

Monthly Current Affairs

MAY - 2022



**Shankar
School of
Banking**

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Tamil Nadu.**

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NATIONAL NEWS

Ambulance Service for Cows

- ★ An ambulance service for sick and injured cows was inaugurated in Dibrugarh district, Assam.
- ★ It was inaugurated by Dibrugarh Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu.
- ★ The ambulance service will pave the way for the speedy treatment of seriously ill and injured cows.
- ★ The 'gaushala' or cow shelter had also set up a hospital for cows in 2020.
- ★ It was the first cow ambulance service in the Northeast.

India's First Gene Bank

- ★ Maharashtra Cabinet approved the 'Maharashtra Gene Bank', a first-of-its-kind project in India.
- ★ The project will be implemented by the Maharashtra State Biodiversity Board (MSBB) and will be observed by committees under the chief secretary and the principal secretary of forests.
- ★ The main objective is to conserve genetic resources in Maharashtra including marine diversity, seeds of local crops and animal diversity.
- ★ The 'Maharashtra Gene Bank Project' will work on seven themes which includes Marine biodiversity, Local crop/seed varieties, Indigenous cattle breeds, Freshwater biodiversity, Grassland, scrubland and animal grazing land biodiversity, Conservation and management plans for areas under forest right and Rejuvenation of forest areas.
- ★ An investment of ₹172.39 crores will be spent on these seven focus areas in the next five years.

Qualcomm India partners with C-DAC

- ★ Qualcomm India has announced a collaboration with the C-DAC, an autonomous scientific society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India.
- ★ It plans to initiate and conduct the Qualcomm® Semiconductor Mentorship Program ('QSMP') 2022
- ★ The objective of this program is to select startups from the semiconductor space in India with an intent to provide and facilitate mentorship, technical training and industry outreach.

Meghalaya Games-2022

- ★ In Meghalaya, the 4th edition of Meghalaya Games-2022 began at various sports facilities in Shillong.
- ★ A total of over 2,500 athletes from 19 different disciplines are participating in the mega sports event held as part of the 50th Statehood Day Celebrations.

- ★ The Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centre at NEHU will host seven disciplines - archery, athletics, men's football, gymnastics, weightlifting, karate and table tennis.

Chhattisgarh Hikes Dearness Allowance (DA)

- ★ The Chhattisgarh government announced to hike the Dearness Allowance (DA) for its employees on the occasion of International Labour Day, May 1.
- ★ From the existing 17%, it has now been increased to 22% which would be effective from May 1, 2022.
- ★ In March 2022, the Union Government announced a 3-percentage point hike each in their Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) to provide relief from rising prices.
- ★ The DA of serving and retired central government employees has been increased to 34% of basic pay from 31%.

First Greenfield Grain based Ethanol Production Plant

- ★ An investment of ₹105-crore greenfield grain-based ethanol plant was inaugurated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Purnea, Bihar.
- ★ It is India's first greenfield grain-based plant and was developed under Bihar Ethanol Production Promotion Policy 2021.
- ★ The plant is set to produce 65,000 litres of ethanol per day with 150 tonnes of maize and rice every day.
- ★ The ethanol plant has been built using the latest technology and will not discharge any waste, making it a zero-liquid discharge plant.
- ★ The produced ethanol will be sold only to Indian oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan petroleum in the state.

India chosen as first Country of Honour ever at Cannes Film Festival

- ★ Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur announced that India will be the official Country of Honour at the Marche' Du Film, organized alongside the 75th edition of Cannes Film Festival, in France.
- ★ It is the first time the Marché du Film has an official Country of Honour, and this special focus will continue annually with different nations in the spotlight at future editions.
- ★ India is also a Country of Honour at the Cannes Next, under which 5 new Start Ups would be given an opportunity to pitch to the Audio-Visual Industry.

PLASTINDIA 2023

- ★ Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched Plastindia, 2023.
- ★ PLASTINDIA refers to a series of exhibitions under the Plastindia Foundation, which will hold the 11th International Plastics Exhibition, Conference and Convention from 1st - 5th February, 2023 at ITPO Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

- ★ The exhibition will provide opportunities for employment generation, facilitate the growth of the Indian plastic industry and make India a hub for sourcing plastic for global needs.

Operation Satark

- ★ Railway Protection Force (RPF) launches Operation Satark
- ★ It was launched with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold/cash/precious items/ any other items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion/smuggling/commission of crime/acts of terror.
- ★ RPF is an armed force of the union entrusted with the security of railway property, passenger area and passengers.
- ★ It is the lead security agency in the field of railway security having a pan India reach.

Floating Border Outposts

- ★ Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated three floating Border Outposts (BOP) on the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal to protect the inaccessible areas of the Sundarbans.
- ★ The floating Border Outposts (BOP) Sutlej, Kaveri and Narmada have been built by the Koch Shipyard.
- ★ The Outpost has adequate arrangements to prevent both infiltration and smuggling.

Floating Boat Ambulance

- ★ Shri. Amit Shah also flagged off the floating Boat Ambulance.
- ★ The services commenced to provide medical assistance in the inaccessible area of Sundarbans from Saheb Khali (West Bengal) to Shamsheer Nagar (Bihar).

Maitri Sangrahalaya (Friendship Museum)

- ★ Shri. Amit Shah also laid down the foundation stone of the 'Friendship Museum at Haridaspur in West Bengal.
- ★ In 1970s, horrific human rights violations were committed in Bangladesh.
- ★ At that time BSF and the Indian Army defended human rights in that area with great valour and helped in the creation of Bangladesh.
- ★ On the occasion of the golden jubilee year of the creation of Bangladesh, the Friendship Museum will be established at a cost of ₹8 Crore.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

- ★ Shri. Pashupati Kumar Paras, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries launched three One District One Product (ODOP) brands under the PMFME Scheme in New Delhi.
- ★ The Scheme (PMFME) was launched under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

- ★ It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ★ It aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry.
- ★ It aims to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations, Self Help Groups, and Producers Cooperatives along their entire value chain.
- ★ It is being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Mukti-matrika Programme

- ★ Mukti-matrika ('Freedom as Mother') is a cultural programme, organized by the Ministry of Culture at the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata.
- ★ It will consist of a dance performance by eminent Odissi dancer Smt. Dona Ganguly and her troupe, Diksha Manjari, and a recital by the noted musician duo, Sourendro-Soumyojit.
- ★ UNESCO has recently accorded the Intangible Cultural Heritage status to Kolkata's Durga Puja festivities.

Yeshaswini Health Scheme

- ★ Chief Minister of Karnataka, Basavaraj Bommai, recently announced the re-introduction of Yeshaswini health scheme for farmers.
- ★ Under this scheme, quality medical facilities will be made available to farmer families of rural areas and a sum of ₹300 crore will be provided by the State Government.
- ★ Yeshaswini, launched in 2003 by the State Government, was one of the largest self-funded healthcare schemes in the country.
- ★ Covering 823 defined surgical procedures, the scheme enabled rural beneficiaries to avail cashless treatment costing up to ₹2 lakh and ₹2.5 lakh according to the subscriber's annual contribution.
- ★ About 40 lakh members of cooperative bodies in urban areas were eligible under this scheme.

Global Drug Development Centre at IIT Madras

- ★ Pfizer, a US Pharmaceutical company has developed a global drug development center on the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras research park campus.
- ★ The center has been set up by Pfizer at a cost of over ₹150 crore and is spread over 61,000 square feet and has 10 laboratories.
- ★ It will develop and support products in its global markets and manufacturing centers.
- ★ The center's capabilities will include the development of both, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and finished dosage forms (FDFs) of differentiated products.
- ★ Pfizer currently has three manufacturing units in Visakhapatnam, Goa and Ahmedabad.

West Bengal Signs MoU with Flipkart

- ★ E-commerce major Flipkart signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Paschim Banga Society of Skill Development (PBSSD), part of the West Bengal government's technical education.
- ★ It is to impart industry training to youths to help create a pool of skilled supply chain operators in the state.
- ★ Candidates will be given an opportunity to do on-the-job training at Flipkart facility for 45 days as trainees at a stipend of ₹17,500.
- ★ This partnership will help bridge the skill gap for the booming warehousing and supply chain industry in West Bengal besides enhancing commercial and social development in the state.
- ★ Flipkart launched the Supply Chain Operations Academy in 2021.

JITO Connect 2022

- ★ JITO Connect 2022 is a global summit organised by Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) in Pune.
- ★ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural ceremony virtually.
- ★ The theme of this summit is 'Together Towards Tomorrow'.
- ★ JITO Connect is an endeavour to help business and industry by providing a mutual networking and personal interactions.

Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022

- ★ Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane inaugurated the 'Enterprise India National Coir Conclave 2022'.
- ★ It is being organised under the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" at Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- ★ The main objective of the conclave is on the development of new products and new applications of coir through product development, product diversification and adoption of new technologies.
- ★ It plays an instrumental role in enhancing exports and adding to MSME's share in GDP of the country.
- ★ It is being organized to bring about a co-ordinated effort between the State and Central Governments to promote production of coir and coir products and to identify new areas of application of coir.
- ★ A 'Run for Coir' is also being organized on 6th May 2022 to promote the use of coir, as a natural, degradable, eco-friendly product.

Tata Power Solar

- ★ Tata Power Solar Systems has bagged India's largest solar engineering procurement and construction (EPC) order for 1 GW project worth ₹5,500 crore from state-owned hydroelectric power generation company SJVN Ltd.
- ★ The project will be developed under the CPSU (central public sector undertaking) scheme of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and will be completed within 24 months.

- ★ The project Covers 5,000 acres of land in Rajasthan. It aims at reducing around 22,87,128 kg of carbon emission and is expected to generate around 2,500 million units annually.

Apple, Google and Microsoft to Join Hands

- ★ Technology giants Apple, Google, and Microsoft have announced to create a common “passwordless” sign-in standard that will allow easy, secure authentication options for users across devices and platforms.
- ★ It will expand support for the new sign-in standard, created jointly by the Fast Identity Online (FIDO) Alliance and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).
- ★ FIDO Alliance's goal is to replace passwords with more secure, encrypted biometric authentication systems.

Vehicle Movement Tracking System Mobile App

- ★ Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Manohar Lal launched the Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS) Mobile App.
- ★ This App has been designed and developed by National Informatics Centre, Haryana.
- ★ This is a generalized app and it can be used for multi-purposes like to track vehicles having sand, concrete, mining etc.

NCRTC at Savli in Gujarat

- ★ The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) will receive India’s first semi-high-speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) at Alstom’s Savli plant in Gujarat.
- ★ The event will be held under the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ★ The RRTS train sets are being manufactured under Make in India initiative and run at a top speed of 180 kilometre per hour.
- ★ NCRTC is the implementing agency of India’s first RRTS corridor between Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut.
- ★ The 17 km long priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai is targeted to be commissioned by 2023 and the full corridor will be fully operational by 2025.

NHAI Signs Two MOUs in Lucknow

- ★ National Highways Authority of India held a two-day regional conference in Lucknow under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- ★ NHAI also signed two significant Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) that will contribute to enhance National Highway infrastructure and will contribute to sustaining environment in Uttar Pradesh and other states.
- ★ A first of its kind MOU was signed between NHAI and State Rural Livelihood Mission, Uttar Pradesh to involve the self-help groups in taking up the plantations along the National Highways.

- ★ The second MOU was signed between NHAI and AMMANN India Pvt. Ltd. Both entities have collaborated to create a talent pool of highly skilled workforce, fully trained on advanced technologies in Highway construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance.

Boeing Partners with Air Works

- ★ Boeing has announced strategic agreements with Air Works for the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of two key Boeing defence platforms in India and services for the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft fleet.
- ★ Boeing India's collaboration with Air Works is an important first step under the launched initiative, the Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (BIRDS) hub.
- ★ The hub aims to grow capabilities in India in the areas of heavy maintenance, component repairs, training and skilling of IAF and IN maintainers.
- ★ This is also an important step to the government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision of developing India as an MRO hub.

PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY Complete Seven Years

- ★ Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) complete seven years of providing social security net.
- ★ The schemes were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ★ In order to ensure that the people from the unorganized section of the country are financially secure, the Government launched two insurance schemes - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- ★ Atal Pension Yojana was launched to cover the exigencies in the old age.

RailTel launches PM-WANI

- ★ RailTel, a Mini Ratna PSU, has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme and was launched by RailTel chairman and managing director Puneet Chawla.
- ★ It is based on access to its Public WiFi services across 100 railway stations across the country.
- ★ The government further plans to extend the PM-WANI-based access of RailTel's public Wi-Fi services to all 6,102 railway stations in a phased manner by the end of June 2022.
- ★ To access this WiFi network, android users can download the mobile app 'Wi-DOT' available on Google Play Store and developed by C-DOT.
- ★ PM-WANI is an ambitious program of the Department of Telecom (DoT) to connect all Wi-Fi networks for ease of use.

New UK India Industry Taskforce

- ★ A new UK India Industry Taskforce was launched on 09 May.
- ★ It is a joint commission to increase cross-industry collaboration and push the UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- ★ The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have created the new taskforce as part of a memorandum of understanding to provide a “critical forum”.
- ★ It is to ensure the FTA works to the benefit of businesses in both countries.

YouTube India and Neeraj Chopra

- ★ Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and YouTube India have tied up to create a film for the platform that is aimed at taking the story of his rise, from a village in Khandra, Haryana to the top of the Olympic podium at the Tokyo2020 Olympics.
- ★ Through this association, Chopra directs to use the platform to build awareness about athletics and the sport of javelin amongst the youth across the world.
- ★ JSW Sports, which supports Chopra has facilitated the partnership between the two.

President's Colours award to Assam Police

- ★ Union Home Minister Amit Shah will present the President's Colours award to Assam Police in Guwahati for exemplary service during the past 25 years.
- ★ Assam will be the 10th state in the country to receive the honour.
- ★ President's Colours, a special flag and is the highest honour to be given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation both in peace and war.
- ★ The Home Minister will attend an event in Guwahati to mark the first anniversary of the Himanta Biswa Sarma government.
- ★ He will also lay the foundation stones of various development works in Guwahati including the Commissionerate of a police office building.

Poumai Naga Tribe Drug-Free Zone

- ★ Poumai tribe, one of the major Naga tribes in Manipur has declared that Poumai inhabited areas will be a Drug-Free Zone supporting the State government's War on Drug campaign.
- ★ This has been done in order to help the state government curb the drug menace including illegal poppy cultivation.
- ★ According to reports, a resolution to this effect and against poppy plantation was made.

New Domestic Cargo Terminals by 2024-2025

- ★ Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia announced the government will establish 33 new domestic cargo terminals by 2024-2025.

- ★ The main objective is to allow India's cargo sector to flourish and grow.
- ★ He also stressed the need to work on ease of doing business in cargo sector by making processes paperless, adapting automation, and digitalization which can make cargo processing swift.
- ★ It is to focus on transportation of smaller cargo loads from Tier II and III cities to metros to achieve the target of 10 million metric tons in cargo.

Intersolar Europe 2022

- ★ Intersolar Europe 2022 is being organized by the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) to be held from 11th May to 13th May 2022.
- ★ Union Minister of State for Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Shri Bhagwant Khubra will attend Intersolar Europe 2022 at Munich, Germany.
- ★ The Minister will deliver key note address at the investment promotion event “India’s Solar Energy Market” on 12th May 2022 in Munich.
- ★ Intersolar is the world’s leading exhibition series for the solar industry and its partners.

First Waste-Powered EV Charging Station

- ★ Maharashtra Minister Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated India’s first EV charging station powered by bio-gas at Keshavrao Khadye Marg.
- ★ It generates 220 units of energy from household waste.
- ★ This project is a partnership between the municipal government and AeroCare Clean Energy.
- ★ India has successfully established a number of operational public electric vehicle chargers, the majority of which are located in cities like Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai.

Green Health Alliance (GAL)

- ★ The Catalyst Group, an innovative collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Rockefeller Foundation, announced the launch of the Green Health Alliance (GHA) in New Delhi.
- ★ The Alliance is set to focus on identifying and scaling up solutions to help reduce the carbon footprint of the health system.
- ★ It also minimise the negative health impacts of climate change.
- ★ The Green Health Alliance will integrate private and public sector expertise to build strong and resilient health ecosystems through affirmative climate action.

Tata Technologies Signs Pact with Assam

- ★ Global engineering and product development digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd has entered into a collaboration with the Assam government to transform 34 state polytechnics and 43 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into futuristic Centres of Excellence (CoEs).

- ★ The total proposed investment under this project would be approximately ₹2,390 crore.
- ★ The company has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam government for a period of 10 years.
- ★ The agreement also acts as a technology and industrial hub for MSMEs and support entrepreneurship.

India's First Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)

- ★ On 11th May 2022, Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane inaugurated the first Centre of Excellence for Khadi in New Delhi.
- ★ The Centre of Excellence for Khadi has been established at the National Institute of Fashion Technology as a hub in Delhi and its sub division in Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong.
- ★ It will be aimed at designing apparel, home furnishing, and accessories for people from different age groups.
- ★ The Khadi Village and Industries Commission has been charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programs for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas.

Tripartite-cum-Escrow Agreement

- ★ The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have entered into a long-term purchase agreement (LTPA) for ethanol plants across India.
- ★ State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank are three banks who are involved in this tripartite agreement with OMCs.
- ★ As per the agreement, ethanol produced by ethanol plants shall be sold to OMCs for blending with Petrol as per Govt of India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program.
- ★ The Government has advanced the target of achieving 20% blended ethanol by 2025.
- ★ In Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22, India achieved 9.90% ethanol blending.

AIM-PRIME Playbook

- ★ AIM and NITI Aayog launched the AIM-PRIME Playbook to help academicians launch deep-tech spin-offs.
- ★ It was launched at the Dr. Ambedkar International Center in New Delhi.
- ★ AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide program.
- ★ It was implemented by Venture Center, which is a non-profit technology business incubator in Pune.
- ★ The benefits of this program are aimed at addressing specific issues through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.

IBM Partners with AWS

- ★ IBM has signed a first-of-its-kind agreement with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer a broad array of its software catalog as Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) on AWS.
- ★ As part of the Strategic Collaboration Agreement (SCA), IBM and AWS will provide clients with quick and easy access to IBM Software.
- ★ It extends automation, data and AI, security and sustainability capabilities, that is built on Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS (ROSA).
- ★ More than 30 Software products that currently can be deployed manually in AWS Marketplace.

Madhya Pradesh Startup Policy

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Madhya Pradesh Startup Policy virtually.
- ★ Mr. Modi will address the startup community during the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave being held in Indore.
- ★ Prime Minister will also launch the Madhya Pradesh Startup portal, which will facilitate and help promote the startup ecosystem.
- ★ Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave will witness participation of various pillars of the startup ecosystem including policymakers from government and private sector, innovators, entrepreneurs, academicians, investors, mentors and other stakeholders.

Gartex Texprocess India

- ★ Union Minister of State for Textiles & Railways, Darshana Jardosh inaugurated 'Gartex Texprocess India' and marked the launch of India's leading textile and garment manufacturing trade fair in Mumbai.
- ★ Textile sector contributes 10% of the manufacturing production, 2% of the India's GDP and 15% of the country's export earnings.
- ★ PLI Scheme for Man Made Fabric (MMF) segment and Technical Textiles is at an outlay of ₹10,683 Crore.
- ★ The platform aims to reunite the Indian textile industry for exchange of technologies and solutions to reduce India's import dependency of textile machinery.

India's Largest PEM Based Green Hydrogen Project

- ★ In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL (India) Limited has announced to set up one of the largest Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) Electrolyser in India.
- ★ The project would be installed at GAIL's Vijaipur Complex, in Guna District of Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ It would be based on renewable power.
- ★ It is scheduled to be commissioned by November 2023.
- ★ The Project has been designed to produce around 4.3 Metric Tons of Hydrogen per day.

NITI Aayog Launches National Data and Analytics Platform

- ★ On 13 May 2022, NITI Aayog launched the National Data and Analytics Platform.
- ★ The platform aims to access Government data to public by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive and available on a user-friendly platform.
- ★ The platform was launched by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Suman Bery in the presence of Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog Amitabh Kant and other senior officials from NITI Aayog.
- ★ This platform is a critical milestone which aims to aid country's progress by promoting data-driven disclosure, decision making and ensuring availability of data.

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare signs MoU with UNDP

- ★ The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- ★ It is to provide technical support towards Centre's aspirational Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) scheme & Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme.
- ★ As per the MoU, UNDP will provide responsive, demand-driven technical assistance for effective implementation of agriculture credit and crop insurance, as well as providing capacity development and Information.

'BHARAT TAP' Initiative at Plumbex India Exhibition

- ★ The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Hardeep S Puri launched the BHARAT TAP initiative at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition.
- ★ This exhibition is aimed for products and services related to the plumbing, water and sanitation industry.
- ★ Shri Puri also launched 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative which works for saving of 500 crore litres of water per year.
- ★ BHARAT TAP initiative will provide low-flow, sanitary-ware at scale, and thereby reduce water consumption at source considerably and will lead to a renewed focus on water conservation efforts.

MoRD and Amazon

- ★ An MoU between Ministry of Rural Development and Amazon Seller Services Private Limited (Amazon) was signed at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ★ It is to enable SHG entrepreneurs under NRLM to offer their products to the buyers across India through Amazon Saheli Storefront and help SHG women achieve good price for their varied products.
- ★ Amazon and MoRD will jointly enable Commercial and social development of women led rural enterprises across identified States and Union Territories.
- ★ MoRD & Amazon will conduct joint workshops for awareness creation and assist the sellers in listing their products and to unlock growth levers to grow their business on Amazon.in.

National Cyber Forensic Laboratory

- ★ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) on Hyderabad.
- ★ It is located at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory campus.
- ★ At present, there are seven CFSL in the country which have dedicated facilities for electronic forensics, including computer and cyber forensics.
- ★ The lab has been constructed under the Cyber and Information Security Division MHA.
- ★ It is constructed at an estimated cost of about ₹35.51 crore.
- ★ It will speed up the process for disposal of cybercrime cases in the country.

Gatishakti Sanchar Portal

- ★ Minister of Communications, Electronics and IT Ashwini Vaishnaw launched Gatishakti Sanchar Portal in New Delhi.
- ★ This portal will facilitate smooth deployment of digital communications infrastructure across the country.
- ★ The portal will act as an enabler to the objective of Ease of doing business for telecommunications infrastructure works.
- ★ The portal has been developed by MP State Electronics Development Corporation.
- ★ It will enable applicants from various Telecom Service Providers (TSP) to apply at a common single portal.

Girl Empowerment Mission

- ★ National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has initiated the Girl Empowerment Mission for uplifting the lives of underprivileged girls living in different regions of the country.
- ★ NTPC is organizing a four-week-long Girl Empowerment Mission to provide every girl child essential education, health and self-defence awareness under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.
- ★ It will also enhance the life skills of the students.
- ★ Under the programme various activities like dance, music and theatre will also be organized which will be helpful for the overall development of the students.

52nd Reserve Forest for Wild Cats

- ★ Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav announced that Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary has notified as 52nd Reserve Forest for Wild cats (Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan).
- ★ It is the 52nd Reserve of India, which will conserve biodiversity and bring in ecotourism and development to the area.
- ★ This is Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra.

- ★ The notified tiger reserve includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side and facilitates dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.
- ★ He also announced that Ramgarh palace will encourage eco-tourism and provide employment opportunities to local communities.

India to Host SCO Anti-Terror Meeting

- ★ India will be hosting the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO's) anti-terror body--Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure or RATS.
- ★ The meeting will take place from May 16th to 19th in Delhi and all members of the SCO will participate in the event.
- ★ India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) on October 28 for a period of one year which specifically deals with issues relating to security and defence.
- ★ A major focus of the discussions was to be on the situation in Afghanistan, especially in dealing with the threat from terrorist groups.

Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022

- ★ India's first Incredible India International Cruise Conference-2022 was held in Mumbai from 14th to 15th of May.
- ★ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized the two-day event in Mumbai.
- ★ The conference aims to deliberate on 'Developing India as a Cruise Hub'.
- ★ The mascot of the Conference is named as Captain Cruzo.
- ★ The two-day conference has been organized with an aim to position India as the Global Cruise Hub and showcase business and investment opportunities in the cruise tourism sector.

Two Indigenously Built Frontline Warships into Indian Navy

- ★ Two frontline warships of Indian Navy: Surat, a Project 15B Destroyer and Udaygiri, a Project 17A Frigate will be launched at Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai.
- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be the Chief Guest for both the events.
- ★ The Project 15B class of ships are the next-generation stealth guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy which is built at the Mazgaon Docks Ltd, Mumbai.
- ★ Surat is the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers and is named after the commercial capital of Gujarat.
- ★ Udaygiri, named after a mountain range in the state of Andhra Pradesh, is the third ship of Project 17A Frigates.
- ★ Mega Block Outsourcing, Project Data Management and Project Lifecycle Management have been adopted for the first time in indigenous Warship Design and Construction in this project.

PM Modi to Address TRAI

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a programme marking Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) virtually.
- ★ He will also release a postal stamp to commemorate the occasion.
- ★ TRAI was established in 1997 through the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- ★ During the programme, Mr Modi will also launch a 5G Test Bed, developed as a multi-institutional collaborative project by a total of eight institutes led by IIT Madras.
- ★ The Test Bed will enable a supportive ecosystem for Indian industry and start-ups which will help them validate their products, prototypes, solutions and algorithms in 5G and next-generation technologies.

World's Largest RE Storage Plant

- ★ Hyderabad-based Greenko Group announced to set up the world's largest renewable energy storage plant in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ The 5,230-megawatt (MW) project is being set up at a cost of USD 3 billion and Arcelor Mittal has announced to give USD 600 million for the project.
- ★ Out of 5,230 MW, 3,000 MW is solar, 550 MW wind and 1,680 MW is pump storage capacity for 6 hours.
- ★ The project is expected to be commissioned by 2023.

Hyundai India Partners with Tata Power

- ★ Hyundai Motor India has announced a strategic partnership with Tata Power to build a robust EV charging network and boost EV adoption in India.
- ★ It aims to achieve national goal of carbon neutrality.
- ★ The partnership will power-up the nations' electric mobility mission by offering end-to-end EV charging infrastructure.
- ★ The charging stations at Hyundai Dealerships will be open for all-electric vehicle customers and accessible through Hyundai and Tata Power EZ Charge Mobile App.
- ★ Tata power will install Tata power EZ Charge fast chargers at HMILs existing 34 EV dealer locations across 29 cities.

NSAC To Focus on Tier-2, 3 Cities to Promote Startups

- ★ On 17 May 2022, the fourth meeting of National Startup Advisory Council was held in New Delhi.
- ★ During the meeting, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has asked National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) to focus on tier-2 and tier-3 cities for VC funding, capacity building and awareness generation on government schemes that promote startups.
- ★ He also emphasized the need for capacity building and generating awareness about various initiatives of the government to promote startups in such cities.

- ★ Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade had constituted the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large-scale employment opportunities.

'Lok Milni' for Redressal of Public Grievances

- ★ Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched first-of-its-kind public interaction programme, 'Lok Milni'.
- ★ The programme aims to deliver on the spot redressal of the people's grievances.
- ★ People from different parts of the state came with several complaints regarding encroachment of panchayat land, land dispute, pending of Shagun scheme among others.
- ★ The matter flagged by people are immediately resolved in a time bound and result oriented manner.
- ★ Earlier the programme was named as Janta Darbar.

Vedanta Partners with NHAI

- ★ Vedanta Aluminium has announced a long-term contract with NHAI to construct greener roads with fly-ash in Odisha.
- ★ Fly-ash, which is a by-product of thermal power generation using coal is used in the cement, construction and infrastructure industries.
- ★ Vedanta Aluminium has utilised nearly 2.8 lakh tonnes of fly-ash in cement production and supplied 2.7 lakh tonnes for brick manufacturing in FY22.
- ★ Every tonne of fly-ash can save around 700-800 of carbon emissions and 341 litres of water.

MyGov Karnataka

- ★ MyGov Karnataka was launched by Chief Minister Shri Basavraj Bommai. Karnataka becomes the 17th state to have its own MyGov state instance.
- ★ MyGov Karnataka was launched to promote participatory governance in state.
- ★ It also aims to promote active citizen participation and engagement in governance and policymaking.
- ★ Citizens can register on karnataka.mygov.in to share opinions, ideas and suggestions with the Government.

DRDO & Indian Navy Conduct Successful Maiden Flight-Test

- ★ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile.
- ★ On 18 May 2022, it was launched from a Naval Helicopter from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur Odisha.
- ★ It is the first indigenous air launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy.

- ★ The missile employed many new technologies, including an indigenously developed launcher for the helicopter.
- ★ The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.

Cotton Council of India

- ★ The Union Government has announced the formation of the Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of renowned veteran Suresh Bhai Kotak.
- ★ It will have representation from Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce, and Finance Ministries along with Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute.
- ★ The first meeting of the proposed council has been scheduled for 28 May 2022.
- ★ The council will discuss, deliberate, and prepare a robust action plan for bringing out a tangible improvement in this field.
- ★ The Minister emphasized the need for making available better-quality seeds to improve the productivity of cotton farmers.

Vadnagar International Conference

- ★ On 18 May 2022, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the 'Vadnagar International Conference' at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on the occasion of World Museum Day.
- ★ The 3-day conference has been organized jointly by the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Culture of the Government of Gujarat and the Union Ministry of Culture.
- ★ The Chief Minister announced that the state government is fully prepared to promote the state's archaeological heritage and culture on the global stage.
- ★ The conference is supported by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Ministry of Heavy Industries Signs MoU with NRDC

- ★ Ministry of Heavy Industries has signed an MoU with National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) for implementation of the Scheme for enhancement of competitiveness in the Indian capital goods sector.
- ★ The corporation will conduct the activities like evaluation and review of the scheme, management of intellectual property rights and commercialization support for the products developed under Capital Goods Scheme.
- ★ The vision of this MoU is to make India a global hub for the manufacturing of capital goods.

India's First State-Owned OTT Platform

- ★ India's first state-owned OTT platform - CSPACE, will be launched by the Kerala government on 01 November 2022.
- ★ Kerala will become the first state in India to have a state-owned OTT platform.

- ★ Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cheriyan revealed the name of the OTT platform as CSPACE which is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).
- ★ The OTT platform will showcase films with artistic value irrespective of their performance at the box office, along with internationally recognised and award-winning films, best films screened at the annual International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), short films and documentaries.

41st edition of Hunar Haat

- ★ The 41st edition of Hunar Haat is an effective campaign of “Acclamation to Art” and “Splendour to Skill”, is organised in Agra, Uttar Pradesh from May 18 to May 29, 2022.
- ★ More than 800 artisans and craftsmen from 32 States and Union Territories of the country participated in the event.
- ★ “Hunar Haat” has become a “credible and consummate” platform to strengthen Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s idea for “Vocal for Local” and “Self-reliant India”.
- ★ On the other hand, “Hunar Haat” has been playing a pivotal role in “Preservation, Protection, Promotion” of centuries old rich legacy of art and craft of the country.

Battery-Operated Dual-Mode Locomotive ‘Navdoot’

- ★ West Central Railway has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive called Navdoot. This engine runs on both modes such as battery and electricity.
- ★ This e-engine is capable to pull 18 coaches at a speed of 30 kmph. It has 84 batteries and has a capacity to pull 400 tonnes currently.
- ★ Chief Public Relations Officer of West Central Railway Rahul Jaipuria announced that this innovation has been developed by the Electric Department of New Katni Junction.
- ★ This Dual Mode Locomotive has also received the Best Innovation Award from the Railway Board.
- ★ Railways will save 1000 litres of diesel every day with this new locomotive.

Patanjali Ayurved Food Business is Acquired by Ruchi Soya

- ★ Yoga guru and businessman Baba Ramdev owned Patanjali Ayurved has signed an agreement to sell its food retail business to Ruchi Soya Industries, a firm acquired through an insolvency process for ₹690 crore.
- ★ After regulatory permissions the name of the Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd would be changed to Patanjali Foods Ltd.
- ★ 21 major products such as ghee, honey, spices, juices and atta is acquired by the company.
- ★ The deal also includes acquisition of Patanjali Ayurved’s manufacturing units in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, and Newasa unit in Maharashtra.

NIELIT Centre Inaugurated at Leh

- ★ Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Cabinet Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Communications and Railways virtually inaugurated National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Centre in Leh, Ladakh.

- ★ The main objective of the inauguration is the Extension of Centre Kargil and IT Enabled Incubation Centre for Handicraft and Handloom Sector in the upliftment of the local artisans.
- ★ Any proposal related to IT Education, Training, Incubation for the development of UT of Ladakh will be approved immediately by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ★ The communication ministry announced that the department is working on different available technological solutions as an alternative to optical fibre and on top of the hill the connectivity will be provided.

Incentive For Farmers by Punjab Cabinet

- ★ The Punjab Cabinet led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann approved ₹1500 per acre incentive to the farmers for sowing of paddy through innovative technology.
- ★ The main objective of this incentive is to conserve underground water through direct seeding of rice (DSR) technology.
- ★ A sum of ₹450 Crore has been approved to provide incentive to the farmers for promotion of less water consuming and cost effective DSR technology.
- ★ This step would be instrumental in saving nearly about 15 to 20 per cent water as compared to the conventional puddling method during the life cycle of crops.
- ★ The cabinet also resolved to provide farmers ₹1500 per acre in financial assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

The State of Inequality in India

- ★ The report titled The State of Inequality in India, was released by Economic Advisory Council chairman Bibek Debroy.
- ★ The report was prepared by the Gurgaon-based Institute for Competitiveness.
- ★ The two components of the report are Economic Facets and Socio-Economic Manifestations.
- ★ The report also emphasised to launch a guaranteed employment programme for the urban unemployed.
- ★ According to the results of the three rounds of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the council announced that in the three years to 2019-20, the top one per cent of the population held six to seven per cent of the total incomes earned.

IIT-Madras' Hyperloop Centre

- ★ The Ministry of Railways has approved Hyperloop technology developed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras.
- ★ A centre of excellence for Hyperloop technology will be set up at IIT Madras and the Ministry of Railways will provide ₹8.34 crore for the project.
- ★ Hyperloop is a futuristic mode of transportation wherein a high-speed train travels in a near-vacuum tube.
- ★ The IIT Madras had submitted a research proposal to work in collaboration with the Railways for indigenous development and validation of the technology.

- ★ The Hyperloop model proposed by Team Avishkar. The Hyperloop model proposed by Team Avishkar can achieve a top speed of over 1,200 km per hour.

Infrastructure Projects Worth ₹1180 Crore in Arunachal Pradesh

- ★ Union Home Minister Amit Shah laid foundation stones of various infrastructure projects worth ₹1180 crore in Arunachal Pradesh during a public meeting at Namsai.
- ★ He announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always given priority to the development of the North-east Region.
- ★ The region is known for its tourism, development, good infrastructure and its diverse culture.

Foundation 100 Bedded ESIC Hospital

- ★ On 22 May 2022, Minister of Labour and Employment, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, laid the foundation stone of 100 bedded ESIC hospital in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- ★ The hospital will be built at an estimated cost of 155 Crore and will have the facilities of General Medicine, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynecology, etc.,
- ★ ESIC will support to the medical needs of 38.26 lakhs Insured Persons and around 1.48 Crore beneficiaries.
- ★ ESIC is providing medical benefits to 3.41 crore workers covered under the Act.
- ★ From 393 districts in 2015, the services of ESIC have been expanded to 596 districts.

NMCG Approves 11 projects

- ★ The 42nd meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga was organised under the chairmanship of Shri G. Asok Kumar.
- ★ The committee approved 11 projects during the meeting with an estimated cost of around ₹660 crores.
- ★ Cleaning of Ganga's tributaries has been the prime focus of Namami Gange Programme.
- ★ Recognizing the need for Faecal Sludge and Septage Management for effective de-centralized wastewater treatment, NMCG approved two projects of Septage Management in the meeting.

Solar Rooftop Project at Tata Motors' Plant in Chikhali, Pune

- ★ Tata Power and Tata Motors announced partnership on a project to develop 7 MWp solar rooftop project at Tata Motors' plant in Chikhali, Pune which is India's largest on-site solar project.
- ★ This is the third phase of a joint MWp on-site solar project developed by the two companies.
- ★ The two have also signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the project.
- ★ The installation is expected to generate 23 million units of electricity which decreases 5.23 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- ★ Tata Motors has been working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions to achieve Net Zero Emission goal.

Maharashtra Partners with WEF

- ★ Maharashtra has partnered with the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to advance regional efforts to fight plastic pollution.
- ★ The pact was announced during the WEF Annual Meeting 2022 which is held in Davos, Switzerland.
- ★ The partnership will bring together Maharashtra's leading policy-makers, business leaders, civil society organizations and experts to formulate a state-level plan to eradicate plastic pollution.
- ★ The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Maharashtra will work with GPAP to launch a National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) in Maharashtra as a platform to tackle plastic waste pollution.
- ★ The GPAP-Maharashtra partnership is the first in India.

BioRRAP

- ★ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State has launched a “Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and start-ups” named Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP).
- ★ The portal will be supporting to the needs of all those seeking regulatory approval for biological development and research in India.
- ★ This is a portal developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ★ This portal is in line with the government’s “ease of start-ups” and “ease of doing science and scientific research.”
- ★ This portal is only for research-related activities and cannot be used for the purpose of product development.
- ★ Through this portal, researchers will be able to check the stages of approval of their respective applications for the purpose of getting regulatory clearance.
- ★ It will also bring transparency, accountability, and efficacy to the functioning of various agencies.

First Indian state to roll out Drone in Healthcare

- ★ Uttarakhand becomes the 1st Indian state to roll out drone in healthcare.
- ★ Redcliffe and Skye Air partnered to launch the project.
- ★ Redcliffe Labs, a unit of Redcliffe Lifetech in the U.S., has come up with its first commercial drone flight in the healthcare sector.
- ★ The company has recently opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarkashi and Dehradun.
- ★ The main objective of the project is the Commercial utilisation of drones to bring quality healthcare to Indians in the remotest areas.
- ★ The diagnostic service provider aims to reach at least 500 million Indians by 2027.
- ★ This will be the first commercial drone flight in India’s healthcare sector.

Fasal Ties up with IMD

- ★ Agritech firm Fasal has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for a research collaboration.
- ★ The regions that are used for Research & Development include: five districts in Karnataka, five districts in Maharashtra, one district in Telangana and two districts in Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ It is aimed at making day-to-day short-term weather forecasts accessible to farmers.
- ★ A total of 23 radar stations of IMD and about 600 on-ground precision farming devices of Fasal will be harnessed to provide weather forecasts.

Samsung to Spend on Chips and Biotech

- ★ Samsung Group will invest USD 356 billion in the next five years to accelerate growth in the semiconductors, biopharmaceutical and other next – generation technologies.
- ★ 80 percent of the investments will be made in South Korea.
- ★ Samsung Electronics is building an advanced \$17 billion US chip plant in Texas.
- ★ Samsung did not include electric vehicle batteries as a future growth engine in the announcement.

7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting

- ★ Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi participated in 7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting hosted by China virtually.
- ★ She announced that India with its diverse cultural expression ensures to provides a platform for the BRICS countries to familiarize cultural values through exchange programmes.
- ★ India strongly advocates a sustainable and resilient environment integrating heritage and traditional knowledge into innovative and culture-based solutions to environmental concerns.
- ★ The Ministers adopted the BRICS Action Plan 2022-2026 to further strengthen the cultural cooperation and implement the BRICS Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in 2015.

ONGC to Trade on Indian Gas Exchange

- ★ On 23 May 2022, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has become the first Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.
- ★ The quantity sold by ONGC through the Gas Exchange will be enhanced slowly.
- ★ The gas traded is from ONGC Krishna Godavari block.

Shirui Lily Festival

- ★ On 25 May 2022, the 4th edition of State-Level Shirui Lily Festival 2022 began on Manipur.
- ★ This annual festival is organized by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur with an aim to create and raise awareness of Shirui Lily flower which is also the State Flower of Manipur.

- ★ The four-day-long festival will be inaugurated by the Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at Shirui Village Ground in Ukhrul district.
- ★ Every year, tourists both domestic and international attend the function.

PARAM PORUL Supercomputer

- ★ On 25 May 2022, a state-of-the-art Supercomputer, PARAM PORUL was inaugurated at NIT Tiruchirappalli.
- ★ It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ★ The PARAM PORUL supercomputing facility is established under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- ★ PARAM PORUL system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology.
- ★ This includes the indigenous software stack developed by C-DAC, in line with the Make in India initiative.
- ★ The new high-performance computational facility would also aid researchers to solve large-scale problems in different areas of Science and Engineering.
- ★ NIT Tiruchirappalli has been carrying out research in the areas of societal interest such as Health, Agriculture, Weather, and Financial Services.

PM Modi to Visit Hyderabad and Chennai

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Hyderabad and Chennai to participate in the celebration of the completion of 20 years of Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and address the Graduation Ceremony of Post-Graduate Programme (PGP) Class of 2022.
- ★ Mr Modi will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stone of 11 projects worth over 31 thousand 400 crore rupees in Chennai.
- ★ The five Railway Stations at Chennai Egmore, Rameswaram, Madurai, Katpadi and Kanyakumari, will be redeveloped at a cost of 1,800 crore rupees.

Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022

- ★ On 27 May 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival- Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ★ Bharat Drone Mahotsav will prove to be a game changer in making India a drone hub of the world by 2030.
- ★ Drones have many functions, ranging from monitoring climate change to agriculture, geo mapping, carrying out search operations after natural disasters, photography, filming, and delivering goods.
- ★ Mahotsav will also witness virtual awards presentation ceremony of drone pilot certificates, product launches, flying demonstrations, display of a Made in India Drone Taxi prototype.

Electric Vehicle Policy

- ★ Tripura government has adopted the Tripura Electric Vehicle Policy 2022 to promote electric vehicles to curb vehicular pollution and save fuel.
- ★ There are 60,000 different types of vehicles in Tripura and the government has targeted to convert 10 percent of these into EVs in the next five years
- ★ Transport Department said that Tripura is the 15th state in the country and third in the northeastern region after Assam and Meghalaya to adopt the electric vehicle policy.
- ★ The state cabinet headed by Chief Minister Manik Saha adopted the Tripura Electric Vehicle Policy 2022 to encourage people to use more and more electric vehicles in the state.

Digital India BHASHINI

- ★ Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship inaugurated Startups in the field of Artificial Intelligence and language technology in a brainstorming session.
- ★ It was organized by MeitY on Mission Digital India BHASHINI (BHASHa INterface for India) the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM).
- ★ A Bhashini Platform will make Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available to MSMEs, Startups and Individual Innovators in the public domain.
- ★ This mission aims to empower Indian citizens by connecting them to the Digital Initiatives of the country in their own language thereby leading to digital inclusion.

National Conference of Woman Legislators

- ★ On 27 May 2022, The President Ram Nath Kovind will address the national conference of woman legislators in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ★ The two-day conference hosted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly is the first national event of this kind to be held in the country.
- ★ It will have various sessions on themes vital to woman legislators.
- ★ Women legislators from the Parliament, Speakers and Legislators from different States were participated.
- ★ He praised that woman have always participated in the freedom struggle of the country starting from the 19th century.

World's First Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate World's first Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant in Gujarat.
- ★ The Nano Urea (Liquid) Plant has been built at the cost of around 175 crore rupees in an effort to further provide farmers the means to boost productivity and help increase their income.
- ★ The ultramodern Nano Fertilizer Plant has been established to increase in crop yield through the use of Nano Urea.
- ★ The Plant will produce about 1.5 lakh bottles of 500 ml per day.

Indian Business Portal

- ★ Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel launched the Indian Business Portal in New Delhi.
- ★ The portal will serve as an international trade hub for Indian exporters and foreign buyers.
- ★ The portal is a business-to-business digital marketplace to empower small medium enterprises exporters, artisans and farmers to identify new markets for their products and grow their sales globally.
- ★ the Indian Business Portal has been developed by Federation of Indian Export Organisations.
- ★ The portal will act as e-commerce marketplace to help Indian exporters get global visibility.

Nirdeshak-Indian Navy Survey Vessel

- ★ Nirdeshak the second of the four Survey Vessels Large (SVL) was launched at Kattupalli, Chennai.
- ★ Project is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for Indian Navy.
- ★ The ship has taken its name from Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of service in December 2014.
- ★ The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between MoD and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ★ The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 05 December 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata.
- ★ The SVL ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.
- ★ The primary role of the ships would be to undertake full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of Ports and navigational channels.

First Lavender Festival

- ★ Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated India's 'First Lavender Festival' in Bhaderwah.
- ★ The 2 days Lavender Festival 2022 is conducted under Union Government's Aroma Mission 2.
- ★ Bhaderwah is the birthplace of India's Purple Revolution and said that Bhaderwah is the potential destination of Agri-tech StartUps of the country.
- ★ India's first National Institute of High-Altitude Medicine is also being built in Bhaderwah.
- ★ CSIR-AROMA Mission, under the Ministry of Science & Technology aims to develop and disseminate the aroma-related science and technology to reach the end user or clients of CSIR.

Ministry of Ayush and Department of Biotechnology

- ★ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ministry of Ayush and Department of Biotechnology, Government of India for mutual collaboration.

- ★ It is aimed to explore the possibility of cooperation, convergence and to bring out the expertise under one platform toward evidence-based biotechnological interventions in Ayush sector.
- ★ There is a need of multi-technological ways for the exploration and application of this ancient scientific system of health care into the public health care domain.

Cyber Security Centre

- ★ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated a Cyber Security Operation Centre (CSOC) to protect government data.
- ★ The first of its kind in the country, the centre will help protect data, applications and ICT infrastructure of the state from security threats.
- ★ The centre has been set up by the state Electronics and IT Department and Odisha Computer Application Centre.

INS Gomati Decommissioned

- ★ On 29 May 2022, INS Gomati was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai under the command of Captain Sudip Malik.
- ★ INS Gomati derives her name from the vibrant river Gomti and was commissioned on 16 April 1988 by the then Defence Minister, KC Pant, at Mazgaon Dock Ltd, Bombay.
- ★ The third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates, INS Gomati was also the oldest warrior of the Western Fleet when decommissioned.
- ★ During her service, she participated in Operations Cactus, Parakram and Rainbow and several bilateral and multinational naval exercises.
- ★ For her contribution to national maritime security, she was twice awarded the coveted Unit Citation, once in 2007-08 and in 2019-20.

3rd Global Organic Expo 2022

- ★ The 3rd Global Organic Expo 2022 was organized from May 26 and May 28, 2022, at IARI, Pusa, New Delhi
- ★ It is set to be a significant platform for Organic Producers, Aggregators, Processors, Value Chain Integrators, and Industry Partners by providing a Global level conference with the theme "Profitability for Humanity."
- ★ This will raise awareness not only among stakeholders but also among people concerned about their health.
- ★ The main objective of the expo is reducing cost and achieving sustainable productivity through certified organic products and capacity development of organic production systems.

India's First Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Plant

- ★ Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited (AHEJOL), a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), has commissioned a 390 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant in Rajasthan.
- ★ The plant in Jaisalmer is India's first-ever wind and solar hybrid power generation plant.

- ★ With the successful commissioning of this plant, Adani Green Energy Limited now has an operational capacity of 5.8 GW.
- ★ The new plant has a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) with a tariff of ₹2.69 per kWh, below the Average Power Procurement Cost (APPC) at the national level.
- ★ It will make AGEL's total renewable portfolio of 20.4 GW to meet its vision of 45 GW capacity by 2030.

Supercomputer 'PARAM ANANTA'

- ★ On 30 May 2022, 'PARAM ANANTA', a supercomputing facility under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) has been commissioned at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN).
- ★ It is jointly conducted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ★ It has been established under phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- ★ The new facility will provide a tremendous amount of computational power to the scientific community of IITGN as well as the academic institutions.
- ★ "Ananta", the name of the supercomputer, literally means 'endless' or 'limitless'.
- ★ The supercomputer is capable of offering performance of 838 teraflops.

Mumbai International Film Festival

- ★ On 29 May 2022, Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 17th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) in Mumbai.
- ★ Bangladesh has been selected as the 'Country of Focus' during the 17th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) to commemorate the Country's 50 years of Independence.
- ★ A special package of 11 films from Bangladesh will be presented at the film festival 2022.
- ★ The films in the 'Country of Focus' category from Bangladesh will include the 'Hasina: A Daughter's tale' which represents the person of the iconic political figure and its current Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and it was Directed by Piplu R Khan, the film has won critical acclaim internationally.
- ★ The Best Film of the Festival will receive the Golden Conch award, along with a cash prize of ₹10 lakhs.
- ★ There are several other awards also in other categories from five to one lakh each.
- ★ The coveted Dr. V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award with a cash award of ₹10 lakh will also be given during the festival.

Tata Motors signs MoU to Undertake Ford

- ★ Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML), a subsidiary of Tata Motors Ltd, and Ford India, a subsidiary of Ford Motor Company (US) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Gujarat (GoG).
- ★ The MoU is for the potential undertaking of Ford's Indian manufacturing facility including land and buildings, vehicle manufacturing plant, machinery and equipment and for the transfer of all eligible employees by Tata Motors at Sanand, Gujarat.
- ★ TPEML with the proposed investments, will establish an installed capacity of 300,000 units per year.

India's Largest Gold Reserves

- ★ The Geological Survey of India (GSI) announced that Bihar has India's largest gold reserves.
- ★ As per the Geological Survey of India (GSI), survey has found that around 222.88 million tonnes of gold reserve, including 37.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore, are present in Jamui district of Bihar.
- ★ The state government has decided to get permission for exploration of the "country's largest" gold reserve in Jamui district.
- ★ The state Mines and Geology Department is in consultation with agencies engaged in exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), for exploration of gold reserves in Jamui.

North India's First Industrial Biotech Park

- ★ Union science and technology minister Jitendra Singh inaugurated north India's first industrial biotech park at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ★ The biotech park would act as a hub for incubation of new ideas.
- ★ It is also a robust platform to support agri-entrepreneurs, startups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars and students not only from J&K but from other states.
- ★ It will carry out research on biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and it will also promote green category businesses.
- ★ The project will be implemented by the council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIM).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PM Modi on Official Visit to Three European Countries

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reached Berlin, Capital of Germany on the first leg of his official visit to three European nations. He will next visit Denmark and France during his three-day tour.
- ★ The aim is to strengthen the spirit of cooperation with European partners.
- ★ The Prime Minister would be taking part in various programmes including bilateral and multilateral engagements.

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will co-chair the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations-IGC.
- ★ He will also attend an India-Denmark Business Forum and address members of the Indian diaspora.
- ★ He will also participate in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre Ontario, Canada

- ★ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressed Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre (SMCC) Markham, Ontario, Canada on the occasion of inauguration of Sardar Patel's Statue virtually.
- ★ The statue of Sardar Patel will not only strengthen our cultural values but will also become a symbol of the relationship between the two countries.
- ★ He also mentioned When Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is celebrated in Canada, it will give an opportunity to the people of Canada to understand India more closely.

India Extends Its Current Credit Line to Sri Lanka

- ★ India has extended its current credit line by a further USD 200 million.
- ★ Four shipments are due to arrive in May 2022.
- ★ The credit is to restore Sri Lanka's rapidly depleting fuel stocks.
- ★ Sri Lanka is currently in the crisis of an unprecedented economic turmoil since its independence from Britain in 1948.
- ★ Sri Lanka has utilised USD 400 million from the USD 500 million credit line extended by India in March and April in 2022.
- ★ Sri Lanka's overall inflation surged to nearly 30% in April from 18.7% recorded in March 2022.

Triangular Development Cooperation

- ★ External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and German Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze met on 2 May 2022 in Berlin.
- ★ They signed agreements on triangular development cooperation and renewable energy partnership in May 2022.
- ★ Jaishankar also met his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock and signed an agreement on a direct encrypted connection between the two foreign offices.
- ★ They also signed a joint declaration on agroecology and sustainable management of natural resources virtually.
- ★ The transfer of technology and scientific knowledge will be promoted by encouraging exchanges, partnerships and research collaboration with the private sector.
- ★ Under this initiative, Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development will provide up to 300 million Euros by the year 2025 for financial and technical cooperation for projects.

2nd India-Nordic Summit

- ★ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit.
- ★ The Prime Minister of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland also participated in the summit.
- ★ The Summit provided an opportunity to review the progress of the India-Nordic relations since the 1st India-Nordic Summit, which was held in 2018 in Stockholm.

Country	Prime Minister
Denmark	Mette Frederiksen
Iceland	Katrín Jakobsdóttir
Norway	Jonas Gahr Støre
Sweden	Magdalena Andersson
Finland	Sanna Marin

Arabian Travel Market, Dubai – 2022

- ★ The Ministry of Tourism under its 'Incredible India' brand will participate in the Arabian Travel Market (ATM), Dubai-2022 which is being held from 10th May to 12th May, 2022.
- ★ It will showcase India's rich and diversified tourism potential and provide a platform to the tourism stakeholders to showcase the various tourism destinations and products.
- ★ It is also to promote India as a 'Must See, Must Visit' destination. The India Pavilion is showcasing India as a '365-Day Destination' which is a year-round multi-faceted tourist destination such as culture, adventure, cruise wildlife, wellness and medical tourism.

India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting

- ★ The India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting will be held in New Delhi.
- ★ The meeting will be co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion of the Sultanate of Oman Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef.
- ★ The 48 members delegation includes senior officials and business representatives from diverse areas spanning health, mining, tourism, telecommunication, energy, shipping, and real estate.
- ★ The bilateral trade between the two countries has grown by 82 percent to reach 9.94 billion dollars in 2021-2022.
- ★ The visit will provide an excellent opportunity to renew and further strengthen the close and dynamic economic ties between the two countries.

'Office Yoga' at SCO Secretariat

- ★ For the International Day of Yoga, Indian Embassy in Beijing organised a yoga session with the theme 'Office Yoga' and 'Yoga for All' at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Secretariat in Beijing, China.
- ★ SCO Secretary General, Zhang Ming and Ambassador Pradeep Rawat along with officials from the SCO and Indian embassy joined in for a rejuvenating and relaxing 'Office Yoga' session.
- ★ It is to strengthening cultural cooperation among SCO countries.

World's Largest Glass Bottom Bridge

- ★ Vietnam launched World's largest glass-bottomed bridge suspended 150 metres (490 feet) above a lush jungle.
- ★ It is called as Vietnam's Bach Long pedestrian bridge, which is 632 metres (2, 073 ft) long.
- ★ The floor of the bridge is made from French-produced tempered glass, making it strong enough to support up to 450 people at a time.
- ★ It surpassed a 526-metre structure in Guangdong, China.

Chair of Association of Asian Election Authorities for 2022-24

- ★ India has been unanimously elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.
- ★ The decision was taken at the meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila.
- ★ Commission on Elections, Manila was the current chair of AAEA.
- ★ The Election Commission of India 3-member delegation headed by Deputy Election Commissioner Nitesh Vyas presented the work plan for 2022-23 as also futuristic activities for 2023-24 to the Executive Board.
- ★ The Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) was established in 1998 in Manila, Philippines.
- ★ The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a founder member of the Election Management Body (EMB) of the AAEA.
- ★ Currently there are 20 Asian EMBs are members of AAEA.

South Korea Becomes First Asian Member of NATO

- ★ According to the National Intelligence Service (NIS), South Korea is the first Asian country to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) cyber defense group.
- ★ NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defense Research Center (CCDCOE) has been assisting member countries in cyber research, training and use.
- ★ The NATO grouping was started in 2008 by the member states led by Estonia.
- ★ The number of member countries of the CCDCOE are 32. Of these, 27 are member states of NATO and the remaining 5 are non-NATO member states.

USD 800,000 To Promote Hindi at UN

- ★ India has contributed USD 800,000 to the United Nations as part of the initiative to enhance public outreach of the organization in Hindi.
- ★ India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra handed over a cheque for the UN project launched by India in 2018 to disseminate information about the UN to the Hindi-speaking population across the world.
- ★ The Government of India has been making continuous efforts to expand the use of Hindi in the United Nations.

India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit

- ★ Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Economy Minister of United Arab Emirates Abdullah Bin Touq Al Marri inaugurated India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit in Mumbai.
- ★ This summit was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ★ It is to promote new trade, investment and innovation dynamic in diverse sectors, including economy, energy, climate action, emerging technologies, skills and education, food security, health care and defence and security.
- ★ UAE is second largest exporter to India. CEPA gives good opportunities for Indian companies to expand their reach in UAE.

Sky Bridge 721

- ★ The world's longest suspension footbridge named Sky Bridge 721 was opened to the public in Czech Republic's Dolni Morava.
- ★ The 721-meter-long bridge has been named Sky Bridge 721. The Bridge hangs 95 meters above the ground.
- ★ Sky Bridge 721 was constructed in two years.
- ★ It was constructed at an estimated cost of 200 million crowns (USD 8.4 million).
- ★ The bridge was suspended by six main supporting ropes and 60 wind ropes.
- ★ It surpasses Portugal's 516-meter Arouca Bridge.

PM Narendra Modi to Visit Lumbini

- ★ On the occasion of Buddha Purnima, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Lumbini in Nepal from the newly inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport.
- ★ Shri Modi is scheduled to reach the Kushinagar Airport from where he will fly to Lumbini, the birthplace of Gautama Buddha.
- ★ Kushinagar is the place where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.
- ★ Buddha Purnima is being celebrated on 16 May. It not only marks the day when Gautam Buddha was born but also the day when he attained Nirvana under the Mahabodhi tree at Bodh Gaya.
- ★ This day is commemorated by Buddhists and Hindus all over the world and is a major festival in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Tibet, China, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, and Mongolia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka.

COP-15 on Combating Desertification

- ★ Environment Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav will lead an Indian delegation at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) of the UNCCD at Abidjan in Cote d'Ivoire.
- ★ Mr Yadav will address the high-level segment, including a Heads of States Summit.
- ★ India had hosted the fourteenth session of Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification from 2nd to 13th September 2019 in New Delhi.
- ★ COP-15 is expected to enhance sustainable solutions for land restoration and drought resilience, with a strong focus on future-proofing land use, adopted by UNCCD's 197 Parties.

ECI to lead Democracy Cohort on 'Election Integrity'

- ★ Election Commission of India will lead Democracy Cohort on 'Election Integrity' in partnership with one hundred democratic countries.
- ★ A four-member US delegation led by Uzra Zeya, Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights called on the Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi.
- ★ During the meeting, Chief Election Commission and Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey shared the experiences of Election Commission.
- ★ They shared the new initiatives taken by the EC and use of new information technology.
- ★ Leaders of more than 100 countries including India, civil society organizations, private sector, media and others participated in the first summit.

Fertilizer Agreement with Jordan

- ★ Government of India has signed key fertilizer pacts with Jordan as supplies and prices of the key the agriculture commodity get impacted due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- ★ Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister of India Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya in visit to Jordan for securing long and short-term supplies of fertilizers.
- ★ During the visit, pacts were signed with Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC) for supplies of 30 LMT Rock Phosphate, 2.50 LMT DAP, 1 LMT phosphoric acid for the year 2022 with the Indian public, cooperative and private sector companies.
- ★ A long-term pact has been signed for 5 years for annual supplies of 2.75 LMT Units of Muriate of potash (MoP).

Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo which is to held on 24 May 2022.
- ★ US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will participate in the summit.
- ★ Prime Minister will hold bilateral meetings with US President Joe Biden and Australia PM Scott Morrison and is expected to review the India-US Strategic Partnership.

- ★ They will also exchange views of regional and global developments.
- ★ The India- Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with Mr Morrison and exchange views on global and regional developments will also be held during the meeting.

Pakistan Listed among Drought Hit Countries

- ★ According to the report released by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Pakistan is listed among the 23 countries by the United Nations that are facing drought emergencies in the last two years.
- ★ Other than Pakistan, the list includes Afghanistan, Angola, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Pakistan, the United States and Zambia.
- ★ Additional four million square kilometres will need to be rehabilitated by 2050 according to the report.
- ★ United Nations Global Land Outlook reported that Desertification Control through Sustainable Land Management Productive land is scarce in Pakistan with 80% of the country being arid or semi-arid.

World's Highest Weather Station on Mt. Everest

- ★ A team of experts from the National Geographic Society has installed the "world's highest weather station" on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres.
- ★ The Nepalese media reported that it can automatically measure various meteorological phenomena.
- ★ The weather monitoring system, powered by solar energy.
- ★ It is supposed to measure various meteorological phenomena like air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in surface height of snow, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation.
- ★ The NatGeo team, led by climate scientist Baker Perry from the Appalachian State University in the US, consisted of acclaimed climbers and scientists, many of whom scaled the world's highest peak while installing the weather station.
- ★ Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and National Geographic Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding to operate Automatic Weather Station.

CORPAT

- ★ On 22 May 2022. Indian and Bangladesh Navies commenced Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) in Northern Bay of Bengal. It marks the fourth edition of the exercise.
- ★ During the two-day exercise, the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy units will undertake joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line.
- ★ The last Indian Navy-Bangladesh Navy CORPAT was conducted in October 2020.
- ★ From the Indian Navy side, two indigenously built Ships - Kora, a guided-missile corvette and Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel are participating in the exercise.

- ★ Navy Ships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah from Bangladesh are taking part in the coordinated patrol exercise.
- ★ In addition, Maritime Patrol Aircraft of both navies will also be participating in the Coordinated Patrol.
- ★ It has strengthened mutual understanding and enhanced interoperability between both the navies in countering transnational maritime threats at sea.

Webb - World's Most Powerful Telescope

- ★ The James Webb Space Telescope, the world's largest and most powerful space-based observatory completed the first test to track a moving object.
- ★ The Webb team has used an asteroid within our solar system to run engineering tests of the 'moving target' (MT) capability.
- ★ The engineering team tested this capability on a small asteroid in the Main Belt: 6481 Tenzing.
- ★ It was named after Tenzing Norgay, the famous Tibetan Mountain guide who was one of the first people to reach the summit of Mount Everest. "
- ★ NASA announced that Webb is currently moving through the final phases of commissioning its science instruments and as it proceeds through this phase, the mission team will test other objects moving at various speeds to verify we can study objects with the telescope that move throughout the solar system.

'Outstanding' Contribution to Advancing Global Health-WHO

- ★ India's one million all-women ASHA workers were awarded and honoured by World Health Organization.
- ★ The award was given for their 'outstanding' contribution to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues.
- ★ They were honoured for their crucial role in linking the community with the health system and ensuring those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ The WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has announced six Global Health Leaders Awards.
- ★ Dr Tedros himself decides on the awardees for the World Health Organization Director-General's Global Health Leaders Awards.

World Economic Forum

- ★ On 22 May 2022, the Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum began at Davos in Switzerland.
- ★ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation at the five-day meet.
- ★ This event will play role to reinforce country's position as an important and relevant stakeholder in shaping the global narrative, particularly as India assumes Presidency of the G-20 next year.

- ★ Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Chief Ministers and Senior Ministers of six states - Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana will participate in the event.

Investment Incentive Agreement

- ★ The Government of India and the Government of the United States of America has signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) at Tokyo, Japan.
- ★ The IIA was signed by Shri Vinay Kwatra, Foreign Secretary Government of India and Mr. Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer, U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
- ★ IIA has been signed, to keep pace with the additional investment support programmes, offered by the DFC, such as debt, equity investment, investment guaranty, investment insurance or reinsurance, feasibility studies for potential projects and grants.
- ★ Agreement is the legal requirement for DFC to continue providing investment support in India.
- ★ DFC agencies are active in India since 1974 and have so far provided investment support worth \$5.8 billion.
- ★ It is expected that signing of IIA would lead to enhanced Investment support provided by DFC in India, which shall further help in India's development.

First Country to Make Quarantine for Monkeypox Patients

- ★ Belgium has become the first country to make a 21-day quarantine compulsory for monkeypox patients after four cases of the disease were reported.
- ★ Monkeypox is a disease in the same family as smallpox and symptoms include a distinct bumpy rash, a fever, sore muscles and a headache.
- ★ The microbiologist Emmanuel Andre, who is in charge of the National Reference Lab for COVID-19 in Belgium, announced that the fourth case has been confirmed in the country.
- ★ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has become the first Gulf state to record a case of monkeypox.

Exercise Bongosagar

- ★ On 24 May 2022, the third edition of Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy Bilateral exercise Bongosagar commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh.
- ★ Exercise Bongosagar is aimed at developing a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.
- ★ Indian Naval Ships Kora, an indigenously built Guided Missile Corvette, and Sumedha, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel are participating in the Exercise.
- ★ Bangladesh Navy is represented by BNS Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both are Guided Missile Frigates.
- ★ The Harbour Phase of exercise is commenced first. It will be followed by a Sea Phase in the Northern Bay of Bengal.

Bilateral Cooperation on Climate Action

- ★ India and United Arab Emirates have signed an MoU to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action.
- ★ The agreement was signed between Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav and UAE Climate Envoy and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology Dr Sultan Al Jaber in New Delhi.
- ★ The basic objective of this MoU is to establish a framework to facilitate and enhance bilateral cooperation on climate action and also contributes towards implementing the Paris Agreement.

World's Largest Petroleum Research Center

- ★ The Kuwait Petroleum Corporation has decided to set up the world's largest petroleum research center in Kuwait.
- ★ The project is expected to be completed in four years. The estimated cost of project is around USD 120 million and the centre will have 28 laboratories.
- ★ It is constructed to strengthen studies in the petroleum sector.
- ★ The research center will conduct research on crude oil, technological development, oil exploration and technological challenges facing the country.

BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Religare Broking with Spice Money

- ★ Fintech firm Spice Money announced to partner with Religare Broking to provide people in rural India access to platforms to invest in capital market.
- ★ It will facilitate rural India to get assisted access to a demat account and invest in capital market-linked products.
- ★ Spice Money's representatives will assist rural citizens to open a demat account and apply for Life Insurance Corp of India's initial public offer (IPO) and invest in other products in the future.
- ★ It will play a key role in the country's goal of becoming a USD 5-trillion economy and create an Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ★ This partnership shares initiative of making people financially independent. Spice Money aims to be a one stop platform for all rural financial needs.

HDFC ERGO Launches 'Pay as You Drive'

- ★ HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched its 'Pay as you Drive' program.
- ★ It is an insurance solution that offers distance-based insurance to reduce upfront costs of premium.
- ★ The program will be available for owners of new Maruti Suzuki cars in selected cities till May 14, 2022.

- ★ According to HDFC, this policy will be best suited for those customers who prefer to drive less.
- ★ under the regulatory sandbox, it is applicable for 10,000 policies or ₹50 lakhs of premium that comes earlier and is being offered exclusively through Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking Private Limited.
- ★ The driving distance will be measured with the assistance of a telematics device in the vehicle and enabling customers to save between 10-20% of their 'Own Damage' premium

Account Aggregator Framework- Union Bank

- ★ The Union Bank of India is the first public sector bank to join the Account Aggregator (AA) ecosystem.
- ★ The Account Aggregator Ecosystem enables Lenders to use digital data obtained with customers' consent to provide a seamless journey for customers and eliminate the need for physical documents.
- ★ The framework makes it possible for regulated businesses to share financial data in real-time.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India has granted AAs permission to facilitate data flow between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs).

Indian Bank Launches E-Broking

- ★ Public sector Indian Bank has unveiled digital broking solution- E- Broking which allow customers to open a demat and trading account facility.
- ★ E-Broking, an instant and paper-less demat and trading account opening is integrated in the bank's mobile banking application.
- ★ The launch of digital broking solution 'E-Broking' was a strategic step towards complete digitalisation of its offerings to customers.
- ★ This will also help the bank to increase its CASA (current account, savings account).

HDFC Bank Hikes MCLR Rate

- ★ India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has hiked its MCLR across all tenors.
- ★ The marginal cost of lending rate or MCLR, is a key point in deciding loan interests, has been hiked by 25 basis points.
- ★ Therefore, loan interests will increase by 0.10 per cent with the HDFC Bank MCLR rate hike.
- ★ It will be effective from 07 May, 2022.
- ★ This will raise the cost of housing, vehicle, personnel and other loans.

Xpress Car Loan

- ★ Private sector lender HDFC Bank has launched 'Xpress Car Loans' an end-to-end digital new car loan journey for existing customers as well as non-customers.
- ★ This will help simplify the car purchase process and drive car sales across the country including in the semi urban and rural areas.

- ★ Loan amount to get credited in dealers' accounts in just about half an hour.
- ★ The facility is only available for four wheelers and it will be gradually extended to include two-wheelers loans.
- ★ Xpress Car Loans by HDFC Bank, will be an industry defining automotive lending journey. It will be available across all branches.

Co-Lending Platform to Facilitate NBFC

- ★ Indian lender Bank of Baroda (BOB) has launched an end-to-end digital platform to offer loans in partnership with non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- ★ The platform will provide seamless integration between the Bank and multiple NBFC partners to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process.
- ★ It supports both non-discretionary and discretionary models of co-lending for secured or unsecured loans.
- ★ BOB will add ten NBFCs to its platform and targets ₹100bn (\$1.2bn) co-lending loan book in the next two years.

NSDL Gets Approval from SEBI

- ★ Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has granted recognition to NSDL Database Management Ltd (NDML) as an accreditation agency for three years.
- ★ The entity is a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL).
- ★ The agency will issue accreditation certificate to "accredited investors".
- ★ The accreditation agency will be responsible for verification of documents submitted by applicants, timely processing of applications and issuance of accreditation certificate, maintaining data of accredited investors and verification of accreditation status.
- ★ A person will be identified as an accredited investor on the basis of net worth or income.
- ★ Individuals, HUFs, family trusts, sole proprietorships, partnership firms, trusts and body corporates can get accreditation based on financial parameters specified by the regulator.

InspiHE₹

- ★ Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and AXA announced the launch of its financial literacy campaign 'InspiHE₹'.
- ★ InspiHE₹- enabling an empowered future- a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women and enable them to make informed financial decisions for a secured future.
- ★ Observing 'International Mother's Day and ahead of the 'International Day of Families' the company has embarked upon this initiative to empower women. By teaching them the basics of financial planning and savings in order to secure their future.

BIAL Partners with Kotak Mahindra Bank

- ★ Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) has partnered with Kotak Mahindra Bank and digital payment firm Phi Commerce.
- ★ It is to facilitate a one-stop omnichannel payment solution at Kempegowda International Airport.
- ★ The solution will enable a secure, scalable, and unified payment experience.
- ★ The new payment experience will bring all online, in-store and cash transactions taking place across the airport ecosystem into one single platform.
- ★ Kotak, in partnership with Phi Commerce, will provide all the enterprises running their businesses with the point of sale (PoS) terminals and payment gateways for quick and smooth processing of payments from customers.

SpiceJet and Axis Bank

- ★ SpiceJet airline and Axis Bank have partnered to launch the co-branded credit card.
- ★ It is powered by Visa, that will offer benefits to customers.
- ★ The card comes in two variants – SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black and is aimed at facilitating travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program.
- ★ The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights.
- ★ SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Delhi IGI airport.

Worldline India Partners with Bank of India

- ★ Payment services firm Worldline has partnered with Bank of India to digitise e-challan collections for Madhya Pradesh Police Department.
- ★ A Memorandum of Association (MoU) was signed between BOI and MP Police Department, Govt. of India to integrate Point of Sale (POS) terminals with e-challan portal of police department.
- ★ Three zones namely Jabalpur, Rewa and Shahdol covering 12 districts in Madhya Pradesh will be covered in this initiative.
- ★ E-challan is an electronically generated challan and is handled through the Electronic Challan system.

Cross Border Trade Finance Service

- ★ Union Bank of India has launched Trade nxt, a cross border trade finance service for Indian exporters and importers.
- ★ 'Trade nxt' eliminates the need for companies to visit a bank branch to initiate a trade transaction and ensures better governance with enhanced security and controls
- ★ The platform will enable enterprises to conduct all export/import transactions, including entry and processing of letters of credit, bank guarantees, etc.,

- ★ The platform will also enable regulatory online auto reporting through import Data Processing & Monitoring System (IDPMS), Export Data Processing & Monitoring System (EDPMS) and other statutory reporting pertaining to ODI/ FDI/ LRS transactions.

ICICI Bank Partners with Santander UK

- ★ India's leading private sector bank, ICICI Bank announced a tie-up with Santander bank in Britain.
- ★ It is designed to establish a framework of the partnership between the banks to meet the financial service requirements of corporate customers operating within the India-UK corridor.
- ★ ICICI Bank will provide banking solutions across trade, cross-border payments, supply chain and retail banking to the UK corporates operating in India and Santander UK will support Indian corporates and new-age businesses for their banking requirements in the UK.
- ★ India has been a preferred foreign investment destination for UK businesses.

ICICI Lombard Launched Professional Indemnity Insurance

- ★ ICICI Lombard has launched professional indemnity insurance for doctors.
- ★ It is to provide support to medical practitioners against the scope of various human errors that can happen while rendering professional services to patients.
- ★ Professional Indemnity insurance safeguards doctors against all professional risks such as legal defense costs, compensation claims, injury among others, as well as against invalid claims.
- ★ It supports doctors both legally and financially in the event of a law suit, as per the company.

World Bank Approves USD 350 Million to Gujarat

- ★ The World Bank has approved USD 350 million aid for the Systems Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat -SRESTHA-G project.
- ★ The SRESTHA-G project will be a 500 million dollars project out of which 350 million is contributed by the World Bank.
- ★ The programme will focus on four key result areas to improve quality, equity and comprehensiveness of primary healthcare, services for adolescent girls and the capacity of disease surveillance systems.
- ★ The programme was implemented through the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Gujarat Government.

India's First Dental Insurance Plan

- ★ PNB Met Life Insurance has launched its first dental plan through which customers can secure their dental health at any time.
- ★ This Dental package offers the customer the complete package of benefits and also financial assistance with costs related to dental health.
- ★ They have also tied up with 340 dental clinics across key cities in India which provides a wide selection platform for the insurers.

- ★ There will be fixed benefits ranging from ₹350-7,500 per procedure and a sum assured of up to ₹50,000.
- ★ The main attractive part of this plan is policyholders can avail of tax benefit exceptions under section 80D of the Indian Income Tax Act.
- ★ This Dental Insurance plan also offers you a cashless facility.

BRICS Led NDB to set up Regional Office

- ★ The New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has announced to open its regional office of India at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- ★ It is to provide infrastructure and sustainable development needs of the country.
- ★ The Indian Regional Office will focus on project origination including initial project preparation and technical assistance, pipeline development, project implementation and monitoring as well as regional portfolio management.
- ★ The India office will focus on expanding its footprint in the country.

NDB Issues CNY 7 billion Bond in China Interbank Bond Market

- ★ The New Development Bank (NDB) successfully priced a 3-year CNY 7 billion Bond in the China Interbank Bond Market.
- ★ This is the largest Panda Bond transaction ever issued by a Multilateral Development Bank with a 3-year Maturity period.
- ★ Panda Bond are bonds issued by international issuers denominated in Chinese Yuan (CNY) and traded in mainland China's domestic market.
- ★ The net proceeds from the sale of the Bond will form a part of NDB's general corporate resources onshore and will be used to finance infrastructure and sustainable development activities in the Bank's member countries.

RBI to Provide Cardless Cash Withdrawal Facility

- ★ Reserve Bank of India has directed banks and ATM operators to provide cardless cash withdrawal facilities at all ATMs.
- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.
- ★ It is to control frauds like skimming, card cloning and device tampering.
- ★ UPI would be used for customer authorization in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) and ATM networks.
- ★ According to the central bank, currently cardless cash withdrawal through ATMs is offered by a few banks.
- ★ The on-us and off-us Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) transactions shall be processed without levy of any charges.

- ★ A transaction carried out at an ATM of the card-issuing bank is called an On-Us transaction. A transaction carried out at any other ATM is called an Off-Us transaction.

RBL Bank Collaborates with Amazon Pay

- ★ RBL Bank, Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have announced a collaboration to offer UPI payments.
- ★ The bank has partnered with Amazon Pay to offer peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions.
- ★ This partnership with RBL Bank will allow users to pay anyone, anywhere seamlessly and instantly through UPI, enhancing their payment experience.
- ★ Amazon Pay would grant RBL Bank with a UPI ID with the handle @rapl from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Volopay Partners with Visa

- ★ Volopay payable management company, has partnered with Visa's Fintech Fast Track Program to offer financial management solutions.
- ★ The Fast Track Program will allow Volopay to start issuing their own Visa cards to their client businesses in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- ★ The partnership program was founded by Visa in order to support innovative financial services and solutions.
- ★ Volopay is a Singapore-based company that combines business accounts, corporate cards, bill payments, expense reimbursements, credit, cashback and accounting automation into one single platform.
- ★ Volopay is one of the few companies in the APAC region with the ability to issue its own corporate cards, making their offering a one-of-a-kind opportunity for Singaporean and Australian businesses.

RBI Approves Transfer of ₹30,307 Crore as Surplus

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India has approved the transfer of ₹30,307 crore as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2021-22.
- ★ The board approved the Annual Report and accounts of the Reserve Bank for the year 2021-22 at the 596th Meeting of the Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India which was held in Mumbai under the Chairmanship of Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- ★ The board also decided to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.50 per cent.
- ★ Inflation is at its greatest level in years.
- ★ The April wholesale price index was 15.05 percent and consumer price index were 7.8 percent.

Panel to Review Customer Service Standards

- ★ India's central bank RBI has set up a committee to review the efficacy, adequacy, and quality of customer service in banks, NBFCs and other entities which come under it.

- ★ The committee consists of 6 members and is headed by former RBI deputy governor BP Kanungo.
- ★ The timeline was given for the committee to submit its report three months from the date of the first meeting.
- ★ The panel will also review the emerging and evolving needs of the customer service landscape, especially in the context of evolving digital or electronic financial products.
- ★ They will also suggest best practices, in customer service and grievance redressal, especially for improvement in services rendered to retail and small customers, including pensioners and senior citizens, which can be adopted globally and domestically.

Co-branded Credit Cards by HDFC Bank and Retailio

- ★ India's largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank partnered with Retailio and announced to launch a new range of co-branded credit cards primarily targeted at chemists and pharmacies in the merchant segment.
- ★ Retailio is the country's largest B2B pharma marketplace.
- ★ The partnership is likely to cover over 1.4 lakh merchants in the first phase of its roll-out.
- ★ The features of the card include up to 50 days of Interest-free credit period, 5% Cashback on all Business essentials like Utility, Telecom, Government & tax payments, etc.
- ★ Annual milestone benefits like 500 Bonus Reward Points on spending ₹25,000 per month and 1,500 Bonus Reward Points on spending ₹50,000 per month.

Xpress Credit on YONO Platform

- ★ The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the launch of Real Time Xpress Credit on its Yono platform which allows eligible customers to get personal loans of up to ₹35 lakh.
- ★ It would be a 100% paperless and digital experience and an end-to-end eight step journey.
- ★ Under Real-Time Xpress Credit, central, state government and defense salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan.
- ★ Credit checks, eligibility, sanction, and documentation will now be done digitally in real-time.

UCO Bank and NBFC Paisalo Digital Ltd

- ★ UCO Bank signed a co-lending agreement with NBFC Paisalo Digital Limited for agriculture business.
- ★ It is aimed to capitalize ₹8 lakh crore market of small-ticket loans for the 365 million underbanked and under-served population.
- ★ The tie-up will give a boost to the agriculture advance of the bank.
- ★ UCO Bank is a commercial bank and a Government of India Undertaking. The Bank offers wide range of services includes Personal Banking, Corporate Banking, International Banking, Rural Banking and other services.

IPPB Introduces Service Charges

- ★ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has introduced Aadhaar Enabled Payment System service charges (AePS).
- ★ AePS Issuer transaction charges will be in effect from June 15, 2022.
- ★ According to RBI, AePS is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial inclusion transaction at PoS (MicroATM) through the Business correspondent of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication.
- ★ AePS allows you to do six types of transactions.
- ★ A customer's bank name, Aadhaar number and biometric acquired during enrolment are the only data necessary to complete a transaction.
- ★ AEPS was enabled to perform basic banking transactions like cash deposit, cash withdrawal, intrabank or interbank fund transfer, account balance, and get a mini statement.
- ★ It is done by using Aadhaar as an identity to access respective Aadhaar enabled bank accounts of banking customers through a Business Correspondent.

BOB Financial and HPCL Co-Branded Credit Card

- ★ BOB Financial, wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank of Baroda and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) in partnership with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) announced to launch HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card.
- ★ The card comes with various features including rewards for spending on utilities, grocery and departmental stores.
- ★ The card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.
- ★ Cardholders of HPCL BoB RuPay Contactless Credit Card will be able to earn up to 24 reward points (per ₹150 spent) at HPCL fuel pumps and on the HP Pay app.
- ★ Customers who spend ₹5,000 or more within 60 days of card issuance will get 2,000 bonus reward points.

SBI Ecowrap Report

- ★ State Bank India has projected India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 8.2 to 8.5 per cent for FY22 in the Ecowrap report.
- ★ For Q4FY22, the SBI research report expects growth of 2.7 per cent.
- ★ The report announced the Central Statistics Office (CSO) had projected Q4 GDP at ₹41.04 lakh crore and FY22 real GDP growth of ₹147.7 lakh crore, an improvement of 1.7 per cent over pre-pandemic levels.
- ★ The report said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may hike rates in the June policy meeting and the cumulative rate hike in June and August is likely to be 75 basis points.

Reliance General Insurance Launches New Health Policy

- ★ Reliance General Insurance Company announced the launch of its new health insurance policy – Reliance Health Gain.

- ★ Customers can customise their health insurance policy by choosing features as per their needs and paying only for what they choose.
- ★ 'Make your own policy' is a futuristic model as it is aimed to bring greater transparency and enhanced trust.
- ★ Customers between the age of 18 to 65 years can choose any features with any sum-insured from ₹ 3 lakhs to ₹1 crore.
- ★ There is no age limit in this policy for a sum insured of up to ₹3 lakhs.

Committee to Rebuild Insurance Sector

- ★ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed various committees through the General Insurance Council (GIC) to mend the insurance sector.
- ★ These panels include heads of private and public sector insurance companies, members of IRDAI and representatives from the GIC to suggest reforms in several areas of general, reinsurance and life insurance such as regulation, product, distribution, among others.
- ★ GIC was formed by IRDAI to act as a link between the insurance regulator and the non-life insurance industry.
- ★ The representatives of the Insurance industry were asked to highlight the issues they face and suggest steps that can be taken.

AU Small Finance Bank Introduces New Services

- ★ AU Small Finance Bank has launched two new products under its affluent banking programme, AU Royale – 'AU Royale Salary' and 'AU Royale Business' current account.
- ★ The Bank had launched the Royale programme designed to meet the everyday banking requirements of the affluent segment.
- ★ The AU Royale Salary Savings account offers family banking for up to five family members and cashback of up to 1% on signature debit card spends.
- ★ The AU Royale Business Current Account offers family banking, which allows the grouping of business and family accounts. The account is said to offer a card called - Rich Royale Business Signature Debit Card.

MUFG Bank to Open Its New Branch at GIFT City

- ★ MUFG Bank will be the first Japanese Bank to open branch at Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT City), Ahmedabad.
- ★ It will offer a wide range of banking services to both domestic and global clients.
- ★ MUFG Bank has obtained approvals from the International Financial Services Centre Authority in India and the Financial Services Agency in Japan to open a branch at GIFT City.
- ★ MUFG had opened its first branch in Mumbai in 1953.
- ★ GIFT City, Gujarat was established as a special economic zone as an International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) for offshore transactions as part of the government's vision to make India a hub for international financial services.

RBI Survey

- ★ The RBI survey, was conducted in rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan areas spanning 28 states and three Union Territories.
- ★ The survey has been conducted to assess demand for cash as well as denomination preferences at the consumer level.
- ★ It also attempts to raise awareness among consumers about various security features of the banknotes.
- ★ According to the Reserve Bank of India survey, People in India mostly prefer the ₹100 denomination banknotes, while ₹2,000 are least preferred,
- ★ Among coins, ₹5 is most preferred, whereas Re 1 is least preferred.

Bima Ratna plan

- ★ LIC, India's largest insurer, announced on Friday the launch of Bima Ratna, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan that combines protection and savings.
- ★ The LIC's Bima Ratna plan provides financial support to the policyholder's family in the event of the policyholder's untimely death during the policy term.
- ★ It also provides periodic payments for the policyholder's survival at set intervals to fulfil various financial demands.
- ★ The key features of the new plan include Death Benefit, Survival Benefit, Maturity Benefit, Guaranteed Additions, etc.,

BUSINESS NEWS

Disinvestment of Pawan Hans

- ★ The government has finalised disinvestment for state-owned helicopter service provider Pawan Hans Ltd.
- ★ Pawan Hans provides air transport services for exploration activities of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
- ★ Star9 Mobility Private limited to buy 51% of GoI share in Pawan Hans Limited.
- ★ The federal government has 51% stake in Pawan Hans while ONGC holds 49%.
- ★ This is the second major privatisation in aviation after Air India.
- ★ After the sale of national carrier Air India Ltd. to Tata Sons Pvt. in 2021, the government aims to privatize about five state-run companies in 2022, including Bharat Petroleum Corp., Shipping Corp of India Ltd., BEML Ltd. and IDBI Bank Ltd.

Biggest Trading Partner

- ★ The US has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22.

- ★ According to the data of the commerce ministry, in 2021-22, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at USD 119.42 billion as against USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21.
- ★ Federation of Indian Export Organisations Vice President Khalid Khan announced that India is emerging as a trusted trading partner.
- ★ Trade experts believe that the trend of increasing bilateral trade with the US will continue in the coming years as New Delhi and Washington are engaged in further strengthening the economic ties.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Director of New Corbett Tiger Reserve

- ★ Naresh Kumar has been appointed as the new Director of the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand.
- ★ He is an Indian Forest Service officer of the 1999 batch.
- ★ Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Girija Shankar Pandey has been given the additional charge of CEO Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

Advisor to PM Narendra Modi

- ★ The Government of India appointed retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and former Petroleum Secretary Tarun Kapoor as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ★ Kapoor, a 1987 batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), retired as Petroleum Secretary in 2021.
- ★ He has earlier served as the Vice-Chairman of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and as an additional Chief Secretary in the government of Himachal Pradesh.

Member of Monetary Policy Committee

- ★ The central board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the nomination of executive director Rajiv Ranjan as an ex-officio member of the monetary policy committee.
- ★ Ranjan replaces Mridul Sagar.
- ★ Ranjan has been with the central bank for over 33 years and was recently the head of the department of economic and policy research, a department aligned with the monetary policy and research function of RBI.

Alkesh Kumar Sharma

- ★ Alkesh Kumar Sharma assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- ★ He is an Indian Administrative Services Officer of 1990 batch, from Kerala cadre.

- ★ He has earlier served as Additional Secretary and Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.

Sanjeev Kapoor

- ★ Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor assumed the appointment of Director General (Inspection and Safety) [DG(I&S)] of Indian Air Force at Air HQ New Delhi.
- ★ The Air Officer is a recipient of Vayu Sena Medal and Ati Vishist Seva Medal.

Sudarshan Venu

- ★ Auto major TVS Motor has elevated Sudarshan Venu as the managing director of the company.
- ★ He was donning role of the Joint managing director of the company.
- ★ Sudarshan so far has played a key role towards electrification in TVS and in expanding the Cos reach in the global markets including Asia, Africa, and more recently in Europe.

Additional Director of Tata Motors

- ★ Tata Motors has reappointed former SBI Chairman Om Prakash Bhatt as an additional director.
- ★ Earlier, he was appointed as a non-executive independent director of Tata Motors from May 9 2017 for a term of five years till May 8 2022.
- ★ He brings years of experience across a wide variety of strategic and operational roles. He had earlier served as Chairman and CEO of State Bank of India.

Part-Time Chairman of City Union Bank

- ★ City Union Bank Ltd announced that RBI has approved the appointment of M Narayanan independent director, as the part-time Chairman of the Bank for two years with effect from May 4, 2022.
- ★ He succeeded R Mohan who will continue to act as an Independent Director of the Board of the Bank till June 27, 2022.
- ★ He is a qualified chartered accountant (CA), cost accountant, and system auditor. He has a professional experience of more than 2 decades in various corporates.

CMD of HPCL

- ★ Pushp Kumar Joshi appointed as the new chairman and managing director of India's third largest oil refining and fuel marketing company Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).
- ★ Prior to this, he was Director-HR of the Corporation.
- ★ He succeeded Mukesh Kumar Surana.
- ★ Joshi is also holding the additional charge of Director-Marketing of HPCL.

President of Costa Rica

- ★ Rodrigo Chaves was sworn in as the President of Costa Rica for a four-year term.
- ★ He belongs to Social Democratic Progress Party (SDPP).
- ★ He succeeded Carlos Andres Alvarado Quesada.
- ★ The 60-year-old had served as the finance minister from 2019-2020 under President Carlos Alvarado Quesada.
- ★ He is an economist and has been sworn in as the new President of Costa Rica for the period of 2022-2026, along with his Vice Presidents Stephan Brunner and Mary Munive.

President of South Korea

- ★ Yoon Suk-yeol sworn in as President of South Korea.
- ★ He is a South Korean politician, former public prosecutor and lawyer and will serve as the 13th President of South Korea since 2022.
- ★ He also served as Prosecutor General of South Korea from 2019 to 2021.
- ★ He was born 18 December 1960. Born in Seoul, Yoon attended Seoul National University.
- ★ As a member of the People Power Party, Yoon defeated Democratic Party nominee Lee Jae - Myung.

Group CFO ReNew Power

- ★ ReNew appoints Kedar Upadhye as Group CFO ReNew Power announced the appointment of Kedar Upadhye as its Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
- ★ It has also appointed Vikash Jain as Global General Counsel and Vikram Kapur as Chief Growth Officer.
- ★ All the three leaders will report to Sumant Sinha, Chairman and CEO, ReNew Power.
- ★ Upadhye comes with over 22 years of diverse and global experience. Prior to this he was President and Global CFO, Cipla.
- ★ ReNew Power is headquartered at Gurgaon Haryana.

President of Philippines

- ★ Ferdinand Marcos Junior won a Presidential election of Philippines.
- ★ He is the son of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos.
- ★ Ferdinand Marcos and Leni Robredo are the president and vice president candidates in the election.
- ★ Both are promised for economic recovery following the pandemic.

Chief Election Commissioner of India

- ★ Rajiv Kumar was appointed the next chief election commissioner (CEC) of India.
- ★ Rajiv Kumar will replace current Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra.

- ★ According to government notification released by Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, Kumar will take charge of the office on 15 May 2022.
- ★ He has been an Election Commissioner of the ECI since 01 September 2020.
- ★ The appointment is done by President Ram Nath Kovind.

First Female President of Hungary

- ★ In Hungary, Katalin Novak has taken over as the first female President of the country.
- ★ Her predecessor, Janos Ader, greeted the new president at the entrance to the Sandor Palace, the residence of the Hungarian president.
- ★ The Parliament elected Novak as President of Hungary on March 10.
- ★ Following her election, Novak said that she wanted to be a “President of peace.”

President of Confederation of Indian Industry

- ★ Industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has appointed Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited, as its new president for the year 2022-23.
- ★ He succeeded T V Narendran who is the CEO and Managing Director of Tata Steel Ltd.
- ★ Sanjiv has previously engaged with CII at the state, regional and national level. He was the President-Designate for 2021-22 and the Chairman of the Western region during 2019-20.
- ★ He has also led CII National Committees on Insurance and Pensions and CII taskforce on Fintech.
- ★ R Dinesh, Executive Vice Chairman for TVS Supply Chain Solutions took charge as the Vice President.

New Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

- ★ Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka’s veteran political leader has been appointed as the next Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.
- ★ Ranil Wickremesinghe heads the United National Party.
- ★ Ranil Wickremesinghe has already served as the Prime Minister of the island nation for five times.
- ★ Ranil Wickremesinghe came in to force after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka on 09 May 2022.

First Indian Ambassador of Louis Vuitton

- ★ Deepika Padukone has been named first-ever Indian brand ambassador of Louis Vuitton.
- ★ Deepika Padukone was unveiled as a Louis Vuitton brand ambassador in its new leather goods campaign for the Dauphine bag.
- ★ Actor Emma Stone and Chinese actor Zhou Dongyu were also present during the campaign.

New Director (Technical) Of CCL

- ★ Ram Baboo Prasad has appointed as new Director (technical) of Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL), a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Coal.
- ★ He succeeded Bhola Singh who joined the Northern Coalfields Ltd (NCL) as chairman and managing director (CMD) on January 1, 2022.
- ★ Prior to this he was serving as General Manager in Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).
- ★ Prasad is an Engineering Graduate in Mining Engineering from the IIT (ISM), Dhanbad.

11th Chief Minister of Tripura

- ★ Dr Manik Saha, the state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rajya Sabha MP was sworn as the 11th Chief Minister of Tripura.
- ★ The oath was administered at the Raj Bhawan in Agartala by Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya.
- ★ Dr Manik Saha had joined the BJP in 2016. In 2018, he was appointed as BJP president of Tripura.
- ★ Dr Manik Saha is a professor of Dental Surgery.

President of Somalia

- ★ Hassan Sheikh Mohamud who is a Somali politician was elected as the President of Somalia.
- ★ He defeated Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.
- ★ He is the founder and current chairman of the Union for Peace and Development Party.
- ★ He has been elected for the second time, having served as the President between 2012-2017.

Prime Minister of French

- ★ French President Emmanuel Macron has named Elisabeth Borne as the country's new Prime Minister.
- ★ Borne, is a former Minister of transport, ecology and labour. She is a long-time member of the Socialist Party (PS).
- ★ She is the second woman to hold the position after Edith Cresson (1991-1992) under President Francois Mitterrand.
- ★ Borne succeeds Jean Castex, who had led the French cabinet since July 2020.

RBI Appoints Two New Executive Directors

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the appointment of two new Executive Directors.
- ★ They are Dr. Rajiv Ranjan and Dr. Sitikantha Pattanaik.
- ★ Dr. Ranjan as Executive Director will look after the Monetary Policy Department (MPD). He will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee.
- ★ As Executive Director, Dr. Pattanaik will look after the Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR).

- ★ Prior to this Dr. Pattanaik has worked in the areas of economic research and monetary policy in RBI's Monetary Policy Department and Department of Economic Policy and Research.

Chairman of BSE

- ★ Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has appointed SS Mundra, Public Interest Director as the Chairman of the board of directors of the company.
- ★ The appointment is subject to approval by market regulator SEBI.
- ★ Prior to this, he was Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- ★ In a banking career spanning over four decades, Mundra held several important positions including that of Executive Director of Union Bank of India, Chief Executive of Bank of Baroda (European Operations) amongst others.

New Ambassador to Nepal

- ★ India has appointed Naveen Srivastava as its new Ambassador to Nepal.
- ★ Mr. Srivastava is currently an Additional Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.
- ★ He succeeded Vinay Kumar Kwatra.
- ★ Srivastava is an additional secretary handling the East Asia desk at the Ministry of External Affairs

CEO of IndiGo

- ★ The Board of Directors of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd appointed Pieter Elbers as its new chief executive officer (CEO).
- ★ He will join IndiGo on or before 01 October 2022.
- ★ He succeeds Mr Ronojoy Dutta, who has decided to retire on 30 September 2022.
- ★ Elbers is the first foreign chief executive of IndiGo airlines.
- ★ IndiGo is the largest airline in India with a 53.5% market share.

MD and CEO of Airtel

- ★ Bharti Airtel, India's 2nd telco, announced that its board has reappointed Gopal Vittal as Managing Director & CEO for a further period of five years ending on January 31, 2028.
- ★ The reappointment came on a day the telco posted consolidated net profit at ₹2,007.8 crore in the March quarter.
- ★ Based on the recommendations of HR & nomination committee and subject to the approval of shareholders, the Board of Directors has approved the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal.

Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi

- ★ Senior IAS officer Gyanesh Bharti has been appointed as the Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

- ★ He is a 1998-batch IAS officer of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) Cadre.
- ★ The Union Home Ministry has also appointed senior IAS officer Ashwani Kumar as Special Officer for the MCD.
- ★ The Centre had merged the three civic bodies into a single MCD with Parliament passing the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022.

President of East Timor

- ★ Former independence fighter and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta was sworn in as president of East Timor.
- ★ He was sworn in as the country's fifth President. He has previously served as president from 2007 to 2012.
- ★ The new president pledged to scale back poverty, enhance opportunities for youngsters and promote a dialogue to revive political stability.

Prime Minister of Australia

- ★ Anthony Albanese was sworn in as Prime Minister of Australia.
- ★ The 59-year-old new prime minister was sworn in at a ceremony in Government House, Canberra.
- ★ Labor Senator Penny Wong was sworn in as foreign minister.
- ★ Albanese and Wong will travel to Tokyo to attend Quad Leaders' Summit, where they will meet with US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

New Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

- ★ Vinai Kumar Saxena has been appointed new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- ★ Saxena will succeed Anil Baijal who resigned from the post.
- ★ Mr. Saxena is currently the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

MD & CEO of Infosys

- ★ The board of IT services Infosys has approved the reappointment of Salil Parekh as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director of the company for five years, till 2027.
- ★ This is based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC).
- ★ Parekh, has been the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys since January 2018.
- ★ He has more than thirty years of global experience in the IT services industry of driving digital transformation for enterprises.

MD and CEO of Paytm

- ★ Digital payment company Paytm had re appointed its founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma as managing director and chief executive officer till May 2027 for five years.
- ★ The appointment was based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and subject to the approval of Shareholders.
- ★ Additional director Madhur Deora was also appointed as a whole-time director of Paytm.
- ★ Vijay Shekhar Sharma is an Indian technology entrepreneur who has played an instrumental role in revolutionizing the digital payments and financial services in India.

Personal Secretary to PM Modi

- ★ Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officer, Vivek Kumar was appointed as the Personal Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Joint Secretary level.
- ★ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the proposal for the appointment of Vivek Kumar as Personal Secretary.
- ★ Vivek Kumar is an IFS officer of 2004 batch, who joined the Prime Minister's Office as a Deputy Secretary in 2014.
- ★ He completed his B.Tech in chemical engineering from IIT Bombay and has served in diplomatic positions in Russia and Australia.

Part-Time Chairman of IDBI Bank

- ★ IDBI Bank Limited announced the appointment of TN Manoharan as a Part-time Chairman of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- ★ TN Manoharan is a Chartered Accountant by profession and has served as the President of ICAI during 2006-07 and was instrumental in charting the road map for several accounting reforms in the Indian System.
- ★ He was the Chairman of the ICAI of Accounting Research Foundation.

Director-General of WHO

- ★ World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has been reelected for the second term.
- ★ The World Health Assembly Member states re-elected Dr Tedros to serve a second five-year term.
- ★ His re-election was confirmed during the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- ★ He announced that WHO delivers on its mission to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable.

CEO of JSW One Platforms

- ★ JSW Group appointed Gaurav Sachdeva as CEO of its e-commerce venture JSW One Platforms.
- ★ Sachdeva will be responsible for creating a robust transparent platform that will ease buying and selling of steel and other products for manufacturing and construction MSMEs in the country.

- ★ Prior to setting up JSW Ventures in 2015, Sachdeva worked in leading institutions like Citibank, Bank of America and Infosys.

Indian Army's First Female Combat Aviator

- ★ 26-year-old Captain Abhilasha Barak became the first woman combat aviator in the Indian Army.
- ★ Barak from Haryana successfully completed her six-month-long Combat Army Aviation Course to join Army Aviation Corps as a helicopter pilot.
- ★ She was accorded with the Coveted Wings along with 36 Army Pilots by Director General & Colonel Commandant Army Aviation Lt. Gen. A. K. Suri during a valedictory ceremony held at Combat Army Aviation Training School, Nashik.
- ★ Captain Barak has been assigned to the second flight of the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron that operates the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).

New Chairman of A WTO Committee

- ★ An Indian government officer Anwar Hussain Shaik has been appointed as the chairman of the WTO's committee on Technical Barriers on Trade.
- ★ He will succeed Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico.
- ★ The Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement aims to ensure that technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures are non-discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.
- ★ TBT Committee work involves two broad areas to review of specific measures and strengthening implementation of the TBT Agreement.
- ★ WTO is a 164-member multilateral body and India is a member since 1995.

President of Indian Olympic Association Steps Down

- ★ Narinder Batra has resigned from the post of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president.
- ★ The Indian Olympic Association or Indian Olympic Committee is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Olympic Games, Asian Games and other International athletic meets.
- ★ It was founded in 1927 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ★ He is also the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

First Dalit Female Mayor of London Council

- ★ Councilor Mohinder K Midha, an Indian-Origin Politician from the UK's Opposition Labour Party has been elected mayor of the Council in West London.
- ★ Mohinder K Midha was elected for the next year's term of 2022-23 at a council meet.
- ★ She has become the first female mayor of a local London Council belonging to the Dalit Community.
- ★ Prior to this, she had been serving as the Deputy Mayor for the council.

IBA's Athletes' Committee Chair

- ★ Tokyo Bronze Medallist Lovlina Borgohain elected as IBA's Athletes' Committee Chair.
- ★ International Boxing Association (IBA) announced that Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain has received the highest number of votes during the election held at the 2022 Women's World Championships and thus has been elected as the chair.
- ★ She is also a voting member on the Board of Directors for the IBA's Athletes' Committee.
- ★ Indian boxer Shiva Thapa has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee following the election held during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships.
- ★ The Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) have confirmed that they have accepted their roles and look forward to represent India.

REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKS

Recipient of Foreign Remittance: World Bank

- ★ The World Bank released report on migration and development, Bangladesh was the 7th highest recipient of remittance from abroad in 2021.
- ★ It received over USD 22 billion as remittance in 2021 which marked an increase of 2.2 percent over the year 2020.
- ★ According to World Bank, Bangladesh is expected to have a growth of about 2 percent in the year 2023.
- ★ India topped the list in the world receiving USD 89 billion in remittance followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion, and China at USD 53 billion in 2021.

India to Overtake Germany in Vehicle Market

- ★ According to the report released by the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), India has surpassed Germany to become the 4th largest vehicle market in the world.
- ★ India sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021, compared to 2,973,319 vehicles in Germany. This translates to a difference of almost 26 percent.
- ★ India was expected to become the third-largest vehicle market by 2025.
- ★ The first position is secured by China, the US secured second position followed by Japan.

Travel and Tourism Development Index

- ★ India was ranked at the 54th place in a global travel and tourism development index.
- ★ The World Economic Forum released the Travel and Tourism Development Index which comprises 117 countries identifying key factors in enabling the sustainable and resilient growth of travel and tourism economies.

- ★ Japan has topped the global charts, followed by the US, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Singapore and Italy occupied the top ten positions in the list.
- ★ India secured 54th position with a score of 4.2.
- ★ India remained on the top position within South Asia.

World Air Power Index

- ★ the World Air Powers Ranking of 2022 was released by World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA).
- ★ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been placed at the third position on the World Air Power Index in terms of the total fighting strength of the various air services of different nations of the world.
- ★ The United States Air Force (USAF) ranked the top position.
- ★ This report has placed the Indian Air Force (IAF) above the Chinese Aviation based armed forces (PLAAF), Japan Air Self-Preservation Power (JASDF), Israeli Aviation based armed forces, and French Air and Space Power.
- ★ Currently, WDMMA is following 98 nations, covering 124 air administrations and following 47,840 aeroplanes.

SPORTS

Asia Badminton Championships

- ★ India's P.V. Sindhu won her second Asian bronze medal in Asia Badminton Championships defending champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan in the semifinal in Manila.
- ★ The two-time Olympic medallist and former world champion, Sindhu had the score 21-13 in the opening first round.
- ★ This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament as she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

IWF Junior World Championships

- ★ Weightlifter Harshada Sharad Garud, become the first Indian to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships at Heraklion in Greece.
- ★ She lifted 153-kilogram in the 45-kilogram weight category, which included 70 kilograms in Snatch and 83 kilograms in Clean and Jerk to finish on top of the podium.
- ★ Anjali Patel finished fifth with a total effort of 148 kilograms which included 67 kilograms in snatch and 81 kilograms in clean and jerk, in the same 45-kilogram category.
- ★ There are only two Indians to win a medal in IWF Junior World Championships namely Mirabai Chanu, won a bronze in 2013 and Achinta Sheuli won a silver in 2021.

Fourth Fastest Man in 200 Meters

- ★ Erriyon Knighton, an American teenager, finished as the fourth fastest man in the 200 meters in April 2022 at the Baton Rouge meet.
- ★ His timing was 19.49 seconds which crossed his own world record in under-20 with a timing of 19.84 seconds in the same competition.
- ★ He placed him behind only Jamaica's world record holder Usain Bolt (19.19sec), another Jamaican Yohan Blake (19.26) and American Michael Johnson (19.32).

Fischer Memorial Title

- ★ Indian Woman Grandmaster R Vaishali won the Heraklion 2022 - 8th Fischer Memorial chess tournament.
- ★ She also secured a Grandmaster norm, her second, in the process and gained 20 rating points.
- ★ Though tied for the title with Israel's Yoav Milikow, Vaishali was adjudged the champion on superior tie-break count.

Deaflympics, 2022

- ★ Dhanush Srikanth struck gold in the men's 10m air rifle competition on the ongoing 24th Deaflympics at Caxias do Sul, Brazil.
- ★ Shourya Saini with a bronze, finishing behind the Silver medalist Kim Woo Rim of Korea.
- ★ India is currently placed 8th on the medals table with 2 gold and 1 bronze medal.
- ★ Ukraine tops the standings currently with 19 gold, six silver and 13 bronze medals.

Asian Games 2022

- ★ The governing Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that the Asian Games scheduled to take place in the China city of Hangzhou in September have been postponed until 2023 because of the COVID-19 situation.
- ★ The 19th edition of the multi-sports Games was second in size to the Summer Olympics.
- ★ The city prepared to host more than 11,000 athletes from 44 nations and territories.

Santosh Trophy

- ★ Kerala defeated West Bengal and won the 2021-2022 Santosh Trophy which was held at the Kottappadi Stadium and the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala.
- ★ This year marks the 75th edition of the tournament.
- ★ This is the 7th time that Kerala has lifted the Santosh Trophy title.
- ★ Kerala Football team was captained by Jijo Joseph.

Madrid Open

- ★ Spanish tennis player Carlos Alcaraz defeated Alexander Zverev to win the Madrid Open title.

- ★ It is his second Masters 1000 crown after Miami and his fourth title of the year.
- ★ The Spaniard scored against German 6-3, 6-1 in 62 minutes in the men's singles final.

Sunway Formentera Open Chess Tournament

- ★ Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh emerged as winner in the 1st Chessable Sunway Formentera Open 2022 chess tournament.
- ★ It was a hat-trick of titles for him after he had previously won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open.
- ★ He has now moved up to position 64 in the world rankings after this tournament.
- ★ He settled for a draw with American GM Haik M Martirosyan in the final round to win the title with eight points.
- ★ He had defeated compatriot and second-seed K Sasikiran in the ninth round.

Miami Grand Prix

- ★ Red Bull champion Max Verstappen (Belgian-Dutch) won the first edition of the Formula1 Miami Grand Prix.
- ★ The event was held at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida, US.
- ★ Ferrari Driver Charles Leclerc (Monacan) came second in the race.

Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022

- ★ In Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022, India's Jyothi Yarraji broke the national record to secure a gold medal in the women's 100m hurdles in Limassol.
- ★ 22-year-old Jyothi clocked 13.23 seconds for the top step of the podium. With this, Jyothi also got the Asian Games 2022 qualifying standards of 13.30 seconds.
- ★ Another Indian athlete Lili Das won gold in the women's 1500-meter race.
- ★ While in the men's 200m, India's Amlan Borgohain won bronze medal.

Italian Cup 2022

- ★ Inter Milan defeated Juventus in the Italian Cup final which was held at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy.
- ★ The score was 4-2.
- ★ Ivan Perisic scored two goals at extra time to power Inter Milan.

ISSF Junior World Cup

- ★ Indian pistol pairs Esha Singh and Saurabh Chaudhary won the mixed team pistol gold at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany.
- ★ Ramita and Paarth Makhija also won silver in the category of 10m air rifle mixed team competition.

- ★ Esha and Saurabh came through after topping a 38-field qualification round of 60 shots with scores of 578 and 575 respectively.

SEA Games

- ★ The 34th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) will be held in Malaysia in 2027, and its 35th edition will be hosted by Singapore in 2029.
- ★ It was announced by the Olympic Council of Malaysia and the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC) and Sport Singapore (SportSG).
- ★ The 2023 SEA Games are scheduled to be held in Cambodia.

Thomas Cup

- ★ India defeated Indonesia to lift Thomas Cup which was conducted in Bangkok.
- ★ Indian Men's Badminton team won the Thomas Cup for the first time ever.
- ★ India defeated Indonesia with score 3-0 in the finals.
- ★ Sports Minister announces cash award of ₹1 crore.

ISSF Junior World Cup

- ★ India's Sift Kaur Samra won the gold medal in the individual women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) like Prone, the Standing and the Kneeling positions at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2022 in Suhl, Germany.
- ★ Sift Kaur Samra beat Julie Johannessen from Norway with the score of 17-9 in the final.
- ★ India now has a total of 25 medals - 10 gold, 12 silver and three bronze.
- ★ India's Ashi Chouksey also won bronze in the event of Men's 50m rifle 3 positions category.

Hockey India Senior Women National Championship

- ★ Odisha emerged as the champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ Odisha defeated Karnataka with score of 2-0 in the final.
- ★ Jharkhand defeated Haryana by 3-2 to secure third position.

Women's World Boxing Championships

- ★ India's Nikhat Zareen won the gold medal in the 52kg category at the Women's World Boxing Championship in the fly-weight final in Istanbul, Turkey.
- ★ She defeated Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas.
- ★ The 25-year-old Zareen is a former junior youth world champion.
- ★ Nikhat thus becomes only the fifth Indian women's boxer after Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha KC to win a gold at the World Championships.

Spanish Grand Prix

- ★ Max Verstappen (Red Bull) won the Spanish Grand Prix at Circuit de Barcelona Catalunya in Spain.
- ★ Sergio Perez (Red Bull) secured second place in the race and George Russell (Mercedes) secured third place.
- ★ Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) was forced to retire with power unit failure.

First Player to Hit 700 Fours in IPL

- ★ Punjab Kings opening batter Shikhar Dhawan has become the first player to hit 700 fours in the history of the IPL.
- ★ Dhawan reached this feat during the last league stage match of IPL 2022, between PBKS and Sunrisers Hyderabad, at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.
- ★ Dhawan has now a total of 701 IPL fours.
- ★ He is followed by David Warner and Virat Kohli, with 577 and 576 fours, respectively.

Manchester City Crowned 2021/22 Premier League champions

- ★ In Football, Manchester City have been crowned 2021/22 Premier League champions which is their fourth title success in the last five seasons.
- ★ Manchester City's 3-2 win over Aston Villa in the final game of the season sealed the title.
- ★ In 38 league matches this season Manchester City have won 29 matches, drawn six, scoring 99 goals in the process.

Athletics Meet in United Kingdom

- ★ India's Jyothi Yarraji broke the women's 100m hurdle national record for the second time.
- ★ Jyothi, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, won the hurdles race in Loughborough International Athletics Meet in the UK.
- ★ The 22-year-old clocked 13.11 seconds to beat her own national record of 13.23 that she had clocked on May 10 during the Cyprus International Meet in Limassol.
- ★ Jyothi trains under Joseph Hillier at Reliance Foundation Odisha Athletics High-Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar

International Jumping Meet

- ★ Indian long jumper Murali Sreeshankar won the gold medal at the 12th International Jumping Meeting in Kallithea, Greece with a jump of 8.31m.
- ★ Sreeshankar was followed by Swede Tobias Montler, who claimed silver with an 8.27m jump and Jules Pommery of France, who bagged bronze with an 8.17m jump in the 10-man field.
- ★ Sreeshankar also created a record with a jump of 8.36m and he is the national record holder at present.

Asia Cup 2022 Hockey Tournament

- ★ Indian men's hockey team defeated Indonesia in a Pool A game of the Asia Cup 2022 in the final quarter to qualify for the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup.
- ★ India joined Japan, Malaysia, and South Korea in the Super 4 round of the Asia Cup.
- ★ This was India's first win in the ongoing edition of the Asia Cup.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Whitley Gold Award

- ★ Snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist Charudutt Mishra has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award.
- ★ He won this award for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems.
- ★ This marks his 2nd Whitley Gold Award. He got his first award in 2005.
- ★ Princess Anne presented the award to Mishra at London's Royal Geographic Society.
- ★ Mishra is co-founder of Mysore (Karnataka)-based Nature Conservation Foundation and executive director of the Snow Leopard Trust.

ENBA Award 2021

- ★ TV series based on pet care 'Best Friend Forever' on Doordarshan has won the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA).
- ★ Best Friend Forever is half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National, where two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues.
- ★ ENBA Awards celebrate remarkable work done by leaders in the media industry. This year marks the 14th edition.

United Nations Award by the Centre for Champion Awards (CCA)

- ★ The Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBK) have been nominated for the United Nations Award by the Centre for Champion Awards (CCA) of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- ★ These awards are given for outstanding contributions by the governments to increasing food security.
- ★ The RBKs had revolutionised the agriculture sector by catering to the farmers' needs, from supplying seeds to selling their produce.

World Food Prize

- ★ Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, was awarded the \$2,50,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modelling of the impact of climate change on food production.

- ★ She is a NASA climate research scientist who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate.
- ★ She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and serves as adjunct senior research scientist at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, both in New York.

World Food Prize

- ★ It is an international award recognizing the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity, or availability of food in the world.
- ★ It is now administered by the World Food Prize Foundation.

Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award 2022

- ★ Activist Cecile Ndjebet of Cameroon won the Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award for the year 2022.
- ★ The award was conferred at a ceremony during the XV World Forestry Congress which was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- ★ The award was given in recognition of her outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them.
- ★ The award was presented by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- ★ She has actively presented that women's participation in forest governance and preservation is fundamental to achieve sustainable forest management.

Romain Rolland Book Prize 2022

- ★ The Bengali translation of French novel Meursault, contre-enquete (The Meursault Investigation) has won the fifth Romain Rolland Book Prize.
- ★ The award event was organized by the French Institute in India.
- ★ The award was announced during the French LitFest 2022 and was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati.
- ★ 'Meursault, contre-enquêteto' the debut novel of Algerian writer and journalist Kamel Daoud.

Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) Award 2022

- ★ Guruswamy Krishnamoorthy, was awarded The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) Award 2022-Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).
- ★ He received award from the Queen at Buckingham Palace, London, UK.
- ★ He started his career with Wipro GE Medical Systems and later co-founded a Med tech start up in Chennai.
- ★ He is the CEO of Penlon that deals with design and manufacture of anesthesia ventilators, anesthesia machines and vaporizers.

- ★ The award is given in recognition of a great achievement or contribution to the community that has a long term, significant impact and serves as an example to others.

Pulitzer Prize 2022

- ★ Slain photo journalist Danish Siddiqui is among four Indians honoured with the prestigious Pulitzer Prize 2022 in the feature photography category.
- ★ Pulitzer Prize-2022 was announced in the fields of journalism, book, drama and accompaniment.
- ★ Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo and Amit Dave are the other three members from a news agency won the award.
- ★ Marcus Yam of the Los Angeles Times bagged the award in the Breaking News Photography category.

Royal Gold Medal 2022

- ★ Architect Balkrishna Doshi conferred with Royal Gold Medal 2022.
- ★ He is credited with designing some of the most iconic structures in Ahmedabad as well as IIM Bangalore.
- ★ Royal Gold Medal 2022 is one of the world's highest honours for architecture by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), London United Kingdom.
- ★ Doshi is the only one from India and among the rare people globally to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize, referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.

Bangla Academy Award

- ★ Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee received the Bangla Academy Award for her "relentless literary pursuit".
- ★ The award was introduced this year by Sahitya Academy.
- ★ It was presented to Banerjee for her book "Kabita Bitan", which pays tribute to the best writers of West Bengal.
- ★ The book contains 946 poems written by the TMC supremo.
- ★ Banerjee was given the award at the "Ravi Pranam" function organised by the government's information and culture department on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary.

Templeton Prize 2022

- ★ Frank Wilczek, the Nobel-winning theoretical physicist whose research transformed humanity's understanding of the fundamental forces of nature, emerged as the winner of the 2022 Templeton Prize.
- ★ Templeton award is the world's largest individual lifetime achievement award.
- ★ He became the 6th Nobel Laureate to receive the Templeton Prize since its inception in 1972.

World's Best Nurse

- ★ Kenyan national, Anna Qabale Duba has been crowned the first-ever recipient of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award.
- ★ On the occasion of International Nurses Day celebrated globally on May 12, Anna bagged a cash prize of USD 250,000.
- ★ Duba, the founder of Qabale Duba Foundation in Kenya has been championing against harmful cultural practices against women like female genital mutilation.
- ★ Anna is the former Miss Kenya Peace and Investment, as she has conducted communities and champion for peace.
- ★ She has also been recognised as the Top 100 most influential young Africans in 2020.

Order of the British Empire (CBE) Award

- ★ Piramal Group Chairman Ajay Piramal has received the prestigious Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) award.
- ★ Piramal has received the award for services to the UK-India trade relationship as India Co-Chair of the UK-India CEO Forum.
- ★ As co-chair of India-UK CEO forum since 2016, he has been to help strengthen the strong bilateral relations between the two countries through greater economic co-operation.
- ★ The Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) is awarded for having a prominent role at national level.

William E. Colby Award 2022

- ★ Author and journalist Wesley Morgan emerged as the winner of the William E. Colby Award for military and intelligence writing for his book "The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley."
- ★ It is given for a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs.
- ★ The Colby Award is presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. It was established in the year 1999.
- ★ Previous winners of the award include Dexter Filkins, Karl Marlantes and Adam Higginbotham.

Iyal Award -Canada Based Tamil Literary for 2021

- ★ Historian and professor of the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), A.R. Venkatachalapathy, has been selected for the Lifetime Achievement Award (Iyal Award), of the Canada based Tamil Literary Award for 2021.
- ★ Iyal Award is a lifetime Achievement award which is given annually to someone who has made a very significant contribution to the growth or study of Tamil Literature.

Sangita Kalanidhi Award

- ★ The Music Academy announced Sangita Kalanidhi award for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022.
- ★ It is awarded to one person who has contributed to the field of Carnatic music.
- ★ Noted vocalist Neyveli R. Santhanagopalan received the award for the year 2020.
- ★ Mridhangam maestro Tiruvarur Baktavatsalam received the award for the year 2021.
- ★ Violinists Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and GJR Vijayalakshmi received the award for the year 2022.
- ★ Chief Minister M K Stalin will present the awards while inaugurating the 96th Annual Conference and Concerts on December 15, 2022.

VASVIK Industrial Research Award 2020

- ★ A Gopalakrishnan, Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, has received the VASVIK (Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award.
- ★ He received the award in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology for the year 2020.
- ★ The VASVIK research award is given to scientists and researchers who have demonstrated excellence in a variety of fields, including agricultural sciences.
- ★ The award, which includes a cash prize of 1.51 lakh and a citation, is in recognition of his significant contribution to fish genetics research.
- ★ His research projects have included Genetic Stock Identification (GSI), species inventory, taxonomy, breeding, and seed production of threatened and commercially important species for mariculture.
- ★ It has contributed to improved scientific knowledge on Indian fisheries and conservative measures.

First Indian to Win International Booker Prize

- ★ Author Geetanjali Shree's Hindi novel 'Tomb of Sand' has become the first book in any Indian language to win International Booker Prize.
- ★ American Translator Daisy Rockwell won the prize for 'Tomb of Sand'.
- ★ Rockwell is a painter, writer and translator living in Vermont, US who has translated a number of works from Hindi and Urdu literature.
- ★ The 50,000-pound (\$63,000) prize money will be split between New Delhi-based Shree and Rockwell, who lives in Vermont.
- ★ The International Booker Prize is awarded every year to a translated work of fiction published in the UK or Ireland.
- ★ The book was originally written in Hindi and translated into English.
- ★ Tomb of Sand is the story about an 80-year-old woman, who was into a deep depression when her husband dies, then resurfaces to gain a new life. The woman travels to Pakistan to confront the unresolved trauma of her teenage experiences of Partition and re-evaluates what it means to be a mother, a daughter, a woman and a feminist.

Excellence in Cinema Award

- ★ Bollywood actor, Nawazuddin Siddiqui was presented the award for Excellence in Cinema at the French Riviera Film Festival that took place in Cannes.
- ★ The award was presented by Emmy-winning star Vincent De Paul.
- ★ Siddiqui received this award for his contribution to cinema.

SKOCH Award in Education

- ★ West Bengal has bagged the 'Star of Governance-SKOCH Award in Education'.
- ★ West Bengal has topped in the Education sector nationally in the SKOCH State of Governance Report 2021'.
- ★ The 'Star of Governance-SKOCH Award in Education' will be conferred to West Bengal on 18 June 2022 at New Delhi as a part of India Governance Forum'.
- ★ SKOCH Award instituted in 2003 aims to recognize people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.

WHO Award For Tobacco Control

- ★ The World Health Organization (WHO) has selected Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award for the year 2022.
- ★ Stata Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department will receive the award on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day in New Delhi on 31 May 2022.
- ★ National Tobacco Control Programme was launched in Jharkhand in 2012.

V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

- ★ Dr. V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred to noted author and documentary filmmaker Shri Sanjit Narwekar.
- ★ The award was presented at the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival of India (MIFF 2022) to commemorate his deep, remarkably diverse and inspiring body of work.
- ★ The coveted award comprises of cash prize of ₹10 lakhs, trophy and a citation.
- ★ Shri Narwekar is a National award-winning film historian, author, publisher and documentary filmmaker with more than four decades of cross-media experience in Journalism, Public Relations, Publishing and Filmmaking.
- ★ The V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement award is instituted in memory of legendary filmmaker Shantaram Rajaram Vankudre.

PERSONALITIES

Yenagi Lakshmibai

- ★ Veteran theatre artist and singer Yenagi Lakshmibai died in Dharwad.

- ★ She was known for her beauty and melodious voice.
- ★ She acted in several professional plays and essayed the roles of mythological and historical characters.
- ★ She won accolades for her portrayal as Kittur Channamma, Hemareddy Mallamma and leading roles in Kurukshetra, Chale Jao, Pathan Pasha and other plays.
- ★ She acted in the Kannada film Singarevva.
- ★ The 96-year-old artist was the wife of Yenagi Balappa who died in 2017.
- ★ Their son, Nataraj Yenagi, who predeceased his parents, was an award-winning actor.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

A Book by Prakash Singh

- ★ Former IPS officer, Prakash Singh authored a book titled “The Struggle for Police Reforms in India”.
- ★ It was released by Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu.
- ★ The book is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd.
- ★ The book focuses essentially on the author’s efforts to bring about transformational changes in the Indian police.
- ★ The book narrates the origin of the Indian Police and evolution during British Rule and after Independence.

A Place Called Home

- ★ Author Preeti Shenoy is set to publish a now novel titled ‘A Place Called Home’.
- ★ This book is an important social commentary on the class system that exists in India, narrated through the protagonist.
- ★ The novel is about secrets, family and finding yourself.
- ★ The book is published by HarperCollins India by June 2022.

DEFENCE

ALH Mk III



- ★ Indian Coast Guard commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG), at the Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi.
- ★ The new Air Squadron, commissioned is equipped with the indigenously developed Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters.
- ★ Four helicopters have been positioned in Kochi to cover the entire coast of Karnataka, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Satellite GISAT-2

- ★ Indian Navy has announced to acquire earth imaging satellite — Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT-2). The launching vehicle is Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F12.
- ★ The satellite is expected to enhance the navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region.
- ★ The GISAT-2 will be designed to provide near real-time images of large areas of region of interest at frequent intervals.
- ★ It will help the navy not only in surveillance but also operations planning.

Large Human-Rated Solid Rocket Booster

- ★ The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully completed the static test of a human-rated solid rocket booster (HS200) for the Gaganyaan program at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ HS200 booster loaded with 203 tons of solid propellant was tested for a duration of 135 seconds.
- ★ It is the world's second largest operational booster with solid propellant of 20 long and 3.2 diameter.
- ★ The HS200 is the human-rated version of the S200 rocket booster of satellite launch vehicle GSLV MK III.

- ★ The system is indigenously designed and developed by ISRO in participation with various industries spread across the country.
- ★ Design and development of the HS200 booster were completed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Jazz Day

- ★ International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on 30 April.
- ★ It is an International Day declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2011 "to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'A call for Global Peace and Unity'.
- ★ The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of jazz as an educational tool and to enhance cooperation among people.
- ★ Jazz pianist and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock, who along with the UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay chaired the event.

International Labour Day

- ★ International Labour Day is observed every year on 01 May.
- ★ The aim of this day is to educate workers and labourers about their rights.
- ★ The first Labour Day in India was celebrated in Chennai in 1923 by the Hindustan Labour Kisan Party.
- ★ For the first time, the day was commemorated on 4th May 1886 when the Haymarket Massacre in Chicago took place.
- ★ Later it was announced at the first International Congress of Socialist Parties in Europe on July 14 1889 and was first recognised on 01 May 1890.

World Veterinary Day

- ★ World Veterinary Day is observed every year on the last Saturday of April.
- ★ This year it is marked on 30 April.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Strengthening Veterinary Resilience,
- ★ The aim of the World Veterinary Day is to promote the veterinary profession and work on improvement of the animal and human welfare, the environment, food safety and practices of animal transport and quarantine.

World Laughter Day

- ★ World Laughter Day is observed every year on the first Sunday of May.

- ★ For the year 2022 it is marked on 01 May.
- ★ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the benefits of laughter as laughter is the best medicine.
- ★ It was first celebrated on May 10, 1998.

World Tuna Day

- ★ World Tuna Day is observed every year on 02 May.
- ★ The day is celebrated to spread awareness about Tuna fish and its importance to humans and planet earth.
- ★ The day also promotes the importance of sustainable fishing practices and educates the world on how tuna have become endangered species due to the high demand for their meat.
- ★ World Tuna Day was established in December 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly, with an aim to preserve endangered species.

World Press Freedom Day

- ★ World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on 03 May.
- ★ This day celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom, to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.
- ★ The theme for the day is 'Journalism under digital siege'.
- ★ United Nations General Assembly in 1993 declared May 03 as the world press Freedom Day.

International Day of the Midwife

- ★ The International Day of the Midwife (IDM) is celebrated on May 5 each year to focus on the role of midwives and midwifery.
- ★ Midwifery is skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate care for childbearing women, newborn infants and families across the continuum throughout pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the early weeks of life.
- ★ **Theme for 2022:** 100 years of progress

International No Diet Day

- ★ International No Diet Day is celebrated every year on 06 May.
- ★ This day is to promote a healthy life style with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of diet.
- ★ It also raises awareness about weight discrimination.
- ★ It was first started by Mary Evans in 1992.

World Athletics Day

- ★ World Athletics Day is celebrated every year on 07 May.
- ★ It is to raise awareness among children and young people about the importance of fitness and encourage them to play sports, especially athletics.
- ★ The day was founded by IAAF president Primo Nebiolo in 1996.
- ★ World Athletics Day is part of the IAAF's social responsibility project 'Athletics for a Better World'.

World Red Cross Day

- ★ World Red Cross Day is observed every year on 08 May.
- ★ The day also marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, who was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Be Human Kind'.
- ★ The main objective of the day is to protect human life and health, to ensure respect for all human beings and to prevent and alleviate human suffering.
- ★ In 1984 it was named as world Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.

World Thalassemia Day

- ★ World Thalassemia Day is observed every year on 08 May.
- ★ The day is celebrated every to honour the struggles of patients suffering from thalassemia as well as to make people aware of the disease and its symptoms.
- ★ Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder in which the body fails to create enough haemoglobin.
- ★ During the occasion Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has mentioned people to work towards creating awareness about thalassemia.
- ★ International Thalassemia Day was initiated in 1994 by the Thalassemia International Federation (TIF).

World Lupus Day

- ★ World Lupus Day is observed annually on 10 May.
- ★ This day is observed with the aim of generating awareness about this autoimmune disease which is also known as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE).
- ★ This day also puts focus on improving the healthcare services and boosting research about the cures and causes of lupus.
- ★ This day was created by Lupus Canada in the year 2004.

International Day of Argania

- ★ International Day of Argania is observed every year on May 10.

- ★ It is to create awareness about the importance of Argan Tree (*Argania spinosa*), the native species of Morocco.
- ★ It is resilient to a harsh environment under water scarcity, risk of erosion and poor soils.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'The Argan tree, symbol of resilience'.
- ★ The theme of this year aims to highlight the role of Argania in reinforcing resilient communities, adapting to climate change and empowering rural women through the support and promotion of cooperatives and agricultural organizations.

National Technology Day

- ★ National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11 May.
- ★ The day is to celebrate the achievements and contributions of scientists, researchers, engineers, and trainers.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'An Integrated Approach to Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future'.
- ★ On May 11, India celebrated National Technology Day to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear test in 1998.

International Day of Plant Health

- ★ International Day of Plant Health is observed every year on 12 May.
- ★ It is to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect biodiversity and the environment and boost economic development.
- ★ The day is also celebrated to raise global awareness on protecting plant health.
- ★ The day is observed by the United Nations.

International Nurses Day

- ★ International Nurses Day is observed every year on 12 May.
- ★ It is the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale and is celebrated to mark the contributions that nurses make to society.
- ★ The theme of International Nurses Day 2022 is 'Nurses: A Voice to Lead - Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health'.
- ★ Many institutions are observing International Nurses Week from May 6 to May 12, 2022.

World Migratory Bird Day

- ★ World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on 14 May.
- ★ World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is a global campaign that emphasizes the importance of migratory bird conservation and habitat preservation.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is "Impact of Light Pollution on Migratory Birds".

- ★ The day raises awareness about the problems that migratory birds face, their ecological value and the need for worldwide collaboration to protect them.

International Day of Families

- ★ International Day of Families is observed every year on 15 May.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Families and Urbanization'.
- ★ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the necessity of family-friendly urban policy.
- ★ The International Day of Families not only promotes the value of a healthy and well-balanced family, but also increases understanding of the economic, demographic, and social dynamics that influence families.

National Dengue Day

- ★ National Dengue Day is observed every year on 16 May.
- ★ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to raise awareness about dengue in India.
- ★ Under National Health Mission, necessary and sufficient budgetary support is also provided to states and UTs for dengue control activities.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness about dengue as well as to intensify the preventive measures and preparedness for the control of viral disease before the transmission season starts in India.

International Day of Living Together in Peace

- ★ International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed every year on 16 May.
- ★ In 2017, the United Nations declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity across the world.
- ★ The day is meant to signify unity in differences and diversity.
- ★ The year 2000 was observed as the International Year for Culture of Peace.

International Day of Light

- ★ International Day of Light is celebrated every year on 16 May.
- ★ International Day of Light was a global initiative initiated to appreciate the light.
- ★ It is also celebrated to commemorate the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by Physics and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
- ★ The International Day of Light is a global project that serves as an annual focal point for the continued enjoyment of light and its significance in science, culture, art, education and sustainable development.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022

- ★ World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2022 is observed every year on 17 May.

- ★ It is to commemorate the creation of the International Telecommunication Union and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
- ★ It is observed every year to raise awareness of the benefits that the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can offer to society and economies as well as initiatives to close the digital gap.
- ★ World Information Society Day and World Telecommunication Society Day have been combined to establish World Telecommunication Day and Society Day 2022.

World Hypertension Day

- ★ World Hypertension Day is celebrated every year on 17 May.
- ★ It aims to raise the public awareness about the hypertension, its preventive measures and complications.
- ★ It was first celebrated on 14th of May in the year 2005 organized by the World Hypertension League (WHL).
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control it, Live Longer'.

International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

- ★ International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is observed every year on 17 May.
- ★ It aims to highlight the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations and sex characteristics.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights'.

International Museum Day

- ★ International Museum Day is celebrated on 18 May.
- ★ The International Museum Day was first celebrated in 1977 by the International Council of Museum (ICOM).
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'The power of Museums'.
- ★ A museum describes the journey of a nation from prehistory to modernity by displaying enriched historical artifacts such as tools, weapons, clothes and jewelry.
- ★ The day is celebrated by taking part in activities based on the theme decided by the ICOM every year.

World AIDS Vaccine Day

- ★ World AIDS Vaccine Day is celebrated every year on 18 May.
- ★ The event highlights the need for a vaccine that might prevent acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) from the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- ★ The event also honours the countless health professionals, scientists, community members and volunteers who are helping to develop an AIDS vaccine.
- ★ The day is also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.
- ★ It was observed for the first time in 1998.

World Metrology Day

- ★ World Metrology Day is celebrated every year on 20 May.
- ★ It is celebrated to highlight the need for accurate measurement units and contribution of metrologists, organisations and institutes in the scientific study of metrology.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Metrology in the Digital Era'.
- ★ The day is celebrated jointly by the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM) and the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) along with other national organisations for metrology.

National Endangered Species Day

- ★ National Endangered Species Day is celebrated every year on the third Friday of May. This year the day is celebrated on May 20.
- ★ The main aim of the event is to awareness among people about endangered species and the ways through which we can protect them.
- ★ This year, it marks the 16th National Endangered Species Day.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration".
- ★ In the United States, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 was enacted on 28th December.
- ★ This act aimed to generate awareness about the conservation of wildlife and the rehabilitation of endangered species.

World Bee Day

- ★ World Bee Day is celebrated every year on 20 May.
- ★ The day aims to recognise the importance of bees and other pollinators in the ecosystem.
- ★ It is observed mainly to raise public awareness about the importance of bees in maintaining biodiversity.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is "Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems."
- ★ The day was first celebrated on the year 2018 and it also commemorates the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734 who is considered as pioneer of beekeeping.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

- ★ World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed every year on 21 May.

- ★ The day provides an opportunity to deepen the understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to advance the four goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.
- ★ The day highlights the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- ★ It is an opportunity to help communities understand the value of cultural diversity and learn how to live together in harmony.

International Day for Biological Diversity

- ★ International Day for Biological Diversity is observed every year on 22 May.
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness about biodiversity is essential for sustaining the balance of the planet.
- ★ The theme for this year is 'Building a Shared Future for All Life'.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly adopted May 22 as International Day for Biological Diversity in December 2000, to mark the adoption of the Convention at the Rio Earth Summit on May 22, 1992.
- ★ The theme emphasizes the importance of biodiversity in handling several sustainable development challenges.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula

- ★ International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed every year on 23 May.
- ★ The day is observed to raise awareness about preventing obstetric fistula which is caused by child birth labour that is prolonged and unattended, leading to damage of the soft tissues.
- ★ In 2003, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners launched the global Campaign to end fistula.

World Turtle Day

- ★ World Turtle Day is celebrated every year on 23 May.
- ★ It is commemorated to promote awareness among humans about the importance of helping turtles live and prosper in their natural habitat.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is 'Shellebrate, Asks Everyone to Love and Save Turtles'.
- ★ The day was founded by the American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit organisation, in the year 1990.
- ★ The main objective of this day is to also educate people about the things to do to protect the habitats of turtles as well as tortoises.

Indian Commonwealth Day

- ★ Indian Commonwealth Day is celebrated every on 24 May.
- ★ It marks the development of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain.

- ★ The Commonwealth Day is usually marked across the world on the second Monday in the month of March every year in most of the 54 countries of the Commonwealth.
- ★ The theme for Commonwealth Day 2022 is 'Delivering a Common Future'.
- ★ It highlights how the fifty-four member countries in the Commonwealth family are 'innovating, connecting and transforming' to help attain goals like fighting climate change, promoting good governance and improving trade.
- ★ Commonwealth Day, formerly known as Empire Day was established in 1902.

World Thyroid Awareness Day

- ★ World Thyroid Awareness Day is observed every year on 25 May.
- ★ The day is aimed to raise awareness about the disease, its study and treatment.
- ★ Thyroid Awareness Week is observed between May 22 and May 28 by Thyroid Federation International and has announced theme for the week 'It's not you. It's your thyroid'.
- ★ The European Thyroid Association (ETA) coined this day in collaboration with the American Thyroid Association (ATA) and the Latin American Thyroid Society in September 2007.

International Missing Children's Day

- ★ International Missing Children's Day is observed every year on 25 May.
- ★ It is celebrated to create awareness about child abduction and educate the general public on the measures to protect and safeguard their children.
- ★ The day was observed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
- ★ In 2001, 25 May was formally recognized first as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD).

International Everest Day

- ★ International Everest Day is celebrated every year on 29 May.
- ★ This day is observed to celebrate the first summit of Mount Everest by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Tenzing Norgay Sherpa that took place on 29 May 1953.
- ★ They were the first humans to scale the height of Mount Everest.
- ★ The day was first observed in 2008, the year Edmund Hillary died.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers

- ★ International Day of UN Peacekeepers is celebrated every year on 29 May.
- ★ This day is observed to recognise the service and sacrifice of the more than one million personnel who have served under the blue flag since 1948.
- ★ The theme for this year 2022 is "People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships."
- ★ UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced that this year 2022 will focus on the Power of Partnerships.

- ★ Peacekeeping is one of the many tools used by the United Nations to secure global peace and security.
- ★ The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 29 May 1948.

World No-Tobacco Day

- ★ World No-Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year on 31 May.
- ★ It is celebrated to raise awareness about the damage caused by consuming tobacco.
- ★ The theme for WNTD for the year 2022 is “Protect the environment”.
- ★ In the year 2022, the WHO has selected Jharkhand for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award.
- ★ The Member States of the World Health Organization created World No Tobacco Day in 1987.

OBITUARY NEWS

Actor Salim Ghouse

- ★ Actor Salim Ghouse died from cardiac arrest. He was at the age 70.
- ★ He played the character of Tipu Sultan in Shyam Benegal's TV series 'Bharat Ek Khoj'.
- ★ Veteran stage, television and film actor Salim Ghouse featured in several Bollywood and south Indian movies.

Former Bangladesh Finance Minister AMA Muhith

- ★ Former Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith passed away in Dhaka due to illness. He was at the age 88.
- ★ AMA Muhith was as an economist, diplomat and a bureaucrat.
- ★ He was also a veteran of the language movement and freedom fighter.
- ★ He was one of the country's longest serving finance ministers who made Bangladesh to become a successful and high growth economy.
- ★ He was born in 1934 in Sylhet and studied English literature at Dhaka University and later at Oxford University.

An Eminent Odia Litterateur Rajat Kumar Kar

- ★ Rajat Kumar Kar, an eminent Odia Litterateur and a Padma Shri awardee passed away on May 8, 2022. He was at the age of 88.
- ★ Rajat Kumar Kar was an orator on Jagannath Culture.
- ★ He was also known for his commentary during the annual Rath Yatra on TV and Radio for six decades.

Santoor Maestro Shivkumar Sharma

- ★ Santoor player and music composer Pandit Shivkumar Sharma passed away in Mumbai due to heart attack. He was 84.
- ★ Sharma, one of India's most well-known classical musicians.
- ★ He was the first musician to have played Indian classical music on the santoor, a folk instrument from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ★ Sharma was born in Jammu in 1938.
- ★ He is the recipient of Padma Vibhushan award.

Former Union Minister and Veteran Congress Leader Pandit Sukh Ram

- ★ Veteran Congress leader and former union minister Pandit Sukh Ram has passed away. He was at the age of 94.
- ★ Sukh Ram was the Union Minister of State, Communications (Independent Charge) from 1993 to 1996.
- ★ He was a member of Lok Sabha from the Mandi constituency of Himachal Pradesh.
- ★ He won the Vidhan Sabha elections five times and the Lok Sabha elections three times.

First President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk

- ★ Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, the first president of the post-Soviet Ukraine, has passed away at the age of 88.
- ★ Kravchuk joined the Communist Party of Ukraine in 1958.
- ★ In 1990, he became the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR.
- ★ He became the acting president of Ukraine in August 1991, after the Supreme Rada in Kiev adopted the Ukrainian constitution and was formally elected on December 5, 1991.

World's oldest chess grandmaster Yuri Averbakh

- ★ Russian chess grandmaster, Yuri Averbakh passed away in Moscow.
- ★ He, who was among the world's best players for a decade, trained world champions and was the last surviving participant in one of the greatest competitions in history.
- ★ He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952.
- ★ In 1954, he became the champion of the USSR.
- ★ He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

President of UAE HH Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed

- ★ The United Arab Emirates ruler, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan has died at the age of 73.
- ★ He is the president of the United Arab Emirates, the Emir of Abu Dhabi and the supreme commander of the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces since 2004.
- ★ He has also served as the chairman of the Supreme Petroleum Council in 1980.

- ★ He was born on 07 September 1948.

Former Australian Cricketer Andrew Symonds

- ★ Former Australian test cricketer and two-time World Cup winner Andrew Symonds passed away following a car accident in Queensland. He died at the age of 46.
- ★ He had played 26 tests for Australia.
- ★ He featured in 198 ODIs scoring six centuries and 30-half centuries while also contributing 133 wickets with his more than handy off spin and medium pace.

Renowned Lyricist Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury

- ★ Renowned lyricist, veteran journalist and language movement activist of Bangladesh Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury passed away. He was at the age of 88.
- ★ The song written by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury inspired generations of Bangladeshis to fight for their mother tongue which ultimately led to their liberation in 1971.
- ★ Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury was born in the Ulania village in Mehendiganj of Barisal in 1934.
- ★ He received Bangla Academy Literary Award in 1967. The government of Bangladesh honoured him with the Independence Award in 2009.
- ★ He was also a recipient of Ekushey Padak and UNESCO literary Award.

Veteran Communist Leader Shivaji Patnaik

- ★ Noted Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and former Parliamentarian Shivaji Patnaik passed away. He was at the age 93.
- ★ Shivaji Patnaik was elected to the Lok Sabha from Bhubaneswar in 1977, 1989 and 1991.
- ★ He was born on August 10, 1930, the veteran leader had joined the State student's movement at the age of 17 when he was studying in Ravenshaw College.
- ★ He was also elected to the Central Committee of the party.

Veteran Journalist Sat Soni

- ★ Veteran journalist and author Sat Soni has died in Gurugram. He was at the age 89.
- ★ He was born in Mandalay in Myanmar, he had moved to Punjab in 1944 in the wake of the Japanese invasion during the Second World War.
- ★ He began his career in language journalism in 1951 by joining the Urdu daily, "Milap".
- ★ He authored many books including the biography of ex-President Giani Zail Singh -"From Mudhouse to Rashtrapati Bhawan".

Punjabi Writer Sultana Begum

- ★ Renowned Punjabi writer Sultana Begum has died after a brief illness. She was at the age of 72.

- ★ She was born in 1949. After completing MA in Punjabi and Urdu, she did her PhD on Indian theatre.
- ★ She also had a diploma in Persian language.
- ★ She was the first woman to write a literary satire in Punjabi language, was awarded the 'Professor Joga Singh' award and the 'Waris di Dhi' award by the Punjabi University.

Jockey Lester Piggot

- ★ Former champion Jockey Lester Piggot, nicknamed as 'The Long Fellow' died at the age of 86.
- ★ Piggott was regarded as one of the best Flat riders of all time and was honoured in 2019 with a statue at Epsom.
- ★ He has won the Indian Turf Invention Cup in 1991.
- ★ He won the Derby record for nine times.

Veteran Journalist Padmanand Jha

- ★ Padmanand Jha, a senior journalist and a very old member of the club, passed away in Goa at the age of 66.
- ★ He was the political editor at the Pioneer.
- ★ He was a member of Outlook's launch team and one of the country's best political journalists and analysts.
- ★ Padmanand Jha, called as Paddy by his friends and colleagues in journalism.
- ★ Paddy had worked both for the print media and television channel.
- ★ He was instrumental in setting up the political bureau of the New Delhi Television (NDTV) when the company started.

MISCELLANEOUS

Kami Rita Sherpa climbs Mount Everest

- ★ Nepal's legendary climber Kami Rita Sherpa has climbed the Mt Everest, the tallest peak in the world for the 26th time to set a new world record.
- ★ He was born in 1970 in Solukhumbu district and first climbed the Everest in May 1994.
- ★ Leading an 11-member rope fixing team, Kami Rita and his team reached the summit on 07 May 2022 breaking his own previous world record.