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MOCK



MAY 2022

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

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

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

Subsidies under the ZED scheme:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Semicon India Program:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Atal New India Challenge:

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Objectives of the mission:

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

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

About Flow Chemistry:

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

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

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

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

- Another highlight is the World Premiere of the Movie "**Rocketry**". The movie is produced by actor **R.Madhavan** and it will be showcased at the Palais des Festivals of the market screening on 19th May 2022.
- India is also a Country of Honour at the Cannes Next, under which five new Start-Ups will be given an opportunity to pitch to the Audio-Visual Industry. Ten professionals will participate on the Animation Day networking.

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

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

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

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

CDRI:

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

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

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

21. Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that an amount of **Rs.363 crore** has been allotted for the **World’s largest film restoration project** under the National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM). Approximately 2,200 films will undergo restoration.

About NFHM:

- National Film Heritage Mission was launched in 2016.
- The aim is to preserve, restore, and digitise Indian cinematic heritage.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization for the implementation of this project.
- **Total budget:** Rs.597 crores.

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

Both the nations agreed to:

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

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

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

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28. The National Health Authority of India (NHA) 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 NHA 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.

- 29. 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.
- 30.** 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.
- 31.** 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.

32. 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.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. 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.
36. **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.

37. 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.

38. 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'.

39. **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.
40. 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.
41. 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**.

42. 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
- Rashtriy Kutumb Sahay Yojana
- Niradhar Vrudh Aarthik Sahay Yojana

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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.

46. 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.
47. 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.
48. 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.
49. 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.
50. 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.
51. **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.
52. 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.

53. 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.

54. 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.

55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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 IIICC 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).

- IWA and JM Baxi River Cruise between Varanasi and Bogibeel via Kolkata under the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

58. 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.

59. 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.

60. 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.

- 61.** 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.*
- 62.** 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.
- 63.** 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.
- 64.** 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.

65. 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".

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66. 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.

67. 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.
68. 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.
69. 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.

70. '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.

71. 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.

72. 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.

- 73. 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.
- 74.** 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).
- 75.** 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).
- 76.** 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.
- 77.** 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.
- 78.** 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.

- 79.** Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh has launched a single national portal for biotech startups and researchers in the country.
- The portal is named **Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP)**.
 - It will serve as a single window clearance for startups and researchers seeking regulatory approval for biological research and development in the country.
 - The portal will strengthen interdepartmental synergies and bring accountability, transparency and efficacy in functioning of agencies regulating various aspects of biological research and issuing permission.

At present, more than 2,700 biotech start-ups and over 2,500 biotech companies are working in the country. By the year 2025, the Indian biotechnology industry is expected to cross USD 150 billion.

- 80.** Just Transition Research Centre (JTRC) at **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Energy Security and Climate Change Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington D.C., to work on just energy transition globally including in India.

This collaboration will engage with **Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana** to enable them to access resources and connect with senior officials working on just transition in other countries.

- 81.** Union Minister for Culture G Kishan Reddy has virtually inaugurated the statue of **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** at the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation in Kolkata, West Bengal. It has been inaugurated to mark the **250th** birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a social and religious reformer of the 19th century. The day also marks the 50th foundation day of Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation.

- Ministry of Culture has also announced to commemorate the yearlong celebration of the 250th Birth Anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy from **22 May 2022** to **22nd May 2023**.
- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:**
He was the **father of Modern India's Renaissance**. He was born on 22 May 1772 in an orthodox Brahman family at Radhanagar in Bengal. He founded the *Atmiya Sabha* in 1815, the *Calcutta Unitarian Association* in 1821, and the *Brahmo Sabha* in 1828 which later became the Brahmo Samaj. He established *Vedanta College* in 1825. He was given the title of 'Raja' by the titular Mughal Emperor of Delhi, Akbar II.

82. The Army Training Command has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to develop a '**Wargame Research and Development Centre**' (**WARDEC**) in **New Delhi**. The project will be a first-of-its-kind simulation-based training centre in India that will use artificial intelligence (AI) to design virtual reality wargames. It will be used by the Army to train its soldiers and test their strategies through "metaverse -enabled gameplay".
83. The Government of India (GoI) has recently reconstituted an **Inter-State Council** with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** as Chairman and Chief Ministers of all States and six Union ministers as members. Ten union ministers will be the permanent invitees to the Inter-State Council.
- The union ministers who were made members of the council are: Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Narendra Singh Tomar, Virendra Kumar, Hardeep Singh Puri, Nitin Gadkari, S Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, Dhamendra Pradhan, Pralhad Joshi, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Kiren Rijiju and Bhupender Yadav.
 - The mandate of the council is to create a strong institutional framework to promote and support cooperative federalism in the country, activate the council and zonal councils by organising its regular meetings.

Note: The Constitution of India in **Article 263**, provided that an Inter-State Council (ISC) may be established "if at any time it appears to the President that the public interests would be served by the establishment of a Council".

84. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of various infrastructure projects worth **Rs.1180 crore** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. He termed Arunachal Pradesh as a "jewel in India's crown".
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Arunachal Pradesh government and the National Defence University (NDU) for the establishment of campus at Pasighat in the East Siang district
 - 2,000 MW Lower Subansiri hydroelectric power project will be operational by 2023. Work on the 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project, the biggest in the world, will start soon
 - He has laid the foundation of a 51-foot-bronze statue of **Sage Parshuram** at Parshuram Kund in Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The projects worth Rs 950 crore under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), Rs 835-crore worth projects under North East Council (NEC) and Rs 825-worth initiatives under DoNER Ministry are operational in the state.

85. President Ramnath Kovind has recently (May 2022) visited Jamaica and Saint Vincent and Grenadines with his wife Savita Kovind.

Visit to Jamaica (Capital: Kingston):

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to facilitate close academic and training exchange for Foreign Service officers of Jamaica in India.
- Ambedkar Avenue, a road named after Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, has been inaugurated in Downtown Kingston.
- India-Jamaica Friendship Garden has also been inaugurated.

It is noteworthy that the year 2022 marks the 60th anniversary year of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Jamaica.

Visit to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Capital: Kingstown):

- President Ramnath Kovind has renamed 'Calder Road' to '**India Drive-Bharat Marg**' in Kingstown.
- Two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) on Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection of Taxes, and on Refurbishment of Old Carter Community Centre have been signed.

It is noteworthy that **1st June** in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is declared as Indian Arrival Day, and **7th October** as Indian Heritage Day.

- 86.** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first '**Lavender Festival**' at **Bhaderwah**, Jammu & Kashmir. Bhaderwah in the Doda district is the birthplace of India's purple revolution.

Purple or Lavender Revolution:

It was launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's (CSIR) Aroma Mission. The aim is to support the domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy by moving from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties. The 2nd phase of the Aroma Mission aimed to increase lavender cultivation to **1,500 hectares** till **2024**.

- 87.** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the **eighth edition** of **Swachh Survekshan (SS) – SS 2023** under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. The theme of SS 2023 is '*Waste to Wealth*' for garbage free cities.

- The SS 2023 will give priority to the principle of **3 Rs**- *Reduce, Recycle and Reuse*.
- Additional weightage has been given to source segregation of waste, enhancement of waste processing capacity of cities to match the waste generation and reduction of waste going to the dumpsites.
- Indicators have been introduced with additional weightage on emphasizing the need for phased reduction of plastic, plastic waste processing, encourage waste to wonder parks and zero waste events.
- **Ranking of Wards** within the cities is also being promoted through SS 2023.

- The cities will be assessed on dedicated indicators on the issues of '*open urination*' (Yellow Spots) and '*open spitting*' (Red Spots), being faced by the cities.
- The evaluation will be conducted in **4 phases**, instead of 3 phases in earlier editions.

88. PARAM PORUL, a state-of-the art Supercomputer, has been inaugurated at the **National Institute of Technology (NIT) Tiruchirappalli** under Phase 2 of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM). It is a joint initiative by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- This system is based on Direct Contact Liquid Cooling technology so that it can obtain high-power usage effectiveness. This helps in reducing the operational cost.
- The system has been equipped with a mix of CPU (Central Processing Unit) nodes, GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) nodes, High Memory nodes, High throughput storage and high-performance InfiniBand interconnect to cater the computing needs of various scientific and engineering applications.

89. The Government of India (GoI) has set an ambitious target to construct **18,000 km** of national highways in 2022-23 at a record speed of 50 km per day. The government has also aimed to develop **2 lakh km** of National Highway Network by **2025**.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) are primarily responsible for the construction of national highways and expressways across the country.

Note: NHAI has constructed a total length of 4325 km of National Highways in FY22.

90. The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Nirdeshak**, the second of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL), has been launched at Kattupalli, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It has been built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)** in collaboration with L&T shipbuilding for the Indian Navy. The ship is designed to operate at cruise speed of 14 knots and maximum speed of 18 knots.

- The ship has taken its name from erstwhile Nirdeshak which was also an Indian Naval Survey ship and was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service in December 2014.
- The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between Ministry of Defence (MoD) and GRSE, Kolkata on 30th October 2018.
- The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched in December 2021 at GRSE, Kolkata.

91. The Government of India (GoI) has reconstituted the **Central Advisory Board on Archaeology (CABA)** for a period of **3 years**. It has been constituted to strengthen contacts

between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and those in the field of archaeological research.

- The board will include the **Culture Minister** as the chairperson and officials from the Culture Ministry and ASI, MPs, nominees of State governments, representatives of universities, scientists and experts on Indus Valley script among the members.
- The board will meet once a year and its functions would include advising the Centre on “matters relating to archaeology” referred to by its members.
- ASI will also set up a Standing Committee of the board to be chaired by the ASI DG.

92. Delhi Customs Zone, a field formation under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, has inaugurated project '**NIGAH**' at Inland Container Depots (ICD) Garhi Harsaru in Gurugram, Haryana.

- Project NIGAH is an initiative **to track container** by using ICTM (ICD Container Tracking Module) which will help in better visibility of the container movement inside the ICD. It will help Customs to expedite long standing containers and monitor timely clearances, thereby enhancing Ease of Doing Business along with ensuring lead preventive checks.

93. Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai will manufacture India's first Semi-High Speed Freight Trains named '**Gati Shakti**'. It will be introduced by December 2022. The trains will be capable of operating at a speed of 160km/hr carrying 16 coaches. The trains are constructed under 'PM Gati Shakti- National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity' and are based on the concept of Vande Bharat trains.

- The Indian Railways is aiming to increase its share in freight transportation from the present 27 percent to **45 percent** by **2030**.
- The Indian Railways has identified 74 new 'Gati-Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) locations across the country, with 20 of them in the South Indian states under the 'Gati-Shakti Multi Model Cargo Terminal' policy.

94. Adani Hybrid Energy Jaisalmer One Limited (AHEJOL), a subsidiary of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), has commissioned a **390 MW wind-solar hybrid power plant** at **Jaisalmer** in Rajasthan. It is India's first wind-solar hybrid power plant.

- The new plant has a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) with tariff at Rs.2.69 per kWh, well below the Average Power Procurement Cost (APPC) at the national level, delivering access to affordable, modern, and clean energy to all.
- With this, AGEL now has an operational capacity of 5.8 GW (total 20.4 GW).

95. The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** has conducted a brainstorming session on Mission Digital India **BHASHINI** (BHASHa INterface for India) - the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM) with Researchers and Start-ups. The session is aimed to shape strategy for Digital India BHASHINI, which is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) led language translation platform, and to integrate start-ups in innovation, development and consumption of technology.
96. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal for the creation of a new **Defence Estates Circle** for **Uttarakhand** state. It will be establish at **Dehradun**. A sub-office at **Ranikhet** will also be set up under the administrative jurisdiction of Defence Estates Dehradun to deal exclusively with six districts of Kumaon region of the state. This will facilitate the residents/ organisations in getting timely and quick access to various services of defence land management.
- Earlier, the entire defence land and cantonments in Utrakhand were covered under two distinct Defence Estates Circles headquartered at Meerut and Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.
97. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated India's biggest Drone Festival - **Bharat Drone Mahotsav 2022** at Pragati Maidan, **New Delhi**. The two-day event has witnessed the participation of more than 1600 delegates, consisting of government officials, armed forces, central armed police forces, Public Sector Units (PSUs), foreign diplomats, private companies as well as drone startups.
- During the event, **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **NewSpace Research & Technologies (NRT)**, a start-up based in Bangalore, to develop a new range of submarine-launched uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs).
 - India's first flying electric taxi "**ePlane e200**" has been showcased at the event.
98. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of **11 infrastructure projects** worth over **Rs.31, 500 crore** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the presence of Governor R N Ravi, Union Minister L Murugan and Chief Minister M K Stalin.
- He has inaugurated 1,152 houses constructed as part of the **Light House Project**- Chennai. It will be built at a cost of Rs.116 crore under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban.
 - He has laid the foundation stone of a Multi-Modal Logistic Park at Chennai worth around Rs.1430 crore.
 - The four-lane double-decker elevated road connecting **Chennai Port to Maduravoyal** (NH-4), of about 21 km would be built at a cost of over Rs.5,850 crore ensuring round the clock movement of cargo vehicles to Chennai port.

- The 94 km long four-lane **Neraluru to Dharmapuri** section of NH-844 and 31 km long 2-lane with paved shoulders of Meensurutti to Chidambaram section of NH-227, at a cost of around Rs.3870 crore and Rs.720 crore respectively.
- The 262 km long **Bengaluru-Chennai Expressway** will be built at a cost of over Rs.14,870 crore. It will pass through the states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

99. The **Ministry of AYUSH** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Department of Biotechnology** to explore the possibility of cooperation, convergence and synergy to bring out the expertise under one platform towards evidence based biotechnological interventions in AYUSH sector.

100. The **National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)** has launched an online portal to streamline the entire process of recognition of teacher education programmes in Higher Education Institutions and Teacher Education Institutions. The portal aims to provide an automated robust framework thereby enhancing accountability, transparency and ease of doing business. The applications for the recently launched four years Integrated Teacher Education Programmes will be processed on this portal.

101. The Supreme Court of India has recognised sex work to be a '**Profession**', whose practitioners are entitled to dignity and equal protection under the law. The three-bench judge led by **Justice L Nageswara Rao** directed an order passed after invoking special powers under Article 142 of the Indian Constitution.

- The court has stated that police should neither interfere nor take criminal action against adult and consenting sex workers. The child of a sex worker should not be separated from the mother on the ground that she is in the sex trade.

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- 102.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chaired the meeting of the **40th edition of PRAGATI**, the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments.
- In the meeting, nine agenda items have been taken for review including eight projects and one Programme.
 - These **eight projects** have a cumulative cost of over **Rs. 59,900 crore**, concerning the 14 states viz Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Odisha,

Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Jharkhand.

- Prime Minister has also reviewed 'National Broadband Mission' Programme.

During the 39th edition of PRAGATI, 311 projects having a total cost of 14.82 lakh crore have been reviewed.

103. The **United States of America (USA)** has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner in 2021-22. According to the data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the bilateral trade between the US and India has reached **USD 119.42 billion** in 2021-22 as against USD 80.51 billion in 2020-21. Exports to the USA has increased to USD 76.11 billion in 2021-22 from USD 51.62 billion in 2020-21, while imports has increased to USD 43.31 billion as compared to about USD 29 billion in 2020-21.

- In 2021-22, the **UAE** is India's third-largest trading partner with USD 72.9 billion. It is followed by Saudi Arabia (USD 42.85 billion) as 4th, Iraq (USD 34.33 billion) as 5th, & Singapore (USD 30 billion) as its 6th largest trading partner.

STATES AFFAIRS

104. The '**Miyan Ka Bada**' railway station in the Balotra area of Barmer district, **Rajasthan** has now been officially renamed as '**Mahesh Nagar Halt**'. Earlier in 2018, the name of the village was changed from 'Miyan ka Bada' to Mahesh Nagar.

105. The state government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched the '**Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana**'. It will be implemented in all 14 Municipal Corporations of the state. Under the scheme, the residents of Chhattisgarh can avail around 100 public services at their doorstep.

106. The state government of **Karnataka** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Israel-based **ISMC Analog Fab Private Limited** to set up a semiconductor fabrication plant in the state with an investment of **Rs.22,900 crore** (USD 3 Billion).

- This will be India's first and largest semiconductor fabrication unit under the Centre's Semiconductor Mission.
- Under the mission, the Centre will provide fiscal support to semiconductor fabrication facilities: 28nm or Lower - Up to 50% of the Project Cost; Above 28 nm to 45nm - Up to 40% of the Project Cost; and Above 45 nm to 65nm - Up to 30% of the Project Cost.
- The company plans to complete the project in the Kochanahalli Industrial area of Mysore over the next 7 years with an employment potential of 1,500 persons.

- 107.** The state government of **Haryana** has launched a **Vehicle Movement Tracking System (VMTS)** mobile app to help track vehicles carrying sand and other mining material. The app will be used at different checkpoints in all the districts of Haryana.
- 108. Jammu and Kashmir Film Development Council**, in collaboration with the **National Film Development Corporation** and the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, have been organizing the first-ever **National Film Festival of Jammu and Kashmir** in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir from 15th to 20th June 2022. The objective is to highlight the film, music, and creative ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) along with its' natural and social-cultural beauty to the rest of India and the world.
- 109.** The state government of **Assam** has signed a tripartite agreement with Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) and Office National des Forets International (**ONFI**) for wildlife protection. This agreement forms a part of the Indo-French Joint Declaration for the "Indo-Pacific Parks Partnership". Through this agreement, a sum of **Rs.2.50 crore** will be granted by the AFD to the state of Assam for pursuing exchange programme/s of government officials between France and Assam to attain knowledge about the dynamics of forest conservation and wildlife management.
- 110.** The state government of **Telangana** has announced the extension of insurance coverage of **Rs.5 lakh** to handloom and power loom weavers under the '**Nethanna Bima**' (Weaver's Insurance) scheme. Rs.29 crore has been sanctioned for implementing the scheme during the current year. The insurance coverage will be extended to weavers in the age group of 18 to 59 years.
- 111.** Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the **Online Building Permission System (OBPS)** in Sikkim. With this, **Sikkim** has become the first state in the North East to launch OBPS. It is aimed at improving service delivery with lesser human interface and more accountability to get building plans passed.
- It has been launched during a symposium on 'Urban Development of North Eastern States – Smart City Revolution', organized by the Sikkim government in collaboration with the Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DONER).
- 112.** The Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) of **Maharashtra** has tied up with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on Medical Education under the public-private partnership (PPP) model in Maharashtra.

- 113.** The Maharashtra Department of Prisons has launched '**Jivhala**', a credit scheme for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state. It is a first-of-its-kind scheme that has been launched for prisoners in India.
- It is being offered by the **Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank**.
 - The pilot for this scheme has been introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state.
 - In the initial phase, a loan of **Rs 50,000** will be given at a **7 %** interest rate without any requirement of a mortgage or guarantor.
 - Out of the interest that will be earned by the bank, **1 percent** will be contributed by the bank to the prisoners' welfare fund.

Note: Jivhala means 'affection' in Marathi.

- 114.** The Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Scheduled Caste (SC) development department of Odisha has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar, Odisha to set up **India's first Tribal Health Observatory (TriHOb)** in **Odisha**. This observatory will be looking to establish a depository regarding the health of all the tribal populations in Odisha.
- During the MoU signing event, Sushmita Bagchi, the chairperson of the 'Mo School' Abhiyan, has launched a tribal family health survey named '**Odisha Tribal Family Health Survey**'. This is a first-of-its-kind survey of the tribal communities in India. Through this survey, health and demographic data will be collected and made available to make various policies.
- 115.** The state government of **Kerala** has launched the '**Shaili App**' for diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among the people in the state of Kerala. It has been set up as part of the population-based screening project launched by the Kerala State Health Department under the 'Nava Kerala Karma plan'.
- 116.** The state government of **Haryana** has launched "**e-Adhigam**" scheme at Maharishi Dayanand University in Rohtak. Under this scheme, nearly three lakh tablets will be distributed to government school students of Classes 10 and 12.
- Adhigam stands for Advance Digital Haryana Initiative of Government with Adaptive Modules (Adigham).

- 117.** 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.*

118. 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.

119. 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.

120. 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.

121. 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.

122. 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.

123. 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.*

124. The state government of **Haryana** has launched the '**Charaa Bijae 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).

125. 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).

126. 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.

127. 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.

128. 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.

129. 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’.

130. 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 Tiruppur city near Koolipalayam, about 60 kilometres from Coimbatore. It was built by the then local King Nanjarayan as a source of irrigation.

- 131. 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.
- 132.** 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**.
- 133.** Captain **Abhilasha Barak** from **Haryana** has become the first woman officer to join the Army Aviation Corps as combat aviator after successful completion of the combat Army aviation course. She has been awarded the coveted 'wings' along with 36 Army pilots at a ceremony held at Combat Army Aviation Training School in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- The decision to include women in Army to fly helicopters came in the early 2021. Until then women officers were only assigned ground duties in army aviation.
- 134. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Uttarakhand** government for a period of **5 years** to grow new and renewable energy projects in the state. The MoU intends to take forward Uttarakhand by balancing both in the field of renewable energy and ecological economy.
- 135. Delhi Government** has recently inducted two robots into Delhi's firefighting fleet. These remote-controlled firefighting robots will be able to douse fires in narrow streets, warehouses, basements, stairs, and forests and enter places like oil and chemical tankers and factories. These robots will be capable of releasing high water pressure at the rate of 2,400 litres per minute.
- 136.** The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Greenko Group have collaborated to set up the world's largest **Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRESP)** with a capacity to store **5230 MW** in the **Kurnool** district of Andhra Pradesh. It is a first of its kind single location energy storage project with wind and solar capacities. It is being implemented with an investment of over USD 3 billion comprising pumped storage (10,800 MWh of daily storage), solar (3,000 MW) and wind (550 MW).

137. India has planned to build **10** hydropower projects totalling **6.8 gigawatts (GW)** in **Jammu and Kashmir** and **Himachal Pradesh** to fully utilize its share of waters under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan.

- **Hydropower projects:** 1,000 MW Pakal Dul project, 850 MW Ratle project, 624 MW Kiru project and 540 MW Kwar project, all in Jammu and Kashmir, 1,856 MW Sawalkot (J&K), 930 MW Kirthai-II (J&K), 500 MW Dugar (HP), 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II (J&K), and 260 MW Dulhasti Stage-II (J&K).
- **NHPC Limited** has undertaken the implementation of these projects with an estimated investment of **Rs. 68,000 crore**.

India has also planned to divert the waters of **Ujh**, which is one of the main tributaries of the Ravi that flows into Pakistan.

138. Uttar Pradesh minister for urban development and energy, A K Sharma, has launched the **SAMBHAV (Systemic Administration Mechanism for Bringing Happiness and Value) portal** for disposal of public grievances and monitoring programmes and schemes of the Urban and Energy departments of Uttar Pradesh. The portal will work as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform for flagging grievances received from the public to the concerning officers who have been provided login IDs.

139. Redcliffe Labs, a unit of Redcliffe Lifetech in the U.S., has come up with its first commercial drone flight in the country's healthcare sector. The company has opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarkashi and Dehradun in the state of Uttarakhand. With this, **Uttarakhand** has become the first Indian state to commence commercial drone services in healthcare.

140. Chief Minister of **Odisha** Naveen Patnaik has launched India's first **Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP)** by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in the state to help children become active, healthy, and responsible citizens.

- OVEP has been launched in collaboration with the Department of School and Mass Education, the Government of Odisha and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation Trust.
- It will be implemented in 90 schools across two smart cities Bhubaneswar and Rourkela in the first phase.
- OVEP has been launched in 27 schools in Rourkela and 63 schools in Bhubaneswar.

141. Kolkata has become the first major metropolitan city in India to prepare a detailed register of biodiversity known as **People's Biodiversity Register (PBR)**. It has been prepared by the Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC), Kolkata.

- PBR contains complete documentation of biodiversity such as flora, fauna medicinal sources, land use and human activities etc. within a particular place such as a city.
- PBR documented 399 plant and 283 animal species at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) headquarters.

Chandigarh and Indore are other important cities that have prepared the document.

142. The 4th edition of State-Level **Shirui Lily Festival 2022** has been observed recently in **Manipur**. The four-day long festival has been inaugurated by the Governor of Manipur La. Ganesan and the Chief Minister N. Biren Singh at Shirui Village Ground in Ukhrul district.

- This annual festival is organised by the Department of Tourism, Government of Manipur to create and raise awareness on Shirui Lily flower which is also the State Flower of Manipur.
- It is held around April and May as it is the blooming season of Shirui Lily.
- The flower is found in **Ukhrul district** of Manipur only and cannot be replanted anywhere in the world.

143. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Jitendra Singh have inaugurated the **north India's first Industrial Biotech Park** at **Ghatti** near Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir. The park will act as a hub for the incubation of new ideas and will act as a robust platform to support the agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, progressive farmers, scientists, scholars, and students not only from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also from nearby states of Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh. The park has a potential to produce 25 start-ups in a year.

144. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan and the Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Rajeev Chandrasekhar have inaugurated India's first '**Rural Tribal Technical Training**' program at the Centre for Research and Industrial Staff Performance (CRISP), **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

- The first phase will cover about 250 beneficiaries from 17 clusters of 17 selected districts from 6 states of India namely Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Odisha as a 'pilot project'.
- Under this, two-month training will provide employment opportunities to the youth to start their own business and employment opportunities in other sectors.

- 145.** The Chief Minister of **Tamil Nadu** M.K. Stalin has launched the '**Kalaignarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme**' in the districts of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, and Erode. It will be implemented in all 12,525 village panchayats across the State during five years at a cost of Rs.227 crore.
- 146.** The state government of **Uttarakhand** has constituted a 5-member expert committee to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** in the state. The retired Supreme Court judge Ranjana Desai, who currently heads the Delimitation Commission of India is the Head of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Delhi High Court judge Pramod Kohli, ex-state chief secretaries Shatrughan Singh, Manu Gaud and Surekha Dangwal.
- 147.** The Chief Minister of **Karnataka** Basavaraj Bommai has launched a new health and wellness app '**AAYU**' to address and help heal chronic diseases and lifestyle disorders through yoga and meditation. The app has been developed by Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in collaboration with RESET TECH, an AI-driven integrated health-tech platform. The app aims to reach and impact over five million chronic disease patients within a span of five years.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 148.** The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** has started the **Defender Europe 2022** and **Swift Response 2022** exercises. The exercise has begun in Poland and will be held in 8 other countries. It has been started from 1st May to 27th May 2022 to build preparedness and interoperability between Allies and partners of the USA and NATO. It will involve approximately 18, 000 participants from over 20 countries.
- 149.** The United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decided to pull the plug on the world's largest flying telescope 'SOFIA' that confirmed the presence of water on the Moon. NASA will shut down the operations of the **Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA)** mission by **30th September 2022**.
- About SOFIA telescope:**
- It was launched in 2014.

- It is a **2.7-meter** infrared telescope sitting inside a Boeing 747SP airplane, flying at an altitude of 38,000-45,000 feet above the surface.
- It is a joint collaboration between NASA and the German Space Agency (DLR).
- It has been collecting data to understand star birth and death and the formation of new solar systems.
- It is designed to observe cosmic objects in far-infrared wavelengths.
- In 2019, SOFIA discovered helium hydride — the first molecule formed in the Universe almost 14 billion years ago.
- In 2020, SOFIA discovered water molecules (H₂O) on the sun-facing side of the Moon.

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

MoUs / Agreements signed during the summit:

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

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

151. The **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC)** has successfully deployed **eight remote sensing satellites** into the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) using its Long March (Chang Zheng) 2D carrier rocket from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre, in the northern

province of Shanxi, China. This launch marks the 419th launch using the Long March 2D launch vehicle.

152. The United Nations Organization (UNO) has launched the **UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025**. It has been launched by some 30 leading organisations comprising UN-Energy. It will catalyse the large-scale action and support needed for the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions.

- UN-Energy has committed to support, facilitate and catalyse, inter alia, 500 million more people to gain access to electricity, and 1 billion more people to gain access to clean cooking solutions, as well as a 100 per cent increase in renewables capacity globally.
- An **Energy Compact Action Network** has also been launched to match those governments seeking support for their clean energy goals with those governments and businesses that have pledged over USD 600 billion to support these commitments.

153. 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.

154. 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

155. 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.

156. 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.

157. 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.

158. 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.

159. 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.

160. 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'.

161. 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."

- 162. 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.
- 163.** 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.
- 164.** 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.
- 165.** 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.
- 166.** 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.

167. 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.

168. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Korea Forest Service (KFS) have organized the **XV World Forestry Congress** at Coex, Seoul, **South Korea**. The theme for 2022 is 'Building a Green, Healthy and Resilient'.

- **Seoul Declaration** has been adopted by 141 participant countries.
- The declaration urges that responsibility for forests should be shared and integrated across institutions, sectors and stakeholders.
- Investment in forest and landscape restoration globally needs to triple by **2030** to meet internationally agreed commitments and targets on restoring degraded land.

World Forestry Congress:

It is held every six years. It has been providing a forum for inclusive discussion on the key challenges and way forward for the forestry sector. Indonesia hosted the first Congress in Asia in 1978.

169. The 52nd **World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2022** has been held in Davos, Switzerland under the theme '*Working Together, Restoring Trust*'. It is the first global in-person leadership event since the start of the pandemic.

- The Indian delegation is led by Union Commerce & Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal**. It also included Union Petroleum and Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Chief Ministers (CMs) and other 6 senior ministers of six states: Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Telangana.

Key Highlights:

- **India** has joined the US-led **First Movers Coalition**, a global initiative aimed at decarbonising the heavy industry and long-distance transport sectors responsible for 30 per cent of global emissions. Besides India, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Norway, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom have also joined.
- According to a report by the WEF, investing broadly in the skills of the future for both today's and tomorrow's next-generation workforce can add **USD 8.3 trillion** in increased productivity to the global economy by **2030**.
- The Four more industrial clusters from Europe and the US have joined the '**Transitioning Industrial Clusters towards Net-Zero**' initiative. The four new industrial clusters are from the Netherlands, Belgium and the USA.
- WEF has launched the India chapter of the **Alliance of CEO Climate Action Leaders** to supercharge India's climate action and decarbonisation efforts.
- The Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) have announced a new initiative to boost flows of digital foreign direct investments globally. Under the initiative, the DCO and WEF will launch **Digital FDI Enabling Projects** in countries around the world.
- WEF is building a "**Global Collaboration Village**" as the virtual future of public-private cooperation, in collaboration with Accenture and Microsoft. It will provide immersive spaces for stakeholders to come together and address critical global issues.

Agreements signed with Indian states:

- **Andhra Pradesh** government has signed renewables investment pacts worth a total of around **\$16 billion** with three companies including Adani Green Energy, Greenko, Singapore's GIC sovereign wealth fund, and Aurobindo Realty & Infrastructure during the World Economic Forum at Davos.
- **Maharashtra** government has signed *23 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)* worth over **30,000 crore** and also joined the World Economic Forum's **Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)**, a growing list of global economies that will leverage the GPAP platform to drive localized solutions for the circular economy.
- ReNew Power has signed an MoU with the **Karnataka** government to invest **Rs 50,000 crore** in the state over the next seven years.
- **Telangana** has attracted investments worth over **Rs 4,200 crore**. The aim is to showcase Telangana as an investment destination for global companies and bringing investments to state. The Telangana pavilion at WEF, set up with a slogan "India welcomes the world, Telangana First Stop". The state has also signed an MoU with **Mastercard** to formalise a Digital State Partnership aimed at delivering world-class solutions that contribute to the rapid digitisation of the state's citizen services with a focus on small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and farmers.

- 170. Kuwait** will build the world's largest Petroleum Research Centre by the end of 2022. It will be constructed at an estimated cost of around **USD 120 million** in al-Ahmadi, south of Kuwait City. It will have 28 laboratories. It will seek to develop improved production and refining techniques that can be used by the industry for different applications including the extraction of heavy crude and non-associated gas.
- 171. The 7th India-Canada Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC)** meeting has been organized in Ottawa, Canada. The Joint Committee Meeting has been co-chaired by Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar, Secretary at the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST), and David Morrison, Deputy Minister of International Trade at Global Affairs Canada.
- During the meeting, two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been renewed and signed by the Ministry of Science and Technology with Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and National Research Council Canada (NRC), respectively, under India and Canada's agreement signed in 2005.
- 172. The People's Republic of China** has hosted the **7th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting** under the theme "Establishing a Cultural Partnership Featuring Inclusiveness and Mutual Learning among BRICS". From the Indian side, Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs **Meenakshi Lekhi** has participated in the meeting through video conference.
- During the meeting, the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the field of Culture (**2022-2026**) has been signed by the Ministers of Culture of all BRICS Nations. The aim is to strengthen the cultural cooperation and implement the BRICS Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed in 2015.
- 173. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and Boeing Company** have launched the **Starliner Space Capsule-OFT 2** from Space Launch Complex-41 on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, USA to carry astronauts to and from the International Space Station.
- 174. US President Joe Biden** has launched the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)** in Tokyo, Japan. It is an Indo-Pacific Economic Bloc led by the USA to counter China. The aim is to strengthen economic partnership among participating countries to enhance resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, economic growth, fairness, and competitiveness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The framework has **13 member states**, USA, Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. It accounts for **40%** of global gross domestic product (GDP).

175. Belgium has become the first country to make a 21-day compulsory quarantine for Monkeypox patients after four cases of the disease were reported.

Monkeypox:

It is a viral zoonotic disease that is transmitted from animals to humans. It is caused by monkeypox virus, a member of the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae. It was first reported in 1958, in monkeys in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and in humans in 1970, also in the DRC. It is endemic to Nigeria.

176. The Navies of **India** and **Bangladesh** have recently commenced the **4th edition** of the **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** in the Northern Bay of Bengal. It is two-day exercise to strengthen mutual understanding and enhance interoperability between both the navies in countering transnational maritime threats at sea. It was first initiated in 2018.

- From the Indian Navy side, two indigenously built Ships - Kora, a guided-missile corvette, and Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, and from the Bangladesh side, Navy Ships BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah have participated in the exercise. In addition, Maritime Patrol Aircraft of both navies have also participated.

177. India has hosted the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) Summit 2022** in **New Delhi**. India's National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) under NSA Ajit Doval has organized the SCO-RATS Summit 2022. The major focus of the discussions was to be on the situation in Afghanistan, especially in dealing with the threat from terrorist groups active in the Taliban-ruled country.

- **Note:** India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) on 28th October 2021 for a period of one year.
- SCO-RATS is a permanent body of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). It facilitates coordination and interaction between the SCO member states in the fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism.

178. The third edition of **Exercise Bongosagar**, a bilateral naval exercise between **India and Bangladesh**, has commenced at Port Mongla, Bangladesh. The exercise has been conducted in two phases: Harbour Phase at Port Mongla from 24-25 May, and Sea Phase in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 26-27 May. The aim of the exercise is to develop a high degree of interoperability and joint operational skills through the conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations between the two navies.

Participants:

From the Indian Navy side, *Indian Naval Ship Kora*, an indigenously built Guided Missile Corvette, and *Sumedha*, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel, and from the Bangladesh Navy side, BNS Abu Ubaidah and Ali Haider, both Guided Missile Frigates have participated in the exercise.

Note: The first edition of Exercise Bongosagar was held in 2019.

179. Japan has hosted the **QUAD Summit 2022** in Tokyo. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japan PM Fumio Kishida, and newly-elected Australian PM Antony Albanese have participated in the Summit. This is the second in-person Quad Summit.

Key Highlights:

- QUAD countries has agreed to create an Earth observation-based monitoring and sustainable development framework to combat illegal, unregulated and unprotected (IUU) fishing. It will include sharing of space-based civil Earth observation data and a "**Quad Satellite Data Portal**" to aggregate links to respective national satellite data resources.
- To extend over 50 billion USD of infrastructure assistance and investment in the Indo-Pacific, over the next five years.
- **Quad Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Package (Q-CHAMP)** has been launched with mitigation and adaptation as its two themes.
- Quad Partnership on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** in the Indo-Pacific has been set up to strengthen collaboration and effectively respond to disasters in the region.
- To initiate the first-ever **Quad Cybersecurity Day** to help individuals across Quad, the Indo-Pacific region, and beyond to better protect themselves from cyber threats.
- **QUAD Fellowship** has been launched to promote people-to-people linkages between the four members of Quad. Every year, the fellowship will sponsor 25 students from each Quad country to pursue higher studies and doctoral degrees at leading Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) universities in the United States.

Note: QUAD Summit 2023 will be hosted by Australia.

180. Russia has successfully test-fired its '**Zircon Hypersonic Cruise Missile**' from the Admiral Gorshkov frigate of the Northern Fleet in the Barents Sea of Arctic Ocean. The missile hits the sea target in the White Sea about 1,000 kilometres (540 nautical miles) away.

- The country had conducted the first Zircon test in October 2020.
- It is capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and has a range of 1,000 kilometres (620 miles).

REPORTS & INDICES

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

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

Labour force participation rate:

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

182. The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the 4th edition of **THE Impact Rankings 2022**. The list includes 1406 universities from 106 countries and regions. The list has been topped by **Western Sydney University** of Australia, followed by Arizona State University of USA and Western University of Canada.

- As per the list, 8 universities from India made it to the top 300.
- Approximately 64 Indian Universities have been featured on THE Impact Rankings 2022 making India the **fourth**-best represented country in the ranking.
- **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham**, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu has secured 41st rank in the list. It is the only Indian University among the top 50.
- Lovely Professional University, Punjab has secured 74th rank in the list.
- Other Indian Universities: Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Amity University, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University, Chitkara University, University of Calcutta, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) and OP Jindal Global University.

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

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

- The 420 mha of forests have been lost between 1990 and 2020, due to deforestation, though forests cover 4.06 billion ha (31 percent) of the earth's geographical area.
- More than 700 mha of forest (18 percent of total forest area) is in legally established protected areas.
- Around 15 percent of 250 emerging infectious diseases have been linked to forests.

- The world population is projected to reach 9.7 billion people by 2050, which will increase competition for land, as the demand for food for this large population will rise by 35 to 56 percent by the 2050s.

Note: SOFO is released by FAO every 2 years.

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

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

India's Neighbours' performance:

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

185. According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, **Rajasthan** has become the first state in India to reach **10 GW** of cumulative large-scale solar installations. The state has a total of 32.5 GW of installed power capacity, with renewables contributing 55%, followed by thermal energy at 43%, and nuclear energy accounting for the remaining 2%. Rajasthan's Solar Energy Policy 2019 has set a target to achieve a 30 GW solar power target by FY 2024-25.

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

186. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has released the National Report of the fifth round of **National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5)** in

the presence of Bhupendrabhai Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat and Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, at the 'Swasthya Chintan Shivir' being held at Vadodara, Gujarat.

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

Key Highlights:

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

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has designated the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** Mumbai, as the nodal agency for providing coordination and technical guidance for the survey. The NFHS-1 was conducted in 1992-93 in all states except Sikkim, NFHS-2 was conducted in 1998-99 in all 26 states of India, NFHS-3 was conducted in 2005-2006, and NFHS-4 was conducted in 2014-2015.

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

187. 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).

188. 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.

189. 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.

190. 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.

191. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** have recently launched the first **Global Report on Assistive Technology (GReAT)**. 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.

192. 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.

193. 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.

194. The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education has released the **National Achievement Survey (NAS) 2021** report. The objective of NAS 2021 is to evaluate children's progress and learning competencies as an indicator of the efficiency of the education system, so as to take appropriate steps for remedial actions at different levels. About 34 lakh students of 1.18 lakh schools in 720 districts from both rural and urban areas have participated in NAS 2021.

NAS is a comprehensive evaluation survey of children's learning competencies in Classes 3, 5, 8, and 10. It is conducted every **three years**.

- According to the survey report, the national average percentage of students for class third was 59%, which declined by 10 percentage points to 49% in class fifth. It further declined to 41.9% in class eight and then 37.8% in class 10.
- The performance recorded a decline in almost all subjects. For instance, the mathematics score nationally was 57% in class third, dropping by almost 10 percentage points to 44% in fifth, and to 36% in class eighth, and 32% in class 10th.
- Similarly, the language score nationally was 62% in class third, and dropped to 52% in class fifth, and to 53% in class eighth.
- For science, the national score declined from 39% in class eighth to 35% in class 10.
- In terms of social-group wise performance, the average performance of SC/ST/OBC students remained low in almost all classes across the states, in comparison to the general category students.
- In gender-wise performance, the average performance of girls remained better than the boys in almost all subjects across the classes, both nationally and at state level.

- States such as Kerala, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Punjab performed better than the national average.

The NAS 2021 was held on 12th November 2021 at all India level and covered Government Schools, Government Aided Schools and Private Unaided Schools. It has been conducted in **22 languages** in Language, Mathematics and EVS for Class 3 and 5; Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Science for Class 8 and Language, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and English for Class 10.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has conducted NAS 2021. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has designed an assessment framework and tools for NAS-2021.

195. Tesla and SpaceX CEO **Elon Musk**, the world's richest man, has topped the list of the most highly compensated CEOs on the Fortune 500 in 2021. He received a salary of around **\$23.5 billion** (approximately Rs 1,82,576 crore) in 2021. He is followed by Tim Cook, who is the CEO of Apple, Jensen Huang, who is at the helm of NVIDIA, and Reed Hastings, who is the head of Netflix.

196. Ratings agency Moody's Investors Service in its update to 'Global Macro Outlook 2022-23' has lowered its growth forecast for India for the calendar year 2022 by 30 basis points to **8.8 percent** from 9.1 percent earlier. For CY23, it has projected growth at 5.4%. For 2022 and 2023, it has projected inflation to be around 6.8 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively.

197. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has published its UNICEF Child Alert-May 2022 edition titled '**Severe wasting: An overlooked child survival emergency**'.

- As per the report, **India** has the world's most **5,772,472 children** below five years affected by severe wasting.
- Indonesia has been ranked second with 812,564 children suffering from severe wasting.
- South Asia remains the hub of severe wasting, with stats worse than sub-Saharan Africa. At least 7.7 million children in the region are affected.
- Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) saved some five million lives in 2020, but 10 million severely wasted children went without it.

Severe wasting:

It is also known as severe acute malnutrition. It is defined as low weight-for-height. It is caused by lack of nutritional diet and frequent occurrences of infections such as diarrhoea, measles, and malaria.

Ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF):

It is considered the 'gold standard for wasting treatment'. It is a paste of peanuts, sugar, oil and milk powder and is manufactured in Kenya, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria, India and Pakistan, and distributed primarily through UNICEF.

198. As per the data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), India has recorded highest ever annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow of **USD 83.57 billion** in FY22 as compared to USD 81.97 billion in FY21.

- FDI inflow in manufacturing sector has increased by 76 percent to USD 21.34 billion in FY22 as compared to USD 12.09 billion in FY21.
- Computer software and hardware has emerged as the top recipient sector of FDI inflow with 25 percent share followed by Services Sector and Automobile Industry.
- **Karnataka** has recorded the highest FDI inflow with 38 percent share of the total FDI inflow reported during FY22, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi.
- **Singapore** is the top investing country with 27% of the equity inflows, followed by the USA (18%), and Mauritius (16%) in FY22.

199. The list of World's 100 Most Influential People of 2022 has been released by Time Magazine, an American news magazine. The list has been divided into six categories: Icons, Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Innovators.

- Supreme Court lawyer **Karuna Nundy** (Leaders category), business tycoon **Gautam Adani** (Titans category) and prominent Kashmiri human rights activist **Khurram Parvez** (Leaders category) have been named among the world's 100 most influential people of 2022 by TIME magazine.
- The list also includes Apple CEO Tim Cook, American host Oprah Winfrey, US President Joe Biden, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Chinese President Xi Jinping, etc.

200. The World Directory of Modern Military Aircraft (WDMMA) has published the **Global Air Powers Ranking for 2022.**

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been ranked **third** in the Global Air Powers Ranking with a TrueValueRating (TvR) score of 69.4.
- India has been ranked higher than the Chinese Aviation based armed forces (PLAAF), Japan Air Self-Preservation Power (JASDF), Israeli Aviation based armed forces, and French Air and Space Power.
- As per the index, IAF has a total of 1,645 active aircraft in its inventory.
- The US Air Force (USAF) has the highest TvR score of 242.9, followed by US Navy, Russian Air Force, US Army Aviation, and US Marine Corps. The list is followed by the Indian and Chinese (PLAAF) Air Force.

201. The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the **Travel and Tourism Development Index 2021** under the theme 'Rebuilding for a Sustainable and Resilient Future'. The index assesses 117 economies based on 5 sub-indexes (Enabling environment; Travel and Tourism Policy and Enabling Conditions; Infrastructure; Travel and Tourism Demand Drivers; Travel and Tourism Sustainability), 17 pillars, and 112 individual indicators.

Key Highlights:

- **Japan** has topped the Index with a score of 5.2, followed by USA, and Spain.
- Chad has been positioned last in the index.
- **India** has been ranked **54th** in the index with a score of 4.2. In 2019, India had ranked at 46th position.

202. Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), has released the '**State of Inequality in India**' report. The report has been prepared by the **Institute for Competitiveness** and presents a holistic analysis of the depth and nature of inequality in India.

The report is based on the data derived from various rounds of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) and United Information System for Education Plus.

- An Indian earning a monthly wage of **Rs.25,000** is among top 10% earners in the country.
- Failure of triple down approach as incomes of the top 1% earners grew 15% during 2017-18 to 2019-20 while that of the bottom 10% declined 1%.
- Also, top 1% accounts for 6-7% of total incomes earned while top 10% accounts for one-third of all incomes earned.
- **Employment (2019-20):** Self-employed workers (45.78%), followed by regular salaried workers (33.5%) and casual workers (20.71%).
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio has also increased between 2018-19 and 2019-20 at the primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary.
- The results of NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-21) have shown that **58.6%** of women received antenatal check-ups in the first trimester in 2015-16, which increased to **70%** by 2019-21.
- Urban areas have a **44.4%** wealth concentration in the highest quintile (20%) compared to a meagre **7.1%** concentration in rural areas. Chandigarh has the highest wealth concentration, while Bihar has lowest wealth concentration.

203. Forbes magazine has released the 7th edition of the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia List 2022**, featuring 10 categories each honouring 30 individuals under the age of 30. The list has been edited by Rana Wehbe Watson. The honourees on the list represent 22 countries and territories across the Asia-Pacific region.

- **India** has topped the list in terms of the number of entries with **61**, followed by Singapore (34), Japan (33), Australia (32), Indonesia (30) and China (28).
- The average age of the 2022 list is 26.8 and the youngest honouree on the list is 14-year old Japanese Olympics skateboarding gold-medalist Momiji Nishiya.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

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

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

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

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

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

206. 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.

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PRACTICE MOCK

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.

207. 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*.

208. 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.

209. The Executive Committee of **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved **11 projects** with an estimated cost of approx. **Rs.660 crore** to develop Water Infrastructure Projects along the River Ganga. The decision has been taken in the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee under the chairmanship of Director General G. Ashok Kumar. The project includes:

- 'Interception, Diversion and Treatment Works for Saharanpur Town' for River Hindon, Uttar Pradesh
- 'Rejuvenation of Chamunda Mai Pond' in Garh Mukhteshwar, Uttar Pradesh
- 'Environmental Upgradation of Shivna River' in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh
- 'Evaluation of Natural Farming Practices on Water and Energy Savings'
- 'Implementation of Membrane-based soil-less agriculture' under Arth Ganga Framework
- Two projects pertaining to crematoriums including 'Construction of Electric Crematorium' at Kalyani, West Bengal and 'Development of Cremation Ghat' at Paudi Garhwal, Uttarakhand are also approved.
- In addition to this, two projects of River Front Development in Badrinath are also approved.
- Two big projects for Septage Management in Uttarakhand and West Bengal are also approved in the meeting.

210. The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed a two quadripartite agreements for development and management of sewage infrastructure at **Maheshtala** in West Bengal under Hybrid Annuity Mode. The total cost of the project is **Rs. 273.52 crore**.

- **First Agreement:** It is an Escrow agreement between NMCG, Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA), M/s. Maheshtala Waste Water Management Private Limited (MWWMPL) and Union Bank of India.
- **Second Agreement:** It is the substitution agreement between NMCG, KMDA, MWWMPL and Oesterreichische Entwicklungsbank (Development Bank of Austria).

- 211.** Maheshtala is situated on the east bank of River Ganga. This project aims to stop the flow of sewerage into River Ganga from the town. The major components of the project include a 35 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant (STP), 4 pumping stations, 6 diversion structures, Repair & Rehabilitation work, 15 years Operation and Maintenance etc.
- 212.** Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched the second phase of "Suposhit Maa Abhiyan" from Kota, Rajasthan. In the second-phase, 3000 women will be given nutrition kits for 9 months with the help of public support and health check-up will be done every month.

Suposhit Maa Abhiyan:

It was launched on **1st March 2020** from Kota, Rajasthan. The aim is to keep pregnant women and new-born healthy. Around 1000 kits of **17 kg** balanced diet were provided to 1,000 pregnant women in the first phase of the campaign. The diet includes millet flour, wheat, maize, gram, jaggery, large soybean, groundnut, ghee, dates, roasted gram, lentil, oatmeal and rice. The campaign covers not only pregnant women but also new-born babies. It is applicable only to one pregnant woman per family.

- 213.** The National Health Authority (NHA) under its flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has launched the revamped **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) mobile application** (previously known as NDHM Health Records or PHR App). The ABHA app enables an individual to create an ABHA address (username@abdm), an easy to remember username that can be linked with the **14 digit** randomly generated ABHA number. The app will enable individuals to access their health records anytime and anywhere.
- 214.** The Central Government has approved the New Guidelines of the **Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP)**. The programme will be implemented during the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26).

Key guidelines:

- As per the new guidelines, the central government's grant for development of **Common Facility Centres (CFCs)** will be restricted to 70 percent of the cost of the project from Rs.5 crore to Rs.10 crore and 60 percent of the cost of project from Rs.10 crore to Rs.30 crore.
- In case of north-east and hill states, island territories and aspirational districts, the government's grant will be 80 percent of the cost of the project from Rs.5 crore to Rs.10 crore and 70 percent of cost of the project from Rs.10 crore to Rs.30 crore.
- For **Infrastructure Development (ID)**, the central government grant will be restricted to 60 percent of the cost of project from Rs 5 crore to Rs 15 crore for setting up of new industrial estate/flatted factory complex, while the grant will be 50 percent of the cost of

project from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore for upgradation of existing industrial estate/ flatted factory complex.

Cluster Development Programme:

It is the scheme of the Office of Development Commissioner in the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**. It was renamed as Micro & Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP) in 2007. The aim is to enhance the sustainability and growth of MSEs by addressing common issues such as improvement of technology, skills and quality, etc.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 215. Star9 Mobility Private Limited** has won the bid to buy **51%** government stake in helicopter services provider **Pawan Hans Limited (PHL)** for a cash consideration of **Rs. 211.14 crore**. The alternative mechanism, comprising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari and Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, has approved the highest bid placed by Star9.
- Note:** PHL is a joint venture of GoI (51%) and ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited) (49%).
- 216. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **GE Power Conversion** for the development of integrated full electric propulsion systems for the Indian Navy. This MoU will enhance the ship's energy requirements, including propulsion, high-power sensors, service loads, and pulse power for defence systems.
- 217. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)**, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), has collaborated with **Qualcomm India** to empower home-grown semiconductor start-ups and chipmaker.
- Under this collaboration, C-DAC and Qualcomm India intend to work towards nurturing technical advancements and intellectual-property-driven innovation and product development required for semiconductor design in the Indian ecosystem.
 - Qualcomm India has also planned to initiate and conduct the **Qualcomm Semiconductor Mentorship Programme 2022** for select start-ups from the semiconductor space in India.
- 218. Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah** has inaugurated the **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)** campus in **Bengaluru** to help prevent modern-day crimes and to have the upper hand against any threat.

NATGRID:

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

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

About Autism spectrum disorder (ASD):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

224. The **Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad (IIT-H)** has announced the demonstration of the Extreme Massive MIMO (**Multiple-Input Multiple-Output**), a flagship technology designed for 5G-advanced and 6G deployments.

- Extremely massive MIMO refers to the next generation technology that uses a very large antenna array. This will increase the coverage and capacity of cellular networks using multiple antennas at the base station.

225. India's first **Greenfield Grain-Based Ethanol Plant** has been inaugurated at Ganeshpur near Parora in the **Purnia** district of **Bihar**. The plant has been built by Eastern India Biofuels Private Limited on around 15 acres of land at a cost of Rs 105 crore. The plant, built with latest technology using zero waste discharge, will buy 130 tons of rice husk and 145-150 tons of maize or rice from farmers every day.

226. Bangalore-based **Open Financial Technologies**, a neo-banking platform, has become India's 100th Unicorn startup with a valuation of USD 1 billion. This milestone has been achieved by raising USD 50 million in its series D funding round from IIFL along with existing investors Temasek, Tiger Global and 3one4 Capital.

- **Unicorn:** It is used to describe any privately held company that has touched a valuation of more than USD 1 billion.
- **Note:** Mobile advertising platform InMobi was the first unicorn announced in 2011.

227. ReNew Power has signed five solar Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** and **Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL)** to supply around **1500 MW** of solar energy. It has also signed multiple long-term purchase agreements with corporate buyers together totalling around 2 GW of renewable energy. The new utility

solar projects will be located in the western state of Rajasthan and have flat tariffs over 25 years.

- With this agreements, the company's gross total portfolio jumped to 12.1 GW from 10.2 GW at the beginning of the 2022 calendar year.

228. The first two-day **International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy** has been organised by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (**IBBI**) in association with the **Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA)**. It has been held under the aegis of the Misra Centre of Financial Markets at IIMA.

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

229. The **RailTel** Corporation of India Limited has designed and established a Mobile Container Hospital named '**Health Cloud**' at **Vishakhapatnam** premises of Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ). It is the world's first integrated medical device manufacturing hub. It has been inaugurated by Louise Agersnap, Head of WHO Innovation Hub, WHO-Geneva, Switzerland.

230. NTPC GE Power Services Limited (NGSL), a 50:50 JV between NTPC and GE Power India Ltd, has inked a tripartite Memorandum of Engagement (MoE) with The Lake Region Economic Bloc (**LREB**), Kenya and Procorp Enertech Private Limited (**PEPL**) to work towards the development of ground-mounted and floating solar PV projects in the Lake region of Kenya.

231. 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.*

232. 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.

- 233.** 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 in the combined entity, while L&T Limited will hold 68.73% of LTI.
- 234.** Bengaluru-based **Bellatrix Aerospace** has tested an eco-friendly propulsion system for satellites that cuts a new path from the hydrazine (N_2H_4)-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.
- 235.** 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.
- 236.** 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**.
- 237.** **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.
- 238.** 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.*

239. 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.

240. 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 (NEHHDC)** 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.

241. 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.

242. 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).

- 243. 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.
- 244.** 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.
- 245.** 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.
- 246.** 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**.

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- 247.** 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).
- 248.** 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.
- 249. 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.
- 250. 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.
- 251.** 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**.
- 252. 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.

253. 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.

254. 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

255. 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.

- 256.** 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.
- 257.** 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.
- 258. 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.
- 259. 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.

- 260.** 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.
- 261.** 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.

262. The **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has become the first gas producer to trade domestic gas on the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX). The first online trade was made on 23rd May 2022 by ONGC Director (Onshore) & In-charge Marketing Anurag Sharma on India's first automated national level IGX. The gas traded is from ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block.

Indian Gas Exchange (IGX):

It is India's first automated national level Gas Exchange to promote and sustain an efficient and robust Gas market and to foster gas trading in the country. It started operations on 15th June 2020 as Gas Trading Platform and has been operating as the Gas Exchange since 10th December 2020. It operates under the regulatory framework of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

263. **Coal India Limited (CIL)** under the Ministry of Coal (MoC) has decided to divest **25 percent** stake in its unlisted arm Bharat Coking Coal Ltd (BCCL) and its subsequent listing on stock exchanges after getting further clearances.

264. The **Adani Green Energy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government of **Andhra Pradesh** at the World Economic Forum for an investment of **Rs.60,000 crore** in the state. The project is expected to provide employment opportunities to about 10,000 people directly and indirectly. The company will set up a 3,700 MW Hydro Storage Plant and 10,000 MW solar energy project in Andhra Pradesh.

265. Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, R.K Singh has conferred **NHPC Limited** with the first prize for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2018-19 for excellent implementation of **Rajbhasha** during the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti.

- During the meeting, he has also released the latest issue of '*Rajbhasha Jyoti*', NHPC's official language magazine and the book '*Bharatiya Sanskriti mein Prabandhan*' written by Dr. Rajbir Singh, Group General Manager (Rajbhasha), NHPC.
- NHPC has also been awarded "*Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar*" nine times by the Government of India for its excellent work in the field of implementation of Rajbhasha.

266. The world's first '**Smart Manufacturing Competency Centre (SMCC)** has been inaugurated in **Ahmedabad**, Gujarat. It has been launched by the NASSCOM Centre of Excellence-IoT & AI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and the

government of Gujarat. This platform will enable every MSME in Gujarat to connect with the start-ups in the ecosystem for digitisation solutions. Manufacturers will be able to experience demos and success stories of large tech enterprises and start-ups.

267. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has extended the deadline for submitting initial bids for the privatisation of **Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd (FSNL)**, a 100% subsidiary of MSTC Ltd., under the **Ministry of Steel**. The deadline has been extended to 6th June 2022 from 5th May 2022.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) had accorded in-principle approval to divest entire stake in FSNL held through MSTC in October 2016.

268. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the sale of the government's remaining stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL). The government currently holds a **29.54 percent** stake in HZL which is worth around Rs 37,000 crore. While Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Group holds a 64.92 percent stake.

269. GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, will acquire a **7.5%** equity stake in Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) for a cash consideration of Rs.2,195 crore. In the first tranche, GIC will invest Rs.770 crore, while the remaining Rs. 1,425 crore will be infused within 18 months. After the investment, Aditya Birla Group will hold a controlling stake of **51.9%** in the company.

270. The **United States of America (USA)** has signed an **Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA)** with **India** at Tokyo, Japan. It has been signed to keep pace with the additional investment support programmes, offered by the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), such as debt, equity investment, investment guaranty, investment insurance or reinsurance, feasibility studies for potential projects and grants. This agreement is the legal requirement for DFC, to continue providing investment support in India.

- This IIA supersedes the Investment Incentive Agreement signed between both the countries in the year 1997.
- There have been significant developments since the earlier IIA was signed in 1997, such as the founding of a new organization called Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
- DFC or their predecessor agencies have been active in India since 1974 and have so far provided investment support worth **USD 5.8 billion** of which USD 2.9 billion is still outstanding.

271. Fasal, an agri-tech platform, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** for research in weather forecasting models. Under

this MoU, Fasal and IMD will work closely on exchange of hourly short-range models for rainfall probability, rainfall amount, temperature, and humidity. This MoU will cover five districts in Karnataka, five districts in Maharashtra, one district in Telangana and two districts in Andhra Pradesh.

- 272. Tata Capital Limited**, the financial services company of the Tata Group, has launched '**Loan Against Shares**', an end-to-end integrated digital financial offering. The aim is to provide customers with an easy and seamless experience. Under this facility, customers can avail of loans up to **Rs.5 crore** by pledging their dematerialised shares online, which is facilitated by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL).
- 273.** UK-based academic **Dr Swati Dhingra** has been appointed as an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England by Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak. She has been appointed for a period of **3 years**. She will replace current external member Michael Saunders on 9th August 2022.
- With this, she has become the **first Indian origin woman** to be appointed as a member of the Bank of England.

BANKING & FINANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

285. 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.

286. 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.

- 287. 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.
- 288. 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.
- 289.** 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).
- 290.** 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.
- 291.** 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.
- 292.** 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.
- 293. Bharti AXA Life Insurance** has launched a financial literacy campaign named '**InspiHER- 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.

294. 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.

295. 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.

296. 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.

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'Repco Mahila Samridhhi 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.

297. 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.

298. 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.

299. 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.

300. 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.

- 301. 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.
- 302. 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).
- 303. 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.

304. 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.

305. 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.

306. HDFC Bank has made rural banking a separate vehicle and has appointed **Anil Bhavnani**, who has been working with it for 19 years, to head the newly-carved rural banking vertical. The lender has planned to open 1,064 branches under the rural banking vertical in FY23 as against 1,000 branches opened in the last two fiscal years.

- HDFC Bank has also tied up with **Institute of Rural Management, Anand** to prepare its rural initiative strategy which will look at consumer behaviour, customer satisfaction, service design, and service delivery.
- The lender has also launched a '**Spot Offer**' on WhatsApp, to provide an in-principle home loan approval to home buyers within two minutes. This facility is developed in association with Congo AI.

307. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched the '**Real-Time Xpress Credit**' on its Yono platform, allowing eligible customers to get personal loans of up to Rs.35 lakh. Under this, central, state government and defence salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch for availing a personal loan. It will enable customers to experience a digital, hassle-free, and paperless loan process.

308. AU Small Finance Bank has introduced two new products under its affluent banking programme, AU Royale – '**AU Royale Salary**' and '**AU Royale Business**' current account.

- The AU Royale Business Current Account offers family banking which allows grouping of business and family accounts.
- The AU Royale Salary Savings account offers family banking for up to five family members and exciting cashback of upto 1% on Signature Debit Card spends.

309. Mahagram, a technology-driven fintech company, has collaborated with **IndusInd Bank** to boost financial inclusion, encourage socio-economic development, mitigate the risks of a shadow economy, and accelerate the growth of a cashless society. The target is to add 15 million small merchants to the UPI QR in this fiscal year (2022-23).

310. MUFG Bank, a Japanese lender, will establish a branch at the **Gujarat International Financial Tec City (GIFT City)** in Ahmedabad for foreign currency-denominated lending business. This will be its sixth branch in India. At present, it has presence in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai and Neemrana.

Note: In March 2022, MUFG Bank announced to set up an investment fund totalling USD 300 million for start-ups in India.

311. HDFC Securities has launched a Robo-advisory platform for all mutual fund investments named '**HDFC Money**'. This platform is a 100 percent digital platform that doesn't involve opening or having a Demat Account. It will help investors to plan and execute with a more defined objective keeping risk and tenure in consideration.

312. Stashfin, a neobanking platform, has launched a credit line card especially for women called '**LiveBoundless**'. The new card offers dedicated cashback rewards, welcome credits, free ATM withdrawals, and other deals.

Neo-bank:

A neo-bank is a digital bank that does not have any branches. Instead of having a physical presence at a set location, neo-banking is entirely online.

313. Northern Arc Capital, a financial services platform, has tied up with **Indian Bank** to help both institutions leverage synergies and offer customer-centric financial solutions to retail borrowers. This will enable the two financial institutions to collaborate, co-operate, co-lend loans, and widen their respective markets and customer base.

314. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has introduced **Aadhaar Enabled Payment System** service charges (AePS). AePS Issuer transaction charges will be in effect from 15th June 2022.

- According to RBI "AePS is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial inclusion transaction at Point of Sale (PoS) (MicroATM) through the Business correspondent of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication. AePS allows you to do six types of transactions."
- IPPB has also signed a sub membership agreement with the Department of Post to facilitate NEFT/RTGS transactions for their customers with eligible accounts. A dedicated IFS code "**IPOS0000DOP**" has been created to facilitate inward/outward transactions, to and from DoP Customer accounts. This code will be exclusively used only for transactions in DoP Customer accounts.

- The senior functionaries of the Postal Department and IPPB brainstormed in an event called **AAROHAN 4.0** to strengthen the financial inclusion drive and to provide banking solutions to every citizen of the country. The two-day meeting has been organized in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.

315. HDFC Bank has tied up with **Retailio**, India's largest B2B pharma marketplace, to launch a new range of co-branded credit cards primarily targeted at chemists and pharmacies in the merchant segment. It will cover over 1.4 lakh merchants in the first phase of its roll-out.

316. UCO Bank has entered into a co-lending agreement with **Paisalo Digital Limited**, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), for agriculture business. The agreement aims to tap into the Rs.8 lakh crore market of small-ticket loans for the 365 million under banked and under-served population.

317. IDBI Bank board has approved the appointment of **T N Manoharan** as the part-time chairman for a period of three years with effect from 9th May 2022, as approved by the Reserve Bank of India.

- MR Kumar will no longer continue to be the non-executive non-whole time Chairman of the bank with effect from 8th May 2022.
- In terms of the Articles of Association of the bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has nominated Raj Kumar, Managing Director of LIC as LIC nominee director on the board of the bank.

318. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), India's largest insurer, has launched "**Bima Ratna**", a **non-linked, non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan**. The new plan provides both protection and savings.

Key features:

- Bima Ratna plan can be purchased through Corporate Agents, Insurance Marketing Firms (IMF), Brokers, Common Public Service Centres (CPSC-SPV) and Point of Sales Person-Life Insurance (POSP-LI) engaged by these intermediaries' viz. corporate agents, insurance marketing firms (IMF) and brokers.
- Provides financial assistance to the policyholder's family in the case of the policyholder's untimely death during the policy term, as well as periodic payments on the policyholder's survival for predetermined periods of time to meet a variety of financial needs.
- The key features of the plan include Death benefits, Survival benefits, Maturity benefits, Guaranteed Additions, Settlement Options, Grace Period and Revival solutions among other things.
- The plan also addresses liquidity requirements through a loan facility.

- Premiums can be paid on a yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, or monthly basis (monthly premiums can only be paid through the National Automated Clearing House (NACH)) or by deductions from salary.

319. The **Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has reviewed the regulatory framework for passive funds i.e. **Exchange-traded funds (ETFs)** and **index funds** through a Working Group (WG) amid growing popularity of such funds as an investment product for retail investors. The new framework will come into effect from **1st July 2022** and will be applicable to all existing ETFs and index funds.

Key Highlights:

- Debt ETFs/Index Funds could be based on indices comprising of corporate debt securities (Corporate debt indices) or government securities (G-secs), t-bills or a combination of both (hybrid debt indices).
- For Debt ETFs/ Index Funds, the AMCs (Asset Management Companies) must ensure the constituents of the index are aggregated at issuer level for the purpose of determining investment limits for single issuer, group, sector, etc.
- For an index with at least **80 percent** weight of corporate debt securities, a single issuer should not have more than 15 percent weight in the index in respect of AAA securities, not more than 12.5 percent in case of AA securities and not more than 10 percent in case of A and below rated securities.
- In case of a hybrid index with up to **80 percent** weight of corporate debt securities, a single issuer should not have more than 15 percent weight in the index in respect of AAA-rated securities. However, for AAA-rated securities of PSUs and AAA-rated securities of PFI (Public Financial Institution) issuers the limit will be 15 percent.
- Index should not have more than **25 percent** weight in a particular group, excluding securities issued by Public Sector Units (PSUs), (PFIs) and Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- The minimum subscription amount at the time of New Fund Offer (NFO) for debt ETFs/ index funds and other ETFs/ index funds will be **Rs.10 crore** and **Rs.5 crore**, respectively.

320. BoB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bank of Baroda (BoB), has launched the HPCL BoB co-branded contactless RuPay Credit Card in partnership with the **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** and National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This card can be used across merchants and ATMs globally through the JCB network.

321. PhonePe, an Indian digital payments business backed by Walmart Inc., has planned to acquire wealth management firms WealthDesk for about \$50 million and OpenQ for around \$20 million.

RBI IN NEWS

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

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

323. Recently, RBI has also issued guidelines for compensation of **key managerial personnel** and senior management of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs). As per the guidelines, NBFCs have to constitute a nomination and remuneration committee (NRC), which will have the mandate to oversee the framing, review and implementation of compensation policy of the company with the approval of the board. The board of NBFCs may not offer guaranteed bonuses to the senior management and key managerial personnel. The compensation packages will comprise of fixed and variable pay components aligned effectively with prudent risk taking to ensure that compensation is adjusted for all types of risks. These guidelines will come into effect from **1st April 2023** and will be effective on all the finance companies, apart from the ones in the base layer.

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

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

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

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

Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

327. 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.

328. 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.

329. 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.

330. 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).

331. 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.

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332. 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.

333. 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.

334. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked all banks to provide the option of **Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (ICCW)** at their Automated Teller Machines (ATMs). The aim is to curb frauds like skimming, card cloning, and device tampering.

- Withdrawal limits for ICCW transactions shall be in-line with the limits for regular on-us / off-us ATM withdrawals.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.

335. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee to evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and quality of customer service in banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and other entities regulated by it.

- The six-member committee will be headed by former RBI deputy governor **B P Kanungo**.
- **Other members:** A K Goel (Chairman IBA and MD & CEO, PNB), A S Ramasastri (former Director, IDRBT), Amitha Sehgal (Hon. Secretary, AIBDA), Rajeshri N Varhadi (Professor, University of Mumbai), and Anil Kumar Sharma (Executive Director, RBI).

- The committee has to submit a report within three months from the date of its first meeting.

336. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the net worth requirement to get authorization for non-bank Bharat Bill Payment Operating Units (BBPOU) to **Rs.25 crore** from Rs.100 crore. The aim is to increase participation in the segment.

- Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an interoperable platform for bill payments and the scope and coverage of BBPS extends to all categories of billers who raise recurring bills.

337. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced new guidelines to permit **Qualified Jewellers** to import gold through the **India International Bullion Exchange IFSC Ltd. (IIBX)** or any other exchange approved by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

- As per the new guidelines, banks may allow Qualified Jewellers to remit advance payments for **11 days** for import of gold through IIBX in compliance to the extant Foreign Trade Policy and regulations issued under IFSC Act.
- The advance remittance for import of Gold should not be used in any way to import gold worth more than the advance remittance made.
- In case the import of gold through IFSCA authorised exchange, for which advance remittance has been made, does not materialise, or the advance remittance made for the purpose is more than the amount required, the unutilised advance remittance shall be remitted back to the same bank within the specified time limit of 11 days.
- Licenced dealers banks must perform all due diligence and guarantee that the remittances sent are only for bona fide import transactions through IFSCA-approved exchanges.

Note: Gold imports has declined by about 72 percent to USD 1.72 billion during April 2022, from USD 6.23 billion in April 2021.

338. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the certificate of registration (CoR) of **Five Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)** due to irregular lending practices, including charging excessive interest rates and harassment of customers for loan recovery.

5 NBFCs are:

- **UMB Securities Ltd** (Bangalore, Karnataka)
- **Anashri Finvest Ltd** (Bangalore, Karnataka)
- **Chadha Finance Ltd** (New Delhi)
- **Alexcy Tracon Pvt Ltd** (Kolkata, West Bengal)
- **Jhuria Financial Services Pvt Ltd** (Guwahati, Assam)

The CoR of these NBFCs have been cancelled on account of violation of RBI guidelines on outsourcing and Fair Practices Code in their digital lending operations undertaken through third party apps which was considered detrimental to public interest.

339. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the '**Banknote Survey of Consumers**' report. The survey has covered 11,000 respondents from rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan areas, spanning 28 states and 3 union territories. The survey has also included 351 visually impaired respondents (VIR).

- Among bank notes, **Rs. 100 note** is the most preferred denomination for cash transactions whereas, **Rs. 2000** is the least preferred denomination.
- Among the coins, Rs. 5 was found to be the most preferred denomination whereas, Rs.20 was the least preferred denomination.
- The value and volume of banknotes in circulation increased by **9.9 percent** and **5 percent**, respectively, during 2021-22, compared with 16.8 percent and 7.2 percent, respectively, during 2020-21.
- Banknotes in circulation amounted to **13.05 lakh** in volume terms and **Rs.31,05,721 crore** in value terms in 2021-22, against 12.43 lakh notes in volume and Rs.28,26,863 crore in value in 2020-21.
- The watermark of Mahatma Gandhi's image followed by the windowed security thread were the most recognised security feature.
- Around 3 percent of the respondents were not aware of any banknote security feature.
- Overall, approximately seven out of 10 respondents were found to be satisfied with the new series of banknotes.
- Among the visually impaired, the majority were found to be aware of the quality of paper and the size of the banknotes.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

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

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

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

343. Adani Wilmar Ltd (AWL) has become India's largest FMCG Company by surpassing Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), after the announcement of its Quarter Four results for the Financial Year 2022. Adani Wilmar has reported operational revenue of Rs.54,214 crore in FY22 whereas HUL has reported the revenue of Rs.51,468 crore in FY22.

344. 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).

345. 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”.

346. 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, Anthonng 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

347. 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).

348. 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.

349. 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**.

350. 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.

351. 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.

352. 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.

353. 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.

354. 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.

355. Tomb of Sand, written by **Geetanjali Shree** and translated by **Daisy Rockwell**, has won the 2022 International Booker Prize for Translated Fiction. It is the first book originally written in any Indian language to win the International Booker Prize, and the first novel translated from Hindi to be recognised by the award.

- English translation of Geetanjali Shree's Hindi novel *Ret Samadhi (2018)* was published as Tomb of Sand in 2021. The book depicts the adventures of an 80-year-old woman who slips into a deep depression at the death of her husband, then resurfaces to gain a new lease of life.

356. Anjali Pandey, Engines and Components Business Unit Leader at Cummins India, has been honoured with the Committed Leader Award at CII EXCON 2022 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. She has been honoured for her efforts to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace.

357. Kishore Jayaraman, President of India and South Asia for **Rolls-Royce**, has been awarded an Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty The Queen. He

has received the award in recognition of his services to international trade and investment, with the main focus on promoting India-UK trade.

358. Radio Jockey **Umar Nisar** (RJ Umar) from south Kashmir has been conferred the '01 Greatest Content material Award' and the Immunization Champion award by UNICEF at the annual Radio4Child 2022 Awards in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He has been awarded for his work of providing awareness and countering rumours to reach audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Subhash Ola, an innovator from Rajasthan who has developed the technology of saving energy in boilers by recycling steam, has won the Amazon Smbhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022 and his enterprise "**Geniusenergy Critical Innovation Private Limited**" has won the Start-up of the Year award.

- Geniusenergy Critical Innovation, a start-up recognized by Govt. of India, was incubated by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India.
- Earlier, he was conferred with NIF's 8th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Award in the year 2015.

359. Bollywood actor **Nawazuddin Siddiqui** has been honoured with the Excellence in Cinema Award at the French Riviera Film Festival held in Cannes, France. He has been bestowed the honour by two-time Emmy winner American actor-producer, Vincent De Paul.

360. Director of the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, **A Gopalakrishnan**, has won the VASVIK (Vividhlaxi Audyogik Samshodhan Vikas Kendra) Industrial Research Award for the year 2020 in the category of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. He has been awarded for his significant contribution towards the research works related to fish genetics. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1.51 lakh and citation.

- The VASVIK research award is presented to scientists and researchers who have excelled in various fields including agricultural sciences.

361. Documentary filmmaker, film historian and author **Sanjit Narwekar** has been conferred the coveted **V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contributions to the understanding of films during the 17th edition of the Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF). The award carries a cash prize of Rs.10 lakh, a golden conch and a citation.

- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has inaugurated the 17th edition of MIFF, with Bangladesh as the 'Country of Focus' at the Nehru Centre in Worli, Mumbai.

362. The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has announced six **Global Health Leaders Awards 2022** to recognize outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues. The award has been announced during the 75th edition of the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Recipients of the Award:

- **Dr Paul Farmer:** He was Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and co-founder of Partners in Health.
- **Dr Ahmed Hankir:** He is a British-Lebanese psychiatrist. He is Senior Research fellow at the Centre for Mental Health Research in association with Cambridge University and Academic Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry at the King's College London in the United Kingdom.
- **Ms Ludmila Sofia Oliveira Varela:** She is a youth sports advocate from Cabo Verde and player of the Cabo Verde national volleyball team.
- **Polio workers in Afghanistan:** Honoured 8 volunteer polio workers who were shot and killed by armed gunmen in Takhar and Kunduz provinces in Afghanistan on 24 February 2022.
- **ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist Workers):** ASHA (which means hope in Hindi) are the more than 1 million female volunteers in India. They have been honoured for their crucial role in linking the community with the health system, and to ensure those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services, as shown throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Mr Yōhei Sasakawa:** He is the WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, and Japan's Ambassador for the Human Rights of People Affected by leprosy.

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363. The Music Academy has announced the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** winners for the years 2020, 2021 and 2022. It is awarded to one person who has contributed to the field of Carnatic music. It is considered as the highest accolade in the field of Carnatic music

- **Neyveli R Santanagopalan**, a renowned vocalist and guru, will receive the Sangita Kalanidhi award for the year **2020**.
- Eminent mridangam artiste and guru, **'Tiruvarur' Bhakthavathsalam**, will receive the award for the year **2021**.
- Lalgudi violin duo, **G J R Krishnan** and **Vijayalakshmi** will receive the award for the year **2022**.

Other awards announced by the Music Academy:

- **Sangita Kala Acharya awards:** Kivalur N G Ganesan (2020), Dr Ritha Rajan (2021), and Dr R S Jayalakshmi (2022).
- **T T K Award:** Thamarakkad Govindan Namboodri (2020), Nemani Somayajulu (2021), and A V Anand (2022).
- **Musicologist award:** Dr V Premalatha (2020)
- **Nritya Kalanidhi Award:** Rama Vaidhyanathan (2020), Narthaki Nataraj (2021) and Bragha Bessell (2022).

The awards will be presented by Chief Minister M K Stalin while inaugurating the 96th Annual Conference and Concert on 15th December 2022.

364. Indian filmmaker **Shaunak Sen's** documentary '**All That Breathes**' has won the top documentary award or L'Oeil d'Or at the 75th Cannes Film Festival 2022. The 90-minute documentary depicts the story of siblings Mohammad Saud and Nadeem Shehzad, who have devoted their lives to rescuing and treating injured birds, especially the Black Kites.

Other winners at 2022 Cannes Film Festival:

- **Palme d'Or:** Triangle of Sadness, directed by Ruben Östlund
- **Grand Prix:** Stars at Noon, directed by Claire Denis and Close directed by Lukas Dhont
- **Jury Prize:** Eo, directed by Jerzy Skolimowski and Le Otto Montagne, directed by Charlotte Vandermeersch and Felix van Groeningen
- **Best Director:** Park Chan-wook for Decision to Leave
- **Best Actor:** Song Kang-ho for Broker
- **Best Actress:** Zar Amir Ebrahimi for Holy Spider
- **Best Screenplay:** Tarik Saleh (Boy from Heaven)
- **Camera d'Or:** Gina Gammell and Riley Keough for War Pony
- **Jury Special Award:** Tori and Lokita
- **Jury Special Award (documentary):** Mariupolis 2

The winners are selected by a nine-member jury headed by French actor **Vincent Lindon** and presented in a closing ceremony inside Cannes' Grand Lumière Theater. The jury also included Bollywood actress **Deepika Padukone**.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

365. A new book titled '**Leaders, Politicians, Citizens: Fifty Figures Who Influenced India's Politics**' has been authored by **Rasheed Kidwai**. The book compiles stories of 50 personalities who influenced India's political landscape. The book is published by Hachette India. The foreword of the book is written by **Shashi Tharoor**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha).

- 366.** The Governor of Andhra Pradesh **Biswabhusan Harichandan** has released the book titled 'Paramardham'. The book is written in Telugu by Sri KRBHN Chakravarthi, Secretary of State Election Commission, Andhra Pradesh.
- 367.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a book titled '**INDO-PAK WAR 1971-Reminiscences of Air Warriors**'. The book comprises 50 articles penned by the veterans who have shared their experiences in detail. The book has been edited by Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan.
- 368.** 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.
- 369.** 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**.
- 370. 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.

- 371. Ruskin Bond** has authored a new book titled '**Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure**'. The book is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI). Ruskin Bond was born in Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh in 1934. His first novel, The Room on the Roof, which was written when he was seventeen, received the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize in 1957. He received the Sahitya Akademi Award for English writing in India in 1992, the Padma Shri in 1999, the Delhi government's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012 and Padma Bhushan in 2014 for his contribution to literature.

PERSON IN NEWS

- 372.** Lieutenant General **Baggavalli Somashekar Raju** has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff with effect from 1st May 2022. He was serving as the Director-General Military Operations during the standoff on the LAC.
- 373.** Former Amazon Music director and entertainment industry veteran **Sahas Malhotra** has been appointed as the new CEO of **JioSaavn**. He has also earlier worked with Sony Music India and Tips Industries.
- JioSaavn is an audio streaming service for South Asian music and artists that was founded in 2007 as Saavn. In March 2018, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) acquired a majority stake in the firm.
- 374.** **Sudarshan Venu** has been appointed as the Managing Director of TVS Motor Company, the third largest 2-wheeler company in India. Previously, he was the Joint Managing Director of TVS Motor Company.
- 375.** **Sangeeta Singh**, a 1986 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, has been given additional charge of Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) with effect from 2nd May 2022. She has been appointed after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on 30th April 2022.
- 376.** **Traun Kapoor**, an IAS from the 1987-batch Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the adviser to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has been appointed to the post initially for a period of **2 years** from the date of joining or until further orders, whichever is earlier. Earlier, he served as the secretary to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- 377.** **Nand Mulchandani**, an Indian-origin man, has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the foreign intelligence and counterintelligence agency of the United States of America (USA). With this, he has become the first-ever Indian origin person to become the CTO of the CIO.
- 378.** IBM Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Arvind Krishna** has been elected to the Board of the Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining period of a three-year term ending 31st December 2023. He has been elected as a Class B director.

379. Air Marshal **Sanjeev Kapoor** has been appointed as the new Director General (Inspection and Safety) of the Indian Air Force with effect from 1st May 2022. Previously, he was commissioned in the Flying branch of IAF in December 1985 as a Transport Pilot.

380. InterGlobe Aviation has appointed **Venkataramani Sumantran**, an independent non-executive director of IndiGo, as chairman of the IndiGo Board. He has succeeded Meleveetil Damodaran.

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

Her Achievements:

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

She was awarded the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award in 2020.

382. 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.*

383. 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.

384. 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.

385. 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.

386. 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.

387. 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.

388. 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.

389. 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.

390. 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**.

391. 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.

392. **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.

393. **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.

394. 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.

395. 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.

396. 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.

397. 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.

398. 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.

399. 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.

400. 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.

401. 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.

402. 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.

403. 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.

404. 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.

405. 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**.

- 406. 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.
- 407. 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.
- 408. 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).
- 409. Vijay Shekhar Sharma** has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm for a tenure of **5 years**. His tenure will be from 19th December 2022 to 18th December 2027. **Madhur Deora** has been appointed as the Additional Director of the company for a tenure of 5 years from 20th May 2022, to 19th May 2027.
- 410.** JSW Group has appointed **Gaurav Sachdeva** as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JSW One Platforms, an e-commerce venture of the group.
- 411.** Australia's Labour Party leader **Anthony Albanese** has been sworn in as the **31st Prime Minister of Australia**. He is the first Labour prime minister since 2013. He has succeeded Scott Morison.
- 412. Rhythm Mamanía**, a 10-year-old girl from Worli, Mumbai, **Maharashtra**, has become one of the youngest Indian mountaineers to summit the Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) in the Himalayan ranges in Nepal. She has joined young Indian climbers to climb the base camp. She has achieved a rare feat by completing the climb to the base camp at an altitude of **5,364 meters** in 11 days.

- 413.** The President of India Ramnath Kovind has appointed **Vinai Kumar Saxena**, currently serving as the chairperson of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), as the new Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi. He has succeeded Anil Bajjal.
- 414.** India's Union Health Secretary **Rajesh Bhushan** has been appointed as the chairperson of the Committee B at the 75th World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The WHA functions through two types of committees: committee A and committee B. Committee A primarily discusses technical and health matters, and the Committee B primarily discusses administrative and financial matters of the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 415.** An Indian representative **Anwar Hussain Shaik** has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) under the Council for Trade in Goods at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) after a gap of 10 years. He will take this role from Elisa Maria Olmeda de Alejandro from Mexico.
- TBT Committee work involves two broad areas: Review of specific measures and strengthening implementation of the TBT agreements.
- 416.** IT services major **Infosys** has re-appointed **Salil Parekh** as the CEO and MD of the company for the period of five years i.e. from 1st July 2022 to 31st March 2027. This appointment is based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) and is subject to the approval of shareholders.
- 417.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the proposal for the appointment of **Vivek Kumar**, IFS (2004) as Private Secretary (PS) to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is currently the director of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

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OBITUARIES

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

- 419.** 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.
- 420.** 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.
- 421.** 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**.
- 422.** **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.
- 423.** 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.
- 424.** **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.
- 425.** 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.
- 426.** 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.

427. 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**.

428. 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.

429. Former Albanian President **Bujar Nishani** has passed away recently due to the health problem. He was born on 29th September 1966 at Durres, Albania. He served as the **President of Albania** from 2012 to 2017. He was well known for his centre-right political affiliation from the leftist coalition.

430. Indian politician **Shivaji Patnaik** has passed away recently in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. He was born on 10th August 1930 in Khordha district of Odisha. He was considered the architect of the formation of **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** in Odisha in 1961. He was elected from the Bhubaneswar Lok Sabha seat thrice in 1977, 1989 and 1991.

431. Legendary British jockey **Lester Keith Piggott** has passed away recently in Geneva, Switzerland. He was born on 5th November 1935 in Wantage, Berkshire, England. He was popularly known as "The Long Fellow". He was an 11-time champion and winner of 30 Classics, including a remarkable nine Epsom Derby victories.

SPORTS

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

Event	Winners
Men's singles	Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia)

Women's singles	Wang Zhiyi (China)
Men's doubles	Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yerima Rambitan (Indonesia)
Women's doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)
Mixed doubles	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)

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

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

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

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

About Santosh Trophy:

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

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

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

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

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

Top rankers:

Men's Singles: Fan Zhendong of China

Women's Singles: Chen Meng of China

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 440.** 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.
- 441.** 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.
- 442.** 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)

- 443.** 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.
- 444.** 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

445. 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.

446. 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.

447. 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.

448. 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)

449. 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).

450. 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)

451. 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.

452. 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.

453. 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.

454. 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.

455. 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).
- **Nikhath 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.

456. 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

457. Manchester City Football Club have won 2021/22 Premier League title after defeating Aston Villa in the final game of the season. With this, the club have now won four Premier League titles and eight major trophies under Pep Guardiola since his arrival in the summer of 2016.

458. Hockey Haryana has won the 12th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2022 after defeating Hockey Jharkhand in the final match held in Imphal, Manipur. Uttar Pradesh Hockey team has defeated Madhya Pradesh Hockey team to finish on the third place in the championship.

459. Indian Grandmaster **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** has registered his 2nd win of season over the world champion Magnus Carlsen (Norway) at the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament. He defeated Magnus Carlsen for the first time in February 2022 at Airthings Masters, an online rapid chess tournament.

460. Ding Liren (China) has won the Chessable Masters online rapid chess tournament after defeating Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the final round.

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461. Netherlands Red Bull's driver **Max Verstappen** has won the 2022 Spanish Grand Prix held at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya in Montmeló, Spain. Mexican Sergio Perez (Red Bull)

has finished second, and Britain's George Russell (Mercedes) has finished third in the competition.

462. Red Bull's **Sergio Perez (Mexico)** has won the 2022 F1 Monaco Grand Prix title held at the Circuit de Monaco, Monaco. He has won his first Formula One race of the season and the third of his career. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz has finished second and Red Bull's Max Verstappen has finished third in the race.

463. Punjab Kings opening batter **Shikhar Dhawan** has become the first player to hit 700 fours in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL). He has achieved this feat during the IPL 2022 match between Punjab Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. He is followed by David Warner and Virat Kohli, with 577 and 576 fours, respectively.

464. The first **Bahrain Para-Badminton International Championships 2022** has been held from 16th to 22nd May in Manama, Bahrain. The Indian para badminton team has finished with **23 medals (7 Gold, 3 Silver, and 13 Bronze)**. Gaurav Khanna is the Indian para-badminton Team Head National Coach.

Gold Medal Winners List	
Event	Gold Medal Winners
Women Singles	Nithya Sre
Men's Singles SL3	Pramod Bhagat
Men's Singles SL4	Tarun Dhillon
Men's Doubles SL3-SL4	Nitesh Kumar and Tarun Dhillon
Mixed Doubles SL3-SU5	Pramod Bhagat and Manisha Ramdas
Women Doubles SL3-SU5	Mandeep Kaur and Manisha Ramdas
Men's Doubles SH6	Sivarajan and Dhinakaran

465. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has signed a new partnership with the Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT) platform, **FanCraze** as the official associate partner for the Women's T20 Challenge.

- The Women's T20 Challenge features three teams – the Supernovas, Trailblazers and Velocity. The tournament has started on 23rd May and will run until 28th May 2022 at Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA) Stadium in Pune, Maharashtra.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFT):

It is a digital asset that represents real-world objects like art, music, in-game items and videos. They are bought and sold online, frequently with cryptocurrency, and they are generally encoded with the same underlying software as many cryptos.

- 466.** Indian boxer and Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist **Lovlina Borgohain** has been elected as chairman and voting member on the Board of Directors for the Athletes' Committee, the International Boxing Association (IBA). She has received the highest number of votes during the election held at the 2022 Women's World Championships.
- 467.** Indian boxer **Shiva Thapa** has also been elected as a member of the IBA Athletes Committee following the election held during the 2021 IBA Men's World Championships.
- 468. Hockey Association of Odisha** has won the 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship title after defeating Hockey Karnataka in the final competition held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- 469. Gujarat Titans** has won the 15th edition of the 2022 Indian Premier League (IPL) title by defeating Rajasthan Royals in the final match held at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. Hardik Pandya is the captain of Gujarat Titans.

List of all Winners (2022 IPL):

- Aramco Purple Cap Winner of the Season: **Yuzvendra Chahal** (27 Wickets)
- Aramco Orange Cap Winner of the Season: **Jos Buttler** (863 Runs)
- Player of the Match (Final): Hardik Pandya
- Upstox Most Valuable Player of the Season: Jos Buttler
- Punch Super Striker of the Match (Final): David Miller
- Dream11 Game Changer of the Match (Final): Hardik Pandya
- Unacademy Let's Crack It Sixes Award (Final): Yashasvi Jaiswal
- CRED Powerplayer of the Match (Final): Trent Boult
- Upstox Most Valuable Asset of the Match (Final): Hardik Pandya
- SwiggyInstamart Fastest Delivery of the Match (Final): Lockie Ferguson
- Rupaya On The Go 4s of the Match (Final): Jos Buttler
- IPL 2022 Emerging Player of the Season: Umran Malik
- Unacademy Let's Crack It Sixes Award of the Season: Jos Buttler
- Punch Super Striker of the Season: Dinesh Karthik (SR – 183.33)
- Dream 11 Game Changer of the Season: Jos Buttler
- PayTM Fairplay Award: Gujarat Titans & Rajasthan Royals
- CRED Powerplayer of the Season: Jos Buttler
- SwiggyInstamart Fastest Delivery of the Season: Lockie Ferguson (157.3 KMPH)
- Rupaya On The Go 4s of the Season: Jos Buttler
- Tata IPL Catch of the Season: Evin Lewis

IMPORTANT DAYS

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

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

471. World Tuna Day is observed annually on **2nd May** to spread awareness about the importance of **tuna fish**. The day was established by United Nations in 2016 by the UN General Assembly to preserve the Tuna fish. Tuna is an important source of food for humans as fish has many rich properties like omega 3, vitamin B12, protein and other minerals.

472. World Press Freedom Day is observed annually on **3rd May** to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom, assess the state of press freedom around the world, defend the media against the attacks on its independence and pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives while performing their duty.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Journalism under Digital Siege'
- In 2022, UNESCO and the Republic of Uruguay hosted the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Conference in hybrid format in Punta Del Este, Uruguay from 2nd to 5th May 2022.

473. World Laughter Day is observed annually on the **first Sunday** of May to spread awareness about laughter and its many healing benefits. In 2022, the day falls on **1st May**. The day was first observed in Mumbai in 1998 when Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the Laughter Yoga Movement, hypothesised that facial movements could reflect the mental state of a person.

474. World Asthma Day is observed annually on the **first Tuesday** of **May** to spread awareness about asthma, a condition in which the airways narrow and swell and may produce extra mucus. In 2022, the day falls on **3rd May**. The day has been organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), a World Health Organization (WHO) collaborative organization founded in 1993. The day was first observed in 1998.

- **Theme 2022:** Closing Gaps in Asthma Care

475. International Firefighters' Day is observed annually on **4th May** to recognise and honour the sacrifices of firefighters who risk their lives for others. The day also marks the feast day of St Florian, the patron saint of fire-fighters, chimney sweeps, and brewers. The day was first observed in 1999.

- The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon. The red color symbolizes fire and the blue symbolizes water.

476. Coal Miners Day is observed annually on **4th May** to highlight the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands. The first-ever coal mine was opened in 1575 by George Bruce of Carnock, Scotland. In India, the coal mining business began in 1774.

477. World Hand Hygiene Day is observed annually on **5th May** to maintain global promotion, visibility, and sustainability of hand hygiene in health care. It is annually led by the World Health Organization (WHO).

- The campaign 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' theme of World Hand Hygiene Day 2022 is a "health care quality and safety climate or culture", and the slogan is "**Unite for safety: clean your hands**".
- 'Save Lives: Clean Your Hands' was launched by WHO in 2009. It is now celebrated as World Hand Hygiene Day.

478. World Portuguese Language Day is observed annually on **5th May** to highlight the important role this language plays in preserving human civilization and culture. The 40th session of UNESCO's General Conference decided to proclaim 5th May of each year as "World Portuguese Language Day" in 2019.

479. International No Diet Day is observed annually on **6th May** to promote body acceptance and body shape diversity. The day was celebrated for the first time in the UK by British lady Mary Evans in 1992.

480. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has observed its raising day on 7th May 2022. It was founded on 7th May 1960 as a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence with *Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam* as its motto.

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Director General: Rajeev Chaudhary

481. World Athletics Day is observed annually on **7th May** to spread awareness among youth and children regarding the importance of sports and fitness. The day is a part of a project named 'Athletics for a Greater World' which was initiated by World Athletics, formerly known

as International Amateur Athletics Federations (IAAF). The day was first observed in 1996 by Primo Nebiolo who was the then-president of IAAF.

482. World Thalassemia 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 Thalassemia International Federation (TIF), in the loving memory of his son George and the other thalassemia patients who fought this disease.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Be Aware.Share.Care: Working with the global community as one to improve thalassemia knowledge'
- *Thalassemia 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 thalassemia, alpha and beta, along with Thalassemia minor, intermedia and major as its subcategories.

483. 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).

484. 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.

485. 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.

486. 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.*

487. 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.

488. 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.

489. 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.

490. 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.

491. 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.

492. 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.

493. 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.

494. 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”

495. 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

496. 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’

497. 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.

498. 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.

499. 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’

500. 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"

501. 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.

502. 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.

503. 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.

504. 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.

505. International Day for Biological Diversity is observed annually on **22nd May** to increase awareness and understanding of the issues of biodiversity. Biodiversity is essential for sustaining the balance of the planet. The day was first observed in 2001.

- **Theme 2022:** "Building a shared future for all life"

506. International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is observed annually on **23rd May** to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women during childbirth in developing countries.

- **Theme 2022:** "End Fistula Now: Invest in Quality Healthcare, Empower Communities!"

507. World Turtle Day is observed annually on **23rd May** to help people celebrate and protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world. The day was started by a non-profit organization called American Tortoise Rescue (ATR). This organization was founded in 1990 and the World Turtle Day was first observed in 2001. The year 2022 marks the 22nd International World Turtle Day.

- **Theme 2022:** "Shellebrate" Asks Everyone to Love and Save Turtles

508. Commonwealth Day is observed annually on the **second Monday of March** in most of the 54 countries of the Commonwealth, with the British queen delivering a speech on the radio.

- However, India and a few other countries celebrate it on **24th May**. The day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Delivering a Common Future'

509. The United Nations (UN) has observed the "**International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories**" from **25th May to 31st May 2022**. The aim is to take effective measures to protect and guarantee the inalienable rights of the people of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to their natural resources, including land. The week was first observed in 2000.

510. World Thyroid Day is observed annually on **25th May** to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid diseases, their symptoms, prevention, and treatments. The day was established in 2008 during the congress of the European Thyroid Association (ETA). The day also marks the anniversary of ETA's foundation in 1965. Blue paisley ribbon is the international symbol of thyroid awareness.

- **Theme 2022:** Thyroid and Communication
- International Thyroid Awareness Week has been observed from 22nd to 28th May 2022 under the theme "It's not you. It's your thyroid".

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- 511. International Missing Children's Day** is observed annually on **25th May** to spread awareness about child abduction and educate the general public on the measures to protect and safeguard their children. The day was first observed in 2001.
- 512. Africa Day** is observed annually on **25th May** to commemorate the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). OAU was created on 25th May 1963 and was transformed and remodelled into the African Union (AU) on 9th July 2000. The year 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the African Union.
- **Theme 2022:** "Strengthening Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security on the African continent"
 - The African Union has designated 2022 as the 'Year of Nutrition'
- 513. World Hunger Day** is observed annually on **28th May** to highlight the importance of ending hunger. The day was founded by The Hunger Project in 2011 to call attention to the global food crisis. The year 2022 marks the 12th edition of World Hunger Day.
- **Theme 2022:** #EndHunger #YouthEndingHunger
- 514. World Menstrual Hygiene Day** is observed annually on **28th May** to spread awareness about the importance of good menstrual health and hygiene for all women and girls. The day was initiated by WASH united in 2013 to create a world where no one is held back because of their period by 2030. The day was first observed in 2014.
- The World Menstrual Hygiene Day annually coincides with the observance of the **International Day of Action for Women's Health (28th May)**.
- 515. International Everest Day** is observed annually on **29th May** to celebrate the first summit of Mount Everest (8,849 metres) by New Zealand's Sir **Edmund Hillary** and Nepal's **Tenzing Norgay Sherpa**. The duo climbed Mount Everest on this day in 1953.
- Nepal government announced May 29 as the International Everest Day in honour of Tenzing Norgay. The day was observed for the first time in 2008, the year Edmund Hillary died.
- 516. International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers** is observed annually on **29 May** to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilian personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour nearly 4,200 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 135 last year. The theme for this year's Day is **"People. Peace. Progress. The Power of Partnerships."** The day was first observed in 2003.
- The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on **29th May 1948** when the Security Council deployed a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East

to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) with the objective to monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

517. World Digestive Health Day is observed annually on **29th May** to focus upon a particular digestive disease and/or disorder in order to increase general public awareness of prevention, prevalence, diagnosis, management and treatment of the disease and/or disorder. It is organised by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO) in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF). The day was launched in 2004 to mark the 45th anniversary of the creation of WGO.

- **Theme 2022:** “Colorectal Cancer Prevention: Getting Back on Track”

518. World Vape Day is observed annually on **30th May** to raise awareness about the alternatives to harmful tobacco products and highlights the relative safety of e-cigarettes and their potential as harm reduction and smoking cessation tools. The day was launched by the World Vapers’ Alliance (WVA).

519. World No Tobacco Day is observed annually on **31st May** to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco, the business practices of tobacco companies, what the World Health Organization (WHO) is doing to fight tobacco use, and what people around the world can do to claim their right to health and healthy living.

- **Theme 2022:** ‘Tobacco: Threat to our environment’
- In 1987, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution calling for the celebration of World No Tobacco Day every year on 31 May.

520. The World Health Organization (WHO) has selected **Jharkhand** for the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) Award-2022 for recognising its efforts in controlling tobacco consumption. State Tobacco Control Cell of the Health Department has received the award on the occasion of **World No Tobacco Day (31st May)** in New Delhi.

- As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)-1 report, the tobacco prevalence rate in the state was 51.1 percent, of which 48 percent were smokeless users. The GATS-2 report, which was published in 2018, states that tobacco users came down to 38.9 percent in the state, of which 35.4 percent were smokeless users.

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