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May 2022 - Week 1

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Government of India (GoI) has launched an e-commerce platform **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** to onboard 30 million sellers and 10 million merchants online while covering at least **100 cities** and towns by **August 2022**.
 - It has been launched on a pilot basis to empower mom-and-pop shops and Kirana stores in cities such as **Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal, and Shillong**.
 - The 150 (targeted) retailers and sellers will get to showcase their products on the seller's app that is connected to the ONDC network.

The ONDC platform's creation is led by Nandan Nilekani, co-founder of Infosys Ltd. It was formed in December 2021 as a project for the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

2. **Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has launched the revamped **Zero Defect, Zero Effect (ZED)** scheme to reduce wastage in the manufacturing process substantially, increase the productivity of MSMEs, enhance their environmental consciousness, save energy, and expand their markets, etc., to boost MSMEs' competitiveness. The scheme comprises three certification levels including bronze, silver, and gold.

Subsidies under the ZED scheme:

- Micro Enterprises: 80%
- Small Enterprises: 60%
- Medium Enterprises: 50%

An additional **10 percent** subsidy for women or SC/ST entrepreneurs-owned units. Also, there will be an additional subsidy of **5%** for MSMEs which are a part of the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) or Micro & Small Enterprises-Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) of the Ministry. It will be launched in two phases. A provision of up to **Rs.5 lakh** will be available for handholding and consultancy support for MSMEs. Further, a limited purpose joining reward of Rs. 10,000/- will be offered to each MSME once they take the ZED Pledge.

Note: The erstwhile ZED scheme was launched in October 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

3. Goods and services tax (GST) collections in the month of April 2022 has increased to **Rs.1.68 lakh crore**. Of the total, central GST amounted to Rs. 33,159 crores, state GST was Rs.41,793 crore, integrated GST was Rs.81,939 crore. It was Rs.1.42 lakh crores in March 2022.
4. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has launched the '**National Behaviour Change Communication Framework for Garbage Free Cities**' under the Swachh Bharat Mission-

Urban 2.0. The objective is to strengthen the ongoing Jan Andolan for 'Garbage Free Cities'. The framework serves as a guiding document and blueprint for States and Cities to undertake large-scale multimedia campaigns along with intensive and focused interpersonal communication campaigns.

- The 2nd edition of '**SwachhTalks-'Swachhata Ki Jyot'** has also been launched. It is a peer-learning webinar series aimed at sharing field experiences and best communications practices of sector partners, cities, and states in creating an impact in the field of Swachhata.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) first phase was launched on **2nd October 2014**. It aims to make urban India open defecation-free (ODF) and achieve 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste. This lasted till October 2019.
- SBM-U 2.0 was launched in 2021. It will be implemented over five years from 2021 to 2026 with an outlay of Rs.1.41 lakh crore.

5. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the three-day **Semicon India Conference 2022** held in **Bangalore**, Karnataka. It has been organized by India Semiconductor Mission in partnership with industry associations.

- **Objective:** To make India a global hub for Semiconductor Design, Manufacturing, and Technology Development which will help propel the vision of the India Semiconductor Mission.
- **Theme:** 'Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem'

Semicon India Program:

In March 2022, the Union Cabinet has approved the comprehensive Semicon India Program with a financial outlay of Rs.76,000 crore for the development of a sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystem in 2021.

Note: India's consumption of semiconductors is expected to cross USD 110 billion by 2030.

6. The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** has launched the Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) 'Yard 2118' named as '**Kamla Devi**', in honour of the social reformer and freedom fighter **Kamladevi Chattopadhyay** (Karnataka), in the Titagarh area of North 24 Parganas District, West Bengal. The vessel is fifth in the series of the five FPVs.

- It has been indigenously designed and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** shipyard.
- It is 48.9 meters long and 7.5 meters wide with a displacement of around 308 tonnes and is designed for maximum speed of 34 knots with an endurance of more than 1500 nautical miles.

7. Researchers at the Postgraduate and research department of Botany at St Albert's college in Kochi, Kerala has discovered a new **plant species** named '**Peperomia Albertiae**' in Idukki

district of Kerala. The plant falls under the genus *Peperomia* and it has been named 'Peperomia Albertiae' in recognition of the work carried out by researchers of St. Albert's College, which has completed 75 years in the field of higher education.

8. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched the phase 1 of the **2nd** edition of the **Atal New India Challenge (ANIC 2.0)** to address the Commercialization Valley of Death - supporting innovators scale over the risks associated with access to resources for testing, piloting and market creation. The 1st phase of ANIC 2.0 will see 18 challenges being thrown open from 7 sectors.

Atal New India Challenge:

It is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. The primary goal is to support innovations in areas critical to India's development and growth: Education, Health, Water and Sanitation, Agriculture, Food Processing, Housing, Energy, Mobility, Space Application etc.

- 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. The Mission Director for AIM is Chintan Vaishnav.

9. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced that **Cochin Shipyard Limited** will develop and build India's first indigenous hydrogen-fuelled electric vessels. The hydrogen fuel cell vessel based on Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around **Rs.17.50 crore** of which 75 percent will be funded by the Government of India.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the inaugural session of the global summit '**JITO Connect 2022**'. It is a three-day event organized at Gangadham Annex, **Pune** from 6th to 8th May 2022. It has been organised by Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) under the theme 'Together Towards Tomorrow'.
11. Union Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane has inaugurated a month-long initiative "**Enterprise India**" to promote entrepreneurship culture and create awareness about the schemes and initiatives of Ministry of MSME across the country. It is being organised from 27th April 2022 to **27th May 2022**. The event is aimed at 'Jan Bhagidari'. It also promotes entrepreneurship and importance of Industry associations in making country a "Manufacturing Hub".

12. The **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)** between India and the United Arab Emirates has come into force on 1st May 2022. It was signed between both nations on 18th February 2022.

Key Highlights:

- It will allow duty-free access to **90%** of India's exports to the UAE.
- It will benefit about **USD 26 billion** worth of Indian products that are currently subjected to 5% import duty by the UAE.
- It is set to reduce tariffs for 80 percent of goods.
- Indian exports are set to get zero-duty access within a further 5 to 10 years, including electronic goods, chemicals and petrochemicals, cement etc.
- The agreement allows market access for medicines from the Indian companies within **90 days** of approval in the US and UK.
- It will set up a food corridor and establish a dedicated **IndiaMart** in the Jebel Ali Free Zone.
- It is expected to boost bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next five years.

13. The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay** has signed a Letter of Agreement with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** to develop climate solutions for stakeholders at the village, city, and district levels through user-friendly weather forecasting applications.

- The agreement coincided with the 10-year completion of the Interdisciplinary Program in Climate Studies (IDPCS) at IIT Bombay, which was set up in 2012 with major financial support from the Department of Science and Technology.

14. The Government of India (GoI) has launched the **National Open Access Registry (NOAR)** platform to promote open access in the **power sector**.

- NOAR is an integrated single window electronic platform accessible to all stakeholders including open access participants, traders, power exchanges, and national/regional/state load despatch centers for electronic processing of short-term open-access applications thereby automating the administration of the short-term open access in the inter-state transmission system.
- **National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC)** operated by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has been designated as the nodal agency for the implementation and operation of NOAR.
- The platform will enable seamless market participation by the open-access consumer with easier and faster access to the short-term electricity market, comprising of about 10% of all of India demand.

15. Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) S. Somnath has announced to launch a **Mission to Venus**, the hottest planet in the solar system, by **December 2024**.

Objectives of the mission:

- Investigation of surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy.
- Research of the structure, composition, and dynamics of the atmosphere, which is engulfed by sulphuric acid clouds.
- Investigation of solar wind interaction with the Venusian ionosphere.

16. The state government of Telangana has set up **India's first 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub'** at Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS), **Hyderabad**. It has been set up in partnership with the pharmaceuticals majors Dr. Reddy's Laboratory and Laurus Lab. It will help in the greater incorporation of flow chemistry techniques in the pharma sector as well as the adoption of continuous synthesis for the manufacturing of active pharma ingredients (APIs).

About Flow Chemistry:

It is also known as "continuous flow chemistry". It is the process of performing chemical reactions in a tube or pipe. In this, a chemical reaction is run in a continuously flowing stream rather than in batch production.

17. The **Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to upskill the technical staff at the Department of Space in ISRO. This MoU will be valid for a period of **5 years**.

- Under this, more than 4000 ISRO technical employees will be trained in the programme. The location of the training will be the National Skill Training Institutes (NSTI) under MSDE located across India.

18. Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur has announced that **India** will be the official Country of Honour at **Marche' Du Film (Film Market)**, organized alongside the 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival, in France. The festival is scheduled to take place from 17th May to 28th May 2022. This is for the first time that such an honour is being bestowed to any country. This will ensure India's presence as Focus Country at the Opening Night of Marche Du Films. There will be a spotlight on India's cinema and its rich cultural heritage.

- Another highlight is the World Premiere of the Movie **"Rocketry"**. The movie is produced by actor **R.Madhavan** and it will be showcased at the Palais des Festivals of the market screening on 19th May 2022.

- India is also a Country of Honour at the Cannes Next, under which five new Start-Ups will be given an opportunity to pitch to the Audio-Visual Industry. Ten professionals will participate on the Animation Day networking.

India has also got the opportunity to pitch the following **5 movies** at the “Goes to Cannes Section”:

- Baghjan by Jaicheng Zxai Dohutia – Assamese, Moran
- Bailadila by Shailendra Sahu – Hindi, Chhattisgarhi
- Ek Jagah Apni (A Space of Our Own) by Ektara Collective – Hindi
- Follower by Harshad Nalawade – Marathi, Kannada, Hindi
- Shivamma by Jai Shankar – Kannada

It should be noted that a cinema hall named ‘**Olympia Screen**’ will be dedicated to India on 22nd May 2022 for screening “Unreleased Movies”.

- 19.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the inaugural session of the **4th edition** of the **International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI) 2022** via video message. It has been commenced by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The objective is to explore ways to strengthen the resilience of transitioning infrastructure systems, with an emphasis on human-centred approaches.

CDRI:

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. It aims to address the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and associated development.

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has **25 countries and seven international organisations** as members now with Bangladesh being the latest entrant.

- 20.** The Supreme Court of India has recently formed a committee to monitor recovery from the National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) defaulters. The committee will be headed by **Pradeep Nandrajog**, retired Justice of the Bombay High Court. NSEL, has already, single-handedly secured decrees/ arbitration awards worth Rs.3,534.46 crore against the defaulters. Further, defaulters’ liabilities of Rs.760 crores have already been crystallised by the committee appointed by the Bombay High Court.

21. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that an amount of **Rs.363 crore** has been allotted for the **World's largest film restoration project** under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM). Approximately 2,200 films will undergo restoration.
- About NFHM:**
- National Film Heritage Mission was launched in 2016.
 - The aim is to preserve, restore, and digitise Indian cinematic heritage.
 - National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization for the implementation of this project.
 - **Total budget:** Rs.597 crores.
22. The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has received **India's first semi-high speed train set for Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS)** at **Savli** in Gujarat. These train sets are manufactured by Alstom (factory in Savli) under Make in India initiative. The train sets are capable of running at a speed of **180 kilometre** per hour. The train set will be brought to Duhai Depot in Uttar Pradesh and will be maintained and operated from there.
23. The 2nd edition of **North East Food Show 2022** has been organized from 5th to 7th May 2022 in **Shillong**, Meghalaya. The event has been inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Sikkim Prem Singh Tamang along with Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma.
- **Objective:** To provide a platform to network, connect and bridge the gap between farmers, producers, retail purchasers, importers, wholesalers, distributors, & brands nationally & internationally.
 - It has been launched in collaboration with the government of Meghalaya and SAIL India.
 - The first food show was organised in 2019 in Shillong.
24. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has constructed **4,325 kilometres** of highways in FY22. NHAI has awarded projects for a total length of 6,306 kilometres during FY22. A total of **Rs.1,68,770 crore** has been spent by NHAI for the development of highway infrastructure in the country in FY22.
- The NHAI is the main road construction agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
 - NHAI constructed a total length of 4,218 km in FY21 and 3,979 km in FY20.
25. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have signed a joint declaration of intent (JDI) establishing the **Green and Sustainable Development Partnership**. It aims to intensify bilateral, triangular, and multilateral cooperation and accelerate actions towards climate protection. Under this, **Germany** has committed to provide additional development assistance of **10 billion euros** to India until **2030**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also participated in the 6th round of InterGovernmental Consultations (IGC) between the two countries.

Both the nations agreed to:

- Develop an **Indo-German Green Hydrogen Roadmap** based on the inputs by the Indo-German Green Hydrogen Task Force supported by the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF).
- Establish an **Indo-German Renewable Energy Partnership** focusing on innovative solar energy and other renewables,
- Establish a lighthouse cooperation on “Agroecology and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources” to benefit the rural population and small-scale farmers in India.
- Examine collaboration on Green Energy Corridors.
- Deepen cooperation in restoring **forest landscapes** under the Bonn Challenge as an important measure to fight poverty, preserve and restore biodiversity
- Deepen cooperation on the creation of suitable conditions for the successful and sustainable use of green technologies, including in the area of reduction of air pollution.
- Work together on **Triangular Cooperation**, based on individual strengths and experiences in development cooperation and offer sustainable, viable and inclusive projects in third countries to support the achievement of SDGs and climate targets.

Note: The Indo-German Energy Forum was launched in 2006.

26. The Government of India (GoI) has decided to issue a **Rs.100** commemorative coin to mark the birth centenary of **Jawaharlal Darda**, late freedom fighter and founder of the Lokmat Group of Newspapers (now Lokmat Media). It will be issued on **2nd July 2023**, to coincide with the 100th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Darda.
27. Union Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Rajeesh Chandrasekhar has virtually inaugurated five **National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology (NIELIT)** Centres in North East Region from NEILIT Dimapur, Nagaland. These Centres are located at Dibrugarh & Jorhat in Assam, Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh, Dimapur in Nagaland and Senapati in Manipur.

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STATES AFFAIRS

28. The '**Miyan Ka Bada**' railway station in the Balotra area of Barmer district, **Rajasthan** has now been officially renamed as '**Mahesh Nagar Halt**'. Earlier in 2018, the name of the village was changed from 'Miyan ka Bada' to Mahesh Nagar.
29. The state government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana**'. It will be implemented in all 14 Municipal Corporations of the state. Under the scheme, the residents of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services at their doorstep.
30. The state government of **Karnataka** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel-based **ISMC** Analog Fab Private Limited to set up a semiconductor fabrication plant in the state with an investment of **Rs.22,900 crore** (USD 3 Billion).
- This will be India's first and largest semiconductor fabrication unit under the Centre's Semiconductor Mission.
 - Under the mission, the Centre will provide fiscal support to semiconductor fabrication facilities: 28nm or Lower - Up to 50% of the Project Cost; Above 28 nm to 45nm - Up to 40% of the Project Cost; and Above 45 nm to 65nm - Up to 30% of the Project Cost.
 - The company plans to complete the project in the Kochanahalli Industrial area of Mysore over the next 7 years with an employment potential of 1,500 persons.
31. The state government of **Haryana** has launched a **Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS)** mobile app to help track vehicles carrying sand and other mining material. The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana.
32. **Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council**, in collaboration with the **National Film Development Corporation** and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, have been organizing the first-ever **National Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir** in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir from 15th to 20th June 2022. The objective is to highlight the film, music, and creative ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) along with its' natural and social-cultural beauty to the rest of India and the world.
33. The state government of **Assam** has signed a tripartite agreement with Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) and Office National des Forets International (**ONFI**) for wildlife protection. This agreement forms a part of the Indo-French Joint Declaration for the "Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership". Through this agreement, a sum of **Rs.2.50 crore** will be granted by the AFD to the state of Assam for pursuing exchange programme/s of government officials between France and Assam to attain knowledge about the dynamics of forest conservation and wildlife management.

34. The state government of **Telangana** has announced the extension of insurance coverage of **Rs.5 lakh** to handloom and power loom weavers under the '**Nethanna Bima**' (Weaver's Insurance) scheme. Rs.29 crore has been sanctioned for implementing the scheme during the current year. The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.
35. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the **Online Building Permission System (OBPS)** in Sikkim. With this, **Sikkim** has become the first state in the North East to launch OBPS. It is aimed at improving service delivery with lesser human interface and more accountability to get building plans passed.
- It has been launched during a symposium on 'Urban Development of North Eastern States – Smart City Revolution', organized by the Sikkim government in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DONER).
36. The Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) of **Maharashtra** has tied up with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on Medical Education under the public-private partnership (PPP) model in Maharashtra.
37. The Maharashtra Department of Prisons has launched '**Jivhala**', a credit scheme for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state. It is a first-of-its-kind scheme that has been launched for prisoners in India.
- It is being offered by the **Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank**.
 - The pilot for this scheme has been introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state.
 - In the initial phase, a loan of **Rs 50,000** will be given at a **7 %** interest rate without any requirement of a mortgage or guarantor.
 - Out of the interest that will be earned by the bank, **1 percent** will be contributed by the bank to the prisoners' welfare fund.

Note: Jivhala means 'affection' in Marathi.

38. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) development department of Odisha has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Odisha to set up **India's first Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb)** in **Odisha**. This observatory will be looking to establish a depository regarding the health of all the tribal populations in Odisha.
- During the MoU signing event, Sushmita Bagchi, the chairperson of the 'Mo School' Abhiyan, has launched a tribal family health survey named '**Odisha Tribal Family Health Survey**'. This is a first-of-its-kind survey of the tribal communities in India.

Through this survey, health and demographic data will be collected and made available to make various policies.

39. The state government of **Kerala** has launched the '**Shaili App**' for diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among the people in the state of Kerala. It has been set up as part of the population-based screening project launched by the Kerala State Health Department under the 'Nava Kerala Karma plan'.
40. The state government of **Haryana** has launched "**e-Adhigam**" scheme at Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak. Under this scheme, nearly three lakh tablets will be distributed to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.
- Adhigam stands for Advance Digital Haryana Initiative of Government with Adaptive Modules (Adigham).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

41. The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has started the **Defender Europe 2022** and **Swift Response 2022** exercises. The exercise has begun in Poland and will be held in 8 other countries. It has been started from 1st May to 27th May 2022 to build preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the USA and NATO. It will involve approximately 18, 000 participants from over 20 countries.
42. The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decided to pull the plug on the world's largest flying telescope 'SOFIA' that confirmed the presence of water on the Moon. NASA will shut down the operations of the **Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)** mission by **30th September 2022**.
- About SOFIA telescope:**
- It was launched in 2014.
 - It is a **2.7-meter** infrared telescope sitting inside a Boeing 747SP airplane, flying at an altitude of 38,000-45,000 feet above the surface.
 - It is a joint collaboration between NASA and the German Space Agency (DLR).
 - It has been collecting data to understand star birth and death and the formation of new solar systems.
 - It is designed to observe cosmic objects in far-infrared wavelengths.
 - In 2019, SOFIA discovered helium hydride — the first molecule formed in the Universe almost 14 billion years ago.
 - In 2020, SOFIA discovered water molecules (H₂O) on the sun-facing side of the Moon.

43. The **2nd edition** of the **India-Nordic Summit** has been held in **Copenhagen**, Denmark. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the summit along with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark, Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir of Iceland, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre of Norway, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and Prime Minister Sanna Marin of Finland.

MoUs / Agreements signed during the summit:

- Declaration of Intent (DoI) on Migration and Mobility.
- Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and the Ministry of Business, Industry, and Financial Affairs of Denmark on Centre of Excellence in Green Shipping.
- Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) between the Ministry of Culture, India and Ministry of Culture of Denmark for the years 2022-26.
- Letter of Intent (LoI) between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Environment of Denmark.
- MoU on cooperation in the field of Skill Development, Vocational Education, and Entrepreneurship.
- Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- Launch of Energy Policy Dialogue at Ministerial level.
- India to join as mission partner to International Centre for Anti-Microbial Resistance Solution (ICARS).
- Letter of Intent (LoI) between Invest India and Technical University of Denmark to facilitate start-up collaboration.

Note: The first India-Nordic Summit was held in 2018 in Stockholm, Sweden.

44. The **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** has successfully deployed **eight remote sensing satellites** into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) using its Long March (Chang Zheng) 2D carrier rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre, in the northern province of Shanxi, China. This launch marks the 419th launch using the Long March 2D launch vehicle.

45. The United Nations Organization (UNO) has launched the **UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**. It has been launched by some 30 leading organisations comprising UN-Energy. It will catalyse the large-scale action and support needed for the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions.
- UN-Energy has committed to support, facilitate and catalyse, inter alia, 500 million more people to gain access to electricity, and 1 billion more people to gain access to clean cooking solutions, as well as a 100 per cent increase in renewables capacity globally.

- An **Energy Compact Action Network** has also been launched to match those governments seeking support for their clean energy goals with those governments and businesses that have pledged over USD 600 billion to support these commitments.

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REPORTS & INDICES

- 46.** As per the latest data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's labour force participation rate (LFPR) has declined to **40%** in 2021 from 47% in 2016. As per the data, the male LFPR is 67.4%, the female LFPR is 9.4% in 2021.

Haryana has the highest unemployment rate at 26.7 per cent, followed by Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. Chhattisgarh has been ranked first among states with the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Labour force participation rate:

Labour force participation rate (LFPR) is defined as the section of the working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment.

- 47.** The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the 4th edition of **THE Impact Rankings 2022**. The list includes 1406 universities from 106 countries and regions. The list has been topped by **Western Sydney University** of Australia, followed by Arizona State University of USA and Western University of Canada.
- As per the list, 8 universities from India made it to the top 300.
 - Approximately 64 Indian Universities have been featured on THE Impact Rankings 2022 making India the **fourth**-best represented country in the ranking.
 - **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham**, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu has secured 41st rank in the list. It is the only Indian University among the top 50.
 - Lovely Professional University, Punjab has secured 74th rank in the list.
 - Other Indian Universities: Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Amity University, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, Chitkara University, University of Calcutta, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and OP Jindal Global University.

The THE Impact Rankings assess the impact of the university on society through its contributions towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

48. The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations has released the **State of the World's Forests (SOFO)** report 2022. As per the report, the world has lost 420 million hectares (mha), approximately 10.34 percent of its total forest area in the last 30 years.

- The 420 mha of forests have been lost between 1990 and 2020, due to deforestation, though forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31 percent) of the earth's geographical area.
- More than 700 mha of forest (18 percent of total forest area) is in legally established protected areas.
- Around 15 percent of 250 emerging infectious diseases have been linked to forests.
- The world population is projected to reach 9.7 billion people by 2050, which will increase competition for land, as the demand for food for this large population will rise by 35 to 56 percent by the 2050s.

Note: SOFO is released by FAO every 2 years.

49. The Paris-based Reporters without Borders (RSF) has released its 20th edition of the **World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2022**. The Index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. The index is based on five indicators: political context, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety. As per the index, **India** has been ranked **150th** with a score of 41 in 2022 from 142nd in 2021 out of 180 countries. The index has been topped by **Norway** with a score of 92.65. **North Korea** with a score of 13.92 remained at the bottom of the index.

World Press Freedom Index (WPFI) 2022		
Rank	Country	Score
1	Norway	92.65
2	Denmark	90.27
3	Sweden	88.84
4	Estonia	88.83
5	Finland	88.42

India's Neighbours' performance:

- Bhutan has been ranked 33rd in the index.
- Nepal has climbed up by 30 points in the global ranking at 76th position.
- The index placed China at 175th position, Pakistan at 157th position, Sri Lanka 146th, Bangladesh 162nd and Myanmar at 176th position.

50. According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, **Rajasthan** has become the first state in India to reach **10 GW** of cumulative large-scale solar installations. The state has a total of 32.5

GW of installed power capacity, with renewables contributing 55%, followed by thermal energy at 43%, and nuclear energy accounting for the remaining 2%.

Rajasthan's Solar Energy Policy 2019 has set a target to achieve a 30 GW solar power target by FY 2024-25.

Note: India has installed a record 10 GW of new solar capacity in 2021, compared to 3.2 GW installed in 2020.

- 51.** Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has released the National Report of the fifth round of **National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5)** in the presence of Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, at the 'Swasthya Chintan Shivir' being held at Vadodara, Gujarat.

The objective is to provide reliable and comparable data relating to health and family welfare and other emerging areas in India. The NFHS-5 survey work has been conducted in around 6.37 lakh sample households from 707 districts (as on March, 2017) of the country from 28 States and 8 UTs, covering 7,24,115 women and 1,01,839 men to provide dis-aggregated estimates up to district level.

Key Highlights:

- The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), the average number of children per women, has further declined from 2.2 to **2.0** at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5. There are only five States in India, which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1. They are **Bihar** (2.98), **Meghalaya** (2.91), **Uttar Pradesh** (2.35), **Jharkhand** (2.26) **Manipur** (2.17).
- Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54% to 67% in the country.
- Institutional Births have increased substantially from 79% to 89% in India. Even in rural areas around 87% births are delivered in Institutions and same is 94% in urban areas.
- More than three-fourths (77%) children age 12-23 months were fully immunized, compared with 62% in NFHS-4.
- Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas (30%) in 2019-21. Variation in stunting ranges from the lowest in Puducherry (20%) and highest in Meghalaya (47%).
- Between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, the use of clean cooking fuel (44% to 59%) and improved sanitation facilities (49% to 70%), including a hand-washing facility with soap and water (60% to 78%) have improved considerably.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** Mumbai, as the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. The NFHS-1 was conducted in 1992-93 in all states except

Sikkim, NFHS-2 was conducted in 1998-99 in all 26 states of India, NFHS-3 was conducted in 2005-2006, and NFHS-4 was conducted in 2014-2015.

Note: NFHS-6 is scheduled to be conducted during 2023-24.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

- 52.** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) has decided to observe **1st May 2022** as **Ujjwala Diwas** to celebrate the achievements of **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana** (PMUY).

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

It was launched on **1st May 2016** at **Ballia**, Uttar Pradesh. The scheme provides Free LPG connection to every BPL household. Ujjwala 2.0 was launched in August 2021 at Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh. Ujjwala 2.0 will also provide the first refill and a hotplate free of cost to the beneficiaries.

- 53.** Union Minister for Food Processing and Industries Pashupati Kumar Paras has launched three '**One District, One Product**' (**ODOP**) brands under the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro-Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) in New Delhi. The new 3 ODOP brands are **Madhurmithas** (Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh); **Anaras** (Rai Bhoi, Meghalaya); and **Pind Se** (Amritsar, Punjab) and the 5 products are Jaggery Powder, dried spicy pineapple, Mango pickle, Masala paste, and Lemon Honey.

- With this, a total of **10 ODOP brands** and **14 products** have been launched under the MoU signed between the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).
- The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro-Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME) was launched on **29th June 2020**. It is a centrally sponsored scheme with an outlay of **Rs. 10,000 crore**. It will be implemented over a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The scheme aims to enhance the competitiveness of existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry and to promote formalization of the sector and provide support to Farmer Producer Organizations and Self-Help Groups.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 54.** **Star9 Mobility Private Limited** has won the bid to buy **51%** government stake in helicopter services provider **Pawan Hans Limited (PHL)** for a cash consideration of **Rs. 211.14 crore**. The alternative mechanism, comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road

Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, has approved the highest bid placed by Star9.

Note: PHL is a joint venture of GoI (51%) and ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited) (49%).

- 55. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **GE Power Conversion** for the development of integrated full electric propulsion systems for the Indian Navy. This MoU will enhance the ship's energy requirements, including propulsion, high-power sensors, service loads, and pulse power for defence systems.
- 56. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has collaborated with **Qualcomm India** to empower home-grown semiconductor start-ups and chipmaker.
- Under this collaboration, C-DAC and Qualcomm India intend to work towards nurturing technical advancements and intellectual-property-driven innovation and product development required for semiconductor design in the Indian ecosystem.
 - Qualcomm India has also planned to initiate and conduct the **Qualcomm Semiconductor Mentorship Programme 2022** for select start-ups from the semiconductor space in India.
- 57. Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah** has inaugurated the **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)** campus in **Bengaluru** to help prevent modern-day crimes and to have the upper hand against any threat.

NATGRID:

It was started in **2009** after the Mumbai terrorist attack (2008) with a budget of Rs.2,800 crores. It is an online database for collating scattered pieces of information and putting them together on one platform. It links intelligence and investigation agencies and is exempted from the Right to Information Act, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 24.

- 58. The Tata Power Community Development Trust (TPCDT)** has collaborated with the Centre for Autism and other Disabilities Rehabilitation Research and Education (CADRRE) to launch **India's first bridgital autism support network** named '**Pay Autention - A different mind is a gifted mind**'. The objective is to spread awareness about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and help people understand, accept and support individuals with autism and their parents and caregivers.

About Autism spectrum disorder (ASD):

It is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioural challenges. People with autism have trouble understanding what other people think and feel.

59. Greenstat Hydrogen India, a subsidiary of Norway-based Greenstat ASA, and **Ayana Renewable Power** (Ayana) have signed a joint development agreement (JDA) for the development of green hydrogen projects in India. Under this agreement, an initial pilot project will be launched in Karnataka.

60. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) 2022** through video conferencing in **Surat**, Gujarat. The three-day summit has been organised by Sardardham.

- **Objective:** To encourage entrepreneurship and value creation among the youth.
- It has been organized under 'Mission 2026' to provide an impetus to the socio-economic development of the Patidar community.
- The summit aims to open door to success through economic and social upliftment.
- The main theme of the summit is "Aatmanirbhar Community to Aatmanirbhar Gujarat and India".

The Global Patidar Business Summit (GPBS) is organized once in every two years. The first two summits were held in Gandhinagar in 2018 and 2020.

61. Red Shield Division of the Indian Army under the aegis of Spear Corps has signed a tripartite agreement with the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and the National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO) to establish the '**Red Shield Centre for Excellence and Wellness**' in **Bishnupur** district of **Manipur**.

- **Objective:** It aims to provide coaching and mentoring facility for students from economically weaker and underprivileged sections of Manipur for competitive examinations like NEET and JEE.
- The project 'Manipur Super 50' is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 50 students by the first week of July 2022.

62. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has launched methanol-blended petrol named '**M15**' on pilot basis in **Tinsukia** district of **Assam**. It is 15 percent blend of methanol with petrol. It has been launched by the Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli in the presence of Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat and IOC chairman SM Vaidya.

Note: The Bureau of Indian Standards had notified standards for 20 percent blending of di-methyl ether (DME) with LPG and for mixing 15%, 85% and 100% methanol with diesel.

63. The **Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H)** has announced the demonstration of the Extreme Massive MIMO (**Multiple-Input Multiple-Output**), a flagship technology designed for 5G-advanced and 6G deployments.
- Extremely massive MIMO refers to the next generation technology that uses a very large antenna array. This will increase the coverage and capacity of cellular networks using multiple antennas at the base station.
64. India's first **Greenfield Grain-Based Ethanol Plant** has been inaugurated at Ganeshpur near Parora in the **Purnia** district of **Bihar**. The plant has been built by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited on around 15 acres of land at a cost of Rs 105 crore. The plant, built with latest technology using zero waste discharge, will buy 130 tons of rice husk and 145-150 tons of maize or rice from farmers every day.
65. Bangalore-based **Open Financial Technologies**, a neo-banking platform, has become India's 100th Unicorn startup with a valuation of USD 1 billion. This milestone has been achieved by raising USD 50 million in its series D funding round from IIFL along with existing investors Temasek, Tiger Global and 3one4 Capital.
- **Unicorn:** It is used to describe any privately held company that has touched a valuation of more than USD 1 billion.
 - **Note:** Mobile advertising platform InMobi was the first unicorn announced in 2011.
66. **ReNew Power** has signed five solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** and **Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL)** to supply around **1500 MW** of solar energy. It has also signed multiple long-term purchase agreements with corporate buyers together totalling around 2 GW of renewable energy. The new utility solar projects will be located in the western state of Rajasthan and have flat tariffs over 25 years.
- With this agreements, the company's gross total portfolio jumped to 12.1 GW from 10.2 GW at the beginning of the 2022 calendar year.
67. The first two-day **International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy** has been organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**) in association with the **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)**. It has been held under the aegis of the Misra Centre of Financial Markets at IIMA.

During the conference, the Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation, Planning and Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh, has praised the significant contribution of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016**, made by establishing an effective ecosystem for insolvency resolution in the Indian economy. IBC 2016 is India's bankruptcy law, which seeks to

consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy. The Code specifies a time-bound insolvency resolution process.

68. The **RailTel** Corporation of India Limited has designed and established a Mobile Container Hospital named '**Health Cloud**' at **Vishakhapatnam** premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ). It is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. It has been inaugurated by Louise Agersnap, Head of WHO Innovation Hub, WHO-Geneva, Switzerland.
69. **NTPC GE Power Services Limited (NGSL)**, a 50:50 JV between NTPC and GE Power India Ltd, has inked a tripartite Memorandum of Engagement (MoE) with The Lake Region Economic Bloc (**LREB**), Kenya and Procorp Enertech Private Limited (**PEPL**) to work towards the development of ground-mounted and floating solar PV projects in the Lake region of Kenya.

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BANKING & FINANCE

70. **Indian Bank** has launched its first digital product '**Pre-approved Personal Loan (PAPL)**' under Project World of Advanced Virtual Experience (WAVE). It aims to provide customers with instant loan disbursement through a three-step process. The loan can be availed through 'IndOASIS' mobile app. The loan carries an interest rate of 10% per annum at present with no foreclosure charges.
71. **Spice Money**, a fintech firm, has partnered with **Religare Broking** to provide people in rural India access to platforms to invest in capital market. This partnership will facilitate rural India to get assisted access to a Demat account and invest in capital market-linked products. This will facilitate rural population to apply for shares of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
72. **HDFC Life Insurance** has become a signatory to United Nations-supported **Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**, epitomising its objective of sustainable growth and long-term value creation. The company is committed to grow holistically and sustainably by continuing to invest in the five pillars of ESG strategy, namely: ethical conduct, responsible investing, diversity, equity & inclusion, holistic living, and sustainable operations.

- 73.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) in the exercise of its powers conferred under the IRDAI (Investment) Regulations, 2016, has allowed insurers to have exposure to finance and insurance activities up to **30 percent** of their investment assets. Earlier, it was 25%.
- 74. FidyPay**, a fintech API platform, has collaborated with **Yes Bank** to enable a seamless Connected Banking experience to bank's customers. This partnership will extend digital facilitation to a wide range of enterprises, including SMEs, fintech companies, and start-ups.
- 75. Canara Bank** has launched 'skill loans' in collaboration with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP). The loans ranging from **Rs.5,000** to **Rs.1.5 lakh** can be availed of by students pursuing skill training programmes offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies that conduct National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) or National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) courses.
- The loan will be provided without any collateral and have a repayment period of 3 to 7 years.
 - Students can also avail themselves of moratorium on repayment for the duration of the course and for an additional six months.
- 76.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its **Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC)**, which makes recommendations to the capital markets regulator on improving market safety, efficiency, and transparency.
- The **18-member** advisory committee will now be chaired by **G Mahalingam**, former whole time member of SEBI.
 - Earlier, the panel had 17 members and was headed by SEBI chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.
 - The panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of SEBI as members.
 - Other members: Zerodha's co-founder and chief executive officer (CEO) Nithin Kamath; Dhiraj Relli, MD and CEO of HDFC Securities; Jaideep Hansraj MD at Kotak Securities; Naresh Yadav MD and CEO of SBICAP Securities; and Leo Puri Chairman, JP Morgan, South & Southeast Asia.
- 77. HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** has launched '**Pay as you Drive**' program to provide distance-based insurance under its damage section to lower upfront insurance premiums.
- The offer has been extended as a pilot with **Maruti Suzuki India Limited** to its customers buying a new car as a value proposition to save on insurance premiums.

- The program will be available for owners of new Maruti Suzuki cars in select cities up to 14th May 2022.

78. DBS Bank India has tied up startup venture capital fund Anthill Ventures and evangelist network Headstart Network Foundation to launch **DBS Business Class foundedED**. The aim is to support entrepreneurs and innovators. The first event of DBS BusinessClass founded has been held in Hyderabad, Telangana with actor, entrepreneur and investor Rana Daggubati as the keynote speaker.

79. Union Bank of India has become the first public sector bank to go live on the **Account Aggregator (AA)** ecosystem. The framework facilitates sharing of financial information on a real-time basis between regulated entities.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) licensed AA ecosystem in order to enable the flow of data between Financial Information Providers (FIPs) and Financial Information Users (FIUs).
- The AA Ecosystem aims to help the Lenders to leverage digital data acquired with the consent of the customers for providing them with a seamless journey and eliminating the need of physical documentation.

80. The Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with financial guarantee provider **Eqaro Guarantees** to establish India's first collateral-free digital lending platform for MSMEs. The platform will provide access to collateral-free capital up to **Rs.25 lakh** to fulfil MSMEs' need for urgent funds post due diligence of their businesses.

RBI IN NEWS

81. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has modified norms for banks to claim the amount of interest subvention provided to farmers under the short-term crop loan scheme through **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)** during 2021-22. As per the new circular, the pending claims for the fiscal year 2021-22 can be submitted by **30th June 2023**, and they must be duly certified by statutory auditors "as true and correct."

- The government provides interest subvention of **2%** annually to banks in order to assist farmers with short-term crop loans of up to **Rs.3 lakh** at a **7%** annual interest rate.
- Farmers that repay their loans on time will receive an additional **3%** interest subsidy. The effective interest rate for these farmers is 4%.

82. Recently, RBI has also issued guidelines for compensation of **key managerial personnel** and senior management of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). As per the guidelines, NBFCs have to constitute a nomination and remuneration committee (NRC), which will have

the mandate to oversee the framing, review and implementation of compensation policy of the company with the approval of the board. The board of NBFCs may not offer guaranteed bonuses to the senior management and key managerial personnel. The compensation packages will comprise of fixed and variable pay components aligned effectively with prudent risk taking to ensure that compensation is adjusted for all types of risks. These guidelines will come into effect from **1st April 2023** and will be effective on all the finance companies, apart from the ones in the base layer.

83. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the **Report on Currency and Finance (RCF)** for the year 2021-22. The theme of the report is **“Revive and Reconstruct”**.

- As per the report, the Indian economy is likely to take over 12 years to overcome the COVID-19 losses.
- Taking the actual growth rate of (-) 6.6% for 2020-21, 8.9% for 2021-22, and assuming a growth rate of 7.2% for 2022-23, and 7.5% beyond that, India is expected to overcome COVID-19 losses in 2034-35.
- The report emphasized providing opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses.
- Public Sector banks should not be dependent on the government for recapitalization.
- To reduce general government debt to below 66% of GDP over the next five years is important to secure India's medium-term growth prospects.

Note: RBI has projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.35% in FY24.

84. The Reserve Bank of India's board has approved the nomination of **Rajiv Ranjan**, Executive Director of RBI, as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He has replaced Mridul Sagar, who retired in April 2022.

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a 6-member MPC to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.

Members of MPC: Shaktikanta Das (Chairman), Ashima Goyal, Shashanka Bhide, Jayanth R Varma, Rajiv Ranjan and Michael Debabrata Patra.

85. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India has met off-cycle from 2nd to 4th May 2022 to assess the global growth. During the meeting, MPC has increased the repo rate by 40 basis points (bps) to **4.40 percent** with immediate effect in a bid to contain inflation. The RBI's repo rate has been kept unchanged at 4 percent since May 2020.

Repo Rate: It is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks.

MPC has also increased the **cash reserve ratio (CRR)** by 50 basis points to **4.50%** with effect from **21st May 2022**. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate stands adjusted to 4.15% and the Marginal Standing Facility rate and the Bank rate to 4.65%.

This happened due to rise in inflation, geo-political tensions, high crude oil prices and shortage of commodities globally, which have impacted Indian economy.

Note: The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during June 6-8, 2022.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

86. Cynthia Rosenzweig (Columbia, USA), a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has been awarded the **World Food Prize 2022** from the World Food Prize Foundation. She has been selected for the award for her research to understand the relationship between climate and food systems and forecast how both will change in the future. She has been awarded a diploma, a commemorative sculpture and a monetary award of USD 250,000.

- The World Food Prize is a prestigious international award conceived as the **"Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture"** with a mission to elevate innovations and inspire action to sustainably increase the quality, quantity and availability of food for all. It was created by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Norman Borlaug in 1986.

87. Bina Modi, Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honoured with the 'Woman Transforming India' award at the 6th Entrepreneur and Leadership Awards 2022 of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC). The award has been presented by the Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya Scindia.

88. Tata Power Solar Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has won India's largest single solar EPC (engineering, procurement, and construction) order of **1GW** for approx. **Rs.5,500 crore** from SJVN Limited. The project will be developed under the Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and will be completed within a period of 24 months. The objective is to reduce 22,87,128 kg of carbon emission and is expected to generate around 2500 million units annually.

89. Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) has become India's largest FMCG Company by surpassing Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), after the announcement of its Quarter Four results for the

Financial Year 2022. Adani Wilmar has reported operational revenue of Rs.54,214 crore in FY22 whereas HUL has reported the revenue of Rs.51,468 crore in FY22.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

90. A new book titled '**Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India's Politics**' has been authored by **Rasheed Kidwai**. The book compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India's political landscape. The book is published by Hachette India. The foreword of the book is written by **Shashi Tharoor**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).
91. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh **Biswabhusan Harichandan** has released the book titled 'Paramardham'. The book is written in Telugu by Sri KRBHN Chakravarthi, Secretary of State Election Commission, Andhra Pradesh.
92. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled '**INDO-PAK WAR 1971-Reminiscences of Air Warriors**'. The book comprises 50 articles penned by the veterans who have shared their experiences in detail. The book has been edited by Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan.

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PERSON IN NEWS

93. Lieutenant General **Baggavalli Somashekar Raju** has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff with effect from 1st May 2022. He was serving as the Director-General Military Operations during the standoff on the LAC.
94. Former Amazon Music director and entertainment industry veteran **Sahas Malhotra** has been appointed as the new CEO of **JioSaavn**. He has also earlier worked with Sony Music India and Tips Industries.

- JioSaavn is an audio streaming service for South Asian music and artists that was founded in 2007 as Saavn. In March 2018, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) acquired a majority stake in the firm.

- 95. Sudarshan Venu** has been appointed as the Managing Director of TVS Motor Company, the third largest 2-wheeler company in India. Previously, he was the Joint Managing Director of TVS Motor Company.
- 96. Sangeeta Singh**, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) with effect from 2nd May 2022. She has been appointed after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on 30th April 2022.
- 97. Traun Kapoor**, an IAS from the 1987-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has been appointed to the post initially for a period of **2 years** from the date of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Earlier, he served as the secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- 98. Nand Mulchandani**, an Indian-origin man, has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the foreign intelligence and counterintelligence agency of the United States of America (USA). With this, he has become the first-ever Indian origin person to become the CTO of the CIO.
- 99.** IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Arvind Krishna** has been elected to the Board of the Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining period of a three-year term ending 31st December 2023. He has been elected as a Class B director.
- 100.** Air Marshal **Sanjeev Kapoor** has been appointed as the new Director General (Inspection and Safety) of the Indian Air Force with effect from 1st May 2022. Previously, he was commissioned in the Flying branch of IAF in December 1985 as a Transport Pilot.
- 101.** InterGlobe Aviation has appointed **Venkataramani Sumantran**, an independent non-executive director of IndiGo, as chairman of the IndiGo Board. He has succeeded Meleveetil Damodaran.

102. Priyanka Mohite (Maharashtra) has become the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres. She has achieved this feat after successfully completing her expedition to Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), which is the third highest mountain in the world.

Her Achievements:

- She is the first Indian woman to climb Mt Annapurna (8,091 m) in 2021. Mt Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
- She climbed the world's highest peak Mount Everest (8,849m) in 2013.
- She climbed Mount Lhoste (8,516m) in 2018, and Mount Makalu (8,849m) and Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895m) in 2016.

She was awarded the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award in 2020.

OBITUARIES

103. British F1 Racing Driver **Charles Anthony Standish Brooks**, who won six Formula One grand prix in the 1950s, has passed away recently. He was popularly known as 'Racing Dentist'. He was born in United Kingdom in 1932.

SPORTS

104. The 39th edition of the **2022 Badminton Asia Championships** has been held at the Muntinlupa Sport Complex in Muntinlupa, Philippines.

Event	Winners
Men's singles	Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia)
Women's singles	Wang Zhiyi (China)
Men's doubles	Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yeremia Rambitan (Indonesia)
Women's doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)
Mixed doubles	Zheng Siwei and Huang Ya-qiong (China)

Indian Badminton player, **PV Sindhu** has won the **Bronze medal** in the women's singles event.

105. Ronnie O'Sullivan (England) has won the 2022 World Snooker Championship by defeating Judd Trump (England) against 18-13 in the finals held at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, England. He has won his **seventh** World Snooker Championship title.

106. Kerala team has won the **75th Santosh Trophy 2022** by defeating the West Bengal team in the final match held at the Manjeri Stadium in Malappuram, Kerala. This is the seventh time that Kerala has lifted the Santosh Trophy title.

- Player of the Tournament: Jijo Joseph
- Top scorer with nine goals: Jesin TK

About Santosh Trophy:

It is associated with Football. It was instituted in 1941 by Indian Football Association (IFA). It was named after the then-president of the IFA, Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury, the Maharaja of Santosh. West Bengal team won the maiden Santosh Trophy.

107. Real Madrid has won the **35th Spanish League** title by defeating Espanyol in the final match. With this, Carlo Ancelotti has become the first coach to lift trophies in the top five European leagues.

108. Harshada Sharad Garud has become India's first weightlifter to win a Gold Medal in the women's 45 kg category at the **IWF Junior**

- **World Weightlifting Championships 2022** in Heraklion, Greece. She is also the winner of the 2020 Khelo India Youth Games under-17 girls' title.
- The 2022 Junior Weightlifting Championships is being held in Heraklion, Greece from 2nd to 10th May 2022.

109. The 19th edition of the **Asian Games 2022** has been postponed to **2023** due to rising COVID-19 cases in the host country. It was originally scheduled to be held in Hangzhou, China from 10th to 25th September 2022.

110. Indian Table-Tennis player **Manika Batra** has been ranked 38th in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Rankings 2022. G Sathyan has been ranked 34th in the men's singles category.

Top rankers:

Men's Singles: Fan Zhendong of China

Women's Singles: Chen Meng of China

Men's Doubles: Yukiya Uda and Shunsuke Togami of Japan

Women's Doubles: Wang Manyu and Sun Yingsha of China

Mixed Doubles: Cheng I Ching and Lin Yun Ju of Taiwan

111. Jain (Deemed-to-be University) has won the 2nd edition of the Khelo India University Games (KIUG) 2021 with 32 medals (**20 gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze**). Lovely Professional University (LPU) with 17 gold medals has placed second and Punjab University has placed third with 15 gold medals.

- Swimmer **Siva Sridhar** of Jain University has won the most number of individual medals at KIUG 2021, winning 7 gold and 2 silvers.
- Swimmer **Shrungi Bandekar** is the most successful female athlete at KIUG 2021 with 4 gold and 1 silver.

The KIUG 2021 has been hosted by *Karnataka* from 24th April to 3rd May 2022. A total of 142 universities have won a medal at the Khelo India University Games 2021, from which 71 have won at least one gold. The closing ceremony of KIUG has been held at Sri Kanteerava Outdoor Stadium, Bengaluru. '*Veera*' is the mascot of KIUG 2021. This edition has also witnessed the addition of two indigenous sports '*Yogasana*' and '*Mallakhamb*'.

112. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released the annual ICC Team Rankings 2022.

- **Men's T20 Internationals rankings:**

India has topped the rankings with 270 ratings, followed by England and Pakistan.

- **Men's ODI Team rankings:**

New Zealand has topped the rankings with 125 ratings, followed by England and Australia. India has been ranked fourth in the list.

- **Men's Test Team rankings:**

Australia has topped the rankings with 128 ratings, followed by India and New Zealand.

IMPORTANT DAYS

113. International Labour Day is observed annually on **1st May** to spread awareness about labour rights and to recognize the efforts of the working class. It is also known as International Workers Day or May Day or Antarashtriya Shramik Diwas or 'Uzhaopalar Naal' in Tamil or 'Kamgar Diwas' in Marathi. The day also commemorates the Haymarket Riot in Chicago in 1886.

- Labour Day was celebrated for the first time in India in 1923. The first formal celebration of the Labour Day in India was organised by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on 1st May 1923, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- 114. World Tuna Day** is observed annually on **2nd May** to spread awareness about the importance of **tuna fish**. The day was established by United Nations in 2016 by the UN General Assembly to preserve the Tuna fish.
- Tuna is an important source of food for humans as fish has many rich properties like omega 3, vitamin B12, protein and other minerals.
- 115. World Press Freedom Day** is observed annually on **3rd May** to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess the state of press freedom around the world, defend the media against the attacks on its independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while performing their duty.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Journalism under Digital Siege'
 - In 2022, UNESCO and the Republic of Uruguay hosted the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Conference in hybrid format in Punta Del Este, Uruguay from 2nd to 5th May 2022.
- 116. World Laughter Day** is observed annually on the **first Sunday** of May to spread awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. In 2022, the day falls on **1st May**. The day was first observed in Mumbai in 1998 when Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement, hypothesised that facial movements could reflect the mental state of a person.
- 117. World Asthma Day** is observed annually on the **first Tuesday** of **May** to spread awareness about asthma, a condition in which the airways narrow and swell and may produce extra mucus. In 2022, the day falls on **3rd May**. The day has been organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative organization founded in 1993. The day was first observed in 1998.
- **Theme 2022:** Closing Gaps in Asthma Care
- 118. International Firefighters' Day** is observed annually on **4th May** to recognise and honour the sacrifices of firefighters who risk their lives for others. The day also marks the feast day of St Florian, the patron saint of fire-fighters, chimney sweeps, and brewers. The day was first observed in 1999.
- The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon. The red color symbolizes fire and the blue symbolizes water.
- 119. Coal Miners Day** is observed annually on **4th May** to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands. The first-ever coal mine was opened in 1575 by George Bruce of Carnock, Scotland. In India, the coal mining business began in 1774.

- 120. World Hand Hygiene Day** is observed annually on **5th May** to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. It is annually led by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The campaign 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' theme of World Hand Hygiene Day 2022 is a "health care quality and safety climate or culture", and the slogan is "**Unite for safety: clean your hands**".
 - 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' was launched by WHO in 2009. It is now celebrated as World Hand Hygiene Day.
- 121. World Portuguese Language Day** is observed annually on **5th May** to highlight the important role this language plays in preserving human civilization and culture. The 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5th May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day" in 2019.
- 122. International No Diet Day** is observed annually on **6th May** to promote body acceptance and body shape diversity. The day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans in 1992.
- 123.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has observed its **62nd** raising day on 7th May 2022. It was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with *Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam* as its motto.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
 - Director General: Rajeev Chaudhary
- 124. World Athletics Day** is observed annually on **7th May** to spread awareness among youth and children regarding the importance of sports and fitness. The day is a part of a project named 'Athletics for a Greater World' which was initiated by World Athletics, formerly known as International Amateur Athletics Federations (IAAF). The day was first observed in 1996 by Primo Nebiolo who was the then-president of IAAF.

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