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January 2022 - Week 4

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution with its principal agency, Food Corporation of India (FCI), has developed a roadmap for the development of **Online Storage Management (OSM)** in the country.
 - **Aim:** To provide a single source of information for the food grains stored in the country for central pool through integrating State portals with the central portal.
 - It will develop an ecosystem of storage management applications across the DCP (Decentralised Procurement) States, each being capable of capturing the Minimum Storage Specifications (MSS).
 - A total of **16 States** (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal) have reassured of their commitment to develop/implement storage management applications with Minimum Storage Specifications (MSSs) and integrate them with the central portal.
2. Union Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav** has recently represented India at the **4th Asia Ministerial Conference (AMC) on Tiger Conservation** held in a hybrid mode. The conference was organized by **Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and Malaysia**.
 - The AMC has adopted the Kuala Lumpur Joint Statement which listed 14 commitments.
3. Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers, **Mansukh Mandaviya** has virtually launched the Research Portal of the **National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)** in New Delhi to facilitate innovation and research in the pharmaceutical sector.
 - The NIPER Research portal will provide the information about the research activities of NIPER.
 - The portal will also list out the patents and publication information of NIPER.
 - It will hold the research details of all the NIPERs in one place.
 - The portal will also benefit the MSMEs largely.
4. The **2nd ASEAN Digital Ministers (ADGMIN)** meeting has been held virtually with India. The meeting has been co-chaired by India's Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan and Myanmar's Minister of Transport and Communications Admiral Tin Aung San.
 - The Ministers meeting has approved the **India-ASEAN Digital Work Plan 2022**.
 - The work plan includes system for combating the use of stolen and counterfeit mobile handsets, WiFi Access network interface for nationwide public internet. It also includes capacity building and knowledge sharing in emerging areas in Information and

Communication Technologies such as Internet of Things, 5G, Advanced Satellite Communication and Cyber Forensics.

5. The Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry **Som Parkash** has launched India's first virtual platform for spice exports named '**Spice Xchange India**' at a hybrid event held in Kochi, Kerala.
- It is launched by Spices Board India.
 - It is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based 3D virtual platform aimed at connecting India's spice exporters with buyers from around the world.
6. Union home minister Amit Shah has recently launched the **District Good Governance Index (DGGI)** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, which is the first Union Territory to have such an index.
- The top 5 districts in the index are **(1) Jammu, (2) Doda, (3) Samba, (4) Pulwama and (5) Srinagar**.
 - The District Good Governance Index, which has been launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, has been prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in partnership with the Union Territory's administration.
 - The District Good Governance Index (DGGI) is a framework document comprising of performance under ten governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.
7. The **Kerala Bird Atlas (KBA)**, the first-of-its-kind State-level bird atlas in India, has created solid baseline data about the distribution and abundance of bird species across all major habitats, giving an impetus to futuristic studies.
- It has been prepared based on systematic surveys held twice over 60 days a year during the wet (July to September) and dry (January to March) seasons between 2015 and 2020.
 - It accounted for nearly 3 lakh records of 361 species, including 94 very rare species, 103 rare species, 110 common species, 44 very common species, and 10 most abundant species.
 - Species count was higher during the dry season than in the wet season.
 - Species richness and evenness were higher in the northern and central districts than in the southern districts.
- It is Asia's largest bird atlas in terms of geographical extent, sampling effort and species coverage derived from the aggregation of 25,000 checklists.
8. Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla** has recently launched the official mobile application of the Parliament named '**Digital Sansad App**' to allow citizens to access live proceedings of the House, including the Union Budget 2022 live. The app will make the Parliament and

Parliamentary proceedings accessible not only to the members but also to the public of the country.

- Through the Digital Sansad App, citizens can check what their members of Parliament are doing, what debates they are participating in and what they are saying.
- Using the app, parliamentarians can also digitally log their attendance.
- The app contains information on budget speeches **since 1947** as well as House discussions from the **12th Lok Sabha to 17th Lok Sabha**.
- The app will also help members of parliament to access services like checking personal updates viz., House bulletins, the status of their notices, etc.

9. The Indian Space & Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully test-fired the **Vikas engine** that will power the ambitious Gaganyaan mission into space. The High Thrust Vikas Engine for the Gaganyaan mission has successfully undergone a qualification test for a duration of 25 seconds at ISRO's Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu. The test has been conducted to check the robustness of the engine by operating beyond its nominal operating conditions.

Gaganyaan Mission:

- Gaganyaan is a mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- Under the Gaganyaan schedule:
 - Three flights will be sent into orbit.
 - There will be two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
- The Gaganyaan system module, called the Orbital Module will have three Indian astronauts, including a woman.
- It will circle Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 5-7 days.
- It will be officially launched in **2023**.

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10. **India** has recently crossed the **USD 200 million mark** of export of agricultural processed product, - **pickling cucumber**, which is globally referred as **gherkins or cornichons**, in the last financial year. With this, India has become the largest exporter of 'gherkins' in the world. In 2020-21, India had shipped 2,23,515 Metric Tonnes of cucumber and gherkins with a value of USD 223 million.

About Gherkins:

- It is a term generally used to refer to a **savoury pickled cucumber**.

- Gherkins and commercial cucumbers belong to the same species (*Cucumis sativus*), but are from different cultivar groups.
- It is a little cucumber that's been pickled in a brine, vinegar, or other solution and left to ferment for a period of time.

11. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently launched “**Star Rating System**” to incentivise states for quick disposal of environment clearance applications for development projects. The system provides environmental clearance in short duration.

- The star rating system provides marks to the states on a scale of seven. The states receive two marks for clearing a project in less than 80 days. One mark for clearing in 105 days. Zero for clearing more than this duration. If the state has less than 10% of projects for scrutiny, then one mark is provided and so on.
- It introduces conditions for **State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA)**. These conditions are based on the following:
 - Proposals waiting for more than thirty days
 - Terms of Reference proposals waiting for more than thirty days
 - Percentage of disposal of fresh terms of reference
 - Environmental Clearances waiting for more than 105 days
 - Complaints reassessed
- The system will provide star rating to the SEIAA. The rating is provided based on the performance of the authority in the past six months. The ratings are updated in the month end. The average time taken to grant the clearance has been decreased to **75 days**. Earlier it was 105 days.
- The system says that the infrastructure projects should be approved first by the SEIAA. For this the SEIAA shall constitute committees with environmental experts and state officers. The Category A projects, that is, those that involve forest land should be cleared by the committee constituted by the centre.

12. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in partnership with **Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** and **Agence Française de Développement (AFD)** has launched the “**Swachhata Start-Up Challenge**”.

- It has been launched to provide an impetus to innovative start-ups to come forward and drive catalytic transformation in the sanitation and waste management sector.
- It is launched under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
- Both **Indian and French start-ups** can participate in the challenge.
- The participants have to find solutions in four areas. They are **zero dump (solid waste management), social inclusion, plastic waste management and transparency through digital enablement**.
- Vilgro is an implementing partner of the challenge.

13. The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has amended the guidelines of **Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)** to provide 40-100 per cent subsidy until **March 2023**.

- After the amendment, Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes, ICAR institutes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and State Agriculture Universities for large-scale demonstrations of this technology on farmers' fields would be eligible for a grant of up to **100%** of the cost of an agriculture drone or **Rs.10 lakh**, whichever is less.
- Agriculture graduates establishing Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) would be eligible for a grant of up to **Rs.5 lakh** or **50%** of the basic cost of the drone and its attachments.
- Existing CHCs or new ones, already or to be set up by a cooperative society of farmers, farmer producers organizations (FPOs) and rural entrepreneurs are entitled to receive **40%** subsidy or up to **Rs.4 lakh**.

14. **Western Naval Command** of the Indian Navy has recently conducted a joint maritime exercise **Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022)** off the West Coast at the **Arabian Sea**. It has been organized for 20 days with an aim to enhance Inter-Service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard.

15. The Government of India has recently launched the revamped **CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme)** website (www.cghs.gov.in) and mobile app, **"MyCGHS"**.

Key Highlights:

- The Website has been developed in accordance with GIGW (Guidelines for Indian Government Websites).
- These standards and guidelines make the website 3U compliant i.e., Usable, User-Centric and Universally Accessible.
- With the newly provided feature of tele-consultation, CGHS beneficiaries can seek expert advice directly through tele-consultation.

CGHS is a comprehensive health scheme to serve pensioners, employees, ex-MPs, Members of Parliament and dependent family members.

16. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Ashwini Vaishnaw has recently released a **five-year** roadmap and vision document for the electronics sector titled **"\$300 bn Sustainable Electronics Manufacturing & Exports by 2026"**.

- It has been released in association with India Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA).
- It aims to increase India's electronics export from the projected US \$15 billion in 2021-22 to **US \$120 billion** by **2026**.
- The domestic market is expected to increase from US \$65 billion to US \$180 billion over the next 5 years.

- Mobile manufacturing is expected to cross **US \$100 billion** annual production in 2025-26 from the current US \$30 billion. It will constitute nearly 40 percent in the target.

This roadmap is the second volume of a two-part vision document – the first of which titled **“Increasing India’s Electronics Exports and Share in GVCs”** was released in November 2021.

- 17.** The Digital University Kerala (DUK) has recently partnered with the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) in Thrissur, Kerala to establish India’s first innovation centre for graphene in **Kerala**.
- The project will receive a funding of Rs. 86.41 crore (over USD\$11.5 million) from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
 - The chief investigators of the project are Dr. AP James of DUK and Dr. A Seema of C-MET.
 - Tata Steel Limited is set to be the industrial partner of the centre.
- 18. INS Khukri**, the lead ship of the Indian Navy’s Khukri class corvettes and an indigenous surface-to-surface missile fitted vessel, has been handed over to **Diu administration** to be converted into a museum. The ship was decommissioned in December 2021 and sent to Diu, for public display in INS Khukri Memorial. It is set to be developed as a full-scale museum in memory of the 1971 Indo-Pakistan War Heroes.
- It was commissioned on **23rd August 1989** in Mumbai by the then Defence Minister Krishna Chandra Pant and Ms. Sudha Mulla, wife of late Capt. Mahendra Nath Mulla, MVC.
 - It was built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai**.
- 19.** The Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** has recently hosted the **first India-Central Asia Summit** in a virtual format with the Presidents of **5 Central Asian countries** namely, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan. This first India-Central Asia summit coincided with the **30th anniversary** of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Central Asian countries.
- During the summit, the Leaders agreed to institutionalize the Summit mechanism by deciding to hold it every **2 years**.
 - They also agreed on regular meetings of Foreign Ministers, Trade Ministers, Culture Ministers and Secretaries of the Security Council to prepare the groundwork for the Summit meetings.
 - An **India-Central Asia Secretariat** in **New Delhi** would be set up to support the new mechanism.
 - Leaders agreed to set up a **Joint Working Groups** at senior official level on **Afghanistan** and use of **Chabahar Port**.

20. The indigenous **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III aircraft** has been formally inducted at **INS Utkrosh** by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar to boost maritime security.
- The ALH MK III aircraft is manufactured in India by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**.
 - It is a major variant of indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-DHRUV).
 - It is a twin-engine, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter, certified for military and civil operations.
 - It is specifically suited for defence services, especially in high-altitude operations.
 - Major systems of ALH MK III Helicopter include: Shakti engine, IADS with Digital Moving Map, Electronic Warfare Suite, Electro Optical pod, Counter Measure Dispensing system, Infra-Red Suppressor, Health & Usage Monitoring system, Solid State Digital Video Recorder (SSDVR), and Engine Particle Separator.

21. The Central Government has decided to convert **150 villages** into 'Villages of Excellence' in 12 States with technical assistance from the **Israel** government. Out of 150 villages, 75 villages will be taken up in the first year to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence.

*India and Israel has completed its **30 years** of diplomatic relations in 2022.*

22. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched the '**Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation**' virtually on the occasion of the **92nd birth anniversary** of late Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj.
- Pandit Jasraj Cultural Foundation has been founded by Pandit Jasraj's son, Shaarang Dev Pandit and his daughter, Durga Jasraj.
 - It has been launched with the objective of protecting, preserving, developing and promoting the National Heritage, Art & Culture of India.

*The International Astronomical Union (IAU) named an asteroid after Pandit Jasraj, formally known as **2006 VP32**, as **Panditjasraj**. He was the first Indian musician to receive this honour.*

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STATES AFFAIRS

23. Haryana and Himachal Pradesh governments have recently inked an agreement to build a dam at **Adi Badri** in **Yamunanagar** district, which will rejuvenate the mythical **Saraswati River**. Adi Badri, situated in Haryana near the Himachal Pradesh border, is believed to be the river's origin point.

- The dam will be built on 31.66 hectares of land in Himachal Pradesh and an amount of Rs 215.33 crore will be spent for the same.
- The width of the dam will be 101.06 metres and height 20.5 metres.
- It will store 224.58 hectare metres of water every year.
- It will also get water from the Somb River that falls in the Yamuna near Adi Badri in Yamunanagar.

Adi Badri is a place in the foothills of the Shivalik range, 90 km east of Kurukshetra.

24. Himachal Pradesh has observed its **52nd statehood day** on **25th January**, as it was formed as the 18th Indian state on the same day in 1971, with Dr. Yashwant Singh Parmar as its first Chief Minister.

- Himachal Pradesh is the northernmost state of India and shares borders with the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to the north.

25. The **Delhi** government has recently launched '**one-stop e-vehicle website**' to promote electric vehicles. The website is *ev.delhi.gov.in*. The website is open for manufacturers, buyers, charging station explorers. The main features of the website are EV search, EV calculator and EV dashboard.

26. The government of **Telangana** has recently launched '**Mana Ooru Mana Badi**' programme to improve the existing infrastructure and the quality of education in government schools.

- It will be implemented at a cost of **Rs 7,289 crores**.
- It will be implemented in 3 years and in the first phase, the programme will be implemented in 9,123 local body schools and government.

27. The state government of **Karnataka** has recently launched '**Brain Health Initiative**', a first-of-its-kind in the country, undertaken by the **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** in association with **NITI Aayog** in the state.

- Under this program, the doctors will be trained in screening and treating mental health patients.
- The initiative is being rolled out in Bengaluru, Kolar, and Chikkaballapur districts on a pilot basis.

*Karnataka Government has also launched '**Grama One**' in 12 districts of Karnataka, which seeks to provide a host of government services under the same roof in rural areas.*

28. The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has recently approved the creation of **13 more districts** in the state for better administration and development of the areas. The process for the creation of **13 new districts** will be completed by Telugu New Year Day i.e. on 2nd April 2022. With this, the total number of districts in the state will go up to **26 districts**.
- The new names of the new 13 districts are as follows: Manyam, Alluri Sitharama Raju, Anakapalli, Kakinada, Kona Seema, Eluru, NTR district, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Sri Satyasai, Annamayya and Sri Balaji district.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

29. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the University of Oxford has released the report titled '**G20 People's Climate Vote 2021**'.
- As per the report, about **67 percent** of the population under the age of 18 years consider climate change a global emergency as compared to about **58 percent** of adults in India.
 - In the age group of 18-35 years, 61 percent believe in a climate emergency while it goes down to 59 percent in the age group of 36-59 years and further reduces to 49 percent in over 60 years age group.
30. The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and **Institut Pasteur, France** have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a scope for cooperation in **health research**. Both will jointly research and focus on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and inherited disorders and enable delivery of effective and affordable healthcare solutions not only for the people of India and France but for the global good.
31. **China** has built an '**Artificial Moon**' research facility that is capable of simulating low-gravity conditions using magnetism.
- The research facility, located in the city of Xuzhou, is scheduled to officially launch in 2022.
 - The facility has a vacuum chamber that houses a mini 'Moon' measuring 60cm (about 2 feet) in diameter.
 - The low-gravity levels in the chamber can last for "as long as you want".
 - The facility is also expected to help determine the possibility of human settlement on the lunar surface.

Earlier, China successfully created an 'artificial Sun' which is a nuclear fusion reactor that superheated to a temperature five times hotter than the sun and for over 17 minutes.

32. The country of **Peru** has recently declared a 90-day **environmental emergency** in the coastal area of Lima which has been affected by a recent oil spill that saw 6,000 barrels of crude oil pour into the sea. The spill has caused the death of marine wildlife and raised

concerns around the livelihood of local fishermen and the economic consequences from the loss of tourism.

- **Environmental emergency:** It is defined as a “sudden-onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that causes or threatens to cause severe environmental damage as well as loss of human lives and property”.

33. Russia has recently handed over the first batch of **70,000 AK-203** Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Armed Forces.

- The Indian Armed Forces had placed an order for 670,000 rifles, for which the contract was signed on 6th December 2021, between India and Kalashnikov (Russian defence manufacturing unit).
- The total cost of the contract is around **Rs 5,124 crore**.
- The remaining 600,000 rifles will be manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture company, Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), based at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh India under transfer of technology (ToT).
- The lightweight AK-203 Rifles will replace the military's in-service INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) Rifle.

34. NASA Citizen Scientist **Tom Jacobs** has discovered a new exoplanet named "**TOI-2180 b**" from NASA's Transitioning Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS).

- It is a **gas giant exoplanet** made of hydrogen and helium.
- The new exoplanet takes **261 days** to revolve around its star.
- The planet is of the size of Jupiter.
- The new planet is 379 light years away from the earth.
- It is 105 times denser than the earth.

35. The United States and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member countries have partnered to conduct a 12-day maritime exercise in the Mediterranean Sea from 24th January 2022. The name of the maritime exercise is "**Neptune Strike '22**". The naval drill will end on 4th February 2022. The main purpose of this exercise is to demonstrate and test NATO's wide range of maritime capabilities.

36. India and Israel have recently launched a commemorative logo to mark the **30 years of diplomatic relations**. The logo has Ashoka Chakra and Star of David. It also has the numeral 30, featuring 30th anniversary of the countries.

- India is the largest buyer of Israeli military equipment.
- India is also the tenth largest trade partner of Israel.
- India is the second largest defence supplier of Israel.

37. The naval exercise '**CHIRU-2022**' has been jointly organized by the navies of **Russia, China, and Iran** in the **Gulf of Oman**. It is aimed at deepening practical cooperation among the navies of the three countries. The participants have practised various tactics and operations, such as rescuing ablaze vessels, saving hijacked vessels, shooting at targets, nocturnal shooting at aerial targets, and other tactical manoeuvres as a part of the drill.

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REPORTS & INDICES

38. The **world's largest canal lock** has been inaugurated at **Ijmuiden**, a small port city, in the Port of Amsterdam, The **Netherlands**. The sea lock has been inaugurated by Dutch King Willen-Alexander.
- It is 500-meter (1,640-feet) long and 70-meter wide.
 - It is designed to allow large, modern cargo ships to reach the port of Amsterdam.
 - With almost nine meters above the sea level, the structure is also a defence against the threat of flooding.
39. As per recent findings from a study published by **The Brookings Institution**, India is among the **top 10 nations** in the world in terms of technological advancements and findings in Artificial Intelligence.
- **India** has been ranked **sixth** in terms of spending and investments on AI made by the public, governmental initiatives, as well as private institutions and organisations.
 - The study highlights that India is 'well-positioned from the funding standpoint' apart from increasing the adoption of new generation technologies.
 - India is ahead in AI from countries like Canada, South Korea and Italy but lags behind countries like the US, China, the UK, France, Japan and Germany.
 - India is outside the top 10 in terms of commercial and research initiatives.
 - ❖ Another study published by **McKinsey Analytics** in December 2021 highlighted that India was the leading adopter of AI among emerging economies from a commercial, business standpoint.
40. Recently, **NITI Aayog, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), and RMI India** have released a report, titled '**Banking on Electric Vehicles in India**', which outlines the importance of priority-sector recognition for retail lending in the electric mobility ecosystem.

- The report has proposed the government to include **Electric Vehicle (EVs)** in the Reserve Bank of India's **priority-sector lending (PSL)** guidelines to boost retail lending for EVs and to support the decarbonisation of road transport.
- As per the report, Banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in India have the potential to achieve an electric vehicle (EV) financing market size of **Rs 40,000 crore** (USD 5 billion) by **2025** and **Rs 3.7 lakh crore** (USD 50 billion) by **2030**.
- The report highlights that the RBI may consider various EV segments and use cases based on five parameters:
 - Socio-economic potential,
 - Livelihood generation potential,
 - Scalability,
 - Techno-economic viability, and
 - Stakeholder acceptability.
- The report indicates that electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and commercial four-wheelers are early segments to prioritise under PSL.

41. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recently published the **Global Cyber security Outlook 2022**.

Key highlights:

- As per the report, the **ransom ware attacks** have increased by **151%** in **2021**. Each organization faced 270 cyber-attacks on an average.
- A successful organization that breached cyber-attacks spent 3.6 million USD.
- 59% of the cyber leaders believe that there is not difference between cyber resilience and cyber security.
- According to the report, the following two factors have the highest influence on cyber security
 - **Automation and machine learning:** 48%
 - **Remote and hybrid work environment:** 28%
- 42% infrastructure is broken down by cyber-attacks. 24% cyber-attacks are identity thefts. 20% cyber-attacks are ransom ware attacks. 10% of personal assets are lost.
- 55% of the organizations in the world were affected by cyber-attacks in 2021.

42. Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2021 has been released by Transparency International. The index ranks 180 countries and territories by the perceived level of public sector corruption according to experts and business people. It uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

- **Top Performers:**
 - The top countries on the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2021 are **Denmark, Finland and New Zealand**, with scores of 88, followed by Norway with score of 85.
- **Poor Performers:**

- South Sudan has ranked last on the index with the CPI score of 11, followed by Syria (13), Somalia (13) and Venezuela (14).

- **India's ranking:**

- India has ranked **85th** on the index with score of 40.
- Maldives has also scored 40 in the index.

Note: India's rank has slipped from 80th in 2019 to 86th in 2020.

43. According to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 report, **Apple** has emerged as the most valuable brand in 2022 with brand valuation of **\$355.1 billion** in 2022, which is an increase of 35% from last year. This is the highest brand value ever recorded in the Brand Finance Global 500 ranking history.

- **TikTok (18th)** has been named the world's fastest-growing brand in the list. Its brand value increased from \$18.7 billion in 2021 to \$59.0 billion in 2022.
- **Tech** has remained the most valuable industry in the list in terms of sector, followed by Retail, Banking, Media and Telecoms.
- **Tata Group (78th)** has emerged as the most valuable brand from India and also in South Asia. The brand value of Tata Group is \$23.9 billion.

Top-10 Brands:

- ❖ Apple
- ❖ Amazon
- ❖ Google
- ❖ Microsoft
- ❖ Walmart
- ❖ Samsung
- ❖ Facebook
- ❖ Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
- ❖ Huawei
- ❖ Verizon

44. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has released its World Economic Outlook January 2022 assessment. As per the update, India is estimated to grow at **9%** in **FY22**, down from 9.5% projected in October 2021.

- It also projects **9%** growth for the Indian economy in **FY23** from 8.5% earlier and to **7.1%** from 6.6% for **FY24**.
- Global economic growth will dip from 5.9% in 2021 to 4.4% in 2022.

45. According to the latest report of the World Steel Association, **India's** crude steel production has increased by nearly 18 percent to **118 million tonne (MT)** in 2021, while world leader **China** has recorded a 3 percent decline to **1032.8 MT**.
- India, which is the second largest steel producing nation, had manufactured 100.3 MT steel in 2020 and China had produced 1 064.7 MT of steel in 2020.
 - Total world crude steel production is **1,950.5 MT** in 2021, a 3.7 percent increase as compared to 1 880.4 MT in 2020.

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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

46. **Meta** has recently introduced the **AI Research Super Cluster (RSC)**. According to Meta, its new “artificial intelligence supercomputer” will be the fastest across the world, by the middle of year 2022.
- RSC will help in building new and improved AI models. It will also allow to work across hundreds of different languages.
 - It will also help in building technologies for next major computing platform called “the metaverse”, where AI-driven applications and products will play a significant role.
47. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently approved the acquisition of **100%** of the equity share capital of **GlaxoSmithKline Asia Private by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare Overseas and GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare UK Trading**.
- CCI has also approved Italian firm Generali Group's proposal to raise its shareholding in **Future Generali India Life Insurance** to **71%** from the current **49%**.
48. **AirAsia Group Berhad** based in Malaysia has changed the name of its listed holding company to **Capital A Berhad** to reflect the diversity of its business portfolio as it seeks to grow its non-airline revenue.
- The airline retains the AirAsia brand name.
49. The **Indian Naval Placement Agency (INPA)** has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL)** to explore opportunities for the recruitment of naval veterans within the company. Through this MoU, the INPA will identify a pool of ex-servicemen/ dependents candidates for relevant roles in IIFL HFL.

- 50.** NHEV (National Highway for Electric Vehicle) has inaugurated **India's largest electric vehicle (EV) charging station** in **Gurugram, Haryana**. This charging station has been installed and operated by Alektrify.
- This smart EV charging station gets 100 charging points for four-wheelers, out of which 72 units are AC slow chargers while 24 units consist of DC fast chargers.
 - It is located in Sector 52 of Gurugram.
- Prior to this, the country's largest EV charging station was located in Navi Mumbai that houses 16 AC and 4 DC chargers.
- 51.** The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has recently committed **USD 150 million** to invest in the development of data centres that mostly serve emerging Asia through the Keppel Data Centre Fund II (KDCF II), a closed-end private equity vehicle managed by Alpha Investment Partners Limited (Alpha). This is AIIB's first data centre project.
- 52.** Food-ordering and instant grocery delivery platform, **Swiggy** has recently signed a \$700 million funding round led by asset manager Invesco. With this, the total valuation of Swiggy has reached to **\$10.7 billion** i.e. it is now a decacorn.
- Swiggy has also emerged as the second most valuable privately held startup after educational technology firm Byju's.
 - A **decacorn** is a startup with a valuation of more than **\$10 billion**. Whereas, Unicorn is a privately held startup company valued at over \$1 billion.
- 53.** Pencilton, a teen-focused fintech startup, has launched **PencilCard**, a debit card with NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) for teens. It has been launched in partnership with Transcorp.
- PencilCard is an NCMC-compliant RuPay debit card specially designed for the teenager segment to serve as an all-in-card (debit card, metro card, and bus card) for multiple needs for both online and offline payments.
 - It is also a Platinum RuPay card with additional benefits like free access to lounges at all airports in India.
- 54.** India has recently paid **USD 29.9 million** in **United Nations** regular budget assessments for the year 2022. With this, India joins the 2022 Honour Roll of 24 Member States out of 193 that have paid their UN Regular Budget Assessments in full.
- *India is currently a non-permanent member of the 15-nation UN Security Council and its two-year term will end on 31st December 2022.*

- 55.** Agritech start-up **FAARMS** has recently tied up with **Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd** to provide health and cattle insurance for the rural population, including farmers, through its mobile application FAARMS App. Under this collaboration, not just the farmers but any individual can access and choose from a range of health and cattle insurance on the FAARMS app
- 56.** **Google** has planned to invest up to **\$1 billion** in **Bharti Airtel** to develop India's digital ecosystem. This fund is a part of the Google for India Digitization Fund of USD 10 billion.
- The \$1-billion commitment includes an equity investment of \$700 million (Rs 5,224 crore).
 - Shares will be issued to Google on a preferential basis at Rs 734 apiece and will give Google a **1.28 per cent stake** in the company.
 - Additionally, Google will set aside \$300 million for potential investment in areas like smart phone access, networks, and cloud.
- 57.** **Meta** has partnered with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)** to enable and support **5 lakh** women-led small businesses across India under its #SheMeansBusiness programme, initiated in 2016. Under this partnership, Meta will support via three initiatives namely, Facebook Business Coach, Grow your Business Hub, and Meta's Commerce Partners Program.
- The announcement has been made during Meta's 1st National Women Entrepreneurship Summit 2022 to encourage industry dialogue around supporting the MSMEs across sectors

BANKING & FINANCE

- 58.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently listed its **USD 300 million Formosa bonds** on India International Exchange IFSC (India INX). With this, SBI has become the first Indian entity to raise money through Formosa Bond.
- SBI has raised \$300 million of "Regulation S" Formosa bonds at a coupon rate of **2.49 percent**.
 - The bond is benchmarked against the 5 years US Treasury and priced at a spread of 100 bps over the benchmark.
 - *A Formosa bond is a bond issued in Taiwan but denominated in a currency other than the New Taiwan Dollar.*
- 59.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently imposed several restrictions on **Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank**, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, including a cap of **Rs.1 lakh** on withdrawals.
- The bank will not, without RBI's prior approval, grant or renew any loans and advances, or make any investment.

- The restrictions also includes withdrawal restriction of Rs.1 lakh across all savings or current accounts or any other account of a depositor in the bank.
- The restrictions will remain in force for a period of **6 months** from the close of business on 28th January 2022 and are subject to review.

- 60.** The **Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited (SPMCIL)**, under its modernisation initiatives, has set up 'new bank note printing lines' at Currency Note Press, **Nashik**, Maharashtra and Bank Note Press, **Dewas**, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Note: Currency Note Press (CNP), Nasik**, Maharashtra was established in **1928**. It was the first printing press for bank notes in India.
- 61.** **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** has recently launched '**Platina Fixed Deposit**', which offers interest of **15 basis points** in addition to the regular Ujjivan SFB term deposit rates.
- The Platina FD is a non-callable deposit, partial & pre-mature withdrawal is not applicable to this scheme.
 - The interest payout options can be availed on the monthly, quarterly and also at the end of the maturity period.
 - The deposit tenure ranges from one year to a maximum of five years.
 - The minimum FD amount is Rs.20 lakh and the maximum amount is less than Rs.2 crore.
- 62.** **Tata Group** has chosen **State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda** and **HDFC Bank** as preferred bankers for Air India. Tata Sons have availed of an Rs.10, 000-crore loan from SBI and an Rs.5, 000-crore loan from BoB. The loan from HDFC Bank is not known yet. The loans are unrated, unsecured, and pegged at 4.25% interest rate annually. The new debt availed by the Tata Group will be used to refinance Air India's debt availed at over 10%.
- 63.** The Reserve Bank of India has recently conducted an overnight **variable rate repo (VRR) auction** under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) for an amount of **Rs 75,000 crore** against which banks bid for up to Rs 1.38 trillion. At the same time, the RBI would conduct a 28-day variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auction of Rs 50,000 crore and an Rs 2 trillion VRRR for three days.
- 64.** **Max Life Insurance** has launched 'Max Life Smart Secure Plus Plan' in partnership with **Policybazaar** to provide insurance cover to Indian homemakers. This plan will be available to consumers where household income is a minimum of **Rs. 5 Lakhs** per annum between the age group of **18 to 50 years**.
- Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a Joint Venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited.

- 65.** HCL Founder and Chairman-Start-up Committee, FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry), **Dr Ajai Chowdhry** has launched the **India-United Arab Emirates (UAE) VC (venture capital) Fund of \$150 million** from the India Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai.
- The VC Fund is a first of its kind to be set up in the UAE with a purpose to source, invest, and nurture promising start-ups through an accelerator to fuel the growth of India-UAE start-ups. It will target to invest in a minimum of 50 demonstrated and validated start-ups based in India and the UAE over a period of 5 years, turning 10 unicorns by 2025.
- 66.** **NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)**, an international arm of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **TerraPay**, Netherlands-based global payments Infrastructure Company to allow Indians with an active UPI ID to receive real-time, international payments into their bank accounts via TerraPay's secure payments technology.
- 67.** Fintech Company **Alphaniti** has recently partnered with **IIFL Securities** to allow investors to invest and trade in stock offerings. The aim is to allow direct investments with by offering high-quality products at affordable costs through big data, deep domain expertise and technology for both India and the USA markets across multiple asset classes.
- The customers of IIFL Securities can invest and trade in Alphaniti's wide range of offerings such as its unique single stock recommendation engine '**Alphagenie**' for the Indian market.
 - The platform also has an extensive range of high-quality stock portfolios called '**Alphamatter**' that covers a wide range of secular themes and diverse portfolio strategies with strong performance track records.

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- 68.** **Paytm Money**, a wholly owned subsidiary of the digital finance platform 'Paytm', has recently introduced "India's first" intelligent messenger called '**Pops**' to provide instant updates to track users investments in the stock market.
- The platform will serve as a marketplace to offer sophisticated stock recommendations, news insights, and other services.

- The customers can receive specific information related to their stocks, analysis about their portfolio, market news, and important market movements in an easy to consume format, all in one place.

Partnership:

- Paytm Money has partnered with **InvestorAi** to offer stock recommendations based on signals generated using artificial intelligence.
- The company has also partnered with **Daily Brief**, which simplifies news by parsing through multiple sources and offering key takeaways.

- 69.** Non-banking financial company (NBFC) **Fullerton India** and **One97 Communications Limited**, which owns the brand Paytm, have announced a partnership to provide lending products to merchant partners and consumers.
- With the partnership, the two established institutions will leverage data-driven insights and wide reach to bring credit to new-to-credit users. This will expand digital lending to MSMEs and consumers from smaller cities and towns.
- 70.** **Indipaisa** has recently tied up with **Hitachi Payments Service** to develop a new Fintech platform for India's MSMEs. Under this partnership, Indipaisa will offer a range of payment solutions to match the specific needs of Indian MSME owners and operators, to help them grow their businesses, comply with government tax laws, and build a better future for themselves and their families.
- 71.** **City Union Bank**, the oldest Private Sector Bank in India, in association with smart-tech-enabled preventive healthcare platform **GOQii** and powered by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a wearable payment solution called **CUB Easy Pay Debit Card in a Fitness Watch**.
- The introductory price of a smart watch debit card is **Rs 3,499** (as compared to an actual cost of Rs 6,499).
 - For payments above Rs 5,000, customers need to tap and enter their PIN.
 - It enables the wearer to monitor their Oxygen Level (SpO2), Body Temperature, Heart Rate, Blood Pressure and 18 Exercise Modes.
 - The first watch was received by **V R Venkataachalam**, Chancellor of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research in Chennai on 24th January 2022.
- 72.** The Government of India has recently sanctioned and notified the scheme for the amalgamation of the **Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Limited** with **Unity Small Finance Bank**. The amalgamation will come into force with effect from the date of the

notification of the scheme i.e. **25th January 2022**. All the branches of the PMC Bank will function as branches of Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd with effect from this date.

- After the amalgamation of PMC Bank with Unity SFB, Unity SFB will pay the customers of PMC Bank the amount it receives from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) (maximum up to amount insured by DICGC i.e. Rs.5 Lakh) in instalments of 10 years.
- **Section 45** of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 empowers the Reserve Bank of India to prepare a scheme of reconstruction or amalgamation of banking companies (which include co-operative banks).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 73.** The government of Assam has recently conferred its highest civilian award '**Asom Baibhav Award**' to Industrialist **Ratan Tata** for his contribution in setting up cancer treatment facilities in the state.
- 74.** Bollywood actress **Sushmita Sen** has been conferred with the International Association of Working Women Award at the Washington DC South Asian Film Festival (DCSAFF) 2021. She has been felicitated for outstanding performance in her show 'Aarya 2'. The Aarya 2 series is created by Ram Madhvani and had released on 10th December 2021, on Disney+Hotstar.
- **Note:** Sushmita Sen was the first Indian to win the Miss Universe title in 1994.
- 75. Friendship Hospital**, in the southwestern town of Satkhira in **Bangladesh**, has been adjudged the most transformative building of the world for the year 2021 by the **Royal Institute of British Architects** (RIBA).
- The 80 bed community hospital is designed by the Bangladeshi architect **Kasef Chowdhury**.
 - It is designed to collect the rainwater as it is a valuable commodity in this area where water has become saline due to the impact of cyclone Sidr of 2007 and rising sea level.
 - *RIBA International Prize is awarded biennially to a project that demonstrates design excellence and social impact.*
- 76.** The **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve** in **Tamil Nadu** has been awarded the prestigious international TX2 Award for doubling its tiger population to **80 tigers** since 2010. **Nepal's Bardia National Park** has also jointly conferred the award, for doubling its population of wild tigers.
- The TX2 goal is a global commitment to double the world's wild tigers by 2022.

- 77. South Maubuang** has been declared as **Mizoram's first ODF Plus village**. It has fulfilled all the criteria as per the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (SBM-G) Phase II.
- All the three schools in the village and two Anganwadi centres have good arrangements for toilets.
 - Schools have separate toilets for boys and girls.
 - 98% of the total households of the village have arrangements for biodegradable waste material.
 - The village has constructed community compost pits and plastic waste is collected from house to house by the Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC).
South Maubuang was awarded the **National Panchayat Award** in 2021.
- 78.** As per the list, of 189 Police Medal for Gallantry, **Jammu and Kashmir Police** has been honoured with 115 medals, the highest number of medals among all the States, Union Territories, Central Armed Police Forces and other organisations of India. It is followed by CRPF with 30, Chhattisgarh Police with 10, Odisha Police with 9, and Maharashtra Police with 7.
- 79.** The **Maharashtra National Cadet Corps (NCC) Directorate** has won the prestigious Prime Minister Banner at the Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2022. Major General **Y P Khanduri**, Additional Director General, NCC Directorate, Maharashtra has received the PM Banner from PM Narendra Modi. The last time the state won the banner was in 2014.
- Senior Under Officer Siddhesh Jadhav was the banner bearer and Cadet Captain Nikita Khot was the trophy bearer.
 - Maharashtra state directorate fielded a contingent of 57 cadets, both boys and girls, drawn from various districts of the state.
 - The 2022 RDC for the NCC culminated with a rally at the Carriappa Parade Ground, Delhi.
- 80.** Professor **Vinod Sharma**, the founder co-ordinator of the National Centre of Disaster Management, has won the Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2022 in the individual category for working tirelessly towards bringing disaster risk reduction (DRR) to the forefront of the national agenda.
- The **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)** has won the award in the institutional category.
- 81. 29 Children** have been honoured with the **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBP) 2022**, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3)

categories. There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 States and UTs. The cash prize of **Rs.1 lakh** has been given to the awardees of PMRBP 2022.

- 82.** Indian Movie's **Jai Bhim and Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham** have been officially shortlisted for the Oscars 2022. Jai Bhim is the fourth Indian film to get nominated for Oscars after Mother India, Salaam Bombay, and Lagaan.
- Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham has been also nominated for the Global Community Oscar Awards 2021.
 - **Writing with Fire**, a film about a newspaper run by Dalit women, has been shortlisted in the Best Documentary Feature category at the Oscars 2022.
 - *The 94th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards) will be held on 27th March 2022.*
- 83.** Former Japan Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** has been honoured with Netaji Award 2022 by Netaji Research Bureau. Consul General of Japan in Kolkata Nakamura Yutaka has received the honour on behalf of Shinzo Abe at a function at the Elgin Road residence of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- In January 2021, India honoured former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with the **Padma Vibhushan**, the country's second-highest civilian honour.
- 84.** The **World Bank** has recently sanctioned a loan of **USD 125 million** (Rs 1,000 crore) to **West Bengal** for several development projects related to social protection. The loan under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation will strengthen the capability of the state to expand coverage and access to social assistance and targeted service for poor and vulnerable groups of the state.

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- 85.** Indian movie titled '**Koozhangal**' (**Tamil**) has recently won the **Best Film Award** in the Asian Film Competition category at the 20th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF) 2022 held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 15th to 23rd January 2022. The film is directed by **P S Vinohraj**.

Other winners:

- Indian actor **Jayasurya** has won the **Best Actor award** for the Ranjith Sankar-directed film 'Sunny'.

- The **Best Script Writer award** is given to Indranil Roychowdhury and Sugata Sinha for India-Bangladesh film Mayar Jonjal. The movie is directed by Indranil Roychowdhury.
- Indian film, **Semkhor (Dimasa language)**, directed by Assamese actor Aimee Baruah, has won the Special Audience Award.
 - The film Semkhor was also selected as the opening film of Indian Panorama 2021 of 52nd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was held in Goa.
- Nepal's Aina Jhyal Ko Putali directed by Sujit Bidari has won the **Best Director Award**.
- In the Women film maker's section, the **Best Feature Film** award has been accorded to Maryam Bahrololumi-directed film Shahrbanoo (Lady from the City) from Iran.
- Two Bangladeshi films, Nurul Alam Atique-directed Lal Moroger Jhuti and N Rashed Chowdhury-directed Chandrabati Kotha have won the **Audience Award**.

86. The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently announced the Padma Awards 2022 on the eve of 73rd Republic Day. The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President has approved conferment of **128 Padma Awards** including **2 duo cases** (in a duo case, the Award is counted as one).

- **Padma Vibhushan - 4**
- **Padma Bhushan - 17**
- **Padma Shri - 107**

Of these, 34 of the awardees are women, 10 awardees from the category of Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI and 13 posthumous awardees.

Padma Vibhushan 2022			
S.No	Name	Field	State/Country
1.	Ms. Prabha Atre	Art	Maharashtra
2.	Shri Radheyshyam Khemka (Posthumous)	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh
3.	General Bipin Rawat (Posthumous)	Civil Service	Uttarakhand
4.	Shri Kalyan Singh (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh

Padma Bhushan 2022			
S. No	Name	Field	State / Country
1	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Public Affairs	Jammu and Kashmir

2	Shri Victor Banerjee	Art	West Bengal
3	Ms. Gurmeet Bawa (Posthumous)	Art	Punjab
4	Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee	Public Affairs	West Bengal
5	Shri Natarajan Chandrasekaran	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
6	Shri Krishna Ella and Smt. Suchitra Ella* (Duo)	Trade and Industry	Telangana
7	Ms. Madhur Jaffery	Others-Culinary	USA
8	Shri Devendra Jhajharia	Sports	Rajasthan
9	Shri Rashid Khan	Art	Uttar Pradesh
10	Shri Rajiv Mehrishi	Civil Service	Rajasthan
11	Shri Satya Narayana Nadella	Trade and Industry	USA
12	Shri Sundararajan Pichai	Trade and Industry	USA
13	Shri Cyrus Poonawalla	Trade and Industry	Maharashtra
14	Shri Sanjaya Rajaram (Posthumous)	Sci and Engg	Mexico
15	Ms. Pratibha Ray	Literature and Education	Odisha
16	Swami Sachidanand	Literature and Education	Gujarat
17	Shri Vashishth Tripathi	Literature and Education	Uttar Pradesh

87. Olympian **Neeraj Chopra** has been honoured with **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** on the eve of Republic Day by President Ram Nath Kovind. He is the first track and field athlete to win a gold medal for India at the Olympics. He is a Subedar in the Indian Army.

88. India is celebrating the 73rd Republic Day on 26 January 2022. Republic Day marks the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950.

Republic Day parade 2022:

- **12 states** and **Union territories** and **9 ministries and departments** have been selected to showcase their tableaux. These include Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh,

Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and Maharashtra.

- **Ministry of Civil Aviation's** tableau has participated for the first time. It showcased Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN.
- India's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot **Shivangi Singh** was part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the parade.
- For the first time, a grand flypast by **75 aircraft or helicopters** have been showcased by Indian Air Force.
- Dancers from the Kunbi community, the original inhabitants of Goa, and glimpses from the liberation struggle were the highlight of the tableau of the coastal state.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

89. A new book titled "**Liberty After Freedom: A History of Article 21, Due Process and the Constitution of India**" has been authored by **Rohan J. Alva**. The book is published by HarperCollins India. The book features the origin of Article 21: Protection of Life and Personal Liberty, one of the important fundamental rights in the Indian constitution.
90. A new book titled '**Operation Khatma**' has been released. It is an eyewitness account by two journalists **RC Ganjoo and Ashwini Bhatnagar**. The book is published by Locksley Hall Publishing LLP. The book is based upon the operation by Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police which led to the killing of 22 terrorists of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF).
91. A new book titled "**A Little Book of India: Celebrating 75 Years of Independence**" has been authored by **Ruskin Bond**. The book is published by Penguin Viking. The book is the blend of physical and spiritual attributes of India and also highlights the last 75 years of India's progress as a nation.
92. A new book titled '**Fearless Governance**' has been authored by **Dr Kiran Bedi**. This book is based on the ground realities of nearly five years of service of Dr Kiran Bedi as Lt. Governor of Pondicherry and her vast experience of 40 years in the Indian Police Service. The book is published by Diamond Books.
93. Minister of State for Culture **Meenakshi Lekhi** has recently released the first edition of pictorial comic book '**India's Women Unsung Heroes**' in New Delhi. The book has been prepared by Culture Ministry in partnership with **Amar Chitra Katha**.

- The Ministry of Culture will release three pictorial books on 75 unsung heroes of the freedom struggle.
- The book comprises of stories of queens who battled against British powers. These women dedicated and laid down their lives for the cause of the motherland.

First part is dedicated to 20 women, whose contributions is largely unrecognised. Among 20 women include:

- **Rani Abbakka**– She was the **first Tuluva Queen** of Ullal. She fought the Portuguese in latter half of 16th century. She belonged to the Chowta dynasty who ruled over parts of coastal Karnataka.
- **Matangini Hazra**– She was **Bengali** revolutionary. She was popularly known as **Gandhi Buri** (Old Lady Gandhi). In September 1942, she was shot dead by the British Indian police.
- **Chakali Ilamma**– Her act of defiance against the local zamindar inspired many during the rebellion in **Telangana** region.
- **Parbati Giri**– She is nicknamed as **Mother Teresa of western Odisha**. She was a prominent female freedom fighter from Odisha.
- **Gulab Kaur**– She was a freedom fighter, who abandoned her dreams of a life abroad for mobilising Indians against the British Raj.
- **Padmaja Naidu**– She was the daughter of Sarojini Naidu and a freedom fighter. She later became Governor of **West Bengal**.
- **Bishni Devi Shah**– She inspired a large number of people in **Uttarakhand** for joining the freedom movement.

Second edition of the series will comprise of stories of 25 unsung tribal freedom fighters. Third and final edition of the series will contain stories of 30 unsung heroes.

94. The former finance secretary of India, **Subhash Chandra Garg** has announced his debut book named **“The \$10 Trillion Dream”**. The book will be released at the end of February 2022. The new book explores the critical policy issues that India faces today and suggests reforms for it to become a USD 10 trillion economy by the mid-2030s. It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

- Subhash Chandra Garg is a 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre. He was designated finance secretary in March 2019.

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PERSON IN NEWS

95. The Government of India has appointed **Dr V Anantha Nageswaran** as the new Chief Economic Adviser (CEA). He has replaced Krishnamurthy Subramanian, who returned to academia in December 2021 after a three-year tenure as CEA. He is a former member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC).
96. Ministry of Finance has recently appointed **Vinodanand Jha**, a 1983-batch retired IRS officer, as the chairman of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority, New Delhi till the completion of his tenure i.e. up to 22nd June 2023. He has been serving as the Member (Finance and Accounts) in the Authority since September 2018.
97. **Armenian President Armen Sarkissian** has recently announced his resignation, citing the inability of his office to influence policy during times of national crisis. He became President in 2018.
98. **Sergio Mattarella** has been re-elected as the **President of Italy** for a second term. He has been re-elected with a broad majority, namely 759 votes in favour from a total of 983 lawmakers and regional representatives.
99. Justice **Ayesha Malik** has been sworn in as the first female judge of **Pakistan's Supreme Court** in Islamabad, Pakistan. Pakistan's Chief Justice Gulzar Ahmed administered the oath of office to Ayesha Malik.
100. **Jahnvi Dangeti**, a young girl from **Andhra Pradesh**, has recently created history by becoming the only Indian to undergo and complete the **International Air and Space Program (IASP)** at NASA Launch Operations' Kennedy Space Centre in Alabama, the U.S.
- During the training program, she was appointed as the mission director for 'Team Kennedy', where she led a group of 16 people from several countries.
 - She is a vice-president of Space Magica, a startup astronaut training centre for students and the general public.
 - She has been a campus ambassador for numerous of organisations, including Star (Space Technology and Aeronautical Rocketry), an Indian private aerospace company.
 - She is a member of International Organization of Aspiring Astronauts (IOAA).
101. **Mia Amor Mottley** has become the new **Prime Minister of Barbados** for the second term. She has become Barbados eighth and first female Prime Minister elected in 2018. She is also the first female PM of Barbados to lead a 2nd term as the PM.

- 102.** Content creator and actress **Prajakta Koli** has recently become *India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion*. The title has been conferred to her because of her contribution towards mental health, girl child education and women's rights through various global social campaigns. She won the title under her partnership with the UNDP.
- Prajakta Koli is an Indian YouTuber and actress, known by her YouTube Channel "**Mostlysane**". She makes comedy videos, focusing mostly on observational comedy related to daily life situations.
- 103. GoodDot**, leading plant-based meat company of India, has recently appointed Olympic gold medallist (Javelin Throw) **Neeraj Chopra** as its brand ambassador. With this association, the company wants to create awareness about the new category of plant-based meats. It also wants to send out a message that small changes in lifestyle and food choices can go a long way in making the world a better place.
- 104. IIFL Finance**, Fairfax and Capital Group-backed non-banking finance company, has recently appointed former State Bank of India (SBI) Head **Arun Kumar Purwar** as chairman of its board effective from 1st April 2022.
- He served as the Chairman of the country's largest bank - State Bank of India from November 2002 to May 2006.
- 105. Pushp Kumar Joshi** has been selected by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) as the new chairman and managing director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL), the nation's third largest oil refining and fuel marketing company.
- He will succeed **Mukesh Kumar Surana**, who superannuates on 30th April 2022.
 - The PESB recommendation will now go to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ACC will decide on his selection after getting reports from anti-corruption agencies such as CVC and CBI.

OBITUARIES

- 106.** Renowned social worker and Padma Shri awardee **Baba Iqbal Singh** has passed away recently in Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh. He was born on 1st May 1926 in Bharyal Lehri, Gurdaspur district of Punjab.
- He was the founder President of The Kalgidhar Trust, The Kalgidhar Society and Baru Sahib.
 - He was the founder of Akal Academy.
 - He was conferred with the **Padma Shri** for his contributions in the field of social work in **2022**.

- 107.** Former India footballer and coach **Subhash Bhowmik** has passed away recently due to prolonged illness in Ekbalpur, South Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 2nd October 1950 in Malda, West Bengal.
- He represented India at the **Bronze medal** winning **1970 Asian Games**.
 - He represented two famous football clubs of Kolkata named **East Bengal FC (Football Club)** and **Mohun Bagan AC (Athletic Club)**.
 - He also coached the East Bengal football team that won the 2003 ASEAN Cup.
- 108.** Former Indian hockey team captain and Olympian, **Charanjit Singh** has passed away recently in Una, Himachal Pradesh. He was born on 20th November 1929 in Una, Himachal Pradesh.
- He was the captain of Indian hockey team that won the **gold medal** in the **1964 Summer Olympics** at Tokyo, Japan.
 - He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **1964** and **Arjuna Award** in **1963**.
- 109.** Renowned Marathi author and social activist, **Anil Awachat**, popularly known as Baba, has passed away recently in Pune, Maharashtra.
- He was the founder-director of the Mukangan Rehabilitation Centre in Pune.
 - **Books by him:** "Manasa", "Swatahavishayi", "Gard", "Karyarat", "Karyamagna", "Kutuhlapoti", etc.
- 110. Milena Salvini**, an Italy-born dancer who was a great enthusiast of Indian classical art, especially **Kathakali**, has passed away recently in Paris, France. She was born in 1938 at Milan in Italy.
- She arrived in Kerala in 1965 to learn Kathakali.
 - She had established Centre Mandapa, a school of Indian dance forms in Paris.
 - In 1980, she arranged a European tour for the Kalamandalam's Kutiyattam troupe with funding from UNESCO.
 - Her efforts helped UNESCO recognise **Koodiyattam** as an ancient art form and include it in the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity programme in **May 2001**.
 - She was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2019**.
- 111.** Eminent archaeologist and epigraphist **R. Nagaswamy**, the first Director of the Department of Archaeology, has passed away recently. He was born on 10th August 1930 in Madras Presidency.
- He was a great scholar in Tamil and Sanskrit and was known as the '**Father of Tamil Archaeology**'.
 - He started the annual Chidambaram Natyanjali festival in 1980.

- He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in 2018.
- He penned a book, **Masterpieces of Early South Indian Bronzes**, in 1983.

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SPORTS

- 112.** India's first state-of-the-art, high-performance **para-badminton academy** with advanced equipment and facilities has been set up in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**. The badminton centre has been launched by the head national coach of the Indian para-badminton team, Gaurav Khanna, in association with Ageas Federal Life Insurance.
- It will improve India's medal prospects at the **2024 Paralympics** to be held in Paris, France at Stade de France stadium.
- 113.** Hungarian gymnast **Szilveszter Csollány**, who won the gold in the men's rings at the **2000** Summer Olympics in Sydney, has passed away due to a COVID-19 infection. He was born on 13th April 1970 in Sopron, Hungary.
- He had also won the silver in the men's rings at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.
- 114.** **Japan women's hockey team** has won the **2022 Women's Hockey Asia Cup title** after defeating South Korea in the finals held at Muscat, Oman. With this, Japan has won its third title.
- **India** has won the **bronze medal** by defeating China in the tournament.
- 115.** The **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** has become the **first Indian sports enterprise** to gain **unicorn status** with its market cap surpassing **INR 7,600 crore** and the share value in the market trading entering INR 210-225 price band.
- The team is owned by Chennai Super Kings Cricket Ltd and India Cements is the major stakeholder. It is captained by Mahendra Singh Dhoni and coached by Stephen Fleming. It has won the IPL title four times i.e. in 2010, 2011, 2018, and 2021.
- 116.** **Ladakh women's ice hockey team** has won the **9th National Women's Ice Hockey Championship 2022**. The championship has been organised by the Ice Hockey Association of India at Ice Skating Rink, Kaza in Lahaul Spiti district of **Himachal Pradesh** from 15th to 21st January 2021.

- It is for the first time that the national-level ice hockey competition and development camp is being held in Himachal Pradesh.
- **Participants:** Delhi, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Telangana and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.

117. Indian shuttler, **PV Sindhu** has won the women's singles title at the Syed Modi International Tournament 2022 after defeating fellow Indian Malvika Bansod in the finals held at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It is her second Syed Modi title after 2017.

Other winners:

- **Men's singles:** 'No Match' between Arnaud Merkle and Lucas Claerbout, after one of the finalists tested positive for Covid-19.
- **Men's doubles:** Man Wei Chong and Tee Kai Wun (Malaysia)
- **Women's doubles:** Anna Cheong and Teoh Mei Xing (Malaysia)
- **Mixed Doubles:** Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Castro (India).

118. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently announced the winners of the **17th edition of ICC Awards for the year 2021** to recognise and honour the best international cricket players of the previous 12 months, between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021.

ICC Awards 2021

Category	Winners
Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy for ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana (India)
Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year	Shaheen Afridi (Pakistan)
ICC Umpire of the Year	Marais Erasmus
ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Rizwan (Pakistan)
ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Tammy Beaumont (England)
ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year	Janneman Malan (South Africa)
ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year	Fatima Sana (Pakistan)
ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Zeeshan Maqsood (Oman)
ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year	Andrea-Mae Zepeda (Austria)

ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Babar Azam (Pakistan)
ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Lizelle Lee (South Africa)
ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year	Joe Root (England)

119. Rafael Nadal (Spain) has defeated Daniill Medvedev (Russia) to win the Men's Singles title at the **Australian Open 2022**. This is his 21st Major title, becoming the first male player to do so.

Ashleigh Barty of Australia has defeated Danielle Collins of the US to win Women's Singles title at the Australian Open 2022.

Australian Open 2022

Events	Winners
Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal
Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty
Men's Doubles	Thanasi Kokkinakis and Nick Kyrgios
Women's Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková and Kateřina Siniaková
Mixed Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic and Ivan Dodig

IMPORTANT DAYS

120. International Day of Education is observed annually on **24th January** to celebrate the role of education in bringing global peace and sustainable development. The day is organized by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

- **Theme 2022:** Changing Course, Transforming Education.
- The first-ever International Day of Education was observed on **24 January 2019** as per the resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on 3rd December 2018 to celebrate the role of education in development.

121. National Tourism Day is observed annually on **25th January** to raise awareness about the importance of tourism for the country's economy. The day is observed to cultivate awareness among the global community on the importance of tourism and its social, political, financial and cultural worth.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Rural and Community Centric Tourism'
- A national-level programme to mark 'National Tourism Day' has been held at Telangana's **Pochampally**, a village on the outskirts of Hyderabad known for its famous hand-woven Ikat saris.
- *Pochampally was selected as one of the best tourism villages by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) in November 2021.*

122. World Leprosy Day is observed globally on the **last Sunday of January** to raise global awareness of this deadly ancient disease and call attention to the fact that it can be prevented, treated and cured. In 2022, the World Leprosy Day falls on **30th January 2022**.

- The day was initiated in 1954 by French philanthropist and writer, **Raoul Follereau**, as a tribute to the life of Mahatma Gandhi who had compassion for people afflicted with leprosy.
- **Theme 2022:** "United for Dignity"
- As per the latest data, India accounts for almost **60 percent** of the world's new leprosy patients despite being declared leprosy-free in 2005.
In India, World Leprosy Day is celebrated every year on 30 January, the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death.
- Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a bacillus, *Mycobacterium leprae* (M. leprae). The symptoms of the disease occur generally after a long period of getting an infection on average 5 years, as M. leprae multiplies very slowly. The disease mainly affects the skin, the peripheral nerves, mucosa of the upper respiratory tract, and the eyes.

123. 'Parakram Diwas' (Courage Day) is observed annually across India on **23rd January** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**. The day is celebrated to honour and remember Netaji's indomitable spirit and selfless service to the nation. The year 2022 marks the **125th** birth anniversary of him.

Subhas Chandra Bose:

- He was born on **23rd January 1897**, in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province, to Prabhavati Dutt Bose and Janakinath Bose.
- He joined the Indian National Congress in 1921.
- He started a newspaper called "**Swaraj**".
- He had written a book called "**The Indian Struggle**". The book covers the Indian Independence movement between 1920 and 1942.
- The term "**Jai Hind**" was coined by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- With the slogan "**Give me blood and I will give you freedom**", he awakened the country towards fighting against the British.
- He won the congress presidential elections at Haripura in 1938.

- Again in 1939 at Tripuri, he won the presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitarammaya. Due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress. Rajendra Prasad was appointed in his place.
- He founded a new party, '**the Forward Bloc**'. The purpose was to consolidate the political left and major support base in his home state Bengal.
- He built a force known as the **Azad Hind Fauj** (Indian National Army) giving the slogan of "**Dilli Chalo**".

124. The National Girl Child Day (NGCD) is observed annually across India on **24th January** to focus on the inequalities faced by girls, to promote the education, health & nutrition of the girl child, and to spread awareness about the rights of a girl child.

- The day was observed for the first time in 2008 as an initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India.

125. National Voters Day is observed annually on **25th January** to create awareness about the need to participate electoral process. The day aims to encourage especially the new voters to register themselves as voters. The day was first observed in 2011.

- The day is also observed to commemorate the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (25th January 1950). This year, the Election Commission of India is celebrating the **12th National Voters Day**.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Making Elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative'
- *Sushil Chandra is the current 24th Chief Election Commissioner of India.*

126. International Customs Day is observed annually on **26th January** to commemorate the inaugural session of the World Customs Organisation (WCO), which was held on this day in 1953. The day also raises awareness about the importance of customs authorities and their role in the smooth movement of goods across borders.

- **Theme 2022:** "Scaling up Customs Digital Transformation by Embracing a Data Culture and Building a Data Ecosystem".

127. International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed annually on **27th January** to commemorate the anniversary of the tragedy of the Holocaust, also known as the Shoah, which was the genocide of European Jews during World War II.

- **Theme 2022:** "Memory, Dignity and Justice".
- United Nations designated the day in 2005 to serve as a date for official commemoration of the victims of the Nazi regime and to promote Holocaust education throughout the world.

- 128. Data Privacy Day** is observed annually on **28th January** to sensitize individuals and disseminate privacy practices and principles. It encourages everyone to own their privacy responsibilities to create a culture of privacy.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Privacy Matters'
- 129. World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day** is observed annually on **30th January** to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge so that we can progress towards their elimination. The 2022 slogan is "From neglect to care".
- **Theme 2022:** "Achieving health equity to end the neglect of poverty-related diseases"
 - The day was first observed in 2020. The proposal to recognise the day was made by the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- 130. Martyr's Day or Shaheed Diwas** is observed annually on **30th January** to mark the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The year 2022 marks the **74th death anniversary** of Mahatma Gandhi. The day is observed to remember the sacrifices made by freedom fighters in the struggle for India's independence and to pay our respects to them.
- **Note:** The **Raj Ghat** is a memorial site to honour Mahatma Gandhi.
 - The Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in the Birla House during his evening prayers on 30 January, 1948. Gandhiji was a freedom fighter, a simple man with huge determination, a man who had sacrificed his life for the independence, welfare, and development of India.

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Economic Survey 2021-22

The country's first Economic Survey was released in **1950-51**. And for the next 14 years, it was presented with the Union Budget. The trend was discontinued in **1964**. And since then, the Economic Survey has been preceding the budget. It is now released a day before the budget.

The highlights of the Economic Survey are as follows:

State of the Economy:

- Indian economy estimated to grow by **9.2 percent** in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 percent in 2020-21.
- GDP projected to grow by **8- 8.5 percent** in real terms in 2022-23.

- The year ahead poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in good position to provide support for economy's revival.
- Projection comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 percent and 7.5 percent respectively for 2022-23.
- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9 percent in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 percent in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3 years.
- Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9 percent; industry by 11.8 percent and services sector by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.
- On demand side, consumption estimated to grow by 7.0 percent, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 15 percent, exports by 16.5 percent and imports by 29.4 percent in 2021-22.
- Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.
- Combination of high foreign exchange reserves, sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.
- Economic impact of "second wave" was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.
- Government of India's unique response comprised of safety-nets to cushion the impact on vulnerable sections of society and the business sector, significant increase in capital expenditure to spur growth and supply side reforms for a sustained long-term expansion.
- Government's flexible and multi-layered response is partly based on an "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops, and the use of eighty High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in an environment of extreme uncertainty.

Fiscal Developments:

- The revenue receipts from the Central Government (April to November, 2021) have gone up by 67.2 percent (YoY) as against an expected growth of 9.6 percent in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates (over 2020-21 Provisional Actuals).
- Gross Tax Revenue registers a growth of over 50 percent during April to November, 2021 in YoY terms. This performance is strong compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019-2020 also.
- During April-November 2021, Capex has grown by 13.5 percent (YoY) with focus on infrastructure-intensive sectors.
- Sustained revenue collection and a targeted expenditure policy has contained the fiscal deficit for April to November, 2021 at 46.2 percent of BE.
- With the enhanced borrowings on account of COVID-19, the Central Government debt has gone up from 49.1 percent of GDP in 2019-20 to 59.3 percent of GDP in 2020-21, but is expected to follow a declining trajectory with the recovery of the economy.

External Sectors:

- India's merchandise exports and imports rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during the current financial year.
- There was significant pickup in net services with both receipts and payments crossing the pre-pandemic levels, despite weak tourism revenues.

- Net capital flows were higher at US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- India's external debt rose to US \$ 593.1 billion at end-September 2021, from US \$ 556.8 billion a year earlier, reflecting additional SDR allocation by IMF, coupled with higher commercial borrowings.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021-22 and touched US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- As of end-November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland.

Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:

- The liquidity in the system remained in surplus.
 - Repo rate was maintained at **4 per cent** in 2021-22.
 - RBI undertook various measures such as G-Sec Acquisition Programme and Special Long-Term Repo Operations to provide further liquidity.
- The economic shock of the pandemic has been weathered well by the commercial banking system:
 - YoY Bank credit growth accelerated gradually in 2021-22 from 5.3 per cent in April 2021 to 9.2 per cent as on 31st December 2021.
 - The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined from **11.2 per cent** at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9 per cent at the end of September, 2021.
 - Net Non-Performing Advances ratio declined from 6 percent to 2.2 per cent during the same period.
 - Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs continued to increase from 13 per cent in 2013-14 to 16.54 per cent at the end of September 2021.
 - The Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks continued to be positive for the period ending September 2021.
- Exceptional year for the capital markets:
 - **Rs. 89,066 crore** was raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues in April-November 2021, which is much higher than in any year in the last decade.
 - Sensex and Nifty scaled up to touch peak at 61,766 and 18,477 on October 18, 2021.
 - Among major emerging market economies, Indian markets outperformed peers in April-December 2021.

Prices and Inflation:

- The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2 per cent in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020-21.
 - The decline in retail inflation was led by easing of food inflation.
 - Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9 per cent in 2021-22 (April to December) as against 9.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year.
 - Effective supply-side management kept prices of most essential commodities under control during the year.
 - Proactive measures were taken to contain the price rise in pulses and edible oils.

- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States helped ease petrol and diesel prices.
- Wholesale inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose to 12.5 per cent during 2021-22 (April to December).
 - This has been attributed to:
 - Low base in the previous year,
 - Pick-up in economic activity,
 - Sharp increase in international prices of crude oil and other imported inputs, and
 - High freight costs.
- Divergence between CPI-C and WPI Inflation:
 - The divergence peaked to 9.6 percentage points in May 2020.
 - However, this year there was a reversal in divergence with retail inflation falling below wholesale inflation by 8.0 percentage points in December 2021.
 - This divergence can be explained by factors such as:
 - Variations due to base effect,
 - Difference in scope and coverage of the two indices,
 - Price collections,
 - Items covered,
 - Difference in commodity weights, and
 - WPI being more sensitive to cost-push inflation led by imported inputs.
 - With the gradual waning of base effect in WPI, the divergence in CPI-C and WPI is also expected to narrow down.

Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19.
- Number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99) increased to 22 States and UTs in 2020-21 from 10 in 2019-20.
- In North East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.
- India has the tenth largest forest area in the world.
- In 2020, India ranked third globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020.
- In 2020, the forests covered 24% of India's total geographical, accounting for 2% of the world's total forest area.
- In August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified which is aimed at phasing out single use plastic by 2022.
- Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
- The Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) located in the Ganga main stem and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.

- The consequent reduction in effluent discharge has been from 349.13 millions of litres per day (MLD) in 2017 to 280.20 MLD in 2020.
- The Prime Minister, as a part of the national statement delivered at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow in November 2021, announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions.
- The need to start the one-word movement 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) urging mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption was underlined.

Agriculture and Food Management:

- The Agriculture sector experienced buoyant growth in past two years, accounting for a sizeable 18.8% (2021-22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22.
- Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy is being used to promote crop diversification.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.
- Allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries are steadily emerging to be high growth sectors and major drivers of overall growth in agriculture sector.
- The Livestock sector has grown at a CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years ending 2019-20. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of their average monthly income.
- Government facilitates food processing through various measures of infrastructure development, subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- Government has further extended the coverage of food security network through schemes like **PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana** (PMGKY).

Industry and Infrastructure:

- **Index of Industrial Production** (IIP) grew at 17.4 percent (YoY) during April-November 2021 as compared to (-) 15.3 percent in April-November 2020.
- Capital expenditure for the Indian railways has increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 from an average annual of Rs. 45,980 crores during 2009-14 and it has been budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22 – a five times increase in comparison to the 2014 level.
- Extent of road construction per day increased substantially in 2020-21 to 36.5 Kms per day from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20 – a rise of 30.4 percent.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6 percent in in July-September quarter of 2021-22 despite the pandemic (RBI Study).
- Introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, major boost provided to infrastructure-both physical as well as digital, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

Services:

- GVA of services crossed pre-pandemic level in July-September quarter of 2021-22; however, GVA of contact intensive sectors like trade, transport, etc. still remain below pre-pandemic level.
- Overall service Sector GVA is expected to grow by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.

- During April-December 2021, rail freight crossed its pre-pandemic level while air freight and port traffic almost reached their pre-pandemic levels, domestic air and rail passenger traffic are increasing gradually – shows impact of second wave was much more muted as compared to during first wave.
- During the first half of 2021-22, service sector received over US\$ 16.7 billion FDI – accounting for almost 54 percent of total FDI inflows into India.
- IT-BPM services revenue reached US\$ 194 billion in 2020-21, adding 1.38 lakh employees during the same period.
- Major government reforms include, removing telecom regulations in IT-BPO sector and opening up of space sector to private players.
- Services exports surpassed pre-pandemic level in January-March quarter of 2020-21 and grew by 21.6 percent in the first half of 2021-22 - strengthened by global demand for software and IT services exports.
- India has become 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world after US and China. Number of new recognized start-ups increased to over 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17.
- 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in services sector.

Social Infrastructure and Employment:

- 157.94 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered as on 16th January 2022; 91.39 crore first dose and 66.05 crore second dose.
- With revival of economy, employment indicators bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during last quarter of 2020-21.
- As per the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data up to March 2021, employment in urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- According to Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) data, formalization of jobs continued during second COVID wave; adverse impact of COVID on formalization of jobs much lower than during the first COVID wave.
- Expenditure on social services (health, education and others) by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE)

As per the National Family Health Survey-5:

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under-five mortality rate and institutional births have improved in 2019-21 over year 2015-16

Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), **83 districts** have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts.

- Increased allotment of funds to **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** (MNREGS) to provide buffer for unorganized labour in rural areas during the pandemic.

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