

PRACTICE **MOCK**



May 2022 - Week 3

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- NITI Aayog** has launched the **National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP)** for open public use. The objective is to democratize access to public government data by making data accessible, interoperable, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform. It hosts foundational datasets from various government agencies, presents them coherently, and provides tools for analytics and visualization.

 - This platform was first introduced in August 2021, with a limited number of users for testing and feedback.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry **Piyush Goyal** has recently chaired the 4th meeting of **National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC)** in New Delhi. During the meeting, *NavIC Grand Challenge* has been launched to promote adoption of NavIC as geo-positioning solution, a key proponent for digital Aatmanirbharta. It aims to identify and handhold solutions of start-ups which are engaged in developing NavIC enabled drones.

National Start-up Advisory Council (NSAC):

It was set up by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in **January 2020**. The goal is to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), under the Ministry of Communications, has launched the “**GatiShakti Sanchar**” portal. The portal has been launched for **Centralised Right of Way (RoW) approvals**.

- The portal has been developed by the *Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation*, keeping in view the vision areas of the National Broadband Mission.
- The portal will enable applicants from various Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) as well as Infrastructure providers (IPs) to apply at a common single portal for Right of Way permissions to lay down Optical Fibre Cable and for erecting mobile towers to State/UT Governments and local bodies.
- The timely disposal of RoW applications, within a span of *20 to 22 days* from around 100 days, will enable speedy infrastructure creation resulting timely rollout of 5G network also.

3. The **Digital anti-skid braking system** designed for **SARAS Mark 2**, 19 seat Light Transport Aircraft, has been successfully validated by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) in Bangalore, Karnataka. NAL has developed a state-of-art brake-by-wire Electro-Hydraulic Braking System for civil aircraft for the first time in India. This will benefit operation from airfields with short runways to boost regional air connectivity.

SARAS MK2:

- The Union government sanctioned the SARAS-Mk2-19 Seat Light Transport aircraft project to the **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research - National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR- NAL)** in June 2019.
- It is a multirole commuter aircraft with unique features like the pressurised cabin, short take-off and landing, operation from hot and high altitude airfields, operation from semi-prepared runways, and autopilot for CAT-II landing, glass cockpit, digitally controlled mechanical systems.
- It is also slated to be the most-versatile aircraft of its class for connecting remotely located Tier-II and Tier-III towns under the UDAN Scheme.

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4. The Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy has addressed the **first Incredible India International Cruise Conference (IIICC) 2022** held in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. It has been organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, & Waterways in collaboration with the

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). The mascot for the event is named as **'Captain Cruzo'**.

A total of **eight MoUs** have been signed at the IICC 2022. This includes:

- Mumbai Port and Angriya Sea Eagle Ltd for home porting their cruise ship in Mumbai for the upcoming cruising season.
- Mumbai Port and Waterways Leisure Tourism P. Ltd for home porting their cruise ship in Chennai for the upcoming cruising season.
- Mumbai Port and Training Ship Rahaman for being an existing service provider in the field of Maritime Training for Cruise Vessels. It will endeavor to recruit Indian seafarers to support the Indian Maritime Vision 2030.
- Mumbai Port and The Apollo Group USA for being an existing service provider to cruise operators in India, with approximately 600 seafarers.
- Chennai Port and Waterways Leisure Tourism P. Ltd. for home porting their cruise ship in Chennai for the upcoming cruising season.
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Antara Luxury River Cruises for River Cruise between Varanasi (UP) and Bogibeel (Dibrugarh, Assam) via Kolkata under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
- IWAI and Adventure Resorts and Cruises for Development of Long Cruise on Kerala Backwaters (NW-3).
- IWAI and JM Baxi River Cruise between Varanasi and Bogibeel via Kolkata under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

5. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar has launched the **Pilot Project for Skilling Tribal Youth** from the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP), Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- Under the pilot project, around 250 beneficiaries of 17 clusters of 17 districts selected from **six states** will be trained.
- These six states includes **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Odisha.**
- Training will be provided to the beneficiaries in 5 disciplines: electrical and solar energy, agricultural mechanization, e-governance, plumbing and masonry, two wheeler repair and maintenance.

He has also launched the **Rural Tribal Technical Training Program** (Grameen Udhyaami Project) of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). The programme shall cover 50 Tribal Districts, training and empowering tribal youth, creating employment opportunities & revitalising local economy.

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with his Nepalese counterpart Sher Bahadur Deuba has laid the foundation stone for the **India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage** in the **Lumbini** Monastic Zone, Nepal.

- The centre will be constructed by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi, on a plot allocated to the IBC by the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT), under an agreement between the IBC and the LDT signed in March 2022.
- Ministry of Culture (India) will provide financial support to the centre.
- The Centre will be a modern building, NetZero compliant in terms of energy, water and waste handling.

PM Narendra Modi has also offered prayers at the sacred *Maya Devi temple in Lumbini*. Maya Devi was the birth mother of Gautama Buddha.

7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory' (NCFL) at Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) campus in Hyderabad, Telangana.

- The NCFL has been set up under the Cyber and Information Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) at an estimated cost of about **Rs.35.51 crore**.
- The aim is to speed up the process for disposal of cybercrime cases in the country.
- NCFL has created 4 specialized Hi-tech units with state-of-the-art facilities to address issues in the field of digital forensics, which include a Mobile phone embedded system examination unit, a Digital storage Media Examination Unit, an Advanced Digital Forensic Unit, and Crime Scene Unit.

8. The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary has become the 52nd tiger reserve in India. It is located in Bundi district of Rajasthan. This reserve will conserve biodiversity and bring in ecotourism and development to the area. It includes the tiger habitat between Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side and facilitates dispersal of tigers from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

With this, it has become the **4th Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan** after Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar, and Mukundra Hill Tiger Reserve in Kota.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had given in-principle approval to make Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas as tiger reserves on 5th July 2021, under the provision of Section 38 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- *According to "Status of Tigers in India" report released in 2019, there are 2,967 tigers in 20 states across the country.*

9. Gram Unnati, the Indian full stack agricultural value chain services, has appointed former Chief Election Commissioner of India Sunil Arora as the new non-executive Chairman of Gram Unnati.

- Sunil Arora is a retired Rajasthan cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1980 batch.

- He served as the 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India. He also served as secretary to two key ministries: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

- 10.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **India's first 5G testbed** to enable startups and industry players to test and validate their products locally and reduce dependence on foreign facilities. It has been inaugurated on the occasion of silver jubilee celebrations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
- The testbed has been set up at a cost of around **Rs 220 crore**.
 - It has been developed as a multi-institute collaborative project by eight institutes namely, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IISc Bangalore, Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER) and Centre of Excellence in Wireless Technology (CEWiT). It has been led by **IIT Madras**.
 - The testbed facility will be available at 5 different locations.
- 11.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched two indigenously built warships '**Surat**' and '**Udaygiri**' at the Mazagon Docks in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Both warships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at **Mazagon Docks Ltd.**, Mumbai.

INS Surat:

- It is the fourth and last ship of the Visakhapatnam-class **Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer** of the Project 15B class, which heralds a significant makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) destroyers.
- It is named after the commercial capital of Gujarat.
- The Project 15B class of ships are the Navy's next generation stealth guided missile destroyers being built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL).

INS Udaygiri:

- It is the second **Stealth Frigate** of the P17A class.
- It is a follow on of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- It is named after the Udaygiri mountain range in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is the reincarnation of the erstwhile 'Udaygiri', the Leander Class ASW Frigate, which saw numerous challenging operations in its illustrious service to the country from February 1976 to August 2007.

- 12.** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has planned to build twin satellites named **DISHA (Disturbed and quiet time Ionosphere-thermosphere System at High Altitudes)** in L& H variants, for studying the earth's **upper atmosphere**.

- It is a twin Aeronomy mission conceptualised by ISRO.
- It comprises of two satellites, one at high (DISHA-H, at inclination greater than 85 degrees) and the other one at low (DISHA-L, at an inclination of about 25 degrees) inclination orbits, simultaneously orbiting the Earth at an altitude of approximately 400 km.
- It will be launched in the low earth orbit, about 500 km above earth.

'Aeronomy' refers to the "physics and chemistry" of the Earth's upper atmosphere, which "directly feels the wrath of the space weather events".

13. The **West Central Railway (WCR)** has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive named '**Navdoot**'. This engine runs on both modes i.e. battery and electricity. Currently, it is being used during shunting of trains at Jabalpur, Mudwara, and other stations on a trial basis. This e-engine can pull 18 coaches at a speed of 30 kmph. It has 84 batteries and has a capacity to pull 400 tonnes at present.

This dual mode locomotive has also received the Best Innovation Award from the Railway Board. Indian Railways will save 1000 litres of diesel every day with this new locomotive. This has been developed by the Electric Department of New Katni Junction.

14. The Government of India (GoI) has announced the formation of the **Cotton Council of India** to boost fibre's productivity. The council will discuss, deliberate and prepare a robust action plan for bringing out a tangible improvement in this field.

- The council will be chaired by **Suresh Bhai Kotak**, a renowned veteran cotton man, with representation from the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Industry, Cotton Corporation of India and Cotton Research Institute.
- The first meeting of the proposed council has been scheduled for 28th May 2022.

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15. The Union Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018. The Cabinet has amended the target of blending **20 percent** ethanol in petrol (20 percent ethanol, 80 percent petrol) by 5 years to **2025-26** from 2030. Currently, about 10 percent of ethanol is blended in petrol. The Cabinet has also allowed more feedstocks for the production of biofuels in a bid to cut reliance on imported oil for meeting the country's energy needs.

Other Cabinet approvals:

Cabinet has approved the proposal for empowering the **Board of Directors of public sector undertakings** to recommend and undertake the disinvestment (both strategic disinvestment

and minority stake sale) or closure of any of their subsidiaries/units/stake in joint ventures (JVs). Till now, only Maharatna companies had certain limited powers but none had the power to disinvest or close down. This will ensure minimum presence of the government in public.

16. The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has released a report titled '**Circular Economy in Municipal Solid and Liquid Waste**'. As per the report, India generates approx. **1.45 lakh tonnes** of solid waste daily, and **35%** of this is dry waste and major share of dry waste is plastic.

- The report has estimated that proper municipal wet, solid, and construction waste treatment can generate around **Rs 30,000 crore** revenue annually and can also create employment opportunities for over 1 crore people across the nation by 2025.
- The report has highlighted that around **26,000 tonnes** of plastic waste are generated across the country. Out of the total plastic waste generated only **15,600 tonnes** are being recycled. About 9,400 tonnes are left uncollected.
- This report has suggested that the government must reduce the GST as well as other taxes on all those products that are produced by using recycled materials to 5 percent so as to encourage the recycling of waste.

17. '**HANSA-NG**', the new generation two-seater flying trainer aircraft, has **successfully completed in-flight engine relight test** at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) facility of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at Challakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

Earlier, HANSA-NG had completed the sea level trials in Puducherry from 19th February to 5th March 2022.

HANSA-NG:

- It is designed and developed by **Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)**.
- It is an upgraded version of HANSA, which saw the first flight in 1993, and was certified in 2000.
- It is powered by a Rotax Digital Control Engine and is designed to meet the need for trainer aircraft by flying clubs in India.
- It is an ideal aircraft for Commercial Pilot Licensing (CPL) due to its low cost and low fuel consumption.

18. Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** has recently visited Jordan amid ongoing global fertilizer crisis. It is first of its kind initiative with the objective of securing fertilizers and raw materials, for short and long term.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between **Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC)**, and the Indian public, cooperative and private sector companies for supplies of 30 LMT Rock Phosphate, 2.50 LMT DAP, 1 LMT phosphoric acid for the current year (2022).
- India has also signed a long term MoU for **5 years** with Jordan for annual supplies of 2.75 LMT of MoP which will uniformly increase every year up to 3.25 LMT.

19. The **Ministry of Heavy Industries** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)** for undertaking various activities for smooth implementation of the Scheme for enhancement of competitiveness in the Indian capital goods sector.

- Under this MoU, NRDC will conduct the activities like evaluation and review of the scheme, management of intellectual property rights, and commercialization support for the products developed under Capital Goods Scheme.

20. **Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT)**, the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, has tied up with **Vodafone-Idea** company to develop and deploy Internet of things (IoT)/ Machine to Machine (M2M) solutions in India and to simplify IoT solutions deployment and bring standardization and interoperability among devices and applications as per oneM2M standard in the country.

- C-DOT's indigenously developed oneM2M based Common Services Platform (CCSP). It will benefit the IoT industries.

21. The **National Geographic Society (NatGeo)** team has installed the world's highest weather station on **Mount Everest** at an altitude of 8,830 metres to automatically measure various meteorological phenomena like air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in surface height of snow, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation. It has been installed a few metres below the summit point (8,848.86 metres).

22. Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor for the New Development Bank (NDB), **Nirmala Sitharaman** has chaired the **7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB** via video-conference in New Delhi under the theme "NDB: Optimising Development Impact". The meeting has been attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa and the newly joined members Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

23. Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw has virtually inaugurated **National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT)**

Centre at **Leh**, Ladakh. He has also inaugurated NIELIT's Extension Centre Kargil and IT Enabled Incubation Centre for Handicraft and Handloom Sector.

24. India Navy has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the indigenously developed **Naval Anti-Ship Missile** from Seeking 42B helicopter at Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha. The Naval Anti-Ship Missile has been developed in association with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is the first indigenous air-launched Anti-ship missile system for Indian Navy.
25. Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has chaired the fourth joint meeting of **All Science Ministries and Departments** in New Delhi. He has announced that around 55 Start-ups have registered with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Department of Space, in just about two years. In addition, 75 Students' satellites are scheduled for launch in 2022 to coincide with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating 75th year of India's Independence.

STATES AFFAIRS

26. Tripura BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP **Manik Saha** has been elected as the new Chief Minister of **Tripura**. He has succeeded Biplab Kumar Deb, who resigned recently. He has been sworn in as the 12th Chief Minister of the state by Governor Satyadeo Narain.

Note: The election to the **60-member** Tripura Assembly is due in January-February 2023.

27. Researchers from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Panjab University, IIT Ropar, and Comenius University, Slovakia have discovered the fossil of a **Madtsoiidae snake** in the Himalayan Mountains in **Ladakh**. This research highlights the existence of the rare serpent species in the Indian subcontinent.

Madtsoiidae Snake: It is an extinct group of snakes, which grows up to 30 feet in length. They first appeared during the later part of the Cretaceous period. They were mainly found in the Gondwanan landmasses (Africa, South America, Australia, Antarctica, the Indian subcontinent, and the Arabian Peninsula). They disappeared in the mid-Paleogene period across most Gondwanan landmasses except for Australia. In Australia, it continued to exist till late Pleistocene period.

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28. The state government of **Punjab** has launched a public interaction program '**Lok Milni**' to facilitate the people for resolving their long pending administrative issues. Earlier, the program was named as 'Janta Darbar'.
29. The state government of **Tamil Nadu** has announced the creation of **Nanjarayan Tank** in Tiruppur district as a Bird Sanctuary with the budgetary support of Rs.7.5 crore. It is the **17th Bird Sanctuary** in the state and extends across 125.86 hectares.
- The Nanjarayan Tank, also known as Sarkar Periyapalayam Reservoir, is located on the outskirts of Tirupur city near Koolipalayam, about 60 kilometres from Coimbatore. It was built by the then local King Nanjarayan as a source of irrigation.
30. **Kerala** will launch **India's first state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform** named '**Cspace**'. It will be launched on 1st November 2022. It is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) on behalf of the state government. The platform will showcase films with artistic value irrespective of their performance at the box office, along with internationally recognised and award-winning films, best films screened at the annual International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), and short films and documentaries.
31. The state government of **Assam** has partnered with **Tata Technologies Limited (TTL)** to transform 34 state polytechnics and 43 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into futuristic Centres of Excellence (CoEs). TTL has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam government for a period of **10 years** for this purpose with a total investment of **Rs. 2,390 crore**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

32. The world's longest suspension footbridge named '**Sky Bridge 721**' has been opened in Dolni Morava, **Czech Republic**. The bridge connects two mountain ridges and hangs 95 meters above the valley of the Mlynsky Stream. It is a 721 meters long and 1.2 meter-wide bridge. It is constructed at a cost of 200 million crowns.
33. Abdulla bin Touq, UAE's Minister of Economy, and India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has launched '**India-UAE Start-Up Bridge**' to provide a platform to investors and entrepreneurs from countries following the signing of an economic partnership agreement. It has been launched at India-UAE Economic Partnership Summit 2022 held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will act as a one-stop platform to provide information on start-up opportunities to Indian and UAE entrepreneurs and stakeholders.

- **Note:** India and the UAE signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, or CEPA, in February 2022, which came into effect on 1st May 2022.

34. The **First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)** has been held under the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in **New York**, USA. The Indian delegation is led by V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs.

IMRF: It was created by the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM). It is a Member State forum, with the participation of stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the GCM and guide the work of the United Nations on migration. The IMRF serves as the primary intergovernmental global platform to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects pertaining to migration & its intersection with Sustainable Development Goals.

35. **China** has planned to launch the world's first habitable planet search mission named '**Closeby Habitable Exoplanet Survey**'. The mission aims to discover roughly 50 Earth-like planets or super-Earths. It will observe about 100 Sun-like stars 32 light-years away on a long-term survey.

Note: Super Earths are planets that are up to about 10 times the mass of Earth.

Habitable planet: It means a planet that is potentially life-friendly and for that it must be relatively small, rocky and orbit in the "habitable zone" of its star, which is location where water can exist in liquid form on a world's surface. The planet's atmospheric conditions and its parent star also play a role in it being tagged as habitable or Earth-like.

REPORTS & INDICES

- 36.** Forbes has recently released the **Forbes Global 2000 list 2022**. It ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets, and market value.
- Globally, **Berkshire Hathaway (USA)** has topped the list, followed by Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Arabia).
 - **Reliance Industries** has been ranked first among Indian companies on the list with a global rank of 53. It has been followed by State Bank of India (105th), HDFC Bank (153rd), ICICI Bank (204th) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (228th).

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- 37.** As per the latest data of the Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA), China has become the world's largest vehicle market, followed by the USA and Japan.
- **India** has surpassed Germany to become **4th largest vehicle market** in the world.
 - India sold 3,759,398 vehicles in 2021, compared to 2,973,319 vehicles in Germany.

- India is expected to become the third-largest Vehicle market by 2025.

38. According to the latest Migration and Development Brief report of the World Bank, **India** has again emerged as the largest remittance-receiving country in the world in 2021. India has received remittances of **USD 89.4 billion** in 2021 as compared to USD 82.73 billion in 2020. It is followed by **Mexico** at 2nd place, and **China** at 3rd place.

- India's remittances has accounted for only **3%** of GDP in 2021.
- India has projected to grow remittances at 5% in 2022 and 2023.
- The region of South-Asia has seen 7% gain in remittances to USD 157 billion in 2021.

39. The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** has released a report titled 'Burden of cancers in India'. The report states that number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to **29.8 million** in 2025 from **26.7 million** in 2021.

- The highest incidence was in North India (2,408 patients per 100,000) and the Northeast India (2,177 per 100,000) in 2021. It was higher among men.
- Seven Cancers accounted for more than 40% of the total disease burden: lung (10.6%), breast (10.5%), oesophagus (5.8%), mouth (5.7%), stomach (5.2%), liver (4.6%) and cervix uteri (4.3%).
- **Mizoram, Delhi and Meghalaya** had the highest cancer Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) and the most vulnerable demographic are people in the 65–69-year age group.

Note: DALY is a measure of overall disease burden expressed as the number of years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death.

40. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** have recently launched the first **Global Report on Assistive Technology (GRaAT)**. This report is the culmination of the 71st World Health Assembly resolution in 2018 to prepare a global report on effective access to assistive technology.

Key Highlights:

- The number of people in need of one or more assistive products is likely to rise to **3.5 billion** by 2050, due to population aging and the prevalence of non-communicable diseases rising across the world.
- There is the vast gap in access between low- and high-income countries. An analysis of 35 countries reveals that access varies from 3% in poorer nations to 90% in wealthy countries.
- Affordability is a major barrier to access, More than 2.5 billion people need one or more assistive products, such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, or apps that support communication and cognition.

- A survey of 70 countries featured in the report found large gaps in service provision and trained workforce for assistive technology, especially in the domains of cognition, communication, and self-care.

Assistive technology:

It is an umbrella term covering the systems and services related to the delivery of assistive products and services. Hearing aids, wheelchairs, communication aids, spectacles, prostheses, pill organizers and memory aids are all examples of assistive products.

41. The **Lancet Planetary Health** has recently published a report on air pollution and lead pollution.

Report on Air Pollution:

- As per the report, Air pollution was responsible for **16.7 lakhs** deaths in India in 2019 or 17.8% of all deaths in the country. This is the largest number of air pollution related deaths of any country.
- 9.8 lakhs deaths were caused by PM 2.5. 6.1 lakh were caused by household air pollution.
- Air pollution is most severe in the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- Burning of biomass in households was the single largest source of deaths, followed by coal combustion and crop burning.
- Globally, air pollution alone contributes to 66.7 lakhs deaths. Overall, pollution was responsible for 90 lakhs deaths (1 in 6).

The World Health Organization (WHO) has lowered the guideline value for PM2.5 from 10 micrograms per cubic metre to 5.

Report on Lead Pollution:

- An estimated **9 lakh** people die every year globally due to lead pollution.
- Globally, more than 80 crore children (27.5 crore in India), are estimated to have blood lead concentrations that exceed 5µg/dL.
- The level of concentration that has been established by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention for intervention is 3.5µg/dL.
- Earlier the source of lead pollution was from leaded petrol which was replaced with unleaded petrol.

42. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has published a new report titled '**Drought in Numbers, 2022**'. The report involves the collection of data on the effects of droughts globally and how droughts can be mitigated.

Key highlights:

- As per the report, many regions in India are vulnerable to drought. Due to severe droughts, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India declined by **2%-5%** between 1998 and 2017.

- The African continent suffered the most due to droughts.
- Globally, the number and duration of droughts increased by **29%** since 2000.
- Between 1998 and 2017, droughts caused economic losses of around **USD 124 billion** globally.
- Women are more vulnerable to droughts, due to their gender-specific roles in society and their huge dependence on nature.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 43.** EKA, a commercial electric vehicle manufacturer and a subsidiary of Pinnacle Industries, has unveiled **India's first indigenously developed electric bus** named '**EKA E9**'. It has been unveiled by Aaditya Thackeray, Maharashtra's Minister of Tourism and Environment and Sudhir Mehta, Chairman, EKA and Pinnacle Industries Limited at The Pune Alternate Fuel Conclave (AFC).
- EKA E9 is the first electric bus with the "Made-in-India" tag.
 - It is powered by an electric motor that generates maximum power of 200 KW and torque of 2500 NM.
 - It has a lower Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) than existing Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) powered buses, ensuring sustainability, and profitability for all stakeholders.
- 44.** As per the latest data by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, wholesale inflation in India has raised to **15.08 percent** in **April 2022** from 14.55 percent in March 2022. Fuel inflation has increased to 38.66 percent, while inflation for manufactured products has increased to 10.85 percent.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI): It measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses. It is published by the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its base year is **2011-12**.

- 45.** Edible oil major **Ruchi Soya** has acquired **Patanjali Ayurved's food business** for around Rs.690 crore. The name of Ruchi Soya Industries Limited will be changed to Patanjali Foods Limited after regulatory approvals.
- Ruchi Soya will pay an annual royalty to Patanjali Ayurved, estimated at 1 percent of the gross turnover of the products under the transfer agreement.
 - As part of the deal, Ruchi Soya will get the manufacturing plants at Padartha (Haridwar in Uttarakhand) and Newasa (Maharashtra).
- 46.** Aviation and aerospace manufacturer Urban-Air Port has designed **Air One**, the world's first airport for drones and flying cars. It has been opened in the city of **Coventry** in the United Kingdom. The pop-up airport, called Air One is designed to reduce the urban congestion and pollution and is powered by the Hydrogen Fuel Cells.

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- 47. Adani Sportsline**, a subsidiary of Adani Group, has acquired the rights to own and operate a franchise in **UAE's T20 League**. This will be the first major move overseas by Adani Sportsline that will connect and engage with global fans from across the cricketing nations.
- The UAE T20 League will be an annual event that will feature six teams competing in a 34-match event. It is likely to commence in June 2022.

- 48. Skyroot Aerospace Private Limited** has successfully test-fired the third stage/engine of its Vikram-1 rocket named '**Kalam 100**'. It is named after renowned Indian rocket scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The third stage of Vikram-1 produces a peak vacuum thrust of 100 kN (nearly 10 tons) and has a burn time of 108 sec. It is built with a high-strength Carbon fiber structure, solid fuel, EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer rubber) thermal protection system, and carbon ablative nozzle. It's a highly reliable stage with no moving parts and a high level of automation in manufacturing.

Vikram-1 is a four-stage rocket, where the first three stages are powered by solid fuel and the final stage by a liquid-fuel engine.

- 49.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of **55.39 percent** of the total equity share capital of **Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited** by Sanoti Properties LLP under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- CCI has also approved merger by absorption of Covidshield Technologies into Biocon Biologics in consideration for acquisition of approximately **15 percent** equity shareholding of Biocon Biologics by **Serum Institute Life Sciences**.
- 50. Government eMarketplace (GeM)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (**CSC-SPV**), and **Department of Post** for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile Govt. buyers, sellers and service providers in public procurement. With this collaboration, it is now possible for all last-mile Govt. buyers, sellers and service-providers to avail the logistics services and facilities over GeM through the India Post facilities located in the remotest parts of India.
- GeM has also signed an MoU with **Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)** for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile women-led micro and small enterprises, women entrepreneurs, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Associations, Cooperatives, Collectives, Not-for-Profit Section 8 Companies, and various Voluntary Organizations (VO) as sellers and service providers in public

procurement. Under this MoU, Vernacular language-based training curriculum in print and digital media will be developed for women entrepreneurs and SHGs.

- 51. Adani Group** has agreed to buy Swiss building materials maker Holcim Ltd's India assets **Ambuja Cements** and **ACC Ltd** for **USD 10.5 billion** (Rs.80,000 crore), including the open offers. The entity has agreed to acquire 63.19% of Ambuja Cements, and 54.53% of ACC through an offshore special vehicle.
- 52.** The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has announced that around **100 innovative tech firms** have joined its Technology Pioneers Community this year, of which 5 are Indian start-ups. The start-ups include entities from healthcare and financial services to the metaverse.
- WEF has released the 2022 cohort of Technology Pioneers ahead of its annual meeting in Davos (22nd to 26th May 2022). This year's cohort includes representation from 30 countries, with Vietnam, Rwanda and the Czech Republic represented for the first time.

Five Indian start-ups:

- 1) Vahan:** is building a full-stack labour marketplace for blue-collar workers,
- 2) SmartCoin Financials:** is a tech-driven financial inclusion platform empowering the underserved
- 3) Recykal** - is Asia's first circular economy marketplace.
- 4) Proeon:** is creating next-generation plant proteins with superior taste, texture and nutrition
- 5) Pandocorp:** is making supply chain execution intelligent with a fast logistics cloud

The Technology Pioneer community was launched by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2000. It is composed of early to growth-stage companies from around the world that are involved in the design, development and deployment of new technologies and innovations, and are poised to have a significant impact on business and society

- 53.** InterGlobe Aviation Limited (IndiGo) has appointed **Pieter Elbers**, former President and CEO of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company with effect from 1st October 2022. He will succeed Ronojoy Dutta, who has decided to retire on 30th September 2022.
- 54.** S&P Global Ratings has lowered India's growth forecast to **7.3%** from 7.8% for FY23 due to rise in inflation and the longer-than-expected Russia-Ukraine conflict. The rating agency has also projected India's GDP growth to 6.5 percent for FY24.
- 55.** United Arab Emirates-based telecoms company **e& (Etisalat Group)**, formerly known as Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC, has acquired a **9.8% stake** in **Vodafone Group** for a cash consideration of USD 4.4 billion. This transaction is in line with e&'s

ambition to be a global player in telecom and technology and to increase its exposure to international markets.

- 56. World Bank** has approved **USD 350 million** aid for the Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (**SRESTHA-Gujarat**) project. The SRESTHA-G project will be a 500 million dollars project, with the World Bank contributing USD 350 million. The project will encompass the transformation of key health delivery systems in Gujarat.
- 57. IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL)** has organised the 9th chapter of its flagship event 'Kutumb', with the theme 'Andhra Pradesh & Telangana - Urgent need for green affordable housing'. This is the 3rd event in collaboration with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- This will promote green affordable housing in **Andhra Pradesh** and **Telangana**, aiming at home loans worth **Rs 7,200 crore** by **2025**.
 - It aims to spread awareness about building climate-resilient housing that also saves cost and energy.

Kutumb:

It is a knowledge ecosystem conceptualised by IIFL Home Finance to promote green affordable housing in India for better understanding of green design, rating and financing options available.

- 58.** The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has released its World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report. As per the report, India's GDP is set to grow at **6.4 percent** in 2022. India's growth rate is expected to reach 6% in fiscal year 2023.
- The global economy is projected to grow by **3.1 percent** in 2022, down from the 4.0 percent growth forecast released in January 2022.
 - Global inflation is projected to increase to 6.7 percent in 2022, twice the average of 2.9 percent during 2010-2020, with sharp rises in food and energy prices.
- 59.** The **New Development Bank (NDB)** has issued a Chinese Yuan 7 billion bond (about USD 1.04 billion) in the China Interbank Bond Market with a 3-year maturity period. Upon the completion of the issuance, NDB will have a cumulative total of 30 billion Yuan bonds issued under its RMB (Renminbi) bond programs in the China interbank bond market.
- Note:** The term 'Renminbi' refers to the name of currency and 'yuan' refers to the basic unit of the Chinese currency.

BANKING & FINANCE

60. The Government of India (GoI) has made the requirement of a Permanent Account Number (PAN) or Aadhaar number for depositing cash or withdrawing **Rs.20 lakh** or more in a financial year or for opening a current account mandatory. As of now, PAN is required to be furnished for cash deposits of **Rs 50,000** or more in a day. With these rules, a threshold of Rs.20 lakh has been defined for the full financial year.

PAN:

PAN Card is a Permanent Account Number which consists of **10-digit** alphanumeric characters and is issued under the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961 by the Indian Income Tax Department under the supervision of the Central Board for Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Aadhaar:

Aadhaar is a unique identification number allotted to citizens that is verifiable online. It is a **12-digit** random number issued by the UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) to the residents of India after satisfying the verification process laid down by the Authority.

61. **Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, has tied up with **SpiceJet**, an Indian low-cost airline, to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card. It will be powered by Visa. The card comes in two variants: SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black. It aims to provide travellers with an exceptional travel experience through SpiceClub, India's first frequent flyer club operated by a low-cost carrier.

62. **Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL)** has tied up with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and digital payment firm **Phi Commerce** to facilitate a one-stop omnichannel payment solution at Kempegowda International Airport. The solution will enable a secure, scalable, and unified payment experience. It will power B2B (business to business) and B2C (business to consumer) payments in both online and offline channels.

63. **RBL Bank** has partnered with **Amazon Pay**, and **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** to offer universal payments interface (UPI) payments, which will include peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions. With this partnership, Amazon Pay will issue National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI's) allocated UPI ID with the handle @rapl, to RBL Bank.

64. **PNB MetLife India Insurance** has launched India's first dental health insurance plan. This is the first insurance plan in India that covers fixed-benefit outpatient expenses and provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health.

- Similarly, **AXA France India**, with its Indian insurance partners, has planned to launch **India's first-ever mental health insurance** cover in its group policies. The mental health insurance would provide Rs.25,000 for consultation with therapists, psychologists, life

coaches, among others through virtual mode, and up to Rs.1 lakh for hospitalisation. The cover would also provide free mental health assessment tests as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

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PRACTICE MOCK

- 65. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) regulations, 1999. The regulator has enhanced the net worth criteria and track record requirements for entities managing such schemes.**
- As per the amendment, each CIS will have a minimum subscription amount of **Rs.20 crore** and each CIS needs to have a minimum of **20 investors** and no single investor will hold more than **25%** of the assets under management of such schemes.
 - CIS will not be open for subscription for more than **15 days**. At present, the limit is for 90 days.
 - SEBI has restricted a Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) and its group/ associates/shareholders' shareholding in a scheme at **10%** or representation on the board of rival CIMC in order to avoid conflict of interest.
 - CIMCs are required to have a minimum net worth of **Rs.50 crore** as compared to the present requirement of Rs.5 crore.

Collective Investment Schemes (CIS):

It is a pooled investment vehicle in closed-ended investment space and the units of the schemes are listed on an exchange. The structure of CIS is a two-tier i.e. two entities are involved in the process - the CIMC and trustees. CIMC is created to float and manage a CIS and the trustee is appointed as guardian of the funds and assets.

- 66. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB),** a regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank, has won six National Awards in various categories from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for its achievements under the enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The lender has enrolled (cumulative) 2,64,817 accounts under APY.

- 67. Axis Bank** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam Rifles** and the National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (**NIEDO**) to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness to secure a better future for the youth of **Nagaland**. The centre will be named as the *Late Captain N. Kenguruse MVC Centre of Excellence and Wellness*. It will be located at Chieswema in Kohima district.

Under this MoU, 30 children including boys and girls from economically weaker sections, will be selected from Nagaland and provided free residential coaching to prepare the students for entry to medical and engineering colleges.

RBI IN NEWS

68. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs.59 lakh** on **South Korea-based KEB Hana Bank** for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on "Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016".

Other penalties imposed by RBI:

- RBI has imposed a penalty of **Rs 29.79 lakh** on **Unimoni Financial Services Limited** for non-compliance with certain instruction contained in the master direction on issuance and operation of Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI).
- RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.5 lakh** each on **Daimler Financial Services India Private Limited**, Pune, Maharashtra and **KKR India Financial Services** for non-compliance with the 'Monitoring of Frauds in NBFCs (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016' issued by RBI.

69. As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data on frauds reported by Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in all categories during FY22, there is over **51 percent** dip in the amount involved in frauds to **Rs.40,295.25 crore** during FY22, compared to Rs.81,921.54 crore in FY21.

- The highest amount of **Rs 9,528.95 crore** is reported by **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, involving 431 such incidents.
- Among the incidents of large number of small value frauds, *State Bank of India* has reported maximum frauds worth Rs 6,932.37 crore in 4,192 cases.
- Among the transactions of high value frauds, *Canara Bank* has reported frauds worth Rs 3,230.18 crore in 90 cases.
- Bank of India has reported frauds worth Rs 5,923.99 crore (209 incidents), followed by Bank of Baroda at Rs 3,989.36 crore (280); Union Bank of India Rs 3,939 crore (627).

70. According to the recent report published by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's total factor productivity (TFP) growth has seen a moderate decline compared to the global experience.

Global Trends:

- TFP growth for the world economy was **0.7%** in 2021 and may shrink by **0.5%** in 2022.
- Global productivity growth has witnessed a prolonged slowdown since 2010, with the deceleration sharper in emerging and developing economies.

India's Trends:

- TFP growth rate for India during the 2010-2019 period was approximately **2.2%**, as against -0.3% for emerging markets and developing economies. It declined by **2.9%** in the pandemic (2020) and improved by **0.1%** in 2021.
- TFP growth has contributed to **30%** of India's GDP growth during 2010 to 2018. It was largely driven by public administration, quality education and social works.
- The TFP growth rate is projected to increase to **2%** in 2022.

Total factor productivity:

It is a measure of total output divided by a weighted average of inputs; i.e. Labour and Capital. It is a measure of production efficiency. Improvements in TFP bring down production costs, raise output levels, and lead to a higher gross domestic product.

71. The **Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)** has recommended withdrawal of an additional 239 circulars. With this, the total number of circulars which stand withdrawn would be 714.

- Earlier, RRA had recommended the withdrawal of 150 circulars in the first tranche of recommendations in November 2021 and 100 circulars in the second tranche of recommendations in February 2022.
- The RBI had set up a **Regulations Review Authority (RRA)** in **1999** for reviewing the regulations, circulars, reporting systems, based on the feedback from the public, banks, and financial institutions. RRA 2.0 will focus on streamlining regulatory instructions, reducing compliance burden of the regulated entities by simplifying procedures and reducing reporting requirements, wherever possible.

72. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted banks, including small finance banks, to continue providing credit facility to NBFCs for the purpose of on-lending to certain priority sectors. The facility of lending by commercial banks to NBFCs and lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to NBFC-MFIs (Microfinance Institutions), for the purpose of on-lending to certain priority sectors, was available till March 31, 2022.

Key Highlights:

- Bank credit to NBFCs (including Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)) for on-lending will be allowed up to an overall limit of **5 percent** of an individual bank's total priority sector lending in case of commercial banks.
- In case of SFBs, credit to NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs (Societies, Trusts, etc.) which are members of RBI recognized 'Self-Regulatory Organisation' of the sector, will be allowed up to an overall limit of **10 percent** of an individual bank's total priority sector lending.
- SFBs are allowed to lend to registered NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs which have a 'gross loan portfolio' (GLP) of up to **Rs.500 crore** as on March 31 of the previous financial year, for this purpose.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

73. Anna Qabale Duba from **Kenya** has won the inaugural **Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award**. The award carries a cash prize of \$250,000. She has been awarded for her dedication towards eradicating harmful cultural practices like female genital mutilation in Africa. She practices at Marsabit County Referral Hospital in northern Kenya. She has also set up a foundation 'Qabale Duba Foundation' with an aim to empower young girls.

74. Cameroon activist and board member of the African Forest Forum, **Cecil Ndjebet** has won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is chaired by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). She has been awarded for promoting the concept that women should be involved in forest management and have equal rights over forest land and resources.

Wangari Maathai Forest Champion Award:

The Forest Champions Award is named in honour of Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late Wangari Maathai, who was also a UN Messenger of Peace. It was established by CPF in 2012 in her memory to recognize inspiring persons who have helped preserve, restore and sustainably manage forests.

75. Ajay Piramal, Chairman of the Piramal Group, has received an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Her Majesty The Queen. He has been honoured for his services to the UK-India trade relationship as India Co-Chair of the UK-India CEO forum.

Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE):

It was instituted in 1917 by King George V. The award rewards contributions to the arts and sciences, work with charitable and welfare organizations, and public service outside of the civil service.

76. Author and journalist **Wesley Morgan** has won the William E. Colby Award 2022 for his military and intelligence writing. He has been awarded for his book "**The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley**".

William E. Colby Award: It was instituted in **1999** by the William E. Colby Military Writers' Symposium at Norwich University in Vermont in order to recognize "a first work of fiction or non-fiction that has made a major contribution to the understanding of intelligence operations, military history, or international affairs." It is named in honour of William Egan Colby. It carries a cash prize of USD 5,000.

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BOOKS & AUTHORS

77. Preeti Shenoy has authored a book titled '**A Place Called Home**'. It is a novel about secrets, family, and finding yourself. The book will be released in June 2022 and it is published by HarperCollins India.

Other books written by her: A Hundred Little Flames, It's All In The Planets, Why We Love The Way We Do, The Secret Wish List, The One You Cannot Have and many others.

PERSON IN NEWS

78. Rulers in the United Arab Emirates have unanimously appointed **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** as the President of UAE. He has succeeded Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who passed away recently.

79. The Government of India has appointed **Vivek Kumar Dewangan**, Additional Secretary in the Union Power Ministry, as the chairman and managing director of REC Limited, formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation. He is a 1993 batch IAS officer of the Manipur cadre. He had earlier served as the Joint Secretary in the Power Ministry. He has succeeded Ravinder Singh Dhillon.

80. Senior IAS officer **Nidhi Chibber** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). She is a 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Chhattisgarh cadre, and is currently serving as Additional Secretary, Ministry of Heavy Industries. She has been appointed as chairperson, CBSE in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary to the government of India. She has succeeded Vineet Joshi.

Other appointments:

- Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) S Gopalakrishnan has been appointed to the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- Rakesh Sarwal, Additional Secretary, NITI Aayog, will be the Managing Director of the National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd., Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- Aditi Das Rout, the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Joint Secretary, has been promoted to Additional Secretary.

- Manisha Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance's Department of Economic Affairs, has been promoted to Additional Secretary.
- Kumar Anugreh Prasad Sinha has been promoted to Additional Secretary of the National Disaster Management Authority.
- Shyam Bhagat Negi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal will be Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.
- Alka Nangia Arora, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has been named as Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Department of Agricultural Research and Education
- Vandana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been named as Additional Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Ajay Tewari, currently Joint Secretary in Ministry of Labour & Employment will be Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power.
- Pravir Pandey, a 1992 batch officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Service, has been appointed as Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- 81. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud** has been elected as the new **President of Somalia**. He has succeeded Mohamed Abdullahi "Farmajo". Previously, he served as Somalia's eighth President from 2012 to 2017.
- 82.** Eicher Motors has appointed **B Govindarajan** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Chennai-based **Royal Enfield**. He will also serve as the Wholetime Director of the Board of Eicher Motors Limited.
- 83. Devasahayam Pillai**, who was converted from Hinduism to Christianity in the 18th century, has become the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by Pope Francis during an impressive canonisation ceremony in St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. Besides Devasahayam, the Pope has proclaimed five other men and four women as saints.
- He was born on 23rd April 1712 in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.
 - He served the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore.
 - He was converted to Christianity in 1745, and assumed the name 'Lazarus', meaning 'God is my help'.
 - He was shot dead in the Aralvaimozhy forest on 14th January 1752.
 - In 2012, he was declared 'Blessed' by the Kottar diocese after 300 years of his birth.
- 84.** French President Emmanuel Macron has appointed **Elisabeth Borne** as the new **Prime Minister of France**. She has succeeded Jean Castex. With this, she has become the second

woman to hold the position after Edith Cresson, who was prime minister in 1991-1992 under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand.

- 85. S.N. Subrahmanyam**, the current deputy managing director and president of L&T, has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Larsen & Toubro (L&T). He has replaced A.M. Naik.
- 86.** British mountaineer **Kenton Cool** has successfully completed his record-breaking 16th summit of Mount Everest. With this, he has become the first non-Nepali person to complete the 8,849m (29,032ft) peak 16 times. Previously, American climber Dave Hahn has climbed Mt Everest 15 times.
- 87.** The Government of India (GoI) has extended the tenure of **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Secretary **Sameer Sharma** by 6 months i.e. till November 2022. This is his 2nd tenure extension as Chief Secretary. He is a 1985-batch IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre.
- 88.** Rajasthani singer **Mame Khan** has become the first folk artist to open Red Carpet for India at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. He has been a playback singer for several Bollywood films such as 'Luck By Chance', 'No One Killed Jessica', and 'Sonchiriya' among others and has also been featured on Coke Studio along with Amit Trivedi.
- The India Pavilion at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival has been inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and the universal theme for this year is India the content hub of the world.
- 89.** BSE (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange) Limited has approved the appointment of **SS Mundra**, Public Interest Director, BSE as the Chairman of the board of directors of the company. He retired as Deputy Governor of RBI in July 2017. He has succeeded **Justice Vikramajit Sen**.
- 90. Dr. Kamal Bawa**, a noted Indian-born **conservation biologist** and president of the Bengaluru, India-based Ashoka Trust for Research and Ecology and Environment (ATREE), has been elected to the **US National Academy of Sciences**. He is also an elected member of the Royal Society (London) and the American Philosophical Society. He has worked extensively in the Himalayas on issues of biodiversity conservation and climate change.
- 91. Bharti Airtel** has reappointed **Gopal Vittal** as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. He has been reappointed for a further period of 5 years ending on 31st January 2028.

92. Aruna Singh, presently working as Additional Member (Telecom) in the Railway Board, has taken the additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director of RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RCIL). She is an officer of 1985 batch of Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE).

OBITUARIES

93. Sanskrit scholar **Bhagirath Prasad Tripathi** has recently passed away in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. He was born on 15th July 1935 in the Khurai town of Sagar district, Madhya Pradesh.

- He was popularly known as *Vagish Shastri*.
- He invented a unique technique of teaching Sanskrit grammar called '**Vagyoga**', a mnemonic method to understand the soul of words.
- He was honoured with the **Padma Shri** in **2018**.

94. Former Australia cricketer and two-time World Cup winner **Andrew Symonds** has recently passed away in a car crash in Townsville, Queensland, Australia. He was born on 9th June 1975 in Birmingham, United Kingdom. He played 26 Tests, 198 ODIs, and 14 T20Is for **Australia**. In IPL, he played for Deccan Chargers and Mumbai Indians.

SPORTS

95. Team India Men's Badminton has won the first-ever **Thomas Cup 2022** title after defeating 14-time champions **Indonesia** in the final match held at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand. With this, India has become the **6th** nation to win the Thomas Cup title. Denmark and Japan have finished third and fourth respectively in the championship.

Winners:

- **First Men's Singles:** Lakshya Sen (India)
- **First Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India)
- **Second Men's Singles:** Kidambi Srikanth (India)

It is the 32nd edition of the Thomas Cup, the biennial international badminton championship contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of Badminton World Federation (BWF).

Uber Cup 2022:

South Korea has won the Uber Cup 2022 title after defeating China in the final match held at Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand. It is the 29th edition of the Uber Cup, the biennial international badminton championship contested by the **women's national teams** of the member associations of Badminton World Federation (BWF).

96. The 79th edition of the Italian Open 2022 has been held at Foro Italico in Rome, Italy from 8th May to 15th May 2022.

Winners:

- **Men's Singles:** Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

This is his 38th Masters 1000 title (overall 87th ATP title) and he is only the fifth man in the Open Era to reach the 1000 wins milestone.

- **Women's Singles:** Iga Świątek (Poland)
- **Men's Doubles:** Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić (Croatia)
- **Women's Doubles:** Veronika Kudermetova and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (Russia)

97. The 24th edition of the **Summer Deaflympics Games 2021** has been held in Caxias do Sul, Brazil from 1st to 15th May 2022. **Ukraine** has topped the medal tally with **138 medals** (62 Gold, 38 Silver, and 38 Bronze), followed by USA (55 medals), and Iran (40 medals).

- **Motto:** "Sports come from the our hearts"
- **Mascot:** 'Nino' (a Ring-tailed Coati)

India's performance:

India has finished 9th in the Summer Deaflympics Games 2021 by winning **16 medals** (8 Gold, 1 Silver, and 7 Bronze).

| Athlete | Medal | Event |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Dhanush Srikanth (Shooting) | Gold | Men's 10m air rifle |
| Abhinav Deshwal (Shooting) | Gold | Men's 10m air pistol |
| Dhanush Srikanth/Priyasha Deshmukh (Shooting) | Gold | Mixed team 10m air rifle |
| Shourya Saini (Shooting) | Bronze | Men's 10m air rifle |
| Vedika Sharma (Shooting) | Bronze | Women's 10m air rifle |
| Jerlin Jayaratchagan (Badminton) | Gold | Women's singles |
| Jerlin Jayaratchagan/Abhinav Sharma (Badminton) | Gold | Mixed Doubles |
| Team (Badminton) | Gold | Mixed Team |
| Abhinav Sharma (Badminton) | Bronze | Men's Singles |
| Prithvi Sekhar/Dhananjay Dubey (Tennis) | Silver | Men's Doubles |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|
| Prithvi Sekhar/Jafreen Shaik (Tennis) | Bronze | Mixed Doubles |
| Prithvi Sekhar (Tennis) | Bronze | Men's Singles |
| Sumit Dahiya (Wrestling) | Gold | Men's freestyle 97kg |
| Virender Singh (Wrestling) | Bronze | Men's freestyle 74kg |
| Amit Krishan (Wrestling) | Bronze | Men's freestyle 86kg |
| Diksha Dagar (Golf) | Gold | Women's Individual |

India sent a contingent of 65 athletes to compete in 11 sports, making it the country's largest-ever representation at Deaflympics since making its debut in 1965.

Note: The first edition of the Deaflympics, then known as the International Silent Games, were held in Paris in 1924.

98. Jasprit Bumrah has become the first Indian bowler to take 250 wickets in T20 matches. He has achieved this feat with the wicket of Washington Sundar during Mumbai Indian's penultimate match of IPL 2022 against SunRisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

99. The **All India Chess Federation (AICF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Tamil Nadu Government** for the upcoming **44th Chess Olympiad 2022**, organised by the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), which is set to be held in **Chennai** from 28th July to 10th August 2022. It is for the first time, India is set to host the world's biggest chess event.

100. German club **Eintracht Frankfurt** has won the 2022 UEFA Europa League title after defeating Scottish club Rangers in the final match held at Ramón Sánchez Pizjuán, in Seville, Spain. Kevin Trapp (German) is named Man of the Match.

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101. Indian Boxer **Nikhat Zareen** has won a Gold medal in flyweight (52 kg) category at **2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships** after defeating Thai Olympian Jutamas Jitpong in the final match held in Istanbul, Turkey. With this, she has become the fifth Indian women's

boxer after Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha KC to win a gold at the World Championships.

India's performance in 2022 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships:

- India has finished 4th in the championship by winning **3 medals** (1 Gold and 2 Bronze).
- **Nikhata Zareen** (52 kg): Gold
- **Manisha Moun** (57 kg) & **Parveen Hooda** (63 kg): Bronze

Turkey has topped the medal tally with 7 medals (5 Gold, and 2 Bronze), followed by Ireland, and Canada in the championship.

102. ISSF Junior World Cup 2022 has been held in Suhl, Germany from 9th to 20th May 2022. India has topped the medal tally with **33 medals (13 Gold, 15 Silver, and 5 Bronze)**, followed by Italy and Poland.

India's medal winners at ISSF Junior World Cup 2022:

Gold

- Simranpreet Kaur Brar and Vijayveer Sidhu - 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team
- Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Sameer - men's 25m rapid fire pistol team
- Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan - women's 25m pistol team
- Sift Kaur Samra - women's 50m rifle 3 positions individual
- Rhythm Sangwan - women's 25m pistol individual
- Rudranksh Patil, Paarth Makhija and Umamahesh Maddineni - men's air rifle team
- Rudranksh Patil - men's 10m air rifle individual
- Shiva Narwal - men's 10m air pistol individual
- Palak - women's 10m air pistol individual
- Saurabh Chaudhary, Shiva Narwal and Sarabjot Singh - men's air pistol team
- Esha Singh-Saurabh Chaudhary - 10m air pistol mixed team
- Manu Bhaker, Palak and Esha Singh - women's 10m air pistol team
- Arya Borse, Zeena Khitta and Ramita - women's air rifle team

Silver

- Anish-Tejaswani - 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team
- Pankaj Mukheja and Sift Kaur Samra - 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team
- Shivam Dabas, Pankaj Mukheja, Avinash Yadav - men's 50m rifle 3 positions team
- Anish - men's 25m rapid fire pistol individual
- Manu Bhaker - women's 25m pistol individual
- Shivam Dabas - men's 50m rifle 3 positions individual
- Abhinav Shaw - men's 10m air rifle individual
- Ramita - women's 10m air rifle individual
- Manu Bhaker - women's 10m air pistol individual
- Palak and Sarabjot Singh - 10m air pistol mixed team

- Ramita and Paarth Makhija - 10m air rifle mixed team
- Sift Kaur Samra and Surya Pratap Singh - 50m Rifle Prone Mixed Team competition
- Shardul Vihaan, Arya Vansh Tyagi and Vivaan Kapoor - men's trap team
- Sarabjot Singh - 10m air pistol men individual
- Preeti Rajak, Sabeera Haris and Bhavya Tripathi - women's trap team

Bronze

- Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darshna Rathore and Areeba Khan - women's skeet team
- Vijayveer Sidhu - men's 25m rapid fire pistol individual
- Naamya Kapoor - women's 25m pistol individual
- Nischal, Ashi Chouksey, Samra Sift Kaur - women's 50m rifle 3 positions team
- Ashi Chouksey - 50m rifle 3 positions

IMPORTANT DAYS

103. International Day of Families is observed annually on **15th May** to raise awareness about the importance of families and the role of the international community in the development of families. The day was first observed in 1994.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Families and Urbanization'
- The year 2022 theme aims to raise awareness about the necessity of family-friendly urban policy.

104. International Day of Light is observed annually on **16th May** to mark the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, **Theodore Maiman**. The day also promotes awareness for the appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, art, education, and sustainable development. The day was first observed by UNESCO in 2018.

105. International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed annually on **16th May** to achieve international cooperation, promoting respect for human rights and freedom for all irrespective of their race, sex, religion and language. The day was first observed in 2018.

- **Note:** International Day of Peace is observed annually on 21st September.

106. National Dengue Day is observed annually on **16th May** to spread awareness about Dengue and to intensify the preventive measures and preparedness for the control of dengue in India. The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that has been working towards the prevention and control of viral fever in various states in the country.

Dengue:

It is a viral disease which is caused by Dengue Virus (DENV, 1-4 serotypes). It is transmitted by the bite of **Aedes aegypti** mosquito infected with any one of the four dengue viruses. Aedes aegypti mosquito bites only during daylight hours. It occurs in two forms: Dengue Fever and Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF). DHF is a more severe form of the disease, which may cause death. The first dengue vaccine named '*Dengvaxia*' is developed by Sanofi Pasteur.

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107. Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima, Wesak, or Buddha Day, is observed annually by the members of the **Buddhist** community on the full-moon day of the lunar month Vaisakh, which falls in April or May. In 2022, the day falls on **16th May**. The day marks the birth, enlightenment (nirvana) and death (parinirvana) of **Gautama Buddha**, the founder of Buddhism. He was born as Prince Siddhartha in 623 BC in Lumbini, Nepal.

108. World Hypertension Day is observed annually on **17th May** to spread awareness about hypertension disease, its prevention, detection, and control. The day is organized by the World Hypertension League (WHL). The day was first observed in 2005.

- **Theme 2022:** Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer

Hypertension:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), blood pressure is the force exerted by circulating blood against the walls of the body's arteries, the major blood vessels in the body. Hypertension is when blood pressure is too high. The major risk factor for cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure and hypertension is known as the "*Silent Killer*". There are two main types of hypertension disease: Primary hypertension and Secondary hypertension.

109. International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia is observed annually on **17th May** to commemorate the decision of the World Health Organization (WHO) to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1990. The day also highlight the violence and discrimination experienced by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) community and all other people with diverse sexual orientation.

- **Theme 2022:** "Our Bodies, Our Lives, Our Rights"

110. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed annually on **17th May** to help create awareness in generating possibilities of using the internet and other information and communication technologies to bridge the digital divide. The day also

commemorates the first International Telegraph Convention's signing and the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The day was first observed in 2007.

- **Theme 2022:** Digital Technologies for older persons and healthy ageing

111. International Museum Day is observed annually on **18th May** to spread awareness about the fact that museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding and cooperation. The day is organized by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The day was first observed in 1977.

- **Theme 2022:** 'The Power of Museums'

112. HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, also known as **World AIDS Vaccine Day**, is observed annually on **18th May** to spread awareness and provide information about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), a chronic, potentially life-threatening condition caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and its immunisation. The day is organized by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), United States of America. The day was first observed in 1998.

113. World Inflammatory Bowel Disease Day (IBD) is observed annually on **19th May** to spread awareness of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, known collectively as inflammatory bowel disease. The day is coordinated by the European Federation of Crohn's and Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA). The day was created in 2010.

114. World Bee Day is observed annually on **20th May** to spread awareness about the essential roles bees play in supporting people and the environment. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734. She was considered the pioneer of beekeeping. The day was first observed in 2018.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems'

115. National Endangered Species Day is observed annually on the **third Friday** of May to spread awareness about the importance of protecting endangered species, and their habitats and taking actions necessary to protect them. The day was founded and started by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006.

- In 2022, the day falls on **20th May**.
- This year, it marks the 16th National Endangered Species Day.
- **Theme 2022:** "Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration"

- 116. World Metrology Day** is observed annually on **20th May** to celebrate the signing of the Metre Convention on 20th May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations. The day was first observed in 2000.
- **Theme 2022:** Metrology in the Digital Era
 - Metrology is the science of measurement. It plays a central role in scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, in improving the quality of life and in protecting the global environment.
- 117. International Tea Day** is observed annually on **21st May** to promote the production and consumption of tea and create awareness about its significance in fighting poverty and hunger. May 21 was designated as International Tea Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2019. The first International Tea Day was held in Delhi in 2005.
- 118. Anti-Terrorism Day** is observed annually on **21st May** to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**. He was assassinated on 21st May 1991, by the Tamil Tigers Eelam (LTTE) terrorists while campaigning for the Congress Party at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu. He served as the sixth Prime Minister of the country. The day also promote peace and harmony.
- 119. World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** is observed annually on **21st May** to celebrate the richness of the world's cultures and highlight the significance of its diversity as an agent of inclusion and positive change for achieving peace and sustainable development. This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.