

PRACTICE **MOCK**

```
escape comexmpleentity,  
public class User{  
    private Long id;  
    private String firstName;  
    private String lastName.  
5  
6  
7    public User(Long id, String firstName, String last!  
8        this.id = id,  
9        this.firstName=firstName,  
10       this.lastName=lastName.  
11    }  
12  
13    public Long getId(){  
14        return id;  
15    }  
16  
17    public void setId(Long id){  
18        this.id=id;  
19    }  
20
```

March 2022 - Week 1

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Stay Updated on all the important news of the first week of March 2022

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** has recently planned to launch the third phase of the **Monsoon Mission** to achieve further improvement in our understanding about the monsoons, thus helping achieve a quantum leap in the predictions.
  - The Mission Monsoon was first launched in **2012** by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
  - **Aim:** To improve overall understanding of Indian monsoons.
2. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has developed a novel nanoparticle-based **Biodegradable Carbonoid Metabolite (BioDCM) system** that can be used as an alternative to chemical-based pesticides and help farmers protect their crops from bacterial and fungal infections.
  - The nanoparticle has been developed in collaboration with C. Kannan and Divya Mishra from ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, and R Balamurugan and Mou Mandal from the School of Chemistry, University of Hyderabad.
3. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the national roll-out of the Central Sector Scheme, **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)** of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, with a total outlay of **Rs. 1,600 crore** for five years.
  - ABDM was launched in September 2021.
  - The **National Health Authority (NHA)** will be the implementing agency of ABDM.
  - Under the ABDM, citizens will be able to create their ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) numbers, to which their digital health records can be linked.
  - As on 24th February 2022, 17,33,69,087 ABHA have been created and 10,114 doctors and 17,319 health facilities have been registered in ABDM.

### Other Cabinet approvals:

- Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to allow **coal companies**, including state-owned Coal India Limited (CIL), to offer the dry fuel through a **common e-auction window**. This will replace the sector specific auctions.
  - Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme **Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates**. The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of **Rs.1,452 crore**.
4. The **'Stree Manoraksha Project'** has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) in collaboration with **NIMHANS** Bengaluru to improve women's mental health across India.

5. The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has been awarded the '**Special Jury Award**' at the 7th India Industry Water Conclave and 9th edition of FICCI Water Awards in recognition of the significant work done for Ganga rejuvenation.
6. The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, **Ashwini Vaishnav** has inaugurated the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of **NIC Tech Conclave 2022** at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
  - Minister of State for Electronics and IT **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** has graced the event as a guest of honour.
  - It is a two-day event organized by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
  - It is focused on Emerging Technologies applicable in e-Governance.
  - **Theme 2022: Next-Gen Technologies for Digital Government**
7. **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has accorded in-principle approval to four projects which are under **Make-I** (this is funded by the government) and five projects under **Make-II** (this is industry-funded) categories of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020. The objective is to develop the design capabilities of Indian defence industry and position India as a design leader in these technologies.
8. The Indian Navy has successfully test-fired a long-range version of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** from stealth destroyer **INS Chennai**.
  - The BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile manufactured by an Indo-Russian joint venture.
  - INS Chennai is a stealth-guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy constructed by the Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai.
9. The **National Highway for Electric Vehicle (NHEV)**, an organization for promoting electrification of the country's transportation systems, is constructing a first of its kind "**green charging hub**" along the Jaipur-Delhi-Agra E-highway.
  - **Aim:** To reduce carbon footprint to zero and also replaces petrol pumps in the future.
  - The charging station will have a restaurant, coffee lounge, a bank, an ATM, a showroom, and other amenities for the customers to use while their vehicle is charging.
10. The **Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, has launched a week-long campaign named '**Nari Shakti of the North East**' to recognize the exceptional achievements of women and girls in North East India ahead of International Women's Day 2022. The campaign has been launched by Minister of Development of the North Eastern Region, G. Kishan Reddy.

- 11. OCEANS 2022**, a bi-annual event of global marine researchers, has been organized in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu. It has been organized for the first time in India by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai.
- **'Inspire-Innovate-Sustain'** is the main theme of the conference.
  - The conference has been organized for global maritime professionals to learn, innovate, and lead in the protection and utilization of the world's largest natural resource Oceans.
- 12.** The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has planned to start a **'Health Star Rating System'** for packaged foods. Under this, the packaged foods will display the number of stars on the Front of Pack Label (FOPL), which indicates how healthy or unhealthy they are depending upon the amount of salt, sugar, and fat they have.
- 13.** Union Minister of Communication, Ashwini Vaishnav has signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Secretary-General Houlin Zhao to establish an area office and innovation centre of the United Nations telecom body in **New Delhi** for South Asia.
- The agreement has been signed during the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly-20 (WTSA-20) held in Geneva, Switzerland.
  - The Area Office and the Innovation Centre is expected to be operational by mid-2022.
- 14.** The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has decided to distribute **4,800** daily living aids and assistive devices among 895 senior citizen beneficiaries under **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana** (RVY).

#### **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):**

- It was launched in **2017** by the *Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*.
  - It is a central sector scheme funded by the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund.
  - It aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category who suffer from age-related disabilities such as low vision, hearing impairment, loss of teeth, and locomotor disabilities.
  - It is being implemented by **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India** (ALIMCO), which is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- 15.** The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, has inaugurated a newly developed **'Arogya Vanam'** at the President's Estate, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) in **New Delhi**.
- **Objective:** To promote the importance of Ayurvedic plants and their effects on the human body.

- It has been developed in the shape of a human sitting in the Yoga Mudra.
- It is spread over 6.6 acres of land.
- It consists of around 215 herbs and plants used for therapeutic purposes in Ayurveda.

**16. Exercise Vayu Shakti**, which is the biggest exercise of the Indian Air Force, has been organized at the Pokharan range in **Jaisalmer**, Rajasthan.

- **Chief Guest:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- A total of **148 aircraft** of the Indian Air Force (IAF) has participated in the exercise.
- Rafale aircraft has participated for the first time in this exercise.

*Exercise Vayu Shakti is organized by Indian Air Force once every **three years**. The last Vayu Shakti Exercise was held in 2019.*

**17.** India's first Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) named **Hoegh Giant** has arrived at H-Energy's Jaigarh terminal in Maharashtra.

- It has a storage capacity of 170,000 cubic meters and has an installed re-gasification capacity of 750 million cubic feet per day (equivalent to 6 million tons annually).
- It will deliver re-gasified LNG to the **56-km long** Jaigarh-Dabhol natural gas pipeline, connecting the LNG terminal to the national gas grid.

**18.** The **Ministry of Minority Affairs** has extended the deadline for the **Quami Waqf Boards Taraqqiati Scheme** (geotagging the Waqf properties) from March 2022 to November 2023.

- **Objective:** To map the immovable assets under the Waqf Boards, and to ensure their proper utilization and monetization.
- The Central Waqf Council is the Nodal Agency for the implementation of the scheme.

**19.** The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has launched a program named 'Building AI Readiness among Young Innovators' in collaboration with **Intel India** to strengthen AI readiness. The program aims to build digital readiness among the students from classes 6 to 10, enrolled under DST's INSPIRE-Awards MANAK scheme.

**20.** India's first indigenously developed '**Kavach: Anti-Collision System**' has been successfully tested by the Indian Railways. This system will help the Railways achieve the goal of 'zero accidents'. It was tested on the Sanatnagar-Sankarpalli section in Secunderabad.

- Kavach is India's own automatic train protection system, which is in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS).
- It will help prevent accidents on rail tracks like collision of trains.
- Once the system is activated, all trains within a 5-km range will halt to provide protection for trains on adjacent tracks.

- It will cost **Rs 50 lakh per kilometre** to operate in comparison to about Rs 2 crore worldwide.
21. The 19th edition of the **India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG)** meeting has been held in **Agra**, Uttar Pradesh. The meeting has been co-chaired by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna from the Indian side and Deputy Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command Lieutenant General Stephen D Sklenka from the US side.
22. The Central Government has approved the **Modernisation Plan-IV for Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** scheme to improve the overall operational preparedness and efficiency of the CAPFs.
- The scheme will run from **1 February 2022** to **31 March 2026** with a total financial outlay of **Rs.1,523 crore**.
  - It will be implemented by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
23. India's first indigenously developed Flying Trainer, '**HANSA-NG**', has successfully completed the sea-level trials at **Puducherry**. The objective is to evaluate handling qualities, climb/cruise performance, balked landing, structural performance including positive and negative G, power plant, and other systems performance at sea level.
- The aircraft has been designed and developed by **CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**.
  - It is powered by Rotax Digital Control Engine.
  - It is a two-seater aircraft and a revamped version of the HANSA.
  - It is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.
24. The ninth edition of the Indian and Sri Lankan Navy bilateral maritime exercise **SLINEX 2022** has been held in **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh from 7<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.  
**Aim:** To increase mutual understanding, interoperability, and the exchange of best procedures and practices for multi-faceted maritime operations between the two navies. The exercise has been conducted in two phases:
- Harbour Phase has been conducted in Visakhapatnam.
  - Sea Phase has been conducted in the Bay of Bengal.
25. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers Dr. **Mansukh Mandaviya** has inaugurated the seminar on "**Industry Connect 2022**": **Industry and Academia Synergy** to promote innovation & technology for the progress of the country. It is organized

by the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India in association with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

26. The Union Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi has presented the **National ICT Awards 2020 & 2021 to 49 teachers** from across India. ITC Award 2020 is given for school teachers and 2021 is for school teachers, teachers educators, and best practicing states/UTs.
27. The **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the Ministry of Science and Technology in the presence of the Union Science Minister Dr Jitendra Singh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Skyshade Daylight Private Limited** (Hyderabad) to promote start-up in **Daylight Harvesting Technology**. The total cost of the project is **Rs 10 crore**, of which Rs 5 crore will be given by TDB.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

28. The city of **Ujjain**, known as the 'Land of Mahakal', in Madhya Pradesh has created a Guinness record by lighting **11.71 lakh clay lamps** in 10 minutes.
- The diyas were lighted as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam Mahotsava' on the occasion of Mahashivratri on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
  - The clay from the lamps will be used to prepare idols, while the oil left in the lamps will be offered to gaushalas.
29. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the '**Naan Mudhalvan**' (I am first) scheme for the students. Under the scheme, students of government and aided schools and colleges will be monitored and their special skills will be identified.
30. Madras High Court Justice Dr. Anitha Sumanth has launched **India's first ambulance for street animals** in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.
- It has been started by the Blue Cross of India, an animal welfare charity, in collaboration with the international animal welfare organization Four Paw.
  - The Stray Animal Care programme will be a "hospital on wheels" with a veterinarian on board to provide on-site treatment for sick and injured street animals.



- 31. New Delhi Police** has launched three digital initiatives '**Anubhuti**', a QR code-based feedback system, '**e-Chittha**' portal, and a refurbished Delhi Police website.
- **Aim:** To add a new dimension in modernizing and digitizing the police force.
  - **Anubhuti:** To establish two-way communication between the police and the public.
  - **e-Chittha portal:** It act as the backbone of the duty deployment of the Delhi Police.
- 32.** The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has partnered with the state government of **Telangana** to encourage and support the MSMEs (micro, small & medium enterprises) of the state. This partnership will enable MSMEs to list on the NSE Emerge platform to raise capital in an efficient manner and scale up their business to compete globally.
- 33.** Goldi Solar, a global solar panel manufacturer and EPC services provider, has partnered with Shree Ramkrishna Knowledge Foundation (SRKKF) to lay the foundation stone for the solarization of the village of **Dudhala** in Southern **Gujarat**.
- This partnership will set up a **450 KW** solar rooftop project that will be used to power around 350 houses and public areas such as anganwadis and gram panchayat.
  - The project is undertaken under Shri Govindbhai Dholakia's mentorship.
  - With this, Dudhala village in Gujarat will become the first fully solarized village by a foundation.
- Dudhala** is a small village in the Lathi taluka of **Amreli district** in Gujarat.*
- 34.** According to the latest data, from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation, the state of **Telangana** has been ranked highest in the country among states with a population over 1 crore in terms of growth rate in terms of Per Capita Net State Domestic Product at Current Prices.
- It has surpassed Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to become top-performing state in the country.
  - The Gross State Domestic Price (GSDP) in Telangana has increased from 359434 crores in 2011-12 to 1,154,860 crores in 2021-22.
- 35. 'Herath'**, also known as Mahashivratri, is celebrated in the union territory of **Jammu & Kashmir**. The festival is celebrated on the eve of Shivratri by the Kashmiri Pandit community to mark the wedding of "Lord Shiva" and "Goddess Parvati".
- 36.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated a 12 km stretch of the **Pune Metro Rail Project**. The trains will run along two routes for the time being: Vanaz to Garware College Metro Station and PCMC to Phugewadi Metro Station.
- It is the first metro project in the country to have **Aluminum** body coaches.

- It has been built at a total cost of **Rs.11,420 crore**.
- It has a total length of **32.2 km** and 30 stations.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Pune Metro Rail Project in December 2016.

*He has also unveiled the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at the premises of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) and has laid the foundation stone and inaugurated multiple developmental projects in Pune.*

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 37. China** has claimed a domestic record for the most spacecraft launched by a single rocket by launching a 'Long March-8 rocket' to place 22 satellites in space from the 'Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site' in the southern Hainan Province.
- The mission marked the **409th flight** of the Long March carrier rockets.
  - These satellites will be mainly used for commercial remote sensing services, marine environment monitoring, forest fire prevention and disaster mitigation.
- 38.** The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has retained **Pakistan** in the grey list and has also added **UAE** to its grey watch list. Pakistan has been on the grey list of FATF since June 2018 for failing to check money laundering, leading to terror financing, and was given a plan of action to complete it by October 2019.
- 39.** The **Antonov An-225 or Mriya** ('Dream' in Ukrainian) is the **world's largest cargo aircraft**. It has been destroyed by Russian troops during an attack on an airport near Kyiv, Ukraine. The aircraft was designed in then Ukrainian USSR during the 1980s amid a tense race to space between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- 40. India and Nepal** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the supply of **Urea** and **Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP)** fertilizers from India to Nepal under Government to Government Arrangement. The MoU has been signed by Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Secretary (Chemical and Fertilizers), Government of India, on the Indian side and Govinda Prasad Sharma, Secretary (Agriculture and Livestock Development) on the Nepali side.

- 41. Canada** has become the first country to approve the world's first plant-based COVID-19 vaccine for adults aged 18 to 64 named '**Covifenz**'.
- It is jointly developed by Medicigo Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline Plc.
  - It is 71% effective at preventing COVID-19 (before the emergence of the Omicron variant).
- 42.** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully launched an Earth-observation satellite named **Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-T)** through United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, USA.
- It has been launched for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
  - It is the third in a series of GOES-R weather satellites.
- 43. Swiss International Air Lines** and its parent company the Lufthansa Group, have partnered with synthetic fuel group Synhelion to use its solar fuel. With this, Swiss will become the first airline in the world to use "sun-to-liquid" fuel. Swiss will become the first customer of solar kerosene in 2023.
- 44.** The **fifth session** of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** has been held in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme of "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".
- **UNEA-5 President:** Espen Barth Eide (Norway)
  - It has been hosted by the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP).
  - The UNEA-5 session is followed by "**UNEP@50**", a two-day Special Session of the Assembly to mark UNEP's 50th anniversary.
  - The session concluded with **14 resolutions** to strengthen actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
  - 175 nations has signed a mandate to curb use of plastic by developing a legally binding agreement.

## REPORTS & INDICES

- 45.** The second advance estimate of national income has been released by the National Statistical Office (NSO). NSO has projected India's GDP growth at **8.9%** for **FY22** (earlier it was 9.2% in first advance estimates). It has also projected India's GDP growth at **6.6%** for **FY21** (earlier it was -7.3%).
- 46. Wealth Report 2022**

As per Knight Frank's 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Wealth Report 2022**, the number of ultra-high-net-

worth-individuals (UHNWIs) has globally increased by **9.3%** in 2021 to 6,10,569 from 5, 58,828 in 2020.

The list has been topped by the **United States (748)**, followed by China (554).

**India** has been **ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in billionaire population globally.

- The number of ultra-high-net-worth-individuals (UHNWIs) in India has increased by 11% YoY in 2021 to 145 billionaires, the highest percentage growth in the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- **Bengaluru** has recorded the highest growth in the number of UHNWIs in 2021 at 17.1% to 352 billionaires, followed by Delhi (12.4% to 210) and Mumbai (9% to 1596) in 2021.

**47.** According to the recent data released by the Ministry of Finance, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection has crossed **Rs 1.30 lakh crore** mark for the 5th time in February 2022.

- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of February 2022 is **Rs 1,33,026 crore** of which CGST is Rs 24,435 crore, SGST is Rs 30,779 crore, IGST is Rs 67,471 crore (including Rs 33,837 crore collected on import of goods) and cess is Rs 10,340 crore (including Rs 638 crore collected on import of goods).

#### **48. State of India's Environment Report 2022:**

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav has released the **State of India's Environment Report 2022** of the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

India has slipped three spots to **120th** from 117th in 2021 on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda by 192 United Nations member states in 2015. The overall Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) score of India is **66** out of 100.

#### **State-wise rankings:**

- **Kerala** has topped among states, followed by Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh in the 2<sup>nd</sup> position. Karnataka, Goa, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh shared third place.
- The states of **Jharkhand & Bihar** are least prepared to meet the SDGs by the target year of 2030.

**Union Territory rankings: Chandigarh** has topped among the Union Territories, followed by Delhi, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep in second place, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in the third position.

- The South-Asian countries ahead of India are Bhutan ranked 75th, Sri Lanka: 87th, Nepal: 96th, and Bangladesh: 109<sup>th</sup>.
- India's ranking has slipped due to substantial challenges in 11 SDGs such as zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, and sustainable cities and communities.

**49. Bain & Company** and **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** have released a report titled 'Innovation in India's Rural Economy: disruptive business models are stimulating inclusive growth in agriculture and rural finance'.

- As per the report, the agriculture sector has grown by a CAGR of **11%** during **2015-2020** and it contributes to approximately 37 percent of the total rural GDP.
- Around 30 percent of the rural ecosystem is adopting digital payment and digital commerce.
- Agri credit has grown at 10 percent CAGR in the last five years, reaching nearly Rs 14 lakh crore in 2019-2020 and about 35 percent of this comes from the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

**50.** A report titled "Q4 & Annual India Solar Market Update" has been released by the Mercom India Research. As per the report, India has installed a record **10 GW** of new solar capacity in 2021, a 210% increase as compared to 3.2 GW installed in 2020.

- The cumulative installed solar capacity in India at the end of Q4 2021 was approximately **49 GW**.
- **Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh** were the top three states for large scale solar installations.
- Solar accounted for 62% of new power capacity additions in 2021, the largest share of power capacity ever.
- Rooftop installations registered a y-o-y increase of 138% in 2021.

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## **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

**51. Japan** and **India** have renewed the **Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA)**. The size of BSA is up to **USD 75 billion** which means when India wants to borrow money from Japan it can borrow in US Dollars or Japanese Yen up to the limit of \$75 billion and vice versa. The countries will pay interest on the amount borrowed at an interest rate fixed at the time of borrowing the money.

**52.** The **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL)** has tied up with **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)** for cooperation and collaboration in the field of renewable energy, electric mobility, and alternative fuels including the development of Environmental,

Social, and Governance (ESG) Projects.

- 53. Adani Renewable Energy Holding Fifteen**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Adani Green Energy, has received the Letter of Award (LOA) from Punjab State Electricity Corporation for setting up a **150 MW** solar power project.
- The fixed tariff for the project capacity is Rs.2.34/ kWh for a period of 25 years.
  - With this, Adani Green Energy now has a total renewable energy project portfolio of 20,434 MWac capacity.
- 54. Tata Motors** has launched a showroom on wheels (mobile showroom) named '**Anubhav**'. It will target rural customers by increasing their reach in rural areas and providing them with a doorstep car buying experience. A total of 103 mobile showrooms are being deployed across the country to enhance the Tata Motors brand awareness in rural India.
- 55. Indian Hotels Company (IHCL)**, India's largest hospitality company, has collaborated with the **United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** to help preserve and promote the intangible cultural heritage of India.
- 56. Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL)** has become first depository to register **more than six crores** (60 million) active Demat accounts.
- A Demat account is a dematerialized account that can be used to keep online copies of securities and shares.
  - CDSL is India's only listed depository.
- 57. The MeitY Startup Hub**, an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and **Google** has announced a cohort of **100 early to mid-stage Indian startups**, with an aim to help build global apps and games as part of the Appscale Academy programme.
- 58. The Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA)** has organized the **Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2022 in Barcelona, Spain**.
- The global Telecom industry will invest **USD 600 billion** by 2025 in the global mobile industry's capital expenditure (CAPEX).
  - An increase in the 5G network will increase the global GDP by **5%** i.e. up to USD 5 trillion in 2025.

- 59. Hero MotoCorp**, India's leading two wheeler company, has unveiled a new Electric Vehicle (EV) sub-brand named '**Vida**' for its emerging mobility solutions and upcoming electric vehicles.
- The first electric vehicle under the Vida brand will be officially unveiled on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2022**, to coincide with the birth anniversary of Dr Brijmohan Lall, Chairman Emeritus of Hero MotoCorp.
  - The company has also announced a \$100 million Global Sustainability Fund that will help the company to nurture more than 10,000 entrepreneurs on ESG solutions.
- 60.** The Reliance Industries Limited has opened India's first largest Global Destination '**Jio World Centre**' in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra.
- The centre is spread over an area of 18.5 acres.
  - It includes a cultural centre, a musical fountain (Fountain of Joy), an upscale retail experience, a curated selection of cafés and fine dining restaurants, serviced apartments and offices and the state-of-the-art convention facility.
  - It has 'hybrid and digital experiences' enabled by the 5G network.

## BANKING & FINANCE

### **61. Investment in Umbrella Organization (UO) by Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has exempted urban cooperative banks (UCBs) from the **10 percent cap** for their investments in the **umbrella organisation** (UO).

According to norms, investments in non-SLR (statutory liquidity ratio) securities by primary (urban) cooperative banks is to be limited to **10 percent** of a bank's total deposits as on March 31 of the previous year. Furthermore, the norms mandate that investments in unlisted securities should not exceed ten percent of the total non-SLR investments at any time.

The banking regulator has exempted the UCBs from both the norms.

- RBI has accorded regulatory approval to **National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Ltd.** (NAFCUB) in June 2019 for formation of Umbrella Organization (UO) for the UCB Sector. The approval inter-alia permits UCBs to subscribe to capital of the UO on voluntary basis.
- 62. Nitin Chugh**, former Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO, has been appointed as the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) by the State Bank of India (SBI) for an initial period of three years. He has been appointed as SBI's Group Head of Digital Banking at the level of DMD.
- 63.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of **Sarjeraodada Naik Shirala Sahakari Bank**, Shirala, Sangli district of Maharashtra due to compliance failure with a

regulation under Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

- 64. Bank of Maharashtra** has launched “**Project Banksakhi**” in collaboration with Mahagram & Sunivesh India Finance Services Pvt. Ltd. for an Online Bank Account opening in Odisha. This will provide doorstep and hassle-free access to the people of Odisha for opening bank accounts.
- 65. Union Bank of India** has partnered with **Ambit Finvest** for co-lending to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) customers. This will enable the creditworthiness of MSMEs in **11 states** that are currently covered by Ambit Finvest.
- 66. LoanTap**, a fintech digital lending platform, has tied up with Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) - **ArkaFincap Ltd.** (Arka), and **MAS Financial Services Ltd.** (MAS) in a co-lending model for the salaried and MSME segment.
- 67. IIFL Finance** Limited has partnered with fintech firm **NIRA** to provide personal loans to customers. Under this partnership, salaried customers can avail of a personal loan of up to **Rs. 1 lakh** from IIFL Finance by the NIRA app.
- 68. Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IPE Global for the SAMRIDH Healthcare Blended Finance Facility with finance of up to **USD 150 million** (about Rs 1,140 crore) to support health enterprises and innovators.
- SAMRIDH is an initiative supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
  - SAMRIDH stands for '*Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare*'.
- 69. Indian Oil** has partnered with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** to launch the Indian Oil Kotak co-branded fuel credit card. This partnership will offer more value to customers in the form of an enhanced rewards programme.
- 70. Religare Broking Limited (RBL)**, a full-service broking house and securities firm, has launched the '**Pre Apply LIC IPO**' app. It will be a one-stop app to open a Demat account and share intent to pre-apply for the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) *Initial Public Offering* (IPO).



- 71. IDBI Bank** has launched Corporate Liquidity Management Solution (C-LMS) and Government Liquidity Management Solution (G-LMS) to meet the liquidity management needs of institutional customers. These solutions will provide real-time, web-based and formula-driven liquidity management solutions.
- 72. UCO Bank** has partnered with **Fisdom** to provide fintech services including Demat account, stockbroking services, pension funds and tax filing to its customers. The services will be offered through UCO Bank's mobile banking application UCO mBanking Plus and will gradually be accessible through its internet banking platform.
- 73. PayU** has tied up with **VTEX**, one of the largest global digital commerce platforms, to provide multiple payment solutions to VTEX merchants. The objective is to simplify payment methods for the merchants using VTEX platform.
- 74. Standard Chartered Bank** has partnered with **Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL)** to provide *loans against property* (LAP) to prospective customers, especially MSMEs at low-interest rates. Under this partnership, EHFL will originate, process, service the loans and retain **20 percent** of the loan on its books, while the remaining 80 percent will be on the books of Standard Chartered Bank.
- 75. Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises, and AXA, has appointed Bollywood actress **Vidya Balan** as its brand ambassador. She will help in promoting #DoTheSmartThing campaign of Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
- 76. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has collaborated with **Paytm** to provide digital ticketing services to consumers through *Automatic Ticket Vending Machines* (ATVM) installed at railway stations across India.
- 77. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has partnered with **Yatra.com** and **SBI Card** to launch a co-branded '**Yatra SBI Card**' on the RuPay network. This holiday-cum-shopping credit card gives travel benefits on booking flights and hotels that are applicable 6 times a year.
- 78. Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGII)** has launched comprehensive health insurance for pet dogs named 'FG Dog Health Cover', along with an industry-first 'emergency pet minding' cover.
- Policy costs start at **Rs.323/-** per month including terminal illness, surgery and hospitalization, and mortality.

- It has also launched a digital campaign named **"Oh My Dog!"** to raise awareness amongst 'dog parents'.

**79. LIC Mutual Fund Asset Management Limited** has appointed **TS Ramakrishnan** as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He will succeed Dinesh Pangtey, its former Whole time Director and CEO.

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## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 80.** Prof **Deepak Dhar** from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune) has been awarded the Boltzmann Medal for the year 2022 for his contribution in the field of **'Statistical Physics'**. He has shared the award with American scientist **John J Hopfield** of Princeton University. With this, he has become the first Indian to be awarded the Boltzmann Medal 2022.
- 81.** **CtrlS**, a data centre company, has won the ASSOCHAM Award for Sustainability Excellence in Energy Management. The entity has received the award for its excellence in energy management and making a positive impact during the Covid-19 pandemic from March 2020 through their innovative and sustainability initiatives in their data centre operations.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 82.** Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota has released the book titled **"Udaan Ek Majdoor Bachhe Ki"** by **Captain AD Manek**. The author of this book is **Mithilesh Tiwari**. This book is about the life journey of Captain AD Manek, how he traveled from zero to pinnacle in his career graph. Captain AD Manek is the founder of 'The Skyline Aviation Club'. It was established in 1987.
- 83.** A new book titled **"The Millennial Yogi: A modern-day parable about reclaiming one's life"** has been authored by former Indian Army Captain **Deepam Chatterjee**. The book is published by Ebury Press.
- This is a book that mixes mysticism and music that takes readers on a journey of awakening.

84. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has launched the first volume of a book titled **Ungalil Oruvan** (One Among You) in Chennai. The book is an autobiography of **MK Stalin** (Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu). The first volume of the autobiography contains his early life experiences.
85. A new book titled '**The Blue Book: A Writer's Journal**' has been authored by **Amitava Kumar**. The book has been published by HarperCollins India. The book is the outcome of the diary-keeping by the author during the time of lockdown due to pandemics.
- **Other books by Amitava Kumar:** 'Husband of a Fanatic: A Personal Journey Through India, Pakistan, Love, and Hate', 'Immigrant, Montana', 'A Time Outside This Time', etc.
86. "**The Queen of Indian Pop: The Authorised Biography of Usha Uthup**" is the English translation of the book "**Ullas Ki Naav**". It is translated by **Srishti Jha**. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- The book was originally written in Hindi titled "Ullas Ki Naav" by author **Vikas Kumar Jha**.
  - Usha Uthup had completed 50 years as a professional singer in 2020.
  - She is widely known for evergreen hits such as "Hari Om Hari", "Rambha Ho" and "Jeete Hain Shaan Se".

## PERSON IN NEWS

87. **Samiran Gupta** has been appointed as the new head of policy for the microblogging platform Twitter in India. He will lead the company's public policy and philanthropy efforts in India and South Asia.
88. The World Bank's India head and a Bangladeshi economist, **Junaid Kamal Ahmad** has been appointed as the Vice President for operations of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). He will assume his new role from 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
89. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has appointed educationist and research scientist Professor **Bhushan Patwardhan** as the new Chairman of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
90. **Ashneer Grover**, co-founder and Managing Director (MD) of BharatPe, has resigned as Managing Director and Director of the Board of **BharatPe**. He has **9.5 percent** shareholding in the company.
91. EdTech platform **upGrad** has appointed Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** as the official brand ambassador. He will promote upGrad's brand value through endorsements and

promotions of services, while emphasizing the importance of life-long learning for progressive career growth.

92. Jalan Kalrock Consortium, the new promoters of Jet Airways, has announced the appointment of **Sanjiv Kapoor** as the Chief Executive Officer of **Jet Airways**. He will join on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
93. The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Chief Justice of Delhi High Court **D.N. Patel** as the next chairperson of the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) for a period of four years. He will succeed Justice Shiva Kirti Singh.
94. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs and Marten van den Berg, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to India has released a special logo to commemorate **75 years** of diplomatic relations between **India** and the **Netherlands**.
- The logo features a lotus and a tulip – the national flowers of both countries.
  - The chakra in the middle of the logo depicts the bond of friendship and the flag colours enhance the connections that exist between the people of India and the people of the Netherlands.
95. **Akshaye Widhani** has been named as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Yash Raj Films (YRF)**. He was serving as senior vice-president, finance and business affairs, and head of operations at YRF Studios.
- Yash Raj Films was founded by Yash Chopra in 1970.

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## OBITUARIES

96. Legendary West Indies spinner **Sonny Ramadhin**, who was a part of the side that won its first away series in England in 1950, has passed away recently. He was the first of many Indian origins players to play for the West Indies. He was one of the five Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 1951.
97. Renowned Australian leg spinner **Shane Warne** has passed away recently in Koh Samui, Thailand. He was born on 13th September 1969, Upper Ferntree Gully, Australia.

- He played his first Test match in 1992 and took more than 1,000 wickets in Tests and One Day Internationals (ODIs).
- He picked up 708 wickets in 145 Tests.
- He captained Rajasthan Royals.
- He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame in 2013.
- **His autobiographies include:** No Spin: My Autobiography, Shane Warne's Century: My Top 100 Test Cricketers, Shane Warne: My Illustrated Career, Shane Warne: My Autobiography, and Shane Warne: My Own Story.

98. The Australian Cricket Board has decided to rename the Great Southern Stand as "**Shane Warne stand**" in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

99. Former Army Chief **General Sunith Francis Rodrigues** has passed recently in Panaji, Goa. He was born on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1933. He headed the Indian Army between 1990 and 1993 and served as the governor of **Punjab** between 2004 and 2010.

100. Oscar-winning producer **Alan Ladd Jr**, who greenlit Star Wars, has passed away recently in Los Angeles, California, USA. He was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1937 in Los Angeles, California, USA.

- He was popularly known as "**Laddie**".
- He won the Academy Award (Oscar Award) for Best Picture in **1995** for producing '*Braveheart*'.

101. Renowned Film critic, writer **Jaiprakash Chouksey** has passed away due to cardiac arrest in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. He has penned scripts and dialogues for several films including 'Shayad' (1979), 'Qatl' (1986) and 'Bodyguard' (2011).

## SPORTS

### 102. Para Archery World Championships:

India has won **2 Silver medals** for the first time in the Para Archery World Championship held in Dubai, UAE.

- Compound mixed pair of **Shyam Sundar Swami** and **Jyoti Baliyan** has won a silver medal.
- Para-archer **Pooja Jatyan** has become the first Indian to win a silver in the individual category of the Para Archery World Championships held in Dubai, UAE. She lost to Patrilli Vincenza (Italy).

103. **Daniil Medvedev** of **Russia** has become the 27th player to reach **No. 1** in the men's **ATP tennis rankings** with 8615 points. He is the third Russian to achieve this feat. He has

surpassed Novak Djokovic of Serbia (8,465), who has held the top spot in men's tennis for a record 361 total weeks.

**104.** The 31st edition of **Southeast Asian Games 2021**, the region's biggest sporting event, will be hosted by **Vietnam** from 12th to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. Originally, it was scheduled to take place from 21st November to 2nd December 2021.

- The Games will feature 40 sports with 526 events.
- The Vietnamese capital Hanoi will be the main venue of the Games.
- The mascot of the 2021 Southeast Asian Games is "**Sao La**", inspired by saola – a rare mammal native to central Vietnam.

*The Southeast Asian Games 2023 will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.*

**105.** Indian women's cricket team skipper **Mithali Raj** has become the first woman to appear in six ICC Women's Cricket World Cups. She has played in the ICC women's cricket world cup events in 2000, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and now in 2022.

- She is the only third cricketer overall to play six world cup after Sachin Tendulkar and Javed Miandad.
- She is followed by Jhulan Goswami (5 World Cups).

*The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is being held in **New Zealand** from 4th March to 3rd April 2022.*

**106.** **Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC)** has won the **15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship – 2022** by defeating Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the finals held at NDS Sports Complex in Leh. The tournament has been organised by the Department of Youth Services and Sports in Leh in collaboration with the Leh-based "Ladakh Winter Sports Club."

**107.** **Dabang Delhi** has won the Pro Kabaddi League Season 8 by defeating three-time champion **Patna Pirates** in the finals held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The winning team has got a cash prize of Rs.3 crores.

**Other awardees:**

- Raider of the season award: Pawan Sehrawat
- Defender of the season award: Mohammadreza Chiyaneh
- Emerging Player of the season: Mohit Goyat
- Most Valuable Player of the season award: Naveen Kumar

- 108.** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)'s Indian Premier League Governing (IPL) Council has announced the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s flagship product **RuPay** as an official partner for the TATA IPL 2022.
- This will be a multi-year partnership.
  - TATA IPL 2022 will be co-presented by Dream 11 and co-powered by TATA and CRED.

**109. 2022 ISSF World Cup:**

The 2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup has been held in Cairo, Egypt. **India** has topped the medal table with **seven medals** (4 gold, 2 silver, 1 bronze), the second by Norway with 6 medals (3 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze), the third by France with 3 gold medals.

- **Women's 25m pistol team** – Gold (Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh, and Rhythm Sangwan)
  - **Men's 10m air pistol** - Gold (Saurabh Chaudhary)
  - **Women's 10m air pistol team** - Gold (Esha Singh, Nivetha Paramanatham, Ruchira Vinerkar)
  - **25m rapid fire pistol mixed team** - Gold (Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala)
  - **Women's 10m air pistol event** - Silver (Esha Singh)
  - **Men's 25m rapid fire pistol team** - Silver (Gurpreet Singh, Anish Bhanwala, and Bhavesh Shekhawat)
  - **50m rifle 3 positions mixed team event** - Bronze (Shriyanka Sadangi and Akhil Sheoran)
- 110.** The **73rd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament** has been held in **Sofia, Bulgaria**. India has won **three medals** including two gold and one bronze in the tournament.
- Indian winners:**
- **Nikhat Zareen (52kg category)** : Gold
  - **Nitu (48kg category)** : Gold
  - **Nandini (81kg category)** : Bronze

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 111. Zero Discrimination Day** is observed annually on **1<sup>st</sup> March** to ensure right to equality, inclusion and protection of all people without any discrimination in their law and policies to live a full life with dignity regardless of any barriers.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Remove laws that harm, create laws that empower'

- The day was first observed in 2014 by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

**112. World Defence Day** is observed annually on **1<sup>st</sup> March** to pay tribute to the efforts of national services responsible for the fight against disasters.

- The day was initiated by the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) in 2012.
- **Theme 2022:** "Civil defence and management of displaced populations in face of disasters and crises; role of volunteers and the fight against pandemics"

**113.** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has observed its **17th Foundation Day** on 1st March 2022 at 15 August Maidan, Red Fort, New Delhi.

- **Chief Guest:** Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development
- During the occasion, Smriti Irani has launched the new motto of NCPCR i.e. '**Bhavishya Rakshati Rakshat**'.

**114. World Birth Defects Day** is observed annually on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** to spread awareness about birth defects and to highlight the importance to improve knowledge, prevention, and management of these conditions.

- **Theme 2022:** "Many Birth Defects, One Voice"
- The day was first observed in **2015**.

**115. National Safety Day (NSD)** is observed annually on **4<sup>th</sup> March** by the National Safety Council of India to spread awareness and commitment to the safety protocols that need to be followed to prevent accidents and mishaps at workplaces.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Nurture Young Minds-Develop safety culture'
- The year 2022 marks the **51<sup>st</sup> National Safety Day (NSD)**.
- The 2022 National Safety Week has been organised from 4th to 10th March 2022.
- The day was first observed in 1972.

*The National Safety Council was set up on 4th March 1966 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, to develop and implement a voluntary routine in the areas of safety, health, and the environment.*

**116. Janaushadhi Diwas** is observed annually on **7<sup>th</sup> March** to create awareness about the use of generic medicines among the people. The day was first celebrated in the year 2019 making it the fourth celebration this year.

- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has organized the Janaushadhi Diwas week from **1st March to 7th March 2022**.
- **Theme 2022:** "Jan Aushadhi-Jan Upyogi"



- 117.** The **46<sup>th</sup> Civil Accounts Day** has observed on **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi. Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is the Chief Guest of the occasion.
- 118. World Wildlife Day (WWD)** is observed annually on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** to spread awareness about the world's wild fauna and flora. The day also reminds us of the need to fight against wildlife crime and human-induced reduction of species causing various wide-ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.
- **Theme 2022:** "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration"
  - The day was proposed by Thailand and recognised in 2013 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- 119. World Obesity Day** is observed annually on **4<sup>th</sup> March** to create awareness about obesity and encourage action towards its elimination.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Everybody Needs to Act'
  - The day was first observed on **11<sup>th</sup> October 2015**. From 2020, it has been changed to 4<sup>th</sup> March.
  - The day is observed by the World Obesity Federation.
- 120. National Security Day** or Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas is observed annually across India on **4<sup>th</sup> March** to honour the security forces of India and to commemorate the establishment of the *National Safety Council* (NSC). The day is also observed to show gratitude to all the security forces, including policemen, para-military forces, commandos, guards, army officers, and other persons involved in security.
- NSC of India was established by then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1998. The present National Security Advisor is Ajit Doval.*
- 121. World Hearing Day** is observed annually on **3<sup>rd</sup> March** to create awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world.
- Theme 2022: **To hear for life, listen with care!**
  - The day was first observed in **2007** by the *World Health Organisation* (WHO).
- 122. International Women's Day** week has been observed from **1<sup>st</sup> March to 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022** by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the Bureau of Police Research and Development at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The aim is to raise awareness of the safety and security of women.

- During the event, Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has announced to provide an insurance cover of **Rs. 5 lakh** for the workers of One-Stop Centre (OSC). OSC was set up in 2015 under the Nirbhaya Fund to provide mental, legal, and medical aid to distressed women.

**123.** The **Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF)** has observed its **53rd Raising Day** on 06th March 2022 in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has attended and addressed the Raising Day ceremony of CISF at Ghaziabad's Indirapuram.

**CISF:**

- It was set up under the act of the Parliament of India on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1969.
- It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is one of six paramilitary forces in India.
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi

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