

# DECODED

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## FEBRUARY 2022

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## FEBRUARY 2022

### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Home Delivery of Medicines

- ★ **Defence Ministry** has said that medicines will be delivered at home from **February 1, 2022** under Services e-Health Assistance and Teleconsultation, **SeHAT**.
- ★ SeHAT was launched as a part of Digital India and e-Governance in May 2021.
- ★ SeHAT is the tri-services teleconsultation service of the Ministry of Defence designed for all entitled Defence personnel and their families.
- ★ Home Delivery will be started with Base Hospital Delhi Cantt from February 1, 2022 and it will be extended to more and more stations in coming times.

#### ₹1,38,394 crore Gross GST Revenue Collected for January 2022

- ★ The gross GST revenue collected in the month of January, 2022 is **one lakh 38 thousand 394 crore rupees**.
- ★ CGST is 24 thousand 674 crore rupees and SGST is over 32 thousand crore rupees and IGST is over 72 thousand crore rupees and cess are nine thousand 674 crore rupees.
- ★ Finance Ministry said, the highest monthly GST collection has been one lakh 39 thousand 708 crore rupees in the month of April 2021.
- ★ The revenues for the month of January this year is **15 per cent higher** than the GST revenues in the same month last year.

#### Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks

- ★ Government has approved seven Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel

Parks with an investment of about Rupees 4,500 crore.

- ★ This will facilitate integrated textile value chain. These mega textile parks will attract both Indian and foreign investors, and create lakhs of new employment opportunities”.
- ★ Referring to the 14 key PLI schemes with an outlay of more than Rupees 1 lakh 97 thousand crore launched by the Government to fully realize the potential of the manufacturing sector and to create new opportunities for the youth.
- ★ The President said these PLI schemes will not only help transform India as a global manufacturing hub but also create over 60 lakh jobs.

#### GAIL Starts India's Maiden Project

- ★ **Gas Authority of India Limited** has commenced India's first-of-its-kind project of mixing hydrogen into natural gas system at **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- ★ The hydrogen blended natural gas will be supplied to Avantika Gas Limited, one of GAIL's Joint Venture (JV) Company with HPCL, operating in Indore.
- ★ In line with the National Hydrogen Mission, GAIL has started hydrogen blending as a pilot project to establish the techno-commercial feasibility of **blending hydrogen in City Gas Distribution (CGD) network**.

#### Women Fighter Pilots in IAF

- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said that his Ministry has decided to convert the Experimental Scheme for Induction of Women Fighter Pilots in the Indian Air Force into a permanent scheme.
- ★ It is a testimony to the capability of India's Nari Shakti (Women Power) and our Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's commitment towards women empowerment. A total of 16 women have been commissioned as fighter pilots after the experimental scheme for their induction.

- ★ Supreme Court had directed the Centre last year to allow women candidates to appear for the entrance exam to the National Defence Academy.

### India-EU 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual Maritime Security Dialogue

- ★ India and the European Union held their second maritime security dialogue in a virtual format.
- ★ The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs at Ministry of External Affairs Sandeep Arya and Director for Security and Defence Policy at the European External Action Service Ms Joanneke Balfourt.
- ★ The consultations included developments in the maritime security environment, policy developments covering the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative, India-EU maritime cooperation and regional initiatives to address international maritime security issues.

### Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design at Red Fort, Delhi

- ★ A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between **State Bank of India, Indira Gandhi Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Culture Fund** for Development of Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre for Design at L1 Barrack, Red Fort, Delhi.
- ★ Atmanirbhar Bharat Centre of Design (ABCD), project aims to highlight, promote and celebrate the products that have the Geographical Indication sign, as it signifies

a specific geographic origin infused with unique features of that region.

- ★ The ABCD project is being implemented by IGNCA, an autonomous organization under **Ministry of Culture**.
- ★ SBI has agreed to sponsor the project under CSR with a contribution of ₹10 crores for the implementation of ABCD Project.

### Dukaan Partners with Simpl

- ★ Dukaan partners with Simpl to Provide Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) services to its merchants.
- ★ Bangalore based Startup company Dukaan is a platform that enables small and medium-sized businesses to set up online stores and sell products digitally.
- ★ It has partnered with Simpl, a buy-now-pay-later platform, to provide BNPL services to Dukaan's merchants.

### Gandhi Mandiram, Smrithi Vanam Built at Srikakulam

- ★ At the Municipal Park in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, social activists created a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters Smrithi Vanam.
- ★ To instill patriotism among the youth by commemorating the sacrifices of freedom fighters, social activists have created a temple for Mahatma Gandhi and freedom fighters' Smrithi Vanam at the Municipal Park in Srikakulam Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ With donations, statues honoring independence warriors and social activists were constructed in the park.
- ★ On Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary, the Mahatma Gandhi statue and Smruthivanam were unveiled in Srikakulam City.

## 'Shera': Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Mascot

- ★ Punjab's election mascot, "**Shera**," was unveiled by the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- ★ Its goal is to raise voter knowledge, engagement, and ethical voting in the Punjab Assembly elections on 20 February 2022.
- ★ Shera, the team's mascot, is a lion. It is a symbol of Punjab's rich cultural heritage.
- ★ It is promoted by the **Election Commission of India's Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP)** project (ECI).

## India's First Geological Park

- ★ The first geological park of country will be built in **Lamheta at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**.
- ★ Approval for the park has been granted by **Geological Survey of India, under ministry of mining, Government of India for construction of the park with an investment of ₹35 crores**.
- ★ UNESCO has also recognized Lamheta as a geo heritage site. Lameta Formation is also called Infratrappean Beds. It is a sedimentary geological formation found in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. It is associated with the Deccan Traps. It is of the Maastrichtian age and is known for dinosaur fossils.

## Torgya Festival

- ★ Torgya, also known as Tawang-Torgya, is an annual event celebrated in Tawang Monastery in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ★ At Tawang Monastery, the Monpa ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh celebrates the three-day Torgya Festival.

- ★ The major feature of the festival is the 'Sha-na Cham,' a ritual dance performed by monks to honor Choe-Gyal Yap and Yum Tsa-Munde deities.

## New Ramsar Sites in India

- ★ On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh have been included as Ramsar Site from India.
- ★ With this, India now has 49 Ramsar sites which is the highest in South Asia.
- ★ Moreover, the National Wetland Decadal Change Atlas was also launched.

## Hoysala Temples Nomination - World Heritage Sites List

- ★ The Hoysala temples in Beluru and Halebeedu in Hassan district and Somanathapura in Mysuru district of Karnataka have been finalized by the Union Ministry of Culture and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as nominations to the list of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in the world, for the year of 2022-23.
- ★ If the Hoysala temples attain this status, these monuments will be fourth on the state's list of World Heritage Sites.

## Statue of Equality

- ★ Prime Minister will open the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad to the nation.
- ★ The Statue is built for 216 feet height to commemorate the 11th-century Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya, is mounted on a 54-feet high base building, named 'Bhadra Vedi'.
- ★ Saint Sri Ramanujacharya promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste, and creed.
- ★ The Statue is made of 'panchaloha', a combination of five metals. It is among one

of the tallest metallic statues in sitting positions in the world.

### India's Top Trade Partner in 2021

- ★ The United States was India's top trading partner in the calendar year 2021 with a trade of \$112.3 billion.
- ★ The US is followed by China on second. The value of trade between India and China was \$110.4 billion.
- ★ In 2020, China was India's top trading partner and the US was in the second rank. In 2019 USA was India's top trading partner and China was on second.

### Towns of Export Excellence (TEE)

- ★ Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Anupriya Patel stated that Thirty-Nine (39) Towns have been recognized as Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) under the Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 extended to 2022.
- ★ Towns producing goods of ₹750 Crore or more can be recognized as Towns of Export Excellence (TEE) based on potential for growth in exports.

### The Best Tableau at Republic Day Parade -2022

- ★ Among 12 States and UTs which participated in the Republic Day parade 2022, Uttar Pradesh has been selected as the best state tableau.
- ★ The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme 'One District One Product and Kashi Vishwanath Dham.
- ★ Defence Ministry said, the second place went to Karnataka for its tableau based on Cradle of Traditional Handicrafts.
- ★ The third position went to Meghalaya for its tableau on Meghalaya's 50 years of Statehood and its tribute to women-led cooperative societies and Self-Help Groups.

- ★ For the first time, the general public was invited to vote for the best tableaux in the popular choice category through the MyGov platform.
- ★ Maharashtra was voted as the best Tableau among the States and UTs in the popular choice category based on the theme Biodiversity and State Bio-symbols of Maharashtra.

### India's first Bullet Train

- ★ Surat is set to become the first station to be ready in Mumbai - Ahmedabad High Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor.
- ★ The MAHSR corridor will cover 12 stations in total- Surat, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Sabarmati, Bilimora, Bharuch, Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi stations.
- ★ The Maximum Design Speed- of the train would be 350 km per hour and the Maximum Operating speed would be 320 km per hour.
- ★ The project is being implemented by the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSRCL).
- ★ The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train will run using Japanese Shinkansen Technology.

### Cochin Port Trust – Green Initiatives

- ★ Under the Maritime Vision 2030 initiative for the improvement of green ports and green shipping in the region, the Cochin Port Trust (CPT) has taken up a series of green initiatives
- ★ This initiative has aimed at shifting its operations completely to solar power by 2030.
- ★ The schemes to be implemented are: (1) Solar-powered cranes, (2) shore-based electricity supply to all ships.

- ★ These initiatives are in parallel with International Maritime Organization's 2030 Decarbonization Strategy and 2050 Greenhouse Gases Strategy.

### India's First AI-based Job Platform

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology (**IIT-Hyderabad**) has launched the beta version of '**Swarajability**', a job portal powered by artificial intelligence.
- ★ The portal helps people with disabilities acquire relevant skills of job seekers and find the suitable jobs.
- ★ IIT-H offers its expertise in AI, **Visual Quest India** has developed the platform in association with **Youth4Jobs**.
- ★ The project is funded by Kotak Mahindra Bank.

### Hydrogen in the Decarbonizing Mix

- ★ **National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.**, is setting up a **floating solar panel system**, renewable energy-powered, fuel cell-based 50 kW microgrid as a pilot at its 2,000 MW **Simhadri Thermal Power Plant near Visakhapatnam**.
- ★ This project is the India's 1<sup>st</sup> green **hydrogen-based energy storage system** and one of the largest in the world.
- ★ The floating solar panels generated power is utilized to electrolyse water during the day to produce hydrogen which is stored under high pressure and will be used for power generation during the night.

### ICRISAT - 50th Anniversary

- ★ Prime Minister has inaugurated the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Patancheru, Hyderabad**.
- ★ Two research facilities of ICRISAT, Climate Change Research Facility on Plant

Protection and Rapid Generation Advancement Facility were inaugurated by the PM during the event.

- ★ Prime Minister also unveiled a specially designed logo of ICRISAT and launched a commemorative stamp issued on the occasion.
- ★ Its objective is to conduct agricultural research for rural development, in Asia & sub-Saharan Africa.

### Paray Shikshalaya Programme

- ★ **West Bengal government** is set to launch an open-air classroom programme '**Paray Shikshalaya**' (**Neighbourhood Schools**) for primary and pre-primary students on February 7.
- ★ Under the 'Paray Shikshalaya' project, the students will be taught in open spaces.
- ★ The para teachers and primary school teachers would be part of the project to provide elementary education to children of Class 1 to 5.
- ★ The state government has also decided to provide mid-day meals to the students of 'Paray Shikshalaya'.

### GoI Approval for Renaming Places In MP

- ★ The Indian government has approved the renaming of three locations in Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ The "Hoshangabad Nagar" will be renamed "Narmadapuram", "Shivpuri" will be renamed "Kundeshwar Dham" and "Babai" will be renamed "Makhan Nagar".
- ★ The MP government, led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan, proposed the renaming of the three locations in Madhya Pradesh in 2021 and granted approval by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



## Conference on Renewable Energy

- ★ The ASEAN-India High-Level Virtual Conference on Renewable Energy being organized by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ministry of External Affairs.
- ★ The High-Level Conference, will focus on the theme of **Experience and Innovations for Integrated Renewables Market**.

## NCPCR Organizes National Level Meet

- ★ National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) organized a national level meeting on Identification, Rescue and Rehabilitation of Children in Street Situations with NGOs/CSOs and UN agencies for seeking assistance from them.
- ★ The meeting was organized in connection with Supreme Court's directions on the issue of identification and rehabilitation of Children in Street Situations.

## NITI Aayog and USAID to Collaborate

- ★ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH) initiative.
- ★ This will improve access to affordable and quality healthcare for vulnerable populations in tier-2 and tier-3 cities, and rural and tribal regions.

## Target 817 Giga Watt by March 2030

- ★ Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R.K Singh that the government has planned the installed generation capacity to be around 817 Giga Watt by March 2030.

- ★ By the last month, Installed Generation Capacity of the country has reached 393 Giga Watt.
- ★ National Grid has an inter-regional transmission capacity of 1 lakh 12 thousand 250 Mega Watt and provides seamless power transfer throughout the Electricity Grid.

## AAHT OPERATION to Curb Human Trafficking

- ★ **Indian Railway Protection Force** has launched a nationwide operation **"Operation AAHT"** to curb human trafficking.
- ★ As part of **"Operation AAHT"**, special teams will be deployed on all long-distance trains/routes with a focus on rescuing victims, particularly women and children, from trafficking.
- ★ The Indian Railways operate about **21,000 trains across the country daily**.
- ★ The RPF have rescued more than 2,000 women and children between 2017-21 from traffickers.
- ★ The **National Crime Records Bureau** registers about 2,200 cases of Human Trafficking cases on an average each year.

## COVID-19 DNA Vaccine

- ★ **India** has become the first country in the world to administer a **DNA vaccine against COVID-19**.
- ★ The **ZyCoV-D** which is the World's first plasmid DNA vaccine has been produced by Ahmedabad-based vaccine manufacturer **Zyklus Cadila** and it was administered for the first time in Patna.
- ★ It is a Painless and Needleless vaccine given at intervals of 28 days and 56 days.
- ★ It is the second India-made vaccine to get emergency authorization in India



after **Bharat Biotech's Covaxin**, citing initial results from Phase III clinical trials that showed approximately **66 per cent efficacy** for symptomatic cases.

### IIT-Madras to set up 'AquaMAP'

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) is establishing a new interdisciplinary Water Management and Policy Centre called 'AquaMAP' to solve water related issues in the country.
- ★ This Centre will provide smart solutions for challenging water problems through a consortium approach and setting up a Hydro informatics laboratory.
- ★ The initial funding of ₹3 crore was provided by IIT-M Alumni Dr Parasuram Balasubramanian, CEO of the Theme Work Analytics and Krishnan Narayanan, President of Iitihaasa Research and Digital.

### Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Of Ammunition Stock

- ★ The Ordnance Services Directorate of the **Indian Army** and Munitions India Limited (MIL), Pune commenced implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) to tag its ammunition inventory.
- ★ The implementation shall lead to increased efficiency in all technical activities carried out in Ammunition Depots and reduce inventory carrying costs.
- ★ GS-1 India, a Global Standards organisation set up by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** says that RFID tagging is in conformity with global standards.

### Atal Tunnel Recognized As 'Longest Highway Tunnel'

- ★ During a landmark ceremony on 09 February 2022, in New Delhi, **World Book**

**of Records** officially certified **Atal Tunnel as the 'World's Longest Highway Tunnel above 10,000 Feet'**.

- ★ The **9.02 km long Atal Tunnel**, that connecting Manali to the Lahaul - Spiti Valley runs under the 'Rohtang Pass' that was constructed on the Manali - Leh Highway.
- ★ Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, Director General of Border Roads Organisation (DGBR) received the award from the World Book of Records UK.

### 29 New Integrated Textile Parks

- ★ Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said **29 new integrated textile parks** are to be established in the country to benefit small enterprises in this sector.
- ★ 27 such facilities have already been made operational in the country, under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks for which the Centre has released about 1478 crore rupees.
- ★ Under **Prime Minister Mega Integrated Textile Parks (PM-MITRA)** scheme **seven mega parks** will be set up in the country
- ★ He also included that each such park will generate one lakh direct employment and two lakh crore indirect employment.

### Water Desalination Technique to Make Seawater Drinkable

- ★ At **Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar, IITGn** the research team led by Prof Gopinadhan Kalon, Assistant Professor, Physics developed a cost-effective and environment-friendly water desalination technique to make **seawater drinkable**.
- ★ The research team is inspired by the trees natural intake of water that uses capillary effect compared to energy -intense Reverse Osmosis technology.

- ★ The team created controllable water transport channels in graphite crystal with the help of an electric field and potassium chloride ions, which allowed only freshwater to move through the crystal and blocked the salt ions.

### Exports of Millets to Increase

- ★ **India** is currently the **world's fifth largest exporter of millets** according to the Department of Commerce, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI).
- ★ In 2020, India was the world leader in millet production, with 41% of total global production.
- ★ India exported millets worth USD 26.97 million in 2020-21 when compared to USD 28.5 million in 2019-20, which shows exports are increasing at a 3% CAGR (Compound Annual Growth Rate) over the last five years ending in 2020.
- ★ Top three importers of millets from India in 2020-21.
  - Nepal (USD 6.09 million)
  - UAE (USD 4.84 million)
  - Saudi Arabia (USD 3.84 million)

### India's First Biomass-Based Hydrogen Plant

- ★ Biomass-based hydrogen plant is to be set up in the **Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh**.
- ★ This commercial plant will produce a tonne of hydrogen per day using 30 tonnes of biomass feedstock.
- ★ It is a joint venture between Watomo Energies Ltd and Biezel Green Energy with an investment of ₹24 crore, in which Biezel Green Energy own 50 percent in the joint venture and remaining 50 percent will be under interested farmers.
- ★ To produce hydrogen from the biomass the company owns the technology for a

‘thermally accelerated anerobic digestion (TAD) reactor’.

- ★ It will also produce methane and biochar from biomass.

### 17th Foundation Day of SPMCIL

- ★ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) celebrated its **17th Foundation Day programme on February 11, 2022** through the virtual mode.
- ★ During the occasion, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the first colour souvenir coin on **“Panchtantra”**.
- ★ She emphasized to increase the quality of products and to brand SPMCIL as lead producers of currency and other sovereign products
- ★ Tripti Patra Ghosh, CMD, SPMCIL highlighted the achievements and the innovative initiatives of the Company.
- ★ Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Senior Economic Advisor, DEA, MoF and other senior officials from Ministry and Director (HR) & Director (Finance) of SPMCIL were also present in the event.

### 14-digit Unique ABHA Numbers from the Aarogya Setu App

- ★ Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) under the ownership of the National Health Authority (NHA) announced collaboration with Aarogya Setu to generate **14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number** to the Aarogya Setu app users.
- ★ Aarogya Setu is a health app governed by Government of India.
- ★ Under the ABDM, a user can generate their own unique ABHA number, using their Aadhaar number. If the user does not wish

to use their Aadhaar, they can use their Driving License or Mobile Number to generate the ABHA number.

- ★ With this ABHA number they can link their existing and new medical records including doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital records to share these records with registered health professionals and health service providers.

### Jammu & Kashmir's single-window system with the NSWS

- ★ Lt Governor Manoj Sinha integrated Jammu & Kashmir with the national single-window system (NSWS) and launched the J&K single-window portal.
- ★ By doing this **Jammu & Kashmir** became the **first UT in India to launch Single-Window system**.
- ★ This helps to increase in Ease of Doing Business in the UT.
- ★ NSWS linked with India Industrial Land Bank to help investors identify available land parcels in J&K.
- ★ Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the national single-window system in September 2021, that aims to reduce the bureaucracy involved in establishing businesses, through a centralized portal that enables investors to identify and obtain relevant permits, licenses and clearances.

### Distribution Of Aids and Assistive Devices To 'Divyangjan' in MP

- ★ Total 5286 aids and assistive devices costs ₹2.42 Crore are distributed to 1391 Divyangjan and 553 Senior citizens.
- ★ To Divyangjan and Senior Citizens the aid was distributed under Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase (ADIP) Scheme and 'Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana' (RVY Scheme) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment respectively.

- ★ It was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) in association with ALIMCO and District Administration Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ Dr. Virendra Kumar, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the camp.
- ★ 'An Integrated Mobile Service Delivery Van' which has been developed by the ALIMCO to provide "After Sale Service" and also to provide awareness campaign on use of Aids and Assistive devices was also launched.

### APEDA Celebrates its 36th Foundation Day

- ★ Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) on **13<sup>th</sup> February 2022** celebrated its **36th Foundation Day**.
- ★ APEDA focuses on promoting of exports of ethnic agricultural products and Geographical Indications tagged as well as indigenous products.
- ★ The target given to APEDA in the current financial year FY 2022 is 23.7 billion dollar, out of which more than 70 per cent has been achieved till January 2022.

### Telangana State with British Council

- ★ **The Government of Telangana** signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **British Council** to expand higher education globally, to enhance mobility, and to share information and skills.
- ★ The MoU has also been agreed between the Research and Innovation Centre of Hyderabad (RICH) and the British Council, to monitor both organization that work closely to boost new partnerships between universities, research institutions and centres of excellence.
- ★ It will also focus further research in the fields of aerospace, defence, life sciences

and pharmaceuticals, food and agriculture, and sustainability.

## Medaram Jathara Festival 2022

- ★ *The Medaram Jathara festival is celebrated once in two years in the month of "Magha" (February) by the Koya tribe- second-largest Tribal Community of Telangana for four days (16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> February, 2022).*
- ★ *Medaram Jathara is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela.*
- ★ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned ₹2.26 Crores for establishing infrastructural and organizational activities.
- ★ As the country is celebrating AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav, the Government of India has announced that tribal culture and heritage will be the main focus of 2022.
- ★ Medaram Jathara is celebrated in honour of the Goddesses Sammakka and Saralamma.
- ★ Koyas in collaboration with the Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Telangana celebrate the festival.

## Snow Sculpture in Ladakh as a Tourist Attraction

- ★ Lt. Governor of Ladakh R.K. Mathur and Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh informed that Snow Sculpture will be introduced in Ladakh from winter season as a tourist attraction and also to create job opportunities for the locals.
- ★ First Ladakh Ice and Snow-Sculpture Workshop 2022 was held on February 11, 2022. It was organised by Kangsing Snow and Ice Sculpture Association in association with Ladakh Police at Sangtakchan in Tsogsti.

- ★ Also informed that he promotes the UT to plant "Leh Berry", commercial plantation of Ladakh from April-May this year, which is an exclusive food product of the cold desert and also creates wide-ranging entrepreneurship.
- ★ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Science & Technology is promoting "Leh Berry" cultivation.

## Agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil Reduces to 5 per cent

- ★ The agri-cess for Crude Palm Oil has been reduced from 7.5 percent to 5 percent, in order to provide further relief to consumers and to keep in check any further rise in the prices of domestic edible oils.
- ★ The cess has been reduced with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- ★ Reduction in agri-cess causes the import tax gap between Crude Palm Oil and Refined Palm Oil to increase to 8.25 percent which will benefit the domestic refining industry to import Crude Oil as reported by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution.

## 'Hope Express' to Prevent Cancer

- ★ At the launch of a state-of-the-art Mosaic-3D radiation machine at a private hospital in Kolhapur Maharashtra, Health Minister of Maharashtra Rajesh Tope announced that "Hope Express" will be launched in the state to prevent cancer.
- ★ This is the first such machine in India. The State Health Minister also promised to take initiative to start Hope Express in every district of the state through district planning.
- ★ He also inaugurated the Oncoprime Cancer Center online at the Hattarki Hospital in Gadhinglaj to benefit patients in rural areas.



## Long Rail-cum-Road-Bridge over Ganga River at Munger in Bihar

- ★ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, along with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over the Ganga River at Munger in Bihar virtually.
- ★ The bridge has been constructed on NH 333B and the cost of the project is 696 crore rupees.
- ★ With the construction of this bridge, the distance from Munger to Khagaria will be less than 100 km and the distance from Munger to Begusarai will be less than 20 km.
- ★ This project will give a boost to tourism, agriculture and industry, which will increase employment. This project will bring progress and prosperity in the entire region.

## 4th India - Australia Energy Dialogue

- ★ On 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the **4<sup>th</sup> edition of India – Australia Energy Dialogue** was held.
- ★ The Ministry of Power and New & Renewable Energy, Mr. R.K. Singh, India and Ministry of Energy and Emissions Reduction, Mr. Angus Taylor, Australia co-chaired the meeting.
- ★ During the meeting a Letter of Intent (LoI) signed on New and Renewable Energy Technology to focus on advancing technology and clean energy transition.
- ★ They signed agreement on five projects. They are Power, New & Renewable Energy, Coal & Mines, Critical Minerals and Oil & Gas.

## India's G20 Presidency

- ★ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the setting up of a G20 Secretariat.
- ★ **India** holds the Presidency of **G20 Summit in 2023**. G20 is the gathering for international economic cooperation that plays an important role in global economic governance.
- ★ The G20 summit will be held from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.
- ★ The Secretariat will be appointed by Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Home Minister, External Affairs Minister
- ★ Commerce & Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister **Piyush Goyal appointed as India's G20 Sherpa**.
- ★ Indonesia will host the G20 summit in 2022.
- ★ Brazil will host the G20 summit in 2024.

## 58th meeting of CSMC under PMAY(U)

- ★ On 15 February 2022, **Shri Manoj Joshi**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) chaired **58<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) virtually**.
- ★ **During the meeting 60,000 houses** were approved for construction in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.
- ★ The total investment under the Mission is **₹7.52 Lakh crore**.
- ★ The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY(U) is **114.04 Lakh**.
- ★ **54.78 Lakh houses** have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.
- ★ **During the meeting, a booklet named 'Transformative Reforms**

**Towards Housing for All'** was released by Secretary, MoHUA that describes the transformative journey of PMAY(U) to complete the target of Prime Minister vision of 'Housing for All'.

- ★ **On the occasion 'Awas Par Samvaad'** was also released as the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ★ Awas Par Samvaad, the first- of-its-kind initiative in the urban housing sector to create awareness amongst multiple stakeholders.

## World Sustainable Development Summit

- ★ On 16 February 2022, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will address World Sustainable Development Summit organized by the **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** in a virtual mode.
- ★ During the meeting discussion on a wide range of issues including climate change, sustainable production, energy transitions, global commons and resource security takes place.
- ★ The theme for this year is **'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'**.
- ★ President of Dominican Republic Luis Abinader, President of Guyana Dr. Irfaan Ali, Deputy Secretary General of United Nations, Amina J Mohammed, heads of various intergovernmental organisations and Ministers and Envoys from other countries also attended the meeting.

## India Signs MoU with WFP

- ★ **India** signed an agreement with the United Nation's **World Food Programme (WFP)** for the distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat to Afghanistan through Pakistan by road.
- ★ MoU signed as part of a humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

- ★ The agreement between India and WFP was announced by the Indian Embassy in Rome.
- ★ Ambassador of India to Italy, Neena Malhotra handed over the MoU for WFP to take charge of the wheat convoys when they reach Afghanistan and to distribute them to those Afghans who are facing a humanitarian crisis.
- ★ WFP called it a **"landmark" agreement**.

## Work Plan 2022 Signed Between India and Germany

- ★ On 16 February 2022, Shri Piyush Goyal, the Indian Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and Dr Deniela Bronstrup, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy held the 8th Annual Meeting of the Indo-German Working Group in virtual mode.
- ★ The meeting aims to focus is to strengthen Quality Infrastructure, reduce technical barriers to trade, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection.
- ★ A publication was released on "United in Quality and Safety" providing information about the quality infrastructure in Germany and the European Union.
- ★ The Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII) study conducted by the German side was released.
- ★ In the GQII report, India ranked at 10th place in the world for overall quality infrastructure environment in the country with the score of 95.6.
- ★ India has been placed at 7th position on standardization aspect, 9th for accreditation activities and 19th for the metrology related activities.

## Dubai EXPO 2020

- ★ On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture &



Farmers Welfare, Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, will inaugurate the 'Food, Agriculture and Livelihood' which is to be conducted for a period of two weeks at the India Pavilion in EXPO2020 Dubai.

- ★ Agriculture, with its allied sectors, is the largest livelihood provider in the country. India is among the 15 leading exporters of agricultural products in the world.
- ★ India will showcase its ability in sectors like food processing, horticulture, dairy, fisheries, and organic farming and the vast investment opportunities it offers.
- ★ India declared the year **2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'**. Millets Food Festival will also be held as part of Dubai EXPO.

### NITI Aayog and PhonePe to Launch Fintech Open Hackathon

- ★ **NITI Aayog in collaboration with PhonePe** will launch the Fintech Open Hackathon.
- ★ It aims to showcase path-breaking solutions for the Fintech Ecosystem.
- ★ The Hackathon will provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators and developers from all over India code.

### Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project

- ★ The **Northern Railways** has achieved the connection of the longest 12.758 km tunnel named T49 between Sumber and Arpinchala station on the Katra-Banihal section under the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- ★ The USBRL project is planned for 345 km aims to provide reliable transportation system to **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- ★ **T49** has become the longest tunnel of the Indian Railways surpassing the 11.2 km-

long Pir Panjal tunnel constructed by USBRL on the Banihal-Qazigund section.

- ★ The designed speed of the tunnel is 100 kmph. The main tunnel and escape tunnel are the two tubes of the T49 tunnel, which has been constructed by New Austrian Tunneling Method and the cross section of the tunnel is modified as horseshoe shaped.

### NCB organises Darkathon - 2022

- ★ Director-General SN Pradhan, **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**, is organising the **Darkathon -2022 in New Delhi**.
- ★ Darkathon-2022 is to find solutions to combat drug trafficking through darknet across the globe.
- ★ The initiative aims at involving students, youth and technical experts to find effective solutions to identify the facelessness of darknet markets.
- ★ The winner of Darkathon will be awarded with cash of 2.5 Lakh rupees. First Runner-up will receive 2 lakh rupees while third runner-up will be given 1.5 lakh rupees.

### MoU Signed Between Ministry of Tourism and Alliance Air Aviation Limited

- ★ On 17 February 2022, Ms. Rupinder Brar, Additional Director General, Ministry of Tourism and Mr. Vineet Sood, Chief Executive Office M/s Alliance Air Aviation Limited jointly signed the MoU in New Delhi.
- ★ The objective of the MoU is to position India as a preferred tourism destination in the tourism and to promote an integrated marketing of Domestic Indian Tourism
- ★ Alliance Air plays a vital role in promoting "Regional Connectivity Scheme" (RCS) of Government of India which is being promoted under the Prime Minister's

UDAN- (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme.

### Additional Railway Lines in Maharashtra

- ★ On 18 February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to construct two additional railway lines connecting **Thane and Diva in Maharashtra**. He will also flag off two suburban trains of the Mumbai Suburban Railway.
- ★ The two additional railway lines connecting Thane and Diva have been built at a cost of 620 crore rupees. It has 1.4 km long rail flyover, 3 major bridges and 21 minor bridges.
- ★ These lines will significantly remove the interference of long-distance train's traffic with suburban train's traffic in Mumbai.
- ★ These lines will also enable the introduction of 36 new suburban trains in the city.

### Green Hydrogen Policy for Production of Green Hydrogen

- ★ Ministry of Power, New and Renewable Energy R K Singh, has announced Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Policy for production of Green Hydrogen or Green Ammonia using renewable sources of energy.
- ★ Hydrogen and Ammonia are envisaged to be the future fuels to replace fossil fuels.
- ★ The government is taking various measures to facilitate the transition from fossil fuel and fossil fuel-based feed stocks to green hydrogen and green ammonia.
- ★ National Hydrogen Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's 75th Independence Day to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making India a green hydrogen hub.

- ★ This will help in meeting the target of production of **5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030** and the related development of renewable energy capacity.

### New Biotechnology Policy for 2022-27

- ★ **Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has announced New Biotechnology Policy for the year 2022-27.** The strategic projects and mega and large projects are eligible for special packages.
- ★ According to this new policy, the MSMEs with a capital investment of less than 200 crore rupees will be given maximum assistance of 40 crore rupees.
- ★ Similarly, the mega and large projects with a capital investment of more than 200 crore rupees will be assisted up to 25 percent of the total capital expenditure up to a maximum limit of 200 crore rupees.
- ★ This policy is aimed to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Legacy Waste Remediation Proposal of Andhra Pradesh

- ★ Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, with the vision to create Garbage Free Cities by 2026.
- ★ **'Lakshya Zero' Dumpsite** is one of the major objectives under the Mission SBM-U 2.0 to reform 16 crore metric tonnes (MT) of legacy waste.
- ★ Government of India has approved ₹235 crore proposal of **Andhra Pradesh Legacy Waste Remediation** to do away with legacy solid waste dump yards in cities.
- ★ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will assist the proposal worth ₹77.66 crore of ₹235 crore submitted by Andhra Pradesh for remediation of over 42 lakh MT of waste and this the largest one-

time approval of funds for legacy dumpsite remediation to Andhra Pradesh.

- ★ **Nellore Municipal Corporation and Chittoor Municipal Corporation** has proposed to remediate 6.8 lakh MT of legacy waste and 1.3 lakh MT of waste respectively and reclaim 16 acres of land.

### Gobar-Dhan plant-Indore

- ★ On 19 February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **“Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant”** in **Indore** virtually.
- ★ Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd. (IEISL) under a Public Private Partnership model, set up Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle created to implement the project.
- ★ It will produce around 17,000 kg per day of CNG, and 100 tonnes per day of organic compost.
- ★ 50% of CNG produced by the plant will be utilized by the Indore Municipal Corporation and the remaining quantity of CNG will be sold in the open market.
- ★ The Mission is being implemented under the principles of “waste to wealth”, and “circular economy” for maximizing resource recovery which is the initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- ★ The project is expected to yield multiple environmental benefits like reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, providing green energy along with organic compost as fertiliser.

### New India Literacy Programme

- ★ The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** approved a new scheme named **“New India Literacy Programme” for period of 5 years term (2022-2027)**.
- ★ It is also known as “Nav Bharat Literacy Programme”.

- ★ The aim is to focus all the aspects of adult education to align with National Education Policy 2020.
- ★ The total estimation cost of New India Literacy Programme is ₹1037.90 crore, central government shares the amount of ₹700 crore and State government of ₹337.90 crore.
- ★ The Ministry of Education has announced to rename the term **“Adult education” as “Education for all”** to educate non-literates who are 15 years old or above.

### Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- ★ **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Madhya Pradesh on **18th February 2016**. It has successfully completed **six years of its implementation**.
- ★ The government said that over one lakh seven thousand crore rupees have been paid under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana till February 2022.
- ★ With this scheme the farmer can report crop loss within 72 hours of the occurrence of any event - through Crop Insurance App, Common Service Centres, or the nearest agriculture officer.
- ★ Meri Policy Mere Hath is the policy to be launched to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers at doorstep.
- ★ Over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under the scheme as of February till 2022.

### Caravan Park to Come-up In Wagamon

- ★ **First Caravan Park** is all set to come up in **Wagamon, a hill station in the Idukki district, Kerala**.
- ★ Caravan Tourism was introduced by the state tourism department with private partnership.

- ★ The Keravan Kerala project was launched with the aim of tapping new technology and facilities in the tourism sector.
- ★ Artists, artisans and Kudumbasree Mission would also form part of the projects.

### Legacy Waste Remediation Proposal of Andhra Pradesh

- ★ Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021, with the vision to create Garbage Free Cities by 2026.
- ★ **‘Lakshya Zero’ Dumpsite** is one of the major objectives under the Mission SMB-U 2.0 to reform 16 crore metric tonnes (MT) of legacy waste.
- ★ Government of India has approved ₹235 crore proposal of **Andhra Pradesh Legacy Waste Remediation** to do away with legacy solid waste dump yards in cities.
- ★ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) will assist the proposal worth ₹77.66 crore of ₹235 crore submitted by Andhra Pradesh for remediation of over 42 lakh MT of waste and this the largest one-time approval of funds for legacy dumpsite remediation to Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ **Nellore Municipal Corporation and Chittoor Municipal Corporation** has proposed to remediate 6.8 lakh MT of legacy waste and 1.3 lakh MT of waste respectively and reclaim 16 acres of land.

### Gobar-Dhan plant-Indore

- ★ On 19 February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **“Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant”** in **Indore** virtually.
- ★ Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd. (IEISL) under a Public Private Partnership model, set up Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd,

a Special Purpose Vehicle created to implement the project.

- ★ It will produce around 17,000 kg per day of CNG, and 100 tonnes per day of organic compost.
- ★ 50% of CNG produced by the plant will be utilized by the Indore Municipal Corporation and the remaining quantity of CNG will be sold in the open market.
- ★ The Mission is being implemented under the principles of “waste to wealth”, and “circular economy” for maximizing resource recovery which is the initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
- ★ The project is expected to yield multiple environmental benefits like reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, providing green energy along with organic compost as fertiliser.

### New India Literacy Programme

- ★ The **Ministry of Education (MoE)** approved a new scheme named **“New India Literacy Programme” for period of 5 years term (2022-2027)**.
- ★ It is also known as “Nav Bharat Literacy Programme”.
- ★ The aim is to focus all the aspects of adult education to align with National Education Policy 2020.
- ★ The total estimation cost of New India Literacy Programme is ₹1037.90 crore, central government shares the amount of ₹700 crore and State government of ₹337.90 crore.
- ★ The Ministry of Education has announced to rename the term **“Adult education”** as **“Education for all”** to educate non-literates who are 15 years old or above.

### Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

- ★ **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** launched by Prime Minister



Narendra Modi in Madhya Pradesh on **18th February 2016**. It has successfully completed **six years of its implementation**.

- ★ The government said that over one lakh seven thousand crore rupees have been paid under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana till February 2022.
- ★ With this scheme the farmer can report crop loss within 72 hours of the occurrence of any event - through Crop Insurance App, Common Service Centres, or the nearest agriculture officer.
- ★ Meri Policy Mere Hath is the policy to be launched to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers at doorstep.
- ★ Over 36 crore farmer applications have been insured under the scheme as of February till 2022.

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- ★ The Keravan Kerala project was launched with the aim of tapping new technology and facilities in the tourism sector.
- ★ Artists, artisans and Kudumbasree Mission would also form part of the projects.

### President Kovind to Review Indian Naval Fleet

- ★ **President Ram Nath Kovind**, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces will be reviewing the Naval Fleet comprising over 60 ships and submarines and 55 aircraft on the event conducted at **Visakhapatnam**.
- ★ This is **the 12th edition** of Fleet Review conducted on the occasion of the 75th

anniversary of India's Independence as the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

- ★ The President's boat **INS Sumitra**, is an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel.
- ★ The Review will be followed by the release of a special First Day Cover and a commemorative stamp by the President in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of State for Communication Devusinh J Chauhan.

### PM Modi launches 'Kisan Drone Yatra'

- ★ Kisan Drone Yatra, an initiative by Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and flagged off 100 Kisan Drones.
- ★ It is launched in cities and states across the country to spray pesticides to support the farmers.
- ★ High-capacity drones will be used to carry vegetables, fruits and flowers to market directly to the market with minimal damage, consuming lesser time and boosting their profit.
- ★ With this initiative India will soon emerge as a global leader in the drone sector.

### India's First Biosafety Level-3 Mobile Lab Launched in Nashik

- ★ Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Minister of state (MoS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched India's and South Asia's First Biosafety level-3 mobile laboratory in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- ★ It will strengthen healthcare infrastructure through the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).
- ★ The mobile laboratory will investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious to human beings.

- ★ The laboratory has been designed and built by Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Mumbai based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaid and it was built at a cost of ₹25 crore.
- ★ ICMR Director-General Dr Balram Bhargava termed the launch of the mobile laboratory as 'historic'.

### Smart Card Arms License of Delhi Police

- ★ The **Delhi Police** has become the first police force in the country to **introduce 'Smart Card Arms License'** and it was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Delhi Police.
- ★ It is launched in order to provide techno friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital and with security features the smart card is easy to carry and handle.
- ★ It will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders to replace the existing bulky arms license.
- ★ The card is also integrated with the **e-Beat book of Delhi police through the Shastra mobile app** for effective policing.

### MEA to Organize Craft Festival 'COALESCENCE'

- ★ The Ministry of External Affairs with Indian Council for Cultural Relations, ICCR will organize a Craft Festival- COALESCENCE from 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 in New Delhi to showcase indigenous products. It will be conducted for three days.
- ★ The event is organized under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Week, which is being celebrated from 22 February 2022 to 27 February 2022.
- ★ It will be celebrated in different states of the country.

- ★ This festival will be based on Craft, Culture, Community, and Climate, in which 22 groups of artisans from 11 states will participate on the three days event.

### Khajuraho Dance Festival

- ★ **The 48th edition 'Khajuraho Dance Festival'** will be held from February 20 to February 26, at world famous tourist destination Khajuraho located in Chhatarpur district, **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ★ **Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mangubhai Patel** inaugurated the dance festival organized by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, cultural Department and Kala Academy in the Amrit Mahotsav being celebrated on the 75th anniversary of independence.
- ★ The festival will also be presenting artists with the **'National Kalidas Award'** for dance and the **'MP state Rupankar Kala Award'**.

### First Navigation App in Rivers

- ★ **Assam** was the first state to launch the Night Navigation Mobile Application in rivers for ferry services on Brahmaputra River. It was launched by Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- ★ The night navigation mobile application was developed by the transport department in association with K Raju, the principal scientist of IIT Madras.
- ★ The chief minister also launched e-ticketing system for Dhubri and Silchar ferry services.
- ★ An MoU was also signed between the **Common Service Centers under the ministry of information technology** and transport department for facilitating people at the panchayat level to avail the online services.



## Exercise Eastern Bridge-VI

- ★ **The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)** are scheduled to participate in a bilateral exercise named Eastern Bridge-VI from 21 to 25 February 2022 at **Air Force Station Jodhpur**.
- ★ It will provide an opportunity to enhance operational capability and interoperability between the two Air Forces.
- ★ This year marks the **6th edition** of the exercise.

## Kerala CM Inaugurates 'Huddle Global 2022'

- ★ Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated **3rd edition** of the two-day virtual event '**Huddle Global 2022**', which is one of Asia's largest start-up ecosystem congregations and India's biggest networking platform for entrepreneurs.
- ★ During the event, **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, the nodal company of the Kerala authorities **collaborated with Google** to launch Google for startup accelerators, to attach native startups with the worldwide stratups.
- ★ The event would set the stage for a meeting of globally known start-up founders, mentors, investors, industry leaders, and representatives of government departments, to deliberate a whole range of issues relating to the start-up ecosystem with a global perspective.

## Banks to Sign up Account Aggregator Framework

- ★ On 22 February 2022, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman conducted a post-budget meeting with heads of Banks, Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) and Financial Institutions in Mumbai.

- ★ During the meeting, the Finance Minister urged all the banks to sign up to the **Account Aggregator model** which would facilitate seamless flow of credit for small borrowers and promote digital lending in different regions around the country including in the North Eastern Region.
- ★ various schemes and programmes were also discussed.
- ★ To provide cost-effective services, Finance Minister emphasised that digital banking, digital payments and fintech innovations are the ways to reduce the cost of intermediation.

## DRDO Takes Part in 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujayate'

- ★ As the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence the 'Amrit Mahotsav Science' also titled 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujayate' is organized under the Ministry of Defence.
- ★ 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujayate' is a pan-India programme to showcase science, technology & innovation from every part of the country from February 22-28, 2022.
- ★ The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is also organising exhibitions on the theme 'Amrit Mahotsav Science Showcase: Roadmap to 2047' at 16 cities throughout the country.
- ★ Participation of DRDO in the 'Mahotsav' is an opportunity to highlight the work being done by R&D organizations and showcasing ideas and technology efforts on the road to 2047.
- ★ Different technologies and scientific legacy and technology prowess that have helped find solutions to problems in various sector will be displayed.

## Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council

- ★ On 22 February 2022, the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in Mumbai chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ★ In the meeting, the Council discussed operational issues relating to currency management, financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- ★ It viewed the activities undertaken by the FSDC Sub-Committee chaired by the RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das.
- ★ The Financial Stability and Development Council has been set up by the government in consultation with financial market regulators, to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhance inter-regulatory coordination and promote financial sector development.

## RUSA scheme Extends to March 2026

- ★ The **Union ministry of education (MoE)** has decided to continue the **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)**, a Centre-sponsored scheme for funding the state universities and colleges till **31 March 2026**.
- ★ RUSA has been envisaged to support around 1,600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.
- ★ The new phase of the scheme has been designed to implement some of the recommendations and aims of the new education policy, which suggests some key changes to the current higher education system to revamp and to deliver quality higher education, with equity and inclusion.
- ★ It is structured with an outlay of total expenditure of ₹12,929.16 crore out of

which the central share is ₹8,120.97 crore and the state share is ₹4,808.19 crores.

- ★ Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme was launched in 2013

## GIS Data in Public Domain

- ★ On 22 February 2022, The Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **Giriraj Singh** launched the rural connectivity **Geographic Information Scheme (GIS)** data in the public domain to improve lives in rural India.
- ★ As part of the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)**, GIS data for more than 8 lakh rural facilities as points, 1 million plus habitations, and over 25 lakhs km of rural roads have been collected and digitized using the GIS platform developed for the scheme. These collected rural connectivity GIS data will be available to the public.
- ★ **National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA)**, the nodal implementation agency of PMGSY scheme signed MoU with 3 renowned GIS firms.
- ★ It is collaborating with Gati Shakti for releasing the Rural Connectivity GIS Data in the public domain.
- ★ The collaboration with Gati Shakti will facilitate the exchange of data for better planning and implementation of both schemes.
- ★ The **Government of India** launched **PMGSY** in the year **2000** to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations.
- ★ **Prime Minister** Narendra Modi launched **PM Gati Shakti** in the year **2021** and is a digital platform that brings ministers of India together.

## MILAN-2022

- ★ MILAN 2022 is an **Indian Navy's multilateral exercise** is being conducted

over a duration of 9 days in two phases with the harbour phase scheduled from 25 to 28 February and Sea Phase from 01 to 04 March in **Visakhapatnam**.

- ★ The theme of the MILAN 2022 exercise is '**Camaraderie – Cohesion – Collaboration**'.
- ★ This edition of MILAN would be larger in 'scope and complexity' with focus on exercises at sea including exercises in surface, sub-surface and air domains and weapon firings.
- ★ More than 40 countries will participate in this exercise to enhance mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability between maritime forces.

## Quantum Key Distribution Between Two Cities

- ★ For the first time, Scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, successfully demonstrated Quantum Key Distribution link between Prayagraj and Vindhyachal in Uttar Pradesh, a distance of more than 100 kilometres.
- ★ It enables two parties to produce a shared random secret key known only to them, which can then be used to encrypt and decrypt messages.
- ★ This technology will enable security agencies to plan a suitable quantum communication network with indigenous technology to transfer secure key for finding military grade communication security key.

## Dredging Museum in Visakhapatnam

- ★ On 23 February 2022, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated "Nikarshan Sadan", the Dredging

Corporation Museum at DCI campus in Visakhapatnam.

- ★ The museum displayed models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones from the Eastern Port City of Vizag and he mentioned dredging is very important for strengthening the country's economy.
- ★ Dredging Corporation of India is celebrating 45 years of service to National Ports with the 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav'.
- ★ He also inaugurated skill development facility -Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) in Visakhapatnam. CEMS will equip students with employable engineering and technical skills in the ship design and advanced digital manufacturing.

## Matsya 6000

- ★ National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), announced that the indigenously developed manned underwater submersible vehicle capable of taking three humans to a depth of 6,000 m, Matsya 6000, will be ready as originally planned for its launch in 2024 for the Samudrayaan Mission.
- ★ It is designed by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Ministry of Earth Science under the Deep Ocean Mission.
- ★ It will have an operational capacity of 12h for deep ocean exploration of non-living resources located at a depth between 1,000 and 5,500 meters.

## PM-KISAN Scheme

- ★ On 24 February 2022, Government of India celebrates the **3rd** anniversary of **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- ★ The scheme was launched **on 24th of February in 2019** to provide income support to all landholding farmer's families

across the country to meet their agricultural and domestic needs.

- ★ Under the scheme an amount of ₹6000 per year is transferred in three equal installments of ₹2000 directly into the bank accounts of the farmers.
- ★ Over 1.80 lakh crore rupees have been transferred directly into the bank accounts of the farmer families under PM -KISAN Scheme.
- ★ It is 100% funded by the central government under the Ministry of Agricultural and Farmers welfare.
- ★ In the **Union Budget 2022-2023**, GoI has allocated **₹68,000 crore for PM-KISAN scheme.**

### Indian Railways to launch India's biggest wrestling academy

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to offer the best sports facilities to sportspersons, **the Railway Ministry** had approved to set up **World Class Wrestling Academy** in Indian Railways at **Kishanganj, Delhi.**
- ★ Indian Railways said that the academy will be the biggest in the country and equipped with advanced training facilities.
- ★ Indian Railways has **sanctioned ₹30.76 crores** to set up this academy.
- ★ It will provide opportunities for wrestlers to enhance their skills and become world champions in the coming years.

### MoD signs Agreement with BEL

- ★ Under 'Make in India' initiative of the government in the defence sector, **Ministry of Defence** signed an agreement with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for the retro-modification of Commander Sight of Battle Tanks-T-90.
- ★ They signed an agreement of amount ₹1075 crore.

- ★ The retro-modification will be carried out in 957 T-90 tanks of the Indian Army.
- ★ The new retro-modified Commander sight uses a thermal imager has an ability of detecting the targets at 8 kilometres during day and night.
- ★ Laser Ranger Finder to attack the ranges accurately up to 5 kilometres.

### Exercise Cobra Warrior 22

- ★ The Indian Air Force will participate in the multinational Air Exercise named '**Exercise Cobra Warrior 22**' at Royal Air Force Base in **Waddington, United Kingdom.**
- ★ The Cobra Warrior exercise will be held from 6-27 March, 2022.
- ★ Five indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft will participate in the exercise and a C-17 aircraft will provide transport support.
- ★ The IAF jets will participate in the exercise along with the fighter aircraft of UK and other leading Air Forces.
- ★ It will help enhance combat capability and forge bonds of friendship between the participating Air Forces.

### Industry Connect 2022

- ★ On 25 February 2022, Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate a seminar- Industry Connect 2022, Industry and Academia Synergy in New Delhi.
- ★ It is organized by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association along with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- ★ During the seminar, two technical sessions will be organized on various issues.
- ★ The objective of this seminar is to Support of Technology with the help of TDB



(Technology Development Board) to establish corporation between industry and academia for the sector.

### Conference on Indian Temple Architecture titled "DEVAYATANAM"

- ★ As the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) of Ministry of Culture, organized a two-day international conference **Devayatanam – An odyssey of Indian temple architecture**.
- ★ It will be held for two days 25th & 26th February, 2022 at **Hampi, Karnataka**.
- ★ It was inaugurated by the union minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G Kishan Reddy.
- ★ The aim of the conference is to create interest among scholars and students to learn and respect our heritage and to focus upon the philosophical, religious, social, economic, technical, scientific, art and architectural aspects of temple.

### MSME RuPay Credit Card

- ★ At the two-day MSME Conclave held in the Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra **Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises**, Shri Narayan Rane with **Union Bank of India** launched the **Union MSME RuPay Credit Card**.
- ★ The card is being offered by Union Bank of India in association with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ★ It provides a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses.
- ★ MSME borrowers will be able to enjoy an interest-free credit period of up to 50 days on their business spends.

### Sustainable Cities Development Programme

- ★ On February 24, 2022 **the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work on a jointly designed 'Sustainable Cities India programme'.
- ★ The main focus is to create an enabling environment for cities to generate decarbonization solutions across the energy, transport, and the built environment sectors.
- ★ This initiative comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's commitment to **turn net zero by 2070** as a climate mitigation response at COP26.

### India's First e-Waste Eco-Park

- ★ Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia in the cabinet meeting announced to set up India's first e-Waste eco-park and also agreed to device Delhi Film Policy 2022.
- ★ The Delhi government has decided to build India's first ever e-waste eco-park which will take care of rising e-waste.
- ★ The park will be constructed on 20 acres of land where recycling, re-manufacturing work will be done to take care of Delhi's 2 lakh tonnes of e-waste which is produced annually.
- ★ In addition to this, the government will also introduce the Delhi Film Policy 2022 for tourism purposes.
- ★ This will be India's most progressive Film Policy, aiming to create jobs and boost the economy and ₹50 crore film fund will be introduced to support film producers.

## Conference of Ministers of North-Eastern States

- ★ On 28 February 2022, The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, will chair a Regional Conference of Ministers of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), rural water supply and sanitation department of the North-Eastern States at Guwahati, Assam.
- ★ The regional conference will focus on important issues relating to implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- ★ In line with the 'Post Union Budget 2022 – Leaving No Citizen Behind' held on 23 February the union minister will be setting the roadmap for the North-Eastern States.
- ★ In the Union Budget 2022-23 fund allocated for JJM has been increased from ₹45,000 crore in 2021-22 to ₹60,000 crore in 2022-23 and for SBM(G) ₹7,192 crore have been allocated.
- ★ Har Ghar Jal is a flagship programme of the Government of India being implemented in partnership with States/ UTs, which aims to providing tap water connection to every rural household in the country by 2024.
- ★ Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim aim to achieve Har Ghar Jal in 2022.
- ★ Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland aim to achieve in 2023.
- ★ Assam aims to meet the goal in 2024.

## Top state in Overall Installed Renewable Capacity

- ★ Tamil Nadu has achieved the top position in overall installed renewable energy capacity in the country replacing Karnataka reported by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

- ★ Tamil Nadu has been one of the early proponents of clean energy and is at the forefront of India's clean energy transition.
- ★ As of January 31, 2022, Tamil Nadu's total installed renewable capacity is 15,914 MW as compared to Karnataka's total clean energy capacity of 15,795 MW.
- ★ In total rooftop solar installations Gujarat secured first position accounted for 1,679 MW.

## 400 MW Solar Project in Upper Kinnaur by SJVN

- ★ **State-owned SJVN** announced Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has approved development of **400 MW solar park** by the company at **Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh**.
- ★ According to a company statement, an in-principle approval has been granted by the ministry for development of this project under Ultra Mega Renewable Energy Power Parks of its solar park scheme.
- ★ SJVN is a joint venture of the government of India and the government of Himachal Pradesh.
- ★ SJVN Limited is the solar power park developer in Himachal Pradesh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.

## Bhasha Certificate Selfie Campaign

- ★ On 25 February 2022, Ministry of Education launched a campaign 'Bhasha Certificate Selfie' to encourage cultural diversity and promote multilingualism and to boost the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- ★ It was launched to commemorate the International Mother Language Day on 21 February 2022.
- ★ Bhasha Certificate Selfie initiative aims to promote the Bhasha Sangam mobile app,



developed by the Ministry of Education and MyGov India.

- ★ It will promote people to upload their selfies with the certificate from their social media accounts using the hashtag #BhashaCertificateSelfie.
- ★ The certificate is authorized by the Ministry of Education.
- ★ Bhasha Sangam mobile app was launched by Minister of Education and Skill Development Shri Dharmendra Pradhan while commemorating Rashtriya Ekta Diwas which is celebrated on October 31 every year to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ★ Bhasha Sangam mobile app was available in 22 scheduled Indian languages developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

## Government to Setup First IIT Outside India

- ★ As per the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) as a part of the India signed on 18 February 2022 – UAE trade deal The Government of India (GoI) is set to establish the First Indian Institute of Technology in Dubai.
- ★ The 24th IIT in UAE will be the first to be established outside India.
- ★ At present there are 23 IITs in India governed by the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
- ★ The meeting was led by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on the Indian side and UEA was represented by UEA's Minister of Economy, Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri and Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

## Joint Hydro Development Committee

- ★ During the 9th meeting of the Nepal-India Joint Working Group meeting on Power Sector Cooperation, Nepal and India have agreed to form a Joint Hydro Development Committee.
- ★ The two sides have signed an agreement to explore the development of viable hydropower projects in the Himalayan nation with a focus on storage.
- ★ The JWG meeting was co-chaired by Alok Kumar, Power Secretary, Government of India and Devendra Karki Energy Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Government of Nepal.
- ★ The two-country agreed to build more of cross-border power transmission infrastructure, power trade under respective domestic regulations and policy framework, and capacity building assistance as Nepal became an energy surplus country ever since the 456MW Upper Tamakoshi Hydropower Project came into full operation in August 2021.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### World's First Hydrogen-Powered Flying Boat

- ★ **THE JET**, the world's first clean-energy, hydrogen-powered flying boat, is set to be launched in Dubai.
- ★ The Swiss based startup THE JET Zero Emission announced that it has signed an agreement with UAE-based Zenith Marine Services and DWYN to manufacture and operate The Jet.

### ABOUT THE JET

- ★ The boat will cruise without noise over the waters at a speed of 40 knots, and has a capacity of hosting 8-12 passengers.

- ★ It is equipped with two fuel cells, an air conditioner and other environmentally friendly technologies that help reduce carbon emissions.
- ★ THE JET will have its inaugural flight during **the COP28**, which is scheduled to be held in dubai, **UAE in 2023**.

### Sri Lanka to Buy Fuel from Indian Oil to Tide over Energy Crisis

- ★ Sri Lanka has chosen to buy **40,000 metric tonnes of petrol and diesel each** from the **Indian Oil Corporation** as part of the government's efforts to address the island nation's current fuel and energy crisis.
- ★ In the midst of a severe foreign exchange crisis, Power Minister Gamini Lokuge announced that Sri Lanka will hold negotiations with the Indian Oil Corporation's local business.
- ★ Since 2002, the Lanka IOC, a Sri Lankan affiliate of India's largest oil company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has been operating in Sri Lanka.

### North Korea Tests Hwasong-12

- ★ **North Korea** successfully tested its **Hwasong-12** intermediate-range ballistic missile from the **Jagang Province area**.
- ★ This was the first nuclear-capable missile testing undertaken by the country since 2017. The Hwasong-12 has an estimated range of **4,500 km (2,800 miles)**. North Korea's series of missile test-fires, including intermediate-range ballistic missiles, pose a direct and serious threat to us and a grave challenge to international peace and stability.
- ★ The Hwasong-12 is classified as an IRBM with a range of 3,000-5,500 kilometers by the South Korean and U.S. military authorities.

### Exim Bank Extends LOC of \$500 million to Sri Lanka

- ★ The Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) announced that it has extended a US\$ 500 million line of credit to Sri Lanka to help finance the purchase of petroleum products.
- ★ With the signature of the US\$ 500 million LOC deal, the total LOC extended by EXIM Bank to Sri Lanka till date has reached ten, bringing the total value of LOCs extended to US\$ 2.18 billion.
- ★ The provision of petroleum products, railway projects, defence, and infrastructure projects are among the projects covered by the LOCs issued to Sri Lanka.

### Bangladesh to Purchase Railway Wagons from India

- ★ The Bangladesh railways on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022, signed agreement in Dhaka with India to procure 420 broad-gauge wagons from India.
- ★ The agreement was signed between the project director of Bangladesh railways Mizanur Rahman and the Hindustan Engineering and Industries Limited.
- ★ The agreement worth 231 crore Taka (currency of Bangladesh) will be implemented with the joint funding of the Government of Bangladesh and Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project.

### Smoke and Tobacco Free Railway Platform

- ★ **Railway Minister of Bangladesh** Nurul Islam Sujan has announced that all railway premises including platforms and train compartments have been declared **smoke and tobacco-free**.

- ★ Bangladesh Railway has taken up the project in cooperation with a US-based organization for a tobacco-free railway.
- ★ Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, announced to make Bangladesh a tobacco-free nation by 2040. The project with US-based organization will also play a helpful role in building a tobacco-free Bangladesh.

### One Ocean Summit in France

- ★ **France organized one Ocean Summit** from 9th to 11th February in Brest, in cooperation with the United Nations and the World Bank.
- ★ The objective of the Summit is to prepare the international community to take action on preserving and supporting healthy and sustainable ocean ecosystems.
- ★ Several Heads of States and Governments including Germany, United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and Canada will participate in the summit.

### 4th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue

- ★ The **4th edition of India-UK Home affairs** dialogue was held virtually.
- ★ Union home secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, from India and the permanent secretary, home office, Mathew Rycroft from United Kingdom led the meeting.
- ★ During the dialogue, it was agreed to maintain enhanced security cooperation between the two countries and to deepen security-related bilateral engagement.
- ★ The dialogue also covered a wide range of issues relating homeland security, cyber security, extradition cases, migration and mobility.

### India and Australia sign MoU on Tourism cooperation

- ★ On 11th February 2022, **India and Australia** have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Tourism cooperation in the field of Tourism in New Delhi to enhance cooperation and promote expansion of bilateral relations in tourism.
- ★ The agreement was signed between Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, India and The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister of Trade, Tourism and Investment, Australia.
- ★ India and Australia had previously signed a Memorandum of Understanding on tourism cooperation in the field of tourism on 2014 which expired in the year 2019.
- ★ Australia ranked 4th in terms of Foreign Tourist Arrivals to India in 2019 and accounts 3.4% in total tourism share of foreign tourists.
- ★ At present, Ministry of Tourism has MoUs with 45 countries.

### Sri Lanka to Implement Unitary Digital Identity Framework

- ★ India has agreed to provide a grant to **Sri Lanka to implement a 'Unitary Digital Identity framework'**, that is modelled on the Aadhaar card.
- ★ The framework will be launched on the lines of bilateral talks between the Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.
- ★ The personal identity verification program is a digital tool based on biometric data, that can represent the identities of individuals in cyberspace.
- ★ The identification of individual identities that can be accurately verified in digital

and physical environments by combining the two devices.

## Israel to Permit Drones in Civilian Airspace

- ★ **Israel** becomes the first country to allow drones in civilian airspace. Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety recently announced the country's first certification for unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) to operate in civilian airspace.
- ★ The Israeli Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) issued the authority to The Hermes Starliner unmanned system.
- ★ It was manufactured and developed by Elbit Systems, an Israeli defense electronics company.
- ★ The Hermes Starliner can fly for up to 36 hours at an altitude of around 7600 m, and has capability to carry an additional 450 kg of thermal, electro-optical, radar and other payloads.
- ★ The purpose of the UAV in anti-terror as well as border security operations.

## Bangladesh PM to inaugurate Ekushey Book Fair 2022

- ★ **Amar Ekushey Boi Mela**, the largest book fair of **Bangladesh** was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** held in **Dhaka** at the Bangla Academy premises and the adjoining Suhrawardy Udyan.
- ★ It has been organised by the **Bangla Academy** since 1978.
- ★ The country started book fair to commemorate the sacrifices of people killed by Pakistani forces on 21 February 1952 demanding Bangla as the mother language for the East Pakistan.
- ★ 'Bangla Academy Sahitya Puraskar 2021', the prestigious literary award given to 15 recipients under 11 categories during the occasion.

## Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

- ★ On 18 February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi **India** and Crown Prince of **Abu Dhabi** and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE Armed Forces Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan signed an agreement on Economic Partnership.
- ★ As India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and UAE is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its foundation both the leaders agreed to lay out their vision of the historic and friendly relations between the two countries.
- ★ UAE is India's third largest trade partner and bilateral trade and investment ties are expected to see significant enhancements.
- ★ Ministry of Economic Affairs MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said both countries have made substantial progress on some aspects of the free trade agreement.
- ★ **India and the UAE have deepened and transformed their bilateral ties significantly over the past few years.**
- ★ India is participating with one of the largest pavilions in the **Dubai Expo 2020**.

## Nepal Government to Adopt India's Unified Payments Interface

- ★ **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, the international subsidiary of NPCI announced that Nepal will become the first country outside of India to adopt **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** as the payment's platform in the Himalayan nation.
- ★ The adoption of the platform by Nepal is expected to drive the digitalization of cash transactions and furthering the vision and objectives of the Nepal Government and Nepal Rastra Bank as the Central bank.

- ★ NIPL said that the collaboration will enable the last-mile consumers in Nepal to get the benefits of an open interoperable payments system driving immediate payment transfers between bank accounts and merchant payments in real-time.

### Six African Countries to Get Vaccine Production Centres: WHO

- ★ To acquire self-reliance against the Covid pandemic, The World Health Organization has announced that six African countries will be given the revolutionary mRNA technology to set up their own vaccine production centers helping the continent.
- ★ A ceremony marking the mRNA technology transfer will be held later in Brussels at a summit between the European Union and the African Union.
- ★ Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Tunisia will get the technology used in the Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna jabs developed in Europe.
- ★ The Senegalese president said the aim was to have 60% of vaccines administered in Africa will be produced in Africa. In the future, the new African vaccine hub might also produce vaccine for diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV.

### US President Joe Biden Unveils New Sanctions on Russia

- ★ US President Joe Biden unveiled new sanctions on Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.
- ★ He will impose a severe cost on the Russian economy and he also included that Russian asset in America will be frozen.
- ★ Though he stated that US troops would not engage in direct conflict in Ukraine he made a new deployment of ground and air forces to NATO's eastern flank, to defend their NATO allies.

### Funds To Assist Those Affected by Cyclone Emnati

- ★ The **United Nation's World Food Programme** (WFP) has urged for funds to assist those affected by the **Cyclone Emnati in Madagascar**.
- ★ The storm crashed into the south-east part of the island nation and the WFP said that at least 44,000 people have been displaced or affected.
- ★ Since January, Madagascar has suffered four cyclones which have left over 180 people dead and affected about 250,000 others.

## BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Bank in Formosa Bond Market

- ★ This is the first such issuance by any Indian Bank in Formosa Bond market.
- ★ A Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan but denominated in a currency other than the New Taiwan Dollar.
- ★ **State Bank of India** has issued \$300 million Formosa bonds and listed the issuance **on India INX GIFT IFSC**.

#### ABOUT SBI

- ★ SBI HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ SBI Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

### SPMCIL Sets Up Two New Bank Note Printing Lines

- ★ Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL) under its modernization initiatives has set up new Bank Note Printing Lines each at **Currency Note Press, Nashik and Bank Note Press, Dewas**.



### ABOUT SPMCIL

- ★ The Security Printing & Minting Corporation of India Ltd. is a government printing and minting agency.
- ★ It is under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance, was incorporated on 13 January 2006.
- ★ Chairman & MD: Tripti Patra Ghosh.
- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.

### Vedanta Tie up with Union Bank

- ★ **Vedanta** said it has tied up a facility of ₹8,000 crore with **Union Bank of India** to take over a majority of the **syndicated facility** after multiple discussions with potential lenders at 7.75%.
- ★ The replacement facility was availed on December 28 last year to take over the existing Syndicated facility to reduce the overall interest cost of the company.

### ABOUT VEDANTA Limited

- ★ It is an Indian multinational mining company.
- ★ CEO: Sunil Duggal.
- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### ABOUT UBI

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: N Kamakodi

### ‘Surya Shakti Cell’ for Financing Solar Projects

- ★ **State Bank of India (SBI)** along with **Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd** has launched a dedicated Centralised Processing Cell (CPC)- **‘Surya Shakti Cell’**.
- ★ CPC aims to strengthen the existing financing arrangement for solar power projects.

### ABOUT SBI

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara.

### LIC Tie-up with Policy bazaar

- ★ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has tied up with Policy bazaar to digitally offer a wide range of Life Insurance and investment products to its customers across India.
- ★ This is LIC’s first association with a private insurance aggregator, which has mainly relied on its 1.33 million agents for distributing products.
- ★ The alliance will provide insurance services in smaller cities to ensure financial inclusion and social security.

### ABOUT LIC

- ★ LIC HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ LIC Chairperson: M R Kumar.

### GOI Conversion Switch Operation

- ★ The Government of India has done a Conversion Switch Transaction of its securities with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for an amount of ₹1,19,701 crores.
- ★ The GOI undertakes switch operations with RBI and also with market participants to smoothen the liability profile as well as for market development.
- ★ The transaction involved buying back securities that are being matured in FY 2022-23, FY 2023-24 and FY 2024-25 from the RBI and also issuing fresh securities for equivalent market value, to make the transaction cash neutral.
- ★ The transactions were carried out using Financial Benchmarks India Private Limited (FBIL) prices as of January 28, 2022.

#### **ABOUT Government securities:**

- ★ They are the debt instruments issued by GoI through auctions conducted by RBI.
- ★ The two categories of government securities are short term instruments (Treasury Bills) mature in 91 days, 182 days or 364 days and long-term instrument matures within 5 years to 40 years.

#### **RBL Bank Partners with Creditas Solutions**

- ★ RBL Bank partners with Creditas Solutions to automate loan collections.
- ★ The private sector lender will utilize the SaaS (Software as a Service)-based **‘Neo collections’ platform**.
- ★ The Neo Collections Platform is a Do It Yourself (DIY) debt management platform, that will help customers to monitor, manage and pay their dues.
- ★ The platform is powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technology to indicate the convenient action for every customer by offering customized payment plans to service debt, schedule an EMI plan or opt for payment resolution options.

#### **ABOUT RBL**

- ★ MD & CEO: Rajeev Ahuja.
- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### **DBS Bank India Partners with Stellapps**

- ★ DBS Bank India signed an agreement as its banking partner with Stellapps, a leading dairy-tech startup industry, to promote digitisation amongst small dairies across India.
- ★ This initiative helps to support lives and livelihoods through better business and responsible financing.

- ★ Digitisation is expected to improve productivity and quality of milk, transparency and traceability in the supply chain and improve incomes and financial inclusion amongst dairy farmers.
- ★ The partnership is expected to indirectly benefit 20,000 farmers at present and around 100,000 dairy farmers in the near future.
- ★ Stellapps Digital Network and DBS Bank will provide dairy farmers with access to funds required for digitisation. This partnership builds on the Government's Digital India vision.

#### **ABOUT Stellapps**

- ★ CEO: Ranjith Mukundan.
- ★ HQ: Bangalore, Karnataka.

#### **JIVA Programme**

- ★ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched an agroecology-based programme named JIVA Programme that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.
- ★ The main objective of this programme is to use the principles of agroecology long-term sustainability and transform the pre-existing social and natural capital, and emphasizing the farming community towards natural farming where commercial farming cannot be done.
- ★ The JIVA programme will be implemented on a pilot basis in 25 projects across 11 states covering five agroecological zones under this programme investment per hectare will be ₹50,000.

#### **BSE Gets Approval for Trading Electronic Gold Receipts**

- ★ Capital markets regulator **SEBI** has given approval to **BSE for introducing Electronic Gold Receipt (EGR)** on the

stock exchange's platform a form of shares in Demat accounts.

- ★ SEBI came out with a framework for operationalizing the gold exchange, where the yellow metal will be traded in the form of EGRs.
- ★ Under the rules, the entire transaction has been divided into three tranches -- creation of EGR, trading of EGR on stock exchange and conversion of EGR into physical gold.
- ★ The gold can be bought and stored in vaults until physical delivery is required.
- ★ The Finance Ministry has specified EGR as securities under the securities Regulation Act 1956.

### 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy

- ★ Six members Monetary Policy Committee organized by the Reserve Bank of India had released its sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary policy for FY21-22.
- ★ The unchanged policy rates are :

Category	Rates
Repo Rate	4.00%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio	4.00%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio	18.00%

- ★ RBI kept the rates unchanged for the **10th consecutive time.**

### SBI Partners with NSE Academy

- ★ **State Bank of India with NSE Academy**, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Stock Exchange of India announced to launch five online courses.
- ★ This partnership is to promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill.
- ★ Learners can enroll for five inaugural Massive Open Online Courses of SBI on the

NSE knowledge and the courses will be offered to provide an understanding of different aspects of banking -to-banking professionals, students and other learners.

### Yes Bank launches Agri Infinity program

- ★ Private sector lender Yes Bank announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program 'Agri Infinity Program' that seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the sector.
- ★ The program will last up to six months, based on the maturity and readiness of the solution.
- ★ Agri-fintech startups working on financial innovations, pivoting into agri-fintech and exploring the opportunity of adding a financial layer to their core proposition are eligible to this programme.
- ★ The eligible start-ups will get the guidance and support necessary to develop their solutions and apply them across the agricultural value chain.

#### ABOUT YES BANK

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Prashant Kumar.

### BOB will Acquire Stake of Union Bank in IndiaFirst Life Insurance

- ★ Bank of Baroda (BoB) board has approved acquisition of a 21% stake of Union Bank of India in IndiaFirst Life Insurance.
- ★ It is a joint venture between the Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Carmel Point Investments.
- ★ After the completion of transaction, BoB will hold a 65% stake in IndiaFirst Life, Union Bank will hold 9% and Carmel Point Investments India will have the remaining 26% stake.

- ★ According to an exchange filing, IndiaFirst Life Insurance will continue to have long-term agency distribution agreement with both Bank of Baroda and Union Bank after the sale of stake.

#### **ABOUT BOB**

- ★ HQ: Vadodara, Gujarat.
- ★ MD & CEO: Sanjiv Chadha

#### **SEBI makes it voluntary for listed companies to separate roles**

- ★ Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) makes separation of roles of chairperson and managing director (MD) or Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of top 500 listed companies to **'voluntary' from 'mandatory'**.
- ★ Earlier, Separation of roles was to become mandatory from April 1, 2022 for top 500 companies. The market regulator referred various industry representations, highlighting the constraints posed by the prevailing pandemic situation to make the separation of roles requirement voluntary.
- ★ The Uday Kotak committee on corporate governance had recommended that there should be separation roles in listed companies for better and more balanced governance structure by enabling more effective and objective supervision of the management.

#### **'Interest-only home loan' Facility- Standard Chartered Bank**

- ★ **Standard Chartered Bank**, India has launched the 'interest-only home loan' facility for completed residential properties where during the initial period, borrowers can pay only the interest calculated on the principal amount for a limited period.
- ★ This facility is available for new and existing clients.

- ★ Borrowers can choose to pay only the interest amount through Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI) for an initial period of up to one to three years.
- ★ After this, the facility will be treated like a normal loan account where the EMIs comprise of both the principal and interest till the maturity of the loan.
- ★ The facility is available for a loan amount ranging from **₹35 lakh to ₹3.5 crore**. The maximum tenure set for the loan is **30 years for salaried individuals and 25 years for self-employed individuals**.

#### **Edelweiss Asset Management Launches eInvest Mobile App**

- ★ Radhika Gupta, CEO of Edelweiss Asset Management has launched **"eInvest"- a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience**.
- ★ eInvest is an easy investment experience app that will help investors perform all financial transactions.
- ★ The eInvest app comes with an Insta Money feature. It is a mutual fund savings account with an instant withdrawal facility to the registered bank account.
- ★ Start a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), track transaction status, redeem, update personal details, assign a nominee can be done using this app.

#### **ABOUT Edelweiss Mutual Fund**

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Radhika Gupta.

#### **Digital Personal Loans to Google Pay Users**

- ★ **DMI Finance Private Limited (DMI) with Google Pay** announced to launch a digital personal loan product to make reliable credit accessible for pre-qualified users of Google Pay.

- ★ With this agreement, DMI Finance targeted to disburse up to **₹1 lakh per loan**, which would be repayable within maximum of 36 months.
- ★ The loan product will also available to new credit users.

#### **ABOUT DMI Finance Private Limited**

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ MD: Yuvraja C. Singh.

### **RBI Extends Timeline for NBFCs to Meet New NPA Recognition Norms**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the timeline by **six months** for **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)** to meet to the new **Non- Performing Assets (NPA)** recognition norms which was issued in November 2021 extended to **September 2022**.
- ★ Earlier, the deadline to meet norms was March 2022.
- ★ The RBI also clarified that loans classified as NPA will be upgraded to standard category only if all dues are paid.

### **Twitter Tie-up Paytm**

- ★ **Twitter** announced that it has partnered with **Paytm** for **‘Tips’ feature in India**.
- ★ Twitter users will be able to use the Payment digital wallet, Paytm postpaid, debit and credit cards and net banking.
- ★ Users who are above 18 years of age, are eligible to use it on iOS and Android devices.

### **SIDBI Partners with Bihar to Support MSME**

- ★ **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has tied up with the **Government of Bihar** to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector in the state. SIDBI will place

an expert agency with the state industries department.

- ★ For this initiative, SIDBI signed two Memorandum of Understanding with Industries Department and Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA).
- ★ Under the first MoU Bihar's industry department and project management units of SIDBI will work together.
- ★ Under the second MoU SIDBI will work in close coordination with BIADA to benefit MSMEs who want to set up any industrial unit on the land allotted by BIADA so as to promote industrialization.
- ★ This will greatly accelerate the industrial development of Bihar and **Bihar is the 14<sup>th</sup> state of the country**.

### **Flexi Edge-New Insurance Plan**

- ★ **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** has launched its new insurance plan — **Flexi Edge**.
- ★ It is a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings.
- ★ The growing needs of customers starting from savings to income and unplanned or recurring expenses; along with providing life cover to the policyholder in the unfortunate event of the death is addressed by Flexi Edge.
- ★ The plan will provide Premium Protection Benefit and Deferred Survival Benefit Facility.
- ★ There are 3 plan options for the customers to choose
- ★ **Flexi Savings** is a basic saving structure which offers benefits equal to 100 per cent of sum assured.
- ★ **Flexi Income** helps in taking care of income needs and offers benefit equals to



50 percent of the sum assured and cash bonus annually till the end of policy term.

- ★ **Flexi care** offers cash bonus every from end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> policy year till the end of policy term.

#### **ABOUT Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance**

- ★ HQ: Gurugram, Haryana.
- ★ MD & CEO: Anuj Mathur.

#### **Fisdom Partners with BoM**

- ★ A wealth-tech company, **Fisdom**, has joined hands with **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank.
- ★ This partnership is to distribute the wealth products and services through the bank's network and its digital platforms, including the mobile banking app and internet banking.
- ★ Customers can view all the details related to funds and can track the performances of mutual funds real time.

#### **ABOUT BoM**

- ★ HQ: Pune, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: A S Rajeev.

#### **World Bank and GOI to Sign Agreement for REWARD Project**

- ★ **The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed USD 115 million (INR 869 crore) loan agreement to strengthen the "Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development" (REWARD) Programme.**
- ★ It will help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers'

resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.

- ★ The Government of India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and doubling farmers' income by 2023.
- ★ REWARD project is an initiative of Department of Land Resources under Ministry of Rural Development and World Bank.
- ★ It is a Six-year project proposed from 2021-2026 and one of the largest watershed management programs in the world.
- ★ World Bank through its International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), will give USD 115 million loan. It has a maturity period of 15 years.
- ★ Karnataka is given USD 60 million, Odisha with USD 49 million and USD 6 million for the central government's Department of Land Resources.

#### **ABOUT World Bank**

- ★ HQ: Washington, US.
- ★ President: David Malpass.

#### **SBI Ecowrap Report**

- ★ Ecowrap is released by State Bank of India.
- ★ Based on SBI Nowcasting Model, it has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) **growth rate of India for FY22 to 8.8 per cent.** Earlier this was estimated at 9.3 per cent.
- ★ The report projects the GDP to grow at 5.8 percent in the third quarter Q3 of FY22.
- ★ 'Nowcasting Model' is based on **41 high frequency** indicators associated with industry activities, service activities and, global economy. The model uses the dynamic factor model to estimate the common or representative or latent factor of all the 41 high frequency indicators from Q4 of FY13 to Q3 of FY22.

## IRCTC BoB Rupay Card

- ★ A wholly-owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) together launched the IRCTC BoB RuPay contactless credit card.
- ★ The card will offer maximum savings to frequent railway travellers. The card user will also get multiple benefits for shopping from groceries to fuel. Cardholders can also use this card to transact at international merchants and ATMs through the JCB network.
- ★ Customer will be provided with 1000 bonus reward points for purchase worth ₹1000 or more within 45 days of issuance of card.
- ★ The card will provide 1 percent transaction fee waiver for customer on all train ticket bookings.
- ★ The customer can earn 40 reward point per ₹100 spent for bookings made through IRCTC website and 4 reward points per ₹100 spent on grocery.
- ★ The reward points can be redeemed on the IRCTC website or Mobile app.

### About BFSL:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Shailendra Singh.

## IIFL Home Finance Ltd Partners with Asian Development Bank

- ★ **IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL)** has signed a **USD 68-million loan** agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to improve financial access to affordable green housing for lower-income groups in India.
- ★ It mainly focuses on the efficient use of energy, water and building material and the design should be environmentally more climate resilient.

- ★ The funding comprises a direct ADB loan of up to USD 58 million and USD 10-million concessional loan by the Canadian Climate Fund for the Private Sector in Asia (CFPS).
- ★ This is ADB's first such agreement with the private sector in the country.
- ★ From ADB's loan, 80 per cent will be lent to women borrowers or co-borrowers and 20 per cent will be allocated to financing mortgages for green-certified homes.

## Paytm Payments Bank Becomes Acquiring Partner For e-RUPI Service

- ★ **Paytm Payment Bank** announced that it had become an official acquiring partner for the government's **e-RUPI service** through e-RUPI vouchers.
- ★ The bank has partnered with One97 Communications Ltd (OCL) parent company of Paytm for improving strong merchant base.
- ★ With this, Paytm's merchants will now collect payments through e-RUPI by scanning the voucher developed by **the National Payment Corporation of India** through its UPI platform and entering the amount to be paid directly into their bank accounts.
- ★ e-RUPI is a cashless prepaid voucher that beneficiaries can present through SMS or QR Code. Recently Reserve Bank of India has increased the capital of e-RUPI vouchers issued by the government to ₹1 lakh from ₹10,000.

### About PPBL

- ★ HQ: Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ★ MD & CEO: Satish Kumar Gupta.

## HDFC Bank Partners with ICEPL

- ★ Earlier on 19th February 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the municipal solid waste

based Gobar-Dhan plant in Indore city, Madhya Pradesh.

- ★ India's leading private sector **bank, HDFC bank** has been collaborated with **Indore clean energy private limited (ICEPL)** for development of 550 tonne per day of municipal solid waste (MSW) into compressed biogas (CBG)
- ★ HDFC Bank funded this project under its ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance). ICEPL has a 20-Year Concession Agreement with Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) for procurement of municipal solid waste and converting it to CBG.
- ★ Indore clean energy pvt ltd (ICEPL), the largest waste to energy plant in Asia is promoted by **Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF)**, which is the largest climate impact fund in India with investors like National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and Government of UK.

### TripMoney partners with SBM Bank India to launch Global Credit Card

- ★ Fintech arm of MakeMyTrip, TripMoney and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card, TripMoney Global Card.
- ★ This card is powered by visa that can be used over 150 countries and empowers Indian travellers with a safe, transparent, and swift money management solution.
- ★ The card mainly targets at international travellers, including the student population, who prefer a combination of lifestyle benefits with advanced digital money management features.
- ★ The card carries no hidden charges such as currency exchange conversion across POS, ATMs, and e commerce websites.

### Edelweiss General Insurance Partners with Ashv Finance

- ★ Digital Insurer, Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI), has joined hands with Ashv Finance, a tech-led NBFC present in India, to offer financial protection to all business loan borrowers of Ashv Finance.
- ★ Ashv Finance is offering credit to fund the growth aspirations of small businesses and MSMEs.
- ★ EGI will offer health insurance cover to all the customers of Ashv Finance in all major cities across the country depending on the loan amount and loan tenure of the customer.
- ★ The business loan and the insurance policy will be processed together, digitally and with zero paperwork, offering complete ease and convenience to customers.

#### About EGI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Shanai Ghosh.

#### About Ashv Finance:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ CEO: Nikesh Kumar Sinha.

### Mastercard tie-up with SBI Payments

- ★ **Mastercard** along with **State Bank of India Payments** partnered with Lucknow, Guwahati and Varanasi to generate greater awareness and understanding of digital payments.
- ★ Mastercard organized this as a part of its **campaign 'Team Cashless India'**.
- ★ In Lucknow, Mastercard partnered with local transport bodies, including the Auto Rickshaw Association, to enable more than 700 auto-rickshaw drivers to accept digital payments.
- ★ In Varanasi, Mastercard partnered with the Boat Union to encourage over 1,000

members to accept digital payments from tourists.

- ★ In Guwahati with All Assam's Restaurant Association (AARA) equips restaurant and hotel owners with a safe, seamless, secure mode of payment to consumers as a part of Government's 'Digital Northeast Vision 2022'.
- ★ The Team Cashless India campaign is part of Mastercard's worldwide commitment to bring 1 billion people and 50 million micro-businesses into the digital economy by 2025.

### Standard Chartered and IATA to Launch Airline Payment Platform

- ★ Global banking group, Standard Chartered has partnered with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to launch new payment platform “**IATA Pay**” in India to enable instant airline payment.
- ★ IATA Pay in India is powered by Standard Chartered's Straight2Bank Pay, which is a payment platform that helps online merchants digitalise collections through multiple payment options through single global connectivity.
- ★ This new service will simplify the payment process for the consumers.
- ★ It will streamline the collection and settlement process for airlines, as well as enable IATA to provide an industry-wide e-commerce solution.
- ★ It enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as UPI Scan & Pay and UPI Collect.
- ★ It is already available in Europe markets.

### RBI Directed NBFCs to Implement CFSS

- ★ Reserve Bank of India directed certain group of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC) to mandatorily

implement 'Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)' by **September 30, 2025**.

- ★ CFSS is similar to the Core Banking Solution (CBS) adopted by banks.
- ★ It is implemented in order to provide seamless customer interface and to have a centralised data base.
- ★ Currently RBI has directed the NBFCs- Middle Layer and NBFC- Upper Layer with 10 and more 'fixed point service delivery units' as on October 1, 2022 to implement CFSS on or before September 30, 2025.
- ★ NBFC - Upper Layer shall ensure that the CFSS is implemented at least in 70 per cent of 'Fixed point service delivery units' on or before September 30, 2024.
- ★ A 'fixed point service delivery unit' is a place of operation from where the business activity of non-banking financial intermediation is carried out by a NBFC.
- ★ The Middle Layer consists of all deposit taking NBFCs (NBFC-Ds), irrespective of asset size; non-deposit taking NBFCs with asset size of ₹1,000 crore and above.
- ★ It is not mandatory for NBFC - Base Layer and NBFC - Middle and Upper Layers with fewer than 10 'Fixed point service delivery units'.

#### About RBI:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ Governor: Shaktikanta Das.

### EaseMyTrip Partners with Toffee Insurance

- ★ India's second largest online travel platform, **EaseMyTrip** has partnered with one of the fastest-growing InsurTech companies, **Toffee Insurance** to provide insurance solutions to its customers.
- ★ It is first of its kind to offer free of charge, full refund medical policy that provides the additional travel flexibility.

- ★ The free of charge policy, eliminates the risk of losing booking charges as customer will get a complete refund including the money deducted by airlines.

#### About EaseMyTrip:

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ CEO: Nishant Pitti.

### Moody's Raises India's Growth Forecast

- ★ On 24 February 2022, American credit rating agency, Moody's Investors Service has raised India's Gross domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to **9.5 percent for 2022**.
- ★ Earlier it was projected 7 percent for the financial year 2022.
- ★ Goods and Service tax collection retail activity and Purchasing Managers' Index are the main indicators.
- ★ Union Budget 2022 has prioritized growth, with a 36 percent increase in allocation to capital expenditure to 2.9 percent of GDP for the fiscal year 2022-23.

### Star Health and SIB Enters into Partnership to Offer Health Insurance

- ★ South Indian Bank has joined hands with India's leading standalone health insurance company, Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd., as a corporate agent to provide innovative health insurance products.
- ★ The Bank's customers can avail benefits of Star Health's retail insurance products and group affinity products through the Bank's various distribution channels thus helping customers address their health insurance needs.
- ★ Star Health and Allied Insurance is India's first Standalone Health Insurance Provider.

#### About Star Health and Allied Insurance

- ★ HQ: Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ★ CEO: V.Jagannathan.

#### About SIB

- ★ HQ: Thrissur, Kerala
- ★ MD & CEO: Murali, Ramakrishnan.

### NHPC and HDFC Bank

- ★ State-owned **National Hydropower Generation Company (NHPC)** has inked a pact **with HDFC bank** to securitise Return on Equity (RoE) of its 540-MW Chamara-I Power Plant in Himachal Pradesh for 10 years.
- ★ The amount of the securitisation facility has been arrived ₹1,016.39 crore (5.24 per cent) per annum discounting rate linked with three-month Treasury bills (T-bills).
- ★ In December 2021, NHPC's board had approved the proposal for monetisation by securitisation through bidding process of return on equity (RoE) of Chamara-1 Power Station (3 X 180 MW), Himachal Pradesh, and further to monetise RoE of one or more power stations for 5 or 10 or 15 years in one go.

#### About HDFC:

- ★ HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ MD & CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan.

### NDB to Open Office in Gift City

- ★ New Development Bank (NDB) will become the first multilateral agency to open an office in the Gujarat International Finance Tech City (Gift).
- ★ Anil Kishora, NDB vice president representing India said the multilateral agency will take all requisite steps to make the Indian office operational by the middle of May 2022.
- ★ To support crucial infrastructure projects in India NDB partners with newly launched National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID).



### About NDB

- ★ HQ: China.
- ★ President: Marcos Prado Troyjo.

## BUSINESS NEWS

### L&T, Microsoft Sign Partnership to Develop Cloud Offering

- ★ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Microsoft India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a regulated sector focused cloud offering to empower customers with the best-of-breed cloud computing and infrastructure services.
- ★ L&T and Microsoft will co-engage to develop architectures and roadmaps to modernize their traditional data centers to potentially hybrid models.
- ★ Under the MoU, the two companies will set up a joint governance group to define future platform designs, investments, and commercial/business models to service the regulated sectors' emerging technology requirements.

### 200 Trucks to Bangladesh

- ★ Indian commercial vehicle maker Ashok Leyland will be supplying 200 trucks to the Bangladesh government as part of the USD 2 billion Line of Credit (LOC) announced by PM of India.
- ★ Ashok Leyland had earlier received an order for 135 built trucks consisting of 3T truck, hydraulic beam lifter and Sewerage sucker based on the tender floated by the government of Bangladesh.
- ★ These have been handed over to the country's Roads and Highways department in the current financial year.

### Sonata Software Partners with Microsoft

- ★ Sonata Software, a global IT Services and Technology Solutions Company on Monday announced its partnership with Microsoft for its launch of 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail', further strengthening its offerings to the retail industry.
- ★ The 'Microsoft Cloud for Retail' collaboration is expected to strengthen the relationship as the company has been a partner with Microsoft for over three decades.
- ★ The Sonata Connected Retail solution is available in Microsoft AppSource.
- ★ Sonata Connected Retail provides personalised, intelligent, and adaptive solutions for retailers.

### Dabur Becomes 100 per cent "Plastic Waste Neutral company"

- ★ India's Leading Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) companies declared that the company has become India's first 100 per cent Plastic Waste Neutral Company.
- ★ It is to be the first Indian consumer goods company to achieve this record.
- ★ Dabur has collected, processed and recycled around 27,000 MT of post-consumer plastic waste from all over India in the financial year 2021-22.
- ★ Dabur launched its plastic waste management initiative in 2017-2018.

### Department of Commerce to achieve Target by 2027

- ★ **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** has chaired a meeting focused on the restructuring to make the department of commerce and to achieve **the target of USD 2 trillion exports by 2027.**

- ★ The Commerce Ministry also said that there will be a strengthened negotiation ecosystem with right expertise through multi skilled negotiations team and robust end-to-end processes with clearly defined focus areas.
- ★ An inter-ministerial Trade Remedies Review committee including the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Finance also proposed for transparency.
- ★ Centralization and digitization of trade facilitation processes has been recommended to drive ease of compliance and scheme administration.
- ★ State Governments including states like Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu who are open to investment-related infrastructure will be benefited if they have a proactive role with the Union Government.
- ★ NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, IT Hardware manufacturers and Data Centre software and Cloud Tool developers also participated in the meeting.
- ★ The Ministry of Information and technology will collaborate with Data centre developers, operators and cloud service providers to prepare the National Cloud policy.

## Offshore Wind Projects

- ★ **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited**, a 100 per cent subsidiary of Tata Power signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Germany-based RWE Renewables GmbH** to develop offshore wind projects in India.
- ★ It is signed to achieve India's Vision of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind installations by 2030 to face the increasing power demands.
- ★ Tata Power, which is one of India's largest integrated power companies and India is an attractive market to develop opportunities for offshore wind as it has a large coastline of about 7,600 kilometres.
- ★ The government is in the process of conducting detailed technical studies and devising the regulatory framework to establish the first auctions for offshore wind of the coast of **Tamil Nadu and Gujarat**.

## Investment in Data Industry

- ★ The Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Rajeev Chandrasekar has announced that the Centre has set a target of 300 billion dollars investment in the Data Industry in 2025.

## ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

### NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. Acquires 5% Equity Stake in PXIL

- ★ NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. (NVVN), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd. has acquired 5% equity stake in Power Exchange of India Ltd (PXIL).
- ★ PXIL is India's first institutionally promoted power exchange, promoted by NSE Investment Ltd. & NCDEX and has been providing innovative and credible solutions since 2008.
- ★ NVVN has purchased these shares from NSE India Limited, a co-promoter shareholder of PXIL.
- ★ NVVN is one of the top power traders in India and the acquisition of an equity stake in PXIL is a strategic opportunity for NVVN to achieve and maintain a leadership position in the rapidly changing Power trading market.

## APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

### Portugal PM Antonio Costa Reelected

- ★ **Portugal's ruling Socialists party** secured a majority by winning 117 seats in the 230-seat parliament.
- ★ The win gives ruling Portuguese prime minister **Antonio Costa** an absolute majority to govern solo.
- ★ His Socialists Party, Costa's party received 42% of the votes out of the 99.13% of the votes counted.

### First Female President of Honduras

- ★ Leftist **Xiomara Castro** was sworn as the **first woman president of Honduras**, vowing to reform the crime- and poverty-stricken nation into a "socialist and democratic state". She belongs to the Freedom and Refoundation Party.
- ★ Xiomara Castro, 62-year-old replaces Juan Orlando Hernandez, as 56<sup>th</sup> President of Honduras.

### Defence Intelligence Agency Head

- ★ Lieutenant General **GAV Reddy** has been appointed as the new head of the **Defence Intelligence Agency**. General Reddy would be succeeding **Lt Gen KJS Dhillon**.
- ★ The Director-General of the Defence Intelligence Agency is the head of the organization and is among the principal advisors on intelligence to the Minister of Defence and the Chief of Defence Staff. The post of the director general is held on a rotation basis between the three-Armed services.

### HPCL Launches 'Happy Shop' in Mumbai

- ★ Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd., unveiled its branded store **"Happy Shop" in Mumbai** marking its foray into non-fuel retailing.
- ★ The store will provide home utility products including food, toiletries, healthcare products, bakery products, groceries, medicines and more.
- ★ The core objective is to provide a range of good quality daily use products to customers at their convenience.
- ★ HPCL has launched the platform in a purely online format by opening the Online Store at Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- ★ HPCL is also marketing branded packaged drinking water at its Retail Outlets across the country under the name **'Paani@Club HP'**.
- ★ The first retail store was launched by HPCL in September 2021 in Mumbai at Company's Retail Outlet located at Nepean Sea Road.

### PNB - Pathanjali Co-Branded Contactless Card Launched

- ★ **Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL)** have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The co-branded credit cards are offered on NPCI's RuPay Platform and are available in two variants - **PNB RuPay Platinum and PNB RuPay Select**.
- ★ The co-branded cards come with a host of attractive benefits and spend-based waivers for the customer.

#### ABOUT PNB

- ★ HQ: New Delhi, Delhi.
- ★ MD & CEO: Atul Kumar Geol.

## Director General of NIELIT

- ★ **Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi** has joined as Director General of National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT).
- ★ Before joining NIELIT, Dr. Madan Mohan Tripathi was working as Professor with Delhi Technological University (DTU), New Delhi. In DTU he also worked as Director Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Coordinator of Intellectual Property Rights Cell.
- ★ National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

## New Chairperson of IBBI

- ★ The government has appointed former civil servant **Ravi Mittal** as the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) for a period of 5 years.
- ★ Following the retirement of M S Sahoo on 30th September 2021, Navrang Saini, a whole-time member of IBBI, has been serving as the Chairperson of IBBI.

## Director of DRDL – G A Srinivasa Murthy

- ★ G A Srinivasa Murthy has been appointed director of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad.
- ★ He joined DRDL in the year 1987 and made significant contributions in the area of structural dynamics, ground resonance testing, electrical integration and checkout for various projects of the missile complex.
- ★ G A Srinivasa Murthy completed his BE in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Andhra University in 1986 and pursued his ME in Digital

Systems from Osmania University in Hyderabad.

## Head of Norway Central Bank

- ★ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg will become Norway's New Central Bank chief at the end of the year.
- ★ The appointment comes amid escalating tensions between the Weas and Russia.
- ★ Stoltenberg will be in charge of setting interest rates and manage financial stability as well as overseeing Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest with assets of \$1.4 trillion.

## Controller General of Accounts (CGA)

- ★ The Government of India has appointed Sonali Singh to hold the additional charge of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- ★ She has been appointed in place of Dipak Dash, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.

## UGC Chairman

- ★ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) vice chancellor M Jagadesh Kumar was appointed as Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ★ He has been the vice chancellor of JNU since 2016
- ★ He has been appointed as the chairman for a period of 5 years or till he attains the age of 65 years.
- ★ He succeeds Prof D P Singh who resigned upon attaining 65 years of age.

## IndiGo's First MD of the Company

- ★ The low-cost Indian airline, IndiGo has appointed its co-founder and promoter

Rahul Bhatia as the Managing Director (MD) of the company with immediate effect.

- ★ He is the first-ever MD of Indigo, because before this the company never had a managing director.
- ★ Ronojoy Dutta is the CEO of the Indigo.

### First Woman Director on IOC Board

- ★ Sukla Mistry took over as the first woman functional director (Refineries) on the board of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).
- ★ IOC is the Nation's largest oil refining and fuel marketing company and India's highest ranked public sector enterprise.
- ★ A graduate in metallurgical engineering from Bengal College of Engineering, Calcutta University, joined IOC in 1987.

### TVS Motor Chairman

- ★ Non-Executive Director of TVS Motor, Ralf Dieter Speth, has been appointed as the Chairman of the company replacing veteran Venu Srinivasan.
- ★ He will be taking charge as the chairman of the company from April 1, 2022.
- ★ Venu Srinivasan would continue to be the Managing Director of the company designated as Chairman Emeritus

### Director – VSSC

- ★ Scientist and launch vehicle specialist, Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair took charge as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- ★ VSSC is a key space research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and specialises in rocket and space vehicles for satellite programs.
- ★ Nair, who started his career in VSSC Trivandrum in 1985, has made significant contributions in launch vehicle mechanisms, acoustic protection systems

and payload fairing areas during his tenure.

### First Woman Vice-Chancellor of JNU

- ★ The Ministry of Education (MoE) has appointed Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit as the new Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- ★ She is the first women Vice-Chancellor of JNU.
- ★ The 59-year-old Pandit has been appointed for a period of five years.
- ★ She replaces M Jagadesh Kumar, who has been appointed as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- ★ Before this appointment, she was serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Savitribai Phule University in Maharashtra.

### Sri Lankan Fast Bowler Announces Retirement

- ★ Veteran Sri Lankan fast bowler Suranga Lakmal has announced to retire from international cricket, after Sri Lanka's upcoming tour of India.
- ★ The 34-year-old right-arm fast bowler and right-handed batsman aim to join the English county club Derbyshire after retirement. The Derbyshire County Cricket Club has signed up Lakmal on a two-year contract.
- ★ Suranga Lakmal has represented Sri Lanka in 165 international matches across formats, in his international career spanning over 12 years.

### Chairperson Of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

- ★ Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Bihar cadre, Shri **Ravi Mital** took charge as Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi.



- ★ Prior to joining the IBBI as Chairperson, he superannuated from the position of Secretary, Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ★ Shri Mital has also served as Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Special Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- ★ Shri Mital is a graduate of B.E. in Mechanical Engineering and M.Phil. in Environmental Science.

### K Anantharaman VSM as Air Officer-In-Charge Administration (AOA)

- ★ Air Marshal **K Anantharaman VSM** was appointed as Air Officer-in Charge Administration (AOA) at Air HQ New Delhi.
- ★ The Air Marshal was commissioned in Administration branch of Indian Air Force in June 1985.
- ★ Prior to this appointment, the Air Marshal was Director General of Administration at Air HQ.
- ★ The Air Officer is a recipient of Vishisht Seva Medal.

### DFS Secretary in Finance Ministry

- ★ IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, **Sanjay Malhotra** has been appointed as Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance.
- ★ Sanjay Malhotra succeeds Debashish Panda, who completed his term on January 31, 2022.
- ★ Prior to this appointment he served as **Chairman and Managing Director of REC Ltd.**

### Chandrasekaran gets 2nd term as Tata Sons chairman

- ★ Tata Sons has reappointed **N Chandrasekaran** as its executive

Chairman for the period of another five year (2022-2027).

- ★ He joined the Tata Sons Board in October 2016 and served as Chief Operating Officer and executive director of TCS. He is also the chairman of Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Tata Power and TCS.

### Paul-Henri to become New President of Burkina Faso

- ★ **Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba**, lieutenant-colonel in the national armed forces, becomes the President of Burkina Faso.
- ★ He is also the head of president of the Patriotic Movement for Preservation and Restoration (the official name of the junta) and supreme commander of the armed forces.
- ★ He succeeds Roch Kabore.

### President of ICAI

- ★ Debashis Mitra has been elected as the president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the term (2022-2023).
- ★ He holds master degree in commerce and is also a law graduate.
- ★ Aniket Sunil Talati has been elected as Vice President of ICAI.

### German President Elected for Second Term

- ★ Frank Walter Steinmeier, was re-elected by the parliamentary assembly for the next five years (2022-2027).
- ★ He is a 66 years old German Politician. He served as foreign minister under Chancellor Angela Merkel.

## MD & CEO of Air India

- ★ Tata Sons appointed Ilker Ayci, former Turkish Airlines chairman as the CEO & MD of Air India.
- ★ Ilker Ayci will assume his responsibilities on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
- ★ He was awarded The Order of the Rising Sun and Golden Rays with a Neck Ribbon by the Emperor of Japan.

## Chairperson of Committee of Administrators-TTFI

- ★ Former J&K High Court Chief Justice **Gita Mittal** was appointed as chairperson of Committee of Administrators to run Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).
- ★ Communications of TTFI with sportsperson or international sports bodies will be held through the committee of Administrators and The Delhi Court Ordered that existing office bearers should not pass or discharge any functions.

## Chairman of CBSE

- ★ IAS, **Vineet Joshi**, additional Secretary in the Ministry of Education was appointed as new chairman of The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).
- ★ He will succeed former CBSE chairman Manoj Ahuja, who was now appointed as the OSD in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ★ Vineet Joshi also serves as the Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

## G Ashok Kumar as National Maritime Security Coordinator

- ★ The government has appointed **G Ashok Kumar** as India's first '**National Maritime Security Coordinator**' (NMSC) to strengthen cooperation.

- ★ Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar was a Flag Officer in the Indian Navy retired from service in July.
- ★ The portfolio of NMSC will include the coordination among the Indian Navy, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), security agencies involved in coastal and maritime security and 13 coastal states and Union Territories.
- ★ He will work in the National Security Council Secretariat under National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

## Manika Batra as Brand Ambassador

- ★ Sportswear **Adidas** has appointed table tennis player **Manika Batra as the Brand ambassador**.
- ★ It aims to drive credibility and inclusivity in sports, further empowering women to realize their dreams and boost participation in sports.
- ★ Manika Batra is the first Indian woman to win gold in **tennis** at the Commonwealth Games 2018.

## IOC Athlete's Commission

- ★ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission re-elected **Emma Terho (Finland, ice hockey)** as its Chairman in the meeting held in Beijing.
- ★ Terho is a five-time Olympian and former captain of the Finland women's ice hockey team, winning a bronze medal at both the Olympic Winter Games Nagano 1998 and Vancouver 2010. She will head the Commission until the **Olympic Games Paris 2024**.
- ★ **Seung Min Ryu (Republic of Korea, table tennis)** was elected as first Vice-Chairman, and **Sarah Walker (New Zealand, cycling)** as second Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

## New President and CEO of Honda Cars India

- ★ **Takuya Tsumura** has been appointed as the new President and CEO of **Honda Cars India** which is owned by Japanese based Honda Motor Co.
- ★ He will take charge of his new role from April 1, 2022.
- ★ Tsumura replaces **Gaku Nakanishi**, who completes his four-year term as the head of Honda Cars India.
- ★ Gaku Nakanishi has been appointed as General Manager, Automobile Business, Asia and Oceania region - Asian Honda.

## Chairman of IRGS

- ★ **K.N. Raghavan**, Executive Director, Indian Rubber Board, has been elected the new **Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)**, Singapore based intergovernmental organisation of natural and synthetic rubber producing and consuming countries.
- ★ He will officiate as the chairman of IRGS for the next 2 years.
- ★ He will attend the meeting of the Head of Delegations that will be held on 31 March 2022.
- ★ With this appointment, India succeeds Cote d'Ivoire as the chairman of IRGS.

## Director of Central Board of RBI

- ★ IAS Officer **Sanjay Malhotra** has been appointed as Director in the central board of Reserve Bank of India by the Central Government.
- ★ Mr. Sanjay Malhotra is an IAS Officer of 1990 Batch from Rajasthan Cadre.
- ★ Previously he was serving as the Financial Secretary in the Department of Financial Services of central government and as the

Chairman and Managing Director of Rural Electrification Corporation limited.

## Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister

- ★ The chairman of the body Bibek Debroy announced that Finance Ministry's Principal Economic Advisor **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been inducted as a full-time member of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- ★ He was appointed for a period of **two years** term.
- ★ Sanyal was appointed as Finance Ministry's principal economic adviser in February 2017 and was earlier the managing director at Deutsche Bank.
- ★ EAC-PM is an independent body constituted by the Union government to advise the Prime Minister on economic matters.

## Tan Kim Her as India's Badminton Doubles Coach

- ★ Malaysian badminton coach, **Tan Kim Her**, was appointed as India's badminton Doubles Coach by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ★ His role as coach will continue till the **Asian Games in 2026**.
- ★ Coach Tan Kim Her is well aware of the Indian Badminton ecosystem which helps him to groom the players.

## MD & CEO of IDBI Bank

- ★ Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Bank's Board of Directors has approved the re-appointment of **Rakesh Sharma** as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank.
- ★ He was appointed for a period of 3 years term effective from March 19, 2022.

- ★ Sharma had joined IDBI Bank as MD & CEO in October 2018. Prior to joining IDBI Bank, he was MD & CEO of Canara Bank from September 2015 till July 2018.

### Non-Executive Chairman of HUL

- ★ **Nitin Paranjpe** has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company effective from March 31, 2022. Paranjpe is currently the chief operating officer of Unilever, the parent company of HUL.
- ★ Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) announced the separation of the position of chairman of the board and the CEO and managing director.
- ★ Sanjiv Mehta will serve as the CEO and managing director of the company.
- ★ His appointment was recommended by the nomination & remuneration committee (NRC) to the HUL board.

### CEO of National e-Governance Division (NeGD)

- ★ Digital India Corporation CEO Abhishek Singh was appointed as CEO of new National e-Governance Division (NeGD).
- ★ The 1995-batch IAS officer from Nagaland cadre will hold the position in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary.

## REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKS

### World's Top Semiconductor Company in 2021

- ★ According to a report released by research firm Counterpoint Technology Market Research, **South Korean** electronics manufacturing giant **Samsung Electronics** surpassed U.S chipmaker Intel to become the world's leading chipmaker by revenue in 2021.

- ★ Samsung took the lead with a strong DRAM and NAND flash market performance in 2021. Samsung also saw solid momentum in logic chips this year.

### Brand Finance report

- ★ As per a brand valuation report released by Brand Finance, Life Insurance Corporation has been ranked at 10th in the list of insurance brands globally.
- ★ LIC is the only Indian insurance company in the top 10 list.
- ★ LIC has a valuation of USD 8.656 billion (around ₹64,722 crore). Of the top 10, as many as 5 are Chinese insurance companies, with by Ping an insurance emerging as the world's most valuable insurance brand, despite recording a 26 per cent drop in brand value. The US has two companies in the top 10, while France, Germany, and India have one each in the list.
- ★ As per Brand Finance, the market value of LIC will become ₹43.40 lakh crore (USD 59.21 billion) by 2022, and ₹58.9-lakh crore (USD 78.63 billion) by 2027.

### India Press Freedom Report, 2021

- ★ The India Press Freedom Report, 2021 was recently released by the Rights and Risks Analysis Group.
- ★ According to the report, 13 media houses and newspapers were targeted in the country, 108 journalists were attacked, and 6 journalists were killed.
- ★ Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura topped the list of States and Union Territories were reported to be the least performing states, where journalists and media houses were targeted in 2021.
- ★ 24 journalists were attacked physically, obstructed, threatened, and harassed for doing their work.

- ★ 17 of these attacks were police attacks. 44 FIRs were registered against journalists in 2021. Of this 21 were registered under Section 153 of IPC.

### NITI Aayog's Delta Ranking

- ★ As per NITI Aayog's Delta Rankings, **Malkangiri in Odisha** tops the list of the five most improved among 112 aspirational districts in the Agriculture and Water Resources sector for December 2021.
- ★ It is followed by Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh, Baramulla in Jammu and Kashmir, Ramgarh in Jharkhand and Begusarai in Bihar.
- ★ This ranking is based on the progress made on 49 key performance indicators under 5 board socio-economic themes.
- ★ They are Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development and Infrastructure.

### US Green Building Council 2021 (Report / Ranking)

- ★ **India secured 3<sup>rd</sup> rank** in the world in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual ranking of "The US Green Building Council (USGBC)" of top 10 nations and areas outside of the United States for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2021
- ★ It has 1,649 LEED certified projects.
- ★ India has seen a 10% rise in LEED certified space from 2020.
- ★ The list has been topped by China with 1,077 LEED projects certified in 2021 followed by Canada in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
- ★ The ranking is based on countries outside the US that are doing good in healthy, sustainable, resilient building design and construction.

### World Gold Council Report

- ★ As per Goldhub, the official website of the World Gold Council (WGC), The Reserve Bank of **India (RBI) emerged as the second largest buyer of Gold** among the world's Central Banks in 2021.
- ★ RBI bought 77.5 metric tonnes taking its total gold reserve to 754.1 tonnes at the end of December 2021 which amounts to 6.22 per cent of India's forex reserves.
- ★ The Central Bank of Thailand, which is first among the world's Central Banks bought 90 metric tonnes of gold.
- ★ Goldhub, that maintains all the data about precious metals, reports that India's official gold reserves are ninth-largest in the world.

### TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021

- ★ The ranking covers **404** cities across **58** countries on **6** continents.
- ★ **Mumbai has been ranked 5<sup>th</sup>** in terms of the most congested city in the world 2021.
- ★ According to the TomTom Traffic Index 2021, the **Turkish city of Istanbul become the most congested city** and Moscow of Russia came second in the list.
- ★ Bengaluru which came sixth in the index in 2020 improved its ranking to 10<sup>th</sup> in 2021.
- ★ Delhi and Pune ranked 11<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in the ranking.

### Highest Penetration in Digital Payments

- ★ Comscore report reveals **Paytm**, continues to lead digital payments over 45 per cent penetration in Fintech.
- ★ It followed by Google Pay (mobile App) at 43 per cent penetration.
- ★ Paytm's revenue from operations grew 89 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) in Q3FY22 to ₹ 1,456 crore. Revenue from financial



services and payments grew 98 per cent Y-o-Y in Q3FY22 to ₹1,116.8 crore.

- ★ Paytm's monthly transacting users (MTU) grew consistently to 64.4 million, by 37 per cent Y-o-Y and 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter (Q-o-Q).

## The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor Report

- ★ The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report, unveiled at the Dubai Expo **India ranked 4<sup>th</sup>** in overall category of Ease of Starting Business.
- ★ India is among the top five easiest places to start a new business. The report gathered data through a survey of at least 2,000 respondents across each of 47 high, medium and low-income economies.
- ★ The report was **topped by Saudi Arabia**. It is followed by Netherlands and Sweden.
- ★ India secured second place in the category for good opportunities to start a new business. Saudi Arabia topped in that category. Sweden ranked third.
- ★ India secured 4<sup>th</sup> place in the category for They have skills and knowledge to start a business. Saudi Arabia placed first in the category.
- ★ India secures second place in the fear of failure as a reason for not planning to start a new business for next three years. Belarus topped in the category.

## EIU's Democracy Index

- ★ On 10 February 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Democracy Index was released by Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU). The first index was released in 2006.
- ★ The list has 165 countries and two territories
- ★ An evaluation of the state of democracy is based on five categories. They are Electoral Process and Pluralism, The Functioning of

the Government, Political Participation, Political Culture and Civil Liberties.

- ★ **India secured 46<sup>th</sup> position** in the index with score of 9.61.
- ★ The list is **topped by Norway (9.75)** and it is followed by New Zealand (9.37).
- ★ Finland secured third place in the index with score 9.27.
- ★ **Afghanistan is at the bottom** of the index with score 0.32.

## International IP Index 2022

- ★ On 24 February 2022, Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of United States Chambers of Commerce released the International Intellectual Property Index- 'Compete for Tomorrow'.
- ★ This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> edition.
- ★ **India has ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>** on the 2022 IIP Index with the score of 38.64.
- ★ **The United States topped the index** with score 95.48 which is followed by the United Kingdom with score 94.14.
- ★ The index consists of 50 indicators with 9 separate categories.

## SPORTS

### Pan American Women Cup Hockey Championship

- ★ **Argentina** has won the 6<sup>th</sup> women's field hockey championship title at the 2022 Women's Pan American Cup. Argentina defeated Chile 4-2.
- ★ The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Women's Pan Am Cup was held from January 19<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 in **Santiago, Chile**.

## Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award

- ★ India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, **Neeraj Chopra** has been nominated as one of the six nominees for **the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award**.
- ★ The other five sportspersons who have been nominated for the award are Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev, British tennis star Emma Raducanu, Barcelona and Spain footballer Pedri, Venezuelan athlete Yulimar Rojas and Australian swimmer Ariarne Titmus.
- ★ 24-year-old javelin thrower is only the third Indian to be nominated for the award after wrestler Vinesh Phogat in 2019 and cricket star Sachin Tendulkar, who won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award 2000-2020.

## Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2022

- ★ Grand Master **Magnus Carlsen**, the World Champion, won with a round to spare in Wijk Aan Zee (Netherlands).
- ★ The world champion defeated GM Fabiano Caruana to take a one-point lead in the Tata Steel Chess Tournament in 2022.
- ★ It was his **eighth victory**. As a result, he has qualified for the Tata Steel Masters next year. The Tata Steel Chess Tournament will be held from 13 January to 29, 2023, for the 85th time.

## Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics

- ★ The Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics torch relay began on 02-February-2022 just a few days ahead of the opening of the international sporting event in the Chinese capital against a backdrop of diplomatic boycotts and ongoing Covid-19 outbreaks including in the host city.
- ★ The Beijing 2022 Organising Committee had shortened the relay route because of

the coronavirus pandemic and the number of torchbearers were also reduced to 1200.

- ★ The first three runners in the relay were Luo Zhihuan, an 80-year-old former speed skater who won China's first winter sport world championship title in 1963, astronaut Jing Haipeng, as well as satellite designer Ye Peijian, according to officials.

## Women's ODI Batting Rankings

- ★ **Mithali Raj** has reached the no. 2 spot in the latest Women's ODI Batting Rankings released by ICC, ahead of the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.
- ★ Mithali Raj has a total of 738 points to her credit and Australian **player Alyssa Healy** with 750 points secured **first position**.
- ★ Alongside Mithali, opener **Smriti Mandhana** is the only other Indian player to find herself in the top 10 rankings. Mandhana sits **sixth** on the list with a total of 710 points to her credit.
- ★ In the team ranking, India is currently at the 4<sup>th</sup> place.

## Khelo India Scheme-Allocation Increases by 48%

- ★ The Union Government has increased the allocation by 48% for the Khelo India Scheme in the Union Budget 2022-2023.
- ★ The government has decided to continue the Scheme of "Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports" over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of ₹3165.50 crore.

### About The Khelo India Scheme

- ★ The Khelo India Scheme was launched in 2017 with a mandate for the identification of talent and nurturing sporting talent to attain the highest levels of achievement at international levels.

- ★ The primary focus of the Khelo India Scheme is to create a national-level platform for the athletes to showcase their talent and to identify them for further grooming and financial support.

### ICC Spirit of Cricket Award 2021

- ★ New Zealand cricketer, Daryl Mitchell has been named the winner of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Spirit of Cricket Award 2021.
- ★ Mitchell won the award for refusing to take a single in the Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals against England.
- ★ Mitchell has become the fourth New Zealand cricketer to win the award after Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and skipper Kane Williamson.

### ICC U-19 World Cup: India Lifts a Record

- ★ India won the ICC Under-19 World Cup for the 5<sup>th</sup> time marking a record in the history.
- ★ India beat England by four wickets in the final match held at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua.
- ★ India's Raj Angad Bawa was announced Player of the Match of the ICC Under-19 World Cup 2022.
- ★ Earlier, India had won the U19 World Cup in 2000, 2008, 2012, and 2018.

### World's Third Largest Cricket Stadium

- ★ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly laid the foundation stone virtually, for the world's third-largest cricket stadium to be built in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ★ It will be the second- largest cricket stadium in India and the third-largest in the world that it would seat capacity of 75,000 spectators to be built by Rajasthan Cricket Academy (RCA).

- ★ Currently, Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad is the world's largest stadium with a capacity of 132,000 spectators.

### AFCON Football Championship

- ★ Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) football championship title won by Senegal beating the Egypt in the final.
- ★ The final ended 0-0 after 120 minutes with penalty round of 4-2.

### Interim Head Coach of Indian Cricket Team

- ★ England appointed Cricketer Paul Collingwood as interim head coach for the upcoming Test series in West Indies.
- ★ The appointment comes after former head coach Chris Silverwood and managing director Ashley Giles were terminated, following England's 4-0 Ashes defeat to Australia.

### China Wins AFC Women's Asian Cup

- ★ China defeated South Korea as 3-2, to win the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022, setting record of winning for the 9<sup>th</sup> time.
- ★ The AFC Asian Cup tournament held at the D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.
- ★ India is hosting the 20th edition of the football AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 from January 20, 2022, to February 06, 2022.

### France to Win FIH Pro League Tournament in South Africa

- ★ **India lost to France** in men's FIH pro league tournament held in Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- ★ It was France's first-ever victory against Indian men in hockey.
- ★ The score was 5-2.

## ESPN cricinfo Award 2021

- ★ Rishabh Pant India's wicketkeeper-batsman won the 'Test Batting Award' by scoring 89 not out, helped to win the Border Gavaskar trophy 2021.
- ★ New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was announced 'Captain of the Year' at the 15th Annual ESPNcricinfo awards.
- ★ Kyle Jamieson (New Zealand) was awarded 'Test bowling award' for his 5 wickets leaving just 31 runs, which helped New Zealand become the first World Test champions (2019-2021).
- ★ Debutant of the Year-England fast bowler Ollie Robinson.
- ★ T20I batting award-Jos Buttler

## Senior National Volleyball Championship

- ★ **Haryana Men's Team** defeated the Indian Railway 3-0 to win the Men's title in senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-2022.
- ★ **Kerala Women's Team** defeated the Indian Railway 3-1 in the Women's Category.
- ★ This is the 70<sup>th</sup> edition that was held at the **Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, Bhubaneswar**.

## Chelsea Wins 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Champions

- ★ For the first time, **English Club, Chelsea** has defeated Brazilian Club Palmeiras 2-1 in **FIFA Club World Cup Champions**.
- ★ The final was held at **Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi**.

## Shakibul Gani Becomes First to Score Triple Hundred in Ranji Trophy

- ★ The Ranji Trophy would be held in two phases. The pre-Indian Premier League (IPL) phase is being played from February 10 to March 15. The post-IPL-phase will be played from May 30 to June 26.
- ★ **Shakibul Gani** became the first cricketer to score a **triple hundred on his First-Class debut**. He made his debut for **Bihar**.
- ★ Ajinkya Rahane scored a century for Mumbai.

## Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa Defeats World Champion Magnus Carlsen

- ★ 16-year-old **Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa (Chennai)**, defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen (Norwegian) in the eighth round of the **Airthings Masters** competition.
- ★ Praggnanandhaa has become only **the third Indian** after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna to beat Carlsen.
- ★ Praggnanandhaa won with black pieces in 39 moves.

## Medal Tally of Winter Olympics

- ★ The 24<sup>th</sup> edition of winter Olympics 2022 held on February 4 – February 20, 2022 at Beijing National Stadium, China.
- ★ A total of 109 events were held with a participation of 2871 athletes.
- ★ Haiti and Saudi Arabia made their debut in Winter Olympics.
- ★ Norway tops Beijing Olympics 2022 with total of 37 medals followed by Germany with 27 medals.
- ★ India diplomats to boycott Beijing Winter Olympics.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Norway	16	8	13	37
2	Germany	12	10	5	27
3	China	9	4	2	15
4	USA	8	10	7	25
5	Sweden	8	5	5	18

## Carlos Alcaraz Becomes Youngest ATP 500 Winner

- ★ **Spain player, Carlos Alcaraz** made history at the Rio Open Tennis by becoming the youngest-ever winner of an ATP 500 event held in Rio de Janeiro.
- ★ The 18-year-old Carlos **defeated Argentine Diego Schwartzman** 6-4, 6-2.
- ★ Alcaraz converted five of his six break points in the match. Overall, he won 55 per cent of his return points to put constant pressure on his veteran opponent.

## Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu Wins Gold in Singapore

- ★ Mirabai Chanu secures Gold Medal in Singapore Weightlifting International in the 55-kilogram category for the very first time by lifting a total of 191 kilograms.
- ★ Mirabai Chanu qualified for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the 55kg weight category after securing a gold medal in Singapore.
- ★ The Indian weightlifter found her honour after she secured the silver medal for India at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the women's 49-kilogram category.

## Moscow Wushu Stars Championship

- ★ 15-year-old Indian from **Srinagar Sadia Tariq** won a gold medal in Moscow **Wushu**

**Stars Championship**, which is being held from February 22 to 28.

- ★ She defeated opponents from Kazakhstan, Czech Republic and Russia on her way to win gold medal.
- ★ Moscow Wushu Stars Championship is the approved Training event and Competition of the **Sports Authority of India**.

## Mexican Open Title

- ★ The 35-year-old **Spaniard Rafael Nadal** defeated British player Cameron Norrie to win **the Mexican Open title**.
- ★ He defeated Norrie in straight sets by 6-4, 6-4.
- ★ This was his **91<sup>st</sup>** Association of Tennis Professionals (**ATP**) title.
- ★ He has also won his third title in 2022.
- ★ The Mexican Open is an ATP 500-level tournament played on hard courts.

## AWARDS & PRIZES

### World Games Athlete of the Year 2021 Award

- ★ Veteran Indian Hockey Goalkeeper **P R Sreejesh from Kerala** has won the prestigious **World Games Athlete of the Year** for his 2021 performances.
- ★ He became the only second Indian to receive this award.
- ★ In 2020, Indian Women's hockey captain Rani Rampal became the first Indian to win the honor for her 2019 show.
- ★ The World Athlete of the Year award is a prize that can be won by athletes participating in events within the sport of athletics organised by World Athletics (formerly named IAAF).



## Digital Transformation Award

- ★ Karnataka Bank has been awarded the digital transformation award by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for Best Practice in Digital Transformation.
- ★ The award was given in recognition of the “innovative” best practice ‘KBL VIKAAAS’,
- ★ ‘KBL VIKAAAS’, a wholistic transformation journey, launched by the bank in 2017.
- ★ The bank recently launched the digital transformation journey ‘KBL NxT’ as part of wave 2.0 of ‘KBL VIKAAAS’.

## Karyaksham Khaasdar Award

- ★ The Karyaksham Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) award for the year 2020-21, given in the memory of late Madhavrao Limaye by Sarvajanic Vachanalay, Nashik, will be conferred on Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari.
- ★ The award presentation ceremony will be held on February 10, 2022 Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi, at the residence of minister Gadkari.
- ★ Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr Bharati Pawar, MP Dr Subhash Bhamre, MP Hemant Godse and MP Vinay Sahastrabuddhe will be the chief guests at the function.
- ★ The award consists of ₹50,000 in cash, and a memento.

## 5th National Award for Innovations and Good Practices in Educational Administration

- ★ To improve the function of the public system of education from ground level, The National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA) launched National Award for Innovation in Educational Administration for District

and Block Level Education Officers in 2014.

- ★ Dr Subhas Sarkar, Minister for State for Education, presented 5th National Award for Innovations and Good Practices in Educational Administration virtually.
- ★ The National Award were presented to the selected District and Block level education officers from 29 states/ UTs of the country.

## ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting

- ★ ICAI award for excellence in financial reporting for the year 2020-21 in Public Sector Entities Category, **given by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) was received by state-owned RailTel.**
- ★ The company was declared as winner in the category "**plaque**".
- ★ RailTel is a Miniratna PSU under the Rail Ministry and is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in India.
- ★ Financial reporting refers to the preparation and presentation of financial information. The award has been presented in a view to promote better standards in the preparation and presentation of information in the financial statements.

## Business Standard Banker of the Year 2021-2022

- ★ Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21 awarded to **Sandeep Bakshi**, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank.
- ★ ICICI Bank is the second-largest private sector lender in the country.
- ★ S S Mundra, former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India constituted a five-member panel who selected Sandeep Bakhshi for which ICICI Bank reported a

net profit of ₹16,193 crore against ₹7,931 crore during the previous financial year.

- ★ The criteria used for selecting the aspirants were the following.
- ★ Banks with an asset size of ₹50,000 crore and above as of March 2021.
- ★ 10 per cent or more growth in profits prior to provisioning in the past one, two and three-year periods.

### Karnataka Bank Bags Awards

- ★ **17th Annual Banking Technology Conference** and Awards 2020-21 Next-Gen Banking was organised by Indian Banks' Association.
- ★ **Karnataka Bank has bagged three awards at the conference.**
- ★ Karnataka Bank emerged second in all these categories. The categories are Best Technology Bank of the year, Best Fintech Adoption and Best use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) & Data Analytics.

### Philanthropist Bill Gates conferred with Hilal-e-Pakistan

- ★ On 17 February 2022, Microsoft founder and philanthropist **Bill Gates** has been conferred with **Hilal-e-Pakistan**, the **second highest civilian honour of Pakistan**, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in Pakistan.
- ★ President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, conferred the award to Bill Gates at the ceremony held in Aiyen-e-Sadr, Islamabad, Pakistan.

### India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company

- ★ Coal India Limited, has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award.

- ★ Award was given to the company at the **"Energy Meet and Excellence Award"** function organized by Industry Chamber **"ASSOCHAM"** in Kolkata.
- ★ In the difficult times, Coal India has not allowed the situation of power crisis in the country by significantly increasing coal production and supply in the last few months to meet the increased demand for coal for the power sector.
- ★ **Pramod Agarwal**, Chairman of Coal India was included in the list of "Top 40 CEOs of India" released in January 2022 by the well-known organization Start-up Lens.
- ★ Coal India Ltd is a Maharatna company of the government of India headquartered at Kolkata, West bengal.

### Criteria to become Maharatna

- ★ The Average annual turnover of company during the last 3 years is more than ₹25,000 crore.
- ★ The Average annual net worth during the last 3 years is more than ₹15,000 crore.
- ★ The Average annual net profit after tax during the last 3 years is more than ₹5,000 crore.
- ★ The company should have a significant global presence or international operations.

### DPIFF Awards 2022

- ★ On 20 February 2022, the 68th edition Dadasahed Phalke International Film Festival Award 2022 took place at Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was presented in the honour of the Dadasahed Phalkeji 'Father of Indian Cinema'.
- ★ It recognizes the outstanding efforts by international and national personalities from cinema industry.
- ★ Bollywood stars Ranveer Singh and Kriti Sanon awarded Best Actor and Best Actress category for their performances in movies "83" and "Mimi".

## Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians

- ★ On 22 February 2022, Professor Neena Gupta received the Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians for the year 2021.
- ★ At present she is working as a mathematician of the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata.
- ★ The award was conferred for her outstanding work in **affine algebraic geometry and commutative algebra**.
- ★ The award is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India in association with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics) and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- ★ It is given to young mathematicians less than 45 years of age from a developing country.
- ★ In 2014 Young Scientists Award of the Indian National Science Academy (NSA) was conferred to Neena Gupta for solving the Zariski cancellation problem, a fundamental problem in Algebraic Geometry.

## C-DOT Bags 3 Awards

- ★ On February 25, 2022, Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), a Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India (GoI), has bagged three awards for its indigenously designed and developed innovative at 12th Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards virtually.
- ★ CDOT was declared top winner in three categories as below
- ★ In the category for “Innovative in Lockdown Management”: C-DOT SAMVAD – A Unified Platform for Secure Messaging and Calling Solution secured the first position.
- ★ In the “Tech for Social Good” category: Indigenous Early Warning Platform for

Disaster Management & Preparedness based on International Telecommunication Union (ITU)’s Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) placed at the first position.

- ★ in the category of “Preventive measures to combat Covid 19”: C-DOT Quarantine Alert System (CQAS) has won the first prize.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

### Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar’s Villages

- ★ A Book titled “Last among Equals: Power, Caste, and Politics in Bihar’s Villages” authored by MR Sharan.
- ★ The book is an account of the author’s field study in a group of villages in Bihar.
- ★ The book is published by Context.

### The Class of 2006

- ★ India's first-ever season style book 'The Class of 2006: Sneak Peek into the Misadventures of the Great Indian Engineering Life', written by management professional Akash Kansal.
- ★ It was launched virtually amidst one of the biggest book launch ceremonies of the year at IIT Kanpur & Delhi Technological University.
- ★ The book was released by talented Indian film actor, writer, director, and producer R. Madhavan.

### India that is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution

- ★ A Trilogy book series titled, India that is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution is authored by J Sai Deepak and published by Bloomsbury India. The first part was released on 15th August 2021, is set to launch the 2nd part in June 2022.

- ★ It examines the far-reaching impact of European 'colonial consciousness' on Bharat (India).

### Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra

- ★ A short biography of Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra has titled 'Golden Boy Neeraj Chopra' has been released.
- ★ The biography was written by Navdeep Singh Gill.
- ★ Neeraj Chopra won a gold medal in Javelin Throw at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ★ The biography was released by the chairperson of Punjab Kala Parishad "Surjit Patar" and President of Punjabi Sahit Akademi "Lakhwinder Singh Johal".

### Atharva: The Origin

- ★ Virzu Studios in association with MIDAS Deals Pvt Ltd has released the motion poster of its upcoming graphic novel, Atharva – The Origin.
- ★ Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been portrayed as the superhero Atharva in this graphic novel.
- ★ The graphic novel authored by Ramesh Thamilmani.

### 'India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons'

- ★ India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons is authored by **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia**.
- ★ The book is published by Routledge India.
- ★ The book describes the historical backdrop and shared colonial past to focus on and contextualize the evolution of the India and Africa partnership.

### Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- ★ Journalist, **Sagarika Ghose** authored a book titled "Atal Bihari Vajpayee".

- ★ This book is a biography of the former Prime Minister of India.
- ★ The book is about his political history and author took three years to complete the biography.

### A Book by Bill Gates

- ★ Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist **Bill Gates** authored a book titled "**How to Prevent the Next Pandemic**".
- ★ The book is published by Penguin Random House.
- ★ In this book he mentioned about the innovations required to save lives and the new tools needed to stop the pathogens that can stop future pandemic.

### Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us

- ★ Indian-American author **Ro Khanna** authored a book titled "**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**".
- ★ The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyles of Americans due to technological process. It also described the digital divide unequal access to technology and the revenue, as it is one of the most issues faced by the United States.

### Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War

- ★ Professor, a Yale historian and law professor Samuel Moyn authored a book titled "Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War".
- ★ The book is published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, New York (USA)'.
- ★ The book highlights the USA strategy on fighting wars and how armed combat was transformed from an imperfect tool for

resolving disputes into an integral component of the modern condition.

### A New Book by Uma Das Gupta

- ★ **Uma Das Gupta** authored a new book titled **“A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore’s pioneering Work in Rural Construction”**.
- ★ It was published by Niyogi Books ‘Paper Missile’.
- ★ The book explores Tagore's attempt to inspire the deprived sections of rural society to self-reliance and to make them economically independent.
- ★ The book highlights the efforts of Tagore to improve the condition of the peasantry by using scientific methods of cultivation through laboratory experiments where the expert and the peasant collectively participated.
- ★ Other books by Gupta include "Rabindranath Tagore: A Biography" and "The Oxford India Tagore: Selected Essays on Education and Nationalism".

### A Book by Priyam Gandhi Mody

- ★ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya launched a book titled **“A Nation To Protect”** authored by **Priyam Gandhi Mody**. It is her Third book.
- ★ Professor Shamika Ravi (Economist) and Dr VK Paul (member of NITI Aayog) were also present.
- ★ It highlights the Prime Minister’s role and motivation during the Covid crisis in the past two years.

### A Book by Jimmy Soni

- ★ Award-winning author and biographer, **Jimmy Soni** authored a book titled **“The Founders: The Story of**

**PayPal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley”**.

- ★ It was published by Simon and Schuster.
- ★ It highlights the story of payment company Paypal.

### A Book by Anirudh Suri

- ★ Tech entrepreneur and venture capitalist Anirudh Suri authored a book titled “The Great Tech Game: Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations”.
- ★ It was published by HarperCollins India.
- ★ The author provides a coherent framework outlining the key drivers that will determine the ability of a nation to succeed in this technology-dominant era. He lays out a roadmap for how any country must develop its own strategic plan for success.

## DEFENCE

### Submarine - Vagir

- ★ The Indian Navy has announced the commencement of sea trials of the fifth of its six Kalvari class attack submarines named “Vagir”, sailed out on its first sea sortie and will now undergo rigorous trials before it is delivered to the Navy later.
- ★ It is constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in collaboration with the Naval group of France. Aerospace Safety Council Meet
- ★ On 04 February 22, Western Air Command Annual Aerospace Safety Council Meet (AASCM) 2022 was held at its headquarters in Delhi.
- ★ The meeting was held in hybrid mode through Video Tele-conferencing. AASCM was chaired by Air Officer Commanding in Chief, WAC Air Marshal Amit Dev.
- ★ The aim of the meeting was to address the areas of concern that affect Aerospace



Safety and strengthen mechanisms for accident prevention strategy of WAC.

forces members and 2 Bangladeshi C-130Js.

## ICGS -Saksham

- ★ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) is a shipbuilding company owned by the Government of India.
- ★ **GSL delivered the 5<sup>th</sup>** and final vessel of the Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vehicle named **ICGS Saksham**.
- ★ The project of 5 CGOPV was signed by GSL with the Ministry of Defence and GSL is the first Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) Shipyard to adopt Make-in-India Policy.
- ★ ICGS-Saksham is the most advanced patrol vessel in service with the coast guard and weighs around 2400 tonnes.

## Exercise 'Cope South 22'

- ★ Exercise 'Cope South 22' is a joint air exercise conducted by the air forces of **Bangladesh and the US**. It is a six-day exercise conducted between February 20 to February 26 sponsored by Pacific Air Forces at Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ★ The aim of the exercise is to improve interoperability with the Bangladesh air force and to support the armed forces of Bangladesh's long-term modernization efforts in order to maintain regional stability.
- ★ The Pacific Air Forces cited the joint statement released on June 11, 2019 by the US Department of State reaffirming the commitment of the two governments to endure partnership and close cooperation on security, development, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterterrorism.
- ★ For the exercise 77 US Airmen along with two US Air Force C-130J Super Hercules from the 36th Airlift Squadron (AS) will join approximately 300 Bangladesh armed

## C-Dome Naval Air Defence System

- ★ On 21 February 2022, The Israeli Defense Forces successfully tested the "C-Dome" which is the naval configuration of the Iron Dome missile defense system.
- ★ It is tested for the first time from Saar-6 Corvette INS Magen which is Israel's Naval warship.
- ★ It has a speed of 2716.56 kmph.
- ★ C-Dome is a multilayer missile defence system which is capable of intercepting everything from long range to short range missiles developed by Rafael.

## EXERCISE DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022

- ★ A joint military exercise, "**EX DHARMA GUARDIAN-2022**", between **India and Japan** will be conducted at Foreign Training Node, Belagavi, Karnataka from 27 February 2022 to 10 March 2022.
- ★ This year marks **3<sup>rd</sup> edition**.
- ★ It is an annual military training event conducted in India since 2018.
- ★ "Exercise Dharma Guardian" will enhance the level of defence co-operation between Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces to boost the bilateral relations between the two nations.
- ★ The 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment of the Indian Army and 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) are participating in the exercise.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Powerful Supercomputer- Param Pravega

- ★ Under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM), the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has installed and commissioned Param Pravega, in Bengaluru.
- ★ It is one of the most powerful supercomputers in the country. It is also the largest supercomputer in an Indian academic institution.
- ★ It has a total supercomputing capacity of 3.3 petaflops.
- ★ It has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- ★ National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) is a joint initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), and implemented by C-DAC and IISc.

#### Facts:

- ★ 1 Petaflop = Quadrillion ( $10^{15}$ ) operations per second.

### ISRO to Launch PSLV-C52

- ★ On 14 February 2022, The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO has successfully launched the 54<sup>th</sup> Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C52 from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- ★ PSLV- C52 is an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-04) along with **2 other satellites, INS-2td and INSPIRE sat1**.
- ★ INS-2TD carries a thermal imaging camera to assess land and water surface temperature and thermal inertia at day and night.

- ★ INSPIRE sat-1 is a small satellite designed from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in association with the Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics at University of Colorado.
- ★ EOS-04 is designed to provide high-quality images under all weather conditions.
- ★ It is applied in agriculture, forestry and plantations, soil moisture and hydrology and flood mapping.

### WHO launches Quit Tobacco App

- ★ During year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign The **World Health Organization (WHO)** launched the '**Quit Tobacco App**', to help people quit tobacco in all forms – including smokeless and other newer products.
- ★ This app helps users to identify the triggers, set their targets, manage cravings, and stay focused to quit tobacco.
- ★ In 2021, WHO launched Artificial Intelligence (AI) based virtual health app called 'Florence' to provide digital counseling on quitting smoking.
- ★ India is the 2nd largest producer and consumer of Tobacco products.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Indian Coast Guard Day-February 1, 2022

- ★ Indian Coast Guard is celebrating its 46th Raising Day.
- ★ From just seven surface platforms in 1978, the Indian Coast Guard,
- ★ (ICG) has grown into a formidable force with 158 ships and 70 aircraft in its inventory.
- ★ It is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.

- ★ As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, it has played a significant role in securing the Indian coasts and enforcing regulations in the maritime zones of India.

## NPCI Announces UPI Safety and Awareness Week

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and the UPI ecosystem have announced the UPI Safety and Awareness initiative.
- ★ NPCI and the ecosystem comprising leading banks and fintech will observe **February 1 to 7 as UPI Safety and Awareness Week**. Further, the whole month of February will be UPI Safety and Awareness Month.
- ★ Under this programme, NPCI urges all the customers to follow the concept of UPI Safety Shield, which the company has derived to educate customers all about UPI payments.

### ABOUT NPCI

- ★ NPCI HQ: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ★ NPCI MD & CEO: Dilip Asbe.

## World Interfaith Harmony Week - February 1-7

- ★ Following the General Assembly's designation in 2010, **World Interfaith Harmony Week** is held every year during the first week of **February 1-February 7**.
- ★ World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW) aims to promote cultural peace and nonviolence.
- ★ The World Interfaith Harmony Week is built on **The Common Word initiative's** groundbreaking work.

## World Wetlands Day-02 February, 2022

- ★ **World Wetlands Day** is observed every year on **February 2** all over the world. 2022

marks **51 years** of the Convention on Wetlands.

- ★ The international theme for World Wetlands Day 2022 is '**Wetlands Action for People and Nature**'.
- ★ The day aims to raise awareness about the crucial role played by wetlands for people and our planet.
- ★ The day is celebrated to mark the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on February 2, 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997.

## World Cancer Day

- ★ World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year by the Union for International Cancer Control to spread awareness among people, educate them about cancer, how to fight it, and reduce the global impact of cancer.
- ★ The theme of World Cancer Day 2022-2024 is "Close the Care Gap".

## International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

- ★ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female is observed on 6<sup>th</sup> February globally.
- ★ This day is sponsored by the United Nations for their efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- ★ It was first introduced in 2003.
- ★ This year theme of International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female: **Accelerating Investment to End Female Genital Mutilation**.

### Safer Internet Day-08-February-2022

- ★ **Safer Internet Day (SID)** is annually celebrated across the globe on the **2<sup>nd</sup> day of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of February**.
- ★ This year Safer Internet Day is observed on **8<sup>th</sup> February ,2022 (Tuesday)**. This marks the 19th edition of Safer Internet Day.
- ★ This day is observed to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology, among children and young people.
- ★ Theme for the day is **“Together for a better internet”**.

### World Pulses Day-10-February-2022

- ★ **World Pulses Day** is observed every year on **10 February**. It is designated by The United Nations.
- ★ It has been celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognize the importance of pulses as a global food.
- ★ Theme for this year **“Pulses to empower youth in achieving sustainable agrifood systems”**.

### Financial Literacy Week

- ★ **Financial Literacy Week 2022** will be observed by the Reserve Bank of India from **February 14 to 18, 2022**.
- ★ Since 2016, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has held Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year.
- ★ Theme of Financial Literacy Week 2022 is **“Go Digital, Go Secure”**.
- ★ The theme corresponds to one of the strategic goals of the National Strategy for Financial Education, from 2020 to 2025.
- ★ Three issues to focus on this year
  - The advantages of online transactions
  - Security / no fear of digital transactions
  - Assured customer safety

### National Deworming Day

- ★ **National Deworming Day 2022 is observed on February 10.**
- ★ The aim of this day is to eradicate intestinal worms among children of age 1-19 years.
- ★ 10<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> August are observed as the National Deworming Day.
- ★ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

### World Unani Day

- ★ World Unani Day is observed on **February 11,2022**.
- ★ This day was celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, who is an Unani Physician of India and Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine (CRIUM), Hyderabad celebrated the first Unani Day in 2017.

### International Day of Women and Girls in Science

- ★ International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on **February 11,2022**.
- ★ This year marks the 7<sup>th</sup> International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- ★ Theme of the Day is **“Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Water Unites Us”**.
- ★ UNESCO and United Nations for Women in collaboration with institutions and civil society partners with an aim to promote women and girls in science.

### National Women's Day

- ★ National Women's Day is observed every year on **13 February**.
- ★ This day is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu and this year marks 143 th anniversary.

- ★ She is also known as Nightingale of India and Bharat Kokila.

## World Radio Day

- ★ World Radio Day is celebrated annually on **13 February**.
- ★ Radio is a powerful medium which connects people together to promote diversity and make the world more inclusive.
- ★ UNSECO unveiled three sub-themes to celebrate the day.
- ★ Trust in radio journalism: produce independent and high-quality content.
- ★ Trust and accessibility: take care of your audience
- ★ Trust and viability of radio stations: ensure competitiveness.

## International Epilepsy Day

- ★ International Epilepsy Day is observed every year on the second Monday of February.
- ★ This year marks on 14 February, 2022.
- ★ The day is organized by the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) and the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) to create awareness about epilepsy victims.
- ★ Epilepsy is a neurological disorder.

## Anti-Smuggling Day

- ★ FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken the initiative to establish Anti-Smuggling Day on February 11th, 2022.
- ★ 'Anti-Smuggling Day' will be a significant step to fight against the worldwide smuggling threat.

- ★ This day will not only create awareness, but it will also assess what more needs to be done on a national and international level to address this problem to address the issues.

## International Childhood Cancer Day

- ★ The International Childhood Day is observed every year on **15<sup>th</sup> February**.
- ★ This day is celebrated to create awareness about the dangers and impacts of cancer among children.
- ★ The theme for the year 2022 is '**Better Survival**' is **achievable** **#throughyourhands**.

## World Day of Social Justice

- ★ The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on **20<sup>th</sup> February**. The day is celebrated all over the world to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication.
- ★ It also focuses on the goal of achieving full employment and support for social integration.
- ★ The theme for the day is Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment.

## World Pangolin Day

- ★ **World Pangolin Day** is observed every year on **the Third Saturday of February**. This year world Pangolin Day is celebrated on **19<sup>th</sup> February 2022**.
- ★ In 2022, 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Pangolin Day is celebrated.
- ★ The day aims to raise awareness and recommit international N.G.O.s to the fight against the global capturing of pangolins in Africa and Asia as Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Africa and Asia.



## International Mother Language Day

- ★ The International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.
- ★ The theme of the year 2022 is “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities.”
- ★ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed International Mother Language Day in November 1999. The day aims to raise awareness and to promote multilingualism and develop quality teaching and learning for all.

## World Thinking Day

- ★ World Thinking Day is celebrated every year **on 22 February**.
- ★ The theme for 2022 is Our World, Our Equal Future.
- ★ It is celebrated since 1926. World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries.
- ★ In 1999, at the 30<sup>th</sup> World Conference held in Ireland the name was changed from Thinking Day to World Thinking Day.

## Central Excise Day

- ★ Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on **February 24**.
- ★ Central Excise Day is celebrated to commemorate the legislation of Central Excise and Salt Act on February 24, 1944.
- ★ It is observed to honour the services of employees of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC)

## National Protein Day 2022

- ★ National Protein Day is observed every year on **February 27** in order to raise awareness on the importance of an essential nutrient like protein.
- ★ This year marks **the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition**.
- ★ Theme of the year 2022 is **‘Food Futurism’**.
- ★ The theme is aimed at bringing food scientists, nutrition experts and biologists to discuss food science and its role in protein sufficiency and food security in India.
- ★ A national level public health initiative called **Right to Protein** launched India’s first Protein Day to sensitize and educate people on the benefits of consuming protein-rich food.

## World NGO Day 2022

- ★ World NGO Day is celebrated every year on **February 27** to recognize, celebrate and honour non-government organizations who contribute their time and effort in making society a better place to live in.
- ★ World NGO Day is celebrated in more than 89 countries and over six continents.
- ★ World NGO Day was established on 27 February 2014 and was officially celebrated by the United Nations General Assembly.

## National Science Day

- ★ National Science Day is observed every year **on 28th February**.
- ★ This day celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the ‘Raman Effect’ by Indian Physicist Sir C.V. Raman for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- ★ This year the theme of the National Science Day is **“Integrated Approach in Science and Technology for Sustainable Future”**.

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on this Science Day, has urged all the families to definitely start with small efforts to develop a scientific temperament in their children.

Dhruvan (2013), Amitabh Bachchan's Virrudh (2005).

## Legend Playback Singer, Lata Mangeshkar

- ★ Bharat Ratna awardee Lata Mangeshkar passed away at the age of 92 due to multiple organ failures.
- ★ She was born in 1929, at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
- ★ She gained her honorific titles such as: **The Nightingale of India, Voice of the Millennium** and **Queen of Melody**.
- ★ She was the recipient of three National Film Awards, 15 Bengal Film Journalists' Association Awards, four Filmfare Best Female Playback Awards, two Filmfare Special Awards, the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award and many more.
- ★ In 1974, she was one of the first Indian playback singers to ever perform at Royal Albert Hall, London.

## OBITUARY NEWS

### Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee Baba Iqbal Singh

- ★ Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee **Baba Iqbal Singh**, in-charge of Kalgidhar Trust, died at the age of 96 years at Baru Sahib in Sirmaur district.
- ★ He had started his journey of service towards humanity following the footsteps of his mentor Sant Attar Singh Maharaj. He was also conferred with Shiromani Pant Rattan award.
- ★ Baba Iqbal Singh worked relentlessly towards imparting value-based education in rural India.

### Rupinder Singh Suri

- ★ Former President of Supreme Court Bar Association and Supreme Court Advocates on Record Association, Additional Solicitor General and Senior Advocate **Rupinder Singh Suri** passed away in New Delhi. He was appointed as ASG in June 2020 and was designated as Senior Advocate in 2009.
- ★ In 1984, Mr. Suri had founded the law firm Suri & Co. He served as Standing Counsel for Punjab for two periods of about 15 years.

### Actor Filmmaker Amitabh Dayal

- ★ Actor and filmmaker Amitabh Dayal has died at the age of 51. Amitabh Dayal passed away after suffering a major heart attack.
- ★ Dayal has worked in films like Kagaar: Life on the Edge (2003) with Om Puri, Bhojpuri film Rangdari (2012) and Raj Babbar's

### Former Greek president Christos Sartzetakis

- ★ Former Greek president Christos Sartzetakis passed away in a hospital in Athens due to respiratory failure in Athens. He was 92.
- ★ He served as the President of Greece for a four-year term (1985-1990), after getting nominated by the socialist PASOK party.

### Actor, Olympian and Soldier with BSF Praveen Kumar Sobti

- ★ Actor **Praveen Kumar Sobti** passed away at the age of 75, due to heart attack in Delhi.
- ★ He is known for playing the famous role of Bheem in BR Chopra's Mahabharat.
- ★ He was born on 6 December, 1947 in Sarhali Kalan, Punjab.

- ★ Before he become an actor, he was a hammer and discuss throw athlete. As an athlete he won 4 medals at the Asian Games.
- ★ He was also honoured with Arjuna award. He worked as the Deputy Commandant in the Border Security Force (BSF).

### Veteran Singer-Composer Alokesh Lahiri

- ★ **Bengali Music Composer and singer Alokesh Lahiri**, also known as Bappi Lahiri passed away in Mumbai due to multiple health issues. He was 69.
- ★ Lahiri was born in Jalpaiguri, **West Bengal**.
- ★ He was an Indian singer, composer, politician and record producer. He played a major role to popularize the use of synthesized discomusic in Indian cinema.
- ★ Some of his songs include 'Chalte chalte mere yeh geet rakhna', 'I am a Disco Dancer', 'Pag Ghunghroo baandh Mira nachi thhi' from 'Sharabi' and 'Yaar bina Chain kaha re'.

### Bengali Singer Sandhya Mukherjee

- ★ Bengali singer **Sandhya Mukherjee**, has passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 90 years.
- ★ She recently refused to accept the Padma award from the central government.
- ★ She was born in Kolkata in 1931.
- ★ She was the recipient of the Banga Bibhusan award, the highest civilian honour of the Bengal Government and the National Film Award for best female playback singer and Nishi Padma.

### Kannada Writer and Poet Chennaveera Kanavi

- ★ Noted **Kannada Writer and poet Chennaveera Kanavi**, who was popularly known as Kannada Samanvaya Kavihas passed away. He was 93.
- ★ He was born 18 June 1928, at Hombal Village in Gadag District, Karnataka.
- ★ He received Sahitya Akademi Award for Jeeva Dhvani in 1981, Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Honorary Award for Lifetime Achievement.

### Football Legend Surajit Sengupta

- ★ The former **Indian Footballer Surajit Sengupta** passed away due to Covid-19. He was 71.
- ★ Sengupta was born on 30 August 1951 in Chakbazar in the **Hooghly district, West Bengal**.
- ★ He played for the India national team, representing the country in the 1974 Asian Games in Tehran and the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok.
- ★ He had represented all three of Calcutta's football clubs, Mohun Bagan FC, East Bengal FC, and Mohammedan Sporting FC.
- ★ Sengupta won the IFA Shield and the Calcutta Football League six times and the Durand cup thrice while representing East Bengal FC.

### Journalist Ravish Tiwari

- ★ **Senior Journalist Ravish Tiwari**, National Political Editor passed away. He was 40. He was born on 1981.
- ★ He served as the Chief of National Bureau of The Indian Express and popular for his political news reporting.
- ★ He also served as editor in India Today and The Economic Times.

### Freedom Fighter and Social Worker Shakuntala Choudhary

- ★ **Freedom Fighter and Padma Awardee Shakuntala Choudhary**, passed away in Guwahati. She was 102 years old.
- ★ Choudhary, popularly known as Shakuntala Baideo, associating with Kamrup, she worked for the wellbeing of villagers, especially women and children in the state of Assam
- ★ Earlier, Choudhary had been honoured with one of the highest civilian awards, Padma Shri by the Government of India for **her social work**.

### Minister Mekapati Goutham

- ★ Industries minister in the Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, Mekapati Goutham Reddy passed away. He was 50.
- ★ He was the **Minister for Industries, Commerce, and Information Technology** in the Government of Andhra Pradesh.
- ★ He was an Indian businessman from the state of Andhra Pradesh.

### Malayalam Actress KPAC Lalitha

- ★ Veteran **Malayalam** actor **Maheshwari Amma** popularly known as **K.P.A.C. Lalitha** passed away at Thripunithura, Kerala. She was 74.
- ★ She was born in 1948 in Alappuzha, Kerala.
- ★ She was conferred with 2 National film award and 4 Kerala State Film Awards for best actress.
- ★ She authored a book titled **“Katha Thudarum”** for which she was awarded the Cherkad Award in 2013.

### Politician and Former Odisha Chief Minister Hemananda Biswal

- ★ Former Odisha Chief Minister and a senior Congress leader **Hemananda Biswal** passed away. He was 83 years old.
- ★ He was born on December 1, 1939.
- ★ He was the first tribal chief minister of Odisha.
- ★ He was elected twice as Chief Minister of Odisha from 7 December 1989 to 5 March 1990 and from 6 December 1999 to 5 March 2000.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Mumbai International Film Festival

- ★ This year marks the **17th edition of Mumbai International Film Festival** will be held from 29th of May to 4th of June.
- ★ The festival will be held at the Films Division complex in Mumbai.
- ★ Documentary, Short Fiction and Animation films are the categories for which the award will be presented.
- ★ As the country is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, the current edition has cited a special award for Best Short Film on the theme, India@75.
- ★ V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced in order to honour a veteran personality from the Indian non-feature film industry.