster **Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** has won the first Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament in Punta Prima.

**Note:** GM Gukesh has defeated GM Haik M Martirosyan (Armenian) in the final round. This is his third title after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open. He had defeated K Sasikiran (Indian) in the ninth and penultimate round.

14. Athlete **Jyothi Yarraji (from Andhra Pradesh)** has smashed the national record to clinch a gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles at Limassol in Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022 with a timing of 13.23 seconds.

**Note:** She break the 20-year-old national record (13.38 seconds) in the name of Anuradha Biswal in 2002. Another Indian athlete Lili Das has also won gold in the women's 1500 meter race and Amlan Borgohain won the bronze medal in the men's 200m.

15. Indian pistol pairs **Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary** clinched the mixed team pistol gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.

**Note:** The team of Palak and Sarabjot Singh has settled for the silver medal in the same event. Ramita and Paarth Makhija also won silver in the 10m air rifle



mixed team competition. In all, India has so far won 10 medals, including four gold.

16. The Indian team of women archers Parneet Kaur, Aditi Swami, and Sakshi Chaudhary has won India's first gold medal of the continental meet after defeating Kazakhstan which is being held in **Iraq**.

**Note:** The men's team of Prathamesh Fuge, Rishabh Yadav, and Jawkar Samadhan has won the second gold for India. The compound mixed duo of Prathmesh Fuge & Parneet Kaur won the third Gold Medal at Asia Archery Cup. Prathamesh Samadhan Jawkar has won the bronze medal in Asia Cup.

## April 2022

1. **Dwayne Bravo (171)** has overtaken Lasith Malinga to become the highest wicket-taker in IPL history.

**Note:** He made a record against the match of Lucknow Super Giants in Mumbai. Malinga had taken 170 wickets in 122 matches for the Mumbai Indians.

2. **Australia** women's team has lifted the title of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 after beating England by 71 runs at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Note:** Australia has won the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 7th times. They set the target of 357; the England team was all out for 285 in 43.4 overs. Player of the Match and Player of the tournament 2022: Alyssa Healy

3. **La'eeb** is the name of the Qatar FIFA 2022 mascot.  
**Note:** La'eeb is an Arabic word that means super-skilled player. BYJU's become the first Indian sponsor of the FIFA World Cup. FIFA 2022 Official Match Ball: Al Rihla, created by Adidas

4. The 83rd National Table Tennis Championship 2022 will be held in **SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong Meghalaya**.

**Notes:** The Northeast has hosted the world's largest table tennis tournament for the second time. The event also marks the 50th statehood celebration of Meghalaya.

5. **Spanish Carlos Alcaraz** has won the prestigious title of Men's Single Miami Open 2022.

**Note:** He also created history to become the youngest champion after defeating World No. 8 Casper Ruud. Alcaraz has replaced Novak Djokovic as the youngest men's singles champion at the Masters 1000 tournament. Women's Single Miami Open 2022 was won by IgaSwiatek (Poland) after defeating Naomi Osaka of Japan.

6. **The Fencing Association of India, India** country has won the bid to host the Asian Junior U-20 Men

& Women and Cadet U-17 Boys & Girls Fencing Championships in 2023.

**Note:** The championship will be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The bid was submitted by the Secretary-General, Rajiv Mehta. Indian Fencer, C. A. Bhavani Devi is the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics. President of Fencing Association of India: Pankaj Singh

7. **Dipika Pallikal in partnership with Saurav Ghosal** has won the Mixed Doubles Squash Championship 2022.

**Note:** Defeated the English pair Adrian Waller and Alison Waters. Dipika Pallikal has paired up with JoshnaChinappa to defeat England's Sarah-Jane Perry and Alison Waters to claim the women's doubles squash title.

8. A group of 15 Indian boxers has won the 10 medals, including three golds, four silvers, and three bronze at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 was held in **Phuket**.

**Note:** Gold: Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta PralhadChopde (54kg), Sumit (75kg) Silver: Amit Panghal (52kg), Monika (48kg), Varinder Singh (60kg), Ashish Kumar (81kg). Bronze: Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) BhagyabatiKachari (75kg)

9. **Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc** has named the title F1 Australian Grand Prix 2022 held on 10 April 2022 at Albert Park Circuit, in Melbourne, Victoria.

**Note:** He surpassed Red Bull's driver Sergio Pérez and Mercedes's driver George Russell. Mercedes's driver Lewis Hamilton placed fourth ahead of the McLarens of Norris and Ricciardo.

10. The first Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery will be held in **Tata Archery Academy, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)**.

**Note:** The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has approved Rs 75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases. The tournament will be conducted

as per the World Archery Rules, held in the senior, Junior, and Cadet Categories across the Recurve and Compound events.

- 11. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam** has been named the ICC Men's of the Month for March 2022.

**Note:** Women's Players: Australia Rachael Haynes. Babar Azam has showcased stunning form during Pakistan's concluded multi-format home series against Australia; he scored 390 runs in the three-match Test series. She scored 429 runs in eight games with an average of 61.28.

- 12. Netherlands** team has lifted their fourth title of FIH Junior Women's Hockey World Cup 2022 after beating Germany at Potchefstroom, South Africa.

**Note:** England claimed the bronze medal in the third-place match after defeating India by 3-0 in the shoot-out. 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup: Santiago, Chile.

- 13. Rohit Sharma** has become the second Indian after Virat Kohli and the seventh batter overall to score 10,000 runs in the T20 cricket.

**Note:** He achieved this milestone during the IPL 2022 match of Mumbai Indians against Punjab Kings in Pune. Chris Gayle with 14,562 runs has topped the list of run-getters followed by Pakistan's Shoaib Malik, West Indies Kieron Pollard, Australia's Aaron Finch, Virat Kohli, and Australia's David Warner.

- 14. Young Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa** has won the title of the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland with 7.5 points.

**Note:** The 16-year-old Praggnanandhaa has defeated his opponent GM D Gukesh in the final round. He has been awarded the prestigious title of Grand Master at just 12 years and 10 months of age in 2018.

- 15. Victoria city** of Australia will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

**Note:** The Games will be organised across multiple cities and regional hubs including Melbourne, Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, and Gippsland. The opening ceremony place: The Melbourne Cricket Ground (100,000-capacity). Australia has organised Commonwealth Games five times - Sydney(1938), Perth(1962), Brisbane(1982), and Gold Coast(2018).

- 16. Andrew McDonald** has been appointed as the head coach of the Australian men's cricket team.

**Note:** He has signed an agreement for a four-year contract. McDonald has joined the Australian set

up as an assistant in 2019. McDonald takes over the role of Justin Langer who resigned from messy circumstances in February.

- 17. India** will host the Street Child Cricket World Cup in **2023**.

**Note:** It will be hosted by Street Child United and Save the Children India. This world cup will be held in September ahead of the ICC World Cup, and street children and young people take part in a mixed-gender cricket tournament. In 2019, Team India South has won the cup after beating hosts England.

- 18. Sajan Prakash** has won gold in **Men's 200m butterfly of swimming**.

**Note:** Vedaant Madhavan clinched a silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event at the Danish Open swimming in Copenhagen, Denmark. Prakash stopped the clock at 1.59.27 to stand atop the podium. He became the first-ever Indian swimmer to achieve the 'A' qualification mark for the Olympics in Italy(2021).

- 19. Tamil Nadu** has won the men's title in the 71st Senior National Basketball Championship after defeating Punjab.

**Note:** In the men's summit clash, Tamil Nadu pulled ahead after a slow start when Punjab kept pace. Indian Railways team has won the women's title after beating Telangana.

- 20. Stefanos Tsitsipas** has defeated Alejandro Davidovich Fokina to retain the title of Monte-Carlo Masters.

**Note:** It was his eighth ATP title. He became the sixth player to win back-to-back Monte Carlo Masters in the Open era. He became the first repeat champion at the Monte Carlo Masters since Rafael Nadal in 2018.

- 21. Recently, Hamish Bennett** announced retirement from his 17-year-old cricket career from all forms of cricket, he was associated with **New Zealand**.

**Note:** Bennett has represented New Zealand in T20I against Bangladesh in Mirpur, Pakistan in September 2021. Hamish Bennett has made his international debut in October 2010 and represented New Zealand in one Test, 19 ODIs and 11 T20Is.

- 22. Grandmaster D. Gukesh** has clinched the 48th La Roda International Open chess tournament title in Castile-La Mancha, Spain.

**Note:** He defeated Israel's Victor Mikhalevski in the final round. GM Haik M. Martirosyan from Armenia placed second with 7.5 points. Indian GMs R Praggnanandhaa finished third followed by RaunakSadhvani (India), Manuel Lopez Martinez Josep (Spain) and Ramon Martinez (Venezuela).

- 23. Haryana** has been crowned the champions of the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship after beating Tamil Nadu by 3-1 in the shootout.  
**Note:** Haryana has won the trophy for the first time since 2011. The hockey tournament was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from April 6 to 17, 2022. Karnataka has triumphed over Maharashtra by 4-3 in the third/fourth place classification match.
- 24.** Sunil Kumar, Arjun Halakurki, and Neeraj has won bronze in Greco Roman wrestling category in **Asian Wrestling Championship, Mongolia**.  
**Note:** Bronze medal winner: Sunil Kumar (87Kg), Arjun Halakurki (55Kg), Neeraj (63Kg); Arjun Halakurki has defeated DavaabandiMunkhErdene by 10-7 points in the bronze play-off. Neeraj got the better of Uzbekistan's Islomjon Bakhramov 7-4 to win the bronze medal.
- 25.** Harpreet Singh and Sachin Sahrawat have bagged bronze, is related to **Wrestling**.  
**Note:** Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers have concluded their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2022 in Ulaanbaatar Mongolia. Harpreet (82kg) was declared the winner after Jafar Khan from Qatar suffered an injury. Sachin Sahrawat(67Kg) won bronze against Uzbekistan's Makhmud Bakhshilloev.
- 26. Rohit Sharma (India captain) and Jasprit Bumrah (Pacer)** have been named among the "Five Cricketers of the Year" 2022 of the Wisden Almanack.  
**Note:** Other three: Ollie Robinson (England fast bowler), Dane van Niekerk (South African women's player) and Devon Conway (New Zealand opener); Leading Cricketer in the World: Former England captain Joe Root ; Leading Woman Cricketer in the World: Lizelle Lee (South Africa); Leading T20 Cricketer: Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan).
- 27.** The 35th edition of the 2022 Asian Wrestling Championships took place from April 19 to 24 in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**.  
**Note:** India finished with a total tally of 17 medals, one gold, five silvers and 11 bronze, at Ulaanbaatar. **Greco Roman:** Sunil Kumar (87kg) - bronze; Arjun Halakurki (55kg) - bronze; Neeraj (63kg) - bronze; Harpreet Singh (82kg) - bronze; Sachin Sahrawat (67kg) - bronze; **Women's freestyle:** Sarita Mor (59kg) - bronze; Sushma Shokeen (55kg) - bronze; Manisha (62kg) - bronze; Anshu Malik (57kg) - silver; Radhika (65kg) - silver; **Men's freestyle:** Ravi Kumar Dahiya (57kg) - gold; Bajrang Punia (65kg) - silver; Gourav Baliyan (79kg) - silver; Naveen (70kg) - bronze; Satywart Kadian (97kg) - bronze; Deepak Punia (86kg) - silver; Viky (92kg) - bronze
- 28. Andrey Rublev (Russian)** has won the Serbia Open title 2022.  
**Note:** Defeated world No. 1 Novak Djokovic (Serbia), to win his third title in the Serbia Open. Andrey Rublev has saved five set points in the second set to force a tie-break, but he was unable to prevent Djokovic from levelling the match.
- 29. India** has defeated France by 232-231 in the compound men's team final to win the gold medal in the Archery World Cup Stage-1 at Antalya, Turkey.  
**Note:** The Indian trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, and Aman Saini has defeated has French team of Jean Philippe Boulch, Quentin Baraer and Adrien Gontier. The Indian duo of Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi has defeated Alex Wise and Bryony Pitman of Great Britain to win recurve mixed team gold medal.
- 30. Max Verstappen (Red Bull, Netherland)** has won the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix 2022 in Imola, Italy.  
**Note:** This was his second win this season after Saudi Arabia 2022. In Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix 2022, Sergio Perez (Red Bull, Mexico) has finished second and Lando Norris (McLaren, UK) finished third. Bahrain Grand Prix 2022: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari, Monaco). Australian Grand Prix 2022: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari, Monaco)
- 31. Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh** has won the Menorca Open chess tournament 2022 which was held in Spain, followed by Aryan Chopra who finished as runner-up.  
**Note:** Gukesh defeated fellow Indian B Adhiban (placed at tenth) in the seventh and final round to win the title. This is D Gukesh's second title win after the La Roda Open. P. Sethuraman (fifth), Raunak Sadhwani (seventh) and Nihal Sarin (eighth) have finished
- 32. Haryana** will organise the Khelo India Youth Games 2021.  
**Note:** Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur have announced the official dates (from 4th to 13th June 2022) of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021 in a virtual interaction with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal. The mascot and logo of the Khelo India Youth Games will be launched on the 8th of May in Panchkula, Haryana. The games will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi apart from Panchkula.
- 33.** The 2nd Khelo Masters Games 2022 will be held in **Delhi**.  
**Note:** Anurag Singh Thakur (Youth Affairs and Sports Minister) has inaugurated the 2nd Khelo Masters Games Delhi-2022 at Tyagraj Stadium in New Delhi. Under this game, 3000 master players of the age group between 30 to 95 years from all over the country are participating in eight games.

**34. P.V. Sindhu** has won her second Asian bronze medal in the Asia Badminton Championships 2022.

**Note:** She was defeated by Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila. She had won her first bronze in

the Asia Badminton Championships 2014 Gimcheon edition. Sindhu has assured a medal in the championship when she defeated He Bingjiao of China by 21-9, 13-21 and 21-19 in the quarterfinal.

### March 2022

**1. Malaysia** will host the 31st Southeast Asian Games.

**Note:** The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events, attracting around 10,000 participants. The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue alongside 11 neighbouring localities including Quang Ninh, Phu Tho and Bac Ninh.

**2. Name the Indian shooter Saurabh Chaudhary** won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event in the year's first ISSF World Cup, in March 2022.

**Note:** He defeated Michael Schwardt of Germany by 16-6 in the gold medal match of Men's 10m Air Pistol event. Apart from him, Russian Artem Chernousov bagged bronze medal at the event. India's Shreya Agrawal narrowly missed in World Cup's 10m air rifle event semi finals.

**3. The 2022 edition of ICC Women's World is being organized in New Zealand.**

**Note:** ICC Women's world cup will have a total of 8 teams: India, Pakistan, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, South Africa, England, West Indies. The tournament is being held in New Zealand. It is being played in a round-robin format

**4. Indian women cricketer Mithali Raj** has recently achieved the feat of becoming the first women to appear in six ICC Women World Cups.

**Note:** She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.

**5. 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.

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

**11. 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.

**12. 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 Ongbamrungpha**, 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.

## February 2022

- 1. Magnus Carlsen** has won the Tata Steel Masters chess 2022.

**Note:** Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi lost to Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan in the 12th and penultimate round of the tournament. The Norwegian,

who will get a win by forfeit (over Daniil Dubov) in the final round, is a full point ahead of his closest competitors — Richard Rapport and Mamedyarov.

2. India defeated **China** to win bronze medal at 2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament.

**Note:** Sharmila Devi and Gurjit Kaur scored goals from India's side. It was held from 21st to 28th Jan 2022 at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat, Oman. Meanwhile, Japan defeated South Korea to win gold at Women's Hockey Asia Cup tournament.

3. **Chennai Super Kings** have become the first-ever sports Unicorn in the country.

**Note:** CSK is four-time Indian Premier League (IPL) winners. MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings (CSK) defeated mighty Kolkata Knight Riders last year to win their record-extending fourth IPL title in Dubai.

4. In February 2022, **Qi Fabao** got selected as the Torchbearer of Winter Olympic 2022 by the China Government.

**Note:** The Winter Olympics was opened in a lavish ceremony to be attended by President Xi Jinping and more than a dozen world leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, five Central Asian Presidents and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. He "took the flame from Wang Meng, China's four-time Olympic short track speed skating champion, at Winter Olympic Park.

5. Arif Khan is associated **Skiing**, who is the lone Indian athlete to attend the opening ceremony of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

**Note:** The 31-year-old Arif will be the lone Indian competitor at the Games, having qualified in Slalom and Giant Slalom events. India sent a six-member contingent to the Games including a coach, a technician and a team manager. Arif is the first Indian to secure qualification in two events of the same edition of the Games.

6. **Senegal** won the African Cup of Nations title in football.

**Note:** Sadio Mané scored the winning spot kick to start the celebrations and make up for missing a penalty in the seventh minute of the game. The final had ended 0-0 after extra time. Senegal had lost two finals previously, including at the last African Cup in Egypt in 2019, when Mané was left inconsolable.

7. India has won the record fifth time ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title by defeating **England**.

**Note:** India lifted a record fifth ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup title after beating England by four wickets in the summit clash at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua. Earlier, India had won the U19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.

8. **China** has won the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 Football tournament.

**Note:** China PR defeated South Korea (Korea Republic), 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 final title at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on February 06, 2022. This is the record-extending 9th AFC Women's Asian Cup title won by China.

9. Veteran cricketer Suranga Lakmal plays for **Sri Lanka** who announced his retirement from international cricket.

**Note:** The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement. Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.

10. The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named as **Gujarat Titans**.

**Note:** The Ahmedabad IPL franchise has been named "Gujarat Titans" by its owner CVC Capital. Hardik Pandya has been declared as the Captain of this team. Earlier in January 2022, Lucknow's IPL team was named as "Lucknow Super Giants" by its owner RPSG Group.

11. **Kerala** won the women's title in the National senior volleyball championship.

**Note:** Defending champion Kerala defeated Railways 25-21, 17-25, 25-21, 25-17 and won the women's title in the National senior volleyball championships at the KIIT indoor stadium, Bhubaneswar. It was Kerala's fourth straight triumph in the Nationals.

12. **Chelsea** football club have won their first FIFA Club World Cup 2022 by defeating Brazil's Palmeiras in extra-time in the final in Abu Dhabi.

**Note:** Chelsea defeated South American counterparts in the final at Mohamed bin Zayed Stadium by 2-1. The winner came from the penalty spot in the 117th minute. Chelsea Football Club is an English professional football club based in Fulham, West London.

13. **Mumbai** will host the 2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session.

**Note:** It will be held at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The last of IOC session was hosted by India in 1983 in New Delhi. IOC session for 2022 was held in Beijing, China.

14. Sakibul Gani belongs of **Bihar** has become the first player in the history of the cricket to score a triple century on his first-class debut.

**Note:** He scored 341 off 405 balls, hitting 56 fours and two sixes, in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy fixture against Mizoram at the Jadavpur University Campus ground in Kolkata. Gani has played List A cricket before this, scoring 377 runs from 14 matches including a century. In 11 domestic T20s, he has made 192 runs.

15. Indian tennis star Manika Batra has been roped in as the brand ambassador of **Adidas**.  
**Note:** Owning to her 'Impossible Is Nothing' attitude, Manika joins Adidas' rich roster of women athletes, consisting of names like Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain, Hima Das, and Nikhat Zareen.
16. **Norway** bagged the maximum number of medals at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.  
**Note:** Norway tallied the most gold medals, 16, and the highest total number of medals, 37, of all the countries competing in Beijing. Norway's 16 gold medals represent the most ever won at a single Winter Games.
17. **Italy** will host the 2026 Winter Olympics Games.  
**Note:** The Presidency of the Games was formally handed-over to Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, in Italy, to host the 2026 Winter Olympics. Italy first became the host country for the Olympics during the 1956 Winter Games, which were held in Cortina d'Ampezzo.
18. Indian Grand Master, **R Praggnanandhaa** has defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen in the eighth round of Airthings Masters Chess competition.  
**Note:** He won with black pieces in 39 moves to halt Carlsen's run of three straight wins. Prior to this, Indian registered solitary win versus Levon Aronian along with recording 2 draws and 4 defeats
19. Indian Weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** won the Gold Medal in the Singapore International Weightlifting tournament.  
**Note:** India has concluded its campaign at Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 with eight medals, including six golds and silver and bronze each. Each of the eight Indian lifters who registered for Singapore International won medals and secured their spots at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, scheduled to be held in July-August.
20. Tan Kim Her of **Malaysia** has been appointed as India's doubles coach in badminton till the Asian Games in 2026.  
**Note:** He has been credited with shaping the careers of doubles specialists Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy. In his first stint (2015-2019) as doubles coach in India
21. Indian boxer, **Nikhat Zareen** has won the gold in 52kg category in the 73rd Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.  
**Note:** Nitu prevailed 5-0 over Italy's Erika Prisciandaro, a former youth world championship bronze-medallist. Zareen, on the other hand, outpunched Ukraine's Tetiana Kob, a three-time European Championships medallist 4-1.
22. **Pooja Jatyán** became the first Indian to win a silver in an individual section of the Para World Championships.  
**Note:** Pooja lost to Italy's Patrilli Vincenza in the final to be content with the silver medal. The compound mixed pair of Shyam Sundar Swamy and Jyoti Baliyan had earlier opened India's account by winning a silver medal.
23. **Rafael Nadal** has won the 2022 Mexican Open tennis tournament.  
**Note:** This is 91st ATP title of his career and the third title of the season. This is the 4th time that Rafael Nadal has won Mexican Open title, after winning the previous ones in 2005, 2013 and 2020.
24. Sadia Tariq is associated with **Wushu** sports who won the Gold medal recently in a world championship \_\_\_\_\_ **Wushu**.  
**Note:** The 15-year-old from Srinagar participated in the Moscow Wushu Stars championship amid the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Sadia Tariq won the gold medal in junior tournament at the Moscow Wushu Stars Championship 2022. She had recently bagged Gold medals in the 19th and 20th Junior National Championship which was held in Haryana and Jalandhar respectively.

## January 2022

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

Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year-2021 award.

**Note:** She has scored 855 runs in 22 internationals, at an average of 38.86 with one century and five half-centuries. Besides her, other three cricketers - England's Tammy Beaumont, Australia's Lizelle Lee and Ireland's Gaby Lewis are also being nominated.

4. **India** has won the Under-19 Asia Cup 2021 cricket tournament.

**Note:** Yash Dhull-led young Indian side defeated Sri Lanka by 9 wickets at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Sri Lanka had scored 106/9 and India were given the target of 99 runs due to the DLS method. India suffered an early jolt as Harnoor Singh was plumed in front of the stumps in the fifth over.

5. Renowned **Pakistani** cricketer Mohammad Hafeez announced his retirement from international cricket.

**Note:** He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches in which he scored 12,789 runs and took 253 wickets. He has played 55 Tests, 218 ODIs (One Day International) and 119 T20Is (Twenty20 International) including three ICC (International Cricket Council) ODI World Cups and six T20 World Cups.

6. **Madhya Pradesh** will host the 'Khelo India Youth Games' in 2022-23.

**Note:** The approval has been given to host the games to be held in Bhopal city. The Government of Madhya Pradesh allocated Rs 176.59 crores for the first phase. Rs 15.56 crores is to be spent on operation and maintenance of International Sports Complex. Separate Funds are to be allocated for second and third phases.

7. Indian women cricketer **Mithali Raj** has been selected to lead India's 15-member squad at Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.

**Note:** India's 15-member squad for ICC Women's World Cup 2022 has been announced by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which will be played between March 4 and April 3 in New Zealand. Harmanpreet Kaur will be deputy lead at the World Cup.

8. Bharath Subramaniyam has become the 73rd Grandmaster of India.

**Note:** The Chennai-based teenager completed his final GM Norm and crossed the requisite 2500 rating at Vergani Cup Open in Italy. Subramaniyam finished seventh overall in the event held at Cattolica by scoring 6.5 points from nine rounds.

9. **Rafael Nadal** has won the Men's Singles title in the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.

**Note:** It was Nadal's 89th tour-level crown as the Spaniard saved a set point in the first set tie-break and rallied from a game down in the 2nd set against Cressy. The Spaniard, playing his first competitive tournament since August, was largely untroubled as he wrapped up the win in an hour 48 minutes.

10. **Simona Halep** won the Women's Singles title in the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.

**Note:** Amanda Anisimova of the United States clinched her second career WTA singles title in a three-set thriller final at Melbourne Summer Set 2 after defeating 7-5, 1-6, 6-4 Belarusian qualifier Aliaksandra Sasnovich. 20-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal defeated American Maxime Cressy in the Men's Singles final of the Melbourne Summer Set ATP 250 event.

11. **Canada** won the ATP Cup title 2022.

**Note:** Denis Shapovalov opened the match for Canada with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Pablo Carreno Busta. Auger-Aliassime and Shapovalov won a deciding doubles against Russia on Saturday in the semifinals to knock out the defending champions.

12. Ramkumar Ramanathan is associated with **Tennis sports**.

**Note:** The unseeded pair beat top seeds Ivan Dodig and Marcelo Melo in the final to mark a victorious debut on the ATP Tour. This is Ramkumar's first ATP Tour title while Bopanna won his 20th. The Adelaide tournament is a warm-up for the Australian Open, the season's first Grand Slam.

13. **Ashleigh Barty** has won the Adelaide International women single title.

**Note:** This was Barty's 14th career singles title and second in Adelaide. He defeated 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin and 2020 French Open winner Iga Swiatek of Poland en route to the title in Adelaide, without dropping a set or a service game against Rybakina, Kenin or Swiatek.

14. **Tata Group** has replaced Chinese mobile maker Vivo as the title sponsor for Indian Premier League.

**Note:** Vivo had in 2020 pulled out as IPL sponsor after the Galwan Valley military face-off between India and China. At that time, mobile gaming platform Dream11 had stepped in as title sponsor for a year. Vivo was back in 2021 and could have continued this year as well.

15. **Savita Punia** has been appointed as the captain of 18-member Indian squad at the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2022 to be held in Muscat, Oman.

**Note:** Indian women are the defending champions at the continental event. Indian women's hockey team



features 16 players who were part of Tokyo 2020 Olympics, where the Indian eves finished fourth. Vice-captain: Defender Deep Grace Ekka.

- 16. Renowned cricketer of South Africa Chris Morris** has announced retirement from all forms of cricket. **Note:** Morris, who represented Proteas in 69 games across all formats last played for his country in an ODI against Australia in 2019. Since then, he has been plying his trade in franchise leagues around the world. Morris in his announcement also mentioned that he has taken up a coaching role with the domestic side Titans.

- 17. Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen** has won his maiden Super 500 title by winning men's singles at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open.

**Note:** In men's singles event he defeated World Champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore. This was the 20-year-old's maiden entry in the final of a BWF World Tour Super 500 event after he came back from a game down to beat Malaysia's Tze Yong Ng.

- 18. 9th National Ice Hockey Championship-2022** was inaugurated in **Himachal Pradesh**.

**Note:** Ice Hockey competition and development camp is being organized at the national level for the first time in Himachal Pradesh. Participants: Himachal Pradesh, Telengana, Ladakh, ITBP Ladakh, Chandigarh and Delhi.

- 19. Babar Azam** has been named as the captain of the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year for 2021. **Note:** He was also named as the captain of the ICC T20I Team of the Year. No Indian has featured in the ODI Team of the Year. There were no Indians in the ICC T20I Men's Team of the Year but Smriti Mandhana found a spot in the Women's T20I Team of the Year.

- 20. Indian women cricketer Smriti Mandhana** has been named in the 2021 ICC Women's T20I team of the year.

**Note:** No Other Indian Player named in Men's as well Women's List. Smriti Mandhana is India's highest scorer who scored 255 runs at an average of 31.87 in 2021. She scored two fifties in the nine matches with the strike-rate of 131.44.

- 21. Aslan Karatsev** beat Andy Murray to lift men's single title at Sydney Tennis Classic 2022 final.

**Note:** The women's single title was claimed by Spanish world number nine Paula Badosa, who defeated Barbora Krejčíková 6-3 4-6 7-6(4), to capture her third career title.

- 22. Busanan Ongbamrungphan** has won the women's single Indian Open (Badminton) 2022.

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

- 23. Indian tennis player Sania Mirza** has announced her retirement in 2022.

**Note:** She is a six-time Grand Slam champion, 42-time tour winner, and first Indian woman and third from the country to be the World No. 1 doubles player. She is the only Indian woman to break into the top 30 in singles, and a two-time Asian Games gold medallist.

- 24. Akshay Bhatia** has become the third youngest player to win a Korn Ferry Tour event since the Tour's establishment in 1990.

**Note:** After this victory, he becomes the third-youngest player to win a Korn Ferry Tour event since the Tour's establishment in 1990.

- 25. PV Sindhu** has won the Women's singles title at the Syed Modi International tournament.

**Note:** Sindhu defeated compatriot Malvika Bansod 21-13, 21-16 in the summit clash in Lucknow. Earlier in the day, the Men's singles final of the tournament was declared as a 'No Match' after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19.

- 26. Paris, France** will host the 2024 Summer Paralympics Games.

**Note:** Paris 2024 will be the largest event ever organised in the country and it promises to be an inclusive, interactive and sustainable celebration of sport.

- 27. KL Rahul** has been roped-in as the captain of Lucknow Super Giants IPL team 2022.

**Note:** Lucknow team roped-in KL Rahul as their captain and also roped in Australia all-rounder Marcus Stoinis and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi. Lucknow's IPL franchise has been renamed Lucknow Super Giants ahead of Indian Premier League (IPL) 2022 mega auction.

- 28. Tata Motor** will be the sponsor of the Tata Open Maharashtra tennis tournament for the fourth consecutive year.

**Note:** The tournament, scheduled from 31 January to 6 February at the Balewadi stadium. It is South Asia's only ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) tournament and India's oldest international sporting event.

- 29. Ashleigh Barty** has won 2022 Australian Open women's singles title.

**Note:** She defeated Danielle Collins of US. Barty ended a 44-year drought for Australian women at

their home Grand Slam tournament. Barty is the first Australian women's singles champion since Chris O'Neil in 1978.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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