

PRACTICE **MOCK**



June 2022 - Week 4

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Army Training Command (ARTRAC) has collaborated with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** to establish a **5G test bed**. It will be established at the Military College of Telecommunication in **Mhow**, Indore, to assist the army in implementing 5G technology for operational application, particularly along international frontiers. This collaboration will facilitate the Indian Army to utilise the 5G technology for its operational use, especially along its borders.
2. **Apollo Hospitals** has tied up with **Imperial Hospital Ltd (IHL)** to strengthen its presence in **Bangladesh** to enable access to world-class treatments. Under this collaboration, Apollo hospitals will manage IHL, a 375 bedded multi-specialty tertiary care hospital-based out of Chittagong, Bangladesh.
  - Imperial Hospital and Apollo Hospitals have also signed a Brand licensing, Operations, and Management (BOMA) agreement to bring healthcare of International standards within the reach of every individual.

3. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States (US) has announced a funding of **USD 122 million** to top three Indian medical research institutions to prevent avoidable epidemics, early detection of disease threats, and rapid and effective response.
- These institutions are *Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)* in New Delhi, *National Institute of Virology (NIV)* in Pune and *National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE)* in Chennai. The funding period will be **5 years**, from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2027.
4. Union Culture Minister G. Kishan Reddy has inaugurated **Jyotirgamaya**, a festival showcasing the talent of unsung performers in **New Delhi**. Sangeet Natak Akademi has organised this festival to showcase the talent of rare musical instruments from across the country, including street performers and train entertainers. It is a 5-day festival organized from **21-25 June 2022**.

The Sangeet Natak Akademi is India's national academy for music, dance and drama. It was created by a resolution of the then Ministry of Education in 1952 with Dr P.V. Rajamannar as its first Chairman. It is presently an autonomous body of the Ministry of Culture.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Chairman:** Uma Nanduri

5. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched communication satellite **GSAT-24** from **Kourou** in **French Guiana**. It has been built by ISRO for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) and has been launched by French company Arianespace. NSIL has leased the entire satellite capacity to Tata Play.

#### **GSAT-24:**

GSAT-24 is a 24-Ku band communication satellite weighing 4180 kg with pan-India coverage for meeting DTH application needs. It was the first "demand driven" communication satellite mission undertaken by NSIL post space sector reforms.

6. Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Jitendra Singh has inaugurated a **Seismological Observatory** at Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir. It is an initiative of the National Center for Seismology (NCS), New Delhi. With this, **Udhampur** has become India's 153rd Seismic Station. This centre will record the data related to the inner activities of the earth's crust and will provide data to various seismological stations across the globe.
- **Note:** Udhampur district lies between the two major seismogenic faults, namely Main Frontal Thrust (MFT) and Main Boundary Thrust (MBT), which are among the potential factors for generating earthquakes in the J&K region

**7. Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, Delhi** has become India's first to run entirely on hydro and solar energy. The majority of the consumption is hydro-dependent. This reduces energy emissions by 2 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide per year which would satisfy the airport's goal to achieve the 'Net Zero Carbon Emissions Airport' target by **2030**.

- The Delhi airport has a **7.84 MW** solar power plant on the airside, while it added another 5.3 MW rooftop solar power plant on the cargo terminals of the IGI airport.
- For hydropower, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has signed a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with a Himachal Pradesh-based hydropower producing company for the supply of hydroelectricity to the airport until **2036**.

**Note:** In 2015, the Cochin International Airport in Kerala became the first airport in the world to run solely using solar energy.

**8. The first India-Nepal Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train** has been flagged off from **Safdarjung Railway Station** in New Delhi. This tourist train will connect India and Nepal, for the first time. The train is carrying 500 Indian tourists on board.

- The train started its first trip on Ramayana Circuit for 18 days from 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.
- First trip of the train will cover the religious destination of Janakpur (in Nepal), apart from other popular destinations like Ayodhya, Nandigram, Varanasi, Sitamarhi, Chitrakoot, Prayagraj, Hampi, Pancvati (Nasik), Rameshwaram and Bhadrachalam.
- Exterior of the coaches of Bharat Gaurav trains have been designed as kaleidoscope of Bharat Gaurav (Pride of India).
- The train will cover a distance of about 8000 km in the entire Ramayana tour.

The Ramayana Circuit is one of the 15 thematic circuits identified for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of the Ministry of Tourism of India.

**9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the new premises of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry named 'Vanijya Bhawan', and launched a new portal NIRYAT (**National Import-Export Record for Yearly Analysis of Trade**), a one-stop place for all info needed on India's foreign trade.

#### **Vanijya Bhawan:**

- It has been completed in less than the budgeted cost of **Rs.226 crore**.
- It will serve as an integrated and modern office complex for its two Departments i.e. Department of Commerce, and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

#### **NIRYAT:**

- It is developed as a one stop platform for stakeholders to get all necessary information related to India's foreign trade.
- It will provide important information related to more than 30 commodity groups exported to more than 200 countries of the world.

**10. Ministry of Defence** has approved setting up of wayside amenities under the brand of '**BRO Cafes**' at **75 locations** on different sections of roads with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) across 12 states and Union territories.

- BRO Cafes are designed to give tourists access to essential amenities & comfort which will in-return increase economic activity in border regions, and create jobs for the local populace.
- The contract will have a 15-year term that may be later extended for an additional five years.
- The 12 states/UTs are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

**11. Indian Navy** and the Defence Research and Development Organization (**DRDO**) have successfully test-fired the indigenously developed shipborne weapon system, **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)**, off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha.

**Features of VL-SRSAM:**

- It has been designed to strike at the high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40km to 50km and at an altitude of around 15km.
- Its design is based on Astra missile which is a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air missile.
- Two key features of the VL-SRSAM are cruciform wings and thrust vectoring.
- It is a canisterised system, which means it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- It is developed by DRDO facilities of Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), both from Hyderabad, and Research & Development Establishment (Engineers) based in Pune.

**12.** The Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries, Prahlad Singh Patel, has inaugurated the **National Conference on Millets** under the theme '*The Future Super Food for India*' in New Delhi. It has been organised by industry body Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) with the support of Ministry of Food Processing

Industries. The conference has been organised to discuss opportunities and challenges in ensuring food and nutritional security.

- The production of coarse cereals in the country has increased to 17.96 million tonnes in 2020-21 from 14.52 million tonnes in 2015-16.
- The production of bajra (pearl millet) has also increased to 10.86 million tonnes in 2020-21.
- The major millets producing states in India include Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

**Important facts:**

- Currently, India is the **fifth largest exporter of millets** in the world, according to 2020 data and nearly 41% of total global production was met by India in 2020.
- The government has declared 2018 as the National Year of Millets and celebrated **2023** as the **International Year of Millets** at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

**13.** Indian Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has authorized two Indian private firms, **Dhruva Space** Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad and **Digantara** research & technologies Pvt. Ltd. Bangalore, to launch their payloads into space. They are the first set of space start-ups to receive the authorization.

**Two payloads include:**

- Dhruva Space Satellite Orbital Deployer (DSOD 1U), a technology demonstration payload
- Digantara's ROBUst Integrating Proton Fluence Meter (ROBI), a Proton dosimeter payload

The payloads will be launched by the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) of PSLV-C53 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. PSLV-C53 is the 55th mission of ISRO's scheduled to be launched on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

**14.** The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying, has launched the '**One Health Pilot**' initiative in **Bangalore, Karnataka**.

- **Objective:** To bring stakeholders from animal, human and environment health on a common platform to address the challenges through One-Health approach.
- It is being implemented by DAHD in collaboration with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- In April 2022, DAHD launched a pilot project in Uttarakhand to implement the One Health Framework by One Health Support Unit.

15. Entrepreneur **Ranjit Bajaj**, who earlier owned an I-League club, has been appointed as the Chairman of an Advisory committee to assist the Supreme Court-appointed **Committee of Administrators (CoA)**. The 12-member advisory committee was appointed by the CoA to oversee the day-to-day matters of various departments of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
16. **Ministry of Communications** has launched '**Dak Karmayogi**', an e-learning portal of the Department of Posts. The objective is to provide better services by upgrading employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks.
- This portal has been developed 'In-House' under vision of 'Mission Karmayogi', which was conceptualized by Prime Minister with a view to bring efficiency of bureaucracy with 'Minimum Government' and 'Maximum Governance'.
  - The Portal will enable the trainees to access the uniform standardized training content online or in blended campus mode to enable them to effectively deliver a number of **G2C (Government to Citizen)** services for enhanced customer satisfaction.

During the event, Union Minister of Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw has also conferred the **Meghdoot Awards 2021** to recognise the good performance of employees of Department of Posts.

**8 Postal officials** have been conferred with Meghdoot awards for the year 2021:

- **Ashok Kumar Sahoo** (Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) Branch Postmaster (BPM), Cuttack South Division, Odisha Circle);
- **Prem Lal** (Mail Runner, Mandi Division, Himachal Pradesh Circle);
- **Dhananjay T** (Postal Assistant, Circle Office, Karnataka Circle);
- **Vijender Singh Rana** (Technical Supervisor, Mail Motor Service, Delhi Circle);
- **Sandeep Gundu Kadgaonkar** (ASP, Goa Region, Maharashtra Circle);
- **Randhir Kumar** (Assistant Director, Circle Office, Bihar Circle);
- **Challa Sri Nagesh** (Deputy Manager, CEPT, Hyderabad); and
- **K. Kalaivani** (Assistant Director, Southern Region, Madurai, Tamil Nadu Circle).

17. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS-Delhi**) has developed an anti-gravity bodysuit, in collaboration with **NIT-Jalandhar**, which will allow astronauts to perform yoga in space. It is India's first bodysuit for astronauts. This bodysuit will increase the weight by more than 70% in space to prevent them from floating.

18. Union Minister of Railways **Ashwini Vaishnaw** has launched an e-auction for **Commercial Earning**, and **Non-Fare Revenue (NFR) contracts** in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi. It has been

launched to bring commercial earning and NFR contracts under the ambit of electronic auction through the Indian Railway e-Procurement System (IREPS), in line with the prevailing e-auction of scrap sale. This policy will increase Railways earnings and also bolster efforts being taken by the Government for ease of doing business.

19. Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran while addressing an event organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India has said that India will become a **USD 5 trillion** economy by **2026-27** and **USD 10 trillion** by **2033-34**. At present India is a USD 3.3 trillion economy, assuming a 10% nominal GDP growth in dollar terms will get USD 10 trillion by 2033-34 and another doubling with the same rate.
20. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar has launched the **Honey Testing Laboratory** at **Dimapur, Nagaland**. This lab will help beekeepers and processors for testing the honey produced.
- **Note:** India ranks 8th and 9th in the world in honey producing and exporting countries respectively.
21. Ministry of Culture has received the four holy **Kapilvastu Relics of Lord Buddha** brought back from Mongolia. It is also known as 'Kapilvastu Relics' since they are from a site in Bihar first discovered in 1898 which is believed to be the ancient city of Kapilvastu. It has been placed under the 'AA' category of those Antiquities and Art Treasures which should not be ordinarily taken out of the country for exhibition, considering their delicate nature.
22. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army have successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed **Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** at KK Ranges near Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. This test has been supported by the Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S), Ahmednagar.
- ATGM uses a 'tandem' High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead.
  - It has been developed by two Pune based facilities of the DRDO's Armament and Combat Engineering (ACE) Cluster, the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), in association with Instruments Research and Development Establishment (IRDE), Dehradun.
  - It has the capability to defeat the protected armoured vehicles in ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometre.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

**23. Assam** has become the 36th state/UT to implement the '**One Nation One Ration Card' (ONORC)** program. With this, the ONORC programme has been successfully implemented in all states and Union Territories, making food security portable throughout the country.

### ONORC:

Under the ONORC (One Nation, One Ration Card), beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) can get their quota of subsidised food grains from any electronic point of sale device (ePoS)-enabled fair price shops of their choice by using their existing ration cards with biometric authentication. The implementation of ONORC was initiated in August 2019.

The ONORC will also help achieve the target set under **SDG-2: Ending hunger by 2030**.

**24.** The Government of **Tamil Nadu** has launched a skilling programme called '**Nalaya Thiran**' (Tomorrow's ability) under the 'Naan Mudhalvan' (I am the first). This programme will provide hands-on experience on problems and help the industry to get skilled students.

- This multi-agency programme has been co-created by the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), ICT Academy and Skill Development Corporation.
- In this programme, 50,000 college students will train with the knowledge in computer science, electronics and IT domains, skilling them on problem solving using technologies.

**25.** The Government of **Karnataka** has signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will help the economic activities of women self-help groups and facilitate organic farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers.

- One MoU has been signed with the **IIM Bangalore** to scale up at least 100-150 existing women-owned or women-led enterprises in the state.
- Another has been signed with **Subhiksha** that will create a direct linkage with the consumers through the online marketing platform 'Subhiksha Farmers to Consumers' app.

**26.** The Assam Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has approved the formation of a joint venture company, **Assam Rail Infrastructure Development**

**Corporation Limited (ARIDCL)**, between the Assam government and the Railway Ministry to increase the railway network in the state. The Assam government will hold a share of 51 percent and the Railway Ministry will hold the remaining 49 percent share in ARIDCL.

- 27. Sao Joao festival** is observed annually on **24<sup>th</sup> June** in **Goa** to commemorate Saint John the Baptist, who baptised Lord Jesus on the river of Jordan and is celebrated at the onset of monsoon. Siolim, a village in North Goa, hosts a traditional canoe parade on the occasion of Sao Joao. The festival is celebrated by jumping into wells and lakes.
- 28.** The state government of **Karnataka** has launched the '**Kashi Yatra**' scheme with a project outlay of Rs.7 crore. The project provides cash assistance of Rs.5,000 to each of the 30,000 pilgrims, who are willing to take up a pilgrimage to Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Pilgrims who are willing to avail the benefit must be the native of Karnataka.
  - The applicants should be above 18 years and must provide a valid age proof.
- 29.** Ladakh Lieutenant Governor R. K. Mathur has inaugurated the 4-day **Sindhu Darshan Yatra** by hoisting a national flag at the Sindhu Ghat. He has also released a 50 rupees worth of commemorative stamps with Sindhu Ghat and snow-covered mountains in the backdrop, celebrating the 26th edition of Sindhu Darshan Yatra.

#### **Sindhu Darshan Festival:**

- It is organized annually in Shey village of **Leh, Ladakh**.
- The festival aims to endorse the Sindhu River as an icon of communal harmony and unity of India.
- It is held every year on Guru Purnima (full moon day).
- It was first started in the October 1997.

- 30. Jammu & Kashmir** will host the **G20 leaders' summit** in **2023**. J&K government has set up a five-member high-level committee for overall coordination of G20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory.
- India will hold the G20 presidency from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, and will convene the G20 leaders' summit in 2023 for the first time.
  - Union Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** was appointed as India's Sherpa for the G20 in September 2021.

#### **Additional Information:**

G20 is an influential grouping that brings together the world's major economies. India has been a member of the G20 since its inception in 1999. G20 member nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**31. Ambubachi Mela**, an annual Hindu festival, is observed at the **Kamakhya Temple** in Guwahati, Assam. In 2022, the fair has been organized for four days (23 to 26 June). The festival marks the annual menstruation of the presiding Goddess in the Kamakhya Temple. The fair is an occasion to promote menstrual hygiene among the visitors through the use of sanitary pads.

**Kamakhya Temple:**

- Kamakhya is one of 51 Shakti peethas or holy sites for the followers of the Shakti cult, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva's companion.
- The temple's sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni (female genital) symbolised by a rock.
- The temple is situated on the Nilachal Hills, whose northern face slopes down to the Brahmaputra River.
- According to the legends, it was built by the demon king Narakasura but records are available only from 1565 when Koch king Naranarayana rebuilt the temple.

**Note:** The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called *Tuloni Biya*, meaning small wedding.

**32.** Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister MK Stalin has inaugurated the **Tamil Nadu Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing (TANCAM)**, India's first of its kind Centre of Excellence (CoE), in the TIDEL Park at Taramani in Chennai. It is a Rs. 212 crore joint venture between the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), and the French firm Dassault Systems.

**Other initiatives launched during the Tamil Nadu Advanced Manufacturing Conclave 2022:**

- Chief Minister MK Stalin has inaugurated two Industrial Innovation Centres (IICs) in Sriperumbudur and Hosur.
- He has also launched an **Industry 4.0 Maturity Index Survey** in partnership with Infosys, IIT-Madras and University of Nottingham. Through this survey, companies will be able to evaluate, identify and develop measures to achieve their targets.
- He has also laid the foundation stone for Tidel Neo Parks in Villupuram and Tiruppur districts.

**33. BLS International Services** has tied up with **West Bengal** government for computerization and e-governance of registration offices in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode in the Presidency Zone.

- In the project, the company will procure, install and commission the hardware for 81 offices under Presidency Zone.
- Deployment of manpower, management and maintenance of manpower and hardware will be done for five years.
- BLS will process 7,00,000 transactions per annum in the project.

**34.** The Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel has launched the **17th 'Shala Praveshotsav'** to enrol students in primary schools in the state. The three-day enrollment drive has started from Memadpur primary school in Vadgam taluka of Banaskantha district.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**35.** The **14<sup>th</sup>** edition of **BRICS Summit 2022** has been held in the virtual mode under the Chairmanship of China. It has been held under the theme **"Foster High-quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development"**.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has participated in the summit along with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa and President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro.
- BRICS countries have adopted the **'Beijing Declaration'** and also called for a push to expedite implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### Key features of Beijing Declaration:

- Strengthening and reforming global governance based on multilateralism and adherence to international laws.
- It called for reforms of principal organs of UN and urged developed countries to exercise "responsible economic policies while managing policy spillovers".
- Safeguarding Peace and Security through peaceful resolution of disputes and a world free of nuclear weapons.
- Promote post COVID-19 Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development and intensify BRICS Partnership on New Industrial Revolution (PartNIR).
- The declaration welcomed the establishment of the Digital Economy Working Group by upgrading the E-commerce Working Group.

**36.** The **United Kingdom (UK)** government has announced a partnership with leading businesses in India to offer **75** fully funded scholarships for Indian students to study in the UK from September 2022, in celebration of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

- The programmes on offer include Chevening scholarships for a one-year Master's programme, with the opportunity to study any subject at a UK university.
- Additionally, the British Council in India is offering around 18 scholarships for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) covering over 12,000 courses across more than 150 UK universities.
- The British Council is also offering six English scholarships.

HSBC India will sponsor 15 scholarships, Pearson India will sponsor 2, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Sons and Duolingo will sponsor one each as part of the 75 scholarships.

- 37.** The June 2022 plenary session of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** has been held in Berlin, Germany. According to this session, **Pakistan** will continue to be on the '**Grey List**' of countries under increased monitoring of FATF, a French based international watchdog. It will be removed if the on-site visit finds that its actions are sustainable.
- During the session, Malta was removed from the "Grey List" and Gibraltar was added to it.
  - Only North Korea and Iran are black-listed.
- 38.** The National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), the space agency of the United States, has launched a **NASA Black Brant IX suborbital sounding rocket** from the **Arnhem Space Centre** on the Dhupuma Plateau near the township of Nhulunbuy in Australia.
- It is the first occasion that NASA has launched a rocket from **Northern Territory of Australia**. It is also the agency's first commercial spaceport launch outside the United States
  - The aim is to observe the Alpha Centauri A and B constellations, the nearest star systems to the Earth.
- 39.** **China** has launched the 2nd Batch of three new remote sensing satellites of the **Yaogan-35 series** by a Long March (LM)-2D carrier rocket, from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre (XSLC) in Sichuan Province, southwest China. The satellites entered the desired orbit successfully as the second batch of the Yaogan-35 series.
- 40.** The **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** has launched a new database of the **Information System on Occupational Exposure in Medicine, Industry, and Research (ISEMIR)**, which specifically targets workers in industrial processes involving naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM), which can be termed as ISEMIR-N.
- Globally, there are over **24 million** workers in various industries such as mining, oil and gas production, mineral sands, water treatment, metal refining and recycling, phosphate

production, and geothermal energy, who are monitored to ensure radiation safety as they are exposed to NORM.

- NORM is any naturally occurring material that contains no significant amounts of radionuclides other than radionuclides of natural origin such as Uranium-238 (U-238), Thorium-232 (Th-232), and Potassium-40 (K-40).

**41. Iran** has successfully launched a solid-fuelled rocket named **"Zuljanah"** into space. It is a 25.5 meter-long rocket and is capable of carrying a satellite of 220 kilograms that will ultimately gather data in low-earth orbit and promote Iran's space industry.

- Zuljanah is named for the horse of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad.
- It is the third civilian Satellite Launch Vehicle, developed in Iran, after Safir and Simorgh.

**42.** The two African countries, **Gabon & Togo** have joined the **Commonwealth Group of Nations**, as its 55<sup>th</sup> & 56<sup>th</sup> members, respectively, at the closing session of the 26<sup>th</sup> *Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)* held in Kigali, Rwanda under the new chairmanship of Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Both countries are former **French colonies**.

- Rwanda was the last country to join the Commonwealth, in 2009.
- Gabon is bordered by Cameroon, a Commonwealth member, and Equatorial Guinea, and the Republic of Congo.
- Togo is bordered by Ghana, a Commonwealth member, and Benin and Burkina Faso.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> CHOGM:**

- It has been held in Kigali, Rwanda.
- **Theme:** "Delivering a Common Future: Connecting, Innovating, Transforming"
- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** has represented India in the summit.

**Note:** The 2024 CHOGM will be hosted by Samoa.

**43.** The 34<sup>th</sup> International Co-ordinating Council (ICC) of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has approved the designation of **11 new biosphere reserves** in 9 countries, including three countries for the first time: Chad, Georgia and Zambia. The meeting has been held in Paris, France.

**List of 11 new biosphere reserves:**

- Chimanimani Biosphere reserve (Zimbabwe)
- Kafue Flats Biosphere Reserve (Zambia)
- Harrat Uwayrid Biosphere Reserve (Saudi Arabia)
- Khuvsgul Lake Biosphere Reserve (Mongolia)
- Markakol Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan)
- Burabay Biosphere Reserve (Kazakhstan)
- Three Alazani Rivers Biosphere Reserve (Georgia)
- Dedoplistskaro Biosphere Reserve (Georgia)
- Sena Oura Biosphere Reserve (Chad)
- Doumba-Rey Biosphere Reserve (Cameroon)
- Sunshine Coast Biosphere Reserve (Australia)

Two existing biosphere reserves in Spain have also been extended. These are El Hierro Biosphere Reserve and Sierra del Rincón Biosphere Reserve.

With the new designations, the World Network of Biosphere Reserves totals **738 sites** in 134 countries.

**44.** The **Cislunar Autonomous Positioning System Technology Operations and Navigation Experiment (CAPSTONE)** mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been successfully launched on Rocket Lab's Electron rocket from the Rocket Lab Launch Complex 1 on the Mahila Peninsula, New Zealand.

- The mission will study a specific orbit where NASA plans to build a small space station for astronauts to stop at before and after going to the **moon's** surface.
- CAPSTONE spacecraft is owned and operated by a private company, Advanced Space, based in Westminster, Colorado.

The 48<sup>th</sup> edition of the **G7 Summit 2022** has been held at Schloss Elmau in Bavarian Alps, Germany. It has been held under the theme "*Progress towards an Equitable World*". It is based on five areas of action: *a sustainable planet, economic stability and transformation, healthy lives, investment in a better future, and strong together.*

Germany held the G7 presidency for the seventh time this year.

#### Participants:

- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has invited India, along with Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the 2022 Summit as partner countries.
- A number of international organisations, including the UN, WHO, WTO, IMF and the World Bank have participated in the Summit.

- Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has attended the summit.

### Key Highlights:

- The G7 countries have launched the **Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII)**, a joint initiative to fund infrastructure projects in developing countries. PGII aim to mobilise **USD 600 billion** over the next 5 years to narrow the global investment gap.
- The G7 leaders committed to a highly decarbonised road sector by **2030**, a fully or predominantly decarbonised power sector by **2035**, and prioritise the acceleration of the phase-out of domestic unabated coal power.
- The G7 leaders endorsed the goals of an international **Climate Club** to accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- The G7 leaders re-emphasised their condemnation of Russia's illegal and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. G7 countries have pledged and provided **EUR 28 billion** in budget aid and are strongly committed to support Ukrainian reconstruction through an international reconstruction plan.
- The G7 countries will also increase global food and nutrition security through the Global Alliance on Food Security.
- The G7 nations will work towards new **Just Energy Transition Partnerships** with Indonesia, India, Senegal and Vietnam.

**Note:** Japan will hold the presidency of the G7 in 2023.

- 45. South Korea** has launched its first domestically built space rocket in second attempt using a domestically developed rocket. The three-stage 'Nuri' rocket has been launched from Naro Space Centre at a launch site in Goheung, Joellanam-do province, South Korea.
- With this, South Korea has become the **10<sup>th</sup> country** to place a satellite into space with its own technology.
- 46.** The world's largest recorded **freshwater fish**, a giant stingray, has been caught in the Mekong River in **Cambodia**. This stingray, measured almost four meters (13 feet) from snout to tail and weighed slightly under **300 kilograms** (660 pounds). The previous record for a freshwater fish was a 293-kilogram (646-pound) Mekong giant catfish, discovered in Thailand in 2005.



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## REPORTS & INDICES

**47.** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has published the **Global Liveability Index 2022**. The index examined 173 cities worldwide.

- **Vienna (Austria)** has topped the index with a score of 99.1 and became the 'most liveable city' in the world once again.
- Vienna has been followed by Copenhagen (Denmark), and Zurich (Switzerland).
- Damascus (Syria) has retained its title as the least liveable city in the world.
- Six of the top ten cities are located in Europe.

**Note:** Kyiv (Ukraine) and Beirut (Lebanon) are excluded from the Global Liveability Index 2022.

**48.** According to the latest report by rating agency CRISIL, the data centre capacity in India is expected to double to around **1,700-1,800 megawatt (MW)** by **fiscal 2025** from 870 MW in fiscal 2022. This will require investments of over Rs 40,000 crore.

- Of the Rs 40,000 crore odd investments, a third will be to acquire land, a fifth for substations, and the balance for civil work, purchase of equipment and fit-outs.
- The share of renewables in data centre power consumption is expected to increase to about 35-40% by fiscal 2025 from less than 15% in fiscal 2022.
- The data centres will focus on an optimum mix of grid power and renewables, since electricity accounts to 45-50% of the operating expense of data centres.

**49.** The World Gold Council (WGC) has published the 'Gold refining and recycling' report. As per the report, India has become the **fourth** largest gold recycler country in 2021. In 2021, it has recycled **75 tonnes** of gold.

- In the report, **China** has been ranked first in global gold recycling chart after recycling 168 tonnes of gold in 2021.
- China is followed by Italy (80 tonnes of gold), and USA (78 tonnes of gold).
- As per the report, India's gold refining capacity has increased from 300 tons in 2013 to around 1,800 tons in 2021.

**50.** The Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has released the data from the **Sample Registration System (SRS)-Abridged Life Tables 2015-19**. As per the latest data, India's life expectancy at birth has improved from 68.6 years to **69.7 years** in the 2015-19 period. However, it is still below the global average of 72.6. It has increased by **20 years**, from 49.7 in 1970-75 to 69.7 in 2015-2019.

**Key findings:**

- The highest life expectancy at birth has been estimated for NCT of **Delhi** with 75.9 years. It is followed by Chhattisgarh with 65.3 years.
- Expectation of life at birth is highest in **Delhi (74.3 years)** for males and in **Kerala (78.0 years)** for females, whereas it is lowest in Chhattisgarh (63.7 years) for males and Uttar Pradesh (66.2 years) for females.
- **Odisha** has witnessed the highest increase from 45.7 to 69.8 years. It is followed by Tamil Nadu (increased from 49.6 to 72.6).
- **Uttar Pradesh** has the lowest life expectancy at birth of 43 years in 1970-75 which has increased to 65.6 in 2015-2019.
- Urban women from **Himachal Pradesh** has the highest life expectancy at birth of 82.3 years.
- Rural men of Chhattisgarh has the lowest life expectancy at birth of 62.8 years.
- There of a gap of 8 years in life expectancy between rural and urban areas of Assam. It is followed by Himachal Pradesh with a gap of five-years.
- **Kerala** is the only state where rural life expectancy at birth is higher as compared to urban for both women and men.
- **Bihar and Jharkhand** are the only states where male life expectancy is higher than women in both urban and rural areas.

**51.** The report titled '**Financing India's 2030 Renewables Ambition**', has been published by research company BloombergNEF (BNEF) in association with the Power Foundation of India.

**Key highlights:**

- As per the report, India will need **USD 223 billion** of investment to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030. The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to **500 GW** by **2030**.
- The report has noted that corporate commitments from Indian companies could help India achieve 86 percent of its 2030 goals of building 500GW of cumulative non-fossil power generation capacity.

- The Central Electricity Authority has forecasted that the country's reliance on coal to drop from 53 percent of installed capacity in 2021 to 33 percent in 2030, whereas solar and wind together make up 51 percent by then, up from 23 percent in 2021.
- By 2021, 165 GW of zero-carbon generation had already been installed in the country.

**52.** The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** has launched a report titled '**India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy**'. It is a first-of-its-kind study that presents comprehensive perspectives and recommendations on the Indian gig-platform economy.

### **Key highlights:**

- According to the report, India's gig workforce is expected to expand to **2.35 crore** by 2029-30.
- The report estimates that in 2020-21, **77 lakh** (7.7 million) workers were engaged in the gig economy. They constituted 2.6% of the non-agricultural workforce or 1.5% of the total workforce in India.
- At present, around 47% of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, around 22% in high skilled, and around 31% in low skilled jobs.
- The report recommends extending social security measures for such workers and their families in partnership mode as envisaged in the Code on Social Security.

### **Gig Economy:**

A Gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements. Gig Worker is a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship.

**53.** The Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE and L), Ministry of Education (MoE) has released the **Performance Grading Index for Districts (PGI-D) for 2018-19 and 2019-20**. PGI-D assesses the performance of school education system at the district level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis. The report has graded 725 districts in 2018-19 and 733 districts across the states/UTs.

### **Basis of PGI-D Report:**

- The PGI-D structure comprises a total weightage of 600 points across 83 indicators, which are grouped under **six categories:** *Outcomes, Effective Classroom Transaction, Infrastructure Facilities & Student's Entitlements, School Safety & Child Protection, Digital Learning and Governance Process.*
- These categories are further divided into 12 domains.

- The PGI-D grades the districts into **10 grades**. The highest achievable grade is '**Daksh**', which is for districts scoring more than 90% of the total points in that category or overall.
- It is followed by 'Utkarsh' (81% to 90%), 'Ati Uttam' (71% to 80%), 'Uttam' (61% to 70%), 'Prachesta-1' (51% to 60%) and 'Prachesta-2' (41% to 50%).
- The lowest grade in PGI-D is '**Akanshi-3**' which is for scores up to 10% of the total points.

### Key Highlights of the report:

- Three districts from Rajasthan performed the best in the assessment. They are **Sikar, Jhunjhunu, and Jaipur**, figured in 'Utkarsh' grade in 2019-20 in contrast to a year before when no district featured in that category.
- **Rajasthan** has the highest 24 districts in this grade, followed by Punjab (14), Gujarat (13), and Kerala (13).
- The districts with the lowest scores (1 out of 50) in this category are South Salmara-Mankachar (Assam), Alirajpur (Madhya Pradesh), North Garo Hills and South Garo Hills in Meghalaya, and Khowai (Tripura) in 2019-20.
- The 12 states/ UTs which don't have a single district in the Ati-Uttam and Uttam are Bihar, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.
- None of the districts figured in the highest 'Daksh' grade in both these years.

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## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

**54. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)** has completed 2 years on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It was launched on **20th June, 2020** for a period of 125 days with a resource envelop of **Rs. 50,000 crore**, to boost employment and livelihood opportunities for returnee migrant workers and similarly affected workers in the rural area, in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Objective:** To provide immediate employment and livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and to create public assets to boost the income generation activities.
- **It** enhances long term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across six states Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- A total of 12 Ministries and Departments of Government of India participated in GKRA and a total of 50.78 crore person-days employment was generated.
- **Ministry of Rural Development** is the nodal Ministry of GKRA scheme.

**Measures taken by Gol:**

- Increase of wage under MGNREGA to **Rs. 202** a day from Rs.182 to benefit nearly 13.62 crore families.
- Government also created 39.51 lakh new job opportunities by crediting 2,583 crores in EPF accounts under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY).

**55. Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0**, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), has launched the revised **Swachh Certification Protocols** for Open Defection Free (ODF), ODF+, ODF++, and Water+ certifications. The revamped revised protocol is aligned with SBM-2.0 objectives.

**Key interventions against each certification are:**

- ODF - Robust monitoring mechanism ensured by increasing the number of survey sample size and location types.
- ODF+ - Focus on functionality of CT/PT and innovative O&M business model for their sustainability in long run.
- ODF++ - Emphasis on mechanized cleaning of septic tanks and sewers. Safe collection & treatment of used water as well as safe management of faecal sludge.
- Water+ - The focus is on collection, transportation, treatment, and reuse of both used water and faecal sludge to prevent environmental pollution.

**Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban:**

It was launched on **2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014**. The objectives of the Mission were-Achieving 100% open defecation free (ODF) status, and 100% scientific management of municipal solid waste in all statutory towns.

- SBM-U 2.0 was launched on 1st October 2022 with the overall vision of creating 'Garbage Free Cities'. The mission has introduced Used Water Management as a newly funded component for towns with less than 1 lakh population.

**56.** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has organised a virtual event to celebrate **7 years** of **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U)**, which was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **25th June 2015**. The event has been presided by Manoj Joshi, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**Key initiatives launched during the event:**

- An e-book '**7-years of PMAY-U 2015-2022**' has been released by Secretary, MoHUA.
- PMAY-U field inspection module in dashboard has also been launched on the occasion to assist visitors to inspect PMAY-U project sites/houses construction by beneficiaries with

the help of just a mobile phone. The module can be used by the Ministry, Central Nodal Agencies, PMU members, State officials and respective SLTCs/CLTCs staff.

- The winners of **Khushiyon Ka Aashiyana** Short Film Contest have also been declared. A total of 34 participants have been selected under three categories for recognition. The winners of the contest will get a cash prize and a certificate of recognition. The 1st Prize carries a cash reward of Rs.25,000, 2nd prize Rs.20,000 and the 3rd prize Rs.12,500.

### Achievements under PMAY-U:

- With a total investment of Rs.8.31 Lakh Crore PMAY-U has so far sanctioned **Rs.122.69 lakh**, out of which more than 1 crore houses have been grounded and over 61 lakh houses have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries.
- Owing to the construction work under PMAY-U, 423 lakh MT Cement and 96 lakh MT Steel has been consumed while **239 lakh jobs** have been created.
- **Six Light House Projects (LHPs)** under Global Housing Technology Challenge India (GHTC-India) is one such initiative to promote globally available construction technologies that are sustainable, eco-friendly and disaster-resilient. The project in Chennai has been completed in all respects while LHPs in Rajkot, Indore, Lucknow, Ranchi and Agartala are currently in the making.
- MoHUA has also launched **Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs)**, a sub-scheme under PMAY-U for urban migrants/poor. Under Model 1, a total of 5,478 existing government-funded vacant houses have been converted into ARHCs in Chandigarh, Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Rajkot and Surat), Rajasthan (Chittorgarh) and in Jammu. Under Model 2, 80,273 new ARHC units with TIG of Rs.178.28 crore have been sanctioned for construction by Public/Private entities. Meanwhile, construction of 22,689 new ARHC units are in progress in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.

**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban** (PMAY-U) was launched in 2015 which intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022. The scheme adopts a demand-driven approach wherein the housing shortage is decided based on demand assessment by States/Union Territories (UTs). It is divided into four verticals:

- In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR)
- Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS)
- Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)
- Beneficiary-led Individual House Construction/ Enhancement (BLC-N/ BLC-E)

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

**57. GE Steam Power** has inked a **USD 165 million** contract with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** for the supply of three nuclear steam turbines out of six units for Nuclear

Power Corporation of India (NPCIL's) domestic nuclear program- phase 1 being developed at Gorakhpur, Haryana (units - 1 to 4 (GHAVP)) and Kaiga (Kaiga-5&6) Karnataka.

- This domestic program includes 12 units of 700 MWe (Megawatts electric) being developed by NPCIL with their own nuclear reactor technology i.e., Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
- In total, it will provide India with 8.4GW of CO2-free electricity for the country, enough to power more than 14 million homes.

**58.** The GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state Finance Ministers, has extended the period for levy of GST compensation cess under sub-section (1) of Section 8 of the Goods & Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 under 28% slab by nearly 4 years from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**.

- This will enable states/UTs to repay the loans they had taken in the past two years.
- The Central govt. has borrowed and released **Rs 1.1 lakh crore** in FY21 and **Rs 1.59 lakh crore** in FY22.

Cess is levied on certain goods such as fossil fuel-based automobiles which fall into the category of 28% and collected in a fund called compensation fund.

**59.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has imposed a penalty of **Rs.30 lakh** on **Reliance Industries (RIL)** and its compliance officers, **Savithri Parekh** and **K. Sethuraman**, for failing to clarify on news or promptly disclose information with regard to stake purchases in the company's subsidiary Jio Platforms by FaceBook, Silver Lake and Vista equity partners.

**60.** The World Bank has approved a **USD 250 million** loan for '**India State Support Program for Road Safety**' for seven States under which a single accident reporting number will be set up to better manage post-crash events.

- The loan has a maturity of 18 years including a grace period of 5.5 years.
- It will be implemented in *Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal*.
- It will establish a national harmonised crash database system in order to analyse accidents and use that to construct better and safer roads.

As per the World Bank report, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between 5% to 7% of GDP (Gross Domestic Product) a year.

- 61. BSE Limited** has collaborated with the **Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (MACCIA)** to promote and create awareness in Maharashtra on the benefits of listing on Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) platform.
- Under this partnership, BSE will provide intellectual and manpower support to enterprises registered with MACCIA to get listed on the BSE SME platform.
  - BSE SME will also provide training and capacity-building programmes to MACCIA officials.

- 62. World Bank** has approved 5 loans/ funding towards India catering to different sectors. This include three loans of **USD 562 million** to fund an education project in Gujarat, a social protection program in Tamil Nadu, and a project to help recovery in the fisheries sector post the pandemic.

**List of funding approved by World Bank:**

- USD 250 million funding to Gujarat Outcomes for Accelerated Learning (GOAL), an education project in Gujarat.
  - USD 150 million funding to support the recovery of India's fisheries sector.
  - USD 162 million for the RIGHTS project in Tamil Nadu.
  - USD 245 million funding to support India's Rail Logistics project.
  - Rs.1000 crore for Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-fed farming project.
- 63. Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL)**, the lending arm of Bajaj Finserv Limited, has partnered with **Worldline**, a global firm in payment services, to develop point-of-sales (POS) payments acquiring solutions for its merchant network. Under this partnership, BFL aims to enhance its relationship with both existing and new network of merchant partners, by providing point-of-sale terminals and enabling acceptance of a wide range of payment instruments.
- 64. Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd** has tied up with Malaysia-based HiiLSE Global Sdn Bhd (HiiLSE Drones) to set up a 2.42 hectares drone factory in **Malaysia** with a daily production capacity of around 50 drones. The total outlay of the project is **Rs 115 crore**. This partnership will establish a drone ecosystem with cutting-edge artificial intelligence, machine learning, and deep learning technology.
- 65. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has introduced '**Surya Nutun**', a stationary, rechargeable and indoor cooking stove that uses the sun's energy to cook food while always being kept in the kitchen. It has been developed by IOC's research and development division at Faridabad.
- The stove currently costs between Rs 18,000 to Rs 30,000.
  - The stove has a 10-year life with no maintenance.



- It does not have a traditional battery that needs replacement. Also, the solar panel has a 25-year life.
- It can run on both solar and auxiliary energy sources simultaneously.

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**66. Tata Power Solar Systems**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, has commissioned India's largest floating solar power project in **Kayamkulam**, Kerala. The project is installed on a 350-acre water body, backwaters area, having an installed capacity of **101.6 Megawatt** Peak.

- This project is the first one in the Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) through Power Purchase Agreement category.
- This plant boasts a floating inverter platform having a 5 Megawatt (MW) capacity.

**Note:** India has set a target to achieve 500 GW of energy through solar power by 2030.

## BANKING & FINANCE

**67.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a **20-member Hybrid Securities Advisory Committee (HySAC)**, which will make recommendations for boosting the growth of such instruments, including measures focusing on ease of issuance and attracting domestic and global capital.

- The committee will be chaired by **K V Kamath**, Chairperson of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development.
- **Other members:** Harsh Shah, Sanjay Grewal, Tushar Kawedia, Mathew George, Preeti Chheda, Aravind Maiya, Samarth Jagnani, Kranti Mohan, Pratichi Mishra, Rakesh Vyas, and MS Gopikrishnan.
- In addition, the committee comprises top level officials of infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs), real estate investment trusts (REITs), finance as well as legal experts and representatives of SEBI.

**68. Liberty General Insurance** has partnered with **Peerless Financial Products Distribution Ltd (PFDDL)** to enable the distribution of Liberty's retail and commercial line of products through Peerless' network of 42 branches across the country.

**69. Acemoney** has launched UPI 123Pay payment and wearable ATM cards. It is the first company in India that has launched UPI 123Pay services in Malayalam and Tamil.

- RBI launched UPI123Pay in March 2022.
- The UPI 123Pay payment allows people to carry out cashless transactions without smartphones or internet connections using feature phones.
- The wearable ATM cards are gadgets designed as key chains and rings that enable people to carry out cashless transactions without ATM cards and phones.

- 70.** Food delivery platform **Zomato** has announced the acquisition of instant grocery startup **Blinkit** (formerly Grofers) for a cash consideration of **Rs. 4,447 crore** (\$569 million) in an all-stock deal. As part of the deal, Zomato will issue up to 629 million shares, amounting to an equity stake of 6.88% on a fully-diluted basis, at an allotment price of Rs.70.76 per share.
- 71. Protean** eGov Technologies Limited, formerly NSDL e-Governance Infrastructure Limited, has collaborated with **PayNearby** to offer Permanent Account Number (PAN) related services through Aadhar and biometric or SMS based OTP authentication for their customer. This collaboration aims to improve service delivery for the citizens as they enter the formal financial sector.
- 72.** The state government of **Kerala** has launched the '**MEDISEP**', a health insurance scheme for State Government employees, pensioners and their eligible family members. The scheme will provide cashless medical assistance with a comprehensive coverage up to 3 lakhs per year.
- The annual premium will be Rs 4,800 plus 18 percent GST for the policy period of 2022-24.
  - Monthly premium of Rs.500 will be deducted from the salary of June and pension of July onwards.
  - It is being implemented by **Oriental Insurance Company**.
  - About 30 lakh people will be benefitted by the scheme.
- 73.** The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) have approved the merger of multiplex chain **PVR** and **Inox Leisure**. PVR and Inox Leisure have received observation letters from the BSE on 20<sup>th</sup> June and 21<sup>st</sup> June with "no unfavourable observations" and "no objection," respectively. According to the documents, the Competition Commission of India must provide the necessary regulatory licences before the merging plan can forward (CCI).
- The combined entity will be named **PVR INOX Ltd.**
  - As per the agreement, the swap ratio is 3:10 i.e., 3 shares of PVR for 10 shares of Inox.
  - Promoter families will have equal participation on the board with two seats each, and the board of directors of the combined firm will be reconstituted with a total of 10 members.
  - PVR promoters will have a **10.62%** stake while INOX promoters will have a **16.66%** stake in the combined entity.

- The merged firm would run 1,546 screens over 341 buildings in 109 cities.

- 74. AU Small Finance Bank** has launched an innovative Credit Card called '**AU Bank LIT**' (**Live-It-Today**), which combines the features of multiple credit cards into a single card, ushering in a new revolution in the credit card landscape. This credit card allows cardholders to customise their choice of credit card features as per their ever-changing lifestyle requirements instead of predefined features.
- 75.** Syngenta India in association with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) has launched a price guarantee scheme for **chili farmers** of Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The agreement will facilitate guaranteeing a fair price to the farmers for their crop produce by indemnifying them for losses incurred due to a fall in market prices.
- 76.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up an **operations support subsidiary** aimed at bringing down the cost-to-income ratio. The lender will soon start a pilot run in a few regions before launching the new subsidiary pan India.
- SBI's cost-to-income ratio has increased by 240 basis points to 53.3% in the FY22 from FY19 levels.
- 77.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has provided an additional payment option of the Unified Payments Interface (**UPI**) mechanism to retail investors to apply in the public issue of Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) and Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) for a payment of up to **Rs.5 lakh** with effect from **1<sup>st</sup> August 2022**.
- SEBI in January 2019 laid down the process for payment for applications in the public issue of units of these new investment instruments through the facility of Applications Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA).
  - REITs comprises a portfolio of commercial real assets, a major portion of which is already leased out, InvITs comprise a portfolio of infrastructure assets, such as highways and power transmission assets.
- 78. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a defence Public Sector Unit (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence (MoD), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Defence Initiatives (DI) of Belarus**, and Defence Initiatives Aero Pvt Ltd. India, a part of DI Belarus. The MoU is aimed at co-operation between the three companies for supply of Airborne Defence Suite (ADS) for the helicopters of the Indian Air Force (IAF). ADS is used for providing protection to helicopters.

- 79. ICICI Bank** has launched a digital platform called '**Campus Power**' to help students aspiring to pursue higher education in India and abroad. It is also available for other bank customers also.
- The new Campus Power platform assists users to explore financial products matching their needs ranging from bank accounts including overseas accounts, education loans and its tax benefit, foreign exchange solutions, payment solutions, cards, other loans, and investments.
  - The first branch of ICICI on student ecosystem has been set up at **IIT Kanpur** and seven more will be added.
- 80.** The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, has announced to collaborate with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to create an integrated pension portal to enhance ease of living of pensioners.
- A session on pension policy reforms and digitisation regarding the disbursement of pensions to central government pensioners has been organised with the objective of updating SBI field functionaries during the two-day bankers' awareness programme in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- 81. Karnataka Bank** has launched an online savings bank (SB) account opening facility through '**Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP)**'. This V-CIP facility will elevate the customer experience by eliminating the need for a customer's physical presence at the branch to complete the Know Your Customer (KYC) process.
- 82. CARD91**, a global Payment Issuance Infrastructure company, has partnered with **Yes Bank** and **RuPay**, the flagship product of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), to help simplify payment management. Under this partnership, CARD91 will create a card management system that will allow companies to launch a variety of co-branded card instruments as well as maintain a real-time dashboard to generate insights.
- 83.** The Government of India (GoI) has made it mandatory for couples planning to become parents through surrogacy to buy a health insurance plan for **36 months (three years)** for surrogate mothers. This insurance plan should be availed from an insurance company or an agent recognized by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- As per the **Surrogacy Regulation Act 2021**, insurance means an arrangement by which a company, individual or intending couple undertakes to provide a guarantee of compensation for medical expenses, health issues, specified loss, damage, illness or

death of a surrogate mother and such other prescribed expenses incurred on such surrogate mother during the process of surrogacy.

- The couple who wants surrogacy should be married for more than **5 years**.

**84. South Indian Bank** has launched a new portal called '**SIB TF Online**' for its corporate EXIM customers. The portal facilitates a platform for trade-related payments to foreign entities remotely.

- The portal has been launched in phases, with the first phase allowing three types of import remittances such as advance remittance for Imports, remittance against import bill received from overseas bank for collection, and payment against Import documents received by the importer directly from overseas suppliers.
- The portal has been hosted on the home page of Corporate Internet Banking (SIBerNet) and will allow corporates to transact 24x7, in a safe and paperless manner.

**85.** The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched a **Dhan Sanchay Savings** plan, a non-linked, non-participating, individual savings life insurance plan offering protection and savings.

- The plan is available for a term of a minimum of **5 years** to a maximum of **15 years**.
- The minimum sum assured under this plan for options A and B is Rs.3,30,000, option C is Rs.2,50,000 and option D is Rs.22,00,000.
- The minimum age at entry is three years (complete) depending upon chosen policy term.

**86.** Bangalore-based Neobank **Freo** has launched a digital savings account app '**Freo Save**', in collaboration with **Equitas Small Finance Bank**. With this, Freo has become the *first consumer neobank* in India to provide full-stack neobanking products, including smart savings account, credit and payments products, cards, and wealth-growth products.

- Freo Save App is 100% digital with seamless UPI Integration.
- It offers 7% interest on customer savings for balances above Rs.5 lakh up to Rs.2 crore.

*Freo was co-founded by second-time founders and Indian School of Business alumni Anuj Kacker and Kunal Verma in 2015 as a personal loan platform. It is backed by investors including Sequoia Capital and Prime Venture Partners.*

**87. Max Life Insurance Company** has launched the 'Max Life Smart Fixed-return Digital Plan', a non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance savings plan, in partnership with **Policybazaar**. It has a minimum policy tenure of 5 years.

- The plan offers guaranteed tax-free returns up to 6.14% along with life cover protection at monthly premiums as low as Rs.3000.
- Special benefits for women customers: 0.25% additional maturity benefit for five years' policy term; 0.5% for ten years' policy term.
- Provides option of taking a loan against policy in case of financial emergencies.

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- 88.** The **State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank** have acquired a **9.54%** stake each in Perfios Account Aggregation Services Private Limited (Perfios AA).
- The three banks have acquired 8,05,520 equity shares each by paying Rs 4.03 crore each for the stakes.
  - The lenders bought the shares at a price of Rs.50 apiece.
  - The investments will be subject to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

## RBI IN NEWS

- 89.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the timeline for implementation of certain provisions of the master directions it issued on issuance of debit cards and credit cards by **three months** from 1st July 2022 to **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**.

### Key provisions:

- The card issuers will have to seek one-time password (OTP)-based consent from the cardholder for activating a credit card, if the same has not been activated by the customer for more than 30 days from the date of issuance.
  - The card issuers will not capitalize on unpaid charges for compounding of interest.
  - The card issuers will have to ensure that the credit limit as sanctioned and advised to the cardholder is not breached at any point in time without seeking explicit consent from the cardholder.
- 90.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released data on **India's Balance of Payments (BoP)** for the fourth quarter (Q4), i.e., January- March 2021-22.

### Key Features of India's BoP in Q4:2021-22:

- As per it, India's current account deficit (CAD) has decreased to **USD 13.4 billion** (1.5% of GDP) in Q4:2021-22 from USD 22.2 billion (2.6% of GDP) in Q3:2021-22.
- Net foreign direct investment (FDI) at **USD 13.8 billion** was higher than USD 2.7 billion in Q4:2020-21.
- Net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) has recorded an outflow of **USD 15.2 billion**, mainly from the equity market.
- Net external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India were lowered at **USD 3.3 billion** in Q4:2021-22 as compared with USD 6.1 billion a year ago.
- The foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis) was decreased by **USD 16.0 billion** as against an accretion of USD 3.4 billion in Q4 FY21.

### BoP during FY22:

- On an annual basis, CAD has recorded a deficit of **1.2%** of GDP in 2021-22 as against a surplus of **0.9%** in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to **USD 189.5 billion** from USD 102.2 billion a year ago.
- Net FDI inflows at **USD 38.6 billion** in 2021-22 were lower than USD 44.0 billion in 2020-21.
- Net FPI recorded an outflow of **USD 16.8 billion** in 2021-22 as against an inflow of USD 36.1 billion a year ago.
- Net ECBs to India recorded an inflow of **USD 7.4 billion** in 2021-22 as compared with USD 0.2 billion in 2020-21.
- In 2021-22, there was an accretion of **USD 47.5 billion** to foreign exchange reserves (on a BoP basis).

**91.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed **Venkat Nageswar Chalasani**, former Deputy Managing Director of SBI, as a member of the Advisory Committee of SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and SREI Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL). He has succeeded R Subramaniakumar, former MD & CEO, Indian Overseas Bank.

- The other two members of the committee are: T T Srinivasaraghavan (former Managing Director, Sundaram Finance Limited) and Farokh N Subedar (former Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary, Tata Sons Limited).

**92.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation deadline by three months to **30<sup>th</sup> September 2022** from 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for all Payment System Providers and Payment System Participants.

- Card-on-file, or CoF, refers to card information stored by payment gateway and merchants to process future transactions.

- Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual card details with an alternate code called the token, which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requester, and device.

**Note:** Till 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, around 19.5 crore tokens have been created.

**93.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had invited entries under the Award scheme for writing books originally in Hindi on Economics/Banking/Financial subjects for 2020–21. On evaluation of the entries received, it has been decided to jointly award **Professor Renu Jatana**, former Dean, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan and **Dr. Sagar Sanwariya**, Assistant Professor, Government Girl's College, Nathdwara, Rajasthan under this scheme for their book '**Vittiye Prabhand**'.

**94.** As per the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), credit card spending in May 2022 was **Rs 1.14 lakh crore**, 7.8% higher than the Rs 1.05 lakh crore spent in April 2022. It increased by **118 percent** year on year and by 8 percent month-on-month, due to strong e-commerce spending and higher-value spending on travel and tourism and discretionary purchases.

- **IndusInd Bank** and **Kotak Mahindra Bank** saw the highest growth of 17 percent and 15 percent respectively in terms of credit card spending. American Express, on the other hand, saw a 2 percent month-on-month decline.
- In terms of new card additions, **HDFC Bank** added the highest number of incremental cards, with 38,000 new cards added in the same month.
- The bank's market share in credit card spending stood at 27.7 percent in May 2022, up from 27.6 percent in April and 26.6 per cent in March.

**95.** On June 30, 2022, the Reserve Bank has released the **25th issue** of the **Financial Stability Report (FSR)**.

The Reserve Bank of India published the first **Financial Stability Report (FSR)** in **March 2010**. To be published every six months, these reports are an attempt at institutionalizing the implicit focus and making financial stability an integral driver of the policy framework.

The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the *Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)* on risks to financial stability, as also the resilience of the financial system. The Report also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.



**Highlights of the 25th issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR):**

- The outlook for the global economy is shrouded by considerable uncertainty because of the war in Europe, front-loaded monetary policy normalisation by central banks in response to persistently high inflation and multiple waves of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Notwithstanding the challenges from global spillovers, the Indian economy remains on the path of recovery, though inflationary pressures, external spillovers and geopolitical risks warrant careful handling and close monitoring.
- Banks as well as non-banking financial institutions have sufficient capital buffers to withstand shocks.
- The **capital to risk weighted assets ratio** (CRAR) of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) rose to a new high of **16.7 per cent**, while their **gross non-performing asset** (GNPA) ratio fell to a six-year low of **5.9 per cent** in March 2022.
- Macro stress tests for credit risk reveal that SCBs would be able to comply with the minimum capital requirements even under severe stress scenarios.

**AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

- 96.** The **2022 UN Public Service Award** winners have been announced by Liu Zhenmin, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, during a virtual event to commemorate the United Nations Public Service Day (23<sup>rd</sup> June).
- Ten initiatives from Brazil, Canada, India, Ireland, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, and Ukraine have been recognised this year.
  - From India, **Mo Bus**, a public transport bus service in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, has won the 2022 UNPSA. An e-rickshaw system called 'Mo E-Ride' has been introduced as a last-mile feeder service. **40 percent** of Mo Bus conductors are women and 100 percent of Mo E-Ride drivers are women, transgender people, and people from disadvantaged communities.
- 97.** Delhi based, Drone enterprise platform company **IG Drones** has been felicitated with the **"Best Drone Organization – Start-up Category"** by Airwards. IG Drones has been selected for the award for its approach of helping local communities and giving access to technology to various stakeholders during natural disasters and calamities.

**98.** The 21st edition of the Transilvania International Film Festival has been held in the Unirii Square in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The film **Utama**, the director's debut Alejandro Loayza Grisi, has been named the big winner of this year and has been awarded the 10,000 euro **Transylvania Trophy**.

**Other winners:**

- Best Director Award went to filmmaker **Guomundur Arnar Guomundsson**, awarded for the "credible, original and brilliant universe" he created in Beautiful Beings.
- For their exceptional roles in *The Night Belongs to Lovers*, actors **Laura Müller** and **Schemci Lauth**, have been awarded the Best Performance Award by Conceptual Lab by Theo Nissim.

**99.** Former Indian tennis player, promoter, and humanitarian, **Vijay Amritraj** has been honoured with the **Golden Achievement Award 2021** by the International Tennis Hall of Fame and the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in London, UK. He is first recipient from India and he joins an esteemed list of tennis leaders who have received the honour, including Brian Tobin of Australia, Eiichi Kawatei of Japan, and Peachy Kellmeyer of the United States.

The Golden Achievement Award is presented annually to a person who has made important contributions internationally to tennis in the fields of administration, promotion, or education and has devoted long and outstanding service to the sport.

**100.** Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw has inaugurated the India pavilion at the technology exhibition **Vivatech 2022**, held in Paris, France. Around 65 start-ups from India have participated in Vivatech 2022 with government support.

- Europe's biggest startup conference, "Vivatech 2022" has recognized **India** as the **"country of the year."**

**101.** The **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Department, Government of Odisha** has been awarded first prize in the category "National MSME Award 2022 to States/UTs for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector" by virtue of various developmental initiatives taken up for the development of MSMEs. It has been followed by Bihar & Haryana.

**Other awardees:**

- **Kalahandi** has been awarded third prize in the category “National MSME Award 2022 to Aspirational districts for outstanding contribution in the promotion and Development of MSME Sector”.
- **Sumeet Mohanty** M/s Saferisk Insurance Brokers Private Limited, Bhubaneswar has been awarded first prize in the category “Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Small Enterprise (Overall)”.
- **Sibabrata Rout** M/s Amarnath Pest Management Technology, Cuttack has been awarded third prize in the category “Award for Service Entrepreneurship – Service Micro Enterprise (Overall)”.

**102.** Former chief minister of Karnataka **S M Krishna**, founder of Infosys & IT industry veteran **N R Narayana Murthy**, as well as former badminton player **Prakash Padukone**, have been honoured with the Kempegowda International Award 2022”. The award has been presented on the occasion of the 513th birth anniversary of Kempegowda, the architect of Bengaluru city.

#### Kempegowda International Award:

Kempegowda Award, also known as Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Award, is a civilian award which is presented by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), annually. This award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a plaque. The award has been named after ruler of Vijayanagara Empire, Nadaprabhu Hiriya Kempe Gowda. He built the Bengaluru city in 1537.

**103.** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has announced the fourth cycle of **National Highways Excellence Awards (NHEA) 2021** at an event organized under the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. The theme of the 2021 awards is “Innovation and Excellence in Road Construction”.

List of Winners of NHEA 2021				
S. No.	Company Name	Project Name	State	Award
<b>Excellence in Project Management-PPP</b>				
1	Welspun Enterprises Ltd	Delhi- Meerut Expressway (Package-I)	Delhi and U.P.	Gold
2	KrishnagiriWalajahpet Tollway Pvt Ltd	Krishnagiri-Walajahpet section	Tamil Nadu	Silver
<b>Excellence in Project Management-EPC</b>				

1	BIPL - BVEPL JV	Bordumsa- Namchik road of NH-215	Arunachal Pradesh	Gold
<b>Excellence in Operation and Maintenance - Flexible</b>				
1	WalayarVadakkancherry Expressways Pvt Ltd	Walayar-Vadakkancherry section	Kerala	Silver
<b>Excellence in Operation and Maintenance - Rigid</b>				
1	Godhra Expressways Pvt Ltd	Godhra to Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh border section of NH- 59	Gujarat	Silver
<b>Excellence in Toll Management</b>				
1	FarakkaRaiganj Highway Ltd	Lakshmipur Toll Plaza	West Bengal	Combined Gold
		Bagasarai Toll Plaza		
2	Ashoka Buildcon Ltd	Hirebagewadi Toll Plaza	Karnataka	Silver
<b>Excellence in Highway Safety- Plain</b>				
1	Simhapuri Expressway Ltd	Chilakaluripet-Nellore section of NH-5	Andhra Pradesh	Silver
<b>Green Highway</b>				
1	GR Infra projects Ltd	Four Laning of NH-56 bypass connecting NH-2 with NH-56 as part of Varanasi Ring Road, Phase-2, PKG-1	Uttar Pradesh	Special Award
<b>Outstanding Work in Challenging Condition</b>				
1	Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt Ltd	Rehabilitation and up-gradation of Beodnabad-Ferragunj section of NH-223	Andaman & Nicobar	Gold

	Dibang Infra Projects Ltd	Dibang river system and connecting road between Bomjur-Meka (NH-52) and construct bridge across river Lohit at AlubariGhat and connecting road between Chowkham- Digaru	Arunachal Pradesh	
2	Dhola Infra Projects Ltd	Bridge between Dhola and Sadia ghatsalong with 2 lane connecting roads from near about Dhola to IslampurTinali	Arunachal Pradesh	Silver
3	M/S Ceigall India Ltd	Rehabilitation of Ramdas to Gurdaspur (PKG-V) Project and Construction of Kartarpur Corridor (Indian Territory)	Punjab	Special Award

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## PERSON IN NEWS

**104.** Senior diplomat **Ruchira Kamboj** has been appointed as the next Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York. She will succeed TS Tirumurti.

- Ruchira Kamboj is a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.

- She is presently serving as India's envoy to Bhutan. She is the first female Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- She has been Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO in Paris, Indian High Commissioner in South Africa, and Chief of Protocol in New Delhi.

**105. Mohammed Jalood of Iraq** has been elected as the new President of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). He is also the first Asian who became President in IWF. He has succeeded Michael Irani.

**Other appointments:**

- **Ursula Papandrea** (United States) has become the first female Vice-President of the IWF.
- **Jose Quinones** (Peru) has been elected as the General Secretary Treasurer.

**106. P Udayakumar**, Director (Planning & Marketing), NSIC has assumed the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) with effect from 20 June 2022.

**107. Shreya Lenka** (Stage-name: Sriya), a 18-year old from Odisha, has become the first-ever Indian to become a professional K-pop artiste. She is now a part of popular South Korean girl group Blackswan along with a Brazilian girl called Gabriela Dalcin.

**108. Anil Khanna** has been appointed the acting President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA). The Delhi High Court has ordered that Narinder Dhruv Batra cannot continue as the President of the IOA and appointed Anil Khanna as acting president.

**109.** The Appointment Committee of Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Nitin Gupta**, currently a Member in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), as the new chairman of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**. He has succeeded Sangeeta Singh, who currently holds the additional charge of the chairman, will continue to be Member, CBDT.

**110. Samant Kumar Goel** has been re-appointed as the head of the **Research & Analysis Wing (RAW)**. The Central govt. has extended his tenure for a period of one year i.e. **30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**. He is an IPS officer from the Punjab cadre class of 1984.

**Other appointment:**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Tapan Kumar Deka**, a 1988 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer as Director, **Intelligence Bureau** for a period of two years, till June 2024. He has succeeded Arvinda Kumar.

- 111.** Former Australia cricketer **Lisa Sthalekar** has become the first female president of the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA). She has succeeded former England batter Vikram Solanki.
- Lisa Sthalekar received **Australia's** best woman international cricketer award in both 2007 and 2008.
  - She played 187 matches for the national side from 2001 to 2013.
  - She scored 2,728 runs in ODIs and picked 146 wickets, and 769 runs in T20Is apart from claiming 60 wickets.
- 112.** **Khushi Patel**, a biomedical student from the United Kingdom, has won the title of **Miss India Worldwide 2022**, the longest-running Indian pageant outside of India. The event has been organized by the New York-based India Festival Committee (IFC).
- First runner-up: Vaidehi Dongre (USA)
  - Second runner-up: Shrutika Mane
- 113.** Former foreign secretary **Shyam Saran** has been elected the new president of the India International Centre (IIC) with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. He has succeeded N N Vohra.
- The President of IIC is elected once in five years from among the Life Trustees following the time-honoured principle of rotation of the presidency.
  - **Note:** Shyam Saran was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian award of India, in 2011 for his contributions in the field of civil service.
- 114.** New Development Bank (NDB) of the BRICS countries has appointed former bureaucrat **Dr. D J Pandian** as the Director-General of its India Regional Office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). He earlier served as the Vice President and Chief Investment Officer of the Beijing-based Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- 115.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed former Punjab Director General of Police (DGP), **Dinkar Gupta** as the Director-General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The ACC has approved his appointment till 31st March 2024 which is the date of his retirement. He is a 1987-batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre.

- Central Reserve Police Force director general DG Kuldip Singh was handling the additional charge of DG NIA after the post fell vacant following retirement of 1984 batch officer YC Modi.
- **Swagat Das** has been appointed special secretary (internal security) in the Home Ministry. He is a 1987 batch IPS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre and is presently working as Special Director in Intelligence Bureau. He has been appointed to the post till 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 that is the date of his superannuation.

**116. Avinash Kulkarni**, CEO of India Resurgence Asset Reconstruction Company (IRARC), has been appointed as the CEO of India Debt Resolution Company (IDRCL) for a period of **3 years** with effect from July 2022. He has succeeded Manish Makharia.

**117.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Parameswaran Iyer** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **NITI Aayog** for a period of **2 years** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- He is a 1981 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre and had led the Swachh Bharat Mission of the government between 2016 and 2020.
- He has succeeded **Amitabh Kant** who has completed his 6-year term as CEO of NITI Aayog till the end of June 2022.

**118.** The board of directors of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd. has approved the appointment of **Akash M. Ambani**, non-executive director, as chairman of the board. He has succeeded his father Mukesh Ambani who resigned as the company director on 27 June 2022.

- Mukesh Ambani will continue to be the Chairman of Jio Platforms Ltd., which owns all Jio digital services brands, including Reliance Jio Infocomm.
- **Pankaj Mohan Pawar** has been appointed Managing Director of Reliance Jio Infocomm for five years with effect from 27 June 2022.
- Former Union Finance Secretary **Raminder Singh Gujral** and former CVC **KV Chowdary** have been appointed independent directors.

**119. "Shabaash Mithu"**, a **Taapsee Pannu**-starrer biopic on former India women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj, will be released on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The film has been written by **Priyan Aven** and directed by **Srijit Mukherji**.

## OBITUARIES



- 120.** Noted industrialist **Pallonji Mistry**, chairman of Shapoorji Pallonji group, has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in **2016**.
- He is the largest shareholder in the Tata Group with 18.37% holding in the over \$100 billion conglomerate.
  - As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he accumulated a net-worth of almost USD 29 billion.
  - In 2021, he sold its consumer durable business under the Eureka Forbes label that operates with brands like Aquaguard and Forbes to the American private equity fund Advent International.
- 121.** Writer, lyricist and scenarist **Chowalloor Krishnankutty** has recently passed away in Thrissur, Kerala. He was born on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1936 at Variyath, Chowalloor in Thrissur, Kerala. He won the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Akademi and Kerala Sahitya Akademi awards.
- 122.** Noted Indian hockey player **Varinder Singh** has passed away in Jalandhar, Punjab. He was part of the gold medal-winning 1975 World Cup team. He was also part of the silver medal-winning 1973 World Cup team that lost the final to hosts Netherlands on penalties. He was also part of the bronze medal-winning Indian men's hockey team at the 1972 Munich Olympics. He was conferred with the prestigious **Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award** in **2007**.

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## SPORTS

- 123.** The Paytm-sponsored 5 match Twenty20 International (T20I) has been hosted by India against South Africa. The 5-match T20I series ended in a tie-breaker (2-2) as the first two matches have won by the South African Cricket team led by Temba Bavuma and 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> match was won by the Indian cricket team led by Rishabh Pant.
- **India and South Africa** have shared the trophy of the Paytm T20I series
  - The final match has been held in M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bangalore, Karnataka.
  - Senior India fast bowler **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** has been named the Players of the Series for his prolific performance with the ball by picking up a total of 6 wickets in 4 matches.

**124.** Indian javelin ace and Olympic champion **Neeraj Chopra** has won the gold medal by winning javelin throw event (86.69 meters) at the Kuortane Games 2022 in Kuortane, Finland. He has won the gold by defeating Anderson Peters of Grenada.

**125. Rumeli Dhar**, the India seam-bowling all-rounder, has announced her retirement from **international cricket**. She played her last international match in the tri-nation women's T20I series between India, Australia and England, at Brabourne in 2018. She made her international debut in 2003, against England in Lincoln.

**126. Madhya Pradesh** team has won their maiden **Ranji Trophy title** after defeating heavyweights **Mumbai** team by six wickets in the final match held at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Under the captaincy of **Aditya Shrivastava**, the team has defeated 41-time champions Mumbai. The team has been coached by former India wicketkeeper-batsman **Chandrakant Pandit**. This is his sixth Ranji title as coach.

- **Man of the Match (final):** Shubham Sharma (Madhya Pradesh)
- **Man of the Series:** Sarfaraz Khan (Mumbai) with 982 runs.
- **Other Top batters:** Rajat Patidar of Madhya Pradesh (658 runs), Chetan Dinesh Bisht of Nagaland (623 runs), Yash Dubey of MP (614 runs) and Shubham Sharma (608 runs).
- Shams Mulani of Mumbai has scored the top position in the bowling chart with 45 wickets.
- **Other Top bowlers:** Kumar Kartikeya of MP (32 wickets), spinner Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand (25 wickets), medium pacer Gaurav Yadav of MP (23 wickets) and spinner Satyajee Sunil Bachhav of Maharashtra (21 wickets).

The Ranji Trophy is named after one of India's first test cricketers, Ranjitsinhji, who played for England and Sussex. It is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between multiple teams representing regional and state cricket associations. It currently consists of 38 teams, with all 28 states in India and 4 of the eight union territories having at least one representation. The first edition of this trophy was played in 1934–35.

**127.** Indian squash player **Anahat Singh** from Delhi has won the gold medal in the girl's Under-15 category at the **Asian Juniors Squash Championships** after defeating Kwong Ena of Hong Kong in the final match held in Pattaya, Thailand.

- So far, Anahat Singh, a 14-year old, has won 46 national circuit titles, 2 national championships and 8 international titles.
- She is the only Indian girl to win the US Junior Open in any category and the British Junior Open.

**128.** The **Asian Track Cycling Championship 2022**, the 41<sup>st</sup> Senior, 28<sup>th</sup> Junior Asian, and 10<sup>th</sup> Para Track Cycling Championships has been held from 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. The championship has been hosted by India in New Delhi.

- **Japan** has topped the overall medals tally (senior, junior and para combined) with 18 gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.
- South Korea has finished second with 12 gold, 14 silver and three bronze medals, and Kazakhstan has finished third with 4 gold, 4 silver, and 3 bronze.
- The **Indian cycling team** has finished its campaign with **23 combined medals**, including two gold, six silver and 15 bronze, which is the best-ever performance by India at the championships.

**Indian medal winners:**

- Women's 4km team pursuit: Bronze (Swasti Singh, Chayanika Gogoi, Meenakshi and Monika Jat)
- Men's 4km team pursuit: Bronze (Vishwajit Singh, Dinesh Kumar, Venkappa K and Anantha Narayan)
- Men's team sprint: Bronze (Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam, David Beckham and Rojit Singh)
- Women's team sprint: Bronze (Trishya Paul, Shushikala Agashe and Mayuri Lute)
- Women's 500m time trial: Bronze (Mayuri Lute)
- Men's 4km individual pursuit: Bronze (Vishwajit Singh)
- Men's 1km time trial: Bronze (Ronaldo Singh)
- Men's individual sprint: Silver (Ronaldo Singh)
- Women's scratch race: Bronze (Chayanika Ghosh)

**Major achievement:**

**Ronaldo Singh** has become the **first Indian cyclist** to win **silver** in a continental championship in the senior category on the final day of the Asian Track Cycling Championships (ATCC) 2022, coming second in the sprint event.

**129.** The **Bolat Turlykhanov Cup 2022** has been held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. India has concluded the United World Wrestling's ranking series with **11 medals (six golds, one silver, and four bronze)**. Five of the Gold medals have been won by women.

**Indian medal winners:**

**Women:** Mansi Ahlawat (57kg) – Gold, Sarita Mor (59kg) – Gold, Sakshi Malik (62kg) – Gold, Manisha (65kg) – Gold, Divya Kakran (68kg) – Gold, Bipasha (72kg) – Silver, Pooja Sihag (76kg) – Bronze, Sushma Shokeen (55kg) – Bronze

**Men's freestyle:** Aman Sehrawat (57kg) – Gold, Bajrang Punia (65kg) – Bronze, Mohit Grewal (125kg) – Bronze

**Greco-Roman:** Neeraj (63kg) - Bronze

**130. Indian cricket team** led by Hardik Pandya for the Ireland series-2022 has defeated Ireland cricket team led by Andrew Balbirnie in both the Twenty 20 International (T20I) and has won 'Joy E-Bike Electrifying Cup'.

- **Venue:** Malahide Cricket Club, Ireland.
- **Player of the Match:** Yuzvendra Chahal (1<sup>st</sup> T20I) and Deepak Hooda (2<sup>nd</sup> T20I)
- **Player of the Series: Deepak Hooda**

#### Records in the series:

- Hardik Pandya has become the first Indian Captain to pick a wicket in T20I.
- Deepak Hooda and Sanju Samson broke the record of highest-ever partnership in T20I cricket by making 176 runs stand.

**131. Skalzang Rigzin** has become the first Indian Mountaineer to climb **Mount Annapurna** peak without supplemental Oxygen. With 16 days of gap between climb of Mt Annapurna on April 28 and Mt Lhotse on May 14, Skalzang Rigzin has set a record to conquer two summits without oxygen supplements.

#### Mt Annapurna:

Annapurna is a mountain situated in the Annapurna mountain range of Gandaki Province, north-central Nepal. It is the tenth highest mountain in the world at 8,091 metres above sea level. It is also known as the Killer Mountain due to its fatality to summit rate.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**132. International Olympic Day** is observed annually on **23<sup>rd</sup> June** to promote sports and health. The day commemorates the foundation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894 at the Sorbonne, Paris, where the Olympic Games were revived by Baron Pierre de Coubertin.

- **Theme 2022:** 'Together, For a Peaceful World'

- 133. United Nations Public Service Day** is observed annually on **23<sup>rd</sup> June** to highlight the contribution and role of public service in the development of all sectors around the world. The day was first observed in 2003.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Building back better from COVID-19: Enhancing innovative partnerships to meet the Sustainable Development Goal'
- 134. International Widows' Day** is observed annually on **23<sup>rd</sup> June** to gather support for widows and to spread awareness about their situation. The day was established by The Loomba Foundation. The day was formally adopted as International Widows' Day by the United Nations on 21 December 2010. The day was first observed in 2011.
- 135. Day of the Seafarer (DotS)** is observed annually on **25<sup>th</sup> June** to honour the vital contribution that seafarers make to global trade and the economy, frequently at considerable personal sacrifice to themselves and their families. The day was first observed in 2011. The year 2022 marks the observance of the 12<sup>th</sup> Day of the Seafarer. The day is organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- **Theme 2022:** 'Your voyage - then and now, share your journey'
- 136. World Vitiligo Day** is observed annually on **25<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness about vitiligo, a long-term skin condition caused due to lack of melanin. The day was first observed in 2011 in memory of American singer and songwriter late Michael Jackson "the King of Pop" and his struggle with vitiligo.
- **Theme 2022:** "Learning to Live With Vitiligo"
  - Purple is the official colour representing the Vitiligo.
- 137. International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking**, also known as World Drug Day, is observed annually on **26<sup>th</sup> June** to highlight the physical and psychological impact of substance abuse, drug overdose deaths and drug-related humanitarian crises with an aim to eliminate the menace from society. The day was first set by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1987.
- The **"#CareInCrises"** campaign has been organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) for this year's celebration of World Drug Day.
  - **Theme 2022:** "Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises"
- 138. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture** is observed annually on **26<sup>th</sup> June** to create awareness about torture and help victims receive the support they need. The day was first observed in 1998.

**139. World Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSME) Day** is observed annually on **27<sup>th</sup> June** to spread awareness of the tremendous contributions of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, the International Trade Centre (ITC) marks the 5th anniversary of MSME Day. The day was first observed in 2017.

- **Theme 2022:** "Resilience and Rebuilding: MSMEs for sustainable development at the forefront of building back better and stronger from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate crisis and conflicts"
- It is noteworthy that MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60 to 70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide.

**140. National Statistics Day** is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> June** to raise awareness about the use of statistics in everyday life and policy-making. The day marks the celebration of the birth anniversary of Late Professor **Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, known as the "Father of Indian Statistics". The day was first observed in 2007.

- **Theme 2022:** "Data for Sustainable Development"

**Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis:**

He was born in Kolkata on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1893. He died on 28th June 1972. He is famous across the world for "Mahalanobis Distance."

- He is one of the members of the first Planning Commission.
- He established the Indian Statistical Institute in 1931.
- He was honoured with the **Padma Vibhushan** in **1968** for literature and education.

**141. National Insurance Awareness Day** is observed annually on **28<sup>th</sup> June** to raise awareness about Insurance which offers security in several situations and to make people aware of the benefits of investing in insurance plans.

**142. The International Day of the Tropics** is observed annually on **29<sup>th</sup> June** to highlight the significance of the tropic regions and the environmental and socio-economic challenges faced by them. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution in 2016, which declared that 29 June of each year is to be observed as the International Day of the Tropics.

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**143. World Asteroid Day** is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> June** to raise awareness about the risks of an asteroid impact. The day also marks the anniversary of the Tunguska asteroid impact over Siberia on June 30, 1908. The day was first observed in 2017.

**Asteroids:**

They are the celestial rocks that are smaller than a planet, however, revolve around the sun like them. The asteroids usually orbit between planets Mars and Jupiter and that is referred to as the 'Asteroid Belt'.

**144. International Day of Parliamentarism** is observed annually on **30<sup>th</sup> June** to highlight the importance of the Parliament in securing the democratic rights of citizens. The day also commemorate the date on which the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was founded. The day was established in 2018 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution.

- **Theme 2022:** Public Engagement

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