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February 2022 - Week 3

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has sanctioned **Rs. 24.53 crores** for cleaning the **Gomati River**, a trans boundary river between India and Bangladesh, and setting up **10 jetties** for a waterway project to boost the Indo-Bangla waterway project.
  - Of the total 93-km proposed waterway from Sonamura in Tripura's Sepahijala district to Daudkandi in Bangladesh, around 15.5-km stretch needs dredging to operationalize the route. Out of 15.5 km of river, only 1.5-km stretch is in India and 14-km is in Bangladesh.
  - A permanent jetty will come up near Srimantapur Land Customs Station in Sonamura with an estimated cost of Rs 5.04 crore.
  - The Centre has set a goal to bring vessels with a carrying capacity of 200-300 tonnes from Daudkandi to Sonamura by May 2022.
2. The Ministry of Railways has recently approved to set up a state-of-art **World Class Wrestling Academy** in Indian Railways, at **Kishanganj, Delhi**.
  - It will be set up at an estimated cost of **Rs 30.76 crores**.
  - This wrestling academy will be the biggest in India, equipped with advanced training facilities.
3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated Asia's largest Bio-Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) **Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR- DHAN)** plant at the cost of **Rs. 150 crores** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
  - It has been constructed under the overarching principles of “waste to wealth” and “circular economy” for maximizing resource recovery.
  - The plant has the capacity to treat 550 tonnes of segregated wet organic waste per day.
  - The plant will produce around 17,000 kg CNG and 100 tonnes of organic compost every day.
  - It is based on zero-landfill models.
  - The project has been implemented by Indore Clean Energy Pvt Ltd, a Special Purpose Vehicle set up by Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) and Indo Enviro Integrated Solutions Ltd. (IEISL).
4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the **‘Kisan Drone Yatra’**, an initiative by Garuda Aerospace and flagged off **100 ‘Kisan Drones’** in various cities and towns across India.
  - Garuda Aerospace has set a target of manufacturing 1 lakh Made-in-India drones in the next 2 years.

- These drones will be used for crop assessment, digitization of land records, and spraying of insecticides and nutrients.
  - They will also be used to carry vegetables, fruits, fish, etc. to the markets from the farms.
5. The Central Government has recently launched a new doorstep crop insurance distribution campaign named '**Meri Policy Mere Hath**' under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), entering the seventh year of implementation in the upcoming Kharif season.
6. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the implementation of the **Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS)** project under the guidance of the Ministry of Home Affairs at a total cost of **Rs.3,375 crore** during the period from **2022-23 to 2025-26**.
- The project will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme.
  - Under Phase-II, the system is being built on the principle of '**one data one entry**'.
  - **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** will be responsible for the implementation of the project in association with **National Informatics Centre (NIC)**.
  - The project will be implemented in collaboration with the States and Union Territories.
7. The Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal has launched the career counselling workshop '**Pramarsh 2022**' for the students of the **Bikaner** district in Rajasthan.
- In this workshop, one lakh students participated from more than thousands of schools of Bikaner district mainly from the rural area.
  - It has been organised jointly by The National Institute of Career Services (NICS), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Bengaluru-based educational start-up Edumilestones, with support from the Directorate of Education, Rajasthan.
8. The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Common Services Centres (CSCs)** to collaborate for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes to the youth in rural and remote areas of the country.
- Under the partnership, the CSCs at the village level will act as a skill desk, creating awareness about the various available skill development programmes.
9. **Dr. Ajay Kumar**, Defence Secretary of India, has co-chaired the '3rd India – Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue (DCD)' in Maldives with Chief of Defence Force of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF), Major General Abdulla Shamaal.
- Both India and Maldives have focussed on joint efforts and capacity-building measures to counter trans-national crimes and enhance security in the region.



10. The Central government has recently constituted a **Ken-Betwa Link Project Authority (KBLPA)** for the implementation of the Ken-Betwa interlinking of rivers (ILRs) project. The government has also formed a **20-member national steering committee** which will monitor the implementation.
- The 20-member national steering committee will be headed by the secretary, Department of Water Resources, **Pankaj Kumar** with secretaries of Department of Environment and Forests, Expenditure, Power and Tribal Affairs, among other members.
  - The KBLPA will be headed by a chief executive officer at the level of additional secretary to the Government of India and assisted by five additional CEOs at the level of joint secretary/chief engineer and one director finance.
11. **Renault India** has recently partnered with **CSC e-Governance Services** (Common Service Centres) to support the **Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyaan (PMGDISHA)**.
- The aim is to empower rural citizens in the age group of 15 to 60 years across the country to operate computers, laptops, browse internet, access websites as well as banking services and undertake digital payments.
  - The company has handed over five vehicles to help the government's drive to upskill people in rural and semi-urban areas of the country.
12. The **Ministry of Culture** has recently organized the two-day global summit on **'Reimagining Museums in India'** in **Hyderabad, Telangana**.
- Union Culture and Tourism Minister **G. Kishan Reddy** has formally inaugurated the summit.
  - The summit is first of its kind to cultivate new practices and strategies to develop the Indian museums.
  - It has been organized by the ministry along with Bloomberg from 15<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

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13. The **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)** has launched **"Darkathon-2022"** to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through the darknet. The initiative aims at involving students, youth, and technical experts to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets.

- It has been organized in three phases starting from **15<sup>th</sup> February to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022**.

- 14.** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has banned **54 mobile applications** of Chinese origin that pose a threat to India's security. The ban is recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 15.** The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently approved a budget of **Rs.2.26 crores** for India's second-largest fair- **"Medaram Jathara 2022 Festivals"**. This year, it will be held from 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**About Medaram Jathara:**

- It is also known as 'Sammakka Sarakka Jathara'.
  - It is the state festival of **Telangana** (since 1996).
  - It is the second-largest fair of India, after the Kumbh Mela.
- 16.** Under the Saubhagya scheme, **Rajasthan** has the maximum number of households electrified through the solar-based standalone system. As many as 1,23,682 households are electrified through the solar-based standalone system in Rajasthan, followed by Chhattisgarh (65,373), Uttar Pradesh (53,234), Assam (50,754), Bihar (39,100), Maharashtra (30,538), Odisha (13,735), and Madhya Pradesh (12,651).
- In hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has nil beneficiaries under the initiative.
  - Under the scheme, **2.817 crore households** were electrified up to March 2021, including 4.16 lakh through solar-based standalone systems.
- 17.** Hyderabad-based space startup **Navars Edutech** has recently collaborated with **Skyroot Aerospace** to launch **100** student-developed satellites constellation in the next 5 years.
- This partnership enables Navars Edutech to become India's first Space Education startup for K12 students to design and launch satellites to space, using an indigenously developed private launch vehicle of Skyroot Aerospace.
  - The first set of satellites will be launched to LEO (Low Earth Orbit) with Skyroot's maiden launch **Vikram-I** in **December-2022**.
- 18.** The main tunnel **T49**, the longest tunnel of Indian Railways, between Sumber and Arpinchala station of Katra-Banihal section of **Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL)** project has been connected successfully.
- T49 is a tunnel of length **12.758 km** long and has become the longest tunnel of Indian Railway surpassing Peer Panjal Tunnel of **11.2 km length** constructed by USBRL on the Banihal-Qazigund section.

19. The Central Government has recently approved the proposal for the construction of more than **60,000 houses** under **the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** in **5 states** namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, and Rajasthan.
- It has been approved in the 58th meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) chaired by **Manoj Joshi**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
  - The total number of sanctioned houses under PMAY (U) now stands at 114.04 lakh, of which around 93.25 lakh have been grounded for construction and around 54.78 Lakh have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.
  - The total investment under the mission stands at Rs 7.52 lakh crore, with central assistance of Rs 1.87 lakh crore.
  - During the meeting, a book titled '**Transformative Reforms Towards Housing for All**' has been released by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA.
20. The **Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment**, Dr. Virendra Kumar has launched a central sector scheme named the **Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs (SEED)** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- The total financial outlay for SEED Scheme is approximately **Rs 200 crore** to be spent over a period of 5 years starting Financial Year 2021-22 to 2025-26.
21. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has recently launched the Delhi Police's '**Smart Card Arms Licence**' and '**Shastra Mobile Application**' on the occasion of the 75th Raising Day of the Delhi Police.
- With this, **Delhi Police** has become the first police force in the country to introduce 'Smart Card Arms Licence', replacing the arms license booklet.
  - The Delhi Police has developed the Shastra mobile app and smart card with the help of the National e-Governance Division (NeGD) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
  - The Shastra Mobile App has been linked with the 'E-Beat Book'.
22. The 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the **Indo-German Working Group on Quality Infrastructure** has been held virtually. It is led by the Indian Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.
- Key highlights:**
- During the meeting, a **Work Plan for the Year 2022** has been signed by both the countries to strengthen quality infrastructure, reduce technical barriers to trade, enhance product safety and strengthen consumer protection.

- The Outcome of the **Global Quality Infrastructure Index (GQII)** study conducted by Germany has been shared during the meeting.
  - As per the GQII report, India is placed at 7th position on standardisation aspect, 9th for accreditation activities and 19th for metrology related activities.
  - India has scored 95.6 out of 100 and is ranked at **10th place** in the world for overall quality infrastructure environment in the country.

*A publication titled '**United in Quality and Safety**' has been released. This includes information about the quality infrastructure in Germany and the European Union.*

- 23.** The Government of India (GoI), the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha, and the **World Bank** have signed a **\$115 million** (INR 869 crore) for the implementation of the **“Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development” (REWARD)** Project.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the lending arm of World Bank, will support Karnataka with \$60 million (INR 453.5 crore), Odisha with \$49 million (INR 370 crore), and the remaining \$6 million (INR 45.5 crore) will be for the central government’s Department of Land Resources.
  - The loan has a maturity of 15 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years.
- 24.** The Government of India (GoI) has approved the scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** for continuation till **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026** with an expenditure of **Rs 12,929.16 crore** out of which the central share is Rs 8,120.97 crores and the state share is of Rs 4,808.19 crores.
- It has been envisaged to support around 1,600 projects under the new phase of the scheme.
  - Under the new phase of the scheme, state governments will be supported for gender inclusion, equity initiatives, ICT, enhancing employability through vocationalisation and skill upgradation.
- 25.** Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar has recently inaugurated India’s and South Asia’s first **Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) Containment Mobile Laboratory** in **Nashik, Maharashtra**.
- **Objective:** To investigate newly emerging and re-emerging viral infections that are highly infectious and of lethal potential to human beings.
  - The laboratory has been designed and built by the Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Mumbai-based bio-safety equipment maker Klenzaid.
  - The laboratory was built at a cost of **Rs. 25 crores**.



26. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** has recently organized a two-day long '**Chintan Shivir-Heal by India**' to improve India's educational institutions in the health sector.
- 'Heal by India' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.
27. The Indian Navy has successfully test-fired an advanced sea- to- sea variant of the **BrahMos** supersonic cruise missile from **INS Visakhapatnam**.
- The warship INS Vishakhapatnam has now reached Visakhapatnam to participate in the President's Fleet Review on 21st February 2021.
28. **Ministry of Tourism (MoT)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL)** to promote tourism throughout the country. Union minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbanand Sonowal has recently inaugurated **India's first water taxi** in **Mumbai** to enable faster connectivity between Mumbai and Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

29. **Maru Mahotsav**, also known as Jaisalmer Desert Festival, has recently started by flying a golden balloon in the sky at **Pokhran, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**.
- This time the tourism department of the state has named the Maru Mahotsav as 'Umeedon Ki Udaan'.
  - It is a four-day festival held in the month of Magh (February), three days prior to the full moon.
  - It is celebrated with regional folk-dances such as Kalbelia, Kachhi Ghodi, Gair, music, heritage, and various cultural festivities in the state.
  - This year, it has been organized from 13<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
30. The **Central Jail of Indore** (Madhya Pradesh) has started its radio channel '**Jail Vaani-FM 18.77**' to inform jail inmates about what is happening across the world.

- Through the radio channel, prisoners are hopeful of catching entertainment, while also becoming aware of the happenings around the world.
  - The radio channel will also provide the jail inmates with information on health issues.
31. The state government of **Kerala** has recently announced that the first Caravan Park of Kerala will be set up in **Vagamon**, a hill station, in the Idukki district. This is a part of the state government's new Caravan Tourism policy, promising the visitors safe, customized and closest-to-nature travel experience.
- Under this initiative, there will be two types of caravans. In one model, two guests shall be accommodated, while the other is for a family of four.
32. The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh has launched a new scheme named '**Kunsnyoms**' for **differently-abled** persons in the district.
- Kunsnyoms means Equal for All, Fair for All.
  - **Aim:** To provide assistive devices, and technologies to needy people at 90 percent subsidy.
33. The state government of **Gujarat** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with global business process management company QX Global Group Limited, for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the state.
- Under this MoU, around 2,000 jobs will be generated in the IT sector in the coming days.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

34. India has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to provide **50,000 MT of wheat** to **Afghanistan** as a part of humanitarian assistance through the land border with Pakistan.
- The shipments, eventually divided into 5 batches of 10,000 MT, will be taken to Afghanistan from 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022.
35. **Nepal** has become the first country to adopt the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system of India. This will enhance digitalization of cash transactions. The services for the same in Nepal will be provided by the NPCI International Limited (NIPL) in collaboration with payment system operator Gateway Payments Service and Manam Infotech.
36. **Iran** has recently unveiled the long range ballistic surface-to-surface missile named "**Khaibar-buster**". It has a range of 1,450 kilometres.

- "Khaibar-buster" refers to a Jewish castle overrun by Muslim armies in the early days of Islam.
37. The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a '**Quit Tobacco App**' to help people quit the cigarette butt and give up tobacco in all forms, including smokeless and other newer products.
- It has been launched during WHO's year-long 'Commit to quit' campaign.
  - The app helps users identify the triggers, set their targets, manage cravings and stay focused to quit tobacco.
38. The **4th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting 2022** has been held in **Melbourne, Australia**. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has participated in the meeting from the Indian side. Other participants include: Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.
39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently organized a virtual summit in 2022 with **UAE's** crown prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- During the summit, India and UAE have signed a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**.
    - Both the countries issued a joint vision statement - "Advancing India and UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: New Frontiers, New Milestone".
  - The two leaders also released joint commemorative stamp on the occasion of 75th anniversary of India's independence and 50th year of UAE's foundation.
40. The **4th India – Australia Energy Dialogue 2022** has been held virtually. The dialogue has been co-chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R.K. Singh** from the Indian side, and Hon'ble Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction, **Angus Taylor** from the Australian side.
41. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** has recently launched a new Digital Strategy 2022-2025 to support countries to build inclusive, ethical, and sustainable digital societies.
- As per the UN, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technology could bring a 10-20% reduction in global carbon dioxide emissions by 2030.
42. The 21st edition of the **World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2022** has recently been organized by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future'

- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has delivered the inaugural address at the summit.
    - He discussed the LED bulbs distribution scheme (**UJALA**) that has been running for over seven years that had reportedly saved close to 220 billion units of electricity and prevented 180 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.
    - He encouraged academic and research institutes like TERI to come up with scalable solutions to realize the potential of green hydrogen.
- 43.** The air forces of **Bangladesh** and the **USA** has conducted a joint air exercise named '**Cope South 22**' from 20<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022. It has been conducted at BAF Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka, and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- **Objective:** 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 six days exercise has been sponsored by Pacific Air Forces (PACAF).
- 44.** The 44-member contingents of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has participated in the Singapore Airshow 2022. It is held from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at the Changi International Airport in Singapore.
- India has showcased the IAF's Made in India Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) **Tejas Mark-One (MK-1)**, a 4<sup>th</sup> generation fighter aircraft.

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## REPORTS & INDICES

- 45.** India's retail inflation, which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), has increased to **6.01%** in **January 2022** as compared to 5.66% in December 2021. This rise is driven by the rising prices of food and manufactured items.
- As per the data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the inflation in the food basket is 5.43% in January 2022 as against 4.05% in the preceding month.
- 46.** As per the Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for the agricultural year 2021-22 released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, India's estimated food grain production is **316.06 million tonnes**.
- This is 1.71 percent higher than 310.74 million tonnes recorded in 2020-21.



**Product-wise estimation:**

- **Jute & Mesta:** 9.57 million bales (each of 180kg)
- **Cotton:** 34.06 million bales (each of 170 kg)
- **Sugarcane:** 414.04 million tonnes
- **Pulses:** To increase by 5.87 percent to 26.96 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- **Oilseed:** To increase by 3.34 percent to 371.47 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- **Rice:** To increase by 2.86 percent to 127.93 million tonnes in 2021-22.
- **Wheat:** To increase by 1.58 percent to 111.32 million tonnes in 2021-22.

**47.** Hurun Report, the world's largest rich list compiler, has released the second edition of **Hurun India Wealth Report 2021**, macro research on India's wealth landscape. As per the report, the number of dollar-millionaire households in India has increased by **11%** to **4,58,000 households** compared to 2020.

- A household having a net worth of at least **INR 7 crore (\$1 million)**, is referred to as a dollar-millionaire household.
- The number of Indian dollar-millionaire households is estimated to increase by **30%** over the next five years to reach 6,00,000 households by 2026.
- With 20,300 millionaires (USD) households, **Mumbai** is India's millionaire capital, followed by Delhi and Kolkata with 17,400 and 10,500 millionaire households respectively.
- The report is based on the survey on 350 Indian 'millionaires' (individuals with a personal wealth of \$1 million).

Hurun Report has also released the second edition of **Hurun Indian Luxury Consumer Survey 2021** that gives insights on Indian millionaire brand preferences, consumption habits and lifestyle trends.

- As per the report, 36% of Indian millionaires use e-wallets or UPI as their preferred payment method as compared to the 18% last year.
- 66% of the survey respondents indicated that they are happy with both personal and professional life, compared to 72% in 2020.
- Taj is the most preferred hospitality brand, followed by Oberoi and Leela.
- Rolex is the most preferred luxury watch brand, followed by Cartier and Audemars Piguet.
- Tanishq is the most preferred Indian jewellery retail brand.
- Louis Vuitton is the most preferred luxury goods brand, followed by Gucci and Burberry.
- Gulfstream is the most preferred private jet brand, followed by Boeing and Airbus.

**48.** The report by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** economic research department (ERD), '**Ecowrap**' has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimate for the financial year 2022 to **8.8%** from its earlier forecast of 9.3%. It has projected India's GDP to grow at **5.8 percent** in Q3 of fiscal 2022.

49. As per the '**Deloitte 2022 CxO Sustainability Report: The Disconnect Between Ambition and Impact**', Indian businesses have ranked **fifth** amongst 21 countries based on their concern for climate change.
- The survey was conducted by KS&R Inc. and Deloitte during September-October 2021.
  - According to the report, 80 percent of Indian executives see the world at a tipping point for responding to climate change (it was about 53 percent eight months ago).
  - Indian companies are more likely to be implementing tougher climate actions compared with their global counterpart.
  - The top climate issue already affecting Indian organisations is employees' health.
50. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has published the **Global Trade Update (February 2022)**.
- As per the report, the value of global trade reached a record level of **\$28.5 trillion** in 2021, an increase of 25% on 2020 and 13% higher compared to 2019.
  - The report indicates that trade growth will slow during the first quarter of 2022.
  - Trade in goods increased more strongly in the developing world than in developed countries.
  - As a result of the global shortage of semiconductors, trade growth in communication equipment, road vehicles and precision instruments was subdued.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

51. The Ministry of Education has recently approved a new scheme "**New India Literacy Programme (NILP)**" for the period **FYs 2022-2027** to cover all the aspects of Adult Education.

### Key Features of NILP:

- **Objective:** To impart foundational literacy, numeracy, critical life skills, vocational skills development, and continuing education.
- The scheme will be implemented through volunteerism through online mode.
- The scheme will cover non-literates of the age of **15 years and above** in all states/UTs in the country.
- The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for FYs 2022-27 is **5 crore learners** @ 1 crore per year by using "Online Teaching, Learning and Assessment System (OTLAS)" in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, NCERT, and NIOS.
- The estimated total outlay of the scheme is **Rs. 1037.90 crore** which includes the Central share of Rs.700 crore and State share of Rs.337.90 crore respectively for the FYs 2022 -27.

- School will be the Unit for the implementation of the scheme.
- Performance Grading Index (PGI) for State/UT and district level will show the performance of States and UTs to implement the scheme and achievements on yearly basis by weighing both the physical and financial progress through Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE) portal.

**52.** The Ministry of Power has recently notified the Green Hydrogen/ Green Ammonia Policy on the lines of the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM).

**Key elements:**

- Green Hydrogen / Ammonia manufacturers may purchase renewable power from the power exchange or set up renewable energy capacity themselves or through any other, developer, anywhere.
- The manufacturer can bank his unconsumed renewable power, up to **30 days**, with the Distribution Company and take it back when required.
- Waiver of inter-state transmission charges for a period of 25 years will be allowed to the manufacturers of Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia for the projects commissioned before **30th June 2025**.
- The policy promotes Renewable Energy (RE) generation as RE will be the basic ingredient in making green hydrogen.

**53.** The Union Cabinet has recently approved the continuation of the **Capacity Development (CD) scheme** till **March 2026** or further review, whichever is earlier. The total outlay approved for the continuation of this scheme during the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission cycle is **Rs. 3,179 crore**.

- The capacity development scheme is a central sector scheme of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- **Objective:** To augment infrastructural, technical as well as manpower resources for enabling availability of credible and timely official statistics.

**54. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY):**

- It was launched on **18<sup>th</sup> February 2016** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- It aims to provide financial assistance to all the farmers who have suffered crop damage or loss from natural disasters.
- In the year 2020, PMFBY was modified to allow farmers to participate voluntarily.
- It has also been made easier for farmers to report crop damage within 72 hours after the occurrence of any event, either through the Crop Insurance App, the CSC Centre, or the nearest agriculture officer.

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## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 55. Jio Platforms**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), has announced a joint venture with **SES**, a Luxembourg-based satellite services provider, to deliver the next generation scalable and affordable broadband services in India.
- Jio Platforms and SES will own 51% and 49% equity stake each in the joint venture.
  - The total value of the contract is about \$100 million.
- 56. BSE Ebix Insurance Broking**, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange Pte Ltd, has partnered with **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** for the distribution of insurance products. Under this partnership, BSE Ebix will offer its clients insurance products offered by LIC such as Life and Health, using its omnichannel digital presence.
- 57.** The **National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to set up biofuel projects, plants for post-processing of products like cattle feed and marketing of end products of CBG (Cannabigerol).
- 58.** The Central Government has recently reduced the Agricultural Infrastructure Development Cess (AIDC) on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) from 7.5 percent to **5 percent** with effect from 12th February 2022.
- After this reduction, the import tax gap will be 8.5 percent between CPO and Refined Palm Oil.
- 59.** The **Aditya Birla Group** has invested an undisclosed amount in **Zand**, an upcoming digital bank in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- Zand will be the first digital bank to provide both retail and corporate services.
  - Other investors of Zand includes: Franklin Templeton, Al Hail Holding LLC, Al Sayyah and Sons Investments LLC, Global Development Group, Mohamed Alabbar, Olivier Crespin, and Yusuff Ali M A as shareholders in the bank.



60. NHPC Limited has set up a new wholly owned subsidiary company namely “**NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL)**”, for development of Renewable Energy, Small Hydro and Green Hydrogen based business of NHPC Ltd.
- Currently, NHPC’s total installed generation capacity stands at **7071 mega-watt (MW)** which includes 100 MW of Solar/ Wind energy-based plants.
  - Another **5999** of Hydro and **105 MW** of Solar Plants are under construction.
  - NHPC has signed a Letter of Intent with **Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL)** for development of 10000 MW renewable energy projects / parks in Rajasthan.
61. **Ayana Renewable Power Pvt. Ltd.**, owned by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), has partnered with Hyderabad-based **Greenko Group** to store 6-gigawatt hour (GWh) of power in hydro pump storage plants that Greenko is building at Pinnapuram in Andhra Pradesh. The aim is to provide standalone storage capacity to develop firm and dispatchable renewable energy (RE) solutions, including round-the-clock power supply of up to 1GW.
62. **TransUnion CIBIL** has partnered with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** to launch a MSME consumer education program that will help small businesses gain awareness on credit management, CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information.
- This program will kick off with MSME clusters in Maharashtra, Assam and Tripura.
  - The program aims to reach thousands of MSMEs across key MSME clusters in India.
63. Tata Sons have appointed **Ilker Ayci**, former Chairman of Turkish Airlines, as the new MD&CEO of Air India. He will assume his responsibilities on or before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.
64. **JPMorgan**, the largest bank in the USA, has become the first bank to enter the metaverse, having opened a lounge named ‘**Onyx Lounge**’ in Decentraland, a virtual world based on blockchain technology.
- Users can create their virtual avatars, build virtual spaces and roam in the lounge.
  - The lounge also features a digital image of the bank’s CEO Jamie Dimon.
65. **Dabur India**, India’s largest Ayurveda company, has become a 100% ‘**Plastic Waste Neutral Company**’ in India after collecting, processing and recycling around 27,000 metric tonnes of post-consumer plastic waste during FY21-22. With this, Dabur has become the first Fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company to achieve this feat.

- 66. Vedanta Limited** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with electronics manufacturing services giant **Foxconn** to form a joint venture (JV) for manufacturing **semiconductors** in India.
- With this, Vedanta has become the first company to announce investment in semiconductor manufacturing in India.
  - As per the MoU, Vedanta will hold the majority equity in the JV, while Foxconn will be the minority shareholder.
- 67. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** has bagged an order from **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** to manufacture, assemble, test, and supply compact heat exchanger sets for 83 LCA (Light Combat Aircraft) Tejas MK1A aircrafts.
- The BHEL's Heavy Plates and Vessels Plant (HPVP), Visakhapatnam is the sole supplier of heat exchangers for LCA Tejas to HAL since 1996.
- 68.** Micro-blogging platform **Twitter** has partnered with **Paytm Payments Services Limited**, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm, to strengthen the 'Tips' feature in India.
- Tips is a new way to monetise on Twitter and enables people on the service to send and receive funds as a token of appreciation.
  - Using the Tips feature, users can support their favourite creators or small business owners on Twitter by using any Paytm Payment Instrument like Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid (buy-now-pay-later), debit and credit cards, and netbanking.
  - Tips on Twitter are available in Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, and Tamil.
- 69. Brio Hydroponics**, an Ahmedabad based agritech startup, has tied up with an Israeli firm **Pic-Plast Limited** for a rain protection technique. This will help grow plants hydroponically throughout the year. **Note:** Hydroponics is a technique of growing plants indoors without using any soil.
- 70. Juspay Technologies** has launched a software stack named '**OpenPPI**' to help Prepaid Instruments (PPI) like digital wallets implement and comply with RBI's PPI interoperability regulation.
- **Interoperability:** It allows to transfer money by scanning UPI QR code and pay from wallets or cards just like a bank account with multiple possibilities for wallet use.

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## BANKING & FINANCE

- 71. Yes Bank** has launched an annual start-up program named 'Yes Bank Agri Infinity program', which seeks to co-develop digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem by mentoring entrepreneurial ventures in the field.
- 72. Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. (KVB)** has joined hands with **Unanu Technologies** to introduce digital freight financing to fund transport contractors using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.
- KVB is the first bank to introduce digital freight financing through marketplace in the banking sector.
  - UNANU has built the Freight Financing System within their suite of software platforms.
    - Using the module "U-Turbo – a marketplace", one can on-board logistics companies and shippers to Freight Financing programme.
- 73. DMI Finance Private Limited (DMI)** has recently partnered with **Google Pay** to provide digital personal loans to Google Pay users.
- Under this partnership, DMI Finance will disburse up to **Rs. 1 lakh** per loan which would be repayable over a maximum of 36 months.
  - This partnership is being launched in over 15,000 pin codes.
- 74. Phonepe** has partnered with **NITI Aayog** to launch **Fintech Open Hackathon** to provide an opportunity for innovators, digital creators, and developers from all over India to think, ideate and code.
- Participating teams can have one or up to five participants. They can use data sources like PhonePe Pulse, the Open Government Data Platform and RBI reports on payments to build on their submission.
  - The winning team will be awarded Rs 1,50,000. Two teams, in second and third places, will win Rs 1 lakh and Rs 75,000, respectively.
- 75. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has partnered with **Ezetap** to provide integrated point of sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India. This partnership will enable the lender to scale up its PoS product base across merchant segments, including retail enterprises and government customers.
- 76. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched a new programme named '**Waste to Wealth Creation**' for the women in the Sundarbans in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

- This is a part of Swavalamban mission of SIDBI that aims to support artisans to become sustainable.
  - In this, the women will make ornaments and showpieces from the fish scale.
  - SIDBI will extend benefits to 50 women indirectly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods.
77. State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) have subscribed to shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
78. The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has recently collaborated with **Bihar** government to develop the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) ecosystem. For this, SIDBI has signed a two Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with the Industries Department, Government of Bihar and Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority (BIADA).
- Bihar is the **14<sup>th</sup> state** of India with which SIDBI has partnered to strengthen MSME.
79. **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** has launched its new insurance plan named '**Flexi Edge**', a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings.
80. **IndusInd Bank** has been empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri- Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on **National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** portal for the transactions between farmers and traders across the country.
81. **LKP Securities Ltd** has tied up with **HDFC Bank** to offer a special 3-in-1 online account. Under this facility, customers of LKP Securities Ltd. can complete their bank account opening formalities and gain added benefits of broking and demat account.
- The 3-in-1 account facilitates swift fund transfer between the bank account and trading account.
  - The account offers a host of benefits including no annual maintenance charges (AMC) for one year from the trading account opening date and waiver on brokerage charges of up to Rs 500 for one month from the date of demat account opening.
  - The demat and trading accounts also provide the facility to trade in other segments like commodities and currency.



82. **PayU** has recently announced its integration with **BigCommerce**, an Open SaaS e-commerce platform for fast-growing and established brands, to strengthen Server Message Block (SMB) digitalization.
83. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the deadline for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to comply with new asset classification norms issued on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. NBFCs will now be allowed to move to the new rules for recognizing bad loans by **30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**, as against 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- The new guidelines issued last year had asked NBFCs to upgrade bad loans to standard assets only after all interest dues and principal outstanding are repaid across credit facilities.
84. **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 without principal deduction.
- This facility is available for a loan amount ranging from Rs.35 lakh to Rs.3.5 crore.
  - The maximum tenure set for the loan is 30 years for salaried individuals and 25 years for self-employed individuals.
85. **Edelweiss Asset Management** has launched a mutual fund investment mobile application named "**eInvest**" to help investors perform all financial transactions on the go. The app comes with **Insta Money** feature that is a mutual fund savings account with an instant withdrawal facility to the registered bank account.
86. Fisdome, a wealth-tech company, has tied up with the **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** to offer wealth management products and services to over 29 million customers of the bank. The aim is to distribute the wealth products and services including the mobile banking app and internet banking.
87. **Bank of Baroda** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam Rifles**, the oldest paramilitary force, to provide the 'Baroda Central Forces Salary Package' to all personnel of the Assam Rifles, both serving and retired.
- The lender will also provide special benefits, including Personal Accident Insurance and a co-branded credit card.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

88. **Sandeep Bakhshi**, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, has been named the **Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21** for turning around

the private sector lender and changing the perception about it during his tenure of the past three and a half years.

89. The prestigious ceremony of **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022** has been held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

<b>Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Winners</b>
<b>Outstanding Contribution to Films</b>	Asha Parekh
<b>Film of the Year</b>	Pushpa: The Rise
<b>Best Film</b>	Shershaah
<b>Best Director</b>	Ken Ghosh for film State of Siege: Temple Attack
<b>Best International Feature Film</b>	Another Round
<b>Best Actor</b>	Ranveer Singh for 83
<b>Best Actress</b>	Kriti Sanon for Mimi
<b>Critics Best Actor</b>	Sidharth Malhotra
<b>Critics Best Actress</b>	Kiara Advani
<b>Best Actor in Supporting Role</b>	Satish Kaushik for film Kaagaz
<b>Best Actress in Supporting Role</b>	Lara Dutta for film Bell Bottom
<b>Best Actor in Negative Role</b>	Aayush Sharma for film Antim: The Final Truth
<b>People's Choice Best Actor</b>	Abhimanyu Dasani
<b>People's Choice Best Actress</b>	Radhika Madan
<b>Best Debut</b>	Ahan Shetty for film Tadap
<b>Best Playback Singer Male</b>	Vishal Mishra
<b>Best Playback Singer Female</b>	Kanika Kapoor
<b>Critics Best Film</b>	Sardar Udham Singh
<b>Best Cinematographer</b>	Jayakrishna Gummadi for film Haseena Dilruba
<b>Best Short Film</b>	Pauli
<b>Best Actor in Web Series</b>	Manoj Bajpayee for The Family Man 2
<b>Best Actress in Web Series</b>	Raveena Tandon for Aranyak
<b>Best Web Series</b>	Candy
<b>Best Actor in Television Series</b>	Shaheer Sheikh for Kuch Rang Pyar Ke Aise Bhi
<b>Best Actress in Television Series</b>	Shraddha Arya for Kundali Bhagya
<b>Television Series of the Year</b>	Anupama
<b>Most Promising Actor in Television Series</b>	Dheeraj Dhoopar for Kundali Bhagya
<b>Most Promising Actress in Television Series</b>	Rupali Ganguly for Anupama

**90. Bill Gates** of United States of America has been honoured with **Hilal-e-Pakistan**, Pakistan's second-highest civilian honour, for his efforts to help eradicate polio in the country. He is the co-founder of Microsoft and philanthropist.

**91.** The IBA 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 has been organized by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over 2021.

IBA 17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021		
Category	Segment	Winner
Best Technology Bank of the Year	Large	Bank of Baroda
	Small	South Indian Bank
	Foreign	Citibank
	Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)	Baroda Rajasthan Ksheteriya Gramin
	Cooperative Banks	Saraswat Cooperative Bank
Best Use of AI/ML and Data Analytics	Large	ICICI Bank
	Small	South Indian Bank and Karur Vysya Bank
	RRBs	Telangana Grameen Bank
Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives	Large	Union Bank of India
	Medium	Yes Bank
	Small	South Indian Bank
	Foreign	HSBC
	RRBs	Baroda Rajasthan Ksheteriya Gramin and Telangana Grameen Bank
	Cooperative Banks	Saraswat Cooperative Bank
	Small Payment Banks	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives	Large	SBI
	Small	Jammu & Kashmir Bank
	RRBs	Baroda Rajasthan Ksheteriya Gramin
Best Payments Initiative	Public	SBI
	Private	ICICI Bank
Best Fintech Adoption	Large	ICICI Bank
	Medium	Federal Bank
	Small	South Indian Bank
	RRBs	Baroda Rajasthan Ksheteriya Gramin
Cloud Adoption	Large	Union Bank of India
	Medium	Yes Bank
	Small	Karur Vysya Bank

	Foreign	Citibank
	RRBs	Baroda Rajasthan Ksheteriya Gramin

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## BOOKS & AUTHORS

92. A book titled '**How to Prevent the Next Pandemic**' has been authored by **Bill Gates**. It will be published by Knopf in the U.S. and Penguin Random House internationally. It will be released in May 2022. In the book Bill Gates has written about specific steps that can only stop future pandemics but, in the process, provide better health care for everyone around the world.
93. A new book titled "**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**" has been authored by **Ro Khanna**. The book is published by Simon & Schuster. The book highlights the effects of changing lifestyle patterns of Americans due to technological progress.
94. A new book titled "**A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Reconstruction**" has been authored by **Uma Das Gupta**. It is published by Niyogi Books under the imprint 'Paper Missile'. The book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Shanti niketan in 1922.
95. A new book titled "**The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley**" has been authored by **Jimmy Soni**. It is published by Simon & Schuster. The book highlights the story of multinational digital-payments company PayPal and how it covered the journey of a start-up that turned into one of the most successful companies of all time.
96. A new book titled '**A Nation To Protect**' has been authored by **Priyam Gandhi Mody**. The book has been launched by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The book highlights the role of PM Narendra Modi during the Covid crisis in the past two years. The book documents the Centre's leadership in this unprecedented time and how it tided the nation through the crisis.



97. A new book titled “**Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War**” has been authored by **Samuel Myon**. 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.

## PERSON IN NEWS

98. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has recently announced the appointment of **Vineet Joshi**, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, as its new Chairman with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022. He has succeeded **Manoj Ahuja**.
99. A23, an app owned by online skill gaming company Head Digital Works, has recently roped in Bollywood actor **Shahrukh Khan** as its brand ambassador. He will feature in its ‘Chalo Saath Khele’ campaign along with a first-of-its-kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases skill games such as rummy, fantasy sports, carom and pool.
- Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and Bhojpuri Singer, **Manoj Tiwari**, has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Khadi and other handicrafts of Bihar.
100. Former Vice Chief of Navy Vice Admiral **G Ashok Kumar** has been appointed as the country's first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC).
101. The Institute of Economic Growth has appointed **Chetan Ghate** as the new director of the institute. He will succeed Ajit Mishra.
- Chetan Ghate was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020.
  - He is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country.
  - He is currently an external affiliate of the Centre for Research in Macroeconomics and Macro-Finance at Swansea University (Wales, UK).
102. The Delhi High Court has appointed former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, **Gita Mittal** as the Chairperson of a 3-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) to run the day-to-day affairs of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).
103. Indian table tennis player **Manika Batra** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Sportswear brand Adidas. The partnership focuses on empowering women to realise their dreams, cheering for women to break barriers and create a reverberating impact in the world of sports.

## OBITUARIES

- 104.** Eminent **Kannada poet** Chennaveera Kanavi has passed away recently in Dharwad, Karnataka. He was born on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1928 at Homball village in Gadag district of Karnataka.
- He was popularly known as "**Samanvayada Kavi**" and "**Soujanya Kavi**".
  - He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his work 'Jeevadhvani' in 1981.
- 105.** Former India **footballer Surajit Sengupta** has passed away recently in Kolkata, West Bengal. He played for both Mohun Bagan and East Bengal and represented India at the 1974 and 1978 Asian Games. He was part of the Indian national team that won a bronze medal in the 1970 Asian Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- 106.** Senior journalist and Indian Express national bureau chief **Ravish Tiwari** has passed away recently in Gurugram, Haryana. He had been suffering from cancer. He was also the national political editor of The Indian Express. He had previously worked at India Today and The Economic Times.
- 107.** Veteran singer and composer, **Bappi Lahiri** has passed away recently in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born as **Alokesh Lahiri** on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1952 in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.
- 108.** Veteran Kannada actress and writer **Bhargavi Narayan** has passed away recently in Bangalore, Karnataka. She was born on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1938 in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- She wrote a book in Kannada titled 'Naa Kanda Nammavaru'.
  - Her notable films include Eradu Kanasu, Hanthakana Sanchu, Pallavi Anupallavi, and Baa Nalle Madhuchandrake.
- 109.** Renowned Freedom fighter and Social Worker **Shakuntala Choudhary** has passed away recently in Guwahati, Assam. She was born on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1920 in Kamrup, Assam.
- She was fondly known as Shakunthala Baideo.
  - She was a torch-bearer of the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi across the Northeast, particularly in Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya and spent a large part of her life at the Kasturba ashram.

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## SPORTS

**110.** South African batter **Keegan Petersen** has been named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for January 2022. Whereas, England women's team captain **Heather Knight** has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for January 2022.

**111. Chelsea**, an English football club, has won the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup title by defeating Brazilian club Palmeiras in the finals held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- Chelsea has won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time.
- It has become the third English team to win the Club World Cup after Manchester United and Liverpool.

**112.** The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 under the aegis of Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has been held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar in Odisha.

### **Winners of Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22:**

- **Men's category:** Haryana
- **Women's category:** Kerala

**113.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission (AC) has recently re-elected Double Olympic ice hockey bronze medallist **Emma Terho** of Finland as its Chair.

- IOC has elected table tennis player Seung Min Ryu of the Republic of Korea as its Vice-Chair.
- The commission has also elected cyclist Sarah Walker of New Zealand as second Vice-Chair.

**114. Mumbai** has been officially elected as the host for the **2023 International Olympic Committee (IOC) session**. Mumbai received a historic 99% of the votes in favour of its bid from the delegates participating in the process, with 75 members endorsing its candidature in the session held at Beijing. The last such session was hosted by India in the year 1983 in New Delhi.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**115.** International Childhood Cancer Day is observed annually on **15<sup>th</sup> February** to raise awareness about childhood cancer, and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Better Survival' is achievable #throughyourhands
- The symbol for childhood cancer is the **Gold ribbon**.
- The day was first observed in 2000 by the Childhood Cancer International (CCI).

**116. World Pangolin Day** is observed annually on the **“Third Saturday of February”** to spread awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts.

- In 2022, the day is observed on **19<sup>th</sup> February**.
- The year 2022 marks the **11th edition** of the event.

**117. Soil Health Card Day** is observed annually on **19<sup>th</sup> February** to commemorate the launch of the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. The year 2022 marks the 7th year of the launch of the SHC Scheme.

- SHC scheme was launched on **19<sup>th</sup> February 2015** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at **Suratgarh, Rajasthan**.
- **Objective:** To issue soil health cards to farmers every 2 years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in fertilization practises.
- The scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue soil health cards to all farmers in the country.

**118. World Day of Social Justice** is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> February** 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.

- **Theme 2022:** “Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment”
- On 26 November, 2007, the UN General Assembly declared 20 February as the annual World Day of Social Justice. The day was first observed in 2009.

**119. International Mother Language Day (IMLD)** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> February** to spread awareness regarding linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

- **Theme 2022:** “Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”

**120.** The states of **Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh** have observed their **36<sup>th</sup> Statehood day** on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Mizoram, as well as the state of Arunachal Pradesh, came into existence on **20 February 1987**.

- Mizoram became the 23rd state of India after the 53rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.
- Arunachal Pradesh became the 24th state of India after the 55th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1986.



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