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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has planned to retire all the four **MiG-21 fighter squadrons** by **2025**. At present, the IAF has around 70-MiG-21 aircraft and 50-MiG-29 variants. The IAF has also planned to phase out the 3 squadrons of MiG-29 fighter jets in the next 5 years.
  - MiG was designed by the Mikoyan-Gurevich Design Bureau (OKB) of the erstwhile Soviet Union.
  - The first fleet of the MiG variant was inducted into the IAF in 1963 and India procured more than 700 MiG variants in the following years.
- The Ministry of Steel has recently constituted an **Advisory Committee** for **Secondary Steel Sector**. The committee will be headed by **Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Minister of Civil Aviation and Steel. The aim is to identify and deliberate on the issues pertaining to the steel sector especially the secondary steel industry.
  - The advisory committee will have representation from All India Induction Furnace Association, Sponge Iron Manufacturers' Association, Institute for Stainless Steel development Association, Alloy Steel producers Association, Steel re-rollers Association, Pellet Manufacturers' Association, Indian Ferro alloy Producers association etc.
- Udyam Portal** of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has achieved the landmark of **1 crore MSME registrations**. In a span of 25 months, as many as 1 crore MSMEs have registered

on the Udyam portal on a voluntary basis and declared that they employ 7.6 crore people, of which 1.7 crore are women.

- During this occasion, the **Ministry of MSME** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Tourism** and **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** for sharing of Udyam data.
- The Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration has also been launched on the occasion.

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### Udyam Registration Portal:

It was launched on **1st July, 2020**. It is linked to the databases of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Goods & Services Tax Network (GSTN). It is fully online, does not require any documentation, and is a step towards Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs.

4. The **Union Ministry of Culture** has organized a '**Tiranga bike rally**' from the Red Fort to Parliament (Vijay Chowk) for the Members of Parliament (MPs) of all parties. It has been organized on the occasion of the **146th** birth anniversary (2<sup>nd</sup> August) of **Pingali Venkayya**, the designer of India's National Flag.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also released a special commemorative **postage stamp** to mark his birth anniversary.

### Pingali Venkayya:

He was born in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. He was a freedom fighter and a Gandhian who went on to become synonymous with the spirit of free and independent India. He designed the new flag for the National Congress Meeting in **1921**. It was officially adopted by the Indian National Congress (INC) in **1931**.

- Recently, the central government has launched the '**Har Ghar Tiranga**' campaign. It is a campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring the Tiranga home and to hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence. The campaign aims to have citizens hoisting the National Flag in their homes between August 13 and 15.
5. **Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Airport Authority of India (AAI)** in Port Blair to boost inter-island connectivity under Udaan Scheme.
- As per the MoU, naval airfields at Shibpur (in Diglipur) in North Andaman and in Campbell Bay will be utilized for civil operations. Passenger flights will be connecting Port Blair directly to Diglipur and Campbell Bay.
  - Under the Udaan Scheme, a low-cost 20-passenger flight to be operated between these islands.

6. **Point 5140 at Drass** in Kargil sector has been christened as '**Gun Hill**' to commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces (IAF) and pay tribute to the sacrifice of the war heroes in Operation Vijay.

**Point 5140:**

It was the highest enemy occupied post in the Tololing complex. A company of 13 JAK RIF (Jammu & Kashmir Rifles) moved towards Point 5140, a strongly fortified position held in strength by the enemy with a large number of automatic weapons under the command of Lt Colonel Yogesh Kumar Joshi on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1999. After heavy fighting, Point 5140 was finally captured on 20<sup>th</sup> June. In this operation Lt Col Y K Joshi, Capt SS Jamwal, Nk Dev Parkash & Rfn Mehar Singh were awarded Vir Chakra.

**Note:** Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed annually on 26<sup>th</sup> July to honour the Indian Army's successful mission 'Operation Vijay'.

7. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has participated in the **National Conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security'** held in **Chandigarh**. The Chief Ministers of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, The Administrator of Chandigarh, Officers from the BSF, NIA and NCB as well as ANTF chiefs of the respective States and NCORD members have participated in the conference.

- Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) teams in four different locations across the country have disposed off more than 30,000 kg of drugs via video conferencing during this conference.
- These four places are: Delhi, Chennai, Guwahati and Kolkata.
- NCB started the drug disposal campaign from 1st June 2022, so far about 81,686.6242 kgs of drugs have been disposed by NCB teams in 11 different states.

**Note:** NCB under the leadership of the Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a pledge to destroy 75,000 kilograms of drugs on 75 years of Independence.

8. The PRS Legislative Research, a think tank based in New Delhi, has published the research on the **operation of State Assemblies** for 2021.

- **Kerala**, which dropped to eighth place in terms of convening Assembly sessions during the initial COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, has regained first place in 2021 with **61 sitting days**.
- Kerala is followed by Karnataka with 40 sitting days, Tamil Nadu with 34, and Odisha with 43.
- The report states that 23 State Assemblies met for an average of 25 days between 2016 and 2021.
- 17 of the 28 State Assemblies and the assembly of one Union Territory have convened for fewer than 20 days.
- Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, and Delhi have convened for fewer than ten days.
- Kerala is followed by Andhra Pradesh with 20 regulations and Maharashtra with 15 ordinances.

9. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved India's updated **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**). The updated NDC seeks to enhance India's contributions towards achievement of the strengthening of global response to the threat of climate change, as agreed under the Paris Agreement.

**India's Commitment under updated NDC:**

- India has committed to reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by **45%** by **2030** from 2005 levels and achieving about **50%** cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by **2030**.
- India's updated NDC will be implemented over the period **2021-2030** through programs and schemes of relevant Ministries /departments and with due support from States and Union Territories.
- The updated framework will be linked to many other government measures, such as tax breaks and incentives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to promote manufacturing.
- The updated NDC also represents the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period **2021-2030**.

NDC means national plans and pledges made by a nation to meet the target of maintaining global temperature increases to well below **2 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels, while aiming for **1.5 degrees Celsius** to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

**Note:** India last submitted its NDC to UNFCCC in 2015.

**10.** Union Ports, Shipping & Waterways Ministry along with the Indian Ports Global Ltd. (IPGL), which was formed to participate in Shahid Behesthi Port at Chabahar development project, has organized a conference in Mumbai on the occasion of '**Chabahar Day**'. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, **Sarbananda Sonowal** and the Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Tourism **Shripad Yesso Naik** have interacted with the high level diplomatic delegation from Central Asian Countries.

- "Chabahar Day" is observed to mark the beginning of the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** - an Indian vision to economize movement of cargo between India and Central Asia.
- Chabahar port is located in Gulf of Oman at Sistan-Baluchistan province of **Iran** on Makran Coast. It is jointly developed by India, Iran and Afghanistan. It links the rich Central Asian region with the South Asian markets.

**INSTC:**

It is a multimodal transportation network that connects Indian Ocean to Caspian Sea via Persian Gulf onwards Russia and Northern Europe. It will reduce carriage costs and time taken for shipments to reach Russia, Europe, and Central Asian Countries.

**11.** The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a **task force to monitor the monkeypox virus** situation and provide guidance to the government on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination for the infection in the country.

- The task force will be headed by **Dr VK Paul**, member (Health), NITI Aayog.
- **Other members:** Secretary, Union Health Ministry, Pharma and Biotech.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), more than 18,000 cases have been reported from 78 countries. So far, India has reported four Monkeypox cases: three cases in Kerala and one in Delhi.

**Monkeypox:**

It is a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the same family of viruses that causes smallpox. The disease is endemic in regions like West and Central Africa.

- 12.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has addressed the First All India **District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs)** Meet at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. It has been organized by National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- DLSAs are established under *Legal Services Authorities Act (LSA), 1987* to provide free legal aid, organize Lok Adalats, Legal literacy camps etc.
  - In India, there are a total of **676 DLSAs**. They are headed by District Judge who acts as Chairman of DLSA.
  - DLSAs also contribute towards reducing burden on courts by regulating Lok Adalats conducted by NALSA.
- 13.** Tata Steel has planned to roll out the 'First in India' seating system for **Vande Bharat Express** trains from September 2022. Tata Steel's Composites division has bagged **Rs.145 crore** bulk order for seating systems of the Vande Bharat express that includes the supply of complete seating systems for 22 train sets, with 16 coaches in each train set. These are specially designed seats, which can rotate *180 degrees* and have aircraft-style passenger amenities.
- Tata Group is planning to spend **Rs 3,000 crore** on R&D by FY26.
  - It is also targeting to be among the 'Top 5 in technology in steel industry globally by 2030'.

**Vande Bharat Express:**

Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is the second fastest train in India, which operates at a speed of 130 km/hr. It is operated by the Indian Railways only on two prominent routes as of March 2022, one from New Delhi to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and the other from New Delhi to Varanasi.

- 14.** Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav has launched India's largest online herbarium database, the '**Indian Virtual Herbarium**' web portal.
- The portal has been developed by the **Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Kolkata** under the framework of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India'.
  - The portal aims to provide complete information on herbarium specimens about the floral diversity of India and other countries stored in the cabinet of the herbarium building through online access.
  - At present, the digital herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India has **four categories**: Cryptogam type specimens, Cryptogams general specimens, Phanerogam type specimens, and Phanerogams general specimens.

15. The Government of India (GoI) has made the Goods & Services Tax (GST) **e-invoicing** mandatory for entities with a turnover of over **Rs.10 crore** with effect from **1st October 2022**. Currently, business with turnover of Rs.20 crore and above are required to generate an electronic invoice for all business-to-business (B2B) transactions. This aims to digitize a higher volume of transactions, increase sales reporting transparency, reduce errors and mismatches, automate data entry work, and improve compliance.

### **E-invoicing:**

The GST Council approved the standard of e-invoice in its 37th meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019. E-invoicing was started in October 2020 and was made mandatory for entities with a turnover of Rs 500 crore and above. This threshold was brought down to Rs 100 crore and later to Rs 50 crore in 2021 for B2B transactions. The threshold was brought down to Rs 20 crore beginning April 1, 2022.

- The e-invoice system is for GST registered persons to upload all B2B invoices to the Invoice Registration Portal (IRP). The IRP generates and returns a unique Invoice Reference Number (IRN), digitally signed e-invoice, and QR code to the user.

16. As per the data released by the Ministry of Finance, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections has surged by **28%** year-on-year to **Rs 1,48,995 crore** during July 2022, the second highest ever since the implementation of GST. The GST revenue was Rs 1,16,393 crore in July 2021.
- Of the total figures, CGST is Rs 25,751 crore, SGST Rs 32,807 crore, IGST Rs 79,518 crore (including Rs 41,420 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess Rs 10,920 crore (including Rs 995 crore collected on import of goods).
  - **Maharashtra** has collected the highest number of GST (Rs 22,129 crore), followed by Karnataka, and Gujarat.

### **Month-wise GST collection in FY23:**

- July: Rs 1,48,995 crore
- June: Rs 1,44,616 crore
- May: Rs 1,40,885 crore
- April: Rs 1,67,540 crore

17. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of **6 National Highway** projects of **119 kms** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**. The total cost of the project is **Rs. 2300 crore**. These projects will facilitate progress by improving connectivity in Indore and the state.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the National Highways Authority of India (**NHAI**) and the Government of **Madhya Pradesh** for construction of ropeways at **14** selected places in Madhya Pradesh.
  - The travel times between Tejaji Nagar (Indore) and Burhanpur and Indore and Harda will be shortened, saving fuel.
  - The expansion of the Dhar-Pithampur Industrial Corridor will result in more job opportunities.

**18. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched scheme namely **Senior Able Citizen for Re-employment in Dignity (SACRED)** for the purpose of bringing the employment seeker senior citizens through SACRED portal. It was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

- So far, 4527 Senior Citizens have been registered on SACRED portal.
- 63 Senior Citizens have applied through SACRED portal for employment from 16 states/UTs so far.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has registered the highest number of senior citizens on SACRED portal. It is followed by West Bengal, and Kerala.

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**19. India** will host diplomats of the 15-nation United Nations Security Council (UNSC), including US, China and Russia, for the **Counter-Terrorism Committee's (CTC)** special meeting in **October 2022**. The special meeting will be organized on the theme of increasing threat posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies.

- India two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UNSC will end in December 2022 when the country will also preside as President of the UNSC for the month.
- India is the Chair of the CTC for 2022. In January 2022, India chaired the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022.
- The current members of the UN Security Council are *Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway and the UAE, along with five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK and the US.*

**Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC):**

It was established by UNSC resolution 1373 adopted unanimously on **28 September 2001** in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US. It is a subsidiary body of the **United Nations Security Council**.

**20. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army** have successfully test-fired laser-guided **Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM)** from **Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun** at KK Ranges in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, with support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S).

**ATGM:**

- The ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.
- It has been designed & developed with multi-platform launch capability and is presently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the **120 mm** rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

- 21.** The Government of India (GoI) has withdrawn the **Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019**. The government has decided to come up with a new bill that fits into the comprehensive legal framework with reference to the suggestions made by the Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) on the Bill.
- The PDP bill was first introduced in Lok Sabha on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The bill was referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee, which submitted a 542-page report with overall **93 recommendations** and **81 amendments** to the Bill in December 2021. The committee proposed a single law for dealing with both personal and non-personal datasets. The report is also under dispute as it suggested moving towards complete localisation of data.
- 22.** Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal has announced that India has achieved a landmark milestone, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognising more than **75,000 start-ups**, a milestone which coincides with the 75th year of independence.
- More than **80 Start-ups** getting recognized per day, the highest in the world.
  - **7.46 lakh jobs** have been created, so far, which has seen a 110% yearly increase over the last 6 years.
  - The latest 10 thousand start-ups recognized in 156 days compared to initial 10,000 start-ups in 808 days.
  - About **49%** of Indian startups are from Tier II & Tier III.
  - Currently, of the total recognized startups, around 12% cater to IT services, 9% to Healthcare and Life Sciences, 7% to education, 5% to professional and commercial services and 5% to agriculture.
- 23.** The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has partnered with the **Quality Council of India (QCI)** for six months to accredit and rate **HMIS** (Health Management Information System)/ **LMIS** (Laboratory Information Management System) solutions that have integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The accreditation exercise will be conducted in a phased manner.

## STATES AFFAIRS

- 24.** The Chief Minister of **Karnataka** Basavaraj Bommai has announced various welfare programmes on the occasion of his government completing one year in office. He has launched **Swami Vivekananda Yuva Shakti Yojane** that aims at empowering rural youth along with other schemes including, financial assistance and skills training to 10 lakh people for vision towards self-employment and also helps in marketing similar to Stree Shakti Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

### Other Schemes:

- **Vidyanidhi Programme:** It provides scholarship from 2,500 to 11,000 rupees to the children of farmers studying in 11th standard and beyond has now been extended to children of weavers, taxi drivers and fishermen.
- **Amruth scheme:** Health Infrastructure will be enhanced to include 750 Primary Health Centres.



25. The Chief Minister of Assam Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched '**Mission Bhumi Putra**', a simplified and digital way to **issue digitalised caste certificates to students**. The mission is implemented by the Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Department of Social Justice Empowerment, Government of Assam. The mission will help in delivering easy public service to the general public of Assam. He has also inaugurated a Bhumi Putra portal.
26. The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has established a first-of-its-kind **Urban Animal Rescue Centre** located inside the **Guindy National Park, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. The rescue centre has two big enclosures and three smaller ones for injured animals.
- As it is a part of the Guindy National Park, a veterinarian attached to it as well as foresters have been working with the centre.

### Guindy National Park:

It is India's **8th-smallest national park**. It is an extension of the grounds surrounding Raj Bhavan, formerly known as the 'Guindy Lodge', the official residence of the governor of Tamil Nadu. It was established in 1977 and covers an area of 2.7057 km<sup>2</sup>. The park also has a lake known as the 'Tangal Eri'. It is home to blackbuck, chital or spotted deer, jackal, small Indian civet, common palm civet, bonnet macaque, hyena, pangolin, hedgehog, common mongoose and three-striped palm squirrel.

27. The Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** has named the under-construction Greenfield airport in the state capital as "**Donyi Polo Airport**". The airport which has been built under the Centre's Capital Connectivity Scheme at a cost of Rs.645 crores, will start operations from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- Notably, the Donyi Polo Airport in Itanagar will be Arunachal Pradesh's third airport after the Pasighat and Tezu airports.
  - It will be the 16th airport in Northeast India.
28. **Goa Police** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with blockchain network **5ire** to implement a smart policing solution to improve transparency and efficiency in policing. The MoU also seeks to help in the digitisation and digitalisation of offline systems.
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple projects of **Sabar Dairy** at Gadhoda Chowki, Sabarkantha in Gujarat. These projects cost worth more than **Rs 1,000 crores**.

### Projects launched at Sabar Dairy:

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **Powder Plant** that has a daily capacity of 120 metric tonnes per day (MTPD).
- He has also inaugurated the **Aseptic Milk Packaging Plant** at Sabar Dairy. It is a state-of-the-art plant with having capacity of 3 lakh litre per day.
- He has laid the foundation stone of the **Sabar Cheese and Whey Drying Plant Project**. The plant will manufacture Cheddar Cheese (20 MTPD), Mozzarella Cheese (10 MTPD) and Processed Cheese (16 MTPD).

- Sabar Dairy is a part of Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which makes and markets a whole range of milk and milk products under the Amul brand.

**30. Arunachal Pradesh** has inked a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **NITI Aayog** and **Reach to Teach** organization for a large-scale transformation in school education.

- The MoU is a three-year partnership (2022-25) agreement.
- It will focus on the enhancement of the learning outcome of students across 3,000 plus government schools in the state.
- The agreement has been signed on the second anniversary of the *New Education Policy (NEP) 2020*.
- **Note:** NEP was launched by the Government of India on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**31.** The world's largest floating Solar Power Plant will be constructed in **Madhya Pradesh**. It will be built on Narmada River, near **Omkareshwar Dam** in Khandwa. It will generate **600-Megawatt** power by 2022-23. This project is estimated to be worth Rs. 3000 crores.

- With the new floating solar plant, **Khandwa** will become the only district in Madhya Pradesh to have thermal power station, hydel and solar power.
- **Note:** As of now, **Ramagundam Floating Solar PV project** in **Telangana** is the largest floating solar power project in India. It has the capacity to generate 100 MW of energy. The commercial operation for project was started on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This project was commissioned by NTPC.

**32.** Karnataka animal husbandry minister Prabhu B Chavan has adopted 31 cows in the government and private goshalas, one in each district under "**Punyakoti Dattu Yojana**" (cow adoption) portal.

- **Karnataka** is the first state in the country to implement the Punyakoti Adoption Scheme.
- It has been implemented in the budget for 2022-23.
- The aim of the scheme is to make cowsheds financially sound with the cooperation of the public.

In August 2022, **United Way Bengaluru (UWBe)**, an NGO focused on social issues, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Women and Child Development (WCD)**, Department of the Government of Karnataka for strengthening Anganwadi centres in the state. The aim is to ensure quality childhood care and development among children up to six years and enhance the quality of Anganwadi centres across the state.

**33.** The state government of Kerala has launched '**Poshaka Balayam**' scheme to improve nutrition among children in the age group of **3-6 years**.

- Under this scheme, each child will be given 125 ml of milk two days a week for 44 weeks (10 months) and an egg twice a week. **Kerala** is the first state to implement such a program in the country to counter under nutrition among children.

**34.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various projects of the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur, in **Valsad** district, **Gujarat**.

**Projects of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission:**

- **Shrimad Rajchandra Centre of Excellence for Women:** It will be built at a cost of Rs.40 crore. It will have facilities for recreation, classrooms for self-development sessions, and rest areas. It will employ over 700 tribal women and subsequently provide a livelihood to thousands of others.
- **Shrimad Rajchandra Animal Hospital:** It will be built at a cost of Rs.70 crore. It will have top-notch facilities, a committed team of veterinarians, and ancillary staff.
- **Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital:** It is a 250-bed multispecialty hospital with cutting-edge medical infrastructure that will provide world-class tertiary medical facilities, especially to the people of the Southern Gujarat region. It is estimated to cost around Rs.200 crore.

35. The state government of **Andhra Pradesh** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Institute for Smart Government (NISG)**. Under the agreement, NISG will assist the government in preparation and development of an integrated land management system with advanced technology in fixing the boundaries.

36. **Uttar Pradesh** Government will launch the '**Panchamrut Yojana**' to achieve the goal of doubling farmers' income through the introduction of cost-effective technical measures and promotion of co-cropping method. The scheme will allow farmers to grow oilseeds, pulses and vegetables along with sugarcane as per market demand for additional income.

- The scheme has the combined objective of reducing costs through saving water and maximum use of stubble and the leaves of sugarcane, saving use of fertilisers and pesticides, promoting the cultivation of more than one crop for greater productivity and enhancing the income of farmers as well as controlling pollution as there will be no need to burn leaves in the fields.
- The Government will also honour farmers who implement the Panchamrut scheme and are able to enhance the productivity of the land as well as their income with '**Uttam Sugarcane Farmer**' awards.

37. The **Assam** government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HCL, Walmart and Flipkart** for various purposes, including skilling the youths, exporting local products and creating talent for e-commerce supply chain.

**First MoU:** Signed between the Directorate of Employment and Craftsmen Training (DECT) and the IT firm **HCL Technologies** to provide training to the Class 12 passed students, aiming to reduce regional imbalance in terms of skilled people.

**Second MoU:** Signed between Assam Skill University (ASU) and **HCL-TSS** to help aspirants to join HCL-TSS skilling and employment programmes and provide mutual support for counseling and conducting assessment of eligible candidates in university campus or any other campus provided by ASU.

**Third MoU:** Signed between **Walmart Vridhhi** with the Industries, Commerce and Public Enterprises Department and Skill Employment Entrepreneurship Department of Assam for the development of MSMEs.

**Fourth MoU:** Signed between **Flipkart** and Assam Skill Development Mission to provide opportunities to youth of the state in the Flipkart Supply Chain Operations Academy by training, certifying and creating a pool of e-commerce supply chain talent.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 38.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the "Ex VINBAX 2022" has been conducted between India and Vietnam. It is a bilateral army exercise held in **Chandimandir, Haryana** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022. It has been held under the theme: "Employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team under United Nations Contingent for Peacekeeping Operations". The exercise helps in strengthening mutual confidence and interoperability.
- 39.** The 4th edition of India Oman Joint Military Exercise 'AL NAJAH-IV' has been conducted between contingents of **Indian Army** and the **Royal Army of Oman** at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Range in **Bikaner, Rajasthan** from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The exercise aims to enhance the level of defence co-operation between both the countries and will further manifest in enhancing the bilateral relations between the two nations. The Indian Army is represented by troops from the **18 MECHANISED INFANTRY Battalion**.
- Note:** The previous edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was organised at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.
- 40.** The President of Maldives **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** has recently visited India on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is his third visit to India.

### Key highlights:

- India has announced a Line of Credit (LoC) of **USD 100 million** for Maldives for the completion of development projects in a time-bound manner.
  - Both the nations have participated in the virtual 'Pouring of First Concrete' of the **Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP)**. This project is funded by a **USD 400 million** LoC from Indian Exim Bank and a USD 100 million grant from the Indian government. The project was awarded to the Indian-based Afcons Infrastructure Limited. The project includes the construction of a bridge named 'Thilamale Bridge', viaducts, and on-grade roads.
  - During his visit, India and Maldives have signed **six new agreements** in the field of cyber security, disaster management, capacity building and training.
- 41.** **China** has successfully launched a '**Terrestrial Ecosystem Carbon Monitoring Satellite**' as well as two other satellites from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi Province, North China.

- All the satellites have been successfully launched by a **Long March-4B** carrier rocket into their intended orbit.
  - This launch has represented the 430<sup>th</sup> mission for the Long March series of carrier rockets.
- 42.** SpaceX has launched '**Danuri**', the first moon mission of **South Korea**. It has been launched through a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida to observe the Moon and it aims to reach the Moon by mid-December.
- Danuri has been jointly developed by **NASA** and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).
  - This is a **USD 180 million** mission in lunar exploration which features a boxy, solar-powered satellite designed to move 100 km above the lunar surface.
  - Danuri meant “*enjoy the Moon*”.
  - It will develop a wireless Internet environment to link satellites or exploration spacecraft.
- 43.** A Parliamentary Delegation from **Mozambique** led by **Esperanca Laurinda Francisco Nhiane Bias**, Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique, has visited India to call on the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- A **Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC)** has been signed between Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Speaker of Mozambique to boost ties between Parliaments of India and Mozambique. The MoC shall last for a period of 5 years.
  - Indian companies have invested around **USD10 billion** in Mozambique's natural gas and mining sectors.
  - The Government of India has also provided Line of Credit for different projects in Mozambique.
- 44.** Indian Air Force (IAF) will be part of the mega air combat exercise “**Pitch Black 2022**” among **17-nations**, to be held in the **Northern Territory of Australia**. The three-week-long military exercise is scheduled to take place from **August 19 to September 6, 2022**. Over 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will be part of the drill. The exercise is being conducted after a gap of four-years due to Covid-19. The last edition was held in 2018.
- The participating countries include the *US, India, Australia, Japan, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, the UAE and the UK.*

### Exercise Pitch Black:

It is a biennial multi-national large force employment warfare exercise. It is conducted by **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)**. The aim of this exercise is to practice Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Defensive Counter Air (DCA) combat. The exercise takes place in a simulated war environment. The first Pitch Black exercise was held in 1981 between the RAAF units.

## REPORTS & INDICES

- 45.** As per the latest Bloomberg Billionaires Index, **Savitri Jindal (India)** has become the richest woman in Asia with a net worth of **USD 11.3 billion** by surpassing **Yang Huiyan (China)** due to the property crisis in China.

- Yang Huiyan, who held the title of Asia's richest woman, slipped to third with a net worth of USD 11 billion.
- Savitri Jindal has a USD 11.3 billion fortune in the Jindal Group. She is India's richest woman and the 10<sup>th</sup>-richest person in India of about USD 1.4 billion.

**46.** According to the latest data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), India's fiscal deficit for April-June 2022 stood at **Rs.3,51,871 crore**, accounting for 21.2% of the full-year target. The fiscal deficit for April-May FY23 is 12.3% of the full-year fiscal deficit target of Rs.16.6 lakh crore.

The total expenditure incurred by the government is **Rs.9,47,911 crore**, 24.0% of the corresponding estimate of FY23.

- The Indian economy is expected to grow around **7.2%** year-on-year in the fiscal year in FY23, down from earlier estimates of over 8%, and 8.7% in the previous year.
- The government is targeting a fiscal deficit of **Rs.16.61 lakh crore** for FY23, or **6.4%** of GDP.

**47. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** has topped among the Indian firms in the latest Global 500 ranking of top 500 companies published by Fortune for the year 2022. This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales. LIC, with revenue of **USD 97.26 billion** and a profit of **USD 553.8 million**, has been ranked **98<sup>th</sup>** in the list.

- Reliance, with revenue of USD 93.98 billion and a net profit of USD 8.15 billion in the latest year, has jumped 51 places to 104 on the 2022 list.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has jumped 28 places to 142nd rank while Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has jumped 16 places to 190.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has jumped 17 places to rank 236th and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd has jumped 19 places to rank 295th.
- The list has nine Indian companies: five of them state-owned, and four from the private sector.

Globally, the list has been topped by the US retailer **Walmart**, followed by Amazon, Chinese energy giants State Grid, China National Petroleum, and Sinopec.

**48.** The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution titled "**The human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment**" and has declared access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a **universal human right**.

- The resolution was adopted with 161 votes in favour, and 8 abstentions.
- India voted for the resolution and pointed out that the resolutions do not create binding obligations.

**49.** India has added **10** more wetlands designated as **Ramsar sites** to make total **64 sites** covering an area of **12,50,361 hectare** in the country. The 10 new sites include: Six sites in Tamil Nadu and One each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st February 1982.

**10 wetlands designated as Ramsar sites:**

1. **Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary:** It is situated in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district of **Tamil Nadu**. It is a significant man-made wetland which covers an area of 72.04 ha.
2. **Satkosia Gorge:** Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty River Mahanadi in **Odisha**. It was established in 1976 as a wildlife sanctuary. Satkosia is the meeting point of two biogeographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats.
3. **Nanda Lake:** It is situated in **Goa**.
4. **Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve:** It is located in **Tamil Nadu**.
5. **Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary:** It is located in Mandya district, **Karnataka**.
6. **Vembannur Wetland Complex:** It is a human-made inland tank. It is located in **Tamil Nadu**.
7. **Vellode Bird Sanctuary:** It is located in the Vadamugam Vellode Village of the Perundurai Taluk, located in the Erode district, **Tamil Nadu**.
8. **Sirpur Wetland:** It is situated in Indore, **Madhya Pradesh**.
9. **Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary:** It is located in Maduranthagam Taluk of Chengalpattu district of **Tamil Nadu**.
10. **Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary:** It is located in the Tiruthuraipoondi Taluk of Tiruvarur district of **Tamil Nadu**.

50. The National Statistical Office (NSO) in its '**Working Paper on Compilation of Labour Indicators of the Minimum Set of Gender Indicators**' has stated that the proportion of employed persons working part-time in the 46-59 years age group at all India level was more than 10% between 2017-20 while in the age group of above 60 years, the proportion of employed persons working part-time was more than 15%.

- As per the paper, the Employment Rate of Employed Worker living in a household with no child under age three years, rose to **61.2%** in FY20 from 58.37% in FY18 in the 26-49 years age group.
- The proportion of employed persons who are employer in the above 15 age group, has been estimated at 1.91%, 2.17% and 2.02%, respectively for 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The NSO developed **three labour indicators** based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data available in "Person level data of first visit schedule":

- "Proportion of Employed working Part-time, by sex",
- "Proportion of Employed who are Employer, by sex" and
- "Employment Rate of persons age 25-49 living in a household with at least one child under age 3 years and with no children under age 3 years living in the household, by sex".

These three indicators are managed by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

51. The **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY)** has recently completed five years. The scheme is a social security programme for the elderly that aims to provide them with a guaranteed minimum pension based on a guaranteed return on the purchase price or subscription fee.
  - PMVVY was launched in **2017**.

- It is managed by **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.
- The policy duration for the scheme is **10 years**.
- The scheme is exempted from Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The minimum investment required to participate in this scheme has been increased to Rs.1, 56, 658 for a pension of 12,000 per year and to Rs.1, 62, 162 for a pension of at least Rs.1,000 per month.
- The programme, which was in place through 2020, has now been extended for an additional three years, through 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**52.** The **State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE)** scheme has been launched recently to establish a powerful R&D ecosystem in the state as well as private universities and colleges.

- SERB-SURE is a new innovative scheme of the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, which will encourage collaboration for high-end research across state & private universities and colleges.
- It will help in bringing the university system into mainstream research, and enable young faculty to participate in cutting-edge research.
- It will also extend support to data-driven social science research.
- The faculties of state universities (45% in rural areas), will get opportunities for research, as a part of this scheme.

**53.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** during a programme marking the culmination of 'Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047'.

**RDSS:**

It is a flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Power**. It aims to improve the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of power distribution companies (DISCOMs/departments). It also aims to reduce the AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and ACS-ARR (average cost of supply-average revenue realised) gap to zero by 2024-25. The scheme has an outlay of over **Rs.3 trillion** over a period of five years (**FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26**). Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have been nominated as nodal agencies.

The scheme has the following components:

- **Part A:** Financial support for Prepaid Smart Metering & System Metering and up-gradation of the Distribution Infrastructure (including segregation of feeders for agriculture purpose).
- **Part B:** Training & Capacity Building and other Enabling & Supporting Activities.

**Note:** The Government of India (GoI) has set an ambitious target of installing 250 million smart meters by 2025.

PM Narendra Modi has also launched the national portal for **Rooftop solar** to enable online tracking of the process of installation of rooftop solar plants.



54. The Government of India (GoI) has formulated a scheme “**National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)**” for cleaning sewers and septic tanks. The NAMASTE project, is a joint initiative of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** and the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**.

The NAMASTE project aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- All sanitation work to be performed by skilled workers.
- No sanitation workers should come in direct contact with human faecal matter.
- Sanitation workers are to be collectivized into SHGs and are empowered to run sanitation enterprises.
- All Sewer and Septic tank sanitation workers (SSWs) have access to alternative livelihoods.
- Strengthened supervisory and monitoring systems at national, state and ULB levels to ensure enforcement and monitoring of safe sanitation work.
- Increased awareness amongst sanitation services seekers (individuals and institutions) to seek services from registered and skilled sanitation workers.

This scheme has replaced the **Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers** which was introduced in 2007.

The scheme will be implemented from **2022 to 2026** across **500 cities** and townships already notified under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) which aims to equip cities with basic quality of life services.

**Manual scavenging:**

It is the practice of removing human excreta by hand from sewers or septic tanks. India banned the practice under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (PEMSR).

55. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah has recently launched various initiatives to commemorate the second anniversary of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** in New Delhi. The NEP was launched by the government on **29th July 2020** with an aim to transform India’s education system.

**Key highlights of Initiatives launched:**

- Introduction of **75 “Bharatiya games”** in schools.
- ‘**Kalashala initiative**’ has been launched in **750 schools** to help students discover India’s rich cultural heritage.
- A public consultation survey in **23 languages** has been announced to seek inputs and suggestions for the development of the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) on the basis of which the content of school books will be decided.
- To establish **IKS-MIC program** to promote development of products, processes inspired and developed from the Indian’s traditional knowledge systems. It is a joint program of the IKS (Indian Knowledge System) Division and the Ministry of Education Innovation Cell. IKS is an innovative cell under the Ministry of Education at All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

- **750 virtual labs** in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs for simulated learning environment, will be set-up in **2022-23** to promote crucial critical thinking skills, and to give space for creativity.
- **Vidya Amrit Portal** has been launched to scale up the micro-improvements taking place in the school education in different parts of the country.
- **NDEAR (National Digital Education Architecture) Compliant Vidya Sameeksha Kendra (VSK)** has been launched to enhance data-driven decision-making to drive action by key stakeholders for program success organizational pathway.
- **National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA)** has been launched to prepare an initial cadre of high quality ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) Teachers in Anganwadis.
- **Skill India** has partnered with **Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)** for a 3-years degree programme and help students to attain more livelihood opportunities.
- **School Innovation Policy** to promote creativity, innovation, problem-solving and entrepreneurship skills of students.

**56.** Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, has inaugurated “**8 years of MyGov**” event in New Delhi. The event has observed the journey of the world’s largest platform for participatory governance which has nearly 2.5 crore registered citizens.

**‘Responsible AI for Youth 2022’:**

- During the event, Union Minister has also launched ‘Responsible AI for Youth 2022’ initiative. It is an initiative of the National E-Governance Division (**NeGD**), Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration with **Intel India**.
- It is supported by the **Ministry of Education**.
- It aims to develop AI centric skills among **school children**.
- The program will be open to all school students studying in **classes 8-12** across India.

**MyGov:**

It is the Government of India’s citizen engagement platform. It was launched on **26th July 2014**. It has been built on the three pillars of ‘Do’, ‘Discuss’ and ‘Disseminate’. It is a part of Digital India Corporation.

**57.** The **Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD)** has released operational guidelines to implement ‘**Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0**’ scheme. It is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme, which has been approved for implementation during 15th Finance Commission period **2021-22 to 2025-26**.

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**Components of scheme:**

- Nutrition Support for **POSHAN** through Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) for children aged 6 months-6 years, pregnant women & lactating mothers and Adolescent Girls aged 14-18 years across Aspirational districts and NER.
- Early Childhood Care and Education for children aged **3-6 years** and early stimulation for children aged 0-3 years.
- Anganwadi Infrastructure, comprising of modern, upgraded Saksham Anganwadi, and Poshan Abhiyaan.

### Key guidelines introduced:

- Anganwadi services under Poshan 2 is open to all eligible beneficiaries.
- A child's Aadhaar card is **not** mandatory for availing benefits.
- Under Scheme for adolescent girls, targeted beneficiaries have been revised to adolescent girls in the age group of **14 to 18 years** in aspirational districts of states including Assam and NER instead of out-of-school girls in the age group of 11-14 years earlier.
- Guidelines focus on providing supplementary nutrition to beneficiaries and emphasised locally grown food being served.
- **Millets** should be mandatorily supplied at least once a week.
- The scheme also integrates **AYUSH** (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) system.
- District magistrate will be the nodal point in the district for monitoring nutritional and quantity standards.

### POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyan:

- It was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the International Women's Day on **8th March, 2018** from **Jhunjhunu** in Rajasthan.
- It is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescents, pregnant women and lactating mothers by leveraging technology, a targeted approach and convergence. POSHAN Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by **2%, 2%, 3% and 2%** per annum respectively.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

**58. Reliance** New Energy Limited, **Ola** Electric Mobility Private Limited, and **Rajesh** Exports Limited have signed the Program Agreement under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to build a total of **50 Gigawatt hours (Gwh)** for **Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage**.

- The three companies will receive incentives under India's **Rs. 18,100** crore program.
- Under the PLI program, private players are expected to create battery manufacturing capacity to the tune of around 95 GWh.
- It will be implemented by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises**.

**59. Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha (IPICOL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) for the upcoming **Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022**.

- The Make in Odisha (MIO) Conclave 2022 will be the third edition.
- FICCI will work as a national industry partner in the conclave.
- The conclave will be held from 30<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

**60. Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Gujarat** to establish IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) Park in Vadodara. L&T will invest **Rs 7,000 crore** over a period of five years to develop this Information Technology (IT)/ITeS Park in the district.

**61. Scientific and Production Corporation Radio Technical Systems (RTS) of Russia** has signed a large-scale contract with the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** for the supply of radio equipment. Under this contract, the company will manufacture 34 sets of **Instrument Landing System (ILS) 734** for the modernisation of 24 airports in India. The first part of landing systems ILS-734 must be shipped before November 2022.

**62. Indian Railways** has collaborated with **Amazon India** to boost its delivery services in India by transporting packages in more than 110 inter-city routes, ensuring one to 2-day delivery for its customers.

- Amazon delivers **100% serviceable PIN codes**, with more than 97% of PIN codes now being able to receive their deliveries within two days of placing an order.
- Amazon India's subsidiary **Amazon Data Services India Pvt Ltd** has leased 5.5 acre of industrial land from Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), in suburban Mumbai's Powai area to set up a data centre.

**63. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed a contract worth **Rs.250 crore** with the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of **nine** integrated **Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)** complex (IAC) MOD 'C' Systems.

#### **IAC MOD 'C':**

It is an integrated anti-submarine warfare (ASW) system for all surface ships of the Indian Navy. It has been indigenously developed by BEL in association with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It facilitates counter-measure capability for incoming torpedoes through the decoy launching system.

**64. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Roads & Highways Department of **Bangladesh** for the emergency supply of petroleum goods via Bangladesh territory to India. This is an interim set up to facilitate urgent supply of petroleum products due to damage caused by the flood in Assam 2022.

- The petroleum tankers will enter from Meghalaya and will go to Tripura crossing through the Bangladesh territory.

- The IOCL will bear all the administrative fees, charges and local taxes including road usage fee for use of the Bangladeshi territory.

**65.** The National Tiger Conservation Authority (**NTCA**) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for the trans-continental relocation of 'Cheetahs' from Africa to India.

- This is in continuation with the MoU signed on 20th July 2022 between Government of India and Government of the Republic of Namibia on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization.
- Indian Oil will be contributing **Rs.50.22 crore** in **4 years** for the project components viz. Cheetah Introduction, its Habitat Management & Protection, Eco Development, Staff Training and Veterinary Healthcare.
- Indian Oil is the **first corporate** which has come forward to support the "Project Cheetah" under CSR.
- Under this project, a source population of 8-10 Cheetahs will be flown in from Namibia and South Africa and will be introduced at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is a national project involving NTCA, Govt. of India and the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

**'Project Cheetah':**

It is one-of-a-kind projects in which a species is being restored in the country by bringing it from out of the country (from South Africa / Namibia). It is noteworthy that the subspecies of Cheetah which got extinct in India was Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) and the subspecies being introduced back in the country is **African Cheetah** (*Acinonyx jubatus jubatus*). Research has shown that genes of these two subspecies are the same. The Cheetah introduction project in Kuno National Park involves creating a 500-hectare predator proof enclosure for a 'soft release' of the feline.

**66.** The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (**NIESBUD**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)** to develop entrepreneurial skills and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

- Under this collaboration, NIESBUD and HUL will collaborate to organise training programmes, develop curriculum, and undertake cluster development activities.

**67.** The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** for sharing knowledge on innovative ideas and to collaborate on the development of indigenous digital payments solutions.

- This collaboration will help in the augmentation of cyber security controls for NPCI and its subsidiaries' products and services.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

**68.** **Infosys Finacle**, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys has been inducted into International Financial Services Centres Authority's (IFSCA) Regulatory Sandbox framework to pilot its blockchain-based trade finance solution.

- In the initial phase, **six leading banks**: Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, HSBC, ICICI Bank, RBL Bank, and State Bank of India are collaborating with Infosys Finacle in the regulatory sandbox.
- This partnership will lead to comprehensive testing of the blockchain-based Buyers Credit solution, for short-term credit in foreign currency for import payments and trade finance transactions.

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## BANKING & FINANCE

- 69.** Housing Development Finance Corporation (**HDFC**) has entered into a share purchase agreement (SPA) with State Bank of India (**SBI**) for acquiring of 97,500 equity shares of **HDFC Venture Capital (HVCL)**.
- HDFC will acquire its venture capital subsidiary HVCL by buying out State Bank of India's **19.50 percent** stake in the company.
  - Currently, HDFC holds **80.50%** equity share capital of HVCL and the remaining 19.50% shares are held by SBI.
  - The acquisition is expected to be completed by 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.
- 70.** Max Life Insurance Company Limited has launched “**Max Life Smart Secure Easy Solution**”, a 3-in-1 protection solution offering benefits of life, critical illness and disability and accidental cover.
- This solution is a combination of **Max Life’s Smart Secure Plus Plan** that provides financial protection in case of any uncertainties in life with an accidental cover option and **Max Life Critical Illness and Disability Health Rider**, which offers financial protection in case of critical illnesses, total and permanent disability and provides extra coverage against accidental death.
- 71.** **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) Limited** has recently announced the completion of the **USD 1.1 billion Syndicated Social Loan Facility** for the financing of affordable housing in India. The HDFC loan has been priced competitively at a margin of 90 basis points over the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).
- HDFC Limited has raised the amount through External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) which is the largest social loan globally and **first ECB loan** deal out of India.
- 72.** **Federal Bank** has become the first lender in India to list its Payment Gateway platform on the **TIN 2.0 platform** of the Income Tax Department.
- The Tax Information Network (TIN) 2.0 platform was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.
  - The "Payment Gateway" has been enabled, providing one more payment option to taxpayers, who can now make their payments with ease, using modes such as Credit/Debit Card, UPI, NEFT/RTGS and Internet Banking.

**73.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the divestment of **IDFC Asset Management Company (IDFC AMC)**. In this, a consortium of Bandhan Bank's parent Bandhan Financial Holdings (BFHL), private equity firm ChrysCapital and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC, will acquire IDFC Asset Management Company for **Rs 4,500 crore**.

**Other approvals by CCI:**

- CCI has approved the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between **Shriram Group Companies** under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act 2002.
- CCI has approved the acquisition of a **50.1 percent** stake of Sanmina-SCI India (**SCIPL**) by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures (**RSBVL**).

**74. BOB Financial Solutions Limited** has launched the mobile application '**bobcard**' to help customers with a one-stop solution to manage their Bank of Baroda credit card services.

- The app has been designed in collaboration with **IBM**.
- It is a smart digital platform that offers a battery-saver dark-themed interface along with secured access with face ID, fingerprint lock & PIN, and a smart eye feature to ensure that card details of the customers remain private.

**Additional Information:**

BOB Financial Solutions is a Non-Banking Financial Company. It is wholly owned by the Bank of Baroda, an Indian public sector bank. It was established in the year 1994.

- **MD & CEO:** Shailendra Singh

**75.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has postponed the implementation of new rules on nomination for mutual fund investors till **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022** which were supposed to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Those buying mutual fund units from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 will need to provide the nomination details or will need to opt out of it.

- SEBI has also released a framework for automated deactivation of trading and demat accounts of investors in case of inadequate Know Your Client (KYC) details. The framework will come into effect from **31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**.

**76. IndusInd Bank** has tied up with **Rupyy**, a new age digital lending platform, to offer 100% paperless loan processing for used cars. This association will enable users of 'Rupyy' to avail simplified documentation and instant processing of vehicle loans from IndusInd Bank.

- Rupyy is the fintech arm of the Jaipur-based Ginnarsoft Pvt. Ltd. which houses brands like CarDekho, BikeDekho, Zigwheels, Powerdrift, among others.

**77. HDFC Bank Parivartan** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru** for the construction of **Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital**. The lender will support **Rs 107.76 crore** for the construction of the three wings of the hospital. These wings are cardiology, radiology, and emergency medicine.

- IISc is setting up a multi-speciality, not-for-profit, 832-bed hospital along with a Postgraduate Medical School within its Bengaluru campus.
- The hospital is expected to be fully functional by the end of 2024 while the first batch of MD/PhD students will be admitted in 2025.

**78. Union Bank of India (UBI)** has launched '**Empower Him**', an industry-first, dedicated, male-centric committee to improve the workplace environment. It has been launched as a part of its flagship HR initiative 'Prerna'. It aims to promote the employees' career trajectory and improve diversity in the bank by picking out and resolving individual as well as common existing challenges.

**Union Prerna:**

It is the HR Transformation initiative of the Union Bank of India, aimed at improving productivity through digitization of processes, employee-centric interventions, and a learning revolution within the Banking space.

**79.** The Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) has collaborated with the **SVC Co-operative Bank** to facilitate improved flow of credit to the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**. This is the first such agreement signed by SIDBI with Urban Cooperative Banks (USBs).

**80. InsuranceDekho** has collaborated with **Future Generali India Insurance** to offer **pet insurance**. InsuranceDekho will offer comprehensive coverage for over 25 breeds of dogs, aged 6 months to 10 years.

- The pet insurance policy as of now has a starting premium of about Rs.324 annually. This will offer financial assistance to pet owners towards hospitalisation (including pre and post hospitalisation), treatment of terminal illness, and surgery, subject to certain terms and conditions.
- **Note:** In India, it is estimated that pet insurance (including cattle) will witness an increase of at least **14%** to achieve **USD 490 million** at the end of the year 2022. Globally, the pet insurance market is anticipated to reach **USD 32.7 billion** by **2030**.

**81.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently inaugurated the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** of **Deutsche Bank AG** at the Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) in Ahmedabad. The IBU will offer financial products across trade finance, fixed income and currencies in the initial phase.

- The GIFT City IBU will give the bank the ability to offer liquidity in INR to foreign investors and foreign corporations with exposure to India on a 24/7 basis.

Deutsche Bank AG is a multinational investment bank and provider of financial services that is dual-listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

- **Headquarters:** Frankfurt, Germany
- Chief Executive Officer, Deutsche Bank Group, India: **Kaushik Shaparia**
- CEO of Deutsche Bank, Asia Pacific and Member of the Management Board: **Alexander von zur Muehlen**



## RBI IN NEWS

- 82.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the Punjab National Bank (**PNB**) to invest **Rs.500 crore** in the proposed Rs.2500 crore rights issue of PNB Housing Finance Limited (**PNBHFL**). The rights issue process is expected to conclude by December 2022 or latest in the March quarter. PNB has a 32.57% stake in PNBHFL.
- 83.** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Financial Inclusion (FI) index** has increased to **56.4** in March 2022, showing growth across all parameters. The index stood at 53.9 as of March 2021.

### FI-Index:

It was constructed to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country. It has been constructed without any 'base year', and is published in July every year. It comprises of three broad parameters:

- **Access**, with a weightage of 35 percent;
- **Usage** with 45 percent weightage; and
- **Quality** with 20 percent weightage

- 84.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its **Market Data Advisory Committee (MDAC)** that recommends policy measures pertaining to securities market data access and privacy. The scope of the work of the committee includes identifying segment-wise data perimeters, data needs and gaps, recommending data privacy and data access regulations applicable to market data.
- Now, the committee will consists of **20 members**. Earlier, it had 21 members.
  - The committee is chaired by **S Sahoo**, Professor at National Law University, Delhi, and former chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
  - SEBI has replaced NSE's former MD and CEO Vikram Limaye from the list with the NSE's newly appointed CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan.
  - **Other members:** Nithin Kamath, Ranjit Pawar, Sreekanth Nadella, Suhas Tuljapurkar, Raman Uberoi, Kiran Shetty, Mahesh Vyas, Prithvi Haldea, Dharendra Kumar, Anuj Kumar, Subrata Sarkar, CKG Nair, Padmaja Chundururu, Nehal Vora, Amarjeet Singh, PS Reddy, Prabhas Kumar Rath, and Arun Raste.

- 85.** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** has met on August 2-4, 2022 and released the RBI's 3rd bi-monthly policy of FY23.

### **Key Highlights:**

- Repo rate has increased by **50 basis points (bps)** to **5.4 percent** for the third consecutive time in 2022.
- GDP growth forecast for 2022-23 has retained at **7.2 percent**.
- Real GDP growth for Q1: 2023-24 projected at 6.7 percent.
- Retail inflation forecast has retained at **6.7-percent** for 2022-23.
- Inflation forecast for: Q1:2023-24 at 5 percent; Q2 at 7.1 percent; Q3 at 6.4 percent, and Q4 at 5.8 percent.

- MPC has decided to stay focused on withdrawal of *accommodative stance* to observe inflation.
- Currently, the rupee is devalued by 4.7 percent against the US dollar in fiscal year 2022 till August 4.
- India has witnessed large portfolio outflow of **USD 13.3 billion** in FY23 up to August 3.
- Foreign exchange reserves of India stays as the **fourth** largest internationally.
- A mechanism to be implemented to allow NRIs to utilise **Bharat Bill Payment system** for payments of education and utility on behalf of their families in the country.

Policy rates as of August 2022	
Repo rate	5.40%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	5.15%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	5.65%%
Bank Rate	5.65%
Reserves Ratio as of August 2022	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

**Note:** The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **September 28-30, 2022.**

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**86.** The **Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve** has received the 2nd Annual **IUCN WCPA International Ranger Award 2022**. The award, presented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), recognizes the remarkable work of rangers in protected areas around the world.

- The Award has been announced in a ceremony at the IUCN African Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda.
- In total, seven individual rangers and three ranger teams from ten countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Australasia have been recognized.
- Each winner or winning team receives USD10,000 to support the protected and conserved areas where they work, and a custom uniform patch to signify their achievement.

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87. **Jeffrey Armstrong**, a Canadian scholar, has received the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) "**Distinguished Indologist for 2021**" Award for his outstanding contribution in study, teaching and research in any of the fields of Indian Studies. With this, he has become the seventh recipient of this award. He is the founder of the Vedic Academy of Science & Arts and author of "**The Bhagavad Gita comes Alive**".

#### **ICCR Distinguished Indologist award:**

It was instituted in 2015 during the First World Indology Conference. The award comprises a citation, a gold-plated medallion, and USD 20,000. The first recipient of the award in 2015 was Professor Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron from Germany.

88. The Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL) has announced that **Aurangabad** has become the first city in India to publish the **Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE)** data from **Google**. The data will help research organizations in framing sustainable solutions for the city. The EIE dashboard for Aurangabad has been launched by Google during an event in New Delhi.

- The EIE is a feature of Google, which helps cities measure the carbon emission sources, conduct analysis and identify strategies to reduce emissions that help counter air pollution.
- The EIE feature in India is only available for *Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune*.

89. The **French Government** has honoured Indian publisher **Kannan Sundaram**, publisher of *Kalachuvadu*, with **Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole**, the Knight of the Order of the Merit, for his contribution to the publishing collaboration between India and France.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

90. A new book titled "**Journey of a Nation: 75 years of Indian Economy: Re-emerge, Reinvest, Re-engage**" has been authored by **Sanjaya Baru**. The book is published by Rupa Publications India Private Limited. The book is part of a series that looks back at the past 75 years of Independent India.

91. A new book titled "**The Light We Carry**" has been authored by former First Lady **Michelle Obama**. The book is published by Random House Publishing Group and its imprint Crown. The book depicts her experiences and shares insights on navigating an increasingly stressful world.  
**Other book by Michelle Obama:** 'Becoming' (2018)

92. **Tata Power**, in collaboration with **Ela Foundation**, has released the fourth book in a series on '**Amphibians of the Northern Western Ghats**'. The book has been authored by **Dr. Satish Pande** with inputs from Mr. Vivek Vishwasrao and Prof Gram Purohit. The book is the first authentic photographic guide to all 52 species of amphibians including Gujarat, Diu, Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Maharashtra and Goa.

93. A new book titled "**The Dolphin and the Shark: Stories on Entrepreneurship**" has been authored by **Namita Thapar**, Leading businesswomen and Shark Tank India judge. The book has

been published by Penguin Random House India's business imprint 'Penguin Portfolio'. The book depicts how leaders of today need to strike a balance between being a shark (aggressive leader) and a dolphin (empathetic leader).

94. The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik has released a book titled "**Lockdown Lyrics**". The book is a collection of poems written by **Sanjukta Dash**. The book is published by Authors Press New Delhi. The poems are an unadulterated narration of the author's experiences and exasperations during the pandemic.
95. **Amit Sinha** has authored a book titled '**Do Different: The Untold Dhoni**'. The book has been co-authored by **Joy Bhattacharjya**. The book is published by India Viking. The book highlights the journey of famous Indian cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni. It marks the experiences of struggle, hardship, and success of MS Dhoni which include hitting countless sixes in his school ground in Ranchi to finishing a run chase with another towering six in World Cups.

#### Other books about MS Dhoni:

- The Dhoni Touch: Unravelling the Enigma That Is Mahendra Singh Dhoni by Bharat Sundaresan
  - Captain Cool: The MS Dhoni Story by Gulu Ezekiel
  - Think and Win Like Dhoni by Sfurti Sahare
96. Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi has recently launched an autobiography of **K.R.A. Narasiah** titled "**Through The Rear View Mirror**". The book offers a description of one's life honestly lived with no malice, no regrets and great deal of gratitude for whatever had come his way.
97. A new book titled "**Lion of the Skies: Hardit Singh Malik, the Royal Air Force and the First World War**" has been authored by **Stephan Barker**. The book is published by HarperCollins India. The book tells the unique story of the only Sikh airman, Hardit Singh Malik, to fly with the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Air Force during the First World War. The book also describes in great detail, how challenging it was for an Indian to serve in the British armed forces, fighting racial discrimination, both institutional and interpersonal.
- Hardit Singh Malik was **India's first fighter pilot**. He is also the first Indian Ambassador to France.

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## PERSON IN NEWS

- 98.** Senior Indian Information Service officer (1988-batch) **Satyendra Prakash** has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). He has succeeded Jaideep Bhatnagar. Prior to this, he held the position of Principal DG, Central Bureau of Communication.
- 99.** The World Bank has appointed **Auguste Tano Kouame** as the Country Director for India. He has succeeded **Junaid Kamal Ahmad** who completed a five-year term in India. He most recently served as the World Bank's Country Director for the Republic of Türkiye.
- Prior to this, he served as Director of the Department of Human Development and Economic Management in the World Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019.
- 100. Sujoy Lal Thaosan**, DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), has recently assumed the additional charge of the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). He is a 1988-batch Madhya Pradesh Cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer. He has succeeded Sanjay Arora.
- 101. Lt Gen Daljit Singh** has been appointed as honorary surgeon to President of India Droupadi Murmu. He is currently serving as the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and is the senior-most paediatrician and neonatologist with 38 years of service.

### Awards/Honours:

- Chief of the Air Staff Commendation (2006)
  - Chief of the Army Staff Commendation (2011)
  - Vishisht Seva Medal (2020)
- 102. BharatPe** has appointed former SBI Card CFO **Nalin Negi** as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He will take charge of the finance function for BharatPe and will be working towards making the company EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization) positive by March 2023. He will report to Suhail Sameer, CEO, BharatPe.
- 103.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Shweta Singh** as a Director in the **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**. She has been appointed for a period of three years from the date of her joining. She is a 2008-batch IFS officer.
- The ACC has also cancelled the appointment of Aniket Govind Mandavgane, a 2009-batch IFS officer, as the Deputy Secretary in the PMO.
- 104.** Vigilance Commissioner, **Suresh N. Patel** has been appointed as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). He has been working as the acting CVC since June 2022. He has replaced former IAS officer Sanjay Kothari who completed his term as the CVC on June 2021.

### Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

It was created in **February 1964** on the recommendations of K. Santhanam Committee. In **2003**, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the **Parliament**.

It is a Multi-member Commission consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (Member). The Chairperson and Members are appointed by the **President** on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member). The term of office of the Chairperson and Members: **4 years** or till they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

**105. Sargam Kaushal** from *Jammu & Kashmir* has been crowned the title of **Mrs India World 2022**.

The event has been held at the NESCO Centre in Goregaon, Mumbai. Navdeep Kaur, who was the national costume winner at Mrs. India World 2021 and Mrs. World 2022, wore the crown on the head of Sargam Kaushal.

- **First Runner up:** Juhi Vyas
- **Second Runner up:** Chahat Dalal

## OBITUARIES

**106.** Former Philippine President **Fidel Valdez Ramos** has recently passed away in Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. He was born on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1928 in Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippine Islands. He was popularly known as FVR & Steady Eddie. He served as the **12th President of the Philippines** from 1992 to 1998. He was a US-trained ex-general who saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars and played a key role in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising that ousted a dictator.

**107. T Mohandas M Pai**, founder of popular **Kannada daily 'Udayavani'**, has recently passed away in Kasturba Hospital, Manipal, Karnataka. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1933 in Karnataka. He was a law graduate and served as the president of the Dr T M A Pai Foundation and Manipal Media Network, which runs 'Udayavani'. He is regarded as the architect of modern Manipal. He also headed ICDS Limited which later became Syndicate bank.

**108.** NBA (National Basketball Association) legend **Bill Russell** has recently passed in Washington DC, USA. He was born on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1934 in Monroe, Louisiana, USA. He won the **Olympic gold medal** in the **1956** Melbourne Olympics. He won 11 titles with Boston Celtics.

**109.** American actress and singer **Nichelle Nichols**, popular for her role as Lt Uhura in the 1960s TV series "Star Trek", has recently passed away. She featured in the first six Star Trek movies following the series' end in 1969. She also became an ambassador for the US space agency NASA, helping to recruit women and minorities to its Space programme.

## SPORTS

**110.** Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Netherlands) has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix. This is his 28th Grand Prix win and the 8th win of the 2022 season. Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton (Britain) has finished second and Mercedes's George Russell (Britain) has finished third in the race.

**111.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has appointed four new members to the **Athletes' Commission** to help represent the athlete voice within the Olympic Movement. The appointments have been made in consultation with Emma Terho, Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission.

**Four new members:**

- **Allyson Felix** (USA): Sprinter
- **Alistair Brownlee** (UK): triathlon
- **Oluseyi Smith** (Canada): Sprinter
- **Masomah Ali Zada** (first refugee athlete on any IOC commission): Cyclist

**112.** **England** has won the 2022 UEFA European Women's Football Championship by defeating **Germany** in the final match held at Wembley Stadium in London. The 13th edition of the UEFA Women's Championship has been hosted by England.

**113.** **Johnny Famechon**, the renowned Australian boxing legend and former world champion, has recently passed away in Melbourne, Australia. He was born on 28 March 1945 in Paris, France. He was associated with professional **boxing** for more than 20 years and had a record of 56 wins, which includes 20 by knockout, six draws and five losses.

**114.** **India** has won the **15 medals** (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 4 Bronze) and has topped the medal tally at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Changwon 2022** Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun held at South Korea. India is followed by South Korea (12 medals), and Czech Republic (6 medals).

**India medal winners**

Medal	Players	Category
Gold	Arjun Babuta	men's 10m air rifle
Gold	Shahu Tushar Mane & Mehuli Ghosh	10m air rifle mixed team
Gold	Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija	men's 10m air rifle team
Gold	Aishwary Pratap Singh	men's 50m rifle 3P
Gold	Mairaj Ahmad Khan	men's skeet

Silver	Prithviraj Tondaiman, Vivaan Kapoor and Bhowneesh Mendiratta	men's trap team
Silver	Eavenil Valarivan, Ramita and Mehuli Ghosh	women's rifle team
Silver	Shiva Narwal, Naveen, Sagar Dangi	men's pistol team
Silver	Rhythm Sangwan, Yuvika Tomar and Palak	women's 10m air pistol team
Silver	Chain Singh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Sanjeev Rajput	men's 50m rifle 3P team
Silver	Anish Bhanwala, Vijayveer Sidhu and Sameer	men's 25m rapid fire pistol team
Bronze	Anish Bhanwala, Rhythm Sangwan	25m rapid fire pistol mixed team
Bronze	Anjum Moudgil, Sift Kaur Samra and Ashi Chouksey	women's 50m rifle 3P team
Bronze	Anjum Moudgil	women's 50m rifle 3P
Bronze	Shiva Narwal and Palak	10m air pistol mixed team

## IMPORTANT DAYS

**115. World Breastfeeding Week (WBW)** is observed annually from **1 to 7 August** to inform, anchor, engage and galvanise action on breastfeeding and related issues.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) created a memorandum in 1990. Following this, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was established in 1991. The inaugural World Breastfeeding Week was observed in 1992 to promote the campaign.
- **Theme 2022:** "Step up for breastfeeding: Educate and Support"

**116. Muslim Women's Rights Day** is observed annually across India on **1<sup>st</sup> August** to celebrate the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019 which prohibits the practice of Triple Talaq in India. The year 2022 marks the observance of 3<sup>rd</sup> Muslim Women's Rights Day. The day was first observed in 2020.



**117. Hiroshima Day** is observed annually on **6 August** to mark the anniversary of the **world's first atomic bombing** in Hiroshima during **World War II**. The year **2022** marks the **77<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of Hiroshima Day.

- **United States** dropped two nuclear weapons over Japanese cities of **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** respectively on **August 6 and August 9, 1945**. The **world's first nuclear bomb** called "**Little Boy**" was dropped in the city of Hiroshima that killed 80,000 civilians. The second bomb called "**Fat Man**" was dropped on Nagasaki that killed another 74,000 civilians.
- **National Handloom Day** is observed annually on **7<sup>th</sup> August** to honour the handloom weaving community and highlight the contribution of this sector in the socio-economic development of the country. The year 2022 marks the **8th anniversary** of National Handloom Day. The Swadeshi Movement was also launched on the same date in the year 1905. The first National Handloom Day was inaugurated on 7 August 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Chennai.

**118. World Lung Cancer Day** is observed annually on **1<sup>st</sup> August** to spread awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and to promote overall lung health. The World Lung Cancer campaign was first organised in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), in collaboration with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and the American College of Chest Physicians.

- **Pearl or white** is the colour of the Lung Cancer Awareness ribbon.
- **November** is observed as Lung Cancer Awareness Month.

**119. National Javelin Day** is observed annually by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on **7<sup>th</sup> August** to encourage javelin throw pan-India. The day also commemorate one of the greatest moments in India's sporting history, **Neeraj Chopra's** Olympic gold medal. On this day in 2021, Neeraj Chopra produced the 87.58m effort in Tokyo to secure India's first track and field medal in the Olympic Games. The year 2022 marks the observance of the first National Javelin Day.

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