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April 2022

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the procurement of **15** indigenously developed **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)** at the cost of Rs.3, 887 crores, or about Rs. 260 crore each.
 - LCHs are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - 10 helicopters will be for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and 5 will be for the Indian Army.
 - The CCS also approved the creation of infrastructure worth **Rs 377 crore**.

Other Cabinet approvals:

The Union Cabinet has approved a hike in **Dearness Allowance (DA)** to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners by **3% to 34%**. It will be effective from 1st January 2022. Earlier, it was 31%.

- The 20th edition of the Bilateral Naval Exercise '**VARUNA-2022**' has been conducted between the **Indian Navy** and **French Navy** in the Arabian Sea. Various units including ships, submarines, maritime patrol aircraft, fighter aircraft and helicopters of the two navies have participated in the exercise.
 - Exercise VARUNA was initiated in 1993.

- The exercise was christened as 'Varuna' in 2001.
3. The Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has unveiled a software named '**Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records**' (**FASTER**) to transmit court orders swiftly. It will be used to communicate interim orders, stay orders, bail orders etc., of the **Supreme Court** to authorities concerned through a secured electronic communication channel.
4. The 4th edition of **India Boat & Marine Show (IBMS)** has been held at Bolgatty Palace in **Kochi** in Kerala. It has been organised by Kochi-based Cruz Expo. The exhibition has showcased leading international brands as well as indigenous boat manufacturers from across the country. Around 45 exhibitors from all over India and two international exhibitors have participated in the expo.
5. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has visited Sri Lanka. During his visit, the following six Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed between both nations:

MoU to set up Marine Rescue Coordinating Centre (MRCC):

- India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Sri Lanka** to establish a **Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC)** in Colombo.
- It will be established with a grant of **USD 6 million** from India.
- It will be built by Bangalore-based Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

Other MoUs signed:

- MoU for the establishment of modern computer labs and smart boards with customized curriculum software in 200 schools in the Galle district.
- MoU on the implementation of the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) programme with the Government of India's Grant Assistance.
- MoI between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services (SSIFS), India, and the Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDTI).
- MoU on the implementation of Hybrid Power Projects in three islands in Jaffna.
- MoU on Cooperation in Development of Fisheries Harbours in Sri Lanka.

6. The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has extended the validity of the **Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20** for another **six months** i.e. till **30th September 2022** to boost external commerce in goods & services. The extension is notified by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

7. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur has recently launched the indigenously developed six new and rare **Reference Materials (RMs)**, which is the purest form of chemical required for anti-doping analysis in all WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) accredited Laboratories across the world.
- The six RMs have been developed by the **National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)** in collaboration with the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)-Guwahati and the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu.
 - These RMs will strengthen the anti-doping test.
8. **Pixxel**, a space technology startup based in Bengaluru, has launched India's first private commercial imaging satellite named '**Shakuntala (Technology Demonstrator-2)**' through the SpaceX Falcon-9 rocket under its 'Transporter-4 mission' from Cape Canaveral, USA.
- Shakuntala (TD-2) is a small satellite that can capture orbital images in more than **150 bands of colour** from the visible and infrared spectrum with a resolution of 10-meters per pixel.
 - It is a part of Pixxel's 36-satellite planned constellation.
9. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal and Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan have signed the **India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)**, in a virtual ceremony in presence of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison.
- This agreement will provide zero-duty access to **96%** of India's exports to Australia.
 - It will help in doubling bilateral trade from \$27 billion to \$50 billion in five years.
 - It will create 10 lakh additional jobs in India over five years.
 - India will be offering zero duty access in over **70 percent** of its tariff lines for Australia.
 - Australia is the 17th largest trading partner of India and India is Australia's 9th largest partner.

Major exports by India to Australia includes: petroleum products, textiles and apparels, engineering goods, leather, chemicals and gems and jewellery.

Major imports includes: raw materials, minerals and intermediate goods.

10. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated a conclave, organized by the Indian Air Force (IAF), at Air Force Station, Hakimpet, Telangana to commemorate **60 years** of glorious service by **Chetak Helicopter** in IAF. During the conclave, the Union Minister has also released a Special Cover, a Coffee Table Book, and a Commemorative Movie on Chetak Helicopters.
- Chetak Helicopters are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - The IAF inducted the French-origin helicopters, called Alouette III (Chetak), in 1962.
 - HAL handed over its first licence-produced Chetak (Alouette III) to IAF in 1965.

11. The Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has decided to merge four of its film media units, namely the Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals, National Film Archive of India, and Children's Film Society, India with the **National Film Development Corporation (NFDC)**, a Public sector undertaking working under the Ministry.

- The Union Government has also allocated **Rs. 1304.52 crore** till **2026** for film production and preservation, film festivals, and providing financial incentives for audiovisual productions with foreign countries, which will be implemented through NFDC.

12. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Nepalese counterpart **Sher Bahadur Deuba** have met in New Delhi and launched multiple initiatives as well as signed four crucial agreements in multiple fields.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both the countries:

- MoU for enhancing technical cooperation in Railway sector.
- MoU for supply of petroleum products between Nepal Oil Corporation & Indian Oil Corporation.
- MoU for sharing technical expertise between Nepal Oil Corporation & Indian Oil Corporation.
- **Nepal** becomes the **105th member** of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) by signing framework agreement.

Projects Inaugurated:

Jaynagar-Kurtha railway section:

- It is the first broad gauge train service between **Jayanagar (Bihar)** and **Kurtha in Nepal**.
- It is a part of the Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas rail link being constructed with grant assistance of Rs.548 crore from India.
- It is a 35 km rail section, 3 km of which lies in the Indian state of Bihar and the rest in Nepal.

Solu Corridor:

- Solu Corridor 132 KV power transmission line and sub-station in Nepal was built under the Government of India's Line of Credit.
- The 90 km 132 kV Double Circuit line connects the remote Solukhumbu, Khotang, and Okhaldhunga districts of North Eastern Nepal with Nepal's national electricity grid.

RuPay Card:

- Indian RuPay card has been launched in Nepal.
- With this, Nepal has become the **4th country** to use Indian RuPay Card after Bhutan, UAE, and Singapore.

- 13.** The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Directorate of School Education, Kashmir (DSEK)** to promote commerce education among the government and government-aided secondary and higher secondary school students of the Union Territory. It has been signed for a period of **5 years**.
- 14. Union Minister for Science and Technology** Dr Jitendra Singh has launched a major futuristic PPP (Public Private Participation) model initiative for 'Clean Energy' named "**Mission Integrated Bio-refineries**" to accelerate Clean Energy solutions through Public-Private Alliances.

Aim: To develop innovative solutions to accelerate the commercialization of integrated bio-refineries, with a goal of replacing **10%** of fossil-based fuels, chemicals, and materials with bio-based alternatives by **2030**.

He has also launched three **Material Acceleration Platforms (MAP)**, set up by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Storage
- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Materials
- Integrated Clean Energy Material Acceleration Platform on Bioenergy & Hydrogen

The platforms are launched with a total outlay of **USD 6 million**.

- 15.** The **Stand up India scheme**, which was launched by the central government on **5th April 2016**, has completed **six years**. Under the initiative, the government has sanctioned Rs.30,160 crore to a total of 1,33,995 accounts up to March 2022.
- **Objective:** To encourage entrepreneurship at grassroot level to foster economic empowerment and job creation, especially among SC, ST and women entrepreneurs.
 - The scheme facilitate bank loans between **Rs.10 lakh and Rs.1 crore** to at least one SC and ST borrower and at least one borrower per bank branch for setting up a Greenfield enterprise.
 - The scheme has been extended till **2025**.

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- 16.** Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav has launched an awareness mascot '**Prakriti**' & other green initiatives for effective plastic waste management.

Prakriti has been launched to spread mass awareness about how the adoption of small changes in our lifestyle can play a big role in environmental sustainability.

Other Green Initiatives:

- National Dashboard on Elimination of Single-Use Plastic and Plastic Waste Management (MoEFCC)
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Portal for Plastic Packaging (CPCB)
- Mobile App for Single-Use Plastics Grievance Redressal (CPCB)
- Monitoring module for single-use plastic (CPCB)
- Industrial production of Graphene from Waste Plastic (G B Pant NIHE & NRDC)

These initiatives has taken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to ensure effective Plastic Waste Management (PWM) in the country.

17. The Government of India (GoI) has appointed a **17-member advisory committee for semiconductor manufacturing** in India. It has been constituted to provide key inputs for building a resilient supply chain, promoting investments, financing mechanisms, global engagement, research & innovation, and IP generation for the semiconductors and display ecosystem and enable an ecosystem to support startups and MSMEs.

- **Chairman: Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Vice-chairperson:** Rajeev Chandrashekhar, Minister of State, MeitY
- **Convenor:** Secretary (MeitY)
- **Other members:** Vinod Dham, founder of Indo-US Venture Partners, Ajit Manocha, president of US-based SEMI, Neelkanth Mishra from Credit Suisse, Prof. A Paulraj, Emeritus Professor at Stanford University, Prof. Pradeep Khosla, chancellor, University of California San Diego, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras and Dr. Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder of HCL.
- The Committee shall meet at least once in three months.
- The term of the committee is one year.

18. The **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD)** has launched a pilot project in the state of **Uttarakhand** to implement the **One Health** Framework by One Health Support Unit.

- **Objective:** To develop a national One Health roadmap based on the learnings of the pilot project implementation.
- The 'One Health India' program is initiated by DAHD. The program will work with stakeholders from various sectors to improve livestock health, human health, wildlife health, and environmental health through technology and finance

19. Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the website **'Temple 360'** in New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is a digital platform where anyone can visit or do darshan of 12 Jyotirlinga and Char Dham from any location. The website also allows a devotee to perform e-Aarti, e-Prashad, and several other services.
20. The Union **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has launched the **Broadcast Seva Portal** for speedy filing and processing of applications of broadcasters for various kinds of licenses, permissions, registrations, etc.
- The portal will facilitate stakeholders in seeking permissions, applying for registration, tracking applications, calculating fees and executing payments.
 - The portal has features like End-to-end processing, Integration with payment system (Bharat Kosh) and stakeholder ministries, analytics, reporting and Management Information System (MIS), application forms and status tracking, downloading letters/orders from the portal itself, alerts to stakeholders (SMS/E-Mails).
21. The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, under the Ministry of Commerce, has released the provisional figures stating that India's agricultural exports have increased by **19.92%** during FY22 to **USD 50.21 billion**. This is for the first time that India's agriculture exports have crossed USD 50 billion in FY22.
- As per the data, the highest ever exports have been achieved for staples like rice (USD 9.65 billion), wheat (USD 2.19 billion), sugar (USD 4.6 billion), and other cereals (USD 1.08 billion).
 - The exports of marine products have also reached the highest ever at USD 7.71 billion.
 - Spices exports have touched USD 4 billion for the second year in a row.
 - Coffee exports have crossed USD 1 billion for the first time.
22. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the logo of **"Nandini Ksheera Samurdhi Sahakar Bank"**. This cooperative bank has been set up for milk producers in **Karnataka**.
- With this, Karnataka has become the only state in the country to set up an exclusive bank for milk producers.
 - The state government has provided Rs.100 crore as its share capital and the Milk Federation and Cooperatives will contribute Rs.260 crore as their share of capital for the proposed cooperative bank.
23. The 20th meeting of the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has been held at **Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh**. It has been organized under the chairmanship of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- It is the first time in history the NTCA meeting happened outside the national capital.

- During the meeting, NTCA has released Standard Operating Protocol to deal with the reintroduction and supplementation of tigers in wild.
 - Forest Fire Audit Protocol for Tiger Reserves has also been released.
 - Technical manual on Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) of Tiger Reserves in India has been released by NTCA.
24. The University Grants Commission has approved to set up the **Bhima Bhoi Chair** at Delhi University and Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. This will encourage higher studies and research on the humanitarian philosophy of the great saint Bhima Bhoi.
25. The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has launched an **anti-human trafficking cell** to improve effectiveness in tackling cases of human trafficking, and to raise awareness among women and girls, capacity building and training of anti-trafficking units and to increase the responsiveness of law enforcement agencies.
- The Cell will conduct gender sensitization training and workshops in combating human trafficking for police officers and for prosecutors at regional, state and district levels.
 - The complaints related to human trafficking received by NCW will be addressed by this cell.
26. The **Karaikal** base of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has inducted Interceptor Boat ICGS **C-436** into its fleet. The objective is to improve the surveillance along the coastline of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
- The indigenously built ship C-436 is the 36th interceptor boat of its series.
 - It is fitted with modern navigation and communication equipment capable of operating in tropical sea conditions and for close coast surveillance.
27. The **South-Central Railway (SCR)** has launched the "**One Station One Product**" initiative at **6 stations** across its six divisions. SCR in-charge General Manager, Arun Kumar Jain, has inaugurated stalls under the new initiative at Secunderabad Station. The stalls have also been opened at Kacheguda station.
- Fresh Water Pearl Jewellery and Hyderabad Bangles will be promoted at Secunderabad station while Pochampally products will be promoted at Kacheguda station In Telangana.
28. India's first community museum has been inaugurated in **Gya – Sasoma** villages of Leh district in **Ladakh** to preserve and take forward the rich cultural heritage of the region. The museum is a joint collaboration between National Museum Institute (NMI), New Delhi, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh.

- Gya is the first village and oldest inhabitation in Upper Ladakh.
- 29.** The Government of India (GoI) has allocated **25%** of the Domestic Capital Procurement/Acquisition Budget, amounting to Rs.21,149.47 crore, for domestic private industry in FY2022-23. The objective is to promote private industry, MSMEs and start-ups in defence production ecosystem.
- An amount of **Rs.1,500 crore** has also been signed for procurement from start-ups, including iDEX start-ups, within the allocated domestic capital procurement.
- 30.** The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned the latest **Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH-Dhruv) MK-III** squadron in **Bhubaneswar** in Odisha to strengthen maritime security.
- These helicopters are manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)**.
 - ALH-Dhruv is a twin engine, multi-role, multi-mission new generation helicopter in the 5.5 ton weight class.
 - These helicopters are equipped with state-of-the art equipment like Surveillance Radar, Electro Optic Pod, Medical Intensive Care Unit, High Intensity Search Light, SAR Homer, Loud Hailer, Machine Gun and can perform other key roles.
 - The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.
- 31.** The **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** has launched the Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS), Bus Signal Priority System and Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC) software under Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor for Indian Cities Phase-II initiative. These projects have been developed as a joint initiative by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M). Mahindra and Mahindra is the industrial collaborator for the project.
- **Onboard Driver Assistance and Warning System (ODAWS):** It incorporates vehicle-borne sensors for monitoring driver propensity and vehicle surroundings to deliver acoustic and visual alerts for driver assistance using algorithms.
 - **Bus Signal Priority System:** It aims to improve the poor reliability of bus system to discourage public from opting personal vehicles.
 - **Common SMart iot Connectiv (CoSMiC):** It is a middleware software providing standard based deployment of IoT adhering to oneM2M based global standard.
- 32.** The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** for implementation during the period from April 2022 to March 2026 to develop the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- The total financial outlay of the scheme is **Rs.5911 crore** with the Central Share of Rs.3700 crore and that of State Share of Rs.2211 crore.

- This scheme will extend to all States and UTs of the country and will also include institutions of rural local government in non-Part IX areas, where Panchayats do not exist.
- The central government under revamped RGSA will shift its focus towards capacitating the elected representatives of PRIs for Leadership Roles enable them to deliver on localization of SDGs principally for **nine themes**: (1) Poverty free and enhanced livelihood in villages, (2) Healthy Village, (3) Child Friendly Village, (4) Water Sufficient Village, (5) Clean and Green Village, (6) Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village, (7) Socially Secured Village, (8) Village with Good Governance, and (9) Engendered Development in Village.
- Funding is in the ratio of 60:40 except NE and Hilly States, where the Central and State ratio will be 90:10. For all UTs, the Central share will be 100%.
- The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of RGSA was approved by the Union Cabinet on 21st April 2018 for implementation from Financial Year 2018-19 to 2021-22.
- The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

33. The National Health Authority (NHA) has launched a new version of the **Health Benefits Package 2022** under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). This package has been launched in a two-day meeting titled 'Ayushman Sangam' held in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.

Health Benefits Package 2022:

- Under this, differential pricing has been introduced for the first time that is based on city type and the level of care.
- 365 new procedures have been added which takes the total to 1,949.
- NHA has also announced a new initiative of patient classification systems. It will be done through the International Classification of Health Intervention and ICD-11 (International classification of disease).

34. The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the '**SVANidhi se Samriddhi**' program in additional **126 cities** across 14 States/ UTs in Phase 2. The aim is to cover 28 Lakh Street vendors and their families, with a total target of 20 Lakh scheme sanctions for FY 2022-23.

- 'SVANidhi se Samriddhi', an additional program of PMSVANidhi, was launched on 4th January 2021 in 125 cities in Phase 1, covering approximately 35 Lakh Street vendors and their families.
- Quality Council of India (QCI) is the implementing partner for the programme.

35. The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the distribution of **fortified rice** throughout the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN [erstwhile Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDM)]

and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS) of Government of India in all States and Union Territories (UTs) by **2024** in a phased manner.

- The entire cost of rice fortification will be around **Rs.2,700 crore** per annum, which will be borne by the Govt. of India.

The following three phases are:

Phase-I: Covering ICDS and PM POSHAN in India all over by March, 2022 which is under implementation.

Phase-II: Phase I above plus TPDS and OWS in all Aspirational and High Burden Districts on stunting (total 291 districts) by March 2023.

Phase-III: Phase II above plus covering the remaining districts of the country by March 2024.

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- 36.** The **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** has launched an initiative '**Airport as Venue for Skilled Artisans of the Region' (AVSAR)** to encourage the talent of women, artisans and craftsmen and provide them with the right opportunities.
- Under this initiative, AAI will allocate space to Self Help Groups (SHGs) at its airports for selling/showcasing the self-made products of their region.
 - The space will be allotted to the self- help groups, turn on turn basis, for a duration of 15 days.
- 37.** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the three-day **Air Force Commanders' Conference (AFCC)** at Air Headquarters in **New Delhi**. The theme for this Conference is 'Optimising human resources'.
- He has also launched the "**MEHAR BABA COMPETITION - II**" to provide a boost to the growing indigenous drone industry. The competition is aimed at developing technology for a "Swarm Drone based system to detect Foreign Objects on Aircraft Operating Surfaces".
- 38.** The Government of India (GoI) has extended the scheme to provide **Rs.40 crore** grants-in-aid to the **Dalai Lama's Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC)** for **5 years** i.e. from **2021-2022 to 2025-26**.
- The scheme to provide grants-in-aid to CTRC was launched in 2015.
 - The aim is to provide an annual grant of Rs.8 crore to CTRC to meet the administrative expenses of Settlement Offices and social welfare expenses for Tibetan refugees staying in Tibetan settlements spread across 12 States/UTs in the country.

39. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** till **March 2023**. The objective of the AIM is to create and promote an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

AIM has set the following targets to be achieved:

- Establishing 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)
- Establishing 101 Atal Incubation Centres
- Establishing 50 Atal Community Innovation Centres
- Supporting 200 start-ups via the Atal New India Challenges

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. It was setup in 2016.

40. The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hyderabad-based **National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)**, ISRO to develop the Bhuvan-Aadhar portal.

- **Bhuvan-Aadhar portal** will provide information and locations of the Aadhaar centres across India.
- The portal will also provide a facility to search the relevant Aadhaar centres by location based on residents' requirements.

41. Three scientists (Jyoti Yadav, Mousumi Das and Sudhanshu Barway) of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) along with a French astronomer Françoise Combes from Collège de France, Paris has discovered a faint new star-forming galaxy. The galaxy has a **'ghost-like'** appearance in the optical images because of its low disk density.

- The newly discovered galaxy is around 136 light-years away from Earth.
- The new galaxy has been named as **UVIT J2022**.

42. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight-tested **the Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)** booster missile system at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast.

- The SFDR is an **air-to-air missile** system.
- The SFDR-based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at very long range at supersonic speeds.
- It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories such as Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Pune.
- It has the operational range of **350 km** and maximum speed of **Mach 4.5**.

43. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has contributed an amount of **USD 72,124** to the UNESCO Fund for **Elimination of Doping in Sport 2022**. In 2021, India contributed USD 28172 towards the UNESCO Fund.
- As per the resolution of Seventh Conference of Parties (COP7) held at Paris between 29-31 September 2019, the State Parties had agreed for contributing **1 percent** of the regular budget of respective nations to UNESCO towards the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport.
 - The contributed fund will be used to support the implementation of the Fund's Operational Strategy 2020-2025.
44. The **Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has constituted the **AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) Promotion Task Force** to recommend ways to realize and build domestic capacity for serving Indian markets and the global demand.
- The Task Force will be headed by **Apoorva Chandra**, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
 - The Task Force also includes State Governments of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, and heads of education bodies and representatives of industry bodies.
 - The task force will submit its first action plan within **90 days**.
45. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army have successfully flight-tested a new version of the Pinaka rocket system i.e. **Pinaka Mk-I (Enhanced) Rocket System (EPRS)** and **Pinaka Area Denial Munition (ADM)** rocket systems at Pokhran Firing Ranges.
- The Pinaka rocket system has been developed by **Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)**, Pune.
 - It is supported by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, a Pune-based laboratory of DRDO.
 - The enhanced range Pinaka Mk-1, which is an upgraded version, has a range of 45 km.
 - The 15-foot long rocket weighs around 280 kg and can carry warheads up to 100 kg.
46. The **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)** has completed its **seven years** on 8th April 2022. The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **8th April 2015**, for providing loans up to **Rs.10 Lakh** to the non-corporate, non-farm small, or micro-enterprises.
- Key facts:**
- More than **34.42 crore** loans for an amount of 18.60 lakh crore rupees have been sanctioned since launch of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
 - Around 68 percent loans of the total number of loans have been sanctioned to Women Entrepreneurs.
 - About 22 percent of the loans have been given to New Entrepreneurs.

- Around 23% of the loans have been given to SCs & STs borrowers, and 28% of the loans have been given to OBCs borrowers.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):

It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India to fund the unfunded. It is implemented by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance. The loans provided under PMMY are classified as MUDRA (Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency) loans. It is divided into three categories:

- **Shishu:** Covering loans up to Rs. 50,000.
- **Kishore:** Covering loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh.
- **Tarun:** Covering loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh.

47. India's Foreign Secretary **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** has been appointed as the Chief Coordinator of the G20 Summit 2023. He will take charge of his new role as G20 coordinator on 1st May 2022 till December 2023.
- **India** will hold the Presidency of the G20 from 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.
 - India will host the G20 Summit for the first time in **2023**.
48. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras** has launched India's first indigenously developed polycentric prosthetic knee called '**Kadam**' to support people with above-knee amputees to walk in comfortable gait. It has been developed in association with Society for Biomedical Technology (SBMT) and Mobility India.
49. The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the five-day long **Madhavpur Ghed Fair**, at Madhavpur Ghed, **Porbandar** in **Gujarat**. The fair starts from day of Ram Navmi in memory of marriage of **Lord Shri Krishna** and **Goddess Rukmani**. The fair is being organised by the Government of Gujarat in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture since 2018.
50. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Army and Indian Air Force (IAF) have jointly conducted the successful flight test of the indigenously developed helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) '**HELINA**' in the Pokhran desert ranges, Rajasthan. The flight trials have been conducted from an Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- About HELINA:**
- It is the third generation 'fire and forget' class missile developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad. It has a maximum range of **7 kilometres**. It has been developed for integration with choppers in both the Army and the Air Force. The Air Force version of Helina is referred to as **Dhruvastra**. The system has all weather day and night capability.

- The DRDO has designed and developed a range of anti-tank missile technologies that include the Nag, Helina MPATGM, SANT and Laser Guided ATGM for MBT Arjun.
51. The **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has launched an annual one-month long people centric **fuel conservation and energy efficiency** campaign named '**Saksham 2022**'. The campaign will continue till 30th April 2022, with the tagline "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav through Green & Clean Energy".
52. The **103rd Anniversary** of the **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre** has been observed on 13th April 2022 to pay homage to the martyrs who lost their lives in the massacre during the British rule on 13th April 1919.
- Jallianwala Bagh Massacre is also known as Massacre of Amritsar. During this massacre, British troops commanded by Brig. Gen. **Reginald Edward Harry Dyer** fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in Punjab.
53. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the **third positive indigenisation list of 101 items**, comprising major equipment's and platforms, in New Delhi to develop India as a defence manufacturing hub. These weapons and platforms are planned to be indigenised progressively with effect from December 2022 to December 2027.
54. The Made-in-India **Dornier 228 (Do-228)** aircraft has made its first commercial aviation flight from Upper Assam's Dibrugarh to central Arunachal Pradesh's Pasighat. The aim is to boost air-connectivity in the north-eastern region of the country.
- Do-228 is manufactured by the **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.
 - It is the 17-seater aircraft.
 - It will be operated by Alliance Air, and will connect Dibrugarh with Pasighat and Lilabari (Assam).
55. Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the Digital Dashboard for **District Ganga Committees Performance Monitoring System** to help the District Ganga Committees (DGCs) in enhancing people-river connect.
56. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** to develop indigenous solutions for technology development and sustenance of various weapon systems. It aims to accelerate the indigenization efforts of IAF to achieve 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

57. The Department of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR), the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in the areas of **Decentralized Domestic Waste Water Management**. This will be done through Japan's Johkasou technology which will help in treating and reusing wastewater at the local level.
58. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the '**Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya**', a museum dedicated to all 14 Indian Prime Ministers of the country since independence, at the Teen Murti complex in New Delhi.
- The museum has been built at a cost of **Rs.271 crore** and was approved in 2018.
 - The museum building integrates the Teen Murti Bhawan in New Delhi, designated as Block I, with the newly-constructed Block II. The total area of the two blocks is over 15,600 square metres.
 - There are 43 galleries in the Sangrahalaya.
 - The logo of the Sangrahalaya shows hands holding the Dharma Chakra, symbolising the nation and democracy.
 - **Paytm** has become an official digital payments partner for the museum.
59. The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has presented the **National Time Release Study (TRS) 2022**, which is a performance measurement tool for assessing the cargo clearance process of the international trade. It is recommended by the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- NTRS 2022 covers 15 major Customs formations, including four-port categories: Seaports, Air cargo complexes (ACCs), Inland container depot (ICDs) and Integrated check posts (ICPs).
 - These four port categories handle about 80 percent of the bills of entry (imports documents) and 70 percent of the shipping bills (export documents).
 - As per the findings, Sea cargo cleared via Seaports and Inland Container Depot (ICDs) has improved by 12%, Air Cargo Complexes has improved by 16%, and Integrated Check Posts has improved by 2%.
60. **India** has been elected to **four** key bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (**ECOSOC**), one of the 6 principal organs of the United Nations. These bodies are:
- Committee on NGOs
 - Commission for Social Development
 - Commission on Science and Technology for Development

- Ambassador Preeti Saran has been re-elected to the Committee for Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

61. Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the **e-Sanjeevani Tele-consultation** facility at **1 lakh** centres on the occasion of 4th Anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs). More than one lakh 17 thousand Health and Wellness Centres have been operationalized in the country so far.
- Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres was launched in 2018 by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
 - The aim is to achieve the Universal Health Coverage as realised under the National Health Policy 2017.
 - The first AB-HWC was inaugurated at Jangla village in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh.

*He has also announced to organize **Health Fair** in every block of the country from 18th to 23rd April 2022.*

62. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the '**Global Ayush Investment & Innovation Summit 2022**' at Mahatma Mandir, **Gandhinagar** in **Gujarat**. The summit has been organized by the Ministry of AYUSH from 20-22 April 2022 to bring together leading startups, entrepreneurs, investors, policy makers and other national/international stakeholders of the country for a specially curated event on innovation and make India a Global Ayush destination for entrepreneurship.

Key Initiatives announced at the Summit:

- **Ayush mark** will be introduced for Ayush products.
- **Ayush parks** will be developed to encourage the promotion, research and manufacturing of Ayush products across the country.
- A new category named '**Ayush Aahar**' which will greatly facilitate the producers of herbal nutritional supplements.
- Launch of Ayush Export Promotion Council and four Ayush ICT initiatives which includes Ayush Information Hub, AyuSoft, Ayush Next and Ayush GIS.
- Release of a comic book named '**Professor Ayushman**', to generate awareness.
- India will soon introduce a special Ayush visa category.

*AYUSH sector has increased to **USD 18 billion** from USD 3 billion in 2014.*

63. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a **108-foot** statue of **Lord Hanuman** in the **Morbi** district of **Gujarat** on the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti. The statue has been set up in the west, at the Ashram of Bapu Keshvanand ji in Morbi.

- The statue in Morbi is the second of the four statues being built in the four directions across the country, as part of the 'Hanumanji Char Dham' project.
- The first statue of the series was set up in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in 2010.
- The other two will be set up in Rameswaram and West Bengal.

64. Director-General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) VS Pathania has inaugurated the new hoverport at **Okha** in Devbhumi Dwarka district of Gujarat.

- A hoverport is a terminal for hovercraft, having passenger facilities where needed and infrastructure to allow the hovercraft to come on land.
- He has also laid the foundation stone for a Coast Guard jetty at Vadinar in Gujarat.

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65. The **Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** in consultation with Insurance companies has launched a portal named '**e-DAR (e-Detailed Accident Report)**' to provide instant information on road accidents with a few clicks and help accelerate accident compensation claims, bringing relief to victims' families. It will be linked to the Integrated Road Accident Database (iRAD). It will also be linked to other government portals like Vaahan to get access to information on driving licence details and registration of vehicles.
66. The Central Government has amended the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) Rules, 2019 to allow **20%** of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC).
- The amendment has also allowed startups to issue convertible notes for a maximum period of 10 years from earlier 5 years.
 - The government has planned to dilute its 5% stake in LIC through the Initial Public Offering (IPO), which targets to raise around Rs.60,000 crore.
67. All India Radio (AIR) News has launched a new weekly interactive program named '**Abhyaas**' for Competitive Examinations. The aim is to reach out to students and job seekers preparing for competitive examinations. The programme is in Hindi and is broadcast every Saturday between 9.30 pm - 10 pm. The program includes segments like Explainer, Fact file, Examination Calendar and Question of the Week.
68. **Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) scheme** has been selected for **Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration 2020** under the category "Innovation (General) -

Central". The award has been presented on the occasion of Civil Service Day i.e. 21st April 2022.

- UDAN scheme was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in **2016**.
- It aims to fulfil the aspirations of the common man by following the vision of UdeDeshkaAamNagrik, with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and III cities.

69. Government of India has initiated Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration to acknowledge, recognize and reward extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts and Organizations of State/Government. The award consists of a trophy, scroll and an incentive of Rs.10 lakhs.

Note: The Ministry of Civil Aviation has set a target to construct 100 new airports by 2024 in India with 1,000 new routes under UDAN scheme by the year 2026.

70. India's first-ever radio channel for the visually impaired named '**Radio Aksh**' has been launched in **Nagpur**, Maharashtra. The aim is to help the visually-impaired gain seamless access to education resources and audiobooks. The Blind Relief Association Nagpur (TBRAN) and Samdrushti Kshamata Vikas Avam Anusandhan Mandal (Saksham) are the organisations behind this concept.

71. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval has inaugurated the **National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India)** in New Delhi. It has been organized by the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) in a hybrid form for a period of **10-days** from 18th to 29th April 2022.

- **Objective:** To train senior management and technical personnel of Government/Critical Sector organisations and agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.
- Data Security Council of India (DSCI) is the Knowledge Partner.
- It is supported by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The platform for training is being provided by CyberExer Technologies.

72. The Mazgaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has launched the sixth submarine named '**Vagsheer**' under the P75 Scorpene project in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is the last of the scorpene class submarines.

- INS Vagsheer is named after the '**Sand Fish**', a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean.
- It is a diesel-electric submarine, measuring about 221-feet-long and 40-feet high.
- It is primarily an attack submarine or 'hunter-killer' type which means it is designed to target and sink adversary naval vessels.

- Its speed when submerged: Maximum 20 knots (37 km/h) and when surfaced: Maximum 11 knots (20 km/h).
- It has a state of the art SONAR (sound navigation and ranging) and sensor suite permitting outstanding operational capabilities.
- It is expected to be commissioned by March 2024.

The INS Kalvari (September 2017), INS Khanderi (September, 2019), INS Karanj (February, 2021) and INS Vela (November 2021) have already been commissioned while sea trials of INS Vagir are underway.

- 73.** The 3-day “**Smart Cities, Smart Urbanization**” conference has been organized in **Surat**, Gujarat. It has been organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in association with Surat Smart City Corporation Development Limited. The conclave showcased various interactive activities, arranged interactions with eminent speakers and learnings across the 5 themes vis. Reimagining Public Spaces, Digital Governance, ClimateSmart Cities, Innovation and Smart Finance.
- ‘Digital Duniya’ pavilion has been inaugurated at the conference to highlight initiatives that empower communities through data and digital technology.
 - A ‘virtual hub for collaboration on urban transformations’ has been launched in partnership between the Smart Cities Mission and World Economic Forum to leverage emerging technologies and innovations.
 - An integrated data portal AMPLIFI (Assessment & Monitoring Platform for Liveable, Inclusive, and Future-ready urban India) has also been launched to provide valuable data about Indian cities,
- 74.** **India's first portable solar rooftop system** has been inaugurated at Swaminarayan Akshardham temple complex in **Gandhinagar**, Gujarat. The installation of 10 PV Port systems in the temple complex has been supported by the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- The PV Ports have been manufactured by New Delhi-based Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL).
 - The systems have been installed under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's initiative to develop renewable energy cities across India.
 - The PV Port system is highly cost-effective, requires low maintenance, and has a long shelf life of 25-30 years.
- 75.** The two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise ‘**NATPOLREX-VIII**’ has been organized by the **Indian Coast Guard** off Mormugao harbour in Goa. It is the 8th edition of the exercise to enhance the preparedness and response capability in combating marine spills. More than 85 participants from 50 agencies, including 29 observers from 22 friendly

foreign countries & International Organisations and two Coast Guard ships from Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have participated in the exercise.

76. The Supreme Court of India has reconstituted the expert committee to monitor the compensatory afforestation and other mitigation measures for the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Expressway project.

- The Director-General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change will be the Chairperson of the reconstituted Committee.
- **Chandra Prakash Goyal** is currently appointed as the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Anil Prakash Joshi (founder of Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation) and Vijay Dhamsana (environmentalist) have also been included as additional members in the committee.

Earlier, the independent 12-member expert committee was formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to be headed by Sukhbir Singh Sandhu Chief Secretary, Uttarakhand.

77. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of the **WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM)** in **Jamnagar**, Gujarat. It will be the world's first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine. It will focus on innovation, data, and sustainability and will be optimizing the use of traditional medicine.

5 main focus areas of this centre:

- Evidence and learning
- Research and leadership
- Sustainability and equity
- Data and analytics
- Innovation and technology

It is noteworthy that the first Ayurvedic University that was established in the world was in Jamnagar.

78. The '**Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP)**, an insurance scheme for Health Care Workers Fighting COVID-19' has been extended for a further period of **180 days** with effect from 19th April 2022. It has been decided to extend the policy so as to continue to provide the safety net to the dependents of health workers who are deputed to take care of COVID-19 patients.

About PMGKP:

- PMGKP was launched on **30th March 2020**.

- **Objective:** To provide comprehensive personal accident cover of **Rs.50 Lakh** to 22.12 lakh health care providers including community health workers and private health workers who may have been in direct contact and care of COVID-19 patients and may be at risk of being impacted by this.
- Private hospital staff/retired/ volunteer/local urban bodies/contract/daily wage/ad-hoc/outsourced staff requisitioned by states/central hospitals/autonomous hospitals of central/states/UTs, AIIMS & Institute of National Importance (INI)/hospitals of Central Ministries specifically drafted for care of COVID-19 patients are also covered under the PMGKP.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.

79. Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the **National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign 2022-23** at the NASC Complex, New Delhi.

- During the conference, the government has set the foodgrain production target for the crop year 2022-23 at **328 million tonnes (MT)**. This target is 3.8% higher as compared to the previous year's output.
- The Kharif foodgrain production target has been fixed at 163.15 million tonnes, while the Rabi foodgrain production target has been fixed at 164.85 million tonnes.

As per the official data, India has achieved food grain production of 296 MT in 2019-20 and is to achieve 300 MT of production during 2020-21.

80. The Central government has completed **Asset Monetisation** worth **Rs,96,000 crore** during FY22, surpassing the target of Rs 88,000 crore. It is 12% more than the target set for FY22.

Monetization in Different Sectors in FY22:

- The Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways has monetised assets worth Rs 23,000 crore, which included a 390-km stretch through InvIT and three ToT bundles.
- The Ministry of Power has monetised assets of Rs 9,500 crore with PowerGrid Corporation's InvIT and NHPC's securitisation of its operational hydel assets.
- The Ministry of Railways has monetised assets worth Rs 800-900 crore against its target of Rs 17,810 crore.
- The Ministry of Coal has monetised assets worth Rs 40,000 crore.

The target for FY23 is **Rs 1.62 trillion**.

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- 81. National Apprenticeship Mela-2022** has been organized across the country in more than over 700 locations. It has been organized by Skill India, in association with the Directorate General of Training.
- **Objective:** To support hiring of more than one lakh apprentices and assist employers in tapping the right talent and developing it further with training and providing practical skillsets.
 - Students, who have cleared at least Class 5 to those who graduated Class 12, skill training certificate holders, ITI students, diploma holders, and graduates are eligible to apply at the Apprenticeship Mela.
- 82.** India will provide an additional **\$500 million** in financial assistance to Sri Lanka to buy fuel as the country is facing worst financial crisis. So far India has provided 400,000 tonnes of fuel.
- 83. Ministry of Panchayati Raj** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** to collaborate in the areas of knowledge sharing and strengthening monitoring mechanics for the localization of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- 84.** The **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIM-K)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Navy's Naval Institute of Educational and Training Technology (**NIETT**) to exchange best practices in the field of Instructional Leadership, Educational Psychology and Management.
- 85. India** will host the **World Dairy Summit (WDS) 2022** in Delhi from 12th to 15th September 2022. It will be organised by the International Dairy Federation (IDF) under the theme 'Dairy for nutrition and livelihood'. This summit is going to be held after a two-year gap due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Note:** India had last hosted the International Dairy Congress in the year 1974.
- 86.** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) Prime** during DefConnect 2.0 held in New Delhi. The objective is to support start-ups for projects beyond Rs 1.5 crore up to Rs 10 crore and help ever-growing start-ups in the defence sector.
- He has also launched **6th Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC 6)** with 38 Problem Statements. For the first time, newly-formed seven defence companies, Indian Coast Guard and organisations under Ministry of Home Affairs have participated in DISC 6 along with the three Services (Army, navy & Air Force) and some Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

- 87.** The Indian Coast Guard Ship named **Urja Pravaha**, an auxiliary barge, has been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard at Shoft Shipyard in **Bharuch**, Gujarat. It will be based in Kochi under the operational command of Coast Guard District Headquarters-4 (Kerala and Mahe).
- Urja Prabha is 36.96 meter long with draft of 1.85 meters.
 - It is designed to cargo ship fuel, aviation fuel and fresh water with a capacity of 50 tons, 10 tons and 40 tons respectively.
- 88.** Crypto exchange **Bitbns** has listed the metaverse token '**TRACE**' on its platform. It has become India's first crypto exchange to list this token. The TRACE is a popular metaverse token used for accessorizing digital avatars. Metaverse tokens are the currency used by people within the metaverse. Users can create, buy, and sell goods as well as tokenized funds.
- 89. World Bank** has recently approved **USD 47 million** to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national program to build civil service capacity. The objective is to enhance the functional and behavioural competencies of approximately 4 million civil servants. It will focus on three components:
- Development and implementation of competency frameworks;
 - Development of an integrated learning platform;
 - Program monitoring, evaluation, and management.

About Mission Karmayogi: Mission Karmayogi was launched on **20th September 2020**. It aims to reform Indian bureaucracy and prepare civil servants for the future. It is being delivered through a digital platform called iGOT (Integrated Government Online training) - Karmayogi. The **Public Human Resource Council** under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of India is the apex body of the Mission Karmayogi.

It has the following six pillars:

1. Policy Framework,
2. Institutional Framework,
3. Competency Framework,
4. Digital Learning Framework,
5. Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS), and
6. Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. The mission will cover around 4.6 million central employees.

A sum of **Rs 510.86 crore** has been allocated to be spent over a period of 5 years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

- 90.** The Government of India (GoI) has set a timeline to commercially roll out the **first indigenous chipsets** by **2023-24** under the **Digital India RISC -V (DIR-V) programme**, launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The focus is on making

available the first set of commercial silicon of Shakti and Vega processors by December 2023 or early 2024.

- IIT Madras and the Centre for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named **Shakti (32 bit)** and **Vega (64 bit)** respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of the Microprocessor Development Programme of the Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- DIR-V aims to create future generations of microprocessors that will serve the need of India's strategic focus on mobility, computing and digitisation. It is a part of the government's Rs 76,000 crore effort to build a semiconductor ecosystem in the country.
- The government has appointed IIT Madras director Professor V Kamakoti as chief architect and CDAC Trivandrum Scientist Krishna Kumar Rao as programme manager of the DIR-V programme.

91. India has registered its name in the Guinness Book of World records by waving the maximum number of the National Flag i.e. **78,200 flags** simultaneously on 23rd April 2022 at the 'Veer Kunwar Singh Vijayotsav' programme at **Jagdishpur** in **Bhojpur district of Bihar**. The flags were waved for a full five minutes on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great freedom fighter Babu Veer Kunwar Singh.

- Veer Kunwar Singh fought his last battle near Jagdishpur on 23rd April 1858, and defeated the East India Company in this battle. He died in service for the nation after taking down the Union Jack flag from Jagdishpur Fort.
- **Note:** Earlier (18 years ago), a world record was set by Pakistan wherein 56,000 Pakistanis waved their national flag at an event in Lahore.

92. The **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 (UBA 2.0)** has successfully completed **four years** on 25th April 2022. It was launched in **2018** with the aim of bringing transformational changes in the processes of rural development processes. This is the **Challenge Mode** of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme where all Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to willingly adopt at least 5 villages. It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Education**.

- IIT Delhi has been designated as the National Coordinating Institute (NCI) for the UBA scheme.
- It covers two major domains for holistic development of villages: human development and material (economic) development in an integrated way.

Note: UBA 1.0 was launched in 2014. It was the Invitation Mode in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA.

93. The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has organized Asia's largest international food and hospitality fair '**AAHAR-2022**' at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi** from 26th to 30th April 2022. It has been organized in association with the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) under the theme "Geographical Indication Products". It is the 36th edition of AAHAR.

More than 80 exporters from different segments of agricultural products which include geographical indication products, processed food, organic, and frozen food products have participated in the fair.

94. The Union Cabinet has approved additional funding of **Rs.820 crore** for **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to be utilised for expansion of its services to all post offices in the country. Cabinet has also given its in-principle approval for future fund infusion worth Rs.500 crore into IPPB for meeting regulatory requirements and technological up gradation.

95. The Cabinet has approved the revision of project outlay for setting up of IPPB from Rs.1,435 crore to Rs.2,255 crore as equity infusion to meet regulatory requirement.

IPPB was launched on 1st September 2018, with 650 branches or controlling offices. It is headquartered in **New Delhi** and the present MD and CEO is J Venkatramu.

96. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched the **Dr. Ambedkar Centres of Excellence (DACE)** Scheme. It has been launched by the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar and Anandi Ben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh from Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

- **Objective:** To provide high-quality free coaching facilities to the Scheduled Caste students for the UPSC Civil Services examinations.
- Under the DACE Scheme, a total of 100 seats will be sanctioned for each coaching centre. Out of the total sanctioned of 100 seats per coaching centre, 33% of seats will preferably be given to the eligible female candidates of Scheduled Castes.
- The students will be selected through an entrance test conducted by the University as per merit.
- Rs.75,000 per annum/per student will be provided to the University for 100 students.
- The total amount of Rs.75 lakh per year will be provided to the University for running the Scheme.

97. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the 7th edition of the **Raisina Dialogue 2022** in New Delhi. The dialogue has been held for 3 days from 25th April to 27th

April 2022. The chief guest of the event is European Commission President **Ursula Von Der Leyen**.

- **Theme 2022:** "Terranova- Impassioned, Impatient, Imperilled"
- The dialogue has been modelled along **six** thematic pillars: Rethinking Democracy: trade, technology and ideology; End of Multilateralism: a networked global order; Water Caucuses: turbulent tides in the Indo-Pacific; Communities Inc: first responders to health, development, and planet; Achieving Green Transitions: common imperative, diverging realities; Samson vs Goliath: the persistent and relentless technology wars.
- The dialogue has witnessed around 100 sessions with over 210 speakers from 90 countries.

During the event, India and the European Union (EU) has agreed to establish a **Trade and Technology Council** to address the challenges of ensuring trusted technology and security in the wake of rapid geopolitical changes. It will ensure coordination in different areas of cooperation between India and EU. This council will be the first for India with any of its partners and second for the EU, following the first one with the US.

- 98. Prasar Bharati** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Public Broadcaster of **Argentina** Radio Television Argentina (RTA) for cooperation in the field of broadcasting. This MoU will allow enhanced cooperation between the two media systems with the exchange of programs, formats, and cultural initiatives and the sharing of knowledge and experiences in the fields of culture, education, science, entertainment, sports, and news.
- 99.** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the **Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)** scheme till **December 2024**. This approval has increased the loan amount to **Rs.8,100 crore** from Rs.5000 crore, thereby providing the street vendors working capital to further expand their business and making them Atma Nirbhar.

About PM SVANidhi: It is a Centre sector scheme. It was launched in **June 2020**. It provides street vendors a collateral-free loan of Rs.10,000 with low interest rate for a period of one year. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- 100.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated India's first dairy community radio named '**Dudh Vani**' in Gujarat. This radio station is dedicated to cattle breeders. It has been set up by Banaskantha District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union (Banas Dairy). It will connect over 5 lakh dairy farmers across 1700 villages in the state.
- 101.** The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has organized a mega event named '**Yog Prabha**' at Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi. The event has been inaugurated by Union Minister of Civil

Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia and the Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr. V.K. Singh. The aim is to spread awareness among the participants about the importance of Yoga and motivate others to do Yoga on a daily basis. Around 900 officials has participated in this mega event. **Note:** The United Nations General Assembly declared 21st June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014.

102. The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has launched the **Trilateral Development Corporation (TDC) fund** to provide an alternative to the Chinese development partnership model that has pushed parts of the developing world to a debt trap. India's Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) launched with the UK will provide a template to use the TDC fund for trilateral projects with other countries like Japan, Germany, France, and the European Union (EU).

103. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a new initiative named '**Amrit Sarovar Mission**' during his visit to Palli Panchayat in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (24th April). The initiative aims to develop and rejuvenate **75 water bodies** in each district of the country by **15 August 2023**. These water bodies should be lined with trees named after the martyrs and freedom fighters.

*India's first Amrit Sarovar has been established in **Patwai, Shahabad** of Rampur district, Uttar Pradesh.*

He has also inaugurated and laid foundation stone of multiple development initiatives worth over **Rs. 20,000 crore** to speed development in Jammu and Kashmir.

- He has laid the foundation stone of the **Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway** and has inaugurated the **500KW solar power plant** at Palli village along with 108 Jan Aushadhi Kendras, in Samba.
- **Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel:** He has also inaugurated the Banihal-Qazigund road tunnel to establish all-weather connectivity between the Jammu and Kashmir regions of the union territory. The 8.45 km long twin tube tunnel will reduce the road distance between Banihal and Qazigund by 16 Km and reduce the journey time by around one-and-a half-hours. It will be built at a cost of over Rs.3100 crore.
- He has also laid the foundation stones for the **850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project & 540 MW Kwar Hydroelectric Project** to be constructed on the Chenab River in Kishtwar District.
- He has also transferred award money of Rs.44.70 crore to Panchayats which are winners of National Panchayat Awards given across different categories on National Panchayati Raj Day for their achievements.

- 104.** The Union **Ministry of Civil Aviation** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of **Himachal Pradesh** to develop a Greenfield Airport in Nagchala, located in the district of Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. It will be built at a cost of Rs.900 crore.
- 105.** BJP national vice-president **A P Abdullakutty** has been elected as the chairperson of Haj Committee of India. For the first time, two women have been elected as its vice-chairpersons: **Munnawari Begum** and **Mafuja Khatun**.
- Munnawari Begum is a member of the Central Waqf Council and Mafuja Khatun is the vice president of the Bengal unit of the BJP.
 - Haj Committee of India is a statutory body under the Ministry of Minority Affairs. It is set up under the provisions of the Haj Committee Act, 2002. It has the responsibility of making arrangements for the pilgrimage of Muslims for Haj, and for matters connected therewith. The present CEO of Haj Committee of India is Mohd Yakooob Shekha.

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- 106.** The **Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting** has launched '**Azadi Ki Amrit Kahaniya**', a short video series created in collaboration with **Netflix** to bring out beautiful stories of inspirational Indians on various themes including Women Empowerment, Environment & Sustainability, and others. Both have collaborated to produce the first set of videos featuring seven Women Changemakers from across India who share their experiences in breaking the glass ceiling.

Seven women change-makers:

- **Basanti Devi**, Padma-award winning environmentalist from Pithoragarh known for her contribution towards revitalizing the Kosi River.
- **Anshu Jamsenpa**, a Padma Shri awardee for being the first woman in the world to summit Mount Everest twice in five days in 2017.
- **Harshini Kanhekar**, the first female firefighter in India, were also present at the launch.
- **Poonam Nautiyal**, a healthcare worker who walked miles across the Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand to vaccinate everyone.
- **Tessy Thomas**, the first woman scientist to head a missile project in India.
- **Tanvi Jagadish**, India's first competitive woman stand-up paddleboarder.
- **Aarohi Pandit**, the world's youngest and first woman pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean solo in a light-sport aircraft.

- 107.** The Union Cabinet has approved the opening of a new **Indian Mission** in **Lithuania** in 2022. This will contribute to the expansion of India's diplomatic footprint, the strengthening of political relations and strategic cooperation, and the development of bilateral trade, investment, and economic partnerships. Currently, the Indian mission in Poland is accredited to Lithuania.
- 108.** Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh has launched the '**Azadi se Antyodaya Tak**', a **90-day** inter-ministerial campaign, with a mission to saturate 75 Districts across 28 States/UTs with beneficiary schemes of 09 central ministries.
- The goal is to take up 17 select schemes with direct assistance to beneficiaries in saturation mode, reaching out to the person at the bottom of the pyramid in rural areas by each of the participating ministries/departments.
 - The identified districts under this campaign are aligned with them being the birthplace of 100 Freedom Fighters, who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during its struggle for independence from the British.
 - This campaign is a joint effort of the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Social Justice & Empowerment-Divyangjan, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Health & Family Welfare, and Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- 109.** The **Atal Tunnel** in Rohtang (Himachal Pradesh) has won the Indian Building Congress (IBC) Awards for Excellence in Built Environment 2021 under the Best Infrastructure Project category.

About Atal Tunnel:

It is the longest highway tunnel in the world. It was built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) utilising the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM). It is **9.02 km** long and it connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley.

- 110.** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, and AYUSH, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced that **Mumbai** will host the 1st Incredible **India International Cruise Conference-2022** from 14th to 15th May 2022. It will be organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mumbai Port Authority, and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). The conference aims to deliberate on 'Developing India as a Cruise Hub'.
- 111.** The **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a pact with Bharti group-backed **OneWeb** to complete

OneWeb satellite launch programme. The first launch with NSIL is expected in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

112. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), for the first time, will host the **21st World Congress of Accountants (WCOA)**, the kumbh of accountants, from 18th to 21st November 2022 at Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The theme for 2022 will be 'Building Trust Enabling Sustainability'. Around 6000 top accountants from 130 countries will participate in the programme physically.

- The WCOA, a forum for thought leadership and global exchange of views, is held every four years since it started in 1904.

113. In April 2022, the Union Cabinet under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved **Rs.2,426 crore** for up gradation of **2,542** mobile towers from **2G to 4G**. All these towers are in naxal affected area. All these sites will be upgraded and run by BSNL. The 2,542 mobile towers are spread across 10 states. This includes 346 sites in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar 16, Chhattisgarh 971, Jharkhand 450, Madhya Pradesh 23, Maharashtra 125, Odisha 483, West Bengal 33, Uttar Pradesh 42 and Telangana 53.

114. IndiGo has become India's first airline to land aircraft using the GPS-aided geo-augmented navigation (GAGAN) system. The flight was conducted using an ATR-72 aircraft and landed at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan.

About GAGAN:

- It has been jointly developed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It is used to provide lateral and vertical guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway for landing.
- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a mandate for all aircraft registered in India after 1st July 2021 to be fitted with GAGAN equipment.

115. NITI Aayog has signed a Statement of Intent with the **UNICEF India** on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a focus on children. This will seek to formalize a framework of cooperation to launch the first report on the State of India's Children - Status and Trends in Multidimensional Child Development.

116. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy have collaborated with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) to use the **CHAFF technology** in the Indian Air force Aircrafts and Indian Naval Ships in order to protect the warship from an anti-ship missile during hostilities.

- With this, India has become the second country after USA to induct such technology.

- DRDO has developed all three variants of CHAFF rockets namely, Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR), and have been inducted in the Indian Navy. DRDO
- DRDO has also developed advanced CHAFF cartridge-118/I for the Indian Air Force.

117. The Government of India (GoI) has recently amended the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** to further promote 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and enable Ease of Doing Business. These amendments are based on the approvals accorded by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).

Key amendments:

- Domestic Industry will not have to furnish Integrity Pact Bank Guarantee (IPBG) for acquisitions costing more than Rs.100 crore. Instead of IPBG, **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** will be used as a bid security for all acquisition cases with Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) cost more than **Rs 100 crore**. EMD is not required from Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- The total order quantities in acquisition situations will be distributed between shortlisted vendors to encourage wider participation and broad base indigenous defence manufacturing sector.
- The procurement process under iDEX procedure of DAP 2020 has been simplified. With this simplification, time taken from grant of AoN to signing of contract will be reduced to **22 weeks**.
- The timelines in Make-II procedure will be reduced to **101-109 weeks** from an existing total time-period of 122-180 weeks.

118. As per the latest government data, the total enrolments under **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** have crossed **4.01 crore** as on March 2022 out of which more than 99 lakh APY accounts were opened during FY 2021-22. Out of the total APY subscribers 44 % are female subscribers while 56% are male subscribers.

- Atal Pension Yojana is the guaranteed pension scheme of Government of India launched in 2015.
- It is being administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- The scheme allows any Citizen of India between the age group of 18-40 years to join through the bank or post office branches where one has the savings bank account.
- Under the scheme, a subscriber will receive a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs.1000 to Rs. 5000 per month from the age of 60 years, depending upon his contribution.

119. The **Ministry of Railways** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT)** to establish a robust collaborative working

partnership for coordination and resource sharing concerning the provision of Telecommunication facilities in the delivery and implementation of C-DOT's Telecom Solutions and services in Indian Railways.

STATES AFFAIRS

120. Vegetable Production for the FY2021-22:

- **Uttar Pradesh** has emerged as the top vegetable producer in FY2021-22 with 29.8 MT production.
- It is followed by West Bengal with 28.23 MT, and Madhya Pradesh with 20.59 MT production.

Fruit Production for the FY2021-22:

- **Andhra Pradesh** has emerged as the top fruit producer in FY2021-22 with 18.01 MT production.
- It is followed by Maharashtra with 12.30 MT, and Uttar Pradesh with 11.26 MT production.

121. The state government of **Karnataka** has announced to launch '**Vinaya Samarasya Yojana**'. It is an awareness programme to eradicate untouchability in Gram Panchayats located across the state.

- The initiative was named after Vinay, a three-year-old Dalit kid who strayed into a temple in Miyapur hamlet in Karnataka's Koppal district to seek shelter from the rain in September 2021.
- The scheme will be launched on 14th April 2022 on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti.

122. The state government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the '**School Chalo Abhiyan**' to ensure 100 percent enrolment in primary and upper primary schools in Uttar Pradesh. It is being started in the Shravasti district because of its lowest literacy rate (46.74%).

123. Mumbai International Cruise Terminal is expected to be commissioned by **July 2024**. The total outlay for the project is **Rs.495 crore**. It is a first-of-its-kind iconic sea cruise terminal in India which will be coming up at BPX-Indira Dock in Maharashtra. The terminal will have a capacity of handling 200 ships and 1 million passengers per annum.

124. The state government of **Assam** has approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the State Environment and Forest Department and **Agence Francaise de Development**, a French funding agency, to foster bilateral dialogue in the field of environment. This will enhance cooperation between the forest department and international stakeholders of Africa, Asia and France regarding biodiversity conservation in the Indo-Pacific region.

- 125.** The **Punjab Mandi Board** has launched the digital '**J Form**' to bring transparency as well as to empower farmers. This will make Punjab the first state in the country to provide digitised form J in real-time.
- 'J form' is the sale receipt of a farmer's **agricultural produce** in mandis (grain market).
 - These forms will be delivered directly on a farmer's WhatsApp number immediately after a sale is confirmed on the system by the arthiyas and buyers, who are mainly government procurement agencies.
 - These can be used for raising finance from financial institutions, IT waivers, subsidy claims, farmers insurance.
- 126.** **Leh Administration** will sign a tripartite agreement to develop **Hanle** as **Dark Sky Sanctuary**. The Leh Hill Council, Wild Life and Tourism departments will jointly develop the area for Astrotourism.
- A dark sky sanctuary promotes proper illumination where and when it is needed without wasting energy and polluting other areas, especially the night sky, which does not require illumination.
 - Ladakh Administration has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Astrophysics to promote astro-tourism in the region.
- 127.** The state of **Meghalaya** will host the 83rd **National Table Tennis Championship 2022** at SAI Indoor Training Centre, NEHU in Shillong from 18th to 25th April 2022.
- 128.** The state government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched '**Mukhyamantri Udyam Kranti Yojana**' at Kushabhau Thakre International Convention Centre to provide collateral free loans up to **Rs.50 lakhs** to educated youth through banks for setting up their own enterprise/self-employment. The scheme has set a target to benefit one lakh youths in FY23.
- 129.** **Arunachal Pradesh** State Biodiversity Board (APSBB) has signed an agreement with **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - India** to develop the State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (SBSAP). The agreement has been signed in New Delhi during a meeting presided by State Environment and Forest Minister Mama Natung. This will align with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Pakke Declaration.
- 130.** The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched the '**Kaaval Uthavi**' app to provide assistance in 60 areas to the general public, especially women. The app also has the facility for filing mobile-based complaint and location sharing facility.

- 131.** The state government of **Manipur** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Samsung Data System India Pvt Ltd and Abhitech IT Solutions to set up a 'Sports Digital Experience Centre' in Imphal.
- 132.** Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur and Governor of Karnataka, TC Gehlot have launched the new logo, jersey, mascot and anthem of the **Khelo India University Games 2021** (KIUG 2021) at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme song has been composed by Kannada rapper Chandan Shetty.
- The 2nd edition of KIUG 2021 will be held in **Karnataka** between 24th April and 3rd May 2022.
 - It will be hosted by Jain University in Bengaluru.
 - **Logo:** It features the iconic Vidhana Soudha building, the Legislative House in Bengaluru, with two elephants on either side.
 - **Mascot:** 'Veera' (Elephant)

Khelo India University Games is an initiative by the Indian government to identify young talents at the university level and help them turn into professional athletes.

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- 133.** The state government of **Gujarat** has received a loan of **Rs 7,500 crore** from the **World Bank** and **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** for its Mission School of Excellence project. The project aims to improve the quality of education in the state. Under this project, the state government will spend Rs. 10,000 crore in the next five years.
- 134.** The state government of **Jharkhand** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tata Steel Foundation (TSF)** to set up an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at **Chandil** in the Seraikela-Kharsawan district of Jharkhand. The aim is to shape more young talents of Jharkhand and make them industry ready.
- 135. Sarhul** is a festival of tribes celebrated as New Year in the state of **Jharkhand**. It is celebrated by many tribes in Jharkhand, but most notably the Munda, Ho, and Oraon tribes.
- It is celebrated during spring season or "Phaagun" till the month of June or "Jeth".
 - It is celebrated every year in the first month of the Hindu calendar. It falls on the third day of the moon or the fortnight of 'chaitra'.
 - Sarhul literally means 'Worship of Sal'.
 - Goddess Sarna is worshipped during the festival.

- 136.** The Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, has inaugurated the “**Amrit Samagam**”, a conference of tourism and culture ministers of the country, held in New Delhi.
- **Objective:** To discuss how far the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has progressed so far, as well as to gather best practices and ideas for methods to be used for the remainder of the celebration, particularly for impending critical initiatives.
 - During the conference, Union Minister for Tourism, G. Kishan Reddy has launched the **Utsav Portal** to showcase all events, festivals, and live darshans across India to promote different regions of the country as popular tourist destinations worldwide.
- 137.** The **megalithic stone jars** have been discovered in **Dima Hasao** district of **Assam**. There are typological and morphological similarities between the jars found at Assam with the stone jars found in Laos and Indonesia.
- At **Nuchunglo site** in Dima Hasao, 546 jars have been found making it possibly the largest site in the world.
 - Jars have three distinct shapes – biconical, cylindrical and bulbous top with conical end.
 - These were first sighted in 1929 by British civil servants James Phillip Mills and John Henry Hutton.
 - These jars were associated with mortuary rituals.

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- 138.** The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has tied up with US-based **Global Alliance for Sustainable Planet (GASP)** to produce value-added materials from garbage.
- Under this, the state government has planned to clear its 1000-km coastline of waste, particularly plastic.
 - The project will be linked with the state government’s ‘Jagananna Swachha Sankalpam’ programme.
- 139.** The **Periyar Memorial Samathuvapuram** has been inaugurated by the chief minister of Tamil Nadu M K Stalin at Periyakozhuvaari Panchayat in Vanur taluk of Villupuram district in **Tamil Nadu** adjoining Puducherry. He has also laid a foundation stone for a Lotus Footwear Park which will offer employment to 6000 persons in Tindivanam Taluk of Villupuram.

- 140.** The central government has re-appointed retired Punjab-cadre IPS officer **Iqbal Singh Lalpura** as the chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities.
- The National Commission for Minorities is a **statutory body** set up under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
 - It consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and 5 members and all of them shall be from amongst the minority communities.
 - Tenure: 3 years
- 141.** The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has launched an **India Alumni Portal** to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India. The minister of state for external affairs Meenakshi Lekhi has launched the portal in the presence of ICCR president Vinay Sahasrabudde.
- 142.** The state government of **Uttarakhand** has launched an anti-corruption mobile app named '**1064 Anti-Corruption Mobile App**'. This app has been developed by the Vigilance Department, Uttarakhand to root out corruption in the state. The app helps the citizens to lodge corruption-related complaints directly with the authorities. This app is available in both Hindi and English languages.
- 143. Odisha Government** has signed an agreement with the **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)** to set up a renewable energy plant and green hydrogen plant for providing Round the Clock (RTC) power for consumers for both domestic consumption and export. The agreement has been signed for a period of 5 years.
- 144.** The state government of **Uttarakhand** will launch the **Him Prahari** scheme for ex-servicemen and youth. The objective is to prevent migration from villages in Udhamsinghnagar's international border districts like Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Champawat and Khatima. The total estimated expenditure of the scheme is Rs.5.45 crore.
- 145.** The **Department of Industries and Commerce, Telangana** has collaborated with **Thailand's Ministry of Commerce** for promoting bilateral trade and investment in the areas of SMEs (small and medium enterprises) and startups through the business incubator and innovation ecosystem "T-Hub" and "Thaitrade.com" of Thailand and the "GlobalLinker" of Telangana.
- Note:** The year 2022 marks the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Thailand-India.

- 146.** The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has announced that the birthday of Dr BR Ambedkar (14th April) will be observed as the '**Day of Equality**' in the state. It is noteworthy that Tamil New Year, also known as '**Varsha Pirappu**', is also celebrated every year on 14 April in the state.
- 147.** The Union Territory of **Pondicherry** has hosted a four-day beach festival, '**I Sea Pondy 2022**', from 13th April to 16th April 2022. The festival has been organised across four venues: Gandhi statue beach promenade, Chunnambar water sports complex, Pondy Marina, and Paradise beach.
- 148.** The state of **Rajasthan** has become the first state in the country to set up an L-Root server to strengthen internet infrastructure and help improve security and resilience of internet-based operations. It has been installed at the Bhamashah State Data Centre in collaboration with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). At present, there are three J-root servers in New Delhi, Mumbai and Gorakhpur and two L-root servers in Mumbai and Kolkata.
- 149.** Ladakh Additional Director General of Police SS Khandare has inaugurated the first IT Training and Services centre of Ethosh Digital in **Leh**, Ladakh. Ethosh Digital has been assisted by Aseem Foundation, a Pune-based NGO. Ethosh Digital is a California-based Multinational Company, working in the field of digital communications and AR-VR products.
- 150.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the world's highest tunnel at **Shinku La Pass** at 16,580 feet. This tunnel will connect **Lahaul valley** in **Himachal Pradesh** to **Zaskar Valley** in **Ladakh**.
- The construction of this tunnel by BRO will begin by July 2022.
 - This **4.5 km** tunnel will be completed by 2025.
 - **Project Yojak** has been set up by the central government to execute this ambitious project.
 - The south portal of the tunnel will be at Shinku La and the north portal at Lakhang.
- Shinku La pass, also known as Shingo La, is located in **Ladakh**. It is exactly located on the border between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- 151.** Biliti Electric Inc, a California-based company, has announced to set up the world's largest electric vehicle three-wheeler manufacturing facility in **Telangana**, with a production capacity of 240,000 electric vehicles each year.
- The facility will be built in two phases over an area of 200 acres.

- Phase I will be developed over 13.5 acres with the capability to produce 18,000 vehicles per year and is expected to be operational in early 2023.
- The larger facility spread across 200 acres will be operational in 2024.
- The facility is estimated to drive private investment of USD 150 million and is expected to create over 3,000 jobs in the State.

152. The state government of **Tripura** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **NIXI-CSC Data Services Centre**, a joint venture of the National Internet Exchange of India NIXI and CSE e-governance services Ltd, to set up an international standard Data Centre at Indranagar, headquarters of IT Bhavan, Tripura.

153. The **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** to develop a regional level Early Warning System for excessive rainfall resulting in landslides.

154. The state government of **Karnataka** has announced to observe **Sri Siddalinga Swami's** birth anniversary as '**Integration Day**'. Siddalinga Swami of Tontadarya Mutt in Gadag was a thinker and philosopher. He led the 'Save Kappatagudda' movement, which forced the Government to declare it a wildlife sanctuary. He had also successfully led a campaign against the establishment of a steel plant by South Korean multinational company Posco in the Gadag district of the state.

155. The state government of **Telangana** has launched '**SpaceTech Framework**' on a Metaverse platform to make the State a one-stop shop for space technology and encourage private participation.

About Metaverse:

Metaverse is a virtual-reality space in which users can interact with a computer-generated environment and other users. The term 'metaverse' was first used in Neil Stevenson's 1982 novel 'Snow Crash'.

156. The Governments of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh of NCR have signed a **Combined Reciprocal Common Transport Agreements (CRCTA)** covering both Contract Carriage & Stage Carriage since time period of earlier Agreements of Reciprocal Common Transport Agreement is about to end soon.

157. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated a 200-bed **KK Patel Super Speciality Hospital** in Bhuj in the Kutch district of Gujarat to the nation via video-conferencing. This

hospital has been built by Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj, Bhuj. It is the first charitable super speciality hospital in the Kutch region.

- 158.** The state government of **Karnataka** has decided to rename **Shivamogga airport** after former chief minister and senior BJP leader **BS Yediyurappa**. The proposal will now be forwarded to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for further clearance.
- The Shivamogga airport will be completed by December 2022.
 - It consists of the second longest runway in the state measuring 3,299 meters, the first being the Kempegowda International Airport Bangalore, Karnataka with 4,000 meters.
- 159.** The state government of **Kerala** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Netherlands** for a project named '**Cosmos Malabaricus**'. The project relates to the 18th-century Dutch documents on Malabar, which are considered the most comprehensive source of information about the period between 1643 and 1852 in Kerala.
- **Objective:** To make the digitized Dutch archival material accessible to a wide range of audiences, including international and Indian scholars and people from Kerala.
 - It will be implemented by the Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) under the Department of Higher Education, the National Archives of the Netherlands and the University of Leiden.
 - It will be completed in six years.
- 160.** The state cabinet of **Maharashtra** has approved **India's First Gene Bank Programme for Biodiversity Conservation**. The objective is to document native natural resources and conserve them with local communities to ensure biodiversity conservation and the inclusion of traditional knowledge. The state govt. has sanctioned Rs.172.39 crore for implementing the action plan for the next five years.
- 161.** The state government of Gujarat's flagship technology incubator - **iCreate** (International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**), the premier research and development body of the Government of India, to establish a collaborative support system for promising tech start-ups by making combined resources available for entrepreneurs and innovators in the country. The partnership will also catalyse scientific innovation and the marketability of high-tech start-ups.
- 162.** Indian Navy has successfully test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the guided-missile destroyer **INS Delhi**. The test has been conducted using an upgraded modular launcher onboard the INS Delhi.

- Indian Air Force has also successfully test-fired a BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft on the eastern seaboard.

163. Google has collaborated with the state government of **Telangana** to provide technical and financial support to youth and women entrepreneurs in the state. The objective is to extend scholarships for Google Career Certificates to state's youth, support women entrepreneurs through digital, business and financial skills training, and strengthen the Government's school modernisation efforts with digital teaching and learning tools and solutions.

164. Bharti Airtel has acquired a **7% stake** in Navi Mumbai based Cnergee Technologies, a cloud-based networking solutions provider, under the Airtel Startup Accelerator Program.

165. Meghalaya's Planning Department key initiative of e-Proposal System, part of **Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA)** has won the UN Award – **World Summit on the Information Society Forum (WSIS) Prize 2022**. The program has been selected by UN as Champion Project in the category of "The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development," along with projects from Australia, China, Argentina and Tanzania. It has been selected among the top 360 projects across the world.

About MeghEA: It is a flagship initiative of the government of **Meghalaya**. It was launched in **2019**. It aims to enable digital service delivery from Government to citizens, businesses and employees by adopting Whole-of-Government approach. It is supported by **National e-Gov Division (NeGD)**, a first-of-its-kind in the country. **KPMG** is the consulting partner for MeghEA, while Humanitics, NIC and others are implementing agencies.

166. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **Cancer Care Centres** at the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH) campus at **Dibrugarh in Assam**. It has been developed by the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a joint venture of the state government and Tata Trusts. The centre at Dibrugarh is part of 17 medical facilities being developed by ACCF.

- He has also virtually inaugurated six other cancer centres at Barpeta, Tezpur, Jorhat, Darrang, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur.
- He has also laid the foundation stone of 7 other cancer centres to be set up at Goalpara, Dhubri, Nagaon, Golaghat, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Nalbari.

The 17 hospitals are a joint initiative of the Assam government and Tata Trusts. They will be built at a cost of around Rs.4,000 crore. It will be South Asia's single largest affordable cancer care network.

167. Palli in Simba district of **Jammu & Kashmir** has become India's first '**carbon neutral panchayat**' with the inauguration of 500 Kw solar power plant. 1,500 solar panels put up in a

total area of 6,408 square metres will provide clean electricity to 340 houses in the model panchayat under the central government's 'Gram Urja Swaraj' programme.

- *Carbon neutrality means having a balance between emitting carbon and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere in carbon sinks.*

168. The **Samba district** of Jammu & Kashmir has become the first district in India to cover **100% households** under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (ABPMJAY) – SEHAT (Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine) scheme. The district has achieved this milestone after the conclusion of special registration drive organized by State Health Agency (SHA) from April 11 to April 21 in all Block Development Offices (BDO) across the district. The district has a total of 62,641 families with 3,04,510 people eligible for ABPM-JAY SEHAT golden cards.

ABPMJAY-SEHAT scheme:

The SEHAT scheme was launched in convergence with AB-PMJAY for the entire UT of Jammu and Kashmir on **26th December 2020**. The aim is to provide free of cost insurance cover and also provides financial cover up to **Rs. 5 lakh** per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

169. The state government of **Maharashtra** has become the first state in India to develop a website-based **Migration Tracking System (MTS)** app for the portability of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. It aims to track the movement of the vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identification numbers that will be assigned to them.

*ICDS is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**. It was launched in 1975.*

170. **Agra** in Uttar Pradesh has become the first city in India to have **vacuum-based sewer systems**. These vacuums will be used in public places. Agra Smart City has connected 240 such houses near the Taj Mahal with vacuum-based sewer where conventional sewer systems cannot be used.

- The maintenance and complete care of the sewers for up to five years will be done by the Netherlands Company.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs.100 crore.
- Sixty thousand houses have been connected with a 53 km long sewer line.

The vacuum-sewer is expected to be deployed in Kochi Municipal Corporation in Kerala after a successful trial in Agra.

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- 171. Mumbai** has become the first city in India to get **100% digital buses** with a 'Tap in and Tap out' facility. The aim is to increase the digitisation of bus ticketing system. Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) is India's first bus service to go completely digital. The facility has been initially implemented on the Gateway of India to Churchgate route and will later be extended to all 438 routes across the city.
- 172.** The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has decided to observe **Minorities Rights Day** annually on **18th December** and around Rs.2.50 lakh has been allocated for this purpose. The state government will also provide a monthly stipend of Rs.1,000 to girls from minority communities studying in Class VI, and Rs.500 to girls studying in Classes III-V, at a total cost of Rs.2.75 crore.
- 173. Jamtara in Jharkhand** has become India's first district where all gram panchayats have community libraries. The district has a population of about eight lakh and has a total of 118 gram panchayats under six blocks and each panchayat has a well-equipped library that is open for students. These libraries were set up around two years ago with the assistance of Deputy Commissioner Faiz Aq Ahmed Mumtaz.
- Jamtara has been the workplace of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, the great social reformer and educationist of the 19th century. He spent the last two decades of his life in Karmatand, Jamtara, awakening the light of education.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 174.** The **Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** has signed the loan agreements with the Government of India in Delhi, to provide Japanese ODA loans of up to a total of **312.258 billion yen** for **seven projects**.

(1) Dedicated Freight Corridor Project (Phase 2) (III)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan amount: 116.52 billion yen Completion of project: May 2025
(2) Chennai Metro Project (Phase 2) (II)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan amount: 73 billion yen Completion of project: June 2027
(3) Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Project (Phase 3) (II)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan amount: 37.068 billion yen Completion of project: December 2025

(4) North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project (Phase 6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan amount: 23.129 billion yen • Completion of project: March 2026
(5) Uttarakhand Integrated Horticulture Development Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan amount: 6.401 billion yen • Completion of project: December 2028
(6) Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project for Climate Change Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan amount: 10.535 billion yen • Completion of project: July 2030
(7) Assam Health System Strengthening Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loan amount: 45.605 billion yen • Completion of project: April 2027

175. A National Panel Discussion on Safe Migration has been organized at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi. It has been organized by the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** in partnership with **NITI Aayog**. The conclave aims to initiate, contribute to, and support a holistic analysis on and of the core areas of migration.

176. Madagascar has become the **30th country** to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (**CDRI**), which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019.

- The CDRI is a global partnership that aims to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks, thereby ensuring sustainable development.
- The Headquarters of the CDRI secretariat is in New Delhi.

177. China has launched the world's largest electric cruise ship named '**Yangtze River Three Gorges 1**'. The ship made its maiden voyage in Yichang, Hubei, China. The total cost of the ship is around USD 23.5 million. The ship has been powered by a 7,500-kilowatt-hour massive-sized marine battery.

178. Nepal has recently got approval from the Central Electricity Authority of India (CEA) to export a total of **364 MW** of electricity to the Indian market during the rainy season. The surplus power generated from Kali Gandaki, Marsyangdi, Middle Marsyangdi, and Likhu 4 will be exported to India via 400 KV cross border transmission lines situated in Dhalkebar, Nepal.

179. Sayyid Badr Bin Hamad Bin Hamood Al- Busaidi, Foreign Minister of the Sultanate of **Oman**, has visited India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar.

This is the first visit of Sayyid Badr Albusaidi to India since his appointment as the Foreign Minister of Oman in August 2020.

Key highlights:

- Both the nations have decided to hold the Joint Commission Meeting for Commerce Ministers, India-Oman Strategic Consultative Group Meeting, Strategic Dialogue, and Joint Working Group on Labour.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Oman Post and India Post for issuance of an Oman-India Joint Commemorative Stamp.
- Both Ministers have agreed to finalise negotiations of the bilateral protocol on Investment and Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income (DTAA).
- Oman was the first country in the region to accord approval to indigenously developed COVAXIN.

180. Pakistan has successfully flight-tested the surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile **Shaheen-III**. It has a range of 2,750 kilometres. It is solid-fuelled and equipped with the Post-Separation Altitude Correction (PSAC) system. The missile was first tested in March 2015.

181. Ecuador, a South American country, has become the first country in the world to give **legal rights** to wild animals. The country's highest court has ruled in favour of the case that focused on a woolly monkey named 'Estrellita' who was taken from her home to a zoo, where she passed just a week later.

182. The **4th edition** of the '2+2' dialogue between **India and the United States** has been organized recently in Washington DC, USA. India's External Affairs and Defence Ministers, S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh, have participated in the meeting with their American counterparts, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin.

Key Highlights:

- Both the countries has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** to protect the satellites of the two countries.
- 12th Ministerial-level meeting of India-US Trade Policy Forum and renewal of Working Group discussions to expand bilateral trade, remove market access barriers, and improve ease of business.
- Deepening collaboration in science & technology in the India-US Joint Technical Group (JTG) and in evolving new defence domains, including space, artificial intelligence, and cyber.

- 183.** The 9th edition of the **India – Kyrgyzstan** Joint Special Forces Exercise “**Khanjar-2022**” has been held at **Bakloh**, Himachal Pradesh. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen the mutual confidence & interoperability between Indian Special Forces and Kyrgyzstan Special Forces. The exercise is held annually between India and Kyrgyzstan since 2011.
- 184.** **China** has launched a new Earth observation satellite **Gaofen-3 03** from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre by a Long March-4C rocket. It has been developed and constructed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST).
- 185.** The **Axiom mission (Ax-1)**, the world's first all-private astronaut mission to the International Space Station (ISS), has been launched by **SpaceX**. It is a joint mission of the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** and Axiom Space.
- This mission is the first commercial mission to the ISS.
 - The Ax-1 crew includes Commander Michael López-Alegría of Spain and the United States, Pilot Larry Connor of the United States, and Mission Specialists Eytan Stibbe of Israel and Mark Pathy of Canada.
- 186.** The **Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)**, the top trade association representing the U.S. semiconductor industry, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA)** to foster collaboration and identify potential opportunities between the two countries in the semiconductor sector.
- 187.** **Japan** will send its high-speed **E5 Shinkansen series trains** to **India** based upon the modifications to its conditions like temperature, dust, and weight. Japan will initially send six trains.
- Features of E5 Shinkansen series trains:**
- They are built by Hitachi and Kawasaki Heavy Industries.
 - They are capable of running at a speed of 320 kmph and are 3.35 meter wide.
 - The improved high-speed trains have anti-seismic technology.
- Note:** India's first bullet train will be operational in 2027 and trials will begin in 2026.
- 188.** The 20th edition of **Joint Staff Talks** has been held between **India and France** to improve defence cooperation between the two countries both at strategic and operational level. It has been held in Paris, France.
- The two-day talks has focused on new initiatives that fall within the umbrella of the existing bilateral defence cooperation and strengthening of ongoing defence engagements between both the countries.
 - India and France have agreed on a blueprint for the blue economy and ocean governance.

189. India and Maldives have signed seven Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) for projects to be built under the Indian grant assistance scheme for the High Impact Community Development Project through local bodies (HICDP).

- The MoUs have been signed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdulla Shahid on behalf of the Government of the Maldives and the High Commissioner of India, Munu Mahawar.
- The projects are worth a total grant of **26.8 million Rufiya** (equivalent to approximately **USD 1.7 million**).

The projects include:

Establishing a mental health centre at Addu Equatorial Hospital; A speech therapy unit at Kulhudhufushi Regional Hospital; Prosthetics and orthotics manufacturing workshop at Hulhumale' Hospital; Preservation of cultural places in Noonu Landhoo Maabudhuge and Thaa Dhiyamigili Ganduvaru; Development of a multi sports complex in Noonu Manadhoo; and Developing youth centres in Gaafu Alif Gemanafushi and Alif Dhaalu Dhigurah.

190. Israel has successfully test-fired its new laser missile defence system '**Iron Beam**'. It is developed by the Rafael Advanced Defence Systems. It uses a directed-energy weapon system and can travel a long way to provide aerial defence. The tests has been conducted in the Negev desert, Israel.

191. Ukraine has used its **Neptune Anti-Ship Cruise Missiles** against Russia's Black Sea Fleet Flagship 'Moskva'.

- Neptune is a coastal anti-ship cruise missile that is capable of the destruction of naval vessels in a range of 300 km.
- The Missile system was inducted into the Ukrainian Defence Forces in March 2021.
- It carries a 150kg warhead.

192. The communication satellite named '**Zhongxing-6D**' has been launched by **China** through its Long March-3B carrier rocket. The satellite will provide Radio and Television transmission and communication services.

193. Russia has successfully test-fired a new nuclear-capable **intercontinental ballistic missile** named '**RS-28 Sarmat**', also known as 'Satan 2', from Plesetsk in northwest Russia. It is a third-stage liquid-fuelled missile with a range of 18,000 km.

194. India and Finland will set up an Indo-Finnish '**Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing**' to stimulate development projects and innovative research that will address

specific challenges and needs, demonstrate the commercial potential and high industrial relevance, and aim to deliver benefit to both countries. Three Indian institutes have been identified for the Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing: IISER-Pune, IIT-Madras, and C-DAC-Pune.

195. José Ramos-Horta has been elected as the new President of **Timor-Leste** for the second term. He secured 397,145 votes, or 62.09 percent, against incumbent Francisco “Lu-Olo” Guterres in the recently concluded elections.

- He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1996 along with Timorese Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo "for their work toward a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor."

196. India has been designated as the Guest of Honour Country at the **Paris Book Festival 2022**. It was declared in the joint statement released in 2018 during the French President’s visit to New Delhi. The festival has been held from April 21 to April 24, 2022.

- During the festival, the India Pavilion, developed by National Institute of Design (NID), has been inaugurated. It comprises over 15 digital and physical exhibitions showing over 400 books published in various Indian languages, representing the work of 65 Indian publishers.

197. The **Finland** Minister of Economic Affairs **Mika Lintila** has visited India on 16–21 April 2022 to promote cooperation in quantum technology, telecommunications technology, artificial intelligence and renewable energy. He has been accompanied by Under-Secretary of State Petri Peltonen.

- **Objective:** To promote the exports of Finnish companies and to strengthen the image of Finland as an attractive destination for Indian companies, experts and tourists.
- During his visit, both the nations have decided to establish an Indo-Finnish **Virtual Network Centre on Quantum Computing** to stimulate innovative research and development projects.

198. SpaceX has launched **53 Starlink satellites** to low-Earth orbit with its Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. This is the 15th Falcon 9 mission in 2022 and 149th overall since 2010.

199. Former Honorary Consul of Peru in Mumbai, **Ardeshir B.K. Dubash**, has been awarded the **Order of Merit in the Diplomatic Service of Peru José Gregorio Paz Soldón**, the highest diplomatic award by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru. The award is normally reserved for career diplomats who have excelled in their work to promote the democratic, historical

and institutional values of the Ministry, and who have made outstanding contributions to Peruvian foreign policy.

200. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Chile** for cooperation in the **Disability Sector**. This MoU will encourage cooperation between the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India and Government of Chile through joint initiatives in the disabilities sector.

- The year 2019-20 marked the 70th year of diplomatic relations between India and Chile.

201. The **12th Ministerial Conference (MC)** of the World Trade Organization will be held in **Geneva, Switzerland** from 12th-15th June 2022. It was originally scheduled to take place from 30th November to 3rd December 2021 but was postponed in view of the outbreak of the Omicron variant. The conference will be attended by trade ministers and other senior officials from the member nations.

- The Ministerial Conference (MC) is the highest decision-making body of WTO.
- It happens every two years bringing all members of the WTO together, all of which are countries or customs unions.
- The Chair of the 12th MC is **Timur Suleimenov** of Kazakhstan.

The 11th MC was held at Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017.

202. The Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE) of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has organized the world's largest and most complex international real-time cyber defence exercise named **Locked Shields 2022** in Tallin, Estonia from 19th April to 22nd April 2022.

- This year, for the first time, the exercise included the simulation of reserve management and financial messaging systems of a central bank in the cyber range environment for the technical exercise.
- More than 2000 participants from 33 nations have participated in this year's exercise.
- The team from Finland has won the exercise Locked Shields 2022. The joint team Lithuania-Poland has finished second and Estonian-Georgian has finished third.

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REPORTS & INDICES

203. Hurun Research Institute has released the list of **Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022**.

Globally:

- **Wu Yajun (China)**, co-founder of Longfor, is the world's richest self-made woman billionaire with a wealth of \$17 billion.
- She is followed by Fan Hongwei (China) and Wang Laichun (China).

India:

- **Falguni Nayar** has been featured in the top 10 list of Hurun Richest Self-Made Women in the World 2022.
 - She has been **ranked 10th** with a wealth of USD 7.6 billion.
- Radha Vembu, co-founder of Zoho, has been ranked 25th with a wealth of USD 3.9 billion.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw has been ranked 26th with a wealth of USD 3.8 billion.

204. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its latest Asian Development Outlook, has projected India's GDP to grow at **7.5%** in FY23 and 8% in FY24.

- South-Asian economies collectively will grow at 7% in 2022 and 7.4% in 2023. It will be followed by South-East Asia with 4.9% and East Asia with 4.7% in 2022.
- Inflation in India will be at 5.8% in 2022 and 5% in 2023.

205. India's trade deficit has increased by **87.5%** from **USD 102.63 billion** in 2020-21 to **USD 192.41 billion** in 2021-22. In March 2022, India's trade deficit was USD 18.69 billion. The reason behind this rise is the sharp increase in petroleum imports due to the surge in global crude oil prices.

Note: Trade deficit refers to amount by which the cost of a country's imports exceeds its exports.

206. As per the latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the overall unemployment rate in India has declined from 8.1 percent in February 2022 to **7.6 percent** in March 2022.

- As per the data, **Haryana** has recorded the highest unemployment rate in March at **26.7 percent**, followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir at 25 percent each, Bihar at 14.4 percent, Tripura at 14.1 percent, and West Bengal at 5.6 percent.
- **Chhattisgarh** has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate of **0.6 percent**, followed by Madhya Pradesh (1.4%) and Karnataka & Gujarat with 1.8 percent each.

- 207.** The Economic Outlook Survey of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has stated that India's GDP will grow at **7.4 percent** in FY23.
- As per the survey, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to start a rate hike cycle in the second half of 2022, while a repo rate hike of **50-75 bps** is expected by the end of the current fiscal.
 - Agriculture and allied activities are projected to grow at 3.3 percent for the financial year 2022-23, while industry and services sectors are projected to grow at 5.9 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively.
- 208.** Forbes has released the 36th annual ranking of the **World's Billionaires List 2022**. As per the list, **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has topped the list with a net worth of **USD 219 billion**, followed by Jeff Bezos (Amazon) and Bernard Arnault, CEO of LVMH.
- **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman of Reliance Industries, has been ranked **10th** on the list with a net worth of USD 90.7 billion.
 - He is followed by Gautam Adani (Rank 11th) with a net worth of USD 90 billion.
- 209.** QS Quacquarelli Symonds has released the 12th edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022. It is compiled annually to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a particular subject.
- Top 3 QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022:**
- 1) Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 - 2) The University of Oxford
 - 3) Stanford University & the University of Cambridge
- Category wise Top institutes:**
- **Arts and Humanities:** University of Oxford (UK)
 - **Engineering and Technology:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
 - **Life Sciences & Medicine:** Harvard University (USA)
 - **Natural Sciences:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)
 - **Social Sciences & Management:** Harvard University (USA)
- 210.** NITI Aayog has released the **State Energy & Climate Index (SECI) Round-1**. The index ranks the states' performance on 6 parameters, namely,
- (1) DISCOM's Performance
 - (2) Access, Affordability and Reliability of Energy
 - (3) Clean Energy Initiatives
 - (4) Energy Efficiency
 - (5) Environmental Sustainability
 - (6) New Initiatives.

The parameters are further divided into **27 indicators**. The index is based on 2019-20 data.

Key Highlights:

- **Larger States:**

Gujarat has topped the index with a score of 50.1, followed by Kerala (49.1) & Punjab (48.6). Chhattisgarh has performed worst in the index with a score of 31.7, followed by Madhya Pradesh (32.6) & Jharkhand (35.2).

- **Smaller States:**

Goa has topped the index with a score of 51.4, followed by Tripura & Manipur. Arunachal Pradesh has performed worst in the index with a score of 27.0.

- **Union Territory:**

Chandigarh has topped the index with a score of 55.7, followed by Delhi and Daman & Diu and Dadar & Nagar Haveli. Lakshadweep has performed worst in the index with a score of 26.9.

- In the index, India's overall score on a scale of 100 stands at **40.6**. The average score at the national level for discoms' performance is 56.8 while it is 11.1 for new initiatives, which is the lowest among all parameters.

211. The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** has lowered the global trade forecast for 2022 from 4.7 percent to **3 percent** due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The forecast for 2023 is 3.4 percent.

212. The Airports Council International (ACI) has released the list of the top 10 busiest airports worldwide for 2021. As per the list, **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)**, USA has been named as the busiest airport in the world for 2021 with 75.7 million passengers, followed by Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), USA (62.5 million passengers) and Denver International Airport, USA (58.8 million passengers).

213. As per the latest data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's **Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation** has increased to **6.95%** in March 2022 as compared to 6.07% in February 2022 due to a sharp increase in food prices. It was 5.52 percent in March 2021.

- CPI-based inflation in urban India: 6.12%
- CPI-based inflation in rural India: 7.66%

214. **World Bank** has recently published a research paper titled 'Poverty in India Has Declined over the Last Decade But Not As Much As Previously Thought'. The paper is jointly authored by economists Sutirtha Sinha Roy and Roy van der Weide.

- India's extreme poverty has declined **12.3 percentage points** during **2011-2019**. It has dropped from 22.5% in 2011 to 10.2% in 2019.

- Rural and urban poverty has dropped by 14.7 and 7.9 percentage points during 2011-2019.
- Rural poverty has declined from 26.3% in 2011 to 11.6% in 2019.
- Urban poverty has declined from 14.2% in 2011 to 6.3% in 2019.

215. The wholesale price-based inflation in India has increased to **14.55%** in March 2022 due to rise in prices of crude oil and commodity prices. It has remained in double digits for the 12th consecutive month beginning April 2021. WPI Inflation in February 2022 was at 13.11 percent, while in March 2021, it was 7.89 percent.

Inflation in Commodities (March 2022):

- Food articles: 8.06 percent
- Vegetables: 19.88 percent
- Crude petroleum: 83.56 percent
- Manufactured items: 10.71 percent

216. The Hurun Research Institute has released the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022, a list of the healthcare billionaires in the world.

- **Cyrus Poonawalla**, Chairman & MD of Serum Institute of India (SII), has topped the Hurun Global Healthcare Rich List 2022 with a net worth of **USD 26 billion**.
- He is followed by Thomas Frist Jr & Family of HCA Healthcare, Li Xiting & Xu Hang of Mindray at the 2nd position.
- Dilip Shanghvi & Family of the Sun Pharmaceuticals, is at the 5th position with a net worth of USD 18 billion.
- As per the list, China has most healthcare industry billionaires with 34; followed by USA (16), Switzerland (15), Germany (11), and India (9).

217. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its latest World Economic Outlook report, has lowered India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 to **8.2%** from 9.0% in January 2022. It has also lowered India's FY24 GDP growth forecast to 6.9% from 7.1%. IMF has also lowered its global growth outlook for calendar year 2022 to 3.6 percent from 4.4 percent.

218. The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)** in collaboration with the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development has published a report titled '2022 Financing for Sustainable Development Report: Bridging the Finance Divide'.

- As per the report, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed **77 million** more people into severe poverty in 2021, and many developing nations are unable to recover due to the heavy cost of loan repayments.

- 812 million people lived in severe poverty on USD 1.90 per day or less in 2019, and by 2021, the figure had climbed to 889 million due to the pandemic.
- GDP per capita in 20% of developing countries will not return to pre-2019 levels by the end of 2023.
- The poorest developing countries pay 14 percent of their revenue in debt interest.

219. World Bank has recently published **Commodity Markets Outlook 2022**. Key findings of the report are:

- Non-energy prices are expected to rise by about 20 percent in 2022.
- Increase in energy prices over the past two years has been the largest since the 1973 oil crisis.
- Price increases for food commodities and fertilizers which rely on natural gas as a production input, have been the largest since 2008.
- Global food and fuel price shocks linked to the war are set to last until at least the end of 2024 and raise the risk of stagflation.

220. According to World Steel Association data, **India** is the only country among the top 10 steel manufacturing nations in the world to have increased steel output from January to March 2022 compared to the same period last year. India has produced **31.9 million tonnes of steel**, an increase of 5.9%. With 10.9 million tonnes of steel produced in March 2022, India's growth rate is 4.4%. Brazil is the only other country in the top ten that has had an increase in steel production in the month of March.

221. As per the latest report by payment solutions provider **ACI Worldwide**, data analytics firm GlobalData, and the **Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)**, India has made **48.6 billion** real-time payments through 2021, which is over 2.6 times higher than China, which is at the second place with 18.5 billion real-time transactions.

- As per the report, real-time payments in India are expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of **33.5%** through 2026.
- The real-time payments has added **USD 16.4 billion** to India's economic output, or 0.56% of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), in 2021. By 2026, this contribution will rise to USD 45.9 billion or 1.12% of the nation's GDP.

222. The "**Special 301 Report**" 2022 has been released by the **United States Trade Representative (USTR)**. It an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement. As per the report:

- **India**, China, Russia and four other countries (Argentina, Chile, Indonesia and Venezuela) are again placed on USTR's annual 'Priority Watch List' for intellectual property protection and enforcement.
- The report has placed at least 21 countries under the list. It also includes Algeria, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Mexico, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Thailand, and Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

223. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India is ranked at **third** position in terms of military expenditure. India's military expenditure has increased to **USD 76.6 billion** in 2021, an increase of 0.9 percent when compared with 2020.

- As per the report, the USA is the largest military spender in the world with USD 801 billion in 2021.
- It is followed by China with USD 293 billion in 2021.
- The global defence expenditure has reached an all-time high of **USD 2.1 trillion** in 2021. It has been increased by 0.7 percent in real terms in 2021.
- The five largest military spenders in 2021 are the USA, China, India, the UK and Russia, which together accounted for 62 percent of world military spending.

224. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has published a report titled '**World Review of Capture Fisheries and Aquaculture Insurance 2022**'. The report presents the findings of five regional (Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania) and four national reports of China, India, Russia, and the United States conducted in 2020.

Key findings:

- There is low penetration of insurance products in the Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector. The reason behind this is the high cost of the policies currently available.
- The report has recommended that public and private insurance service providers' work together to take proactive measures to help India's fisheries and aquaculture insurance market recover.
- The national report of India has been authored by **Shinoj Parappurath**, senior scientist, ICAR-CMFRI, Kochi, Kerala.

225. As per the Forbes real-time billionaires list, Adani Group Chairman **Gautam Adani** has surpassed Berkshire Hathaway chairman **Warren Buffett** to become the world's fifth-richest person. As of 22nd April 2022, Gautam Adani has a net worth of USD 123.7 billion.

226. As per the data released by the Chainalysis, investors around the world realized total gains of USD 162.7 billion in 2021, compared to just USD 32.5 billion in 2020.

- USA has topped with an estimated USD 47 billion in realized cryptocurrency gains, followed by the UK, Germany, Japan, and China.
- India has been ranked **21st** in estimated Crypto Gains in 2021 with **USD 1.85 billion**.
- The report highlights that Ethereum edged out Bitcoin in total realized gains globally at USD 76.3 billion to USD 74.7 billion.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

227. MG Motor India has introduced its one-stop digital car finance platform named “**MG e-Pay**”. It is the industry’s first End-to-End Online Auto Finance Platform.

- **Objective:** To provide transparent and convenient online car purchase solutions.
- The entity has partnered with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Prime, and Axis Bank for this platform.

228. According to a US Securities and Exchange Commission, **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla, has acquired a **9.2%** stake in **Twitter Inc.** With this, he has become the largest shareholder of the company by owning 73.48 million shares in the company.

- **Twitter Established:** 2006
- **CEO:** Parag Agrawal

229. Redeemption Digital Technology Private Limited has soft-launched India's first KYC-compliant crypto token named '**Redemption**'. It is a unique crypto token with which users can earn investing time, instead of money. It is an emerging Web 3.0 Technology base, patent-filed crypto token that is developed on Binance Smart Chain (BSC) BEP20 protocol.

230. The **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Tawazun Economic Council (TEC), UAE** to explore new business opportunities in various areas of mutual interest in the field of defence.

231. NTPC Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL)** to blend Green Hydrogen in piped natural gas (PNG) network of GGL at the NTPC Kawas facility.

- Green hydrogen will be produced by using electricity from the existing 1 MW floating solar project of NTPC Kawas.
- GGL is India's largest city gas distribution (CGD) company.

232. Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)** to convert civil passenger aircraft to “multi mission tanker

transport" (MMTT) aircraft in India. The scope of the MoU also covers 'passenger to freighter aircraft' conversion, along with MMTT conversions.

233. The Government of India (GoI) has collected **Rs.1,42,095 crore** in goods and services tax (GST) in March 2022. It is highest collections since the launch of GST in July 2017.

- This is 15% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year and 46% higher than the receipts in March 2020.
- The central government collected Rs.25,830 crore as central GST, while states collected Rs.32,378 crore as state GST.

234. The Flipkart Group has launched the **Flipkart Foundation** with focus on rural areas and providing equitable access to growth opportunities for women and other disadvantaged communities. It aims to empower 20 million lives directly and indirectly in the next decade.

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235. Flipkart has launched the **Flipkart Health+** app to enable access to medicines and healthcare products from independent sellers. The platform delivers products across 20,000 pin codes in India. It can also be accessed on low bandwidth.

- **Prashant Jhaveri** has been appointed as the CEO of Flipkart Health +.
- He served as the chief business officer at Apollo Health and Lifestyle Limited.
- He also served as the CEO of MediBuddy, and chief business officer for the Medi Assist Group.

236. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement with **HSBC India** to establish a **USD 100 million** partial guarantee program for Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) in India. The aim is to support 4 lakh micro-borrowers and women-run microenterprises across India.

237. **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has collaborated with **Payments Canada** to transform its payment system operations and help implement the Real-Time Rail (RTR) payment system. This collaboration will allow Canadians to initiate payments and receive irrevocable funds in seconds, 24 by 7 by 365.

- 238.** Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**), Larsen & Toubro (**L&T**), and **ReNew Power** have partnered to set up a joint venture (JV) company to develop the **green hydrogen sector** in India.
- Aim:** To supply green hydrogen at an “industrial scale”. Green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis of water using renewable energy.
- Indian Oil and L&T have also partnered to form a separate JV to manufacture and sell electrolyzers used in the production of green hydrogen.
- 239.** India has contributed **USD 500,000** to the United Nations (UN) Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, for their core budget.
- In 2021, India contributed USD 300,000 to the UN Women.
 - Gender Equality is the 5th Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.
- 240.** The Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA) has signed an agreement with **Adani Ports** and SEZ Limited to set up an **Indian Economic Zone** at the **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar** (BSMSN) in Mirsarai of **Chattogram**, Bangladesh.
- The Indian Economic Zone will provide facilities for Indian investors in Bangladesh.
 - It is being built on 857 acres of land with an estimated cost of Taka 964 crore supported by an Indian Line of Credit worth USD 115 million.
 - A Memorandum of understanding was signed between Bangladesh and India in June 2015 to establish an Indian economic zone.
- 241.** Tata Power Renewables Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has installed a **300 MW** solar plant in **Dholera**, Gujarat. It is India's largest single-axis solar tracker system.
- The project will generate **774 Million Units (MUs)** of Renewable energy annually.
 - This will reduce approximately 704340 MT/year of carbon emission.
- 242.** **Tata Group** has recently launched its super app named '**Tata Neu**'. It is the conglomerate's super app that brings together all of its digital services and apps on a single platform. It will bring together aeroplanes, hotels, medicines, and groceries on a single platform. The app gives Neu Coins as an incentive for spending, which can be exchanged for other services.
- 243.** **Microsoft** has launched its '**Microsoft for Startups Founders Hub**' in India. It is a new digital and inclusive platform for startup founders that offers over USD 300,000 worth of benefits and credits, giving startups free access to the technology, tools, and resources they need to build and run their businesses. It is designed specifically for early-stage startups.

244. Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, has maintained the status quo and retained the **Interest rates on Small Savings Scheme** unchanged for the **1st Quarter** for the **Financial Year 2022-23** (April 2022 to June 2022) same as Q4 FY22.

Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q1 FY23				
Small Savings Scheme		Maturity (Years)	Rate of interest	Compounding Frequency
Public Provident Fund (PPF)		15	7.1%	Annually
Post Office Savings Accounts (SB)		-	4.0%	Annually
Term Deposits	1 Year	1	5.5%	Quarterly
	2 Years	2	5.5%	Quarterly
	3 Years	3	5.5%	Quarterly
	5 Years	5	6.7%	Quarterly
National Savings Recurring Deposit Account		5	5.8%	Quarterly
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS)		5	7.4%	Quarterly and Paid
NSC (VIII issue)		5	6.8%	Annually
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)		124 months	6.9%	Annually
Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) scheme		21	7.6%	Annually
Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)		5	6.6%	Monthly and Paid

245. The Central government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, has planned to borrow **Rs. 8.45 lakh crore** or **60%** in the **first half (H1)** or April-September period of **FY2022-23**.

- As per the Union Budget document, the gross market borrowing through dated securities for 2022-23 is estimated at Rs 14,95,000 crore.

- The borrowing is scheduled to be completed in 26 weekly tranches of Rs 32,000-33,000 crore and will be spread under 2, 5, 7, 10, 14, 30 and 40 year securities and Floating Rate Bonds (FRBs) of various tenors.
- The gross borrowing for 2021-22 was Rs 12, 05,500 crore.

246. Ergos Business Solutions Pvt Ltd has launched a digital platform "**GrainBank**" to provide valuable information and income to farmers on their farm produce.

- GrainBank is farmer relationship based post-harvest solutions for farmers to digitize its grain, which is directly accessible to lenders and processors, and can buy online directly from them.
- The platform is able to analyze farmers' profiles and their crop related data, which helps to analyse most suitable services in the most cost effective manners.

247. Amazon has partnered with 3 firms namely, Arianespace, Blue Origin and United Launch Alliance to deploy most of its 3,236-satellite for its **Project Kuiper**, which aims to provide high speed, low-latency broadband to a wide range of customers across the globe. The company has finalized a total of 83 launches over a period of 5 years. Project Kuiper is an initiative by Amazon to launch a constellation of Low Earth Orbit satellites.

248. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a loan agreement of up to **USD 100 million** with French firm Louis Dreyfus Company B.V. (LDC) to support smallholder farmers recover from the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and improve their resilience to climate change impacts.

249. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (**IFSCA**) and **GVFL Limited** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation and collaboration to support and facilitate **FinTech ecosystem** in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).

250. Oil India Limited (OIL) has signed an Incubation Agreement with the Start-up **Ohm Clean Tech Private Limited** for Design, Integration and Development of **9-M Hydrogen Fuel Cell** powered e-Bus, and a **Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carrier (LOHC)** solution. The start-up will be mentored by **IIT-Guwahati**.

251. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (**BHEL**) and Railway Energy Management Company (**REMC**) Limited for the development of renewable energy projects for the Indian Railways.

252. As per the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the number of **domestic patent filing** has surpassed the number of international patent filing in January-March 2022 quarter. Of the total 19,796 patent applications filed, 10,706 were filed by Indian applicants and 9,090 by non-Indian applicants. The number of patent filings has been increased from 42,763 in 2014-15 to **66,440** in 2021-22 due to steps taken by the government to strengthen intellectual property rights (IPR) regime of the country.

253. The Government of India (GoI) and the **Asian Development Bank** have signed a **2 million dollar** Project Readiness Financing Loan agreement for designing climate-resilient urban infrastructure, strengthening institutional capacity, and improving municipal resource mobilization in 16 district headquarters towns in **Nagaland**. The aim is to improve urban infrastructure and services in the state.

254. The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and partners of the **Adaptation Innovation Marketplace (AIM)** have announced **USD 2.2 million** in climate action grants for 22 local innovators across 19 countries, including India.

- The first round of funding will be done through the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) window.
- This will enhance local climate action and accelerate the delivery of targets outlined in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

AIM is a strategic platform that promotes scaled-up adaptation at the local level, focusing on civil society, non-government organizations, and women and youth innovators. It was launched by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021.

255. **Arya.ag**, integrated grain commerce platform, has joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India, voluntarily conforming to universal sustainability principles and to support UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) by 2030.

256. India's gold imports have increased by **33.34%** to **USD 46.14 billion** during the fiscal year 2021-22. It was USD 34.62 billion in 2020-21. The increase in gold imports has contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to USD 192.41 billion, against USD 102.62 billion in 2020-21.

- India is the world's second-biggest gold consumer after China.
- The imports are largely driven by the jewellery industry.
- The gems and jewellery exports have increased by 50 percent to USD 39 billion during 2021-22.

- 257.** The **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)**, under the Ministry of Steel, has won a Gold and a Silver award in the **80th SKOCH Summit** and SKOCH Awards recently conducted by SKOCH, New Delhi. The theme for the SKOCH Summit is 'State of BFSI & PSUs'.
- NMDC has won the Gold Award in the category social responsibility for the project 'Promotion of Technical Education & Skill Development in Dantewada District through NMDC ITI Bhansi'.
 - NMDC has won the Silver Award in the category digital inclusion for the 'Project Kalpataru' for ERP implementation.

- 258. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has announced a **7-year** collaboration with **Microsoft** to help accelerate digital transformation and shape the future of innovation in the oil and gas industry. Through this collaboration, Microsoft will also integrate cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI) to help the oil and gas business optimize digitally.

- 259.** The **Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant**, which will be the largest in Asia, will have a treatment capacity of **564 million litres per day (MLD)**. It will be set up in Delhi and is expected to be completed by December 2022. This plant will play a major role in Yamuna River Cleaning Process.

Note: According to the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the total sanction cost of the Okhla STP is **Rs.665.78 crore**.

- 260.** The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** has tied up with **NTPC Limited** to design and develop a highly energy-efficient plant for CO₂ (carbon dioxide) capture from power plants.
- This technology works on flue gas which is a mixture of gases produced by the burning of fuel or other materials in power stations.
 - It consumes up to 11 percent less energy than the commercially activated MDEA (monoethanolamine) solvent and 31 percent less energy than the benchmark MEA (monoethanolamine) solvent, using a newly activated amine solvent (IITGS).

- 261. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a contract with the **Nigerian army** for imparting Phase-II flying training on Chetak Helicopter for six officers of Nigerian Army Aviation.
- As part of the training, 70 hrs flying training will be imparted for each Nigerian Army Aviation Officer.
 - The training has been scheduled from 11th April 2022 and is planned to be completed by December 2022.

262. NHPC Limited has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the district administration of **Chamba, Himachal Pradesh** for the development of green hydrogen technologies to produce hydrogen. This project will be executed by NHPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NHPC.

263. Oil India Limited (OIL) has successfully commissioned **India's first 99.999% pure Green Hydrogen pilot plant** at its Jorhat Pump Station in **Assam**.

- The plant has an installed capacity of 10 kg per day.
- The plant produces Green Hydrogen from the electricity generated by the existing 500kW Solar plant using a 100 kW Anion Exchange Membrane (AEM) Electrolyser array.
- The use of AEM technology is being used for the first time in India.
- This plant is expected to increase its production of green hydrogen from 10 kg per day to 30 kg per day in future.

OIL has also collaborated with IIT Guwahati on blending of Green Hydrogen with Natural Gas and its effect on the existing infrastructure of OIL.

264. Google has launched the '**Switch to Android**' app to enable users to transfer data from iPhone wirelessly using the Android handset as a hotspot. The app allows data transfer, including photos, videos, calendar events, and contacts stored locally. It also enables the transfer of data on iCloud directly to Google Drive.

265. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has amended the rules governing Nidhi companies or Mutual Benefit Society. The ministry has amended the **Nidhi Rules 2014** to safeguard the interest of general public. As per the amendment,

- A Public Company incorporated as a Nidhi with a share capital of **Rs.10 lakhs** needs to first get itself declared as a Nidhi from the Central Government by applying in form NDH-4 with a minimum membership of 200 and Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs.20 lakh within 120 days of its incorporation.
- The Promoters and Directors of the company have to meet the criteria of fit and proper person as laid down in the rules.
- In case no decision is conveyed by the Central Government within 45 days of the receipt of applications filed by companies in form NDH-4, approval would be deemed as granted. This would apply for such companies which shall be incorporated after Nidhi (Amendment) Rules, 2022.

Under the Companies Act, 2013, initially there was no need for a company to get declaration from Central Government to function as a Nidhi Company, but it is now made mandatory.

About Nidhi Company:

Under the Companies Act, 1956, a Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society meant a company which the Central Government declared as Nidhi or Mutual Benefit Society by notification in the official gazette. It is a kind of non-banking financial company (NBFC). The core business of Nidhi companies is borrowing and lending money between their members.

- 266.** The **Central Bank of the Russian Federation**, also known as the Bank of Russia, has launched a new payment system named **HELLO** to enable money transfer transactions. It is operated by Hello LLC and Transkapitalbank, a Russian commercial bank, will be the operator of the system's payment infrastructure.
- 267.** The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Insurance Academy (NIA)** to provide a skilled talent pool in the insurance sector. This MoU seeks to create the skilled manpower required for the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- 268.** **Apple** has recently tied up with **Applied Environmental Research Foundation (AERF)** and the **Conservation International** to protect a 2,400 hectare mangrove forest and local livelihoods that depend on it in **Raigad, Maharashtra**. This collaboration is a part of Apple's ongoing work to support communities most affected by climate change.
- 269.** **IIT Delhi** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) of **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** to encourage research on issues related to India's power sector and strengthen academic-industry interaction with the aim of knowledge sharing and capacity building through collaboration.
- 270.** **NSE IFSC Ltd**, a subsidiary of National Stock Exchange (NSE), has announced the launch of an **International Sustainability Platform** at GIFT City in Gujarat. This is a first of its kind ESG (environmental, social and governance) platform in India. It is expected to get operationalized in the second half of 2022.
- 271.** **NTPC Limited**, India's largest power utility, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Energy Vault Holdings, Inc.**, to collaborate and formalise a long-term strategic partnership for the deployment of Energy Vault's EVx™ gravity-based energy storage technology and software solutions based on the outcome of a joint feasibility study.

- 272.** Chennai-based **Veranda Learning Solutions** has signed an agreement to acquire **T.I.M.E.** (Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.), a leading test pre-institute in Hyderabad, for a cash consideration of **Rs.287 crore**.
- 273.** The **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** to implement the Agri Export Policy and strengthen the export value chain. The objective is to infuse and disseminate innovations in the fields of climate-resilient agriculture and zero-carbon farming to produce residue/carbon-free food for export in collaboration with APEDA.
- 274.** **Vishakha Mulye** has been appointed as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Aditya Birla Capital. She will succeed Ajay Srinivasan. She will join the Company on 1st June 2022, as Chief Executive Officer (Designate), with a one-month cross-over with Ajay Srinivasan to ensure a smooth transition of administration. She will take over as CEO of Aditya Birla Capital Limited when the transition period is complete. She is currently serving as the Executive Director of ICICI Bank.
- 275.** **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a contract with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** for co-development and co-production of Long Range Dual Band Infra-Red Search and Track System (IRST) for **Sukhoi** (Su-30 MKI) fighter jets. The contract has been signed under the MAKE-II procedure of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, as part of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- 276.** The **National Highways Logistic Management Limited (NHLML)** has signed an agreement with the **Ropeways and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation (RTDC)** for the development of seven ropeway projects for a total length of 57.1 kilometre in Kangra, Kullu, Chamba, Sirmour and Bilaspur districts at an estimated cost of Rs.2,264 crore in **Himachal Pradesh**. It will be developed under the Parvatmala Yojana.
- 277.** The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Equinor ASA**, the Norwegian state-owned multinational energy company, to collaborate in the field of upstream oil and gas, midstream, marketing and trading, besides exploring further options in low carbon fuel, renewables, carbon capture storage (CCS) as well as carbon capture utilization and sequestration (CCUS) opportunities in India. This MoU is valid for **two years**.

- 278. Flipkart** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state government of **West Bengal** to train and support local artisans, handicraft makers, and weavers. This partnership will enhance development of artisans, weavers, small businesses and MSMEs by providing access to opportunities that e-commerce enables.
- 279.** Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has tied up with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay** to co-research and develop green hydrogen technology.
- 280. Reliance Industries Limited** has become the first Indian company to hit the **Rs.19 lakh crore** market valuation mark in intra-day trade. The market heavyweight stock has raised 1.85 percent to its record high of Rs.2,827.10 during the day on the BSE. It finally settled flat at Rs 2,777.90, up 0.08 percent.

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- 281.** The platform will facilitate listing and trading a variety of sustainability products including green bonds, voluntary carbon, sustainable bonds, green real estate investment trusts (REITs), green equity, among others and channelize the flow of sustainable finance to India and other markets.

The GIFT city in Gujarat, which is a special economic zone, is India's first IFSC (International Financial Services Centre).

- 282. JCB India** has commissioned its new manufacturing unit at **Halol** near Vadodara, Gujarat. It has been inaugurated by the Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel and **British PM Boris Johnson** in the presence of the Chairman of JC Bamford Excavators, Lord Bamford. It is JCB's 6th factory in India. It has been set up at an investment of £100 million (over Rs 990 crore). It has been built on a 47-acre site. It will be capable of processing 85,000 tonnes of steel annually.

In April 2022, British Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** has visited India (Delhi & Gujarat) on the invitation of PM Narendra Modi. The following MoUs have been signed between both the nations:

- The MoU on Cooperation on **Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership** has been signed between India's Department of Atomic Energy and the UK's Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

- MoU on Implementation of **Global Innovation Partnership** has been signed between India's Ministry of External Affairs and UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- MoU on the creation of the Chevening /Adani Scholarships on Artificial Intelligence.
- Both the nations have signed a new **Defence Cooperation Agreement** for closer security ties and easier purchase of weapons.
- Both the nations have agreed to complete the **free trade agreement (FTA)** by October 2022.

283. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has signed formal shareholder agreement with **Abu Dhabi Chemicals Derivatives Company RSC Ltd (TA'ZIZ)** for the joint venture named 'TA'ZIZ EDC & PVC'. This joint venture will construct and operate a Chlor-Alkali, Ethylene Dichloride (EDC) and Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) production facility, with a total investment of over **USD 2 billion**.

BANKING & FINANCE

284. HDFC Bank has partnered with **Shoppers Stop**, India's leading fashion and beauty destination, to launch co-branded credit cards. The credit cards will be available for over 8 million "First Citizen" customers of Shoppers Stop along with HDFC Bank customers.

Objective: To provide an elevated shopping experience in a convenient manner.

The credit cards will be available in two categories:

- Shoppers Stop HDFC Bank Credit Card
- Shoppers Stop BLACK HDFC Bank Credit Card

285. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has made **Positive Pay System (PPS)** mandatory for the cheque of **Rs. 10 lakhs and above**. This is effective from 4th April 2022. The aim is to protect clients from large-value check fraud.

Positive Pay System (PPS): It is developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. In this, a customer issuing the high-value cheque has to reconfirm some essential details, which are cross-checked while presenting the cheque in clearing before payment. These details are to be shared with the bank at least 24 working hours before the cheque is presented for clearing.

PNB had introduced PPS for cheques of Rs. 50,000 and above presented in Cheque Truncation System (CTS) clearing from 1st January 2021.

286. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed a **Rs.25 lakh** fine on 5 entities for indulging in "non-genuine trades" in stock options on the Bombay Stock Exchange

(BSE). It has fined Rs.5 lakh each on Dhanwantri Suppliers Pvt Ltd, Dayanidhi Mercantile Pvt Ltd, Sanjay Agarwal HUF, Radhika Sarraf and Ankit Garg HUF.

- 287.** IFS **Vinay Mohan Kwatra**, who is currently serving as India's ambassador to Nepal, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary of India. He will succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will superannuate on 30th April 2022.
- He is a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.
 - He has also served in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office (PMO) from 2015 to 2017.
 - He also served as India's ambassador to France.
- 288. Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched its super app named '**UnionNXT**' as part of its digital transformation project "Sambhav" The objective is to focus on providing pre-approved personal loans, pensioner loans, Mudra loans, MSME loan auto-renewal services, and farmer loans auto-renewal services to customers. The lender aims to have 50 percent business originating on the digital platform by 2025.
- 289.** The **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has introduced **Demat Debit and Pledge Instruction (DDPI)** to replace Power of Attorney (PoA) for the purpose of pledging and repledging of stocks for margin purpose. This will come into effect from **1st July 2022**. It will be registered in the client demat account.
- 290.** SEBI has also barred the launch of **New Fund Offer (NFO)** or launching of fresh schemes by mutual funds until the mutual fund industry complies with SEBI's new norms. The deadline for meeting the norms is extended by 3 months from 1st April 2022 to 1st July 2022.
- 291.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a 6-member committee to strengthen governance norms at stock exchange and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- The 6-member committee will be chaired by **G Mahalingam**, former whole-time member of SEBI.
 - Other members: J N Gupta, MD of Stakeholders Empowerment Services; Aarti Nihalani, Partner, Oliver Wyman; Sandip Bhagat, Partner, S&R Associates; and Uttam Bagri, former chairman, BSE Brokers Forum, and MD and CEOs of stock exchanges NSE and BSE, and depositories NSDL and CDSL.
- 292. Bank of Baroda** has acquired a **21% stake** of Union Bank of India (UBI) in **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Ltd (IFLIC)**, a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Carmel Point Investments, for a cash consideration of Rs.766.29 crore.

- With this, Bank of Baroda will now hold a 65% stake, Carmel Point Investments India will hold a 26% stake and Union Bank of India will hold a 9% stake in IFLIC.
- Earlier, UBI owned a 30% stake in IFLIC as a result of its acquisition of Andhra Bank.

293. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Border Security Force (BSF)** to provide special benefits to the serving and retired BSF personnel and family pensioners through the Central Armed Police Salary Package (CAPSP) Scheme.

294. Aegon Life Insurance Company, a digital life insurance company, has collaborated with **Ahalia Finforex**, a Kerala-based diversified financial services firm, to provide life insurance cover to the unorganized and unserved segments residing in tier 2, tier 3, and tier 4 cities.

295. HDFC Bank has been named the Best Performing Bank in Self-Help Group (SHG) Linkage by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM). It is the only private sector bank to be honoured with the award for their contribution in SHGs by NRLM.

- As of February 2022, the HDFC bank has offered advances of more than **Rs.1000 crore** under the NRLM.
- The lender has also signed a MoU with the State Rural Livelihood Mission of 6 states: **Assam, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Maharashtra.**

296. The board of directors of **HDFC (Housing Development Finance Corporation) Limited** has approved the merger of HDFC Investments Limited and HDFC Holdings Limited with HDFC Limited, and HDFC Ltd with **HDFC Bank.**

- This merger will be completed by **FY24.**
- After the merger, HDFC Bank will be 100% owned by public shareholders, and existing shareholders of HDFC Limited will own **41%** of the stake in HDFC Bank.
- For every 25 equity shares held by HDFC shareholders, they will receive 42 equity shares of the combined company per the share exchange ratio.

297. PNB Housing Finance has tied up with **Nabet India** to launch an exclusive women's health and wellness initiative. Under this initiative, Nabet India will promote livelihood for women particularly in rural areas, and will also promote health and wellness to improve their quality of life.

In this initiative, Nabet India will manufacture sanitary napkins at its own facility and make them available for working women, school/college going girls and villagers in need.

298. Asset management company Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund has appointed **Anthony Heredia** as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with effect from 1st April 2022. He has succeeded Ashutosh Bishnoi, who retired on 31st March 2022.

299. Citigroup has announced that **Axis Bank** has acquired Citibank's India consumer banking business for a cash consideration of **USD 1.6 billion (Rs 12,325 crores)**.

- The transaction includes the sale of the consumer banking business of Citibank India, which includes credit cards, retail banking, and wealth management and consumer loans.
- It also includes the sale of the consumer business of Citi's non-banking financial company (NBFC) Citicorp Finance (India) Limited.

Note: Citigroup had entered India in 1902 and started the consumer banking business in 1985.

300. Indian Overseas Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Software Technology Parks of India (STPI)** and **AIC STPINEXT Initiatives** (a Section 8 company of STPI) to support the bank in leveraging innovation through the financial technologies engaged under the FinBlue initiative.

The FinBlue initiative by STPI is an integrated programme to start-ups to scale through its incubation facility.

301. The **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** has signed an agreement with the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** to strengthen inter-regulatory exchange of information, technical cooperation, and supervisory collaboration.

302. The Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), **Madhabi Puri Buch** has launched the ideathon '**Manthan**', to promote innovations in the securities market.

- It has been organized for a period of six-week in collaboration with NSE, BSE, CDSL, NSDL, CAMS, Kfintech, MCX, and LinkInTime.
- This ideathon will help in the creation of various innovative solutions as well as ideas that will revolve around the country's securities market.

303. ICICIdirect has collaborated with **CoverStack**, a digital B2B platform for insurance services, to provide insurance products on the platform. This collaboration will allow more than 7 million customers of ICICIdirect to search, customize, compare, and buy the most suitable insurance plans for health and motor insurance, by comparing quotes and features from multiple insurance firms easily.

304. The **Union Bank of India** has signed an agreement for sale of its **8 percent** stake in **India SME Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (ISARC)** in favour of Dhansamridhi Finance.

- ISARC is the country's first Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) which was set up in 2008.
- It is sponsored by SIDBI, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and SIDBI Venture Capital Ltd.

- 305. Axis Bank** has signed a Partial Guarantee Facility Agreement (PGFA) with the **Asian Development Bank** to support supply chain financing for impact sectors, especially ESG (environmental, social, and governance) and priority sectors. It has been signed with an initial outlay of **USD 150 million**.
- 306.** Bangalore-based **Social Alpha**, a popular innovation curation & venture development platform for tech start-ups, has collaborated with **DBS Bank India** to address the global issue of food waste through sustainable solutions.
- Under this collaboration, there will be **Techtonic Innovations Towards Zero Food Waste**, a two-year program, presented by DBS and powered by Social Alpha, to identify innovative and scalable solutions by entrepreneurs to help reduce quantitative and qualitative food loss and waste across food systems and agri-food value chains.
- 307.** The **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched a new deposit scheme named '**Vikas Siri Sampat-1111**'. The scheme is of limited tenor of 1,111 days with interest rate of 5.70% for general public and 6.20 % for senior citizens. Under the scheme, a minimum of Rs.10,000 and a maximum of Rs.2 crore can be deposited.
- 308.** The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has amended regulations pertaining to **voluntary liquidation** process in order to fast track the process.
- Major Amendments:**
- The timeline for completion has reduced from 12 months to **90 days/270 days** depending upon claims from creditors.
 - Introduced a compliance certificate (**a new Form H**) similar to the one provided under corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) regulations and liquidation regulations. It will contain a summary of the entire voluntary liquidation process.
 - A liquidator is needed to distribute the proceeds from realisation within **30 days** to the stakeholders as opposed to the earlier norm of six months.
- 309. Tata AIA Life Insurance** has partnered with **Common Services Centres (CSC)**, under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, to boost insurance penetration in rural areas by engaging its network of over 4 lakhs Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) at the last mile for distribution of life insurance plan.

- 310. Bank of Maharashtra** has decided to sell its entire **4%** stake, equivalent to 40,00,000 equity shares, in **India SME Asset Reconstruction Company (ISARC)** for a cash consideration for Rs.3.92 crore. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of December 2022.
- 311.** Dubai-based Mashreq NEO, a full-service digital bank from Mashreq Bank, has collaborated with **Federal Bank** to facilitate Mashreq Neo's Indian customers to open a Non-Resident accounts with the Federal Bank in India, instantly via the Neo app.
- 312. ICICI Bank** has tied up with **KredX**, India's largest supply chain finance company, to provide 'ICICI Bank - KredX Commercial Card' for **B2B (business-to-business) payments**. It is a first-of-its-kind cashback card that enables businesses to avail financial rewards instantly for all B2B payments, without incurring any additional cost.
- 313.** IndusInd Bank's '**Indus Merchant Solutions**' app, a flagship mobile application for merchants, has been awarded the 'Outstanding Digital CX - SME Payments' in the **Digital CX Awards 2022**.
- Indus Merchant Solutions App was launched in November 2021 to enable merchants, retailers, and professionals to undertake various activities such as accept instant cashless payments on mobile phones, track inventory via in-built dashboards, etc.
 - The Digital CX Awards, is organised by Digital Banker, a globally trusted financial news service provider.
- 314.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted two separate expert groups to examine the roles, eligibility criteria, and functions of sponsors and trustees at asset management companies (AMCs).
- The working group on sponsors will be chaired by **Balasubramanian**, MD & CEO, Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC.
 - The working group on MF trustees will be chaired by **Manoj Vaish**, Independent Trustee, Mirae MF.
- 315.** The **Bandhan Financial Holding Limited (BFHL)**-led consortium has signed an agreement to acquire **IDFC Asset Management Company (AMC)** and **IDFC AMC Trustee Company** for **Rs.4500 crore**.
- The consortium led by BFHL also includes private equity firm ChrysCapital and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC.
 - BFHL will own 60% of the AMC, while ChrysCapital and GIC will each own 20%.
 - BFHL is the holding company of private sector lender Bandhan Bank.

- 316. GIFT SEZ** (special economic zone) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ICICI Bank** to promote the GIFT SEZ to Indian as well as global businesses, particularly in the areas of Information Technology (IT), IT-enabled services (ITeS), and financial services. GIFT SEZ is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) located at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- 317. Union Bank of India (UBI)** has announced to buy a **75%** stake held jointly by Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in **India International Bank Malaysia (IIBM)**. Following this, the IIBM will become a 100% UBI unit.
- 318. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched a new digital platform named '**Kotak FYN**' exclusively for business banking and corporate customers. It is a one-stop corporate digital portal to provide customers with a seamless experience in a unified view across all product platforms. The portal assures paperless transactions and the facility to track end-to-end transactions.
- 319. IndusInd Bank** has won the '**Celent Model Bank**' award under the 'Payments System Transformation' category for building a best-in-class Enterprise Payments Hub (EPH). The award recognises best practices of using technology in different areas that are critical for banking.
- 320.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised **USD 500 million** through a 3-year syndicated loan facility, via its International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City branch. The facility is for USD 400 million-plus USD 100 million as a green shoe option.
- 321. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**, a 100% government owned entity under Department of Posts (DoP), has launched Fincluvation. It is a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.
- Under this initiative, startups are being invited to participate, ideate, develop and market intuitive and tailored products and services that can be taken to the customers.
 - Startups will be encouraged to develop solutions aligned to tracks such as creditisation, digitisation, and any market-led solution that can help solve a problem relevant to IPPB or DoP in serving the target customers.
- 322.** The State Bank of India (SBI) has raised the **Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR)** by 10 basis points (bps) across tenor. This has been done for the first time in three

years. This will lead to increase in EMI for those borrowers who have availed loans on MCLR. The revised MCLR rate is effective from 15th April 2022.

About MCLR:

It was introduced by RBI on **1st April 2016**. It is the lowest interest rate that a bank or lender can offer. It is applicable to fresh corporate loans and floating rate loans taken before October 2019.

RBI then switched to the external benchmark linked lending rate (EBLR) system where lending rate is linked to benchmark rates like repo or Treasury Bill rates.

323. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its **Advisory Committee for Leveraging Regulatory and Technology Solutions (ALeRTS)**. The 7-member Advisory committee will now be headed by **Sunil Bajpai**, former Principal Advisor (Information Technology) at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

- The seven-member committee was set-up by SEBI in December 2021.
- It was earlier chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch, current chief of SEBI.

Members: Puneet Narang, head of corporate banking technology India at Deutsche Bank; Girish Keshav Palshikar, Principal Scientist at TCS Research and Innovation; Ratnakar Pandey, Senior Data Scientist at Amazon; Rohan Rao, Senior Data Scientist at H2O.ai; Subir Saha, Head of Compliance at ICICI Group and Harini Balaji CGM, ISD at SEBI.

324. HDFC Limited has signed a pact to sell **10%** of the share capital of HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd (HDFC Capital) to a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for a cash consideration of **Rs.184 crore**.

- ADIA is the primary investor in the alternative investment funds managed by HDFC Capital.
- HDFC Capital is a real estate private equity investment manager. It was established in 2015 as a 100% subsidiary of HDFC Ltd.

325. **Fino Payments Bank** has acquired a **12.19%** stake in New Delhi-based fintech **Paysprint** Pvt Ltd. This strategic investment is a first for Fino Payments Bank after its public listing.

326. Jaipur-based **121 Finance** has become **India's first fintech-led NBFC-Factor** to receive the Certificate of Registration under Registration of Factors (Reserve Bank) Regulations, 2022. It is the first NBFC to convert from an Investment and Credit Company (ICC) to an NBFC Factor.

About NBFC-Factor:

It is a NBFC fulfilling the Principal Business Criteria (PBC) i.e. whose financial assets in the factoring business constitute at least 50% of its total assets and its income derived from

factoring business is not less than 50% of its gross income. It should also have a minimum Net Owned Funds (NOF) of Rs.5 crore.

327. The Central Government has increased the authorised share capital of three public sector general insurance companies named National Insurance Company Limited, Oriental Insurance Company Limited and United India Insurance Company. This will facilitate capital infusion of Rs.5, 000 crore in these companies.

Raised Authorized Capital:

- National Insurance Company: **Rs.15,000 crore** (1,500 crore shares with face value of Rs.10 each) as against present Rs.7,500 crore.
- Oriental Insurance Company: **Rs.7,500 crore** (750 crore shares with face value of Rs.10 each) as against present Rs.5,000 crore.
- United India Insurance Company: **Rs.7,500 crore** (750 crore shares with face value of Rs.10 each) as against present Rs.5,000 crore.

328. PhonePe has collaborated with **Extreme IX** to enable faster digital payments to over 370 million PhonePe users. This collaboration will help decrease latency for PhonePe users irrespective of their location or Internet Service Providers (ISP) in India. With this, PhonePe has become the first digital payments platform to participate in an Internet Exchange in India.

329. London-based **Nexo**, a crypto lender, has partnered with global payments company **Mastercard** and Di-Pocket to launch the world's first 'crypto-backed' payment card named 'Nexo Card'. This card allows users to spend without having to sell their digital assets such as bitcoin, which are used as collateral to back the credit granted.

330. The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the establishment of the **Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST)** to help countries build resilience to external shocks and ensure sustainable growth, contributing to their long-term balance of payments stability. It will come into effect on **1st May 2022**. It will be a loan-based trust, with resources mobilized on a voluntary basis.

331. Dhanlaxmi Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for the collection of direct and indirect taxes. With this agreement, the customers of the bank will be able to pay their direct taxes and GST payments, and other indirect taxes through the branch network and digital platforms of the bank.

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- 332.** The **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has imposed penalties totalling **Rs.40 lakh** on four entities for failing to comply with the provisions of the Companies Act and public issue norms. The regulator has imposed a fine of Rs.10 lakh each on HPC Biosciences Limited, Tarun Chauhan, Madhu Anand and Arun Kumar Gupta.
- SEBI has also imposed a fine of Rs.5 lakh on Ashish Pandey, who was the CFO of Ricoh India and company secretary of FDSL in 2017-18, for violation of market norms in the matter of Ricoh India Ltd.
 - In another separate order, SEBI has imposed a fine of Rs.5 lakh on Darshann Kayan over non-genuine trades in illiquid stock options on BSE.
- 333.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the listing time for REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts) from 12 days to **6 days**. This will be applicable from 1st June 2022. Both REITs and InvITs are investment vehicles similar to mutual funds, wherein sponsors/managers pool money from investors.
- As of March 2021, a total of 15 InvITs and 4 REITs have been registered. Of these, six InvITs and 3 REITs are listed on the stock exchanges.
- 334.** NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the International arm of the National Payment Corporation of India has announced that **BHIM UPI** has become operational at NEOPAY terminals across the **UAE**. With this, Indian tourists can now make seamless payments through BHIM UPI across NEOPAY enabled shops and merchant stores.
- NEOPAY is the payment subsidiary of Mashreq bank, UAE.
- 335.** The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has approved **Rs.600 crore** to the state government of Maharashtra to revive and upgrade various ITIs or Polytechnics under the SIDBI Cluster Development Fund (SCDF). These ITIs /Polytechnics complement the MSME cluster in the state.
- 336.** **ICICI Bank** has launched India's '**open-for-all**' digital ecosystem for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India. The ecosystem is supported by 3 pillars:
- A wide range of added-value services for everyone.
 - A variety of banking services to MSMEs who are customers of other banks.
 - Enhanced banking services for existing customers.

This facility can be used by downloading the new InstaBIZ app, a business app, of ICICI Bank. The most essential of these services is InstaOD Plus, which provides an instant and paperless overdraft (OD) facility up to Rs.25 lakh. InstaOD Plus is an industry-first offering that allows customers of any bank to obtain an overdraft instantly.

- 337. FinMapp**, a fintech firm, has partnered with **Bajaj Finance** to launch a fixed deposit feature on its application by adding a new icon for an improved customer experience. FinMapp offers an interest rate of 7.35% on the FD of app users.
- 338.** Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a new feature named '**bob World Gold**' on its bob World mobile banking platform for **seniors** and the **elderly**. It is a one-of-a-kind digital banking platform that caters specifically to this demographic, offering a simple, seamless, and secure mobile banking experience.
- 339.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its **Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)** which recommends policy measures pertaining to areas like securities market data access and privacy.
- The committee will be chaired by **M S Sahoo**, Professor at National Law University, Delhi and former chairperson, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
 - The committee will now have **21 members** (earlier 20).
 - The committee also includes CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.
- 340. Suryoday Small Finance Bank** has tied up with New York-based **Kyndryl**, an IT infrastructure provider, for a period of **5 years**. The objective is to improve operational efficiency, and increase digital banking adoption among its customers. Under this partnership, Kyndryl will provide advisory and implementation services to the bank to deploy and support a new core banking system and integrate with digital channels to deliver an agile banking platform.
- 341. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has partnered with **SBI Cards and Payments Services Ltd.**, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, to boost SBI Card's digital transformation journey. It will also enable SBI Card to further expand its e-card issuance, delighting end customers and giving it a competitive edge in the market.
- 342.** The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (WBSIDCL)** to develop the MSME ecosystem in West Bengal. The aim is to enhance

cooperation between the state government and SIDBI to further accelerate the development of MSMEs in West Bengal in a structured and planned manner.

343. Airtel Payments Bank has joined hands with **IndusInd Bank** to provide Fixed Deposit (FD) facility for its customers. The payments bank's customers can open FDs starting from Rs.500 up to Rs.1.9 lakh in few minutes through a digital process on the Airtel Thanks mobile application. With this, the savings account customers of Airtel Payments Bank will get a yearly interest rate of up to 6.5% and senior citizens will get an additional 0.5% on all fixed deposits.

- Airtel Payments Bank was launched in January 2017 by Bharti Airtel, India's largest telecom provider. It is India's first Payments Bank. The present MD&CEO is Anubrata Biswas.

RBI IN NEWS

344. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has maintained status quo on key rates in its **first bi-monthly policy statement for FY23 (April 2022-March 2023)**. It has been decided to continue with the '**accommodative stance**' to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy and to revive and sustain growth on a durable basis. The meeting has been held from 6th April to 8th April 2022.

Policy rates as of April 2022	
Repo rate	4%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	4.25%
Bank Rate	4.25%
Reserves Ratio as of April 2022	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

Note- The next meeting of the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to be held during **June 6 to 8, 2022**.

Other Decisions:

- RBI has projected India's GDP to expand by **7.2%** in **FY23** (7.8% estimated earlier). Q1 FY23: 16.2%, Q2 FY23: 6.2%, Q3 FY23: 4.1%, Q4 FY23: 4%
- CPI inflation for FY23 is forecasted at **5.7%** (4.5% estimated earlier).
- RBI has increased commercial bank's Held to Maturity (HTM) limit from the existing 22% to **23%** of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) till **23rd March 2023**.
- RBI has also proposed to extend the rationalized home loan norms by another year till 31st March 2023.

- 345.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** at an interest rate of **3.75 percent**. It is a financial stability tool for absorbing liquidity without any collateral.
- **Objective:** To reduce the excess liquidity of Rs 8.5 lakh crore in the system, and control inflation.
 - The SDF will replace the fixed-rate reverse repo (FRRR) as the floor of the liquidity adjustment facility corridor.
 - Both the standing facilities: the MSF (marginal standing facility) and the SDF will be available on all days of the week, throughout the year.
- 346.** As per the latest RBI data, a total of 27 scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions have reported 96 cases of fraud, involving a total amount of **Rs.34,097 crore** in the nine months of FY22 (April - December 2021).
- **Punjab National Bank** has recorded the highest value of frauds worth **Rs.4,820 crore** with 10 frauds.
 - **Bank of India** has recorded the highest number of frauds at **13** with the value of Rs. 3,925.
- 347.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the timeline for banks to use **lockable cassettes** in ATMs which can be swapped at the time of cash replenishment by one year to **31st March 2023**. Earlier, the deadline was 31st March 2022. Currently, most of the ATMs are replenished by way of open cash top-up or by loading cash in the machines on the spot.
- 348.** The Reserve Bank of India has recently set a **3-years** of the deadline for non-individual borrowers with aggregate exposures of Rs 5 crore or more to obtain **Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)** codes. With this, Non-individual borrowers with exposures of Rs 5 crore or more from banks and financial institutions will get LEI code on or before 30th April 2025, with exposure between Rs 10 to 25 crore will get code on or before 30th April 2024, with exposure above Rs 25 crore will get code on or before 30th April 2023.
- Departments/agencies of Central and State Governments (not Public Sector Undertakings registered under the Companies Act or established as Corporation under the relevant statute) are exempted from this provision.
 - **LEI** is a **20-character alpha-numeric code** used to uniquely identify parties to financial transactions worldwide. It is being implemented to improve the quality and accuracy of financial data reporting systems for better risk management.

- 349.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed several restrictions on Bengaluru-based **Shushruti Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamita** for a period of **six months** due to decline in the lender's financial position. RBI has also imposed a withdrawal cap of **Rs.5000** of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor.
- 350.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all **Non-Banking Financial Companies in the Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)** and **Middle Layer (NBFC-ML)** to have compliance function by **1st April 2023** and the appointment of a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO) by **1st October 2023**.
- The CCO will act as a nodal point of contact between the NBFC and the regulators / supervisors and must participate in the discussions held with RBI.
 - The CCO will be appointed for a minimum fixed tenure of not less than 3 years. However, in exceptional cases, the Board may relax the minimum tenure by one year.
- 351.** The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines for banks to set up 24*7 **Digital Banking Units (DBUs)** in order to provide products and services in both self-served and assisted mode.
- As per the guidelines, scheduled commercial banks with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs in Tier 1 to Tier 6 centres without having the need to take permission from Reserve Bank of India in each case.
 - The DBUs of the banks will be treated as Banking Outlets.

About DBU:

A DBU is a specialised fixed point business unit / hub housing certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products & services. The objective of a DBU is expansion of digital financial services and financial inclusion.

The Union Budget 2022-23 has announced to set up 75 DBUs in 75 districts to commemorate the 75 years of independence of our country.

- 352.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State Governments/UTs from Rs.51,560 crore to **Rs.47,010 crore** with effect from 1st April 2022.
- WMA is the temporary loan facility given by the RBI to the Central and State Governments. It is introduced to meet mismatches in receipts and payments of the respective governments.
 - The limit for WMA for the Government of India has been set at **Rs.1,50,000 crore** for H1 of FY23.
 - These limits are recommended by the Advisory Committee on Ways and Means Advances to State Governments (Chairman: Sudhir Shrivastava).

- The Special Drawing Facility (SDF) availed by state governments/ UTs shall continue to be linked to the quantum of their investments in marketable securities issued by the Government of India, including Auction Treasury Bills (ATBs).
- Interest rate on SDF, WMA and OD (Overdraft) shall continue to be linked to the policy rate of the Reserve Bank i.e., the Repo Rate. Interest will be charged for all the days the advance remains outstanding.

353. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on capital requirements for **Non-Banking Financial Companies - Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)**.

- NBFCs-Upper Layer should maintain Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1) ratio of at least **9%** of risk weighted assets as compared to 5.5% for banks.
- This is applicable to all NBFCs identified as NBFCUL, except core investment companies (CICs).
- The guidelines released in October 2021 will be effective from October 2022.

About NBFC-UL:

NBFCs which are specifically identified by the Reserve Bank as warranting enhanced regulatory requirement based on a set of parameters and scoring methodology. The top ten eligible NBFCs in terms of their asset size shall always reside in the upper layer, irrespective of any other factor.

Additional Information:

In April 2022, RBI has also notified Large Exposures Framework (LEF) for NBFC-UL. These exposures limit are in line with the commercial banks. These norms will come into effect from **1st October 2022**.

(as % of eligible capital base)		
Category	NBFC-UL (Other than Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC))	NBFC-UL (IFC)
Single Counterparty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% • Additional 5% with Board approval. • Additional 5% if exposure towards Infrastructure loan/investment. <p>(Single counterparty limit shall not exceed 25% in any case)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% • Additional 5% with Board approval
Group of connected Counterparties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% • Additional 10% if exposure towards Infrastructure loan/investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35%

354. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.17.63 lakh** on **Manappuram Finance Limited** for violating direction on KYC norms. The penalty has been

imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.

- Recently, RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.93 lakh** on **Axis Bank** and **Rs.90 lakh** on **IDBI Bank**.

355. The Reserve Bank of India has issued new directions for governing debit and credit cards and introduced penalties for banks for issuing or upgrading cards of customers without prior consent.

Key directions:

- NBFCs will need special RBI permission to issue credit, debit or charge cards virtually or physically with a minimum net owned fund of **Rs.100 crore**.
- Banks with a net worth of Rs.100 crore and above are permitted to undertake credit card business either independently or in tie-up arrangement with other card issuing banks/NBFCs.
- Urban cooperative banks (UCBs) with minimum networth of Rs.100 crore and a core banking solution in place can also issue credit cards after RBI approval.
- These directions will be effective from **1st July 2022** to every Scheduled Bank (excluding Payments Banks, State Co-operative Banks and District Central Co-operative Banks) and all NBFCs operating in India.

356. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs 1.12 crore** on **Bank of Maharashtra** for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions, including those for know your customer norms.

Other penalty imposed by RBI:

- RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs.25 lakh** on Haryana State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited for non-compliance with its directions on Housing Finance.
- RBI has also imposed a penalty of **Rs.12 lakh** on Rajkot Nagar Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with 'Interest Rate on Deposits'.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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357. The **64th Grammy Awards 2022** has been held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. It has been presented by the Recording Academy to recognize achievements in the music industry.

S. No.	Category	Winners
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1.	Album Of The Year	'We Are' by Jon Batiste
2.	Record Of The Year	'Leave the door open' by Bruno Mars and Anderson Paak
3.	Best New Artist	Olivia Rodrigo
4.	Best Rap Album	"Call Me If You Get Lost," Tyler, the Creator
5.	Best R&B Album Winner	"Heaux Tales," Jazmine Sullivan.
6.	Best Rap Song	"Jail," Kanye West featuring Jay-Z
7.	Best Country Album	"Starting Over," Chris Stapleton
8.	Song Of The Year	"Leave the Door Open," Silk Sonic (Brandon Anderson, Christopher Brody Brown, Dernst Emile II and Bruno Mars)
9.	Best Rock Album	"Medicine at Midnight," Foo Fighters
10.	Best Rock Song	"Waiting On a War," Foo Fighters
11.	Best Dance/Electronic Album	"Subconsciously," Black Coffee
12.	Producer of the Year, non-classical:	Jack Antonoff
13.	Best Music Video	"Freedom," Jon Batiste
14.	Best Country Song	"Cold," Chris Stapleton
15.	Best Folk Album	"They're Calling Me Home," Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi
16.	Best Comedy Album	"Sincerely Louis CK," Louis C.K.
17.	Best Rap Performance	"Family Ties," Baby Keem featuring Kendrick Lamar
18.	Best Rock Performance	"Making a Fire," Foo Fighters
19.	Best Music Film	"Summer of Soul"
20.	Best Musical Theatre Album	"The Unofficial Bridgerton Musical"

21.	Best Global Music	"Mohabbat," Arooj Aftab (Pakistani-American vocalist)
22.	Best Global Music Album	"Mother Nature," Angélique Kidjo
23.	Best Children's Music Album Award	"A Colorful World", Falguni Shah (Indian-American singer)
24.	Best Pop Duo / Group Performance	Doja Cat and SZA for "Kiss Me More"
25.	Best American Roots Performance	"Cry," Jon Batiste

- 358.** Mumbai-based journalist **Aarefa Johari** has won the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Mediaperson 2021. She works for Scroll in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- 359.** Noted poet and litterateur Prof **Ramdarash Mishra** (Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh) will be honoured with the prestigious **Saraswati Samman 2021** for his collection of poems 'Mein to Yahan Hun'. The recipient is chosen by a selection committee, whose current head is Dr Subhash C Kashyap.
- 360.** A photograph titled '**Kamloops Residential School**' by Canadian photographer **Amber Bracken** has won the **2022 World Press Photo of the Year Award**. The photo shows children's clothing hung on crosses commemorating the more than 200 children who died of maltreatment, neglect and disease at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.
- Other winners:**
- **World Press Photo Story of the Year Award:** Saving Forests with Fire by Matthew Abbott, Australia, for National Geographic/Panos Pictures
 - **World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award:** Amazonian Dystopia by Lalo de Almeida, Brazil, for Folha de São Paulo/Panos Pictures
 - **World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award:** Blood is a Seed by Isadora Romero, Ecuador
- 361.** Veteran Bengali author **Amar Mitra** has been conferred the prestigious **O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction 2022**. He has been awarded for his short story titled 'Gaonburo'- a Bengali short fiction, which was translated into English (The Old Man of Kusumpur) by Anish Gupta.

O. Henry Prize was started in 1919 to honour the memory of the acclaimed writer, O. Henry. The prize is the oldest major award for short fiction in America.

362. The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, has bestowed the **Sangeet Natak Awards** and the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship** for the year 2018 to **43** eminent artists (4 Fellows and 40 awardees).

Recipients of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship:

- Sonal Mansingh
- Jatin Goswami
- Zakir Hussain
- Thiruvaidaimarudur Kuppiah Kalyanasundaram

The Fellowships and National Awards of the **Lalit Kala Akademi** for the year 2021 have also been presented to 23 people (3 Fellows and 20 National Awards).

Recipients of the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship:

- Jyoti Bhatt
- Himmat Shah
- Shyam Sharma

363. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will be honoured with the inaugural **Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award** at the upcoming Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards ceremony. He will receive the award on 24th April to mark the 80th death anniversary of Master Deenanath Mangeshkar, the father of Lata Mangeshkar.

The Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Puraskar will be given annually to only one individual who has made path-breaking, spectacular and exemplary contributions to the nation, its people and society. It has been started in the honour and memory of Lata Mangeshkar.

Other awardees:

- Veteran actors **Asha Parekh** and **Jackie Shroff** will receive the Master Deenanath Puraskar (special honour) for their "dedicated services in the field of cinema".
- **Rahul Deshpande** will receive the Master Deenanath Puraskar for Indian music, while the best drama award will go to the play, "**Sanjay Chaya**".
- Master Deenanath Puraskar (Anandmayee Puraskar) will be given to **Nutan Mumbai** tiffin box suppliers charity trust for its "dedicated services in the field of social service".

364. Founder and CEO of Nykaa, **Falguni Nayar** has been named the **EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2021**. She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) on 9th June 2022 in Monaco.

Other Awardees:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** AM Naik, Group Chairman, Larsen & Toubro
- **Start-up:** Vidit Aatrey, co-founder & CEO and Sanjeev Barnwal, co-founder & CTO, Fashnear Technology (Meesho)
- **Business Transformation:** Abhay Soi, Chairman and Managing Director, Max Healthcare
- **Manufacturing:** Sunil Vachani, Founder and Executive Chairman, Dixon Technologies
- **Services:** Sahil Barua, Co-founder and CEO, Delhivery
- **Consumer Products & Retail:** Shiv Kishan Agarwal, Chairman; and Manohar Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director respectively, Haldiram Group
- **Life Sciences & Healthcare:** Dr. Satyanarayana Chava, Founder and CEO, Laurus Labs
- **Financial Services:** Harshil Mathur, Co-founder and CEO; and Shashank Kumar, Co-founder and CTO, Razorpay
- **Technology, Media and Telecom:** Girish Mathrubootham, Co-founder and CEO, Freshworks
- **Entrepreneurial CEO:** Vivek Vikram Singh, Managing Director and Group CEO, Sona Comstar

365. Hyderabad and Mumbai have won the tag of '**2021 Tree City of the World**' by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. They have been recognized for their "commitment to growing and maintaining urban trees and greenery in building healthy, resilient and happy cities".

- Hyderabad has been recognised for a second consecutive year. It was first recognized in 2020.
- 136 other cities from 21 countries have been recognised in the third edition of the Tree City of the World list.

366. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has presented the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2021 to **Dr Bhushan Kumar** of Chandigarh under the individual category and **Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat** under the institutional category at a function in New Delhi. Both the winners have been working diligently to raise awareness about leprosy and in providing care to those afflicted with it. The annual award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.

367. White Ferns skipper **Sophie Devine** has won the 'T20 International Women's Player of the Year' award and New Zealand speedster **Trent Boult** has won the 'T20 International Men's Player of the Year' award at the **New Zealand Cricket Awards 2022**.

Other awardees:

Category	Winners
Sir Richard Hadlee Medal	Tim Southee

(Highest cricketing honour of New Zealand (Black Cap))	
Women's Super-Smash Player of the Year	Amelia Kerr (Wellington Blaze)
Men's Super-Smash Player of the Year	Michael Bracewell (Wellington Firebirds)
Fan Moment of the Summer	Ross Taylor's final wicket in his last Test
International Women's ODI Player of the Year	Amelia Kerr (Wellington Blaze)
International Men's ODI Player of the Year	Will Young (Central Stags)
Redpath Cup for first-class batting	Devon Conway (Wellington Firebirds)
Ruth Martin Cup for women's domestic batting	Suzie Bates (Otago Sparks)
Winsor Cup for first-class bowling	Tim Southee (Northern Districts)
Phyl Blackler Cup for women's domestic bowling	Eden Carson (Otago Sparks)
New Zealand Umpire of the Year	Chris Gaffaney

368. Renowned Indian economist and political commentator **Prabhat Patnaik** (Odisha) has been selected for the **2022 Malcom Adiseshiah Award**. The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust to an outstanding social scientist selected from nominations received by a specially constituted national jury. The award comprises a citation and prize money of Rs.2 lakh.

369. The 12th edition of the AIMA Managing India Awards 2021 has been held in Delhi. Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Highways, has presented the award.

Shoojit Sircar has won the Director of the Year award for the film '*Sardar Udham*'. This award is given to those directors "who have created a masterpiece that is path-breaking and is worth watching over and over again.

Other winners:

- **N Chandrasekaran:** Transformational Business Leader
- **Anil Agarwal:** Corporate Citizen Award
- **Sunil Bharti Mittal:** Outstanding Institution Builder
- **Adar Poonawalla:** Business Leader of the Year
- **Shekhar Gupta:** Lifetime Contribution to Media
- **ISRO:** Outstanding PSU of the Year
- **Serum Institute of India:** Indian MNC of the Year
- **Nestle India:** MNC in India of the Year
- **Satyanaryana Chava:** Emerging Business Leader of the Year
- **Palki Sharma Upadhyay and Shereen Bhan:** Outstanding Contribution to Media
- **Harsh Jain and Bhavit Sheth:** Young Entrepreneur Award

370. Indian-American chief executive of General Atomics Global Corporation **Vivek Lall** has been selected for the prestigious 6th Entrepreneur Leadership Awards 2022 by the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC). He has been selected under the 'Global Leader in Defence and Aviation Sector' category to recognize his contribution to the defence sector.

371. The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has announced that Sir **David Attenborough** (UK) has won the **Champions of the Earth Award 2021** under the **Lifetime Achievement** category, for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

Other Winners of the Champions of the Earth Award 2021:

- Maria Kolesnikova (Kyrgyzstan) under the Entrepreneurial vision category.
- Mia Mottley (Barbados) under the Policy leadership category.
- Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka (Uganda) under the Science & Technology category.
- Sea Women of Melanesia (Papua New Guinea & Solomon Islands) under the Inspiration and Action category.

372. The **National Mineral Development Corporation Limited** (NMDC) has swepted the **Public Relations Awards 2022** conferred by Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) by winning the first position in four categories. The entity has been conferred with this honour for their Corporate Website, Annual Report, Layout and Design of Newsletter, and CSR Corporate Video.

373. Renowned snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist **Charudutt Mishra** has won the prestigious **Whitley Gold Award 2022** for his contribution to involving indigenous communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems. This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) Award. He got the first in 2005. He is the Executive Director of the International Snow Leopard Trust and Co-Founder of India's Nature Conservation Foundation.

374. The Laureus World Sports Awards 2021 has been announced recently. The award honours individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2021	
World Sportsman of the Year Award	Max Verstappen (Racer F1)

World Sportswoman of the Year Award	Elaine Thompson-Herah (Athletics)
World Team of the Year Award	Italy Men's Football Team
World Breakthrough of the Year Award	Emma Raducanu (Tennis)
World Comeback of the Year Award	Sky Brown (Skateboarding)
World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award	Marcel Hug (Athletics)
World Action Sportsperson of the Year Award	Bethany Shriever (Cyclist)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Tom Brady (Football)
Academy Exceptional Achievement Award	Robert Lewandowski (Football)
Sporting Icon Award	Valentino Rossi (Racer F1)
Sport for Good Award	Lost Boyz Inc.
Sport for Good Society Award	Real Madrid Foundation
Athlete Advocate of the Year Award	Gerald Asamoah and the Black Eagles

375. The John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, for the first time ever, has awarded the **John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award 2022** to five individuals for their courage to protect and defend democracy in the United States and abroad:

- **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**, President of Ukraine
- **Liz Cheney**, USA Representative for Wyoming
- **Jocelyn Benson**, Secretary of state Michigan
- **Russell "Rusty" Bowers**, Arizona State Representative and House Speaker
- **Wandrea "Shaye" Moss**, Fulton County, Georgia elections department employee

The award will be presented on 22nd May 2022 at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, USA.

The John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award was created by members of President Kennedy's family to honour President John F. Kennedy and to recognize and celebrate the quality of political courage

that he admired most. The award is named after Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book 'Profiles in Courage'.

376. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has published the 2022 list of the world's most promising 110 **Young Global Leaders (YGLs)** under the age of 40, involved in activities from green energy and health equity to refugee rights and education reform. The class of 2022 is gender equal and has representatives from 42 countries. The members will take part in a three-year leadership development programme that will help them reach their next level of impact. It is noteworthy that **seven Indians** have been featured in the 2022 list of YGLs:

Sector	Name
Arts, Culture & Sports	Manasi Joshi, Badminton player, Sports Authority of India, India
Public Figure	Raghav Chadha, Member of Parliament, State of Punjab, India
Social Entrepreneur	Jaideep Bansal, Chief Executive Officer, Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE), India
Business	Radhika Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Edelweiss Mutual Fund, India
	Ritesh Malik, Founder, Innov8 Coworking, India
	Suhail Sameer, Chief Executive Officer, Resilient Innovation Private Limited (BharatPe), India
	Vineeta Singh, Chief Executive Officer, SUGAR Cosmetics, India

377. The founder of the educational charity 'Bidyanando' **Kishore Kumar Das** from **Bangladesh** has won the **UK's Commonwealth Points of Light Award**, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers. He has been honoured for his exceptional work in improving access to education for children from marginalised backgrounds.

- Kishore Das setup Bidyanando in 2013. It now runs five primary schools which provide free education and meal programme for vulnerable. He has also started a meal programme, 'Ek takay aahar' (Meal for one Taka).

378. The **India Pharma Awards 2022**, and **India Medical Device Awards 2022** have been presented by the Minister of State for the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers Bhagwanth Khuba, during the 7th edition of India Pharma and Indian Medical Device 2022 which has

been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Category	Winners
Indian Pharma Leader of the Year	Cipla Ltd.
India Pharma Innovation of the Year	Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
Indian Pharma (Formulation)	Micro Labs Ltd.
Indian Pharma CSR of the Year	Zydus Lifesciences Ltd
India Medical Device Leader of the Year	Poly Medicure Ltd.
India Medical Device Company of the Year	Trivitron Healthcare Pvt Ltd.
India Medical Device MSME of the Year	Nice Neotech Medical Systems Pvt Ltd.
Indian Medical Device Start-up of the Year	Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd.
Indian Medical Device Innovation of the Year	Meril Lifesciences Pvt Ltd.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

379. A new book titled '**Crunch Time: Narendra Modi's National Security Crises**' has been authored by **Dr. Sreeram Chaulia**. The book examines some of the most consequential recent crises that India has faced vis-à-vis China and Pakistan and delves into the debate about India's strategic culture and the role of political leadership in transforming strategic culture. The book is published by Rupa Publications.

380. A new book titled "**Queen of Fire**" has been authored by an award-winning children's writer **Devika Rangachari**. The book depicts the story of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi. The book is published by Duckbill Books.

Other books are written by her: Queen of Ice, Queen of Earth, Puffin Lives: Swami Vivekananda: A Man with a vision, etc.

381. Meena Nayyar, Mother of Captain Anuj Nayyar, has authored a book titled '**Tiger of Drass: Capt. Anuj Nayyar, 23, Kargil Hero**'. The book has been co-authored by **Himmat Singh Shekhawat**. It is published by HarperCollins India. The book features the story of Captain

Anuj Nayyar, who martyred during the 1999 Kargil War while fighting to secure the Drass sector which was critical to the success of Operation Vijay and India's victory in Kargil.

382. A new book titled **"The Maverick Effect: The Inside Story of India's IT Revolution"** has been authored by **Harish Mehta**. The book is published by HarperBusiness. The book depicts the untold story of how in the 1970s and 80s a 'band of dreamers' joined hands to create the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and pave the way for the IT revolution in India.

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383. Union Education and Skill Development Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan has released a book titled **"Birsa Munda – Janjatiya Nayak"**. The book has been authored by Prof. **Alok Chakrawal**, Vice Chancellor, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur. The book depicts the struggle of Bhagwan Birsa Munda and the contribution of forest dwellers in the freedom movement.

384. **'Tomb of Sand'** has been shortlisted for the International Booker Prize. It has been authored by **Geetanjali Shree**. The book has become the first Hindi language work of fiction to be shortlisted for the prize. The novel has been translated into English by Daisy Rockwell. The literary prize comes with a cash award of 50,000 pounds, which is split equally between the author and translator.

385. A new book titled **'Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings with BCCI'** has been authored by **Vinod Rai**, former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and chief of Supreme court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in 2017. In this book, he encapsulates his 33-month stint at the BCCI. The book is published by Rupa Publications India.

386. A new book titled **'Hear Yourself: How to Find Peace in a Noisy World'** has been authored by **Prem Rawat**. The book is published by HarperOne.

387. A new book titled **'The Boy Who Wrote a Constitution'** has been authored by a lawyer and UN legal affairs officer **Rajesh Talwar**. The book depicts the challenging boyhood and grown-up years of Dr BR Ambedkar who had written the constitution of India and became India's first law minister. The book is published by Ponytale Books.

Other books written by him: 'The Vanishing of Subhash Bose', 'Gandhi, Ambedkar, and the Four-Legged Scorpion', and 'Aurangzeb'.

- 388.** A coffee table book titled '**The Magic of Mangalajodi**' has been authored by **Avinash Khemka**, wildlife photographer and conservationist. The book provides a bird's eye view of Mangalajodi in Chilika, Odisha through fabulous images and descriptions. The book is published by Punjabi Global Foundation, Odisha Chapter in Balasore, Odisha.
- 389.** French Journalist **Roger Faligot** has authored a book titled '**Chinese Spies: From Chairman Mao to Xi Jinping**'. The book traces the history of the modern Chinese secret service, with segments linked to Chinese espionage and the relationship between the country's intelligence agencies and party leadership.
- The book has been translated in English by **Natasha Lehrer** and the foreword of the book is written by **Vikram Sood**, the former head of RAW. The book is published by HarperCollins India.
- 390.** The chief minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled "**The Sikh History of East India**". The book has been authored by **Abinash Mohapatra**. The book is an extensive study on Sikh History in the eastern parts of India. This is a compilation of 8 books authored by him, which includes Sikh History of Bihar, Assam, Bangladesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Andaman and the Nicobar Islands.
- 391.** Maharashtra BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis has released a Marathi book titled "**Amit Shah Ani Bhajapachi Vatchal**". The book is originally written by Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shivanand Dwivedi, and has been translated into Marathi by Dr **Jyostna Kolhatkar**. The book documents the life and journey of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and his contribution in building the BJP and making it the world's biggest political organisation.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 392.** UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Dr. Arunabha Ghosh**, CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), to the 'High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Emissions Commitments of Non-State Entities'.
- He will be among three Asians (and the only South Asian) serving on the expert group.
 - The 16-member expert group will be chaired by **Catherine McKenna**, former Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
 - **Group objective:** To develop stronger and clearer standards for net-zero emissions pledges by non-State entities such as businesses, investors, cities, and regions.

- 393. Dr S Raju** has become the new Director-General of the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with effect from 1st April 2022. He has succeeded R. S. Garkhal.
- 394.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of **Murali M. Natrajan** as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of DCB Bank for a period of two years i.e. from 29 April 2022 to 28 April 2024.
- 395.** The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has appointed **Dr Ian Fry**, who holds dual citizenship in Tuvalu and Australia, as the **world's first independent expert on human rights and climate change** for a period of 3 years.
- He will be responsible for studying and identifying how the adverse effects of climate change, including sudden and slow-onset disasters, affect the full and effective enjoyment of human rights and make recommendations on how to address and prevent these adverse effects.
 - The position of Special Rapporteur for human rights and climate change was created by UNHRC in October 2021.
- 396.** Prime Minister Imran Khan has nominated former Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Gulzar Ahmed, as caretaker Prime Minister. This decision has been made due to the resignation of Imran Khan, as he failed to prove majority in the Parliament.
- 397. Vikas Kumar** has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). He has succeeded Mangu Singh.
- 398.** Aleksandar Vucic has been re-elected as the President of Serbia for the second term by winning the presidential election 2022. He is associated with Serbian Progressive Party.
- 399.** The vice-chancellor of Indraprastha University (IPU) Dr. **Mahesh Verma** has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH).
- NABH is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India (QCI).
 - It is responsible for setting benchmarks for quality and certifying hospitals and other health facilities.
- 400. Viktor Orban** has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Hungary** for the fourth term in a row since 2010. He has won the General Election of 2022. He is the leader of the Fidesz party.

- 401.** A new book titled “**Decoding Indian Babudom**” has been authored by **Ashwini Shrivastava**. This is a first-of-its-kind book by a journalist covering bureaucracy lists the ailments of India's administrative system from a common man's point of view. The book suggests “**15 Sutras**” to achieve good and effective governance in the country. The book is published by Vitasta Publishing Pvt Ltd.
- 402.** PharmEasy, a pharmacy platform, has appointed Bollywood actor **Aamir Khan** as its brand ambassador. He will be seen endorsing the brand in the new campaign #GharBaitheBaitheTakeItEasy. Television advertisements featuring him will also be a part of the Indian Premier League 2022.
- 403.** **Aprajita Sharma** of India, an IP&TAF Service officer, has been appointed vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee on Administration and Management at the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) Council sessions held in Geneva, Switzerland. She will continue to serve as vice-chairperson of the Council Standing Committee in 2023 and 2024, and as chairman in 2025 and 2026.
- 404.** Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) Chief **Shehbaz Sharif** has been elected as the 23rd Prime Minister of **Pakistan**. He has succeeded Imran Khan, who has been removed by a no-trust vote recently in the National Assembly.
- 405.** Eminent scholar and academician **Dr Manoj Soni** has been appointed as the 31st Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He has succeeded Pradeep Kumar Joshi. His tenure will end on 27th June 2023.
- He authored a book titled ‘*Understanding the Global Political Earthquake*’.
- 406.** Australian cricketer **Rachael Haynes** has been named ICC Women's Player of the Month for March 2022. Pakistan skipper **Babar Azam** has been named ICC Men's Player of the Month for March 2022.
- 407.** The Karnataka Health Department has appointed Indian cricketer **Robin Uthappa** as the brand ambassador for Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI).
- The Karnataka Government in association with NIMHANS and Niti Ayog launched the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI) in January 2022.
 - The aim is to improve treatment and prevent neurological disorders in the community.

- 408.** Lloyd, one of the consumer durables brands of Havells India, has appointed former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly as the brand ambassador for the Eastern Indian markets. This will help Lloyd achieve its next phase of growth in the Eastern market.
- 409.** The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension of **one year** i.e. up to **3rd May 2023** for the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, **Kamlesh Neelkanth Vyas**. He is serving as Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission since 2018.
- The Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy is ex-officio Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.
- 410. Bimal Kotahri** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA). He has succeeded Jitu Bheda, who was the IPGA chairman since 2018.
- 411.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Vikram Dev Dutt** as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Air India Asset Holding (AIAHL). His appointment is effective from 27th January 2022, in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the Government of India. He is a 1993-batch IAS officer of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.

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- 412. Digit Insurance**, which is backed by Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa, has appointed **Jasleen Kohli** as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of the company with effect from 20th April 2022. She has succeeded Vijay Kumar.
- 413. Wipro** has appointed **Satya Easwaran** as the country head of India. He will be in charge of strengthening Wipro's business in India across segments through strategic consulting, transformation and modernisation engagements.
- 414.** Côte d'Ivoire President Alassane Ouattara has re-appointed **Patrick Achi** as the new Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire. He was appointed as PM in March 2021 following the death of his predecessor Hamed Bakayoko.

- 415.** Indian-American Navy veteran **Shanti Sethi** has been appointed as executive secretary and defence advisor of US Vice President Kamala Harris. She joined the Navy in 1993. She is the first Indian-American commander of a major US Navy combat ship. She commanded the guided-missile destroyer, USS Decatur, from December 2010 to May 2012.
- 416.** The Ministry of Home Affairs has appointed Senior IAS Officer **Naresh Kumar** as the new Chief Secretary of Delhi. He has succeeded Vijay Kumar Dev. He is 1987 batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Union Territories) cadre.
- 417.** Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen **Manoj Pande** has been appointed as the **29th Chief of Army Staff (COAS)**. He will succeed General M M Naravane on 1st May 2022. He will be the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to become the COAS.
- He served as chief engineer in the UN mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.
 - He was the Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) from June 2020 to May 2021.
 - He commanded an engineer regiment during Operation Parakram (2001–2002 India–Pakistan standoff) in the Pallanwala Sector along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Note:** The tenure of Chief of Army Staff is 62 years of age or 3 years whichever is earlier.
- 418.** **Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi**, President of **Yemen**, has resigned recently under the pressure from Saudi Arabia. He is now under de-facto house arrest. He has announced a new 8-member presidential leadership council and transferred his powers to the council.
- 419.** Lieutenant General **Manoj Kumar Katiyar** has been appointed as the next Director-General of Military Operations. He will succeed Lt. General B.S. Raju. He will take charge of the new office on 1st May 2022. He was commissioned in the 23rd Battalion of the Rajput Regiment in June 1986.
- 420.** Eminent Physicist, Padma Shri awardee **Ajay Kumar Sood** has been appointed as the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India for a period of **3 years**. He has succeeded K Vijay Raghavan.
- 421.** Serial Entrepreneur **Babita Singh** has been named as the new **Global Peace Ambassador 2022** for promoting Peace through Education, Sports, Art, Culture & Diplomacy at the India International Conclave 2022 held in collaboration with Asia Africa Consortium (AAC) in Shangrila, New Delhi. She has been conferred with this honour for her exemplary contribution to her Peace building initiatives via Sports & Culture.

- 422.** Indifi Technologies, lending platform for MSMEs, has appointed **Rajnish Kumar**, former chairman of the State Bank of India, as an advisor. He will now engage with the management on the company's growth strategy and provide guidance in the financial services sector. He currently sits on the boards of HSBC Asia Pacific, L&T Infotech, Hero MotoCorp and BharatPe.
- 423.** Noted economist **Suman K Bery** has been appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the government's think tank Niti Aayog with effect from 1st May 2022. He has succeeded Rajiv Kumar who has resigned from the post in April 2022.
- 424. Ashwin Yardi**, the CEO of Capgemini in India, has been appointed as the co-chair of UNICEF's YuWaah' - the Indian chapter of Generation Unlimited. He will be a co-chair along with Yasumasa Kimura, the UNICEF Representative.
- YuWaah, supported by UNICEF, is a platform to bring young people together with the private sector, governments, and international and local organisations to turn them into active and engaged citizens.
 - YuWaah has set an ambitious target to enrol 300 young people as change makers.
- 425. Anshul Swami** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shivalik Small Finance Bank with effect from 26th April 2022. He has succeeded Suveer Kumar Gupta. Previously, he was associated with RBL Bank as Head of Retail & Inclusion, Products. He has also held positions with Barclays, Citi Financial and Britannia.
- Shivalik Small Finance Bank Limited commenced operations as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) with effect from 26th April 2021. It is based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- 426.** BJP leader and former Union minister **Vijay Sampla** has been appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) for a second time. He had resigned as the NCSC chairman ahead of the Punjab elections and had contested the polls.
- NCSC is a constitutional body that works to safeguard the interests of the scheduled castes (SC) in India. **Article 338** of the Indian constitution deals with this commission.
- 427.** Generali Asia has appointed **Bruce de Broize** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Future Generali India Life Insurance (FGILI). He has succeeded Miranjit Mukherjee.
- 428.** The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the amalgamation of **Consultancy Development Centre (CDC)** along with its manpower,

moveable assets and liabilities with the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

- Both CSIR and CDC are autonomous bodies under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- CDC was set up in 1986 as a society and was approved as an autonomous institution in 2004. The objective is to promote and develop the consultancy profession in the country.

429. Emmanuel Jean-Michel Frédéric Macron has been re-elected as the President of France for the second term. He has defeated his rival Marine Le Pen by securing 58% of the vote in presidential elections.

430. LV Vaidyanathan has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the FMCG firm **Procter & Gamble** for its operations in India. He will succeed Madhusudan Gopalan, who will be taking up a leadership role within P&G as Senior Vice President Grooming & Oral Care, P&G Japan and Korea. He will assume the office on 1st July 2022.

431. The Liberal Freedom Movement Party's **Robert Golob** has been elected as the new Prime Minister of **Slovenia** after defeating Slovenia's three-time Prime Minister conservative SDS Party's Janez Jansa in elections. He secured 34.34% of the votes in the election.

432. Krishnan Ramanujam, a senior executive at Tata Consultancy Services, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) for 2022-23. He has succeeded Accenture's Senior Managing Director in India Rekha M Menon.

- NASSCOM has also appointed **Anant Maheshwari**, President of Microsoft India, as the Vice-Chairperson for 2022-23.

OBITUARIES

433. Richard Howard, a Pulitzer Prize-winning American poet, has passed away recently in New York, USA. He was born on 13th October 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio, United States.

- He won the Pulitzer-Prize for "**Untitled Subjects**" in **1970** and was a National Book Award finalist in 2008 for "Without Saying."
- His translation of Charles Baudelaire's "Les Fleurs du Mal" won the National Book Award (then called the American Book Award) in 1983.
- Other poetry by him: Two-Part Inventions, Lining Up, Fellow Feelings, Damages, etc.

434. Indian actor and screenwriter **Shiv Kumar Subramaniam** has passed away recently in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 23rd December 1959 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- He was best known for his roles in the serial *Mukti Bandhan* and *Meenakshi Sundareswar*.
- He started his career by writing a screenplay for the 1989 film *Parinda* which was directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra.
- He won the Filmfare Award for Best Story for *Hazaron Khawaishein Ais*.
- He has worked in films like *2 States*, *Hichki*, *Nail Polish*, *Rocky Handsome* and more.

435. Renowned Odia musician and writer **Prafulla Kar**, who gave his voice to around 70 popular Odia films, has passed away recently in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born on 16th February 1939 in Puri, Odisha. He was awarded the **Padma Shri**, the fourth highest civilian award, by the Government of India in **2015** in the field of arts.

436. Renowned Industrialist **N Sankar** has passed away recently in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He served as the chairman of the home-grown chemicals-to-shipping conglomerate Sanmar Group.

437. Renowned producer and actor **Manju Singh** has passed away recently due to cardiac arrest. She is fondly remembered as "didi", the anchor of the children's program, *Khel Khilone* which she conducted for 7 years. She was best known for shows such as *Swaraj*, *Ek Kahani*, etc.

438. Former President of Kenya, **Mwai Kibaki** has passed away recently in Nairobi, Kenya. He was born on 15th November 1931 in Gatuyaini, Kenya Colony. He served two terms as the President of **Kenya** from 2002 to 2013.

439. Former Indian women's hockey team captain **Elvera Britto** has passed way recently in Bangalore, Karnataka. She was born on 15th June 1940 in Lloyd Road, Cooke Town, Bangalore, Karnataka.

- She represented India against Australia, Sri Lanka and Japan and played her last match for the national team in 1967.
- She was only the second Indian women's hockey player to win the prestigious **Arjuna Award** in **1965** after Anne Lumsden, who won it in the inaugural year in 1961.

440. Renowned actor **Salim Ghose**, known for his performances in TV shows like "Bharat Ek Khoj" as well as films such as "Sardari Begum" and "Soldier", has passed away recently in Mumbai due to cardiac arrest. He was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He started his acting journey in 1978 with the movie *Swarg Narak*, following which he featured in films like *Chakra* (1981), *Saaransh* (1984), *Mohan Joshi Hazir Ho!* (1984), and several others.

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- 441.** The former chief minister of Meghalaya **J.D. Rymbai** has passed away recently. He was born on 26th October 1934 in Meghalaya, British Raj. He served as the 9th Chief Minister of **Meghalaya** from 2006 to 2007.
- 442.** Senior IAS officer and former Union home secretary **Madhav Godbole** has passed away recently due to cardiac arrest in Pune, Maharashtra. He was the Union home secretary when the Babri Masjid was demolished in Ayodhya in 1992. He wrote at least 20 books as well as essays and articles. His books include 'the Babri Masjid-Ram Mandir Dilemma: An Acid Test for India's Constitution.' He also worked for the Asian Development Bank in Manila for five years.

SPORTS

- 443. Australian cricket team** has won the **ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022** title by defeating England in the finals held at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand. Australia has won its **7th** ICC Women's World Cup title.

Player of the Match: **Alyssa Healy** (Australia)

- She has also been named as the 'Player of Tournament' for scoring 509 runs in 9 matches.

Sophie Ecclestone (England) is the leading wicket-taker in the tournament, with 21 wickets in 9 matches.

The 2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is the 12th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup. The tournament has been held in New Zealand from 4 March to 3 April 2022.

- 444.** The 2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament has been held at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, USA.

2022 Miami Open Tennis Tournament	
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women's Singles	Iga Swiatek (Poland)
Men's Doubles	Hubert Hurkacz (Poland) and John Isner (USA)

**Women's
Doubles**

Laura Siegemund
(Germany) and
Vera Zvonareva
(Russia)

445. The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) has unveiled **La'eeb** as the official mascot for FIFA World Cup 2022.

- La'eeb is an Arabic word meaning 'super-skilled player'.
- La'eeb encourages everyone to believe in themselves as 'Now is All'.

Note: Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup from 21st November to 18th December 2022.

446. Sports brand **Adidas** has unveiled the official match ball '**Al Rihla**' (a name that translates from Arabic into English as "the journey") for the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022**. It is the 14th successive ball that Adidas has created for the FIFA World Cup.

Note: Qatar will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup from 21st November to 18th December 2022.

447. The Fencing Association of India (FAI) has won the bid to host the **Asian Junior & Cadet fencing championships 2023**. **India** will host the Asian Junior (U-20) Men & Women and Cadet (U-17) Boys & Girls Fencing Championships 2023 in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat.

448. The Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022 has been held in Phuket, Thailand. India has won a total of **10 medals** in the tournament, including **three Gold, four Silver, and three Bronze**.

Medallists at the Thailand Open International Boxing Tournament 2022:

- **Gold:** Govind Sahani (48kg), Ananta Chopde (54kg) and Sumit (75kg);
- **Silver:** Monika (48kg), Amit Panghal (52kg), Varinder Singh (60kg) and Ashish Kumar (81kg);
- **Bronze:** Manisha (57kg), Pooja (69kg) and Bhagyabati Kachari (75kg)

449. Indian duo **Dipika Pallikal Karthik** and **Saurav Ghosal** have won the mixed double title at the **2022 WSF World Doubles Squash Championship** held in Glasgow, Scotland. They have won the title by defeating Adrian Waller and Alison Waters of England.

Dipika and **Joshna Chinappa** have won the women's doubles title by defeating Sarah Jane Perry and Waters of England in the tournament.

450. The **Australian state of Victoria** has been officially announced as host of the **2026 Commonwealth Games (CWG)**. It will be held in four towns such as Geelong, Ballarat,

Bendigo, and Gippsland. The opening ceremony will be held at the 100,000-capacity Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

- 451. Riya Jadon**, a 13-year old, has won the 11th edition of **DGC Ladies Open Amateur Golf Championship** held at the Delhi Golf Club in New Delhi.
- 452.** Indian Badminton player **Mithun Manjunath** has won a silver medal in Men's singles at the Orleans Masters 2022 held in Orleans, France. Women's doubles pair K Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gautam have won the bronze medal in Women's doubles at the tournament.
- 453. R Pragganandhaa** has won the Kvika Reykjavik Open 2022 by defeating D Gukesh in the final round held in Reykjavik, Iceland. He scored 7½/9 and finished a half-point ahead.
- 454.** The first **Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament** has been held in Tata Archery Academy, **Jamshedpur**, Jharkhand. It has been organized by the Archery Association of India (AAI), in collaboration with the Jharkhand Archery Association and TATA Steel.
- The Sports Authority of India has approved a total amount of Rs.75 Lakh to host the Khelo India National Ranking Women Archery Tournament over six phases.
 - The first phase of the tournament has been held in Jamshedpur from 12th April to 13th April 2022.
 - The tournament has been conducted as per the World Archery Rules.
- 455.** Ferrari-driver **Charles Leclerc** (Monaco) has won the F1 Australian Grand Prix 2022 held in Melbourne, Victoria. Sergio Pérez (Red Bull Racing – Mexico) has come second while George Russell (Mercedes – Britain) has come third.
- 456.** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **South Africa** as the host of the inaugural **U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023**. The tournament will take place in January 2023.
- It is noteworthy that South Africa hosted the inaugural edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2007, which India won after defeating Pakistan in the final.
- 457.** The **Netherlands** hockey team has won the **2022 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup** title after beating Germany in the final held at Potchefstroom, South Africa. With this, Netherlands has won their fourth title.
- **Note:** The 2023 Women's FIH Hockey Junior World Cup will be held in Santiago, Chile.

- 458.** Rajasthan Royals all-rounder, **Ravichandran Ashwin** has become the first batsman to get officially retired out in Indian Premier League (IPL) history during the high-octane clash against Lucknow Super Giants.
- 459.** **India** will host the **Street Child Cricket World Cup** in **2023**. It will be organized in partnership with Street Child United and Save the Children India. A total of 22 teams from 16 countries will participate in the tournament. It will take place in September 2023.
Note: The Street Child World Cup 2022 will be held in Doha, Qatar from 5th to 15th October 2022.
- 460.** New Zealand fast bowler **Hamish Bennett** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket with the 2021/22 season as the last one. He made his international debut in October 2010 and represented **New Zealand** in one Test, 19 ODIs and 11 T20Is.
- 461.** Indian Grandmaster **Dommaraju Gukesh** has won the 48th edition of the La Roda International Open chess tournament by defeating Israel GM Victor Mikhalevski in the final round held at Castile-La Mancha in Spain. Armenia's Haik Martirosyan has finished second and India's GM R Praggnanandhaa has finished third in the tournament.
- 462.** **Stefanos Tsitsipas** (Greece) has won the men's singles title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters 2022 by defeating Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (Spain) in the final held in Monte Carlo, Monaco. With this, he has become the 6th player to win back-to-back in Monte Carlo Masters in Open Era.
Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters is the first of three ATP Masters 1000 tournaments played on clay.
- 463.** **Hockey Haryana** has won the 12th Senior Men's National Hockey Championship 2022 by defeating Tamil Nadu in the final round held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Haryana won the trophy for the first time since 2011.
- 464.** The 71st Senior National Basketball Championship for Men & Women has been held in Nehru Stadium, Chennai. It has been organized by the Basketball Federation of India in association with the Tamil Nadu Basketball Association.
- **Tamil Nadu** has won the men's title by defeating Punjab.
 - **Indian Railways** has won the women's title by defeating Telangana.
- 465.** **Sajan Prakash** has won a gold medal in the men's 200m butterfly event at the **Danish Open swimming** meet held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Vedaant Madhavan has won a silver medal in the men's 1500m freestyle event. He is the son of actor R Madhavan.

466. West Indies cricketer and all-rounder **Kieron Pollard** has announced his retirement from international cricket. He made his international debut in 2007 and became the first West Indies player in White-ball cricket to represent 101 T20Is and 123 ODIs. He never played Test cricket.

467. The 159th edition of the Wisden Cricketer's Almanack 2022, a cricket reference book, has been published recently in the United Kingdom.

- England's **Joe Root** has been awarded the title of Leading Man Cricketer in the World for his exceptional 2021-22 season and South Africa's **Lizelle Lee** has been awarded the title of Leading Woman Cricketer in the World.
- Pakistan's **Mohammad Rizwan** has been named as the Leading T20 Cricketer in the World.

Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year 2022:

- **Jasprit Bumrah:** India
- **Rohit Sharma:** India
- **Devon Conway:** New Zealand
- **Dabe van Niekerk:** South Africa
- **Ollie Robinson:** New Zealand

468. The 16th edition of the **2022 Archery World Cup Stage-1** has been held in Antalya, Turkey. India has won **two medals** (Gold) in the championship.

- Tarundeep Rai and Ridhi have won the gold medal in the recurve mixed team event.
- Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini have won the gold medal in the compound men's team event.

Note: The 2022 Archery World Cup Stage-2 is scheduled to be held in Gwangju, South Korea from 16th to 22nd May 2022.

469. The **Serbia Open 2022** has been held at 'Novak' Tennis Centre, Belgrade, Serbia from 17th to 24th April 2022. It is an ATP 250 tournament.

- **Men's Singles:** Andrey Rublev (Russia)
- **Men's Doubles:** Ariel Behar (Uruguay) and Gonzalo Escobar (Ecuador)

470. The 35th edition of the **Asian Wrestling Championships 2022** has been held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 19th April to 24th April 2022. Japan has topped the medal tally with 21 medals, followed by Iran and Kazakhstan.

India's performance:

India has finished 5th in the championship with **17 medals** (1 gold, 5 silver, and 11 bronze).

Indian Medallist at Asian Wrestling Championships 2022		
Men's Freestyle	Men's Greco-Roman	Women's freestyle
Ravi Dahiya (57 kg): Gold	Arjun Halakurki (55 kg): Bronze	Sarita Mor (59 kg): Bronze
Bajrang Punia (65 kg): Silver	Sunil Kumar (87 kg): Bronze	Sushma Shokeen (55 kg): Bronze
Gourav Baliyan (79 kg): Silver	Neeraj (63 kg): Bronze	Manisha (62 kg): Bronze
Deepak Punia (86 kg): Silver	Harpreet Singh (82 kg): Bronze	Anshu Malik (57 kg): Silver
Naveen (70 kg): Bronze	Sachin Sehrawat (67 kg): Bronze	Radhika (65 kg): Silver
Viky (92 kg): Bronze		
Satyawart Kadiyan (97 kg): Bronze		

471. Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** has won the Menorca Open chess tournament held in Menorca, Spain. He has won the title by defeating fellow Indian B Adhiban.

472. Netherlands Red Bull's driver **Max Verstappen** has won the Emilia-Romagna Grand Prix 2022 held in Italy. Mexico's Sergio Pérez (Red Bull) has finished second and UK's Lando Norris (McLaren) has finished third in the tournament.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

473. Odisha Day, also known as Utkal Divas, is observed annually on **1st April** to commemorate the formation of the state as a separate state out of Bihar and Orissa Province with the addition of Koraput and Ganjam from the Madras Presidency on 1st April 1936.

- The year 2022 marks the **87th foundation day** of the state.
- The state was originally called Orissa, but the Lok Sabha passed the Orissa Bill, and the Constitutional Bill (113th Amendment), in March 2011, which changed its name to Odisha.

474. World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on **2nd April** to spread awareness about the disorder and also to support those who are suffering from Autism.

- **Theme 2022:** "Inclusive Quality Education for All"
- The day was first observed in 2008.

Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a development disorder characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication.

475. International Children's Book Day is observed annually on **2nd April** to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books. The day is also observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the renowned fairy-tale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

- The day was first observed in 1966 by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- **Canada** has hosted International Children's Book Day 2022.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Stories are wings that help you soar every day'

476. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed annually on **4th April** to create awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

- **Theme 2022:** "Safe Ground, Safe Steps, Safe Home"
- The day was first observed in 2006.

477. National Maritime Day is observed annually on **5th April** to create awareness about international trade and the economy. The year 2022 marks the 59th edition of the National Maritime Day.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Propelling Indian Maritime Industry to Net Zero'
- The day was first observed in 1964.
- The saga of Indian shipping first began on **5th April 1919**, when the SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).

478. International Day of Conscience is observed annually on **5th April** to highlight the importance of conscience and its role in stopping people from harming others physically, sexually, orally or mentally. The day was first observed in 2020.

479. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed annually on **6th April** to recognize the positive role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the globe.

- **Theme 2022:** “Securing a Sustainable and Peaceful Future for All: The Contribution of Sport”
- The day was first observed in 2014.

480. World Table Tennis Day is observed annually on **6th April** to highlight table tennis as a driving force for development and peace and its ability to connect people across the world. The day was first observed in 2015. The day is the initiative of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

481. Prevention of Blindness Week is observed annually across India from **1st April to 7th April** to raise awareness against the causes of blindness and the ways to prevent them. The week is organized by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, India (NSPB-I).

Additional Information:

The **National Society for the Prevention of Blindness-India** was formed based on the resolution of the National Association for the Blind in 1959. The Society was registered on 24th August, 1960 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, the then Health Minister, Government of India was elected as its first President. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was its Chief Patron in 1962.

482. World Health Day is observed annually on **7th April** to raise awareness about the ongoing health issues that concern people across the world. The day also marks the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO) on 7th April 1948.

- **Theme 2022:** Our Planet, Our Health
- The day was first observed in 1950.

483. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed annually on **9th April**, as a tribute to the brave men of the force. The year 2022 marks the **57th CRPF Valour Day**.

Historical Background:

It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several times larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat. The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive. In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.

484. World Homeopathy Day is observed annually on **10th April** to highlight the importance of homeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine. The day also commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of homeopathy, **Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann**. The year 2022 marks his **267th** birth anniversary.

Theme 2022: 'Homoeopathy: People's Choice for Wellness'

485. National Safe Motherhood Day is observed annually across India on **11th April** to raise awareness of proper health care and maternity facilities for pregnant and lactating women. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Kasturba Gandhi**, an Indian political activist and wife of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Note: According to Registrar General of India, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of India has declined by ten points. The ratio has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19.

486. World Parkinson's Disease Day is observed annually on **11th April** to spread awareness of Parkinson's disease, which is a progressive nervous system disorder. The day also marks the birth anniversary of **Dr James Parkinson** from London, who was the first person to systematically describe the six individuals with the symptoms of Parkinson's Disease.

Theme 2022: 'Integrated Healthcare'

487. International Day of Human Space Flight is observed annually on **12th April** to mark the anniversary of the first human space flight by Russian cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** on 12th April 1961. The year 2022 marks the 61st anniversary of the first human spaceflight. The day was first observed in 2011.

488. International Day of Street Children is observed annually on **12th April** to recognise the humanity, dignity and defiance of street children in the face of unimaginable hardships.

- The day was first observed in 2012.
- The 2022 theme is the 4th Step in Consortium for Street Children (CSC)'s 4 Steps to Equality Campaign: 1) Commit to Equality; 2) Protect Every Child; 3) Provide Access to Services; 4) Create Specialised Solutions.

489. International Turban Day is observed annually on **13th April** to spread awareness about the distinct appearance of Sikhs who love and respect principles of faith which obligate keeping hair uncut and covered with a turban. The turban, also known as "dastar" or "pagri" or "pag" refers to the garment worn by both men and some women to cover their heads.

- The year 2022 marks the **553rd birth anniversary** of Guru Nanak Dev and the festival of Baisakhi.
- The day was first observed in 2004.

490. Siachen Day is observed annually on **13th April** to commemorate the courage of the Indian Army under "Operation Meghdoot". The day also honours Siachen Warriors serving their motherland successfully from the enemy. The year 2022 marks **38th Siachen Day**.

Operation Meghdoot: It was launched on 13 April 1984. The military action resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier.

491. The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has recently observed its **128th Foundation Day** on 12th April 2022. During the occasion, PNB has launched a cardless cash withdrawal service and a virtual debit card for its users. It has also launched a mobile app named **PNB One** for safe banking transactions.

492. Ambedkar Jayanti is observed annually on **14th April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Babasaheb Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar**. The year 2022 marks the **131st** birth anniversary of him. The day was first observed in 2015.

About B.R. Ambedkar:

- He is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution. He was the first Law and Justice Minister of India after the independence. He was born on 14 April 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh in Hindu Mahar Caste. He attended all the three Round Table Conferences (1930-32) in London. He founded the 'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha in 1923 and the Independent Labour Party in 1936. He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1990**.
- **Major books/articles written by him:** Mook Nayak (weekly) 1920; Janta (weekly) 1930; The Annihilation of Caste 1936; 'The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution' 1923; The Untouchables 1948; Buddha or Karl Marx 1956; Buddha and His Dharma 1956, etc.

493. World Chagas Disease Day is observed annually on **14th April** to spread public awareness and visibility among people about Chagas Disease (also called American trypanosomiasis).

- **Theme 2022:** 'Finding and reporting every case to defeat chagas disease'
- The day was first observed in 2020.

494. World Art Day is observed annually on the **15th April** to promote awareness about fine arts worldwide. The day also commemorate the birth anniversary of Italian polymath Leonardo da Vinci. The day is organized by the International Association of Art (IAA), an NGO working in official partnership with UNESCO. The day was first observed in 2012.

495. World Voice Day is observed annually on **16th April** to demonstrate the enormous importance of the voice in the daily lives of all people. The day was first observed by the Brazilian Society of Laryngology and Voice under the chairmanship of Dr Nedio Steffen in 1999. The motto of World Voice Day 2022 is '**Lift Your Voice**'.

- 496. Save The Elephant Day** is observed annually on **16th April** to educate people about elephants and the plights they face, encouraging everyone to do their bit and help save them from extinction. The day is established by the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation to spread awareness among the general people about the significance and consequences of their actions, or inactions on the future of elephants.
- 497. World Hemophilia Day** is observed annually on **17th April** to increase awareness of hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day is celebrated by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WHF). The day also marks the birth anniversary of Frank Schnabel, the founder of WHF.
- **Theme 2022:** "Access for All: Partnership. Policy. Progress. Engaging your government, integrating inherited bleeding disorders into national policy"
 - The day was first observed in 1989.
- 498. World Heritage Day**, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, is observed annually on **18th April** to raise awareness about preserving the history, diversity, and vulnerability of world heritage sites and monuments.
- 499.** The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) announced 18th April as World Heritage Day in 1982. This was approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- **Theme 2022:** "Heritage and Climate"
 - UNESCO has designated a total of 1155 monuments in 167 countries as UNESCO world heritage sites.
 - As of 2022, India has **40 world heritage sites** (1 mixed site, 7 natural sites, and 32 cultural sites), which include the recently added Dholavira (Gujarat), and Kakatiya Rudreshwara Temple (Telangana).
- 500. World Liver Day** is observed annually on **19th April** to create awareness about the causes of liver disease and suggest ways to prevent it so that holistic liver care can be taken. The liver is the second largest and the second most complex organ in the body, after the brain. It regulates blood sugar, removes toxic substances from the body, helps blood clot, and controls cholesterol levels.
- 501. UN Chinese Language Day** is observed annually on **20th April** to pay tribute to Cangjie, who is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago. The day was first celebrated on 12 November in 2010, but since 2011 the day is celebrated on 20 April.

502. India has observed the **400th** birth anniversary of **Guru Tegh Bahadur**, the 9th Sikh Guru, on 21st April 2022. He was born in 1621 at Guru Ke Mahal, Amritsar, Punjab. He was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Sikh guru.

- He is known as '**Hind Ki Chadar**' (India's Shield) because he sacrificed his life to save Kashmiri pandits and Hindu religion. For this, he was executed in 1675 in Delhi on the orders of Aurangzeb.
- His 115 hymns are included in Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

503. National Civil Service Day is observed annually on **21st April** to commemorate the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first Home Minister of Independent India addressed probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Delhi's Metcalf House in 1947. In his address, he called Civil Servants, the 'Steel Frame of India'. The year 2022 marks the 15th Civil Service Day.

The day is also observed to appreciate all the public officers who are engaged in several public departments and work tirelessly to run the administrative machinery of the country.

Charles Cornwallis is known as the father of the Indian Civil Service.

During the National Civil Service Day 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conferred the **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2021**. A total of **16 awards** for 5 identified Priority Programmes: (i) Promoting "Jan Bhagidari" or People's Participation in Poshan Abhiyan, (ii) Promoting excellence in sports and wellness through Khelo India scheme, (iii) Digital payments and Good Governance in PM SVANidhi Yojana, (iv) Holistic Development through One District One Product scheme, (v) Seamless, End-to-End Delivery of Services without Human Intervention have been awarded this year.

504. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed annually on **21st April** to raise the awareness of the role of creativity and innovation in all aspects of human development. The day was founded on 25 May 2001 by Marci Segal (Canada) in Toronto, Canada.

- **Theme 2022:** Collaboration
- The World Creativity and Innovation Week is observed from 15th to 22nd April 2022.

505. World Earth Day, also known as International Mother Earth Day, is observed annually on **22nd April** to protect the environment, restore damaged ecosystems and live a more sustainable life. The day was first celebrated in 1970. The year 2022 marks its 52nd anniversary.

- United Nation officially renamed Earth Day as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Invest in our Planet'

- 506.** The state of **Manipur** observes the **Khongjom Day** annually on **23rd April** to remember those gallant Manipuri warriors who made supreme sacrifice fighting against the British to protect the freedom of Manipur in the battle of Khongjom during the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri War.
- 507. World Book and Copyright Day** is observed annually on **23rd April** to promote the benefits of reading, writing books, translating, publishing and copyright. The day is organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The day was first observed in 1996.
Note: Guadalajara city of Mexico has been named as the World Book Capital of 2022.
- 508. UN English Language Day** is observed annually on **23rd April** to create awareness and promote history, culture, and achievements associated with the English Language. The day also commemorate the birth and death anniversary of **William Shakespeare**, an English playwright, poet and actor. The day was first observed in 2010.
- 509. UN Spanish Language Day** is observed annually on **23rd April** to celebrate and spread awareness about the history, culture, and use of the Spanish language. Spanish is one of the 6 official languages of United Nations. The day also marks the death anniversary of **Miguel de Cervantes**, a renowned Spanish writer.

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- 510. World Day for Laboratory Animals** is observed annually on **24th April** to highlight the movement to end the suffering of animals in laboratories around the world and their replacement with advanced scientific non-animal techniques. The day was instituted in 1979 by the National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS).
- 511. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** is observed annually on **24th April** to create awareness about the advantages of multilateralism and diplomacy for peace, including through educational and public awareness-raising activities. The day was first observed in 2019.
- 512.** World Health Organization (WHO) has observed the **World Immunization Week 2022** from 24th April to 30th April 2022 to highlight the collective action needed and to promote the use

of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease. It is observed annually in the last week of April.

- **Theme 2022:** Long Life for All
- The week was first observed in 2012.

513. International Delegates Day is observed annually on **25th April** to spread awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations. The day also commemorates the anniversary of the first day of the San Francisco Conference (1945), also known as the United Nations Conference on International Organization. The year 2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the San Francisco Conference.

514. World Penguin Day is observed annually on **25th April** to celebrate penguins and to spread awareness about the threats and challenges faced by the Penguins.

515. International Girls in ICT Day is observed annually on the **fourth Thursday** in April to bring attention to the need of the girls and women in the ICT sector. In 2022, the day falls on **28th April**. The day was first observed in 2011.

Theme 2022: "Access and Safety"

516. World Malaria Day is observed annually on **25th April** to spread awareness to control and eradicate malaria. It is a preventable and treatable disease. It is caused due to the bite of the female Anopheles mosquito (which is infected with the malaria-causing plasmodium parasite).

- **Theme 2022:** "Harness innovation to reduce the malaria disease burden and save lives"
- The day was first observed in 2008.

As per the World Health Organization's data, as many as 241 million people were infected with this deadly disease in 2020, with most of these cases reported in Africa.

517. World Intellectual Property Day is observed annually on **26th April** to spread awareness of the impact of how patents, copyright, trademarks and design affect our daily life. The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2000.

Theme 2022: 'IP and Youth innovating for a Better Future'

518. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day is observed annually on **26th April** to spread awareness of the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster and the risks of nuclear energy in general. The day was first observed in 2016, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

- **Note:** The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant is located in Ukraine.

519. World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on **28th April** to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. The day was first observed in 2003 by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

- **Theme 2022:** "Participation And Social Dialogue In Creating A Positive Safety And Health Culture"

520. International Dance Day is observed annually on **29th April** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, creator of modern ballet. The day also celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals.

521. World Veterinary Day is observed annually on the **last Saturday** of April to provide global leadership for the veterinary profession and promote animal health and welfare and public health through advocacy, education, and partnership. In 2022, the day falls on 30th April 2022.

- **Theme 2022:** "Strengthening Veterinary Resilience"

522. International Jazz Day is observed annually on **30th April** to promote Jazz and raise awareness about its significance. Jazz was developed by African Americans. It was influenced by both European harmonic structure and African rhythms. It originated in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

- **Theme 2022:** 'A Call for Global Peace and Unity'

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