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August 2022 - Week 3

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav has announced that the Central government will establish an elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai landscape in **Tamil Nadu**. The central government has accepted the proposal of the Tamil Nadu forest department to notify **1,197.48 sq km** area of land in **Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli** as the **Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve**. This will be the **5th** elephant reserve in Tamil Nadu and the **32nd** elephant reserve in India.

### Elephant Reserves in India:

Currently, India has 31 elephant reserves. In the last three years, Dandeli Elephant Reserve has been notified by Karnataka, Singphan Elephant Reserve by Nagaland and Lemru Elephant Reserve in Chhattisgarh. These efforts brought a total of 76,508 sq km across 14 states in the country under elephant reserves.

**Note:** As per the 2017 census, Karnataka has the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam and Kerala.

2. A bilateral air force exercise “**Udarashakti 2022**” has been held between **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF)** in Malaysia. The four-day exercise has secured the long-standing bond of friendship and enhanced the line of defence cooperation between both armies.

**Participants:**

**India:** Su-30 MKI and C-17 aircraft

**Malaysia:** Su 30 MKM aircraft

**Other Exercises between India and Malaysia:**

**Exercise Harimau Shakti:** It is a bilateral joint military exercise between India and Malaysia.

3. **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** has partnered with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati** to develop solutions to problems of accessing water, electricity, and internet for the AICTE-affiliated technical institutions in North-East India. Both will work towards capacity-building in these institutions to promote research and development and prioritise in enhancing quality of education in remote regions of North-East India.

4. As per the Ministry of Finance notification, **those who pay income tax will not be allowed** to enroll in the Government’s social security scheme **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** from **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**.

- In case a subscriber, who joined on or after 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, is subsequently found to have been an income tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated pension wealth till date would be given to the subscriber.
- Income tax payer enrolled before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to continue in the scheme.

**Note:** Under the income tax law, people having taxable income of up to Rs.2.5 lakh are not required to pay income tax.

5. The south London home of **Dadabhai Naoroji**, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain’s first Indian parliamentarian, lived for around 8 years at the end of the 19th century has been honoured with a commemorative **Blue Plaque Scheme**.

- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular buildings across London.
- Dadabhai Naoroji is reported to have moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, Bromley in 1897.

- That red-brick home now has a plaque which reads: “Dadabhai Naoroji 1825-1917 Indian Nationalist and MP lived here”.
- His key text on drain theory, '**Poverty and Un-British Rule in India' (1901)**, was published while he was living over there.

### **Dadabhai Naoroji:**

He is also known as the *Grand Old Man of India* and *Unofficial Ambassador of India* was an Indian scholar, trader and politician. He was born on 4th September 1825 in Navsari, Bombay Presidency (present day Gujarat) to a Gujarati speaking Parsi family with a lineage of Zoroastrian Priests. He was also the *first Asian* to be a British MP. He was also one of the founding members of Indian National Congress (INC). He was also a member of the *Welby Commission*, set up by the British Government to investigate wasteful spending in India.

6. The **23rd edition** of the **India International Seafood Show (IISS)** will be held in **Kolkata** from February 15-17 2023. The seafood event will serve as an interactive platform between Indian exporters and overseas importers of India's marine products.

- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has collaborated with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) to organize the show.
- The event will be organized at Biswa Bangala Mela Prangan in Kolkata.

During 2021-22, India exported 13,69,264 tonnes of marine products worth USD 7.76 billion, registering an all-time high export by value, while production of shrimp crossed 1 million MT.

7. Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Earth Science (MoES) Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched "**Roshni**", India's first Saline Water Lantern. It has been unveiled during his visit to SAGAR ANVESHKA, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai for coastal research.

- The lantern uses seawater as the electrolyte between specially designed electrodes to power the LED (Light Emitting Diode) lamps.
- This lantern will boost and supplement the centre's 'UJALA scheme' which was launched in 2015 for distribution of LED bulbs across the country.

He has also reviewed the progress of NIOT developed **Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD)** technology for conversion of sea water to potable water, which has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.

8. The Indian Navy Ships (INS) in a first-of-its-kind effort have set sail to **6 continents** as part of the celebration of 75 years of Independence of India.

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Satpura** has conducted a **75 Lap "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Run"** at the **San Diego** US Navy Base on the Independence Day of India. These 75 laps

have been dedicated to 75 stalwarts of India's Freedom Struggle as a remembrance of their sacrifices for the nation. The ship has also hoisted the Indian Tricolour flag in the presence of the Indian diaspora and distinguished local dignitaries in the North American Continent. This is the first time an Indian Naval Warship has reached the west coast of North America.

- **Other Naval Warships:** *INS Trikand* in Mombasa in Kenya (Africa), *INS Saryu* in Singapore (Asia), *INS Sumedha* in Perth (Australia), *INS Tarkash* in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (South America), and the sailing ship *INS Tarangini* in London (Europe).

9. The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India has launched a **"Manthan Platform"** to enable and empower all spheres of science and technology in India.

- The platform promotes collaboration at scale between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem to help meet India's scientific missions and goals in alignment with the UN-defined Sustainable Development Goals(SDG) charter.
- The platform will facilitate knowledge transfers and interactions through information exchange sessions, exhibitions, and events to develop a framework for future science, innovation, and technology-led growth.
- The platform is powered by the **National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIT)** and is led by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA).

10. Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has launched the **Early Childhood Development Conclave, Paalan 1000 National Campaign and Parenting App** in Mumbai.

#### Paalan 1000 National Campaign and Parenting App:

- The campaign aims to focus on the cognitive developments of children in the first **2 years** of their life.
- The programme is aligned with the mission of the **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK)**, emphasizing responsive care and focusing interventions on the first 1000 days.
- The first 1000 days will establish a solid platform for a child's physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and social health.
- The parenting app will provide caregiver with practical advice on what they can do in their everyday routine and will help resolving the various doubts of parents.
- It focused on the 6 principles on Maximize Love, Talk & Engage, explore through Movement and Play, Read and Discuss Stories, Mother's Engagement with the Child while Breastfeeding and Managing Stress and Staying Calm.

**Note:** India has reduced child mortality since 2014 from 45 per 1000 live births to 35 per 1000 live births in 2019.

11. Union Minister of State Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has approved a Start-up loan of **Rs.1.15 crores** to M/s TGP Bioplastics for commercializing compostable plastic which will mitigate the usage of single-use plastics (SUP).
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has also been signed between Technology Development Board, a statutory body under the Department of Science & Technology and M/s TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra to manufacture & commercialise compostable plastic.
  - **Composite Plastic:**  
The composite is a unique blend of Thermoplastic-Starch (TPS)-glycerin with some chemical modifications that provide higher strength at a low manufacturing cost. The granules prepared from this composite can be moulded into any shape and used as per the requirement, and it can further break down into natural substances once thrown out.
12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a "**Panch Pran**" target (Five Resolutions) on the occasion of 76th Independence Day to make India a developed nation in the next 25 years, when India will celebrate 100th Independence Day.

#### **Panch Pran (Five Resolutions):**

- Build a developed India.
- Be proud of India's heritage and legacy.
- Erase all traces of servitude
- Unity & Solidarity
- Duties of citizens, which include the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers (CMs), as they are also responsible citizens.

He has also given the slogan "**Jai Anusandhan**" to push the innovation.

On this occasion, India has gifted a **Dornier** maritime reconnaissance aircraft to **Sri Lanka** which will enable the island nation to tackle multiple challenges like human and drug trafficking, smuggling and other organised forms of crime in its coastal waters more effectively.

13. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has handed over several indigenous military equipments to the **Indian Army**. These equipment/systems have been jointly developed by the Indian Army in collaboration with Defence Public Sector Undertakings, **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Industry, in line with vision to modernise the Armed Forces, under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

**Aim:** To enhance operational preparedness of the Army.

#### **Indigenous Defence Equipment (IDE):**

- **Nipun:**

It is an **Anti-Personnel Mine**. It is developed by Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune and the Indian industry. It replaces the vintage NMM 14 mines. It is also known as 'soft target blast munition'. It will enhance the protection provided to the troops on the borders by acting as the first line of defence against infiltrators.

- **Landing Craft Assault (LCA):**

It is meant to serve as a replacement for the boats for carrying personnel in battle operations. These lightweight assault carriers can carry up to 35 troops. This model is undergoing trials in the Pangong Tso Lake near LAC with China.

- **F-INSAS:**

It stands for "**Future Infantry Soldier As A System**". It is an indigenously developed system that will help modernise the Indian Army units. The development of this system is aimed at improving the operational capabilities of the infantry units of the Indian Army. Under this, soldiers are being equipped with three primary sub system: the first system is the AK-203 assault rifle with day and night holographic and reflex sights; protection through a specially designed helmet and a bullet proof jacket; and communication and surveillance system.

Other defence systems are Hand Held Thermal Imager, Solar Photovoltaic Energy Project, Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV), Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle etc.

**14.** The first-of-its-kind database named **National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco Offenders (NIDAAN)** has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in India.

- The database has been developed by the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
- It is part of the Narcotics Coordination Mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in Chandigarh.
- The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (Inter-operable Criminal Justice System) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository.
- It is planned to integrate it in the future with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).

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**15.** The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the signing of a contract between **India** and **France** to support the **International Transport Forum (ITF)** activities in the Indian Transport Sector.

- The contract was signed on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, France on behalf of the International Transport Forum and the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India.

### Other approvals by Cabinet:

- Cabinet has approved to restore **Interest Subvention** on short term agriculture loans to **1.5%** for all financial institutions. The Interest Subvention will be provided to lending institutions for FY 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short term agri-loans upto **Rs 3 lakh** to the farmers.
  - Cabinet has approved the “Widening access of the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** database to users, besides patent offices”. The TKDL database will be accessible via a paid subscription model, with national and international users being granted access in stages.
- 16.** Switch Mobility Limited, subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, has launched “**Switch EiV 22**”, India’s first **electric double-decker bus** at YB Centre in south Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be run by the Mumbai civic transport body from September 2022.
- The bus is powered by a 231 kWh capacity battery pack with a dual gun charging system, which allows the bus to have a range of up to 250 kms for intra-city transport.
- 17.** India has planned to purchase the world's deadliest strategic bomber **Tu-160** from **Russia** to double the strength of the Indian Air Force. This bomber has the ability to enter Pakistan and China and strike their vital air bases, warships, and aircraft carriers that are patrolling the seas.

### Tu-160 Black Jack Bomber:

It is also known as the 'White Swan'. It made its maiden flight in 1981. It was modernized in 2015. This bomber can transport large missiles. It can reach a peak speed of 2220 kmph. The maximum weight that this aircraft can carry while flying is 110,000 kg. It has a 56-meter wingspan.

- 18.** India's first **Composite Indoor Shooting Range (CISR)** has been launched by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta at **INS Karna** on the Eastern Seaboard, near Bheemili, Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. INS Karna is the **first** in the navy and perhaps the only military unit in the country to set up CISR.

This facility is a state-of-the-art, self-contained, 25-m, six-lane, live firing range for all primary and secondary weapons in the Indian Navy.

- 19.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has announced financial aid of **Rs 3.29 crore** to a **Hydrogen startup** from **Maharashtra** for the indigenous development of Hydrogen Sensing & Analysis Technology.



- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) and **Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited**, Maharashtra to support the manufacturing of Hydrogen sensors indigenously.
- This is in line with the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM), launched in 2021.

**Note:** India has set a target to produce 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030.

- 20.** Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a two day **National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference 2022** in New Delhi. The Conference has been attended by 600 officers from across the country, physically and virtually. The conference deliberated on various aspects of national security, including counter-terrorism, radicalisation, issues pertaining to crypto currencies, counter rogue drone technology and challenges posed by Maoist outfits.
- He has also inaugurated the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**. This system is developed by **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**. The system will help in the quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of a centralized fingerprint database.
- 21.** Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Parshottam Rupala, has chaired the 9th Governing Body meeting of the **National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)** held in New Delhi.
- During the meeting, he has released a book on **"Super Success Stories from Indian Fisheries"** published by NFDB.
  - He has also launched an online market place feature **"Aqua Bazar"** app developed by ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) with the funding support of NFDB under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The app will help the fish farmers and stakeholders to source the inputs such as fish seed, feed, medicines etc. and services required for fish culture as well as farmers can list the table size fish for sale.
- 22.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has inaugurated India's first indigenously developed **Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus** in **Pune, Maharashtra**. It has been developed by the *Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)* and private firm *KPIT Limited* in Pune. This bus has zero emissions compared to a diesel bus plying on long-distance routes which usually emits 100 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually.

### **Fuel Cell:**

Fuel cell is an electrochemical energy conversion device that generates electricity, heat, and water by using hydrogen and air. Its applications are can be classified into 3 broad sectors: Transport, Portable (military applications, Auxiliary Power Units, laptops etc.), Stationary

(power to industrial/commercial/residential buildings, etc.). Japan is a leader in the use of fuel cell technology.

- 23.** The **10th National Conference of Women Police** has been held in **Shimla**, Himachal Pradesh. More than 200 women police officers and employees across the country have participated in this two-day National conference.
- The conference has been organized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** and the *Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD)* in collaboration with *Himachal Police*.
  - Union Minister of State for Home affairs **Nityanand Rai** has inaugurated the conference.
  - The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges.
  - The conference also highlighted and discussed the new roles and responsibilities of women in terms of changing technology and crime.
- 24.** India will start supplying petrol with **20 percent ethanol** at select petrol pumps from **April 2023**. E20 petrol (petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol) in some quantity will be available from April 2023 and the rest to be covered by 2025.
- **Note:** India is the world's **fifth largest producer** of ethanol after the US, Brazil, EU and China.
- 25.** Union Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry, Parshottam Rupala, has launched a unique coffee table book titled **'Fish & Seafood -a collection of 75 gourmet recipes'** in New Delhi. The coffee table book and its launch event are a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The book highlights the diversity of fish available within the domestic water bodies and the fish culinary heritage of the country that signifies the diverse cooking and eating styles across the country.
- 26.** The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has launched a Pan-India Operation under the code name **"Operation Yatri Suraksha"** to improve the security of passengers travelling by Indian Railways.
- Under this, several steps are being taken to provide fool proof security to passengers i.e. Train Escorting, visible presence on stations, Surveillance through CCTV, Surveillance on active criminals, collection of intelligence about the criminals and action thereupon, identifying black spots and crime prone trains/sections and enhancing security thereat among others.
- 27.** The Ministry of Law and Justice has recently appointed **11 advocates** as Additional Judges in **Punjab and Haryana High Court**. The 11 new Additional Judges are Nidhi Gupta, Sanjay Vashisth, Tribhuvan Dahiya, Namit Kumar, Harkesh Manuja, Aman Chaudhary, Naresh Singh, Harsh Bunger, Jagmohan Bansal, Deepak Manchanda and Alok Jain.

- Currently, the Punjab and Haryana High Court is functioning with just 46 judges, against the sanctioned strength of 85. With the appointment of new additional judges, the number of judges will rise to 57.
- So far, **138 appointments** in various high courts of the country have been made this year compared to earlier record of 126 high court appointments, which were made in 2016.
- Earlier, 26 High Court Judges in the High Courts of Allahabad, Andhra, Telangana, Gauhati, Orissa, and Himachal Pradesh have been appointed.

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## STATES AFFAIRS

**28. Meghalaya** will host the **2nd edition** of the **North East Olympic Games** from 30<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022 in Shillong. This aims to bridge the gap for aspiring sportsperson in the region to improve themselves.

- This edition of the Games will be special as Meghalaya is celebrating the 50th year of its Statehood.
- Around 4,000 participants from eight North Eastern States will be competing in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong.

The first edition of Games was held in Manipur in 2018, with 12 disciplines.

**29.** The Government of **Rajasthan** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam(SJVN)** for the development of **10,000 MW** renewable energy projects. This project require an investment of around Rs 50,000 crore. Under this MoU, SJVN will establish the renewable projects on the land banks to be allocated by Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited (RRECL).

**30.** The **Golden Joint** connecting two ends of the overarch deck of the world's highest railway bridge over **River Chenab** has been inaugurated in **Reasi** district of **Jammu & Kashmir**. It has been constructed at a cost of Rs.1,250 crore. The 1.3-km-long bridge is located 359 metres above the Chenab riverbed and it is 35 metres higher than Eiffel Tower in Paris.

- For the first time ever since independence, Srinagar will be linked to the rest of India.
- Afcons is building 16 additional railway bridges for Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in the dangerous terrain of Jammu and Kashmir in addition to the Chenab Bridge.
- All the bridges are part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

- 31.** Bengaluru-based **Central Power Research Institute (CPRI)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Chhattisgarh** government to set up a Regional Testing Laboratory in Raipur.
- The testing unit will be set up on an area of 10 acres which will have test facilities for transformers, energy meters, transformer oil, switch fuse unit and other electricity-related equipment.
- 32.** The Government of India (GoI) has planned to join hands with the **Arunachal Pradesh** government to develop a **“District Good Governance Portal”** for monitoring the performance of each district of the state on a monthly basis and help in benchmarking performance.
- The portal will be developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the Ministry of Personnel in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh government.
  - The plan is to help the state in upgrading the e-office version 5.6 to e-office version 7.0 in a phased manner.
  - The plan has been announced during the two-day Regional Conference on “Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms” at Itanagar.
- 33.** **Arunachal Pradesh** has successfully launched its first drone service, **'Medicine from the sky'** from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in East Kameng district. The government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to conduct a pilot project of using drones in healthcare, agriculture, and disaster management in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (**WEF**).
- The pilot project has been funded by the United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and executed by Bengaluru-based startup Redwing Labs.
- 34.** The state government of **Sikkim** has launched the **'Aama Yojana'** and **'Vatsalya Yojana'** for the welfare of women in the state. Under Aama Yojana all unemployed mothers in the state will receive **Rs. 20,000** annually which will be deposited in their bank accounts. Under the Vatsalya Yojana an aid of **Rs. 3 lakh** will be provided to childless women for in vitro fertilization treatment.
- The government has also announced year-long maternity leave for women employees of the state in place of the six-month leave. The mobile village clinic programme has also been launched to provide accessible medical facilities to people in remote areas in all six districts.

- 35.** The Border Road Organization (BRO) has planned to construct a first-of-its-kind pilot road stretch in the **Arunachal Pradesh** border area using steel slag. The project will resolve connectivity issues due to adverse terrain in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The project has been initiated after the success of using **100%** steel slag on a port connectivity road in Gujarat.
  - The 1.2 km Hazira port connectivity stretch was a Research & Development (R&D) project carried out by CSIR-CRRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute) in collaboration with a major steel manufacturer and the Ministry of Steel.
- 36.** Asia's largest **Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant** has commenced its commercial production at **Bhuttal Kalan** village near **Sangrur** district of **Punjab** to generate clean and green energy. The plant has now started commercial production of CBG, which is being supplied to Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) outlet. The plant has a total capacity of **33.23 tonne** CBG per day.
- PEDDA (Punjab Energy Development Agency) has also allocated 42 additional CBG projects of total capacity 492.58 tonnes per day (TPD) based on paddy straw and other agro-residue.
- 37.** The state government of **Kerala** has launched "**Lucky Bill App**" with an aim **to curb Goods and Service Tax (GST) evasion**. It is the first-of-its-kind initiative to be introduced in India.
- It has been developed by the State GST Department of Kerala in collaboration with the Digital University of Kerala.
  - It will help in boosting tax collection and also enable the government to examine the status of tax return filings with the help of bills uploaded by people.
  - It encourages the citizen to ask for a bill every-time they make a purchase. To reward them in doing so, the app offers cash prizes up to Rs.25 lakh.
- 38. Mandla**, a district in **Madhya Pradesh**, which is a tribal-dominated region has become *India's first fully 'functionally literate' district*. The district administration launched a campaign in 2020 to make the residents fully literate. For this purpose, the administration employed the education, and women and child development departments along with social workers to educate the people.
- The literacy rate in the district was 68 percent as per a survey in 2011, while another report in 2020 pointed out that over 2.25 lakh people were not literate in the district and most of them were tribals living in the forest areas.

39. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has unveiled the statue of “**Veer Durgadas Rathore**”, a symbol of courage, valour and devotion to self, at Salwa Kalan near Jodhpur, **Rajasthan**. The statue has been unveiled on the **385th birth anniversary** of Veer Durgadas Rathore.

#### **Veer Durgadas Rathore:**

He was the Rathore Rajput General of the Kingdom of Marwar. He single-handedly preserved the rule of the Rathore dynasty over Marwar (Jodhpur) after the death of Maharaja Jaswant Singh in the 17th century. He commanded the Rathore forces during the Rajput War (1679–1707) and played a major role in the Rajput Rebellion (1708–1710) which became one of the main reasons for the decline of the Mughal Empire. He was elected as the leader of the revolt along with Raja Jai Singh II of Jaipur.

40. The Union Cabinet has recently approved a proposal to increase the limit of the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** by **Rs. 50,000 crore** to **Rs. 5 lakh crore**. This additional guarantee cover will support **hospitality and related sectors** till the validity of the scheme which is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in the Union Budget speech 2022-23, had announced extension of the ECLGS till March 2023, and expansion of the guarantee cover by Rs. 50,000.

#### **ECLGS:**

It was launched by the Government of India in 2020 as a special scheme in view of COVID-19 crisis. The scheme provides 100% guarantee coverage to Banks and NBFCs to enable them to extend emergency credit facilities to Business Enterprises/MSMEs in view of COVID-19 to meet their additional term loan/additional working capital requirements.

41. **Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D)** have become the first ‘**Har Ghar Jal**’ certified State and UT in the country respectively, where people from all the villages have declared their village as ‘Har Ghar Jal’ through a resolution passed by Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps.

- All 2.63 lakh rural households of Goa & 85,156 of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have access to potable water through tap connection.
- Village Water and Sanitation Committee (VWSC) or Paani Samiti has been constituted in all the 378 villages of Goa and 96 villages of D&NH and D&D.

#### **Jal Jeevan Mission:**

It is a flagship programme of Government of India which was announced from the ramparts of Red Fort by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **15<sup>th</sup> August 2019**. The mission aims to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality and on regular

& long-term basis to every rural household of the country by **2024**. The program is being implemented by the Government of India in partnership with States/UTs.

- 42.** The Directorate of Agriculture, **Jharkhand**, and global blockchain technology company, **SettleMint**, India have jointly implemented the distribution of seed to farmers using a blockchain-based platform. With this, Jharkhand has become the first Indian state to implement blockchain technology which is being used to track seed distribution.
- The platform enables traceability, real-time monitoring, and efficient management of the schemes in a transparent manner. Over 3 lakh farmers from Jharkhand have already registered on the platform and are being distributed seeds at a subsidised rate.
- 43.** The Chief Minister of **Maharashtra** Eknath Shinde has announced that the popular entertainment event of "**Dahi Handi**" will now be recognised as an official sport of the state. He has also introduced the discipline "*Pro Dahi Handi*" and "*Govindas*" who participated in the tournament would get jobs under the sport Maharashtra's quota.
- If Govinda dies, an insurance cover of **Rs 10 lakh** will be given, and if he becomes partially disabled then an insurance cover of **Rs 5 lakh** will be given by the Maharashtra government.
  - **Dahi Handi:**  
"Dahi Handi", meaning "curd in an earthen pot", is a popular event in the state associated with Lord Krishna's birthday, Janmashtami. It is a ritual in which devotees of Lord Krishna recreate the 'Maakhan Chori' or butter stealing act. It is one of the mischievous stories of Krishna's childhood. It is also known as 'Gopalakala' and it is observed on the next day of Janmashtami.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 44.** Kenyan Deputy President, **William Ruto** has been elected as the next **President of Kenya**. He has received 50.49% of the vote in the recent elections against his contender Raila Odinga. He will succeed Uhuru Kenyatta.
- 45.** The **United Kingdom (UK)** has become the first country to approve **Moderna's "bivalent"** COVID-19 vaccine that targets both the original virus strain from 2020 and the Omicron BA.1 variant. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved the Moderna vaccine which meet its standards of safety, quality and effectiveness.
- 46.** UN Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed **Simon Stiell** (Grenada) as the new Executive Secretary of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. The appointment has been endorsed by the Bureau of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- UNFCCC has near universal membership (197 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement. The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep the global average temperature rise this century as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above

pre-industrial levels. The original secretariat was in Geneva. Since 1996, the secretariat has been located in **Bonn, Germany**.

- 47.** Scientists at the Weizmann Institute in **Israel** have developed the **world's first synthetic embryo** outside the womb using stem cells cultured in a petri dish. The cells of the synthetic embryo were cultured without the use of fertilized eggs, bypassing the need for sperm. The team grew the embryo from mouse stem cells. The study was published in the journal Cell.
- 48. Scotland** has become the first country to legally protect the right to access free period products by passing a law, the **Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021** that came into force on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Under the new law, schools, colleges, and universities including local government bodies must make a range of period products available for free in their bathrooms.
- 49.** The **9th Meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission (JCM) 2022** has been held in Bangkok, Thailand. Union External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** co-chaired the meeting along with **Don Pramudwinai**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.
- It is noteworthy that both countries are celebrating **75 years** of establishment of diplomatic relations.

**Two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** have been signed during the meeting:

- An MoU was signed on Health and Medical Research Cooperation between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India, and the Department of Medical Sciences (DMS), Thailand
- An MoU was signed for Cooperation & Collaboration on Broadcasting between Prasar Bharti, India, and Thai Public Broadcasting Service of Thailand.

**Note:** The 8th India-Thailand Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held on 10 October 2019, in New Delhi.

## REPORTS & INDICES

- 50.** As per the latest survey conducted by Ipsos India, **Defence Forces** have been ranked the most trusted institution in India with at least 2 in 3 (65 percent of respondents) reposing faith in them. It is followed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with 1 in 2 (50 percent), and Prime Minister of India as an institution with 49 percent.
- The Supreme Court of India has been ranked fourth, followed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).



- The Parliament (33 percent) has been ranked 7th, Media (32 percent) ranked 8th and the Election Commission of India (31 percent) ranked 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The institutions at the bottom are Politicians (16 percent), Political parties (17 percent), Community Leaders (19 percent), and Religious Leaders (21 percent).

The survey has been conducted by Ipsos India via a quantitative survey using a structured questionnaire and interviewed 2,950 adults including females. Respondents from four metros, tier 1, tier 2 and tier 3 towns are included in the survey with a margin of error of +/-5%.

**51.** As per the latest Mercom India Research Report, India has added **7.2 GW** of solar capacity in the First Half (1H) of 2022, a 59% increase compared to 4.5 GW installed during the same period last year. India's cumulative installed solar capacity now stands at **57 GW**.

- In the first half of 2022, **Rajasthan and Gujarat** are the top states for large-scale solar, accounting for 53 percent and 14 percent of installations, respectively, followed by **Maharashtra** with 9 percent.
- Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost **13 GW** as of June 2022, and the state accounted for almost 27 percent of the total installations in the country.

**52.** The Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) has released a report titled '**Landscape of Green Finance in India**'. As per the report, the tracked green finance in 2019-2020 was **Rs.309,000 crore** (nearly USD 44 billion) per annum, which is less than a fourth of India's needs.

- The report states that India requires approximately Rs.162.5 lakh crore (\$2.5 trillion) from 2015 to 2030 or roughly **Rs.11 lakh crore** (\$170 billion) per year to achieve its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris agreement.
- The report shows increased flows to renewable energy sectors.
- In the two years since the initial report in 2020, green finance flows increased by 150% from FY17-FY18 to FY19-FY20.
- In the overall increase, public sector flows increased 179% and private sector flows by 130%.

**53. Forbes Asia** has published its 2022 edition of the best 200 mid-sized companies in the Asia-Pacific region. These are publicly listed companies with annual revenue of below one billion dollars. This year, **24 Indian firms** made the list titled "**Best Under A Billion**", down from 26 in 2021.

- With this, India has been ranked **fourth** among Asian countries, one position ahead of China which has 22 companies on the list.
- **Taiwan** has the greatest number of companies listed at 30, followed by Japan with 29 and South Korea with 27.

- 54.** India has recently added 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make total **75 Ramsar sites** covering an area of **13, 26,677 ha** in the country in the 75th year of Independence. The 11 new sites include: *Four sites in Tamil Nadu, Three in Odisha, Two in Jammu & Kashmir and One each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.* The designation of these sites will help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources.

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### New Ramsar Sites:

- **Odisha:** *Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir, and Ansupa Lake*
- **Madhya Pradesh:** *Yashwant Sagar*
- **Tamil Nadu:** *Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex, Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary, and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary*
- **Maharashtra:** *Thane Creek*
- **Jammu and Kashmir:** *Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve*

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st February 1982. During **1982 to 2013**, a total of **26 sites** were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, during **2014 to 2022**, the country has added **49** new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.

During this year (2022) a total of **28 sites** have been declared as Ramsar sites. **Tamil Nadu** has maximum number of Ramsar sites (14), followed by Uttar Pradesh which has 10 Ramsar sites.

- 55.** According to the latest data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India's inflation based on the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** has declined to **13.93 percent** in July 2022 as compared to 15.18 percent in June 2022. It was 11.57 percent in July 2021.
- 56.** The fall in WPI inflation in July is driven by lower food prices, with food inflation dropping to 9.41 percent, down 300 basis points from June. Overall, the food index, which makes up 24 percent of the WPI basket, decreased by 2.2 percent in July over the previous month.

## **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES**

**57. Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**

- It is a government pension program launched on **9<sup>th</sup> May 2015**.
- It came into force on **1<sup>st</sup> June 2015**.
- The aim is to provide social security to workers mainly in the unorganised sector.
- Subscribers of the scheme get a minimum guaranteed pension of **Rs.1,000 to Rs.5,000 per month** after attaining 60 years of age depending on their contributions.
- It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) through the National Pension System (NPS).
- All Indian citizens between the age group of **18-40 years** can join APY through bank or post office branches where one has a savings bank account.

More than 99 lakh APY accounts were opened during the last fiscal, taking the total number of subscribers to 4.01 crore at the end of March 2022.

**58.** The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), along with the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, has hosted an event '**Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**' at the water sports club in New Delhi.

**New initiatives launched during the event under the Arth Ganga concept are:**

- **Jalaj initiative :**

It has been launched by the Minister for Jal Shakti at **26 locations** along River Ganga, Yamuna, Gomati, Hooghly, and Chambal in six states including Uttar Pradesh (11), West Bengal (6), Bihar (5), Uttarakhand (2), Jharkhand (1), and Madhya Pradesh (1). It is being implemented in association with **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**. It aims to increase the 'Jalaj' sites from 26 to 75.

- **ImAvatar:**

It is a tourism related platform to promote livelihood opportunities along the Ganga basin by promoting Arth Ganga initiative through tourism.

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has also been signed between the NMCG and the **Sahakar Bharati** to achieve the vision of sustainable and viable economic development through public participation, creation and strengthening of local cooperatives directing their cooperation towards realizing the mandate of Arth Ganga.

**Arth-Ganga:**

It is a concept given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 1st National Ganga Council meeting in **2019** in Kanpur. It is being developed into an economic model for sustainable river rejuvenation. The central idea of "Arth Ganga" is linking people and Ganga through the bridge of economics in line with the slogan of "*Banking on River Ganga*".

**59.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has announced financial support of **Rs. 3.29 crores** to *M/s Kritsnam Technologies*, a Start-up Company, incubated at **IIT Kanpur** to develop smart water management technologies, which will benefit Atal Bhujal Yojana.

- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** has been signed in the presence of Dr Jitendra Singh between the Technology Development Board (**TDB**) under Department of Science and Technology and *M/s Kritsnam Technologies Private Limited*, Ranchi, Jharkhand for production & commercialization of Dhaara Smart Flow Meter.

### **'Dhaara Smart Flowmeter':**

It is an integrated system for online monitoring using two beam ultrasonic flowmeters that is designed to track the water distribution in real-time for applications such as drinking water supply, ground water extraction, industrial water usage and precision irrigation. This unique solution is a combination of hardware & software for flow measurement and water management respectively.

### **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL):**

It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's 95th birth anniversary on *25th December 2019*. It is a *Central Sector Scheme* of Ministry of Jal Shakti for facilitating sustainable groundwater management. The scheme is being implemented in 80 water stressed districts and 8,565 Gram Panchayats of *seven States* viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 for a period of five years. The total outlay of the scheme is Rs.6000 crore.

**60.** The **Technology Development Board (TDB)**, a statutory body under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has decided to fund its first ever '**Aquaculture**' project using **Israeli technology** for the production of **Tilapia Fish**. This project is inspired by the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), and will help support Blue Revolution in India. Under the project, Tilapia will be grown from the imported parent broodstock '**Hermon**' from Israel.

### **Tilapia Fish:**

It is also called "*aquatic chicken*" due to its quick growth and low maintenance. It is one of the most productive and internationally traded food fish in the world. It belongs to the family Cichlidae, native to Africa and the Middle East. It has omnivorous food habits.

### **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:**

It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of the fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs.20,050 crore for its implementation during 2020-21 to 2024-25 as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package.

**Note:** India is the second largest fish-producing country in the world accounting for 7.56% of global production.

**61.** The **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**, in partnership with **Seva Bharti** and **Yuva Vikas Society**, has launched **Phase-II of the Grameen Udyami Project** in **Ranchi**, Jharkhand to promote skill development and entrepreneurship amongst the tribal youth.

In Phase-II, the training under the project will be conducted in the following Job roles which are relevant to the local economy.

- Electrician & Solar PV Installation Technician
- Plumbing & Masonry
- 2-Wheeler Repair & Maintenance
- IT/ITES with e-Governance
- Farm Mechanization

### **Grameen Udyami Project:**

It is a unique multiskilling project. It is funded by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). It aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

The project is being implemented in six states: Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.

### **Objectives:**

- Increase in Rural/Local Economy
- Enhance employment opportunities
- Reduce forced migration due to lack of local opportunities
- Conservation of natural resources

The project is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.

**62.** The Union Ministry of Steel has extended the last date for receipt of applications under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Specialty Steel** again. The deadline to fill application through the online application window is now **15 September, 2022** from 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

### **PLI Scheme for Speciality Steel:**

In July 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the PLI Scheme for Specialty Steel in India to be implemented over FY 2023-24 to FY 2029-30 with a budgetary outlay of Rs.6,322 crore. The aim is to help India's Speciality Steel production reach 42 Million Tonnes (MT) by 2026-27 from 18 MT in 2020-21. The scheme will give employment to about 5,25,000 people of which 68,000 will be direct employment. The five categories of specialty steel that have been chosen in the PLI Scheme are:

- **Coated/Plated Steel Products**

- **High Strength/Wear-resistant Steel**
- **Specialty Rails**
- **Alloy Steel Products and Steel wires**
- **Electrical Steel**

**Speciality Steel:** It is value-added steel, which is made by processing normal finished steel. It is done by converting normal finished steel into high value-added steel by way of coating, plating and heat treatment. It can be used in various strategic applications such as defence, space, power etc.

## **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

- 63. RazorPay**, India's leading full-stack Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses, has become the first Indian company to be listed on 'Forbes Cloud 100 List 2022' of the top-100 private cloud companies in the world. The entity has entered the Forbes list for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time and it has been listed at 49<sup>th</sup> position for being a Financial Solutions Software.
- This Forbes list has been published for the 6<sup>th</sup> time in collaboration with Bessemer Venture Partners and Salesforce Ventures.
- 64. Paytm**, a digital finance company, has collaborated with **Samsung** stores to facilitate smart payments as well as its loan service through deployment of point of sale (PoS) devices across India. This collaboration will enable consumers purchasing Samsung devices from any authorised store in the country to pay through Paytm payment instruments, including UPI, wallet, buy now pay later scheme, debit cards and credit cards.
- 65. Vistara**, a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, has become the second largest domestic airline by market share in July 2022. Vistara market share was **10.4 percent** in July 2022 when it flew 1.01 million passengers. As per the data from the aviation regulator, Vistara controlled 7.5 percent of the market in January 2022 and was around 9 percent in the subsequent months.
- **IndiGo** is the market leader, which owned a **58.8 percent** market share
  - Tata-owned Air India owned 8.4 percent market share, up from 7.5 percent in June; Go First was at 8.2 percent and SpiceJet at 8 percent.
- 66.** The **Border Security Force (BSF)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to ensure the safety and security of booking data under its Air e-ticket service for the troops of BSF. This service will provide a dedicated online portal with a credit facility of 60 days.
- 67. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has delivered two pieces of space equipment to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its Gaganyaan mission. This is the second **crew module fairing (CMF)** that ISRO has taken from HAL for the mission. This system will

keep the astronauts safe during the mission. The motor will also help transfer the engine power to the crew escape module, in case of failure of a mission.

- In June 2022, ISRO received a CMF structure that was built by Alpha Design Technology Limited, a Bengaluru-based company.

**68. ReNew Power** has recently raised **USD 1 billion** project loan through External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) in partnership with 12 international banks for its upcoming Hybrid Round-the-cock (RTC) battery-enabled project.

- This is the single largest renewable energy project with **1, 300 MW** capacity
- ReNew Power has signed a power purchase agreement with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for the battery project at Rs 2.90 per unit with 3 percent escalation annually for 15 years.
- It will set up wind and solar projects in Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra under RTC.

**69. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** has signed a Heads of Agreement (HoA) with global petroleum giant **ExxonMobil Corporation** for deepwater exploration of oil & gas in India's East and West coasts. This association will focus on the *Krishna Godavari* and *Cauvery Basins* in the eastern offshore and the *Kutch-Mumbai* region in the western offshore.

- **Note:** India is the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer.

**70. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish its first international marketing and sales office in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.

- This will enhance HAL's ability to secure the deal while also enabling them to fulfil other requirements of the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) like the up gradation and servicing of the Russian Su-30s and British Hawk trainer aircraft.
- The office in Malaysia will be the first one to be entirely focused on marketing and commercial development.

**71. Former Tata Group chairman Ratan Tata** has unveiled the new start-up '**Goodfellows**' which provides companionship to senior citizens staying alone through young, educated graduates. The start-up is founded by Shanthanu Naidu, the General Manager at the Office of Ratan Naval Tata (RNT). It will be soon available in Mumbai with Pune, Chennai, and Bengaluru as next target.

**72. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** will invest **Rs. 665 crore** in **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. (ABHI)** for a **99.9%** stake value. This transaction has been approved by

the Boards of Directors of Aditya Birla Capital (ABCL), the holding company for financial services of the aluminium to telecom conglomerate.

**73.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of stake in **IIFL Home** indirectly by **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**. The proposed transaction relates to the acquisition of up to 20 percent stake in IIFL Home Finance by Platinum Owl C 2018 RSC Ltd, a trustee acting for Platinum Jasmine Trust.

**Other approvals by CCI:**

- CCI has also approved acquisition of majority shareholding in **Optimus Drugs Private Limited (ODPL)** by Sekhmet Pharmaventures as well as Optimus Drug's purchase of stakes in Optimus Pharma and Optimus Life Science.
- CCI has approved the acquisition of the stake in **Holderind Investments**, Ambuja Cements and ACC Limited by Endeavour Trade and Investment, an Adani Group Company. The proposed combination involves acquisition of 100 percent stake in Holderind Investments Ltd by Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd.
- CCI has also approved acquisition by **Katsura Investments** in **Varmora Granito Private Limited** and certain other entities, and Varmora Granito Private Limited in some of its Group Companies and other entities.
- CCI has approved the proposal to merge **Creixent Special Steels (CSSL)** and **JSW Ispat** into JSW Steel under Section 31 (1) of the Competition Act 2002. .
- CCI has also approved the acquisition of shareholding in Simpolo Vitrified Private Limited (SVPL/ Target) by India Business Excellence Fund IV (IBEF IV), India SME Investments Fund – I (India SME), Motilal Oswal Finvest Limited (MOFPL), partners of Simpolo Ceramics (SC / Simpolo Ceramics) and the shareholders of Nexion International Private Limited (Nexion), viz., Aghara & Sons (Aghara) and Ceramiche Speranza SPA (Ceramiche SPA).

**74.** BRDN Investment Management has divested a **5 percent stake** of around Rs. 2,300 crore in **HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC)** through the open market transaction.

**75. Mirae Asset Mutual Fund** has launched two new funds: *Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund* and *Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence and Technology ETF Fund of Fund*.

- The vehicle-themed fund will invest in overseas equity exchange traded funds (ETFs) which are based on companies involved in development of electric and autonomous vehicles and related technology, components and materials.
- The AI-themed fund will invest in units of Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF.



- 76.** Zomato-backed logistics technology platform **Shiprocket** has become India's **106th unicorn** after raising USD 33.5 million (about Rs 270 crore) in a funding round co-led by Temasek and Lightrock India.
- Shiprocket, launched in 2017, was valued at around USD 1.2 billion with the fresh round of funding. It delivers packets to more than 66 million consumers annually and is growing 3 times year on year.

- 77.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in its monthly oil report states that India's demand for petroleum products like petrol and diesel will grow by **7.73 percent** in **2022**.

- India's demand for oil products is projected to increase from 4.77 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2021 to 5.14 million bpd in 2022.
- The growth in demand is the fastest in the world ahead of 1.23 percent of China, 3.39 percent of the US and 4.62 percent of Europe.
- For 2023, the OPEC has projected a growth of 4.67 percent in India's demand to 5.38 percent.

**Note:** India is the world's third largest oil importing and consuming nation behind the US and China.

## BANKING & FINANCE

- 78.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently decided to manage the **Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC)** in **Bangladesh** for two more years. The IVAC will also be starting a few additional services soon which include facilitation for online form filling and submission of forms, slot booking and launching of a mobile app. A priority lounge has also been inaugurated at the IVAC centre in Dhaka.

- Currently, SBI runs a total of 15 IVACs across Bangladesh.
- The IVAC centre at the Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka was opened in 2018. It is the largest Indian visa application centre.
- The first IVAC was started by SBI in 2005 in Dhaka.

- 79.** **HDFC Bank** has opened its first all-women branch at **Kozhikode** in **North Kerala** region. The branch, located in Cherooty Road, the hub of traders in the district, will have 4 women bankers.
- As on March 2022, women constituted 21.7 percent of the workforce and the target is to increase it to 25 percent by 2025, according to the bank.

- 80.** **Mastercard**, an American multinational financial services corporation, has appointed Indian badminton players **Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag**

**Shetty** as brand ambassadors of Mastercard in India. These new ambassadors will partner with the company to spread awareness about safety, security, and convenience of digital payments in India.

**81. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched the '**IOB Rupay Select Card**', a special variant of debit cards that can be used for domestic and international payments. It is designed to cater to high net-worth individual (HNI) customers with add-on freebies in various facilities including airport lounges, gyms, spas, and clubs.

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**82. The Central Bank of India** has formed a strategic Co-Lending Partnership with **Incred Financial Services (IFSL)** to offer loans to MSME Borrowers at competitive rates, subject to compliance with the applicable law(s) including the applicable guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- Under this partnership, IFSL will originate and process MSME proposals under Priority Sector as per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria and Central Bank of India will take into its books 80% of the MSME Priority Sector loans under mutually agreed terms.

Similarly, Central Bank of India has formed a Co-Lending Partnership with **Protium Finance** to offer loans to MSME.

**83. Karnataka Bank** has launched a new term deposit scheme on the occasion of 75 years of Independence as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The new scheme called "**KBL Amrit Samriddhi**" under Abhyudaya Cash Certificate (ACC) and Fixed Deposit category offers a **6.10%** per annum interest rate with a tenure of **75 weeks** (525 days).

**84. Aegon Life Insurance** has launched **#PlayForOurHeroes** campaign. It is a digital campaign that uses a game called 'The Game of Life' to spread awareness about the importance of life insurance. The campaign has been launched with the tagline 'The more you play, the more we donate'.

- The company will be donating to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) for every 10 points scored in the game.

**85. Amitabh Chaudhry**, Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Axis Bank**, has been named the highest paid MD and CEO among bankers in fiscal year 2022 (FY22). He has received a total remuneration of Rs 7.63 crore in FY22, including Rs 89 lakh was variable pay.

- Sumant Kathpalia, MD and CEO, Indusind Bank has been named the second-highest paid MD & CEO, with Rs 7.3 crore remuneration in FY22, followed by Sandeep Bakhshi, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, received a remuneration of Rs 7.08 crore in FY22, and Sashidhar Jagdishan, MD and CEO of HDFC Bank, received a remuneration of Rs 6.51 crore.
- **Kaizad Bharucha**, executive director of HDFC Bank, has emerged the highest earning banker for 2021-22 (FY22). He received Rs 10.64 crore remuneration in FY22, mainly due to Rs 4.46 crore as performance bonus.

**86. BYD India**, a manufacturer of new energy vehicles, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **HDFC Bank** to provide a stock financing solution to its pan India dealer network. The collaboration will provide BYD's dealers access to inventory finance for electric cars.

**87.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has organized its first hackathon "**Bima Manthan 2022**" with the theme '**Innovation in Insurance**'.

- The hackathon invites participants to explore and develop ideas that have the potential to make insurance available to every individual in a seamless and quick way.
- The participants will get an opportunity to exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes.
- It offers the winner the chance to work with an insurer (or insurers) on the winning project/platform, demo-day in front of insurers/intermediaries and other stakeholders, or direct admittance into the IRDAI Regulatory Sandbox regime.

**88.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced a unique term deposit programme called "**Utsav Deposit**" on the occasion of India's 76th year of Independence, celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. This fixed deposit (FD) scheme has higher interest rates and is only available for a limited time.

#### **Utsav Fixed Deposit Scheme:**

- This scheme will offer **6.1 percent** interest rate effective from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022 with a tenure of **1000 days**.
- Senior citizens will be eligible to get an additional interest rate of **0.50%** over and above the regular rate.

- This scheme is valid for **75 days** that is till 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**89.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched its first "state-of-the-art" dedicated branch for start-ups in **Koramangala** in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka. The branch will provide services ranging from the stage of formation of start-ups to Initial Public Offerings and Follow-on Public Offerings. The branch will also provide funding and regular banking service to start-ups. It will also support such players through associated services such as investment banking, treasury operations, advisory and other ancillary financial services through its subsidiaries.

- Two more branches will be opened in Gurugram, Haryana and Hyderabad, Telangana.

**90.** **Edelweiss Mutual Fund**, an Asset Management Company (AMC), has launched "**Edelweiss Gold and Silver Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) Fund of Fund (FoF)**", India's first scheme that offers exposure to gold and silver via a single fund. It will open from 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

- **Note:** India's first gold fund, Nippon India ETF Gold BeES, was launched in March 2007, while ICICI Prudential Silver ETF was the first silver-based fund in India, launched in January 2022.

**91.** The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) regional office has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **J&K Grameen Bank** to finance **700 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs)** in J&K and Ladakh. Under this MoU, NABARD will also provide promotional grant support of **Rs.4000 per JLG** to J&K Grameen Bank.

- Recently, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended **Mohammad Mustafa**, a 1995 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, as the Chairman of NABARD.

**92.** **Axis Bank**, India's third largest private sector bank, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to provide "Ultima Salary Package", a best-in-class salary account with exclusive benefits & features to all its employees. Under this MoU, the lender will offer holistic banking services to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

**93.** The Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched "**Baroda Tiranga Deposit**", a special term deposit scheme offering higher interest rates, to mark 75<sup>th</sup> years of India's Independence.

- The scheme are available in two tenor buckets-offering interest rates of 5.75% p.a. for 444 days and 6.00% p.a. for 555 days.

- The scheme opens on 16th August up till 31st December, 2022 and is applicable on retail deposits below Rs.2 crore.
- Under this scheme, senior citizens will earn an additional interest rate of 0.50% p.a., while Non-Callable Deposits will get 0.15% p.a. extra.

**94. Yes Bank** has tied up with **SellerApp**, a seller-centric intelligence platform, to facilitate the adoption of Open Network Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) amongst the seller segment and help them expand their digital commerce footprint.

- ONDC is an Indian government initiative aimed to democratise the entire digital commerce space. The network is also being built as an alternative to retailers like Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon in the Indian ecommerce market.

**95.** The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued guidelines for overseas investment by **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and Venture Capital Funds (VCFs)**, under which overseas investee firms won't need to have an Indian connection.

#### Key guidelines:

- AIFs can invest in securities of companies incorporated outside India.
- VCFs are allowed to make investments in off-shore venture capital undertaking, subject to certain conditions.
- AIFs or VCFs can invest in an overseas investee company, which is incorporated in a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission's (IOSCO) Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding or a signatory to the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with SEBI.
- AIFs or VCFs **cannot** invest in an overseas investee company, which is incorporated in a country identified by Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- AIFs or VCFs will have to file an application before SEBI for allocation of overseas investment limit in the format.

**AIF** means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing.

**VCF** is a type of AIF which is an investment fund that manages money from different investors seeking to provide capital in startup and small- and medium-size enterprises.

## RBI IN NEWS

**96.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently cancelled the licence of **Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank**, Vijayapur, Karnataka due to inadequate capital and no earning prospects.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**97.** The **13th** edition of the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2022** commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> August and will conclude on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The event, held annually in Australia, celebrates the Indian film industry by screening some of the most prominent and acclaimed films, TV shows, and web series from the country.

The event is hosted by Indian actor **Rithvik Dhanjani**.

| S.No. | Category                        | Winners   |
|-------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1     | Best Film                       | 83  |
| 2     | Best Director                   | Shoojit Sircar (Sardar Udham) and Aparna Sen (The Rapist) |
| 3     | Best Actor                      | Ranveer Singh (83)  |
| 4     | Best Actress                    | Shefali Shah (Jalsa)                                      |
| 5     | Best Series                     | Mumbai Diaries 26/11                                      |
| 6     | Best Actor in a Series          | Mohit Raina (Mumbai Diaries 26/11)                        |
| 7     | Best Actress in a Series        | Sakshi Tanwar (Mai)                                       |
| 8     | Best Indie Film                 | Jaggi   |
| 9     | Best Film from the Subcontinent | Joyland   |
| 10    | Lifetime Achievement Award      | Kapil Dev   |
| 11    | Disruptor in Cinema Award       | Vaani Kapoor (Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui)                   |
| 12    | Equality in Cinema Award        | Jalsa   |
| 13    | Leadership in Cinema Award      | Abhishek Bachchan   |

**98.** The President of India, Droupadi Murmu has approved **107 Gallantry awards** to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of Independence Day

2022. The awards include 3 Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, 2 bar to Sena Medals (gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (gallantry), 1 Nao Sena Medal (gallantry), and 7 Vayu Sena Medals (gallantry).

The President has also approved 40 mention-in-despatches to the Indian Army, one to Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel and another to the army dog, 'Axel' (posthumously), for their significant contributions.

| SL. NO.                      | Name   | Service     |
|------------------------------|--|-------------|
| <b><u>KIRTI CHAKRA</u></b>   |  |             |
| 1.                           | Naik Devendra Pratap Singh                   | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 2.                           | Sudip Sarkar<br><b>(Posthumous)</b>          | <b>MHA</b>  |
| 3.                           | Paotinsat Guite<br><b>(Posthumous)</b>       | <b>MHA</b>  |
| <b><u>SHAURYA CHAKRA</u></b> |  |             |
| 1.                           | Major Nitin Dhaania                          | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 2.                           | Major Amit Dahiya                            | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 3.                           | Major Sandeep Kumar                          | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 4.                           | Major Abhishek Singh                         | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 5.                           | Havildar Ghanshyam                           | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 6.                           | Lance Naik Raghendra Singh                   | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 7.                           | Sepoy Karn Veer Singh<br><b>(Posthumous)</b> | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 8.                           | Gunner Jasbir Singh<br><b>(Posthumous)</b>   | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 9.                           | Lt Cdr Mritunjay Kumar                       | <b>NAVY</b> |
| 10.                          | Amit Kumar                                   | <b>MHA</b>  |
| 11.                          | Somay Vinayak Munde                          | <b>MHA</b>  |
| 12.                          | Ravindra Kashinath Naitam                    | <b>MHA</b>  |

|                                      |                                |             |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 13.                                  | Tikaram Sampatrao<br>Katenge   | <b>MHA</b>  |
| <b>BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</b> |                                |             |
| 1.                                   | Major Archit Sharma            | <b>ARMY</b> |
| 2.                                   | Major Narender Singh<br>Waldia | <b>ARMY</b> |

A total of **1082 Police personnel** have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2022. Among them, 347 personnel have been awarded Police Medal for Gallantry, 87 with President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 648 personnel awarded the Police Medal for Meritorious Service. 109 CRPF personnel and 108 Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel have been awarded Police Medal for Gallantry.

Apart from them, 7 personnel have been awarded President's Correctional Service Medal for Distinguished Service and 38 personnel have been given the Correctional Service Medal for Meritorious Service.

**99.** Renowned **Bangladeshi architect**, researcher and educator **Marina Tabassum** has become the first person from the global south and first south Asian to win the prestigious **Lisbon Triennale Millennium bcp Lifetime Achievement Award**.

- She will receive an original artwork by the Portuguese artist and sculptor Carlos Nogueira as award during the Lisbon Triennale which begins on 29 September 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal.
- **Her major works:** Bait Ur Rouf mosque in Dhaka, Bamboo houses at the Rohingya refugee camps, at Ukhiya near Cox's Bazar, etc.

**100.** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has announced the winners and honourable mentions of the **National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards 2020** which recognises companies that have made positive impact on the society through their innovative & sustainable CSR initiatives. It has been presented to **20 award winners and 17 Honourable Mentions** across the three main categories:

**Category 1: Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR**

| Sub-category                        | Winner                                  | Honourable Mention  |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| Companies having eligible CSR Spend | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited | Housing Development |



|  |                                  |                                    |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| equal and above Rs. 100 crores   |                                  | Finance Corporation Limited        |
| Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal and above Rs. 10 crores and less than Rs. 100 crores | Tata Steel Limited               | Tech Mahindra Limited              |
| Companies having eligible CSR Spend equal and above Rs. 1 crore and less than Rs.10 crores     | CRISIL Limited                   | Honeywell Automation India Limited |
| Companies having eligible CSR Spend below Rs. 1 crore  | Wingify Software Private Limited | Tata Motors Finance Limited        |

### **Category 2: CSR Awards for CSR in Aspirational Districts / Difficult Terrains**

| <b>Sub-category</b> | <b>Winner</b>                                       | <b>Honourable Mention</b>                  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Northern India      | ITC Limited   | Indian Oil Corporation Limited             |
| North-East India    | North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited    | Power Grid Corporation of India Limited    |
| Eastern India       | Jindal Steel & Power Limited                        | National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) |
| Western India       | Tata Communications Transformation Services Limited | JK Lakshmi Cement Limited                  |
| Southern India      | Avantel Limited                                     | Ashok Leyland Limited                      |

**Category 3: CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas**

| <b>Sub-category</b>                                   | <b>Winner</b>                                   | <b>Honourable Mention</b>               |
|---|---|---|
| Education   | Tata Steel Limited                              | BMW India Private Limited               |
| Skill Development & Livelihood                        | Tech Mahindra Limited                           | Mahindra & Mahindra Limited             |
| Agriculture & Rural Development                       | Mahanadi Coalfields Limited                     | -                                       |
| Health, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation            | Hero MotoCorp Limited                           | Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited |
| Environment, Sustainable Development and Solar Energy | Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited         | Bajaj Auto Limited                      |
| Women and Child Development                           | Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited  | Mahanadi Coalfields Limited             |
| Technology Incubation                                 | Housing Development Finance Corporation Limited | -                                       |
| Promotion of Sports                                   | Central Coalfields Limited                      | Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Limited  |
| Slum Area Development                                 | HCL Technologies Limited                        | -                                       |
| Heritage, Art and Culture                             | Elin Appliances Private Limited                 | Hindustan Zinc Limited                  |
| Support to differently-abled                          | Jindal Steel and Power Limited                  | ADP Private Limited                     |

**Note:** First National CSR Awards were conferred on 29 October 2019. There were total 19 winners and 19 Honourable Mentions in different sub-categories of the award in the first cycle.

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**101.** Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs, **Pralhad Joshi**, has addressed the **2<sup>nd</sup> edition** of the **Coal Minister's Awards** ceremony in New Delhi. He has also presented the Coal Minister's Awards for 2021-22 in different categories.

#### Coal Minister's Awards 2021-22:

- **Mahanadi Coal Fields Limited (MCL)** has won the first prize in three categories, namely 'Safety', 'Production & Productivity' and 'Quality', out of the five categories of awards.
- **Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)** has won the first prize in the category 'Sustainability', and **Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)** has won the first prize in 'Implementation of ERP'.
- Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), a Jharkhand based subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), has won the second prize in safety category and third in sustainability category

The awards were introduced in 2021 to acknowledge the best performers among Coal India Limited's (CIL's) coal producing companies. Initially, the awards were given in three categories - **Safety, Production & productivity and Sustainability.**

In 2022, two new additional categories of **Quality** and **ERP implementation** have been added. The General Managers from the best performing sectors are also awarded in four sub-categories.

#### **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

**102.** "**Putin: His Life and Times**", a biography of the Russian President **Vladimir Putin**, has been authored by **Philip Short**, a former correspondent for the BBC, The Economist and The Times. The book is published by The Bodley Head, a non-fiction imprint of Penguin Random House.

- **Note:** "First Person" published in 2001 was an authorised biography of Putin.

**103.** A memoir titled "**Bibi: My Story**" has been penned by **Benjamin Netanyahu**, a former Prime Minister of Israel. The book will be published by Threshold Edition in November 2022.

- **Other books by Benjamin Netanyahu:** "Fighting Terrorism", and "A Durable Peace: Israel and it's Place Among the Nations".

- 104.** Former Member of Parliament (MP) **Krishna Bose** has recently penned a book titled "**NETAJI: Subhas Chandra Bose's Life, Politics and Struggle**". The book has been translated to English from Bengali by Indian political scientist, **Sumantra Bose**, son of Krishna Bose. The book is published by Picador India imprint of Pan Macmillan India.
- 105.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, **Dr Jitendra Singh**, has addressed the Assistant Section Officers (Probationers) of 2019 Batch at the Institute of Secretariat Training & Management (ISTM) in New Delhi.
- 106.** During the event, he has released a book "**Transforming India- Governance for Atmanirbhar Bharat**" & "**Adhigam**", ISTM's Journal on 'Research on Training and Governance'.
- 107.** Indian Army Chief General **Manoj Pande** has released a book titled '**Men of Steel-Military Leadership for India**'. The book is written by Major General **Yash Mor (retd.)**, and Lt General **Ajay Kumar Singh (retd.)**. It is published by KW Publishers Pvt Ltd. It is produced by think-tank Centre of Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).
- The book is a collection of essays that examine leadership in the armed forces and provides categorical recommendations to sustain the effectiveness and ethos of the military.
- 108.** **Manjari Jaruhar**, a retired IPS Officer and an Advisor of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has written her autobiography titled "**Madam Sir: The Story of Bihar's First Lady IPS Officer**". The book will be published by Penguin eBury Press in October 2022. The book depicts the tale of a poor girl who achieved the rank of the IPS by overcoming various problems.
- 109.** President of Israel Isaac Herzog has unveiled the Hebrew translation of the book "**Indians at Herod's Gate: A Jerusalem Tale**". The book has been authored by the former Ambassador of India, **Navtej Sarna**.
- The book was originally written in English and was published in 2014 by Rupa Publications.
  - **Other books by Navtej Sarna:** *Winter Evenings, Crimson Spring, The Book of Nanak, The Exile, We Weren't Lovers Like That, etc.*

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## PERSON IN NEWS

**110.** Union Government has recently appointed **Piyush Goyal**, a 1994 batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre, as the new CEO of **NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid)**. He is currently serving as an additional secretary (AS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). He has succeeded IPS officer Ashish Gupta.

- NATGRID is a federal intelligence gathering organization created to enhance India's counter-terrorism capabilities.

### Other appointments:

- Deputy Election Commissioner **Chandra Bhushan Kumar**, an IAS officer of the 1995 batch Union Territories (UT) cadre, has been appointed as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Chandraker Bharti**, an IAS officer of the 1996 batch UT cadre, has been appointed as the Additional Secretary (AS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- 1993 batch Odisha cadre IAS officer **Ashok K K Meena** has been posted as the CMD of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the rank of additional secretary.
- IAS officer of the 1995 batch (Assam-Meghalaya cadre) **Archana Varma** has been appointed as Director of the National Water Mission under the Ministry of Water Resources.
- **Gitanjali Gupta**, IAS officer of the 1996 batch UT cadre, has been appointed as the MD of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation.
- 1996 batch IAS officers **Lav Aggarwal** (Andhra Pradesh cadre) and **Usha Padhee** (Odisha cadre) have been promoted to the Additional Secretary rank from their current posting of Joint Secretary in their respective Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, and Aviation.

**111.** The Central government and the board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has appointed **Rajkiran Rai G**, former MD & CEO of Union Bank of India, as its managing director (MD) for five years (2022-2027).

- The Centre, in October 2021, had appointed **K V Kamath** as chairperson of NaBFID for 3 years.
- NaBFID is set up as the principal development financial institution (DFIs) for infrastructure financing. The NaBFID Act, 2021, was passed in March 2021 and it came into force in April 2021. It is regulated and supervised as an All India Financial Institution (AIFI) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

**112. Bharti Airtel's** shareholders have approved the re-appointment of **Gopal Vittal** as Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company for a period of five

years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2028. He was first appointed as the CEO of Airtel in 2013.

- 113.** The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of **Rajesh Verma** as Secretary to President of India Droupadi Murmu. He is a 1987-batch Odisha cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) Officer. He is currently serving as Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs. He will replace the incumbent Kapil Dev Tripathi, a 1980-batch IAS officer.
- 114.** The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has appointed **Ashish Dhawan**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Convergence Foundation, to its board of trustees. He is an Indian philanthropist and investor who co-founded and oversaw private equity firm ChrysCapital. He is also the chairperson of Ashoka University.
- The foundation has also appointed **Dr Helene D. Gayle**, President of Spelman College to its board.
  - The newly appointed members will join Strive Masiyiwa, Baroness Nemat (Minouche) Shafik, Thomas J. Tierney, Gates Foundation CEO Mark Suzman, and co-chairs Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates on the foundation's board of trustees.

## OBITUARIES

- 115.** Noted Kannada singer **Shimoga Subbanna** has recently passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1938 in Nagara, Kingdom of Mysore, British India. He received a national award for singing for the song '*Kaadu Kudure Odi Banditta*' in the film Kaadu Kudure. He was the first **Kannadiga** to win National Award for playback singing in 1978. He was also a singer with 'Akashvani' and 'Doordarshan', and had worked as an advocate and a notary.
- 116.** Indian American Journalist and TV Anchor **Uma Pemmaraju** has recently passed away at the age of 64. She was born on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1958 in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh. She was a part of various shows such as The Fox Report, Fox News Live, Fox News Now, and Fox On Trends. She also reported for Bloomberg News.
- 117.** Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary and Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) president **Amitabh Choudhary** has recently passed away in Ranchi, Jharkhand. He was a retired IPS officer, who served in the rank of Inspector General of Police (IGP) with the Jharkhand police.
- 118.** Renowned novelist and Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award winner **Narayan** has recently passed away in Elamakara near Kochi, Kerala. He was born on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1940 at

Chalappuram in Idukki, Kerala. He belonged to the Malayarayar tribe and is considered **Kerala's first tribal novelist**. He received the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999 for his first novel '**Kocharethi**'. Its English translation by Catherine Thankamma won the Economist Crossword Book Award in 2011.

- **Other popular novels by him:** 'Ooralikudi', 'Vandanam', 'Aaranu Tholkunnavar', and 'Ee Vazhiyil Aalere Illa'.

**119.** Senior Indian National Congress leader **Syed Sibte Razi** has recently passed away in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. He was born on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1939 in Raebareli, United Provinces, British India.

- He served as the **Governor of Jharkhand** from the year 2004- 2009 and the **Governor of Assam** from July 2009 to November 2009.

## SPORTS

**120.** The **4th edition** of the **Tata Steel Chess India tournament** will be held in **Kolkata**, West Bengal from November 29 to December 4, 2022. For the first time, a separate women's section has been added in the tournament, which had only the Open section so far.

- Top Indian female players like Koneru Humpy, D Harika, and R Vaishali will compete in the maiden women's edition.
- **Note:** The first inaugural Tata Steel Chess India tournament was held in November 2018.

**121.** The Bureau of the **FIFA Council** has unanimously decided to suspend the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)** with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes. With this, the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022**, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned.

**122.** India's **paracanoeing** athlete **Pooja Ojha** (Madhya Pradesh) has won India's first medal at the 2022 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships. She has won the silver medal in VL1 Women's 200m final with a timing of 1:34.18. The championship has been organized in Halifax, Canada. Germany's Lillemor Koper has won the Gold medal in the event.

**123.** Toronto, Canada (women). It is the 132nd edition of the men's tournament, a Masters 1000 event on the 2022 ATP Tour, and the 120th edition of the women's tournament, a WTA 1000 event on the 2022 WTA Tour.

### Winners of the tournament:

| Event                  | Winners  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Men's Singles</b>   | Pablo Carreño Busta (Spain)                                    |
| <b>Women's Singles</b> | Simona Halep (Romania)   |
| <b>Men's Doubles</b>   | Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Neal Skupski (United Kingdom) |
| <b>Women's Doubles</b> | Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula (USA)                            |



**124.** Ireland all-rounder **Kevin O'Brien** has recently announced his retirement from international cricket. He made his debut for Ireland in 2006 and was one of their longest serving cricketers. He has played 3 Tests, 153 ODI, and 110 T20I for Ireland. He became the **1<sup>st</sup> Ireland cricketer** to score a century in red-ball cricket.

**125.** The **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2022**, an annual invitational international men's field **hockey** tournament, will be held in **Ipoh, Malaysia** from **16 to 25 November 2022**. All matches will be played at the Azlan Shah Stadium, which is the permanent venue of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

- Commonwealth Games 2022 gold medallists Australia and the silver-winning Indian team, Germany, New Zealand, and Canada are the five teams invited to play along with hosts Malaysia this year.

#### **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup:**

It was first played in 1983. It became an annual event in 2003. It is named after Malaysia's former FIH executive board member Sultan Azlan Shah. World No. 1 Australia is the most successful team at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup with 10 titles, followed by India with five, Pakistan and South Korea with thrice each.

**126.** The International Basketball Federation (FIBA) has announced to host the **FIBA U18 Women's Asian Championship** at Sree Kanteerva and Koramangala Indoor stadiums in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka from 5 to 11 September 2022. The event will feature 192 basketball players from 16 different countries, 96 officials, and 100 volunteers.

- The 2022 **FIBA U18 Men's Asian Championship** is being held in **Tehran**, Iran from 21 to 28 August 2022.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

- 127.** The **Parsi New Year**, also known as **Navroz**, is celebrated by the Parsi community in the month of July or August every year. In 2022, the day falls on **16<sup>th</sup> August**. This day is commonly observed in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa since, most of the Parsi population lives in these states.
- 128. World Humanitarian Day** is observed annually on **19<sup>th</sup> August** to honour individuals who indulge in humanitarian work. The day is also marked in memory of the Canal Hotel bomb attack (19<sup>th</sup> August 2003) in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including Sergio Vieira Mello, Chief Humanitarian in Iraq.
- The day is a campaign by the *United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)*. The day was first observed in 2009. The tagline of the campaign 2022 is **"It takes a village"**.
- 129. World Mosquito Day** is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> August** to honour British Dr Sir Ronald Ross who discovered in 1897 that female anopheline mosquitos transmit malaria between humans. The day also increase awareness about the cause and prevention of Malaria.
- 130. Renewable Energy Day**, also known as Akshay Urja Diwas, is observed annually across India on **20<sup>th</sup> August** to raise awareness about the development and adoption of renewable energy in India.
- The day was initiated in 2004 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The day also commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- 131. Sadbhavna Diwas** is observed annually on **20th August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of late Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India. This day is observed to encourage national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among Indian people of all religions. The year 2022 marks the observance of the **78th birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi**.
- The day was instituted in 1992 by Congress.

### **Rajiv Gandhi:**

He was born on 20th August 1944 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was an Indian politician representative of the Indian National Congress. He served as the 6th Prime Minister of India from 1984 to 1989. He was the youngest Prime Minister of India. He was assassinated on 21 May 1991 in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. He was awarded Bharat Ratna (posthumously) in 1991.

**132. International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism** is observed annually on the **21<sup>st</sup> August** to support and pay tribute to the victims and survivors of terrorism. It also aims to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of victims.

- The year 2022 marks the observance of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. The day was first observed in 2018.
- **Theme 2022:** 'Memories'

**133. World Senior Citizen's Day** is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> August** to show appreciation towards senior citizens for their dedication, accomplishments, and services they give throughout their lives.

- On 19<sup>th</sup> August 1988, the then US President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation declaring August 21 as Senior Citizen's Day in the country. The same has been observed globally as well since then.

**134. International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief** is observed annually on **22<sup>nd</sup> August** to commemorate the victims and survivors of evil acts on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief. The year 2022 marks the observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. The day was first observed in 2019.

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