

Monthly GK Digest

April 2022



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April -2022

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of '**April-2022**'. This file is important for, **Defence** exams.

Important News - India

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 BhupenderYadav.
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 IGNC 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%, inwhich 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 Internationale Zusammenarbeit (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, 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 CO2 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.

Important News – State

- 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 Dhama 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 'Kaaval 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 Udhyan 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 Dhama.

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 multi-national 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.

Important News - World

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** 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 Boisakh**.
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.

Honor & Awards

1. **The Naval Contingent** Contingent has received the Best Marching Trophy for Republic Day Parade 2022.
Note: The contingent was led by Lt Cdr Aanchal 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 Angélique 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 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 Kuppiiah Kalyanasundaram were conferred with **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship**.
Note: Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship to four, Sangeet Natak Awards to 40 and the National Awards of Lalit Kala Akademi to 23 personalities. Sangeet Natak Akademi 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 Award in the prestigious Manipur State Film Awards.
Note: She received the award for exceptional performance in the film 'Apaiba Leichil' (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: Nilmani Phookan is the third person to win the Jnanpith Award from Assam after Mamoni Roisom Goswami and Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya. 57th Jnanpith Award 2022: Novelist Damodar Mauzo 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 Of Kusumpur). 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 Mangeshkar.
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 (WEOY) 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.

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.

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: Zelensky 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

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: Valentino 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.

Sports News

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 Pragganandhaa** has won the title of the prestigious Reykjavik Open chess tournament in Iceland with 7.5 points.

Note: The 16-year-old Pragganandhaa 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 Pragganandhaa finished third followed by Raunak Sadhwani (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 Davaabandi Munkh Erdene 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 Bakhshiloev.

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 Big Jiao of China by 21-9,13-21 and 21-19 in the quarterfinal.

Books and Authors

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, Natasha Lehrer. The foreword of the book is written by Vikram Sood, the former head of the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), India's foreign intelligence agency.

Science and Defence

1. **9th edition** of Lamitiye 2022 was held at Seychelles Defence Academy, Seychelles.

Note: Lamitiye 2022 joint military exercise between India and Seychelles. The themes for Lamitiye 2022 Joint Training Exercise were both relevant and contemporary for planning & execution of operations based on scenarios in a Semi-Urban environment.

2. Indian Air Force has commemorated 60 Glorious years of service of **Chetak Helicopter**.

Note: The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Chetak helicopter is the oldest machine, made by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under the license agreement. Chetak Helicopter was inducted in 1962.

3. The 9th edition of the Joint Special Forces Exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan which was commenced on 25 Mar 2022 was concluded at **Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh**.

Note: Special Forces of both contingents have shared their expertise and best practices of techniques, tactics, and procedures to counter existing and emergent threats across the entire spectrum of conflict.

4. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has signed a pact with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO to develop **Bhuvan-Aadhar portal**.

Note: For providing information and locations about the Aadhaar centres across India. The portal will provide the facility of complete geographic information, retrieval, analysis, and reporting for Aadhaar centres with a high-resolution backdrop of natural-colour satellite images.

5. DRDO and Indian Army have successfully flight-tested a new version of **Pinaka rocket system** at the Pokhran firing ranges.

Note: A total number of 24 Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket Systems (EPRS) have been fired for different ranges and weapons. The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune. It is supported by the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, a Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.

6. China's new Earth observation satellite **Gaofen-3 03** was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket.

Note: This will become part of its land-sea radar satellite constellation. It will also capture images to help China safeguard its maritime rights. These Earth Observation satellites have produced many SAR images on daily basis.

7. **Infosys** collaborates with Rolls-Royce has launched "Aerospace Engineering and Digital Innovation Centre" in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Note: This will provide high-end R&D services integrated with advanced digital capabilities to Rolls-Royce's engineering and group business services from India. This partnership has been reinforced through strategic deals with an aim of yielding mutual benefits to both organizations over the next seven years.

8. Microsoft comes into a strategic cloud partnership to speed up the digital transformation in the oil and gas industry with which firm **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL)**.

Note: The partnership will accelerate the BPCL's digital transformation effort named 'Project Anubhav'. The services will be provided by

10. Union Home and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the Seema Darshan Project at Nadabet on the Indo-Pak border in **Banaskantha District of Gujarat**.

Note: The project was launched with the aim to provide an opportunity to the citizen to observe the life and work of the BSF personnel on our border. The tourist can see missiles, tanks, aircrafts etc which are used by the Indian Army and BSF at Nadabet

11. **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** government agency has commissioned the latest Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III squadron in Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

Note: ALH was commissioned in the presence of Indian Coast Guard chief Virender Singh Pathania. It will enhance maritime security capabilities of force along with West Bengal and Odisha Coast and beyond. It was manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) under the 'Make in India' initiative.

12. Surface to Surface ballistic missile **Shaheen-III** was successfully flight-tested in Pakistan.

Note: Shaheen-III has a range of 2,750 KM which made this missile capable of reaching the farthest point in India's northeast and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is a solid-fuelled missile that is equipped with the Post-Separation Altitude Correction (PSAC) system.

13. Anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) **Helina** was successfully flight-tested in Pokhran, Rajasthan.

Note: HELINA (Helicopter-based NAG) is a third-generation 'fire and forget' class which is developed by the Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), DRDO. The flight test was conducted by

Microsoft to BPCL including platform-as-a-service, infrastructure-as-a-service, network and security services on the cloud and many more.

9. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has tested the SFDR booster at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha successfully. The full form of SFDR is **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet**.

Note: The SFDR has been developed in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad and other DRDO laboratories such as Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune. High Projected range: 350 km.

DRDO, the Army, and the Air Force. The missile was launched from an indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) at a high altitude range.

14. **The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a contract with the Nigerian Army for the second phase of flying training on Chetak Helicopter for six officers.

Note: 70 hours of flying training will be imparted for each Nigerian Army Aviation Officer under the phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter which will be completed by December 2022. This marks the continuation of the phase-I flying training to six Nigerian Army Aviation officers.

15. A new laser missile-defense system of Israel was successfully tested recently is **Iron Beam**.

Note: 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.

16. **Finland** has signed an MoU with India to establish a Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.

Note: Aim to stimulate innovative research and development projects, demonstrate high industrial relevance, and commercial potential. India has identified three premier institutes IIT Madras, IISER Pune, and C-DAC Pune for Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing.

17. **20th edition** Joint Staff talks held between India-France in Paris, France on April 12-13, 2022.

Note: The focus of the discussion was on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms and strengthening

ongoing defence engagements. The forum was established to enhance defence cooperation between both nations through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels.

- 18. The Trishakti Corps has organized EX KRIPAN SHAKTI Near Siliguri in West Bengal.**

Note: Orchestrating and synergizing the capabilities of the Indian Army and the Central Armed Police Forces (CRPF) to fight an integrated battle. The units of the Trishakti Corps have demonstrated their abilities to hit hard and swiftly with precision during the exercise.

- 19. The Indian Air Force(IAF) has successfully conducted a test-fire of the live firing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from Su30- MKI fighter aircraft.**

Note: 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.

- 20. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has signed an MoU with Indian Air Force (IAF) for technology development and finding indigenous solutions towards the sustenance of various weapon systems.**

Note: 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.

- 21. The Oil India Limited (OIL) has set up India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen with an installed capacity of 10 kg per day in Jorhat Pump Station, Assam.**

Note: The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array. The AEM technology is being used for the first time in India. The production of plant will increase from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in the future.

- 22. The sixth and final Scorpene-class submarine of the P75 project of the Indian Navy which was launched at Mazgaon Dock Ltd is Vagsheer (sixth submarine, Yard 11880).**

Note: 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, sea trial).

- 23. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the DefConnect 2.0 which is organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence, Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) in New Delhi.

Note: The event will be attended by many innovators and investors from the country's leading industries in the defence sector. The iDEX was launched by PM Modi in 2018 to provide a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors.

- 24. Russia** has successfully test-fired a Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile.

Note: The training warheads have reached a given area at the Kura test ground on the Kamchatka Peninsula and the tasks were completed in full. This missile system has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is able to overcome all modern means of anti-missile defense.

- 25. The new timelines in the Make-II procedure has been amended by Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 in defence to 101-109 weeks.**

Note: To promote Make in India initiative in defence the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 has been amended based on the approvals accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). Import of defence equipment has to be undertaken with specific approval of DAC/Raksha Mantri. The defence ministry also cut the waiting time for projects under the iDEX framework.

- 26. The largest and most complex international live-fire cyber defence exercise is Locked Shields 2022.**

Note: This real-time network defence exercise was organised by the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) in Tallinn, Estonia. This drill has been taking place annually since 2010. The team from Finland has won the cyber defence exercise Locked Shields 2022 followed by Lithuania-Poland, and the Estonian-Georgian joint team.

- 27. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has started the Main Airframe Fatigue Test (MAFT) of Light Combat Aircraft Mark 1 (LCA Mk1) airframe in Bengaluru.

Note: This test has been conducted to understand how the aircraft structure performs in real conditions. The structure of the aircraft is mounted on a test rig to check for any cracks or damage. The MAFT facility has been inaugurated by Arup Chatterjee (Director, Engineering and Research & Development) HAL

- 28. Andaman and Nicobar Command** has successfully test-fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile (Anti-ship version) with the Indian Navy.

Note: A joint venture of India-Russian, BrahMos Aerospace, produces supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from ships, aircraft, submarines, or land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach. The range of the advanced version of the missile: 350km.

29. **Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal, Vivek Chaudhari** has inaugurated the logistics seminar LOGISEM VAYU-2022 in New Delhi.

Note: He emphasized that the present supply chain management should look forward with an aim to improve the logistics capabilities. Logistics philosophy document of IAF titled 'Tenets of Logistics' and a book on the history of Logistics in IAF titled 'Footprints in Sands of Time' were released.

Banking & Financial Awareness

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 Samridhi 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.

period of 4.5 years. Mission Karmayogi was launched by Union Cabinet on 2nd September 2020.

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

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'.

Obituaries

1. American poet **Richard Howard**, who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1970 for "Untitled Subjects", has passed away.

Note: Richard Joseph Howard was a National Book Award Finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying". His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award in 1983.

2. Recently, Shiv Kumar Subramaniam has passed away, he was veteran **Actor-screenwriter**.

Note: He was known for his roles in serial Mukti Bandhan and Meenakshi Sundareshwar. He started his career by writing a screenplay for 1989 film Parinda which was directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.

3. The author of Eagle Has Landed book **Jack Higgins** passed away recently.

Note: The Eagle Has Landed was his best-selling book. He was 92.

4. Manju Singh has passed away, was a famous **Television actress**.

Note: She was one of the pioneers in Indian television industry and was fondly remembered as didi. She was the anchor of children's program, Khel Khilone for 7 years.

5. Prafulla Kar has passed away, was famous **Odia singer and music director**.

Note: An eminent musician, singer, lyricist, writer and columnist was born on February 16, 1939 in Puri. He received Padma Shri award (2015), and Jayadeva award (2004).

6. Vishwa Deenadayalan died in a road accident, was **Table Tennis player**.

Note: He was travelling with three teammates for the 83rd Senior National and Inter-State Table Tennis Championships, which is scheduled to begin. Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala offer his condolence on his death and announced Rs 5 lakh as compensation for his family.

7. K Sankaranarayanan passed away, was related to **Politics**.

Note: He served as governor of Maharashtra, Nagaland, and Jharkhand during his career. He had also held additional charges of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Goa as Governor. He was elected to the state assembly from Trithala, Sreekandapuram, Ottapalam and Palakkad constituencies.

8. Mwai Kibaki passed away, was a **Former president of Kenya**.

Note: He led the country from 2002 to 2013. During his rule, more than 1,100 people died in bloody ethnic battles after disputed 2007 polls, but to prevent such unrest he adopted a new constitution with reforms. His rule was ruined by uncontrolled corruption and lavish spending on flagship projects which increased the country's debt.

9. Padma Shri awardee Binapani Mohanty has passed away, was a **noted writer of Odisha**.

Note: Her many short stories have been translated into various languages (including: Hindi, English, Kannada, Marathi). Her collection of short stories 'Pata Dei' has won Sahitya Akademi award. She also received Sarala Samman from the Government of Odisha.

10. James Dringwell Rymbai has passed away, was a former CM of **Meghalaya**.

Note: He had entered into electoral politics in 1982 and contested elections to the legislative assembly from the Jirang constituency successfully. He was elected the speaker of the Meghalaya Assembly in 1993 and became the CM in 2006 till March 2007.

11. Mamannamana Vijayan has passed away, was a **Structural biologist**.

Note: He was a former president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) from 2008 to 2010. He has been honoured with SS Bhatnagar Award, Ranbaxy Award, OP Bhasin Award, and also the first GN Ramachandran Medal by Indian Science Congress Association and was also awarded Padma Shri in 2004.

12. Elvera Britto has passed away, was related to **Hockey (Former Indian women's hockey team captain)**.

Note: Elvera led Karnataka's domestic team to win seven national titles. She ruled the domestic circuit from 1960 to 1967. She is the second women hockey player to be conferred with the Arjuna Award (1965) after Anne Lumsden.

Important Days

1. Utkal day is observed as the formation day of Odisha on **April 1 every year**.

Note: After the 113th amendment act, Orissa was renamed Odisha. The official language of Odisha, Odiya also listed in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India.

2. International Children's Book Day is organized every year on **April 2**.

Note: Canada is hosting International Children's Book Day 2022. It has chosen the theme 'Stories are wings that help you soar every Day'.

3. The UNGA unanimously has declared 2 April as **World Autism Awareness Day**.

Note: This year marks the 15th annual World Autism Awareness Day. Theme for 2022 is 'Inclusion in Quality Education for all'.

4. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on **April 4**.

Note: Theme 2022: Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home. On December 8, 2005, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution to make April 4 of each year as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

5. 59th National Maritime Day is observed on **April 5**.

Note: The theme is Sustainable Shipping beyond Covid-19. National Maritime Day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964. On April 5, 1919, a ship called SS Loyalty, sailed from Mumbai to London.

6. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed on **April 6**.

Note: Theme 2022: Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport Aim: Recognize the positive role of sport and physical activity in communities across the globe.

7. World Health Day is celebrated on **April 7**.

Note: the anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO), which was founded on April 7, 1948. Theme 2022: Our Planet, Our Health

8. **April 7** is observed as the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

Note: 2022 marks the 28th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, one of the darkest chapters in human history. On April 7th, the date where the genocide against members of the Tutsi began.

9. The United Nations General Assembly has designated **5 April** as an International Day of Conscience every year.

Note: The year 2022 marks the third edition of the celebrations. This day serves to remind people to self-reflect, follow their conscience, and do the right things.

- 10.** The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day is observed on **9 April**.

Note: The day is also known as "CRPF ShauryaDiwas". On April 9, 1965, a small contingent of CRPF fought against Pakistan in Rann of Kutch and eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers. During this war, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.

- 11.** World Homeopathy Day is observed on **10th April**.

Note: The Ministry of Ayush has organized a two-day scientific convention on World Homeopathy Day on 9th & 10th April 2022 at Bharat Ratna C. Subramaniam Auditorium, New Delhi. Theme 2022: People's Choice For Wellness. The day is celebrated to commemorate the 267th birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.

- 12.** World Parkinson's Day is observed on **April 11**.

Note: To raise awareness of Parkinson's disease, which is described as a movement disorder that impacts the nervous system. The theme for World Parkinson's Day 2022 is "integrated health care". This day also marks the birth anniversary of Dr. James Parkinson, who first described the features of the disease in his article - An Essay on the Shaking Palsy in 1817.

- 13.** International Day of Human Space Flight is being observed on **April 12**.

Note: On 12 April 1961, the first human space flight was carried out by a Soviet citizen Yuri Gagarin. On 7th April 2011, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared April 12 as the International Day of Human Space Flight, recognising the 50th anniversary of the first-ever human spaceflight. He is also known as the 'first man in space'.

- 14.** **38th edition** of Siachen Day has been observed by the Indian Army on April 13 2022.

Note: This day has been observed to celebrate the bravery of the Indian Army under "Operation Meghdoot". On April 13, 1984, Operation Meghdoot was launched which was led by the Lieutenant-General Prem Nath Hoon.

- 15.** International Turban Day is observed on **April 13**.

Note: International Turban Day is celebrated every year on April 13 since 2004 to bring awareness of the strict requirement on Sikhs to put the turban as a mandatory part of their religion. The 2022 Turban

Day marks the 553rd birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.

- 16.** World Art Day is observed on **April 15**.

Note: This day is being celebrated to emphasize the importance of art that nurtures creativity, innovation and cultural diversity for all peoples across the globe. The day was declared by the International Association of Art (IAA), an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO

- 17.** World Voice Day (WVD) is observed every year on **April 16**.

Note: To demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. Theme of World Voice Day 2022: Lift Your Voice. Voice care specialists' group in Brazil started the World Voice Day celebrations.

- 18.** Save the Elephant Day is observed every year on **April 16**.

Note: To raise awareness about the dangerelephants face and various difficulties they have to overcome to live. It is established by Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation.

- 19.** World Hemophilia Day is observed every year on **April 17**.

Note: To raise awareness about the bleeding disorder and bring it to the attention of policymakers. Theme 2022: Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress.; April 17 was chosen to commemorate the birthday of Frank Schnabel, the founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia.

- 20.** The International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed on **April 18**.

Note: Aim to promote culture and heritage. ICOMOS proposed April 18 as the International Day for Monuments and Sites in 1982. The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is Heritage and Climate. 40 Indian sites are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- 21.** World Liver Day is observed on **April 19** annually.

Note: The day is observed is to raise awareness about liver-related disorders and diseases. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) report, Every 10th person is dying due to Liver ailments disease in India. The liver controls blood sugar, helps blood clot, removes toxic substances from the body, and controls cholesterol levels.

- 22.** UN Chinese Language Day is observed globally on **20th April**.

Note: The day has been chosen to pay tribute to Cangjie (a mythical figure) who is presumed to have

invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago. The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information in 2010

23. National Civil Services Day is observed on **April 21**.

Note: To mark the efforts of the civil servants working tirelessly and relentlessly in different departments to ensure that the administrative machinery works smoothly in India. The first National Civil Services Day was observed in 2006. The Prime Minister's Excellence Award in Public Administration is also presented to the civil servants. Father of the Indian Civil Service: Lord Cornwallis

24. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on **April 21**.

Note: The theme of World Creativity and Innovation Day 2022: Collaboration. Canadian Marci Segal founded World Creativity and Innovation Day on 25 May 2001 in Toronto, Canada.

25. **April 22** is observed every year as World Earth Day.

Note: To spread awareness to protect the environment which is going through rapid changes. The theme of Earth Day 2022: 'Invest in our planet'. Earth Day was first observed in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson raised the concern regarding the degrading environmental conditions.

26. **23 April** is observed as World Book and Copyright Day, also known as World Book Day.

Note: The day is celebrated in over a hundred countries around the world. 23 April is also the day legendary writers

-Inca Garcilaso de la Vega and William Shakespeare died. The theme of World Book Day 2022 is 'Read...So you never feel alone.'

27. **April 25** is observed as World Malaria Day by the World Health Organisation (WHO) globally.

Note: Theme 2022: Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives. Dr. Alphonse Laveran has discovered the Malaria parasite.

28. **Tamil Nadu** state government has announced that December 18, every year will be observed as Minorities Rights Day at the state level.

Note: The state government promotes the upliftment and economic advancement of the minorities through effective implementation of schemes and welfare measures. The minority girl students in rural areas to pursue their studies would provide education aid of Rs 500 to the students of Classes 3 to 5 and Rs 1,000 to the wards of Class 6.

29. **April 26** is observed as World Intellectual Property Day annually.

Note: To raise awareness of the impact of how patents, copyright, trademarks and design affect our daily life. The theme for World Intellectual Property Day 2022 is focused on 'IP and Youth innovating for a better future'.

30. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed on **28 April**.

Note: Aims to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The theme for 2022 is Act together to build a positive safety and health culture

New Appointments

1. Executive director of Infibeam Avenues Vishwas Patel has been re-elected as chairman of **Payments Council of India (PCI)**.

Note: Payment Council of India is the apex industry for digital operators in India's payments and settlement system that operates under the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). The PCI was set in 2013 with the aim to promote digital India. The Payment Council of India is located in Mumbai.

2. **Mahesh Verma** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).

Note: This is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities. NABH is also a member of the board of the Asian Society for Quality in Healthcare (ASQua).

3. **Aprajita Sharma** has been appointed as a vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee on

Administration and Management of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Note: She holds the position of vice-chairperson for the years 2023 and 2024. She is also selected as chairperson for the years 2025 and 2026.

4. **Dr S Raju** has taken charge as Director-General of the Geological Survey of India in Kolkata w.e.f. April 1, 2022.

Note: Earlier, he was an Additional Director General and National Head, Mission-III & IV at GSI HQ. He succeeded R. S. Garkhal, superannuated on March 31, 2022.

5. **Anthony Heredia** has taken charge as MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund.

Note: It is a joint venture of Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services and Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd, which is also known as Mahindra Asset Management Company. He succeeded Ashutosh Bishnoi, who retired on 31st

March 2022. In 2020, Manulife acquired 49% stake in Mahindra Asset

6. **Vikas Kumar** has been named the new Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for five years from April 1, 2022.

Note: He succeeded Mangu Singh, whose tenure ended on March 31, 2022. He was holding the position of Director (Operations) in DMRC and has over three decades of experience in rail based urban transportation projects.

7. **Viktor Orban** has won the Hungary prime minister elections.

Note: He is a member of the Fidesz party. He is serving as PM since 2010, and this will be his fourth consecutive term as prime minister.

8. **Vinay Mohan Kwatra's** appointment has been approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) as the new Foreign Secretary.

Note: He will replace Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who retires on April 30, 2022. Kwatra has served as India's ambassador to France, PMO Joint secretary, and currently serving as India's envoy to Nepal.

9. **Arunabha Ghosh** has been named in the Expert Group of net-zero emissions pledges by non-State entities by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

Note: The group of 16-member chaired by Catherine McKenna, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change. Aim: stronger and clearer standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-state entities

10. **Dr Ian Fry** has been appointed as the world's first expert on climate change and human rights for three years.

Note: He holds both Australian and Tuvaluan citizenship. UNHRC has created the new Special Rapporteur for climate change and human rights position in October 2021.

11. **Aleksandar Vucic** has been re-elected as President of Serbia for the second term.

Note: He served as Deputy PM (2012-14), Prime Minister (2014-16, 2016-17) and then as President (2017 - till now). He is the president of the Serbian Progressive Party.

12. **Murali M Natrajan** has been re-appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of DCB Bank for two years from April 29, 2022, to April 28, 2024 by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Note: He was appointed as the DCB Bank MD and CEO in May 2009. RBI has fixed the tenure of bank chief executives at 15 years. In 2024, Natarajan will complete his 15 years as MD and CEO of the bank.

13. **Ketanji Brown Jackson** has become the first black woman in US Supreme Court.

Note: Jackson is the third black judge after Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, and the sixth woman. She is the second-youngest member of the court after Judge Barrett.

14. **Dr. Manoj Soni** has been succeeded Pradip Kumar Joshi to become the chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Note: He served as the nation's youngest university vice-chancellor of MS University in 2005. He was associated with the Swaminarayan sect's Anoopam Mission at Mogri in Anand district.

15. **Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif** has become the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan.

Note: He has served three times (1997, 2008, and 2013) as Pakistan Punjab's chief minister- He is the younger brother of former Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif. In 2018 he contested Pakistan PM election, in which Imran got 176 votes and he bagged only 96 votes at the time.

16. **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** has been re-appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.

Note: He was first appointed as chairman in September 2021 but resigned from the post in December to contest as the BJP candidate from the Ropar assembly constituency. He served as the senior superintendent of police of Amritsar Rural, Kapurthala, and Tarn Taran districts.

17. **Bimal Kothari** has been appointed as a chairman of India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA).

Note: He replaced Jitu Bheda who stepped down as the current chairman. He is the third chairman of the association after Pravin Dongre and Jitu Bheda. Kothari joined IPGA as Vice-Chairman in 2011, when it was formed.

18. **Indian-American Navy Shanti Sethi** has been appointed as USA Vice President Kamala Harris's Defence Adviser.

Note: Shanti Sethi is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship. Shanti Sethi commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012.

19. **Jasleen Kohli** has been appointed as MD and CEO of Digit Insurance.

Note: She succeeds Vijay Kumar who retired from the company on April 19, 2022. She served as chief distribution officer (CDO) at Digit, where she was responsible for all of the company's sales and distribution channels.

- 20. Sourav Ganguly** has been appointed as a brand ambassador of Lloyd, a consumer durable brand of Havells India for eastern markets of India.
Note: Sourav will endorse Lloyd range of consumer durables, through promotion, advertising and marketing. Ganguly is currently the president of BCCI.
- 21. Lieutenant General Manoj Pande** has been appointed as the 29th Chief of Army Staff.
Note: The appointment will come into effect on April 30, 2022. He will succeed General M MNaravane on May 1. He will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the COAS.
- 22. Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas** has been appointed as chairman of Atomic Energy Commission.
Note: The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has granted one-year extension to Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas. The extension in service to Vyas for a period of one year beyond May 3, 2022 or "until further orders". This is the second extension for Vyas, he was first appointed to the post in September 2018.
- 23. Satya Easwaran** has been appointed as IT giant Wipro country head for India.
Note: Strengthening Wipro business in India across important industry sectors through strategic consulting, transformation, and modernization engagements. He will help clients leverage Wipro's capabilities and investments in engineering R&D, data/analytics, cloud, digital, and cybersecurity.
- 24. PM Patrick Achi** has been reappointed as Prime Minister of Ivory Coast by President Alassane Ouattara.
Note: He was appointed prime minister in March 2021. On April 13, 2022, President has accepted Achi resigned ahead of a government reshuffle. He was the third prime minister in the West African state (Ivory Coast) in the last three years after Amadou Gon Coulibaly (who died in 2020) and Hamed Bakayoko (who died in 2021).
- 25. Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar** has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations with effect from May 1.
Note: He worked as the General Officer Commanding of 1 Corps, a strike formation that is responsible for operations against both Pakistan and China. He has also worked as Director-General Staff Duties at Army Headquarters.
- 26. L V Vaidyanathan** has been appointed as Procter & Gamble (P&G) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for its Indian operations from July 1, 2022.
Note: He will replace Madhusudan Gopalan, who takes charge as Senior Vice President of Grooming & Oral Care, P&G Japan, and Korea. Presently, Vaidyanathan is responsible for industry-leading growth and value creation for the company in Indonesia.
- 27. Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the govt of India for a period of 3 years.
Note: Presently he is a member of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council to the PM. He will succeed renowned biologist K Vijay Raghavan. The PSA's office aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the PM and cabinet on matters related to science, technology, and innovation with a focus on the application of science and tech.
- 28. Economist, Suman Bery** has been appointed as Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman with effect from May 1, 2022.
Note: He was appointed after Rajiv Kumar stepped down from the post. The Government accepted his resignation. Kumar, an eminent economist, took over as vice-chairman of Niti Aayog in August 2017 after the then VC Arvind Panagariya exited the govt think-tank.
- 29. Vishakha Mulye** has been appointed as Aditya Birla Capital Chief Executive Officer.
Note: Mulye is currently the executive director in charge of corporate banking, proprietary trading, markets and transaction banking. Mulye replaces Ajay Srinivasan who will now take up another role within the Aditya Birla Group. In her prior roles, she was the head of ICICI Lombard and ICICI Ventures.
- 30. Ashwin Yardi (CEO of Capgemini in India)** has been appointed as UNICEF's YuWaah(Generation Unlimited) as co-chair.
Note: He will be a co-chair along with Yasumasa Kimura (the UNICEF Representative). YuWaah aims to work on improve skilling, community development and economic opportunity for young people. It is a platform that brings young people together with the private sector, governments, and international and local organisations to turn them into active and engaged citizens.
- 31. Robert Golob** has defeated three-time prime minister Janez Janša in the Slovenia PM election.
Note: State election authorities have confirmed that the Freedom Movement won nearly 34% of the votes as compared to around 24% for the governing conservative Slovenian Democratic Party. The New Slovenia party with 7%, followed by the Social Democrats with more than 6% and the Left party with just 4%.
- 32. Emmanuel Macron** has won a second term as president of France with 58.2% of the vote.

Note: He set to become the first president after Chirac who secured a second term in office. He defeated Marine Le Pen (Party: Rassemblement national) who secured 41.8% of the vote in an election.

33. A P Abdullahkutty has been elected as the chairperson of the Haj Committee of India.

Note: He is the national vice president of the BJP and a former Member of Parliament. The committee also includes two women named Munnawari Begum from Tamil Nadu and Mafuja Khatun from West Bengal who have been selected as its vice-chairpersons.

34. Bruce de Broize has been appointed as MD and CEO of Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI).

Note: He takes over from Miranjit Mukherjee who served as interim CEO since September 2021. He was the Regional Head of Distribution for Generali Asia based in Hong Kong for over five years.

35. Krishnan Ramanujam has been appointed as a chairperson of National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) for 2022-23.

Note: He is a Senior Executive at TCS. He was the Vice-Chairperson of the body. He succeeds Rekha M Menon (Accenture's Senior Managing Director in India), who served as the Chairperson for 2021-22. Nasscom has also appointed Anant Maheshwari (President of Microsoft India) as the Vice-Chairperson for 2022-23.

36. Vijay Sampla has been appointed as the chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time.

Note: He resigned as the NCSC chairman ahead of the Punjab elections and had contested elections. He is an eminent Dalit politician from Punjab, who began his political career in 1998 as the Sarpanch of Sofipind village in Jalandhar Cantonment.

37. Former chairman of SBI, Rajnish Kumar has been appointed as an advisor of Online lending platform, Indifi Technologies.

Note: Presently, he sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe. As an advisor, he will engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector.

38. Lieutenant General Baggavalli Somashekar Raju has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff from May 1.

Note: He was an alumnus of Sainik School Bijapur and National Defence Academy and commissioned in the Jat Regiment on December 15, 1984. He had commanded a battalion during Operation Parakram in the Western Theatre and J&K.

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