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NEWS

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May 2022 - Week 2

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The National Health Authority of India (NHAI) has signed two Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) in **Lucknow** to enhance National Highway infrastructure and to sustain environment in Uttar Pradesh and other states.
 - **First MoU:** It has been signed between NHAI and State Rural Livelihood Mission, Uttar Pradesh to involve the self-help groups in taking up the plantations along the National Highways.
 - **Second MoU:** It has been signed between NHAI and AMMANN India Pvt. Ltd. to create a talent pool of highly skilled workforce, fully trained on advanced technologies in Highway construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance.
2. **Ministry of Home Affairs** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** in New Delhi to realize India's green energy initiative. This collaboration between the two parties will jointly undertake the installation of Solar Rooftop PV Power Plants. It will facilitate the use of green power in the security establishments across India.
3. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will run its first **Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train** from **21st June 2022**. The proposed 18-days pilgrimage will run on **Ramayana Circuit** identified under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, covering prominent places associated with the life of Lord Shri Rama, including Ram Janaki temple in **Janakpur** located in Nepal.
 - The train will begin from the Safdarjung Station, Delhi and the last stoppage of the train is Bhadrachalam, Telengana. It will cover a distance of around 8000 km.
 - *Swadesh Darshan Scheme* is a Central Sector scheme launched in 2014-15 by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. The scheme aims to promote, develop and harness the potential of tourism in India.
4. Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs & Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the **BHARAT TAP initiative** at the 'Plumbex India' exhibition, a three-day exhibition on plumbing, water, and sanitation products, organised by Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
BHARAT TAP initiative:
 - **Aim:** To develop **low-flow fixtures and sanitary ware** and to reduce water consumption at source considerably.
 - It is an initiative of **Indian Plumbing Association (IPA)**.

- It is an initiative for awareness creation for promotion of BIS Certified Water Efficient Plumbing Fixtures.
- It comprises of Low Flow Sanitary ware and Sanitary Fittings which reduce the water dispensation at source, leading to a water saving of minimum **40%**.
- It will result into water saving and energy saving.

During the exhibition, National Real Estate Development Council's (NAREDCOs) women wing NAREDCO Mahi has launched '**Nirmal Jal Prayaas**', an initiative to save water bodies. This initiative will lead to saving almost **500 crore litre** of water per year.

5. The Indian Coast Guard chief VS Pathania has commissioned the 2nd Made-in-India ALH MK III Squadron, **845 squadron (CG)**, at Coast Guard Air Enclave (CGAE) in **Kochi**, Kerala. The second squadron of Dhruv ALH Mk III choppers aims to boost the security of the western seaboard further and enhance India's search and rescue capability.
 - Under this, four helicopters have been positioned in Kochi to cover the entire coast of Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep.
 - The squadron will be led by **Commandant Kunal Naik** which has 9 officers and 35 men.
6. The Indian Navy has planned to acquire a dedicated earth imaging satellite '**Geo-Imaging Satellite-2' (GISAT-2)** or EOS-5 in this fiscal year. The launching vehicle will be Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)-F12. The satellite is expected to enhance the navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region. It will operate from geostationary orbit, 36,000 km from earth's surface. It will facilitate near real-time observations under cloud-free conditions too.
7. BJP President Jagat Prakash Nadda has inaugurated the three-day **Utkarsh Mahotsav** in **New Delhi**. It has been organized by Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi in association with Shri Lal Bahadur National Sanskrit University, New Delhi and National Sanskrit University, Tirupati to promote Sanskrit language across the country and beyond.
 - The theme of the Mahotsav is 'Global Orientation of Sanskrit Studies in the New Educational Era'.
 - The focus of the Mahotsav is the New Educational Era – Moving Towards a Global Orientation of Sanskrit Studies.
8. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Minister of State for Electronics & IT, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development, has launched the **North East Capacity Building (NECB) 2.0** project, for capacity building and training in digital skill sets and current industry demanding technologies for various sections of society in the north eastern states.

- The project is funded by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- It is implemented by the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) through its centres at Agartala, Aizwal, Gangtok Guwahati, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima & Shillong.

9. Ministry of Home Affairs has launched a portal '**CAPF Punarvaas**' through the Welfare and Rehabilitation Board (WARB) to facilitate retired Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel to secure employment with private security agencies.

10. The Lokpal of India will get a new and permanent office at the World Trade Centre in Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi. The office is spread over 59, 504 square feet on two floors, and was purchased for Rs.254.88 crore.

About Lokpal:

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act was passed in 2013. The act allows setting up of anti-corruption ombudsman called Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayukta at the State-level. It is composed of a chairperson and a maximum of **eight members**. It can inquire into allegations of corruption against anyone who is or has been Prime Minister, or a Minister in the Union government, or a Member of Parliament, as well as officials of the Union government under Groups A, B, C and D.

11. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched the **Kalam website**, a literary initiative of the Prabha Khaitan Foundation to support and encourage **vernacular literature**. The aim is to popularize Hindi literature and provide a platform for veteran and young authors and poets to talk about their writings and love for vernacular literature.

Kalam initiative:

It was launched in **2015** in the cities of Jaipur, and Patna and has conducted over 550 sessions spread over 40 cities in India and overseas since then. This initiative is on the lines of the philosophy 'Unity in Diversity'.

12. NITI Aayog has collaborated with the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** to focus on how to better use emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and drones to benefit farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers.

13. Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane has inaugurated India's first **Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)** in **New Delhi**. It has been established at

the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) as a hub in Delhi and spokes in Bangalore, Gandhinagar, Kolkata, and Shillong.

- The objective is to design apparel, home furnishing and accessories for people of all generations and create benchmarked design processes of global standards of quality, design, and merchandising.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up of CoEK was signed between Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and NIFT.

14. Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has launched '**Experience Studio on Drones**' at NITI Aayog to create a collaborative ecosystem, thereby encouraging innovation and pushing for the usage of drones for public services. This will promote various applications of drones and helps in building a robust drone industry in India.

Note: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has aimed to make India a global drone hub by **2030**.

15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the '**Utkarsh Samaroh**' event held at **Bharuch**, Gujarat. This programme has been organized to celebrate the 100 percent saturation of four key state government schemes in this district. Under the four schemes, a total of 12,854 beneficiaries have been identified. The four schemes are:

- Indira Gandhi Vrudh Sahay Yojana
- Ganga Swaroopa Aarthik Sahay Yojana
- Rashtriya Kutumb Sahay Yojana
- Niradhar Vrudh Aarthik Sahay Yojana

16. India has successfully test-fired the Extended Range (ER) version of the **BrahMos Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM)** from a **Sukhoi-30MKI** fighter aircraft, striking a target at a range of 400 km from the aircraft. The missile has achieved a direct hit on its designated target in the Bay of Bengal region. This is the first launch of the extended-range ALCM from the Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft.

17. The government of India has contributed **USD 800,000** to the United Nations (UN) as a part of the initiative which aims to enhance public outreach of the organization in **Hindi** language. India's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, R Ravindra has handed over a cheque for the 'Hindi@ UN' project to Mita Hosali, Deputy Director and Officer-In-Charge (News and Media Division), UN Department of Global Communications (DGC).

About 'Hindi@ UN':

It was launched by India in **2018** in collaboration with the UN Department of Public Information to enhance the public outreach of the United Nations in Hindi language, and to

spread greater awareness about global issues among millions of Hindi-speaking people around the world.

18. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed the static test of a human-rated solid rocket booster '**HS-200**' for its **Gaganyaan manned mission programme**. The test has been conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- HS-200 rocket booster is the human-rated version of the well proven S-200 rocket booster of GSLV Mark-II satellite launch vehicle, popularly known as LVM3.
 - The booster has been developed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.
 - The 20-metre long and 3.2-metre diameter booster is the world's second-largest operational booster with solid propellant.

Note: Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II (GSLV Mk II) has three stage propulsion system.

19. The **Ministry of Rural Development** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Amazon Seller Services Private Limited (Amazon)** to enable the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to offer their products to the buyers across India through the Saheli Storefront of Amazon. The objective is to make SHGs women 'Lakhpatis'. This MoU will enable commercial and social development of women led rural enterprises across identified States/UTs.
20. The National Skill Development Corporation International (NSDCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian unit of DP World, Hindustan Ports Private Limited to set up a **Skill India International Centre (SIIC)** in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh. This MoU has been signed to encourage the youth of India to pursue overseas employment opportunities in the areas of port operations, logistics, and allied areas.
21. The centre will host training facilities, providing skills as per the demand of international employers in countries like United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) regions. It will offer services such as mobilisation, counselling, skill training, pre-departure orientation, foreign language training, placement and immigration and post-placement support.
22. The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)**, a security arm of Indian Railways, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Association for Voluntary Action (AVA)**, also known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan, to curb trafficking activities in India. The aim is to make India human trafficking free.

23. The **Ministry of Railways** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)** to supply local gears worth **Rs.2100 crores** to Indian railways. This collaboration will help in boosting the Make in India initiative and will also help in replacing the foreign gears in Indian railways.
24. **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, Hyderabad to provide training services and support to the School of Naval Oceanology and Meteorology (SNOM) for conduct of various courses related to operational oceanography.
25. The **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)** and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide technical support towards Centre's two aspirational schemes: Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (**PMFBY**) scheme & Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (**KCC-MISS**).
- Under this MoU, UNDP will provide responsive, demand-driven technical assistance for effective implementation of agriculture credit and crop insurance and will also provide capacity development and Information, Education & Communication (IEC) support to existing national and state institutions.

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STATES AFFAIRS

26. The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir headed by retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai has released a new electoral map for Jammu and Kashmir. According to the new electoral map, the commission has earmarked **47 Assembly seats** for **Kashmir** division and **43** for **Jammu** division. The total number of seats in Jammu & Kashmir to **90** from 83 earlier. Before the restructuring, Jammu had 37 Assembly constituencies, and Kashmir had 46.
- For the first time, nine seats have been proposed for Scheduled Tribes: six in Jammu and three in Kashmir.
 - There are five Parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory with each having 18 Assembly seats.
 - There are 24 seats in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) that will continue to remain vacant.

The Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir was set up in **March 2020** and it was entrusted with the work of delimiting Assembly and parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory on the basis of the 2011 Census.

- *The Delimitation commission is an independent body constituted under **Article 82** after the Parliament enacted a Delimitation Act after every census. It is appointed by the President of India and works in collaboration with the Election Commission of India.*

27. Poumai Naga tribe in **Manipur** has declared their inhabited areas as Drug Free Zone. The aim is to help the state government curb the drugs menace including illegal poppy cultivation and also help in protecting and preserving forests, which are being destroyed for poppy cultivation.

28. Chhattisgarh has become the first state in the country to restore the **Old Pension Scheme** to provide assured income to retired employees. It will be effective from 1st April 2022. It will benefit over 3 lakh employees who joined service after 1st January 2004.

- This move will abolish the 10 percent deduction for monthly contribution from the salary of government employees as a contribution to the New Pension Scheme. However, a minimum of 12 percent of basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule.
- The old pension scheme gives 50 percent of the employee's salary as pension.

29. Kerala has recently reported cases of **Tomato Flu**. Around 80 children in the state who are under the age of five have already been affected by this disease. It has been first detected in the Kollam district of Kerala.

30. Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray has inaugurated **India's first organic waste-powered EV charging station** at Keshavrao Khadye road near Haji Ali in **Mumbai**.

This is the first-of-its-kind project in the country that uses food waste to convert to energy.

- The station will generate **220 units** of energy from household waste.
- The project is a joint venture between the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and AeroCare Clean Energy.
- The energy plant will be utilized to powering street lights and also to charge electric vehicles.
- It is connected with the waste-energy unit at Minatai Thackeray Park.

31. Azure Power has successfully commissioned its **90 MW** solar power projects in **Assam**, the largest in the state. The 90 MW of solar capacity is spread across four districts in Assam: Udalguri, Kamrup, Nagaon, and Cachar.

- The project is commissioned in phases and the final phase of 25 MW has been commissioned in Cachar. The power generated by the plant is being supplied to Assam Power Distribution Company Limited under a long term 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) at a tariff of Rs.3.34 per KWh.

32. The state government of **Madhya Pradesh** has launched the second phase of the **Ladli Laxmi scheme 2.0**. It is an innovative initiative to encourage girl children to pursue higher education and make them self-dependent. The scheme offers financial assistance for a girl from birth until her marriage in instalments. The family of the girl child should be a permanent resident of Madhya Pradesh. The family should come under below the poverty line (BPL), i.e., should not be an income taxpayer. A maximum of two daughters can be registered under this scheme.

- It is noteworthy that more than 42 lakh girls have been registered till April 2022 under Ladli Laxmi Scheme.

Ladli Laxmi scheme:

It was launched on **1st April 2007** by the government of **Madhya Pradesh**. The aim is to enhance the economic and educational status of the girls.

- *The sex ratio at birth in Madhya Pradesh has increased from 927 to 956 in 2016-2021.*

33. The state government of **Haryana** has launched the '**Charaa Bijaee Yojana**' (fodder cultivation scheme) for farmers. The objective is to provide financial assistance of **Rs.10,000** per acre to farmers cultivating and supplying fodder to Gaushalas (Cowsheds).

34. Cyclone Asani has originated in the **Bay of Bengal** region. It has weakened from a severe cyclone into a cyclone. It has caused heavy rains and storm-like conditions in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

- The name Cyclone Asani has been given by Sri Lanka. It means 'wrath' in Sinhalese.
- **Note:** Cyclones that hit India in 2020-21: Tauktae, Yaas, Nisarga, and Amphan.
- The cyclones are classified as severe (MSW of 48-63 knots), very severe (MSW of 64-89 knots), extremely severe (MSW of 90-119 knots) and super cyclonic storm (MSW of 120 knots or more). One knot is equal to 1.8 kmph (kilometers per hour).

35. The government of Delhi will provide free sewer connections under the "Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojana". A total of **25,000** households located in East Delhi will be provided free sewer connections under this scheme. These free connections will be provided in 12 colonies in Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad. Rs.19 crore has been allocated by Delhi government for the implementation of these connections. The colonies include Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Chandu Nagar, and parts of Khajuri Khas.

- Delhi Jal Board has also decided to set up 30 RO plants at JJ colonies to increase the drinking water supply. Each plant will provide around 50,000 litres of water per day. The supply will be free.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 36. Ranil Wickremesinghe**, a veteran opposition lawmaker, has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of **Sri Lanka** for the 5th time. He has succeeded Mahinda Rajapaksa, who resigned as prime minister following clashes between government supporters and anti-government protesters. Earlier, he served as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka from 1993 to 1994, 2001 to 2004, 2015 to 2018 and 2018 to 2019.
- 37. Rodrigo Chaves**, an economist, has become the new President of **Costa Rica** for the period of 2022-2026. He has succeeded Carlos Andres Alvarado Quesada.

Costa Rica	
Continent	North America
Capital	San Jose
Currency	Costa Rican colón

- 38.** The world's longest glass-bottom bridge has been opened in **Vietnam**. It is known as Bach Long pedestrian bridge. It is 632m long and located 150m above a huge jungle. It surpasses a 526m Glass Bottom Bridge in Guangdong, China.
- 39.** The **12th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting** has been hosted by **China**, the rotating chair of the BRICS this year. During the meeting, BRICS countries have agreed to launch an early warning system for large scale pandemics.
- More than 70 people, including health ministers of the BRICS nations and the deputy director general of the World Health Organization, have attended the meeting.
 - The first BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting was held in Beijing, China in 2011.

Note: China will host the BRICS Summit in Xiamen, China in June 2022.

- 40. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.** has been elected as the next President of the Philippines. He has secured more than 30.8 million votes in the recently concluded election. He will succeed Rodrigo Duterte.

- 41. India** has been elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for **2022-24**. This decision has been taken at the recently held meeting of the AAEA's Executive Board and General Assembly at Manila, Philippines. India has been represented by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Commission on Elections, Manila, Philippines is the current chair of AAEA.
- India served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice-Chair during 2011-13 and Chaired during 2014-16.
- 42. South Korea** has become the first Asian country to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE). With this, the number of the group members of CCDCOE has now increased to 32, including 27 NATO members.
- 43.** The 15th session of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 15)** of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has begun in **Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**. It will be held from 9 to 20 May 2022.
- Indian delegation has been led by **Bhupender Yadav**, Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
 - The COP15 theme is '**Land. Life. Legacy: From scarcity to prosperity**'.
 - COP15 will bring together leaders from governments, the private sector, civil society and other key stakeholders from around the world to drive progress in the future sustainable management of one of our most precious commodities: land.
- Note:** India hosted COP 14 of UNCCD in New Delhi in 2019 under the theme 'Restore land, Sustain future'.
- 44.** The **Intersolar Europe 2022** event has been held from 11th to 13th May 2022 in **Munich, Germany**. The event has focussed on photovoltaics, solar plants, solar thermal technologies, solutions for renewable energy integration, and grid infrastructure.
- The event has been attended by over 20,000 people including secretaries and ministers from various countries across the globe. **Bhagwanth Khuba**, Minister of State for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has represented India in the event. He has delivered a keynote address titled "India's Solar Energy Market."
- 45. Czech Republic** has been chosen by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to replace Russia in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Russia was suspended from the UNHRC in April 2022 by a vote in the General Assembly due to Russia's aggression of gross and systematic violations and abuses of human rights.

46. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has successfully launched its 'Endurance Mission' via its three stage Oriole IIIA Sounding Rocket to an altitude of 475 miles into the atmosphere, from Andøya Space's Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard Launch Facility in Norway.
- The purpose of this mission is to **understand why Earth is habitable** while other planets like Mars, Venus don't. The mission will measure the Earth's global electric potential, or how much Earth's electric field "tugs" at electrically charged particles in air.

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REPORTS & INDICES

47. As per the 13th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) by the National Statistical Office (NSO), the unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above in urban areas has declined to **8.7%** in **October-December (Q3) 2021** from 10.3% in Q3 2020. It was 9.8% in July-September (Q2) 2021.
- The unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas has also declined to **10.5%** in October-December 2021 from 13.1% in October-December 2020. It was 11.6% in July-September 2021.
 - The unemployment rate among males in urban areas has also declined to **8.3%** in October-December 2021 compared to 9.5% in October-December 2020. It was 9.3% in July-September 2021.
 - Labour force participation rate in CWS (current weekly status) in urban areas has remained unchanged at **47.3%** in the October-December 2021, compared to October-December 2020.
 - Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in CWS stood at **43.2%** in October-December 2021, compared to 42.4% in October-December 2020.

Note: Unemployment rate (UR) is defined as the percentage of unemployed persons in the labour force.

48. **World Bank's** Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership (GGFR) has published the **Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report 2022**. As per report, gas flaring in 2021 resulted in approximately **400 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide. The top 10 flaring countries namely,

Russia, Iraq, Iran, the United States, Venezuela, Algeria, Nigeria, China, Libya, and Mexico have accounted for 75% of all gas flaring and 50% of global oil production in 2021.

Gas Flaring:

It is the industry practice of burning natural gas associated with oil extraction. It is a direct source of methane which has more warming potential than CO₂.

49. The Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs has released its annual report titled 'Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS) 2020'.

Key Highlights:

Sex ratio:

Ladakh has recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020 i.e. **1104**, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1011), Andaman & Nicobar Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969). Whereas, the lowest sex ratio has been reported by **Manipur (880)**, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).

Death rate:

As per the report, the number of registered deaths has increased from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakhs in 2020 showing an increase of **6.2%**. Bihar has witnessed the maximum increase in the death rate with 18.3% followed by Maharashtra with 16.6% and Assam with 14.7%. Whereas, states like Manipur, Chandigarh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Puducherry, Arunachal Pradesh, and Kerala have witnessed a decrease in death rates in 2020.

Birth rate:

As per the report, the number of registered births has decreased from 2.48 crore in 2019 to 2.42 crore in 2020 showing a decrease of **2.40%**. Lakshadweep has witnessed the maximum change in the birth rate of 14.3%, followed by Haryana (11.7%), and Bihar with 8.4%. Whereas, states like Nagaland, Puducherry, Telangana, Manipur, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Gujarat, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Mizoram, and Chandigarh have recorded a decrease in the registered birth rate.

50. **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, in collaboration with Accenture, has released a report titled "**Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2022**". The report states that urgent action is required by both private and public sectors to ensure a resilient energy transition amid the most severe energy crisis since 1970s. The report is built on 10 years of the Energy Transition Index, an annual country benchmarking report.

- As per the report, the urgency for countries to accelerate a holistic energy transition is reinforced by high fuel prices, commodities' shortages, insufficient headway on

achieving the climate goals and slow progress on energy justice and access. The report also states that energy transition must address the challenges to environmental sustainability, energy security and energy justice and affordability.

- 51.** As per the latest data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), **Retail inflation** based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased to **7.79%** in April 2022, compared to 6.95% in March 2022. It was 4.23% in April 2021.
- The food price inflation (combined for rural and urban) has increased to 8.38 percent in April 2022 from 7.68 percent in March 2022.
 - Rural inflation has increased to 8.38 percent, while urban inflation has increased to 7.09 percent in April 2022.
 - Among states, the highest inflation rate has been recorded by West Bengal, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Telangana.
- 52.** Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying Parshottam Rupala has released the **Breed-Wise Report of Livestock and Poultry**. The report is based on 20th Livestock Census conducted during 2018-19. It is the first time in India that breed-wise data is collected digitally instead of on paper mode.
- The livestock as well as poultry birds were counted according to their breeds as recognized by National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

Key Highlights:

- **Cattles:** The Exotic and Crossbred animal contribute nearly **26.5%** of the total cattle population whereas **73.5%** are Indigenous and Non-descript cattle. Crossbred Jersey has the highest share with 49.3% as compared to 39.3% of Crossbred Holstein Friesian (HF) in total Exotic/Crossbred cattle. Gir, Lakhimi and Sahiwal breeds have major contribution in total Indigenous Cattle. **Gir** cattle breed had the highest population of 68.57 lakh followed by Lakhimi and Sahiwal cattle breeds. Indigenous cattle has declined by **6%**, i.e. their share in the total cattle population fell to 73% in 2019 from 79% in 2012.
- **Buffaloes:** In Buffalo, the **Murrah** breed majorly contributes with 42.8% which is commonly found in UP and Rajasthan.
- **Sheep:** In Sheep, there are 3 exotics and 26 indigenous breeds were found in the country. Among the pure exotic breeds, **Corriedale** breed majorly contributes with 17.3% and in the indigenous breeds, the **Nellore** breed contribute the highest in the category with 20.0% share.

- **Goats:** There are 28 indigenous breeds found in the country. The **Black Bengal** breed contributes the highest with 18.6%.
- **Pigs:** In exotic/crossbred pigs, crossbred pig contributes 86.6% whereas Yorkshire contributes majorly with 8.4%. In indigenous pigs, **Doom** breed major contributes with 3.9%.
- **Horse & Ponies:** The share of Marwari breed majorly contributes with 9.8%.
- **Donkeys:** The share of Spiti breed contributes with 8.3%.
- **Camel:** Bikaneri breed majorly contributes with 29.6%.
- **Poultry:** Desi fowl, and Aseel breed majorly contribute in both backyard poultry and commercial poultry farm.

Note: As per the 20th Livestock Census, 36.04% of the total livestock population belongs to cattle.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

53. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana have completed **7 years** on 9th May 2022. These schemes were launched under the Ministry of Finance on **9th May 2015** in **Kolkata**, West Bengal. The aim is to provide affordable and insurance and security to people from the unorganized section of the country.

PMJJY:

- It is a one-year life insurance plan renewable from year to year offering coverage for death due to any reason.
- It is available to citizens (including NRIs) in the age group of **18 to 50 years** having a savings bank or post office account.
- It provides life insurance cover of **Rs.2 lakh** in case of death due to any reason against a premium of **Rs.330 per annum**.
- **Achievements:** 12.76 crore enrolments.

PMSBY:

- It is a one-year accidental insurance plan renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to an accident.
- It is available to citizens (including NRIs) in the age group of **18 to 70 years** having a savings bank or post office account.

- It provides accidental insurance cover of **Rs.2 lakh** (Rs.1 lakh in case of partial disability) in case of death or disability due to an accident against a premium of **Rs.12** per annum per member.
- **Achievements:** 28.37 crore enrolments.

Atal Pension Yojana:

- It is a flagship scheme of the Government of India. It is administered by the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority** (PFRDA).
- It is available to all bank account holders in the age group of **18 to 40 years**.
- It provides a minimum guaranteed pension ranging from Rs 1000 to **Rs 5000** on attaining 60 years of age.
- **Achievements:** 4 crore registrations.

PM-WANI:

- The government approved a framework for the proliferation of public Wi-Fi networks through **PM Wi-Fi Access Network Interface or PM WANI scheme**.
- The scheme aims to bring large scale deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots through the country to drive up connectivity options and improve digital access.
- The scheme envisages setting up of public Wi-Fi networks and access points by local Kirana and neighbourhood shops through public data offices (PDO) will be set up on the lines of Public Call Offices (PCOs)) that will not involve any licence, fee or registration.

54. Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched the **AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovation, Market Readiness and Entrepreneurship) Playbook** at the event organized at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

- The playbook has been launched by **Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar**, Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The playbook aims to be a comprehensive resource for academic researchers, entrepreneurs and incubators involved in building science-based enterprises from lab to-market.

AIM-PRIME:

- It was launched in April 2021 by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- The aim is to promote **science-based start-ups**, deep technology ideas to market, through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- It is being implemented by **Venture Centre, Pune** and is supported by the *Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Office of Principal Scientific Advisor*.

55. The Ministry of Finance has revised the rules under which the interest accumulated on **the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)** fund will now be deposited in the **Consolidated Fund of India**. The proposed changes are aimed at timely and efficient utilization of funds. Earlier, the interest accrued on the fund used to be added to the MPLADS account and could be used for the development projects.

Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):

- The MPLADS is a *Central Sector Scheme* fully funded by Government of India.
- The scheme was introduced in **1993** to enable MPs to create durable assets based on local requirements in their constituencies.
- Under it, MPs receive **Rs.5 crore** each year in two instalments of Rs.2.5 crore each.
- The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.
- Every year, MP shall recommend at least 15 percent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 percent for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribes population.
- The District Authority is responsible for overall coordination and supervision of works under scheme at district level. At least 10% of the projects under implementation in the district are to be inspected every year by the district authority.
- The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** is responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

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BUSINESS & ECONOMY

56. **Boeing India** has collaborated with Indian company **Air Works Group** to deliver Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services for the Indian Navy's P-8I maritime patrol aircraft fleet. This collaboration will enable faster turnarounds and enhanced operational capability within India for key defence platforms.

- *Air Works Group is India's biggest independent MRO with a pan-Indian presence across 27 cities. It was set up in 1951.*

57. Oil giant **Saudi Aramco** has become the world's most valuable company by surpassing Apple. Saudi Aramco has traded near its highest level on record on 11th May 2022, with a

market capitalisation of about **\$2.43 trillion**. Whereas Apple has fallen 5.2% to close at \$146.50 per share, giving it a valuation of \$2.37 trillion.

- 58.** IT services companies **Mindtree**, and **Larsen & Toubro Infotech** have announced the merger to create India's fifth-largest IT services provider. The combined entity will be known as "**LTIMindtree**" and will be led by **Debashis Chatterjee**, CEO of Mindtree. After the merger, LTI promoters will have a 43.9% while Mindtree promoters will have a 24.8% stake in the combined entity, while L&T Limited will hold 68.73% of LTI.
- 59.** Bengaluru-based **Bellatrix Aerospace** has tested an eco-friendly propulsion system for satellites that cuts a new path from the hydrazine (N₂H₄)-dependent fuel systems and offers a potential 20% jump in fuel efficiency for space satellites. This green propellant would significantly reduce toxicity compared to hydrazine, making it safer to store and handle.
- 60.** Nexcharge (a brand of Exide Leclanche Energy Private Limited) and joint venture partner Switzerland's Leclanche SA have begun mass production at India's largest lithium-ion battery plant at **Pranjit**, Gujarat. The plant, with total installed capacity of **1.5 Gigawatt hours (GWh)**, has six automated assembly lines on which it will produce batteries for automobiles and energy storage applications.
- Nexcharge has invested USD 33 million in building and setting up the plant.
- 61.** The chairman and managing director of RailTel Puneet Chawla has launched **Pradhan Mantri Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme**-based access to its public WiFi services across **100 railway stations** having 2,384 WiFi hotspots in 22 states. The WiFi network can be accessed via an android based mobile app named 'Wi-DOT' which is available on the Google Play Store. This mobile app has been developed in association with the C-DOT.
- **Note:** The government has planned to extend the PM-WANI based access of RailTel's public Wi-Fi services to all 6, 102 railway stations (where Wi-Fi facility is already available) in phased manner by the end of **June 2022**.
- 62.** **Boeing** has partnered with **Air India Engineering Services Ltd. (AIESL)** to set up Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) of critical equipment on key Boeing defence platforms used by the Navy and VVIP aircrafts operated by the Indian Air Force including the P-8I operated by the Indian Navy and the 777 VIP aircraft. It has been announced under the US based Boeing India Repair Development and Sustainment (BIRDS) initiative.

- 63.** The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs): **Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL)** and **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL)** have signed a long-term purchase agreement (LTPA) for upcoming **ethanol plants** across India.
- The first set of Tripartite-cum-Escrow Agreement (TPA) has been signed among OMCs, project proponents and Banks of the respective ethanol plant projects of Micromax Biofuels Pvt Ltd, Bihar, Eastern India Biofuels Pvt Ltd, Bihar, Muzaffarpur Biofuels Pvt Ltd, Bihar, K P Biofuels Pvt. Ltd, Madhya Pradesh and Visag Biofuels Private Limited, Madhya Pradesh.
 - As per the agreement, ethanol produced by these dedicated ethanol plants shall be sold to OMCs for blending with Petrol as per Government of India's Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Program.
 - State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank are three banks who are involved in this tripartite agreement.

In Ethanol Supply Year 2021-22, India achieved **9.90% ethanol blending**, consuming 186 crore Litres of ethanol, saving over 9000 crores of foreign exchange.

- *The Government of India has set a target to achieve **20% blended ethanol by 2025**, which is commonly known as E20 target.*

- 64.** Morgan Stanley has lowered India's GDP forecast for FY23 to **7.6 percent** from 7.9 percent, estimated earlier. This is due to slowdown in global growth, higher commodity prices and risk aversion in global capital markets.
- The investment bank has lowered India's growth forecast for FY24 to **6.7 percent** from 7 percent estimated earlier.
 - The investment bank has projected global growth at **2.9 percent** in calendar year 2022 as compared to 6.2 percent growth in 2021.

- 65.** **Etsy**, a US e-commerce firm for handmade or vintage items, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Development Corporation (NEHDC)** to support small sellers, weavers and artisans by providing them market access and enablement support to sell their products. This MoU will benefit 21 lakh weavers and 14.5 lakh artisans present in the North-Eastern region of India.

- 66.** **OMC Power** has signed a long-term relationship agreement with the **Indian Renewable Energy Dev Agency Ltd (IREDA)** towards building a rural renewable energy ecosystem. Under this, OMC will be getting economic support for setting up Renewable energy plants to provide sustainable energy in the villages of Uttar Pradesh. Currently, OMC Power has 280 renewable energy plants across Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

67. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) have created a new taskforce named '**UK India Industry Taskforce**' as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide a critical forum for discussion to ensure the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) works to the benefit of businesses in both countries. It is a joint commission to increase cross-industry collaboration and push the UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
68. **Toyota** Group has planned to invest **Rs.48 billion (USD 624 million)** to make electric vehicle (EV) components in India. This is in line with the efforts of Toyota toward carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Toyota Kirloskar Motor and Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state of **Karnataka** to invest **Rs.41 billion**. The rest will come from Toyota Industries Engine India.
69. The **Catalyst Group** has announced the establishment of the **Green Health Alliance** in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (**PSA**) to the Government of India, the United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**), and the Rockefeller Foundation. The objective of this alliance is to identify and scale up solutions to help reduce the carbon footprint of the health system and thereby minimise the negative health impacts of climate change.

BANKING & FINANCE

70. **Indian Bank**, a public sector bank, has introduced a digital broking solution named '**E-broking**'. It is an instant and paper-less Demat and trading account opening which is integrated into the bank's mobile banking application 'IndOASIS'. This initiative has been launched in partnership with the bank's financial technology partner Fisdom.
71. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted an advisory committee for advising on Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) related matters in the securities market.
- The committee will be chaired by **Navneet Munot**, CEO of HDFC Mutual Fund.
 - The committee will examine evolving disclosures relevant to the Indian context, as well as suggesting areas for assurance and a plan for implementation.
 - The committee will also examine whether ESG funds need to have prudential norms, if any.

- 72. HDFC Bank** has launched the industry-first 30-minute '**Xpress Car Loans**'. It is an end to end digital new car loan journey for existing customers as well as non-customers. The lender has integrated its lending application with automobile dealers throughout India.
- 73. Union Bank of India** has launched an online platform named '**Trade nxt**' for export-import transactions. It is a cross border trade finance service for Indian exporters and importers. The platform will enable enterprises to conduct all export/import transactions, including entry and processing of letters of credit, bank guarantees, export/import bills, disbursement of export credit, outward and inward remittances, dealer financing, etc.
- 74.** Life Insurance Corporation of India's (LIC's) initial public offering (IPO), the biggest ever in the country, has been subscribed **2.95 times** on the final day of bidding. This will help the government to raise about Rs.21,000 crore.
- The offer received bids for 478,367,010 shares against the offered 162,078,067 shares.
 - With this IPO, the government has diluted its **3.5% stake** in LIC through the Offer for Sale (OFS).
- 75.** Union Minister for MSME Narayan Rane has launched the second phase of **MSME RuPAY Credit Card** with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and four banks, viz. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, SBM Bank (India) and HDFC Bank. This card will provide a simplified payment mechanism to MSMEs to meet their business related operational expenses. It has been launched during the National conference of MSME- Development Institutes, Testing Centres and Technology Centres held in New Delhi.
- 76.** London-based **Santander UK** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ICICI Bank** to facilitate the banking requirements of corporates operating across both countries. This MoU will establish a framework of partnership between the banks to meet the financial service requirements of corporate customers operating within the India-UK corridor.
- 77.** The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), India's flagship digital payments platform, has recorded **5.58 billion** transactions worth **Rs. 9.83 trillion** in April 2022. This is the highest ever number of transactions recorded by UPI.
- 78. Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has launched a financial literacy campaign named '**InspiHE₹- enabling an empowered future**'. It is a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women and enable them to make informed financial decisions for a secured future. The campaign will commence in Mumbai, Maharashtra, with on-the ground education sessions for a group of mothers.

79. The **Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)** has signed an agreement with the **SBM (Mauritius)** Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (SBMIDCL) to provide a supported Line of Credit (LoC) of **USD 190 million**. The objective is to finance its participation through Redeemable Preference Shares in public sector entities for implementing the ongoing Metro Express Project and other infrastructure projects in Mauritius.

- This credit facility is an addition to SMIDCL's existing USD 500 million credit line.

80. Bank of Maharashtra has launched a range of digital products, including for lead engagement and direct sales, and Kisan Credit Card (KCC), as part of its strategy to harness digital banking channels to the optimum level.

- **'Mahabank Leads'** application: To improve customer engagement and direct sales of various loan products.
- **'Mahabank Kisan Credit Card (MKCC)'**: To provide adequate and timely credit support to farmers via hassle free digital journey.
- **V-card**: To enable its employees to have their visiting card on fingertips and make them accessible on the go, promoting paperless environment that can be shared on a single click through WhatsApp.

81. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra has launched a New Repatriate Welfare Scheme, a deposit scheme of Repco Bank, a micro finance loan scheme and an app for Repco Micro Finance Ltd. (RFML) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

'Repco Subiksham':

It is a new deposit scheme for senior citizens. It is a retail deposit scheme meant for senior citizens (aged above 60) and super senior citizens (age above 80). Interest rate is at 7.15% for senior citizen and 7.25% for super senior citizen.

'Repatriate Youth Development Scheme':

It is open to 'A' class repatriate members from Myanmar or Sri Lanka and their family members. The sponsorship amount shall be up to a maximum of Rs.25,000 and those aged between 18 and 35 are eligible to apply.

'Repco Mahila Samridhi Scheme':

It is a scheme for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and it aims at supporting income generation activities for the underprivileged sections. It will provide collateral free loan to women with household income of up to Rs.3 lakh. The loan amount would be between Rs.50,000 and Rs.2.5 lakh.

82. Bank of India (BOI) has tied up with **Worldline India**, a payment service firm, to digitize e-Challan collections for the Madhya Pradesh Police Department. BOI and MP Police

Department has signed a Memorandum of Association (MoA) to integrate Point of Sale (POS) terminals with e-challan portal of police department.

- BOI has provided over 600 Worldline Android Terminals to MP Police Department to facilitate e-collections via credit and debit cards.
- Three zones namely **Jabalpur, Rewa and Shahdol** covering 12 districts in MP will be covered in this initiative.

RBI IN NEWS

83. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has published its 'Half Yearly Report on Management of Foreign Exchange Reserves: October 2021 - March 2022'. The present report, which is 38th in the series, is with reference to the position as on end-March 2022.

Key Highlights:

- As per the report, India's foreign exchange reserves have declined by **USD 28.05 billion** in the second half of the financial year 2021-22. It has declined from USD 635.36 billion at the end of September 2021 to **USD 607.31 billion** at the end of March 2022.
- The net forward asset (receivable) of RBI in the domestic foreign exchange market stood at USD 65.79 billion at the end of March 2022.
- At the end of December 2021, foreign exchange reserves cover of imports (on balance of payments basis) has declined to 13.1 months from 14.6 months at end-September 2021.
- As of end-March 2022, the RBI held **760.42 metric tonnes of gold** (including gold deposits of 11.08 metric tonnes). While 453.52 metric tonnes of gold is held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), 295.82 metric tonnes of gold is held domestically.
- In value terms (USD), the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves has increased from about 5.88 percent as at end-September 2021 to about **7.01 percent** as at end-March 2022.
- As of end-March 2022, out of the total Foreign Currency Assets (FCA) of **USD 540.72 billion**, USD 363.03 billion was invested in securities, USD 140.54 billion was deposited with other central banks and BIS, and the balance USD 37.16 billion comprised deposits with commercial banks overseas.

84. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the period of restrictions on two banks: Solapur-based **Laxmi Co-operative Bank** and Bengaluru-based **Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha**.

- The restrictions on Laxmi Co-operative Bank has been extended for another **three months** i.e. from 12th May 2022 to 11th August 2022.
- The restrictions on Sri Guru Raghavendra Sahakara Bank Niyamitha has been extended for another **six months** i.e. from 11th May 2022 to 10th November 2022.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITION

85. Gurusamy Krishnamoorthy, chief executive officer of Penlon, a British medical device manufacturing firm, has received the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) Award 2022 - Honorary Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) recognition from the Queen at Buckingham Palace, London, UK. He has been honoured for his contributions to the COVID-19 pandemic ventilator challenge. He hails from Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

MBE: An MBE is an order of the **British Empire award**. It is the third highest ranking Order of the British Empire award, behind Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) which is first and then Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

86. The Bengali translation of French novel **“Meursault, contre-enquête”** (The Meursault Investigation) has won the fifth **Romain Rolland Book Prize 2022**. The award has been presented to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Esha Chatterjee of Patra Bharati during the French LitFest 2022 at Bikaner House in New Delhi. It is the debut novel of Algerian writer and journalist **Kamel Daoud. Romain**

Rolland Book Prize:

- It was started in **2017**.
- The award honours the best translation of a **French title into any Indian language**, including English.
- In 2021, the prize was won by the Tamil translation of the French novel “Le mariage de plaisir”.

87. The 106th class of **Pulitzer Prize 2022** has been announced recently in different categories in Journalism, Drama, Books, and Music.

S. No.	Category	2022 Pulitzer Prize in Books, Drama & Music
1.	Fiction	The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family, by Joshua Green

2.	Drama	Fat Ham, by James Ijames
3.	History	Covered with Night, by Nicole Eustace (Liveright/Norton) Cuba: An American History, by Ada Ferrer (Scribner)
4.	Biography	Chasing Me to My Grave: An Artist's Memoir of Jim Crow South, by the late Winfred Rembert as told to Erin. I Kelly (Bloomsbury)
5.	Poetry	frank: sonnets, by Diane Seuss
6.	General Notification	Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City, by Andrea Elliott
7.	Music	Voiceless Mass, by Raven Chacon

S. No.	Category	2022 Pulitzer Prize in Journalism
1.	Public Service	The Washington Post for covering the assault on Capitol on January 6, 2021.
2.	Breaking News Reporting	The Staff of the Miami Herald for covering the collapse of Seaside apartment towers in Florida
3.	Investigative Reporting	Corey G. Johnson, Rebecca Woolington, and Eli Murray of the Tampa Bay Times for exposing highly toxic hazard inside only battery recycling plant in Florida
4.	Explanatory Reporting	Staff of Quanta Magazine, notably Natalie Wolchover on how the Webb Space Telescope works
5.	Local Reporting	Cecilia Reyes of Chicago Tribune and Madison Hopkins of the Better Government Association
6.	National Reporting	The Staff of the New York Times
7.	International Reporting	The Staff of the New York Times
8.	Feature Writing	Jennifer Senior of The Atlantic
9.	Commentary	Melinda Henneberger of the Kansas City Star
10.	Criticism	Salamishah Tillet, contributing critic at large for The New York Times
11.	Editorial Writing	Lisa Falkenberg, Michael Lindenberger, Joe Holley and Luis Carrasco of The Houston Chronicle
12.	Illustrated Reporting and Commentary	Fahmida Azim, Anthong Del Col, Josh Adams, Walt Jockey of Insider

13.	Breaking News Photography	Marcus Yam of Los Angeles Times for images of US departure from Afghanistan Win McNamee, Drew Angerer, Spencer Platt, Samuel Corum and John Cherry of Getty Images for photos of attack on US Capitol
14.	Feature Photography	Late Danish Siddiqui of Reuters, Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave for images of COVID toll in India
15.	Audio Reporting	Staffs of Futuro Media and PRX for 'Suave'- an immersive profile of a man re-entering society after more than 30 years in Prison

Category	2022 Pulitzer Prize Special Citation
Special Awards & Citations	The Journalists of Ukraine

88. Indian architect **Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** has been awarded the Royal Gold Medal 2022, one of the world's highest honours for architecture, by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). It is noteworthy that he is the only one from India and to have been awarded both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize (2018), often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.

He is credited with designing some of the most iconic structures in Ahmedabad. Some of his key projects are: Shreyas Comprehensive School Campus, Ahmedabad (1958-63); Atira Guest House, Ahmedabad (1958); The Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad (1962); Ahmedabad School of Architecture (1966 - renamed CEPT University in 2002); Tagore Hall and Memorial Theatre, Ahmedabad (1967); Premabhai Hall, Ahmedabad (1976); IIM Bangalore (1977-1992); Kanoria Centre for Arts, Ahmedabad (1984); and Amdavad ni Gufa (1994).

89. The Chief Minister of West Bengal, **Mamta Banerjee** has been honoured with the **Special Bangla Academy Award** for her book "**Kabita Bitan**", which was launched at the 2020 Kolkata Book Fair. The book contains 946 poems. She has been honoured for her "relentless literary pursuit" at the "Ravi Pranam" function organised by the state government's information and culture department on the occasion of Rabindranath Tagore's 161st birth anniversary. The award is introduced this year by Sahitya Academy.

90. **Dr Frank Wilczek (USA)**, the Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist and author, has won the **Templeton Prize 2022**, the world's largest individual lifetime achievement award, valued at \$1.3 million. With this, he has become the 6th Nobel laureate to receive the Templeton Prize since its inception in 1972.

- He won the **Nobel Prize in Physics in 2004** "for the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction" along with David Gross and H. David Politzer.

Templeton Prize:

- This award was first instituted in 1972 by Sir John Templeton, an American entrepreneur and philanthropist, to award individuals who works on the field of religion and spiritualism.
- The first Templeton Prize was given in 1973, and the first recipient was **Mother Teresa**.

- 91.** Footballer **Lionel Messi** (Argentina) has topped the Forbes' highest-paid athletes list for 2022 with a total net worth of USD 130 million. He had moved from Barcelona club to Paris Saint-Germain club in August 2021.
- He has been followed by Basketball player, Lebron James with USD 121.2 million and Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo with USD 115 million in the list.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 92.** M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India, has released a book titled "**The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police**". The book has been authored by a former IPS officer **Prakash Singh** in New Delhi. The book is published by Rupa Publications India Private Limited. This book depicts the efforts made to bring about police reforms in India.
- 93.** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has released the book titled "**Modi@20 Dreams Meet Delivery**" in New Delhi. The book presents different facets of the distinct thought process, the pioneering, pro-active approach and the quintessential, transformational leadership style that Narendra Modi has come to be so closely identified with. The book is an anthology edited and compiled by **BlueKraft Digital Foundation**, and is a compilation of chapters authored by eminent intellectuals and domain experts, **Rupa Publications**.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 94.** The Union Ministry of Law and Justice has announced **Rajiv Kumar**, the current Election Commissioner, to be appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. He will succeed Sushil Chandra. He will take over as the **25th CEC of India** on 15th May 2022 and will hold the position till 18th February 2025. He is an IAS officer of the 1984 batch of the Bihar/Jharkhand cadre.
- *The President of India appoints the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in pursuance of clause (2) of **Article 324** of the Indian Constitution.*

- 95.** Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone** has been appointed as first-ever Indian brand ambassador of Louis Vuitton, a French luxury fashion house. With this, she has become the first Indian to hold the position of House Ambassador for Louis Vuitton. The other Louis Vuitton House Ambassador includes Emma Stone, an Oscar winner, and Zhou Dongyu, China's leading actor.
- 96. Sanjiv Bajaj**, chairman and managing director of Bajaj Finserv Limited, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for **2022-23**. He has succeeded T V Narendran, CEO and managing director of Tata Steel Limited.
- Hero MotoCorp Ltd Chairman and CEO **Pawan Munjal** is the CII President-Designate for 2022-23, whereas TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice Chairman **R Dinesh** takes over as CII Vice President.
- 97. John Lee Ka-chiu**, a former Hong Kong security chief, has been named as the next chief executive of Hong Kong. He will replace Carrie Lam.
- 98. Lakpa Sherpa** (Nepal) has become the first woman to climb Mount Everest for 10th time. She has broken her own record of most successful climbs by a woman. She last climbed the 8,848.86-meter (29,031.69-foot) mountain in 2018.
- 99.** Tata Sons has recently appointed **Campbell Wilson**, CEO of Scoot, a low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, as the CEO and MD of Air India.
- 100.** The Union government has appointed **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia**, the chief justice of Guwahati High Court, and **Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala**, a judge of the Gujarat High Court, as judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana had recommended their names for appointment on 5th May 2022. The other members of the Collegium are Justices UU Lalit, AM Khanwilkar, DY Chandrachud and L Nageswara Rao.
- At present, the Supreme Court has a strength of **32 judges** as against a sanctioned strength of **34 judges**. These appointments will help regain the 34-judge strength, but two other vacancies will arise soon with Justice Vineet Saran set to retire on May 10 and Justice Nageswara Rao on June 7.
- 101. M. Narayanan** has been appointed as the part-time chairman of City Union Bank (CUB) for a period of two years with effect from 4th May 2022. He has succeeded R. Mohan.

102. The Nepalese Sherpa guide **Kami Rita Sherpa** has scaled **Mount Everest** for the **26th time**. He has broken his own record for summiting the mountain most number of times. He had climbed Mt Everest for the first time in May 1994. He had also climbed Mt K2 and Mt Lhotse once each, Mt Manaslu three times, and Mt Cho Oyu eight times.

Mount Everest:

- It is the tallest peak in the world.
- It is also known as *Sagarmatha* in Nepal and *Mount Qomolangma* in China.
- The height of Mt Everest is **8,848.86 metres**.
- It lies on the border between Nepal and Tibet.
- It was first scaled in 1953 by the Indian-Nepalese **Tenzing Norgay** and New Zealander **Edmund Hillary**.

103. Dr. **Pushp Kumar Joshi** has taken charge as the new Chairman & Managing Director of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) with effect from 8th May 2022. He has succeeded Mukesh Kumar Surana.

104. **Yoon Suk Yeol**, a conservative political neophyte, has become the new President of **South Korea**. He has succeeded Moon Jae-in, who served as President from 2017 to 2022.

105. **Alkesh Kumar Sharma**, a senior IAS officer, has been appointed as the new Secretary of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). He is currently serving as the Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.

Other appointments:

- Senior IAS officer Gyanesh Kumar has been appointed as the Secretary, Ministry of Cooperation.
- Pradip Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat.
- S Radha Chauhan has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- Neel Kamal Darbari has been appointed as chairperson, National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention in the rank and pay of Secretary to the government of India.
- Sanjay Kumar, a 1990-batch IAS officer, has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs.
- S K G Rahate, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.

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OBITUARIES

- 106.** Renowned Odia litterateur **Rajat Kumar Kar**, a Padma Shri awardee, has passed away recently in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born on 2nd October 1934 in Mahanga village of Cuttack district, Odisha. He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** award in **2021** for his contribution in the field of Literature and Education.
- 107.** Indian politician **Pandit Sukh Ram** has passed away recently in New Delhi. He was born on 27th July 1927 in Kotli town of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh. He was associated with the Congress party. He served as the **Union Minister of Communication and IT** (Independent charge) from 1993 to 1996.
- 108.** Noted Indian music composer and santoor player **Pandit Shivkumar Sharma** has recently passed away due to kidney-related issues in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 13th January 1938 in Jammu. He was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1986, **Padma Shri** in **1991** and **Padma Vibhushan** in **2001**.
- 109.** **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan**, ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the United Arab Emirates, has passed away recently. He was born on 7th September 1948 in Al Ain, UAE. He served as the **President of the UAE**, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, and the supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces from 2004 to 2022.
- 110.** It is noteworthy that the world's tallest man-made structure, originally known as Burj Dubai, was renamed the Burj Khalifa in his honour in 2010.
- 111.** **Leonid Kravchuk**, who became the first president of independent **Ukraine**, has passed away recently in Kyiv, Ukraine. He was born on 10th January 1934 in Velykyi, Zhytyn, Rivne region, Ukraine.
- 112.** Russian chess grandmaster, **Yuri Averbakh** has recently passed away at the age of 100 in Moscow, Russia. He was born on 8th February 1922 in Kaluga, Russia. He won the Moscow Championship in 1949 and earned the Grandmaster title in 1952. He became the champion of the USSR in 1954. He also chaired the Chess Federation of the USSR from 1972 to 1977.

113. Noted Sanskrit and Hindi scholar **Rama Kant Shukla** has passed away recently in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. He was born on 24th December 1940 in Khurja, **Uttar Pradesh**.

Awards:

- He was honoured with **Padma Shri** in **2013** for literature and education.
- He was honoured with the President's Award under the Sanskrit category in 2009.
- He was awarded the Sahitya Academy Award in Sanskrit for the poetry 'Mama Janani' in 2018.

SPORTS

114. Netherlands Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** has won the first edition of the Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix 2022 at the Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida, USA. He has defeated Monaco's Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc.

115. Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** from Chennai, Tamil Nadu has won the 1st Chessable Sunway Formentera Open Chess 2022 tournament held in Spain. He has settled for a draw with Armenian GM Haik M Martirosyan in the final round to win the title with eight points.

- Recently, he has also won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open tournament.

116. The 20th edition of the 2022 Madrid Open has been held at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain from 28 April to 8 May 2022.

2022 Madrid Open	
Category	Winners
Men's Singles	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)
Women's Singles	Ons Jabeur (Tunisia)
Men's Doubles	Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (UK)
Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)

117. Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Anurag Thakur has launched the Logo, Anthem, Jersey and Mascot for the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) 2021**.

- **Haryana** will host the 4th Khelo India Youth Games from 4 June to 13 June 2022 in Panchkula.
- The name of the Mascot for Haryana for Khelo India Youth Games-21 is '**Dhakad**'.

- Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba and Yogasana are the five new traditional games to be included in 4th KIYG.

118. The 2022 Junior World Weightlifting Championships has been held at Heraklion Indoor Sports Arena, Heraklion, Greece, from 2 to 10 May 2022. **Turkey** has topped the medal tally with 6 medals (2 Gold, 3 Silver, and 1 Bronze), followed by Armenia (5 medals) and Ukraine (4 medals).

India's performance:

- India has finished 9th in the tournament with **3 medals** (1 Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze).
- **Harshada Sharad Garud** has become the first Indian to win Gold at 2022 Junior World Weightlifting Championships. She won the Gold medal in 45 kg Women's category.
- **Gyaneshwari Yadav** (49 kg): Silver
- **V Rithika** (49 kg): Bronze

119. The 75th edition of the Italian Cup 2022 has been held at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome, Italy. **Inter Milan**, also known as Internazionale, has won the Italian Cup title after defeating Juventus in the final match. This is Inter Milan's eighth Italian Cup title.

120. **Jyothi Yarraji** from Andhra Pradesh has won the gold medal with a national record of **13.23 seconds** in the women's **100m hurdles** at the Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022 held in Limassol. She has broken the 20 year old National Record of Anuradha Biswal (13.38/ 2002).

Other winners of the Cyprus International Athletics Meeting 2022:

- **Lili Das** has won the gold medal in the women's 1500m race, clocking 4:17.79 seconds.
- **Amlan Borgohain** has won the bronze medal in the men's 200m, clocking 21.32 seconds.

121. Indian Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** (Telangana) has finished second in the 2022 TePe Sigeman Chess Tournament held in Malmo Sweden. Hans Moke Niemann (USA) has won the tournament.

122. The Archery Asia Cup 2022 Stage 2 has been held from 6th to 11th May 2022 in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq. India has won a total of **14 medals** (8 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze) in the tournament.

Archery Asia Cup 2022 Stage 2 Iraq: India medal winners

- Women's team compound – gold (Sakshi Chaudhary, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami)

- Men's team compound – gold (Rishabh Yadav, Prathamesh Fuge and Prathamesh Jawkar)
- Mixed team compound – gold (Prathamesh Fuge and Parneet Kaur)
- Men's individual compound – Prathmesh Fuge (gold); Rishabh Yadav (silver); Jawkar Samadhan (bronze)
- Women's individual compound – Sakshi Chaudhary (gold); Parneet Kaur (silver)
- Women's team recurve – gold (Avani, Bhajan Kaur and Laxmi Hembrom)
- Men's team recurve – gold (Mrinal Chauhan, Parth Salunkhe and Juyel Sarkar)
- Mixed team recurve – silver (Parth Salunkhe and Bhajan Kaur)
- Men's individual recurve - Mrinal Chauhan (gold); Parth Salunke (bronze)
- Women's individual recurve - Bhajan Kaur (silver)

IMPORTANT DAYS

123. World Thalassaemia Day is observed annually on **8th May** to spread awareness to honour the struggle of patients suffering from this disease. The day was created in 1994 by Panos Englezos, president and the founder of the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF), in the loving memory of his son George and the other thalassaemia patients who fought this disease.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Be Aware.Share.Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassaemia knowledge'
- *Thalassaemia is an inherited blood disorder that doesn't let the body to create enough haemoglobin.* The disease weakens and destroys the blood cells. There are two types of thalassaemia, alpha and beta, along with Thalassaemia minor, intermedia and major as its subcategories.

124. World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on **8th May** to celebrate the uniqueness and unity of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Henry Dunant, who was born on 8 May 1828. The day was first observed in 1948.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Be Human Kind'
- Jean-Henry Dunant was the founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the first Noble Peace Prize laureate (1901).

125. United Nation's International Day of Argania is observed annually on **10th May** to recognize the significance of the Argan tree in achieving the 3 dimensions, Economic, Social, and Environmental, of sustainable development at the local level. The day was first observed in 2021.

- **Theme 2022:** "The argan tree, Symbol of Resilience"

- **Argan trees:** The Argan trees (*Argania spinosa*) is a native species of the sub-Saharan region of Morocco. It grows in arid and semiarid areas. It's the defining species of a woodland ecosystem, also known as Arganeraie, which is rich in endemic flora.

126. National Technology Day is observed annually across India on **11th May** to honour the contributions of India's scientific community including scientists, researchers and engineers. The day was first observed in 1999.

- The theme of National Technology Day 2022 is '*An Integrated Approach to Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future*'.
- Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology has stated the theme of National Technology Day 2022 is "**PRAGATI: Promoting Avenues for Growth through Technological Innovations**".

The day commemorates the anniversary of the **Pokhran II Tests (1998) code-named Operation Shakti** which were a series of five explosions conducted under the guidance of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at the Indian Army's Pokhran Range, Rajasthan. After the tests, the then Prime Minister of India Atal Bihar Vajpayee declared India a nuclear state, making it the 6th country to join the elite nuclear club.

127. International Nurses Day is observed annually on **12th May** to recognize the strong commitment, compassion and dedication that nurse's display in the practice of their profession. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the English social reformer, statistician and founder of modern nursing. She was also known as Lady with the Lamp.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Nurses: A voice to lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health'
- The day was first observed by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in **1965**.
- *International Nurses Week has been observed from 6 to 12 May 2022.*

128. World Migratory Bird Day is observed twice a year since its inauguration in 2006. The day is celebrated bi-annually on the **second Saturday** in May and in October. This year, the day falls on **14 May** and **8 October**. It is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Impact of Light Pollution on Migratory Birds'
- '**Dim the Lights for Birds at Night!**' has been selected as the official slogan of the 2022 edition of the UN-backed global World Migratory Bird Day 2022 campaign.
- Light pollution is a significant threat to migratory birds, causing disorientation when they fly at night, leading to collisions with buildings, perturbing their internal clocks, or interfering with their ability to undertake long-distance migrations.

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