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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The first edition of **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT)**, a joint maritime exercise among the Indian, Mozambique and Tanzanian navies has been conducted at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

   Indian Navy is represented by the guided missile frigate, **INS Tarkash**, a Chetak helicopter and MARCOS (Special Forces).

   The IMT TRILAT exercise has three broad objectives:
   (a) Capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices
   (b) Enhancing interoperability
   (c) Strengthening maritime cooperation

   The exercise includes harbour and sea phases.

- The harbour phase include capability building activities such as Visit, Board, Search and Seizure; small arms training; joint diving operations; damage control and fire fighting exercises; and cross deck visits are scheduled.
- The sea phase include boat operations, fleet manoeuvres, Visit, Board, Search and Seizure operations, helicopter operations, small arms firing, formation anchoring and EEZ patrols.

2. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) that functions under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved **Genetically Modified (GM) mustard** for commercial cultivation, making way for India's 1st transgenic food crop.

GM Mustard:

- Dhara Mustard Hybrid (DMH-11) is an indigenously developed transgenic mustard.
- It is a genetically modified variant of Herbicide Tolerant (HT) mustard.
- It has been developed by the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants (CGMCP) at Delhi University.
- It contains two alien genes ('barnase' and 'barstar') isolated from a soil bacterium called Bacillus amyloliquefaciens that enable breeding of high-yielding commercial mustard hybrids.

Genetically Modified (GM) Crops:

GM crops are derived from plants whose genes are artificially modified, usually by inserting genetic material from another organism, in order to give it new properties, such as increased yield, tolerance to a herbicide, resistance to disease or drought, or improved nutritional value.

3. **Dr. Srivari Chandrasekhar**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), has inaugurated the **1st ASEAN-India Start-up Festival (AISF) 2022** in **Bogor, Indonesia**. The inaugural event has been felicitated by **Satvinder Singh**, Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community, and Ambassador, **Jayant Khobragde**, Indian Mission to ASEAN (IMA).

- The festival is part of the over-all ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation program between the ASEAN Committee on Science, Technology, and Innovation (COSTI) and DST.
- It is supported under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) of Govt. of India which is jointly contributed by DST and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- The four-day event has been hosted in conjunction with the Indonesia Research and Innovation Expo (INA-RIE) from the 27th to 30th October 2022 at the Innovation Convention Centre, Cibinong Bogor, Indonesia.

- The AISF is part of a series of events to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India diplomatic relationship.

ASEAN:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states. It was founded in 1967 by the five South-East Asian nations of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Current members: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

4. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has presented the **Silver Trumpet** and **Trumpet Banner** to the **President's Bodyguard (PBG)** at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi.

PBG commemorates its **250th** anniversary, which coincides with the countrywide celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

President's Bodyguard (PBG):

It is the oldest regiment in the Indian Army, having been raised as the Governor-General's Bodyguard (later the Viceroy's Bodyguard) in 1773. It was raised in Banaras (Varanasi) by the then Governor-General, Warren Hastings.
As the President of India's own Guard, it has the unique distinction of being the only military unit of the Indian Army that is privileged to carry the President's Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner. This distinction was conferred on the President's Bodyguard in 1923 by the then Viceroy, Lord Reading, on the occasion of the Bodyguard completing 150 years of service.

The regiment was renamed the President's Bodyguard on 27th January 1950.
Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, presented his Silver Trumpet and Trumpet Banner to the President's Bodyguard on 14th May 1957.

5. **India** has donated **USD 2.5 million**, the 2nd tranche of the total contribution of USD 5 million for the financial year 2022-23, to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** to support the Palestine Refugees.

Till now, India has contributed around **USD 22.5 million** to UNRWA since 2018.

UNRWA:

It is set up by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1949. It is mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.6 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA. Its mission is

to help the refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza strip to achieve full human development potential.

6. **Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** ships **HMAS Adelaide**, a Canberra-class landing helicopter dock, and **HMAS Anzac**, an Anzac-class frigate, have reached **Visakhapatnam** for participating in the 3rd edition of **'Indo-Pacific Endeavour (IPE)' 2022** exercise with the Indian Navy (IN).

- The IPE is aimed at the promotion of stability and security in regions around Australia and involves bilateral and multilateral engagement, training, and capacity-building programs.
- IPE first began in 2017 as an annual programme, coordinated by the Australian Defence Force.

Rear Admiral **Jonathan Earley**, Commander of the Australian Fleet, has also visited India during the exercise.

7. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the **Invest Karnataka 2022 Summit**. The summit has been organized from 2 t0 4 November 2022 in Bengaluru to attract foreign investments and create a development plan for the next decade. The theme of the summit is **'Build for the World'**.

Key highlights:

- Karnataka government has signed a Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth Rs.5.20 lakh crore.
- 7 companies invested Rs.2.9 lakh crore in the 'Manufacturing – Green Hydrogen and Derivatives' sector. These companies include ACME, ReNew and ABC, Avaada and JSW.
- MoUs worth Rs.1.29 lakh crore have been inked under the 'Renewable Energy' sector. Vedanta committed an investment of Rs.80,000 crore for this sector.
- Under the 'Manufacturing – Sunrise' sector, the Karnataka government entered into a Rs.47,475 crore agreement with 7 companies involved in developing electronic system design and manufacturing.
- MoUs worth Rs 25,024 crore have been signed with 6 companies in core manufacturing sectors like mining, iron, steel and cement.
- MoUs have also been signed for e-mobility, aerospace and defence categories as well as with companies involved in FMCG, sugar, biofuel and optical systems industries.

During the summit, the investment proposal of about Rs.10 lakh crore i.e. 29 percent proposals have been received.

8. Chief Justice of India (CJI)-designate **Justice D Y Chandrachud**, who is also the executive chairman of NALSA, has inaugurated two campaigns of the **National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)** aimed at inculcating the spirit of inclusivity.

(a) **'Empowerment of Citizens through Legal Awareness and Outreach':**
This campaign intends to be vital in decreasing the vulnerability of the marginalised strata of the society by enhancing their capacity to foster a just, peaceful and inclusive society.

(b) **'Haq_hamara_bhi_hai@75':**
The campaign aims to provide basic legal assistance to undertrial prisoners and children in conflict with law.
The vision of the two-week pan-India campaigns, from 31st October to 13th November 2022, is to work at the grassroot levels and build capacity for the incapacitated.

9. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted a successful maiden flight-test of **Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** interceptor **AD-1 missile** with large kill altitude bracket from APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. It has been carried out with participation of all BMD weapon system elements located at different geographical locations.

AD-1 (Air Defence):

- It is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.
- The missile is propelled by a two-stage solid motor and equipped with an indigenously developed advanced control system and a navigation and guidance algorithm to precisely guide the vehicle to the targets that move at very high speeds.

10. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh has announced a Nationwide Campaign for the Submission of **Digital Life Certificates (DLC)** and use of **face authentication app** by **Pensioners** in the month of November 2022. The Pension Disbursing Authorities have been issued directions for promoting the use of DLC/Face Authentication technology.

New initiatives in Pension Welfare:

a) Universalization of Integrated Pensioners' Portal for all Banks:

State Bank of India is the first pension disbursing Bank to integrate its Pension Seva Portal with BHAVISHYA on October 18, 2022.

b) National Anubhav Awardees Webinar Series:

It will be launched by the Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW) from November 2022.
ANUBHAV is a means for retiring employees to showcase significant achievements made and their contribution in enhancing the effectiveness of the various Government policies during

their service period through write-ups submitted on the Portal. Selected write-ups are awarded with a Medal, a Certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 10,000.



11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the new **Complaint Management System portal** of the **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).** The portal is envisioned to provide end to end information to the citizens through regular updates on the status of their complaints.

He has also released a series of pictorial booklets on *"Ethics and Good Practices";* Compilation of best practices on *"Preventive Vigilance"* and Special issue "*VIGEYE-VANI*" on public procurement.

12. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) has launched a portal on **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** for the benefit of the farming community in New Delhi. The portal has been launched at the first steering committee meeting of NMNF. The portal contains all the information about the mission, resources, implementation progress, farmer registration, blog etc., which will be useful for the farmers. It will help in promoting natural farming in the country.

National Mission on Natural Farming:

It aims at creating institutional capacities for documentation and dissemination of best practices and make practicing farmers as partners in promotion strategy.

Key objectives of the mission:

a) To promote alternative system of farming for freedom from external purchased inputs, cost reduction etc.
b) To popularize integrated agriculture-animal husbandry models based on desi cow and local resources.
c) To create standards, certification procedure and branding for Natural Farming products.
NMNF at National Level is steered through a National Steering Committee (NSC) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture.

State of *Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala* are among the leading states in natural farming.

13. **Aibawk Rurban cluster** in the **Aizwal district** of **Mizoram** has become the first cluster to be completed under the **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).**

- The Aibawk Rurban cluster completed all the 48 projects planned under SPMRM.
- This cluster is spread over an area of 522 sq. km across 11 villages and covers a population of 10,963.
- Agri-link road, pedestrian footpaths, and inter-village road connectivity projects undertaken to improve market access.
- Infrastructure created includes roads, footpaths, drains, water supply, and car parking and social infrastructures like a conference center, sports infrastructure.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM):

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2016. The objective of the scheme is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters. There are 2 categories of clusters: Non-Tribal and Tribal. The Mission aims at development of 300 Rurban clusters, in the next five years.

14. **RISAT-2**, a radar-imaging satellite of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, has made an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere at the predicted impact point in the Indian Ocean near Jakarta, Indonesia.

RISAT-2:

- RISAT 2 is a radar-imaging satellite which was part of RISAT programme of ISRO.
- It is India's first dedicated reconnaissance satellite.
- It weigh only about 300 kg and was launched by the PSLV-C12 launch vehicle in 2009.
- The RISAT satellites are equipped with a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) that can take pictures of the earth during day and night, and also under cloudy conditions.
- It helps round-the-clock border surveillance along with checking infiltration and keeping an eye on terror or anti-national activities across the borders.

15. **Dr. Mohamed Irfan Ali**, President of the Co-operative Republic of **Guyana**, will be the chief guest of the **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention**. It will be held from 8th to 10th January 2023 in **Indore**, Madhya Pradesh.

- The theme of PBD Convention 2023 is ***"Diaspora: Reliable partners for India's progress in Amrit Kaal".***
- It will be organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Madhya Pradesh government and an Industry body, either Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) or Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

- It is organized every year on 9th January.

Zaneta Mascarenhas, Member of Parliament of Australia, will be the guest of honour at the **Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** which will be held on 8th January 2023, in partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Historical Background:

Mahatma Gandhi returned from South Africa in 1915. His ship SS Arabia docked in Bombay (now Mumbai) on **9 January 1915**.To honour and celebrate the occasion the government of India decided to start Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in 2003.

16. Cabinet approvals (November 2022):

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved **Rs.51,875 crore** subsidy for **phosphatic & potassic (P&K) fertilisers** for the Rabi season 2022-23 (from 01.10.2022 to 31.03.2023). The CCEA has approved a subsidy of Rs 98.02 per kg for nitrogen (N), Rs 66.93 per kg for phosphorus (P), Rs 23.65 per kg for potash (K) and Rs 6.12 per kg for sulphur (S).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a higher **ethanol price** derived from different sugarcane based raw materials under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme for the forthcoming sugar season 2022-23 during ESY 2022-23 from 1st December 2022 to 31st October, 2023:
  (i) The price of ethanol from C heavy molasses route be increased from Rs.46.66 per litre to Rs.49.41 per litre,
  (ii) The price of ethanol from B heavy molasses route be increased from Rs.59.08 per litre to Rs.60.73 per litre,
  (iii) The price of ethanol from sugarcane juice/sugar/sugar syrup route be increased from Rs.63.45 per litre to Rs.65.61 per litre,
  (iv) Additionally, GST and transportation charges will also be payable.



17. The **Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)** has announced a list of safety tests that will be mandatory for **electric vehicles (EV)** from **1st April 2023** to claim incentives under various schemes such as FAME II (Fast Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric and Hybrid Vehicles), Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Automobile and Auto Components, and Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC).

These tests will improve the human safety of batteries used in these vehicles by requiring verification at three levels: batteries, battery management systems, and cells.

18. Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has launched the **Toolkit** for **Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2023** and the web portal for the **'Twinpit to Retrofit Abhiyan'** during the Technical Session on "Rural WASH Partnerships – the way forward' conducted by the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti.

19. The Indian Army has approved **Project Sanction Orders (PSOs)** for **5 Make II projects**, providing a significant stimulus to the ongoing "Make Projects".

Make II projects are essentially industry-funded projects involving design, development and innovative solutions by Indian vendors for development of prototypes.
These 5 projects are: *High-Frequency Man Packed Software Designed Radio (HFSDR), Drone Kill System, Infantry Training Weapon Simulator (IWTS), 155mm Terminally Guided Munitions (TGM) and Medium Range Precision Kill System (MRPKS).*

20. The Indian Army has registered **'Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)'** of the new **Camouflage Pattern and Design of the Improved Combat Uniform.** The process for registration of the new uniform to establish ownership of the Indian Army has been completed by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademark, Kolkata.

The new digital pattern combat uniform for Indian Army soldiers was unveiled on 15 January 2022, which has a contemporary look and functional design.

21. The Government of India (GoI) will set up a **comprehensive database of drug** formulations manufactured and marketed in India to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and plug loopholes.

- In this regard, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has decided to constitute a committee, named **'Constitution of a Committee for preparation of National Drugs Database'**, with **7 members**.
- The seven-member committee comprises HG Koshia, commissioner Food and Drugs Control Administration (Gujarat), AK Pradhan joint drugs controller (India), Pooja Gupta additional professor AIIMS (New Delhi), Jerian Jose scientist ICMR, and DR Gahane joint commissioner FDA (Maharashtra).
- State drug controllers from Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh are also members of the panel.
- The committee is expected to submit the recommendations including the national database of drug formulations in three months.

22. The **2022 India-Taiwan Industrial Collaboration Summit** has been held in **New Delhi**, Delhi. The business groups from Taiwan and India have signed three Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to establish cooperation in electronics manufacturing and green technology.

- The summit has been jointly hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**), India, and the Chinese National Federation of Industries (CNFI), Taiwan.
- During the summit, the **Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**, Coimbatore has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **National Productivity Organization of Taiwan** to improve technical collaborations between industries in Coimbatore and experts and businesses in Taiwan.

23. The Government of India (GoI) has recently amended the **Aadhaar** rules. It specifies that Aadhaar holders may, on completion of every **10 years** from the date of enrolment for Aadhaar, update their supporting documents in Aadhaar, at least once, by submitting Proof of Identity (POI) and Proof of Address (POA) documents. This will ensure "continued accuracy" of Aadhaar-related information in the Central Identities Data Repository (CIDR).

In this regard, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has developed a new feature of 'update document'. This feature can be accessed online through the myAadhaar portal.

The changes have been made by modifying the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Regulations.

24. The 11th edition of **Joint Military Training (JMT) 2022** between the Indian Air Force (**IAF**) and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (**RSAF**) has been organized at Air Force Station, **Kalaikunda** in West Bengal.

Participants:
a) **RSAF:** F-16 aircraft
b) **IAF:** Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, MiG-29 and LCA Tejas aircraft

- This edition of JMT has been conducted over a period of six weeks.
- The bilateral phase of the exercise will be conducted from 09 to 18 November 2022 and will see the two Air Forces engage in advanced air combat simulations.

- The objective is to provide an opportunity to the participating crews to share valuable operational knowledge, experience and best practices while strengthening the professional relationship between the two Air Forces.

25. The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has launched the new Artificial Intelligence (AI)/ Machine Learning (ML) based chatbot named **'Aadhar Mitra'** for better resident experience. The new chatbot has enhanced features like check Aadhaar enrolment/update status, tracking of Aadhaar PVC card status, and information on enrolment centre location.

UIDAI has also topped the **Grievance Redressal Index,** published by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) for the month of October 2022, among all Group A ministries, departments and autonomous bodies. This is the third month in a row when UIDAI has topped the rankings.

26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently unveiled **India's logo, theme, and website** for its presidency of the **G20**. India will assume the presidency of the G20 grouping from the current chair, Indonesia, on **1st December 2022**, and hold the post for a year. The G20 Leaders' Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government is scheduled to be held on September 9 and 10, 2023 in New Delhi.

G20 Logo:

- The G20 logo, created with the four colours of India's national flag, comprises of earth sitting atop a lotus.
- The symbol of lotus in the G20 logo is a representation of **hope.**
- The seven petals on the lotus represent *seven continents*.
- The earth reflects India's *pro-planet approach* to life.
- The word **"Bharat"** is written in Devanagari script under the logo.

G20 Theme:

The theme of G20 is taken from the *Maha Upanishad*, an ancient Sanskrit text. The theme of G20 India 2023 is ***"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future".***
The website of India's G20 Presidency www.g20.in has also been launched by the Prime Minister. In addition to the website, a mobile app **"G20 India"** has been released on both Android and iOS platforms.
Note: G20 Sherpa (India): Amitabh Kant

G20:

G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation representing around 85 percent of the global GDP, over 75 percent of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. It was formed in 1999.

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

The presidency of the G20 rotates every year among members, and the country holding the presidency, together with the previous and next presidency-holder, forms the *'Troika'* to ensure continuity of the G20 agenda. During India's presidency, **India, Indonesia and Brazil** will form the troika.

27. India's national grid operator **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** has been renamed as **Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India)** to reflect the important role played by the grid operators in ensuring integrity, reliability, resilience and sustainable operation of the Indian electricity grid.

- Grid-India is a wholly owned central government enterprise that comes under the aegis of the **Ministry of Power**.
- It was set up in **March 2009** to take care of the power management functions of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL).
- Grid-India operates the national load despatch centre (NLDC) and five regional load despatch centres (RLDCs).
- The Grid-India is also designated as the nodal agency for major reforms in the power sector such as implementation and operation of Green Energy Open Access Portal, Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) Mechanism, transmission pricing, short-term open access in transmission, deviation settlement mechanism, Power System Development Fund (PSDF), etc.

28. The **26th** edition of the **International Malabar Naval Exercise** has been held in **Yokosuka** of **Japan**. India, Australia, Japan and the USA are participating in the Malabar Naval Exercise. It is being organized from 8th November to 18th November 2022.

Indian Naval Ships (**INS**) **Shivalik** and **Kamorta** are representing India in the exercise. The year 2022 marks the 30 years of the Malabar exercise.

MALABAR exercise:

It was initiated in 1992 between the navies of India and the United States. It is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year. In 2020 Australia joined the Malabar Exercise on India's request in order to contain China in the Indo-Pacific region.

29. The **19th ASEAN-India Summit** has been held in **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**. Indian delegation has been led by **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar**. External Affairs Minister, Dr S. Jaishankar has also participated in the summit.

The year 2022 commemorates the **30th Anniversary** of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations & the **10th anniversary** of India's Strategic Partnership with ASEAN.

- At the summit, ASEAN and India adopted a Joint Statement announcing the elevation of the existing Strategic Partnership to **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.
- Both sides reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, maritime safety and security, freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Joint Statement also proposes expediting the review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

India and Cambodia have also signed **four** Memorandum of Understandings (**MoUs**) in the areas of culture, wildlife and health. The MoUs have been inked following bilateral talks between Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen.

17th East Asia Summit (EAS):

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar has addressed the **17th East Asia Summit (EAS)** held at Phnom Penh in Cambodia. He has highlighted global concerns on food and energy security, and emphasised the role of the EAS mechanism in promoting free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific with freedom of navigation and overflight.
India has announced an additional contribution of **USD 5 million** to the **ASEAN-India Science and Technology Fund** to enhance cooperation in sectors of public health, renewable energy and smart agriculture.

Members of EAS: ASEAN member states - Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam and its eight dialogue partners - India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia.

Hall of Dancers:

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar has also inaugurated the completed conservation work of **'Hall of Dancers'** in Ta Prohm Temple in the Angkor archaeological complex in the Cambodian city of Siem Reap.
The Hall of Dancers is part of a **USD 4-million** collaborative project between India and Cambodia for the preservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Cambodia.

ASEAN:

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).

- **Current members**: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- **ASEAN Secretariat**: Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Chair of ASEAN 2022**: Cambodia

30. Union Minister of Power and New & Renewable Energy R K Singh has launched the **Green Energy Open Access Portal** to promote clean and green energy initiated by the Government of India (GoI).

- The Green Energy Open Access is allowed to any consumer with load limit reduced from 1000 kW to **100 kW** and allows consumers to access green power easily through transparent, simplified, uniform and streamlined procedures.
- The approval for Green Energy Open Access will be granted to a Consumer in a time bound manner within **15 days**.
- The portal is designed and developed by the **Grid Controller of India Limited (Grid-India),** formerly known as Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO), the central nodal agency for the implementation and operation of the portal.
- The portal can be accessed for processing of applications related to green energy open access by the stakeholders including open access participants, traders, Power Exchanges, National / Regional / State Load Despatch Centres, Central/State transmission utilities.

Note: Ministry of Power notified the Electricity (Promoting Renewable Energy through Green Energy Open Access) Rules, 2022 on 06th June 2022. These rules aim at promotion of generation, purchase and consumption of green energy including the energy from waste-to-energy plants.

31. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has recently conducted a hot test of the **'Agnilet',** a single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine developed by **Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited**, an aerospace startup based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The hot test has been carried out at the Vertical Test Facility, Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (**VSSC**), the lead Centre of ISRO for the development of launch vehicles, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The test has been carried out as part of MoU signed between ISRO and Agnikul Cosmos Pvt. Ltd. to provide opportunity for Indian space start-ups to use facilities of ISRO through IN-SPACe.

32. A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court in a 3:2 majority decision has upheld the validity of the **103rd Constitutional Amendment**, which came into effect in January 2019. It has been agreed that the amendment does not violate the *basic structure* of the constitution.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit, and Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala have delivered the judgement.

- The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution to provide up to **10 percent** reservation to the **economically weaker sections (EWS)** among non-OBC and non-SC/ST sections of the population.
- Persons with an annual gross household income of up to Rs.8 lakh can avail EWS quota benefits.

Note: The Supreme Court introduced the doctrine of Basic Structure in the landmark **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973),** by which it ruled that certain aspects of the Constitution were inviolable, and could not be changed.

33. **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, NITI Aayog, has launched **Women Centric Challenges** under phase-II of the 2nd edition of the Atal New India Challenge (**ANIC**). The challenge has been launched during the annual 'Mentor India Round Table' organized by AIM, NITI Aayog to felicitate the exemplary mentors of change.

The Women Centric Challenges address the major issues faced by woman from all spheres of life. These include:

- Driving women hygiene through innovation
- Innovations to improve women's safety
- Professional networking opportunities for women
- Innovations that make working mothers' life better
- Easing the life of Rural Women

Atal New India Challenge (ANIC):

It is a flagship program of Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog. The program aims to seek, select, support and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance and societal relevance. It provides funds up to Rs.1 crore through a grant-based mechanism.

34. **India** has joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (**MAC**) at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt.

Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC):

- It was launched at the **COP27 Summit** in Egypt to scale up and accelerate the conservation and restoration of the mangrove forests.
- The alliance is led by the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** in partnership with **Indonesia.**
- The alliance aims to strengthen conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems.
- The alliance will raise awareness about the role of mangroves as a "nature-based solution to climate change".
- **India, Australia, Japan, Spain and Sri Lanka** have joined it as partners.
- As part of this alliance, an International Mangrove Research Centre will be established in Indonesia which will conduct studies on mangrove ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and ecotourism.

Mangrove:

It is a small tree or shrub that grows along coastlines, taking root in salty sediments, often underwater. It can be found in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Mangroves are among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. They account for 3% of carbon sequestered by the world's tropical forests.

Asia has the largest coverage of the world's mangroves, followed by Africa, North and Central America, Oceania and South America.

Note: According to the Forest Survey report 2021, mangroves cover in India is 4,992 square km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.

35. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has dedicated to the nation India's first national repository for life science data, **'Indian Biological Data Center' (IBDC)**, at **Faridabad, Haryana**.

- As per the BIOTECH-PRIDE guidelines of the Government of India, IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly-funded research in India.
- The Centre, supported by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has been established at the **Regional Centre of Biotechnology, Faridabad** with a data disaster recovery site at the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Bhubaneshwar, Odisha.
- The Centre also hosts an online Dashboard for the genomic surveillance data generated by the INSACOG labs that provide customized data submission, access, data analysis services, and real-time SARS-CoV-2 variant monitoring across India.
- It has a data storage capacity of about **4 petabytes** and houses the **'Brahm'** High Performance Computing (HPC) facility.

IBDC has started nucleotide data submission services via two data portals viz. the 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive (INDA)' and 'Indian Nucleotide Data Archive - Controlled Access (INDA-CA)'. It has accumulated over 200 billion bases from 2,08,055 submissions from more than 50 research labs across India.

Life Science:

It refers to the study of living organisms, including humans, microbes, plants, animals, and fungi. It generates massive amounts of data, which can be extracted and analyzed.

36. India has recently hosted the **2nd Agriculture Ministerial-level meeting of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** under the chairmanship of the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar.**

- Agriculture ministers of Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand have participated in the meeting.
- The meeting adopted the Action Plan for Strengthening BIMSTEC Agricultural Cooperation (2023-2027).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the **BIMSTEC Secretariat** and the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** have been signed and approval has been given to bring Fisheries and Livestock sub-sectors under the Agricultural Working Group.

- India has urged participating countries to participate in India's initiative to promote Millet for a friendly agricultural food system and nutrition.

BIMSTEC:

It was established in the year 1997. It includes five countries of South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and two countries of South-East Asia: Myanmar and Thailand. Its Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

37. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off *India's fifth* and *South India's first* **Vande Bharat Express** train from KSR Bengaluru Railway Station. The train will run between **Mysuru and Chennai** and help cut travel time between the two destinations. The train will cover 500 km in 6 hours 30 minutes and will halt at two stops between Chennai and Mysore-Katpadi and Bengaluru.

Features of Vande Bharat Express:

It is a world class train with modern facilities. Some of the salient features of this train are:

- Equipped with the KAVACH (Train Collision Avoidance System) for enhanced safety in operations.
- Improved safety with four emergency Windows in every coach.
- Better fire safety measures with Aerosol based fire detection and Suppression system in all electrical cubicles and toilets.
- Superior flood proofing for under-slung electrical equipment to withstand floods up to 650 mm height. The train will also have four emergency lights in every coach in case of electric failure.
- Enhanced riding comfort for passengers at 3.5 riding index. It is also equipped with 32 inch LCD TVs and passenger information and communication system in the train.
- Side recliner seat facility is made available for all classes. The Executive Coaches have the added feature of 180-degree rotating seats.
- Bio vacuum toilets with touch free amenities and Wi-Fi content on demand.
- Finer heat ventilation and air conditioning control through higher efficiency compressor, with Ultra Violet (UV) lamp for germ-free supply of air.
- The train's time to reach 160 kmph is just 140 seconds. There will be driver guard communication with voice recording facility.
- Two signal exchange lights on the coaches for exchange of signal with the way side stations.
- It is being manufactured indigenously at Integral Coach Factory, Perambur, Chennai.

The first Vande Bharat Express train was flagged off on 15th February 2019 on the New Delhi-Kanpur-Allahabad-Varanasi route. Further, Vande Bharat Express trains have been commenced on New Delhi- Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Gandhinagar Capital – Ahmedabad – Mumbai Central, and Amb Andaura – New Delhi routes.

Bharat Gaurav Train:

Prime Minister has also flagged off **Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan Train**. The train will run from **Bengaluru to Kashi**. This train will go through Prayagraj and Ayodhya also.
The objective to run the Bharat Gaurav train is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains (Theme- based Tourist Circuit trains).

38. The Government of India (GoI) has notified the **E-waste (Management) Rules 2022** under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The rules will come into force from **1 April 2023**.

Key provisions of the rules:

- It will apply to every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher, dismantler and recycler involved in manufacturing, sale, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling and processing of e-waste or electrical and electronic equipment.
- The rule is applicable to all electrical devices and radiotherapy equipment, nuclear medicine equipment and accessories, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), electric toys, air conditioners, microwaves, tablets, washing machine, refrigerator and iPad among others.
- Manufacturer, producer, refurbisher or recycler need to compulsorily register under the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework. They may store the e-waste for a period not exceeding 180 and shall maintain a record of e-wastes.
- The government has restricted the use of hazardous substances (such as lead, mercury, and cadmium) in manufacturing electrical and electronic equipment (EEE).
- The Central Pollution Control Board shall monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substance.
- 'Environmental compensation' to be provided by the companies that don't meet their target.

E-Waste:

It refers to all items of electronic and electrical equipment (EEE) and its parts that have been discarded by their owner as waste without the intent of re-use.
India is the **third-largest** e-waste generator in the world after China and the USA (Global E-waste Monitor 2020). **Maharashtra** generates the most e-waste among all the Indian states.

39. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the hot test of **CE20 cryogenic engine** indigenously developed for LVM3 at an uprated thrust level of 21.8 tonne for the first time.

- This will enhance the LVM3 payload capability up to 450kg with additional propellant loading.
- The Thrust Control Valve (TCV) has been newly introduced in this test.

Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3):

It is India's heaviest launch vehicle. It is a three-stage vehicle with two solid motor strap-ons, a liquid propellant core stage and a cryogenic stage. It can carry up to four tonnes to a geostationary orbit and up to **six tonnes** to a low earth orbit (LEO).

40. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has recently declared certain databases related to the **Census and the National Population Register (NPR)** as critical information infrastructure.

The centre has declared the computer resources relating to the Census Monitoring and Management System (**CMMS**) Web Portal, Self-Enumeration (SE) Web Portal, Civil Registration System (CRS) Web Portal, Mobile applications for House Listing (HL), Population Enumeration (PE) and National Population Register (NPR) Updation, and linked Databases including NPR Database, Census Database and CRS Database, computer resources setup/installed at National Data Centre (NDC), ORGI, Delhi and Disaster Recovery Site (DRS) and Data Centre (DC) at Bengaluru and Lucknow to be **'Protected Systems'.**

This falls under the Information Technology Act, of 2000.

41. The **India-United States CEO Forum**, chaired jointly by **Piyush Goyal**, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles and **Gina Raimondo**, US Secretary of Commerce, has been held virtually to strengthen economic ties between both nations.

- The CEO Forum, comprising of CEOs from leading Indian and US based companies, is co-chaired by N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons and James Taiclet, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin.
- This is the sixth time the Forum has been convened since its reconstitution in December 2014 by the Governments of India and the USA.
- The forum is a platform for dialogue across key sectoral themes and aims to identify areas for closer collaboration for mutual benefit of both economies.



42. The Indian Army (IA) has launched a single window facility 'Veerangana Sewa Kendra (VSK)' for welfare and grievances redressal of Veer Naris.

- Under this initiative, Veer naris are employed as VSK staff to maintain inherent connection and empathy with the beneficiaries.
- It will be available as a service to the Indian Army Veterans Portal.
- The system caters for registering grievances with tracking, monitoring and regular feedback to the applicant.

43. The Government of India (GoI) has planned to launch the **'Ganga Vilas Cruise'**, the world's longest luxury river cruise, in January 2023. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Antara Luxury River Cruises and JM Baxi River Cruises for this.

- The cruise will sail from **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh to **Dibrugarh** in Assam via Bangaldesh in a longest river journey of 50 days covering 27 river systems and visit over 50 tourist sites including World Heritage Sites.
- The 50-day cruise will set sail from Varanasi on 10 January 2023 and cover 4,000 km, passing through Kolkata and Dhaka before reaching Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district of Assam on 1 March 2023.

44. The **3rd edition** of India's largest coastal defence exercise, **Sea Vigil 2022**, has recently been conducted in the entire 7,516 km-long coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone of India from 15th to 16th November 2022.

- The exercise has been conducted by the Indian Navy in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and other ministries entrusted with the task of maritime activities.
- The exercise also involves all the Coastal States and Union territories along with other maritime stakeholders, including the fishing and coastal communities.
- Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs and other maritime agencies have also participated in the exercise.
- In addition to the Ministry of Defence, the conduct of this exercise has also been facilitated by the Ministries of Home Affairs, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Fisheries Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Customs, and other agencies of Centre/ State.

Sea Vigil:

It was conceptualised in 2018 to assess the various security measures that were taken to enhance maritime security after the Mumbai terror attack in 2008. The first edition of the Sea Vigil Exercise was held in 2019. The exercise is a build up towards the major Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX), which the Indian Navy conducts every two years.

45. The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** will deal with all Goods & Services Tax (GST) anti-profiteering complaints from **1st December 2022**, as the extended tenure of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) ends on 30th November 2022.

As per the decision by the GST Council, NAA will cease to exist from 1st December 2022. Henceforth, all investigations, based on complaints filed by consumers, will be done by the Directorate General of Anti-profiteering (DGAP) which will then submit a report to CCI.

National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA):

- The NAA was set up in November 2017 under Section 171A of Goods and Services Tax (GST) law to check unfair profiteering activities by registered suppliers.
- The NAA was originally intended to operate for two years, until 2019, but was later extended to November 2021.
- The GST Council, in its 45th meeting in September 2021, gave another 1-year extension till 30th November 2022, to NAA and also decided to shift the work to CCI after that.

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

CCI was established to enforce the law under Competition Act, 2002. It consists of a chairperson and six members appointed by the central government.

- **Current Chairman (Acting):** Sangeeta Verma

46. The **National Museum of Natural History (NMNH)**, under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, have jointly launched the **"In Our LiFEtime"** campaign. The campaign has been launched in a side event at the India Pavilion at COP 27, Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt.

Objective: To encourage youth between the ages of **18 to 23 years** to become message bearers of sustainable lifestyles.
This campaign envisions to recognize youth from around the world taking climate action initiatives that resonate with the concept of LiFE.

Other initiative launched at COP 27:

The **Global Shield Against Climate Risks** initiative has been launched by the **Vulnerable Twenty (V20)** countries and **G7 countries**. It is pre-arranged financial support that established for the needs of poor and vulnerable countries facing increasing risks of losses and damages from climate change.

Vulnerably Twenties (V20):

It is a dedicated cooperation initiative of economies systemically vulnerable to climate change. It was established in 2015 at Lima, Peru.

47. The Ministry of External Affairs (**MEA**), Ministry of Commerce and Industry (**MoCI**), Ministry of Education (**MoE**) and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (**MSDE**) have jointly organized the first **Virtual Global Skill Summit (VGSS)** with the Indian Ambassadors /High Commission representing India Missions from ten nations to facilitate overseas mobility of the skilled workforce.

- Union Minister of Education, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal** have co-chaired the Summit.
- The Summit aimed to institutionalize a mechanism for the exchange of information on skill requirements of countries and skill availability in India.

- Indian Ambassadors from ten different countries namely Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom deliberated in this summit.

48. The **18th edition** of Indo - US joint training exercise **"YUDH ABHYAS 22"** has been conducted at Auli in Chamoli district, **Uttarakhand**. Exercise Yudh Abhyas is conducted annually between **India and USA** with the aim of exchanging best practices, Tactics, Techniques and Procedures between the Armies of the two nations.

- This 15-day-long exercise (16th November to 2nd November 2022) focuses on high altitude and extreme cold warfare.
- US Army soldiers of 2nd Brigade of the 11th Airborne Division and Indian Army soldiers from the **Assam Regiment** will be participating in the exercise.
- The training schedule focuses on employment of an integrated battle group under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate.
- The joint exercise will also focus on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- The exercise will facilitate both Armies to share their wide experiences, skills and enhance their techniques through information exchange.

The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson, Alaska (USA) in October 2021.

49. During the meeting, a broad consensus emerged among stakeholders on adoption of **USB Type-C** as a charging port for electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptops.

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has also formed a sub-group to examine the feasibility of uniform charging ports for wearable devices like smart watches.
- With universal chargers consumers will no longer need a different charger every time they purchase a new device.
- The move will also reduce massive amounts of e-waste.
- It will be a step towards LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) that nurtures a global network of individuals, i.e., 'Pro-Planet People' (P3).

Recently, European Parliament voted in favour of legislation to standardize the USB-C charging port on electronic items.

Note: According to an ASSOCHAM-EY report, India is estimated to have generated 5 million tonnes of e-waste, only behind China and the US in 2021.

50. The **National Commission for Women (NCW)** has recently launched the **fourth phase** of the **Digital Shakti Campaign** to create safe cyberspace for women and girls.

- It has been launched in collaboration with **CyberPeace Foundation** and **Meta**.

- It is a pan-India project for making women digitally skilled and aware to stand up against any illegal/inappropriate activity online.
- It aims to sensitize more than 1 million women across India.

Digital Shakti:

Its first phase was launched in **2018** and over 3 Lakh women across India have benefited. It is helping women in reporting & redressal mechanisms, data privacy and usage of technology for their benefits. The third phase of the program was started in March 2021 with the launch at Leh.

51. The **17th** edition of the **G-20 Heads of State and Government Summit** has been hosted under the **Indonesian Presidency** in **Bali** under the theme *'Recover Together, Recover Stronger'.*

- Prime Minister of India **Narendra Modi** has attended the summit at the invitation of Indonesian President **Joko Widodo**.
- G20 Summit Agenda includes three working session's viz. Food & Energy Security; Health; and Digital Transformation.

Key highlights of the summit:

- **Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)** has been launched to decarbonize Indonesia's coal-powered economy. It is an agreement of Indonesia with G7 countries. It will be co-led by Japan and the United States (US).
- Member countries adopted a declaration deploring Russia's aggression in Ukraine "in the strongest terms" and demanding its unconditional withdrawal.
- The leaders promised to take coordinated action to address food security challenges and applauded the Black Sea grains initiative.
- Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen global health governance, with the leading and coordination role of World Health Organisation (WHO) and support from other international organisations.
- Leaders agreed to pursue efforts to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Leaders recognised the importance of digital transformation in reaching the sustainable development goals.

During the summit, **India** has assumed the charge of the G20 presidency and the **18th G20 Summit 2023** will be held in New Delhi.

G20:

The G20 was formed in 1999 in the backdrop of the financial crisis of the late 1990s that hit East Asia and Southeast Asia in particular. It aims to secure global financial stability by involving middle-income countries. The G20 countries include 60% of the world's population, 80% of global GDP, and 75% of global trade.

Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU).



52. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and UK Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** have announced the **UK-India Young Professionals Scheme** on the sidelines of the 17th dition of the G20 Summit held in Bali, Indonesia.

- Under this scheme, the UK will provide **3,000 visas** each year to degree-educated Indian citizens between the ages of 18 and 30 who wish to visit the country and work there for up to two years. It will be a reciprocal system.
- Applicants under the Young Professionals scheme will have to hold a diploma or degree equivalent to at least three years of higher education and be able to express themselves in the language of the host country.
- India is the **first** visa-national country to benefit from such a scheme.

53. India's first privately developed rocket **'Vikram-S'** has been successfully launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- Vikram-S is a **single stage sub-orbital** launch vehicle which carried three customer payloads to help validate the majority of technologies in the Vikram series of space launch vehicles.
- The rocket carried three payloads built by Andhra Pradesh-based N Space Tech India, Chennai-based startup Space Kids and Armenian BazoomQ Space Research Lab.
- Among these 3 payloads, Spacekidz, a Chennai-based aerospace startup, has launched **'Fun-Sat'**, a 2.5 kg payload developed by students from India, the US, Singapore and Indonesia.
- The Vikram S rocket weighs 545 kg and comprises the Vikram II and Vikram III series.
- Vikram-S is capable of reaching Mach 5, five times the speed of sound.
- It can carry a payload of 83 kg to 100 kilometers.
- It has been developed by a Hyderabad-based startup **Skyroot Aerospace.**
- It has been launched under **Mission Prarambh** (beginning).
- It is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme.
- It is powered by India's first carbon-fibre-built solid fuel engine.

Skyroot Aerospace is the first startup to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ISRO for launching its rockets.

54. The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Trikand** has participated in the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) led Focused Operation **"Sea Sword 2"** held in the Northwest Arabian Sea from 06 to 14 November 2022.

- **Objective:** To counter terrorism, prevent narcotics trade and stop smuggling entities from using the seas for their nefarious activities.
- The Indian Navy's long range maritime patrol aircraft has also participated in the operation and provided air support.

INS Trikand:

It is a Talwar-class frigate of the Indian Navy. It is the third and final ship of the second batch of Talwar-class frigates ordered by the Indian Navy. It was built by the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia. It was commissioned to Indian Navy service on 29 June 2013.
The other two Talwar-class frigates, INS Teg, and INS Tarkash were commissioned in 2021 at the Western Fleet.

55. **India** has launched the official website and theme of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** as it will host the next SCO summit as a chairman of organisation in **2023.**

- The official website of India's Chairmanship of SCO Council of Heads of State is https://indiainsco.in.
- The theme of SCO summit 2023 is **"For a SECURE SCO".**

India received the SCO rotating presidency during the 22nd Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State 2022 held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. India will hold the presidency of the grouping for a year until September 2023.

Background:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had floated the concept of **SECURE** at the SCO summit in China in 2018. In the acronym SECURE, the letter 'S' represents security for citizens, 'E' for economic development, 'C' for connectivity in the region, 'U' for unity, 'R' for respect of sovereignty and integrity, and 'E for environment protection.

56. Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal has announced **India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)** a major initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**) towards providing greener solutions. The announcement has been made at the recently concluded "INMARCO 2022" in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Key points:

- The NCoEGPS will be working under the framework of the **Sagarmala programme**.
- The main objective of the proposed NCoEGPS is to provide support to MoPSW in developing and maintaining a policy and regulatory framework for a green alternative

technologies road map for the shipping sector in India for its transition to carbon neutrality and CE principles.

The NCoEGPS will focus on **five** broad areas:
a) Policy, Regulatory and Research
b) Human Resource development
c) Network- Key Partners and Strategic collaborators
d) Explore- Area of work, outcomes, projects and resources
e) Engage- Past events, upcoming events, dissemination

The Centre will interact with all the ports, shipping, maritime states in understanding their problems and offering solutions through well proven and upstream scientific approaches.

Specific objectives of NCoEGPS are:
a) Empower 'Make in India' in Port, Coastal and Inland water transport, and Engineering.
b) Enable fast-track innovations in these sectors.
c) Create a pool of competent manpower to the industry.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.

Note: International Maritime Organization (IMO) aims to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from ships by 50% from 2008 levels by 2050.

57. The **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)** has initiated the process for integration of its various infrastructures with PM Gati Shakti-National Master Plan (**PMGS-NMP**).

In the first step, DAHD has integrated its 7 central Cattle Breeding Farms, 4 Central Herd Registration Scheme and Central Frozen Semen Production and Training Institute located at various locations of the country with PMGS-NMP.

58. The Government of India (GoI) will set-up branches of the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** in all the states by **2024** to deal with cybercrimes, narcotics, cross-border terrorism, and sedition.

NIA was established following the terror attack in Mumbai on 31st December 2008, with the NIA Act of 2008.

59. The **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC),** the research centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has successfully completed the **Integrated Main Parachute Airdrop Test (IMAT)**, a major development test of its crew module deceleration system at the Babina Field Fire Range (BFFR) in **Jhansi,** Uttar Pradesh.

- It is the first in a series of tests planned to simulate different failure conditions of the parachute system before it is deemed qualified to be used in the first human spaceflight mission 'Gaganyaan'.
- The design and development of the Parachute-based Deceleration system for the Crew module is a joint venture between ISRO and the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

60. The **South-Western Command** of the Indian Army has recently conducted the Integrated Fire Power Exercise **'Shatru Nash'** at Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR) in the Thar Desert in the Bikaner district of Rajasthan.

- The exercise witnessed the use of multifarious firing platforms in an integrated manner involving both ground and aerial manoeuvres.
- During the exercise, Real-time communication and sharing of a common operating picture amongst various participants to overcome emerging threats were practised & skills were honed.

61. **Australia's Parliament** has recently passed the **Free Trade Agreement** with **India**. Under the pact, Australia is offering zero-duty access to India for about 96.4% of exports (by value) from day one. This covers many products that currently attract 4-5% customs duty in Australia.

The trade agreement will provide duty-free access to the Australian market for over 6,000 broad sectors of India, including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery, and machinery.

62. India has successfully conducted the training launch of the **Agni-III Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM)** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha coast. This is a part of routine user training launches which are performed under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

- Agni-3 was first tested on 9 July 2006. However, it was not a successful launch.
- The missile test fired successfully in its second flight which took place in 2007. The missile also performed as per the standards in its third consecutive launch that took place in 2008.
- It is a two-stage ballistic missile that is capable of nuclear weapons delivery.
- The 16-meter-long missile, weighing more than 48 tonnes, has a range of over **3000 kilometers** and is capable of carrying a payload of over 1.5 tonnes.
- Due to its high range of **circular error probable (CEP),** the Agni-3 missile is known as the world's most accurate strategic ballistic missile of its range class.
- It is designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (**BDL**).

63. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched its 200th consecutive **'RH-200' Rohini** sounding rocket from its lead facility, the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

RH-200:

- It is a two-stage rocket capable of reaching a height of 70 kms while carrying scientific payloads.
- The number '200' in the name refers to the rocket's **diameter** in mm.
- The first and second stages of RH-200 are powered by solid motors.
- These small, low-cost solid-fueled rockets are intended for research, meteorology, and atmospheric studies.

Currently, India has three operational sounding rocket variants: RH-200, RH-300-Mk-II and RH-560-Mk-III.

64. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has introduced the **'National Suicide Prevention Strategy'**, the first of its kind in India, to achieve a reduction in suicide mortality by **10%** by **2030.** The strategy is in line with the World Health Organisation's South East-Asia Region Strategy for suicide prevention.

Objectives:

- The strategy aims to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the **next three years**.
- It aims to establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years.
- It also aims to integrate a mental well-being curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.

65. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (**DPIIT**), under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has launched **startup applications** for registration on the **MAARG portal**, the National Mentorship Platform by Startup India, to provide further boost to startup ecosystem by catalysing the startup culture and building a strong and inclusive ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in India.

MAARG Portal:

Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience and Growth (MAARG) is a one stop platform to facilitate mentorship for startups across diverse sectors, functions, stages, geographies, and backgrounds. It is being operationalized in three phases which include,

- Mentor Onboarding
- Startup Onboarding
- MAARG Portal Launch and Mentor Matchmaking

66. Binod Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary Transport, West Bengal has launched the seventh 250 Men Ferry Craft **'Manjula'** (Yard 786) at M/s Shalimar Works Ltd, Kolkata, and West Bengal.

- Manjula Ferry Craft was built under the 'Make in India' initiative of Ministry of Defence.
- These Ferry Craft are built with a service life of 25 years.
- The Ferry Craft will provide impetus to operational and logistics requirements of the Indian Navy.

Note: Six out of Seven Ferry Craft have been delivered at Port Blair, Visakhapatnam and Mumbai.

67. The **8th edition** of the **India-Indonesia** bilateral joint training exercise **'Garuda Shakti' 2022** has been held at the Sangga Buana Training Area in Karawang, west Java, Indonesia.

- The 13-day Garuda Shakti exercise seeks to boost understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the special forces of Indian and Indonesian armies.
- It covers counter-terrorism, close-quarter combat, and other special operations.

Note: The first edition of Exercise Garuda Shakti was conducted in 2012 in India.

68. The **22nd Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Meeting of the Council of Ministers (COM)** has been held in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.

- The Indian delegation has been led by the Minister of State for External Affairs **Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh**.
- The Meeting held a strategic dialogue on the topic of "Saving Environment of the Indian Ocean" and exchanged views on potential cooperation in the Indian Ocean.
- The Meeting has adopted the **Dhaka Communique** which acknowledges the progress made under IORA and reflects member states' commitment to work collectively to promote post-pandemic economic recovery as well as recognizes climate change as an important part of IORA's agenda.
- India will set up an **e-Office** at the **IORA Secretariat** and has also announced provision of e-subscription by India to Mahatma Gandhi Library at IORA Secretariat.

Bangladesh has adopted the theme of *"Harnessing the opportunities of the Indian Ocean sustainably for inclusive development"* for its Chairship from 2021 – 2023.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

It was established in 1997 to enhance economic cooperation, trade and investment facilitation and sustainable development of the Indian Ocean region. Currently, IORA has 23 member states and 10 dialogue partners.

- **Secretary General**: Salman Al Farisi
- **Secretariat**: Ebene, Mauritius

69. The **13th edition** of the bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Royal **Oman** Navy (RNO), **'Naseem Al Bahr'** or **Sea Breeze 2022**, has been conducted off the coast of

Oman from 19 to 24 November 2022. The exercise has been conducted in three phases: Harbour phase, Sea phase, and debrief.

- The Indian Navy's guided missile stealth frigate, **INS Trikand**, Offshore patrol vessel **INS Sumitra** and **MPA Dornier**, have participated in the exercise.
- The exercise facilitates operational-level interaction between the two navies to foster mutual cooperation and enhance good order at sea.
- The exercise also aims to strengthen the ancient maritime and cultural linkages between India and Oman.
- The year 2022 marks **30 years** of the bilateral exercise between India and Oman.

Note: Naseem Al Bahr naval exercise was started in 1993.



70. **Y 12705 (Mormugao),** the second ship of Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyer, has been delivered to the Indian Navy. It is built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** and designed by the Warship Design Bureau, the Indian Navy's in-house organization.

- The keel of Mormugao was laid in June 2015 and the ship was launched on 17 September 2016.
- The ship is 163 metres long and 17 metres wide, displaces 7400 tonnes when fully loaded, and has a maximum speed of 30 knots.
- Apart from myriad indigenous equipment in the 'Float' and 'Move' categories, the destroyer is also installed with the under-mentioned major indigenous weapons.

71. **India** has won the **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Vice Presidency** and **Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair** for the **2023-25 term**.

- India's representative, **Vimal Mahendru** has been elected as the IEC Vice President.
- He has been elected by securing over 90 percent of the votes cast by full members of IEC during its General Meeting held recently in San Francisco, USA.

IEC is an international standard-setting body that publishes international Standards for all electrical, electronic and related technologies. Standardization Management Board (SMB) is an apex governance body of IEC responsible for technical policy matters.

72. The first **India-ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting** has been held in **Siem Reap, Cambodia** to commemorate the **30th Anniversary** of India-ASEAN relations in 2022, which has also been designated as 'ASEAN-India Friendship Year'.

- The meeting has been co-chaired by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Cambodia General **Tea Banh**.
- The meeting has been preceded by the **9th ASEAN-Defence Ministers Meeting' (ADMM) Plus**.

During the meeting, India has proposed two major initiatives to expand the scope and the depth of the India-ASEAN defence relations. The 2-initiatives are:

a) 'India-ASEAN Initiative for Women in UN Peace Keeping Operations':

This includes conducting of tailor-made courses for women peacekeepers of ASEAN Member States at the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India and conduct of a 'Table Top Exercise' in India for women officers from ASEAN incorporating facets of UN peacekeeping challenges.

b) 'India-ASEAN Initiative on Marine Plastic Pollution':

This includes channelizing of the energy of the youth towards addressing the critical issue of marine pollution.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):

It was established on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Current members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

ASEAN Secretariat: Jakarta, Indonesia

73. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has formed a panel to revamp the **"Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" (MGNREGA)**, MoRD's only employment guarantee scheme, to direct more work to India's poorer regions.

- The panel will recommend institutional mechanisms for more effective utilisation of funds of the scheme.
- The panel will also examine expenditure trends across various states and identify reasons for variations.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme:

MNREGA Act was passed by the Indian Parliament on 23rd August 2005 but it came into force on 6th February 2006. In 2009, an amendment was made in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, to change the nomenclature of the Act from NREGA to MGNREGA

The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every **rural household** whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

It is being implemented by the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

74. The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (**FSSAI**) has approved the **Himalayan Yak** as a **'food animal'** to help check the decline in the population of the high-altitude bovine animal by making it a part of the conventional milk and meat industry.

- The Yak population in India is decreasing at an alarming rate over the years.
- As per the latest census carried out in 2019, India has 58,000 yaks which is around 25 percent drop from last livestock census carried out in 2012.

According to National Research Centre (NRC), at Dirang in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, Food Animals are those that are raised and used for food production or consumption by humans.

Himalayan Yak (Bos grunniens):
It is a species of long-haired domesticated cattle. They are found throughout the Himalayan region of the Indian subcontinent. Yak milk is highly nutritious, rich in fat, contains essential minerals and has medicinal value.

75. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched **PSLV-C54** carrying **Oceansat-3**, also known as Earth Observation Satellite-6, and **8 nanosatellites** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The eight nanosatellites include ISRO Nano Satellite-2 for Bhutan (INS-2B), 'Anand' from Pixxel, Thybolt two numbers from Dhruva Space, and Astrocast - four numbers from Spaceflight USA.

Anand: It is technology demonstrator to demonstrate the capabilities and commercial applications of miniaturized earth-observation camera for earth observation using a microsatellite in Low Earth Orbit.

Thybolt: It is a 0.5U spacecraft bus that includes a communication payload to enable rapid technology demonstration and constellation development for multiple users.

Astrocast: It is a technology demonstrator satellite for the Internet of Things (IoT) as the payload.

INS-2B: It will have two payloads namely NanoMx and APRS-Digipeater. NanoMx is a multispectral optical imaging payload developed by Space Applications Centre (SAC). APRS-Digipeater payload is jointly developed by DITTBhutan and URSC.

76. The bilateral training exercise **"AUSTRA HIND 22"** between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army have been commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in **Rajasthan**.

- This is the first exercise in the series of Austra Hind with the participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies.

- The Indian Army is represented by troops from the **DOGRA Regiment**.
- The Australian Army is represented by soldiers from the 13th Brigade of the 2nd Division.
- The aim of the exercise is to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations in Semi deserts terrain under a UN peace enforcement mandate.

Exercise "Austra Hind" will be a yearly event that will be conducted alternately in India and Australia.

77. **India–Malaysia** joint military exercise **"Harimau Shakti 2022"** has been commenced at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia on 28th November 2022. The military exercise will culminate on 12th December 2022.

- The exercise will enhance the defence cooperation between Indian Army and the Malaysian Army.
- Combat troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment of the Indian Army and the Royal Malay Regiment of the Malaysian Army are participating in the exercise.
- The military exercise will enhance interoperability in planning and execution of various operations in jungle terrain.

Harimau Shakti is an annual training event between Indian and Malaysian armies which has been conducted since 2012.

78. The Department of Consumer Affairs, under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, has launched the framework titled Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 **'Online Consumer Reviews-Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication'** to safeguard and protect consumers from fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce.

- The standards will be applicable to every online platform which publishes consumer reviews.
- The new framework has been formulated by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- BIS will also develop a Conformity Assessment Scheme for the standard to assess compliance.



STATES AFFAIRS

79. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone of **C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility** in **Vadodara,** Gujarat. The facility will manufacture C-295 aircraft for

the Indian Air Force (IAF) through collaboration between **Tata Advanced Systems Limited** and **Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain.**

- This is the first project of its kind in which a military aircraft will be manufactured in India by a private company.
- It is also the first time that the C295 aircraft will be manufactured outside of Europe.
- The total cost of the project is **Rs.21,935 crore**.
- The aircraft can be used for civilian purposes as well.

80. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has unveiled **North India's first hyper-scale data centre**, 'Yotta D1', at the upcoming Data Centre Park in **Greater Noida**. It is built at the cost of Rs 5,000 crore and spread over an area of 3,00,000 square feet.

- This data centre is constructed by Yotta, a subsidiary of Hiranandani Group.
- A total of 6 towers will be constructed at this centre. The first tower is complete and can store 30MW of data.
- This data centre will have data of 60% of the citizens along with data of users of social media platforms and data related to various sectors like banking, business, healthcare, and travel.
- Noida Power Company Limited (NPCL) will provide power supply to the centre.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth Rs 39,000 crore has also been signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Hiranandani Group to be spent on projects in the next five years.

81. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated three tourist attractions, including a **Maze Garden**, **Miyawaki forest**, and Houseboat service near the 182-meter-high Statue of Unity in **Ekta Nagar**, formerly known as Kevadia, in Narmada district of Gujarat.

Maze Garden:

The Maze Garden is spread over three acres of land. This is the **largest** maze garden in India. The garden has a pathway of about **2.1 kilometres**. It has been designed in the shape of a '*Shriyantra*', which is believed to bring positive energy to the place.

Miyawaki Forest:

The forest has been developed using the technique pioneered by **Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki**, which helps build dense, native forests in a short span of time. Through the Miyawaki method, a forest can be developed in just two to three years while it takes at least 20 to 30 years through the traditional method. The growth of plants is ten times faster using this method.

It is spread over an area of about two acres. It will have the following divisions: A Native Floral Garden; a Timber Garden; a Fruit Garden; a Medicinal Garden; A Miyawaki section of mixed species; Digital Orientation Centre.

'OYO Ekta Houseboat', Gujarat's first houseboat service in the vicinity of the Statue of Unity, has also been inaugurated.

82. **Arunachal Pradesh** will establish a **Fish Museum**, the first of its kind in the Northeast, with all fish species across the district from Tawang to Longding, to attract tourists, fish lovers, and the museum will also serve as a training centre for fish farmers.

- The fish museum will be part of India's first-ever **'Integrated Aqua Park'** which has been approved by the central government.
- The park will be set up at **Tarin (Ziro)** in the Lower Subansiri district under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojna.
- The existing Tarin Fish Farm (TFF), which is located at high-altitude Bulla Village, will be upgraded as the Integrated Aqua Park where the museum would be built.
- This project will be built at a financial outlay of **Rs.43.59 crore** in the current FY23 as the first instalment.

83. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has approved the greenfield **Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC)** with the project cost of **Rs 492.85 crores** to be set up in **Ranjangaon** Phase III, near **Pune** in **Maharashtra**. It aims to strengthen the electronics manufacturing ecosystem in India.

MeitY has also planned to give a boost to the 1000 crore Semicon India Future Design programme to support Semiconductor Design Startups in Maharashtra with C-DAC, Pune as its nodal office.
The other EMCs in India are present in Noida, Tirupati, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, wherein both multi-national companies and Indian startups have set up their units.

A group of researchers of the Travancore Nature History Society's odonata research group (TORG) have discovered a new species of **damselfly** named, **Francy's Reedtail** (scientific name: Protosticta francyi), in the Kanichar grama panchayat of Kannur district, which forms a part of the **Brahmagiri Hills** of Western Ghats.

- The new damselfly, which belongs to the diverse genus of **Protosticta Selys**, was first spotted in **1885** by **Vibhu Vipanchika**, a Kannur-based dental surgeon and Odonate enthusiast.
- The new species inhabits the mid-elevation streams in the Brahmagiri-Coorg landscape of the Western Ghats.
- The new Francy's Reedtail is the 3rd under the genus Protosticta.

84. **ResponsibleSteel site certification** has been conferred for 3 production facilities-Steel Works, Tube Division, and Cold Rolling Mill (Bara)-of Tata Steels in **Jamshedpur Steel Plant** in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

- **Jamshedpur site** has become **India's first site** to get ResponsibleSteel site certification.
- The certification means that the production of 103.5 million tonnes of steel and the working lives of 157.4 thousand people are managed by sites that are now independently audited every 18 months.
- Tata Steel has been a member of ResponsibleSteel since October 2020.

ResponsibleSteel:

It is the steel industry's first global multi-stakeholder standard and certification initiative that works with steel producers, consumers, and intermediaries towards building a sustainable steel industry by addressing pressing challenges including climate change, diversity, human rights and more.

85. Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav has announced that the **Ranipur Tiger Reserve** in the **Chitrakoot** district of Uttar Pradesh (**UP**) has become the **53rd** Tiger Reserve of India.

- The Ranipur Tiger Reserve is the fourth in the state after Dudhwa, Pilibhit and Amangarh.
- It is in the Bundelkhand region of UP, just 150 km from Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, and is considered an important corridor for the movement of tigers.
- It is spread over 529.36 sq km (core area 230.32 sq km & buffer area 299.05 sq km).
- It is covered by northern tropical dry deciduous forests and is home to mammals like megafauna tiger, leopard, bear, spotted deer, sambhar, and chinkara among others.

Note: As per the Tiger census conducted in 2018, India has 2,967 tigers, including 173 in UP.

86. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has dedicated and has laid the foundation stone of projects worth around **Rs.860 crores** in **Jambughoda**, Panchmahal in **Gujarat.**

- He has dedicated the new campus of Shri Govind Guru University, Godhara; Sant Joriya Parameshwar Primary School and Memorial located at Vadek village, and Raja Rup Singh Nayak Primary School and Memorial located in Dandiyapura village.
- He has laid the foundation stone for the building of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Godhra.
- He has also laid the foundation stone for the development of Godhra Medical College and the expansion of Kaushalya – The Skill University, worth over Rs.680 crores.

87. The Chief Minister of **Goa** Pramod Sawant has recently unveiled the logo for the **'Purple Fest: Celebrating Diversity'**, a first-of-its-kind inclusive festival for persons with disabilities, at an event held in Manohar Parrikar Memorial Hall of Sanjay Center for Education, Porvorim, Goa.

- The Goa State Commission for Persons with Disabilities will host the Purple Fest in association with the Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa.
- It will be organized from 6 to 8 January 2023 in Panaji.

88. The state government of **Haryana** has launched a **'CM Dashboard'**, an IT platform, with real-time data of all departments, under which, live monitoring of every department at the block, district, and panchayat levels will be done. This dashboard has been developed in-house with state-of-the-art Business Intelligence software.

The state government has also launched a dedicated **'e-Uphar portal'** to auction the gifts received by the Chief Minister during various functions.

89. Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the **12th** Biennial International Exhibition and Conference **'India Chem 2022'** in **New Delhi.**

- It has been jointly organized by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- **Theme:** "*Vision 2030: Chemicals and Petrochemicals Build India*"
- The exhibition has showcased the Indian Government's policies targeting the sustainable growth of the chemicals and petrochemical industry.
- The event has provided a platform that enables stakeholders to interact, share knowledge and network.
- The event has showcased investment opportunities in Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs) and highlight the role of "Make in India" initiative in making the country self-reliant in the sector.

India Chem:

It is the flagship event of the Indian Government's Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals. It is the largest event focusing on Indian chemicals and petrochemical industry. It is one of the largest composite events of the industry in the Asia-Pacific Region.

90. The 6th edition of **"Ganga Utsav 2022 – The River Festival"** has been organised on 4th November 2022 at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi in two sessions.

Objective: To celebrate all the rivers of India (Nadi Utsav).

Chief Guest: G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Culture, Tourism & DoNER

Focus Area: 'Arth Ganga' that aims to establish people-river connect through the "bridge of economics". The six important verticals of Arth Ganga are *Zero Budget Natural Farming, Monetization and Reuse of Sludge & Wastewater, Livelihood Generation, Public Participation, Cultural Heritage & Tourism and Institutional Building.*

The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has organized Ganga Utsav 2022 in association with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), INTACH, GIZ, National Book Trust (NBT), Ganga Task Force, Ganga Vichar Manch, NGOs, schools, colleges, Resident Commissioners, State Tourism Department, State Cultural Units, Tree Craze Foundation, APAC, Water Digest, and other stakeholders.

Ganga Utsav is organized every year by NMCG to commemorate the anniversary of the declaration of River Ganga as 'National River' on **4th November 2008**. The event is organised jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The festival was first observed in 2017.

91. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the renaming of **Hollongi Greenfield Airport** in Itanagar, **Arunachal Pradesh** as **"Donyi Polo Airport".**

- 'Donyi' means Sun and 'Polo' means Moon.
- The Donyi Polo airport in Itanagar is northeast India`s 16th airport.
- It is the state's third airport after Pasighat and Tezu airports and only airport in the capital city.
- With a 2,300 metre runway, the Greenfield airport is the first in Arunachal Pradesh to have the capacity to land big aircraft.
- The airport can accommodate 300 passengers during peak hours with eight check-in counters.

92. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the permanent North-East Campus of **Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) North East** at **Aizawl**, **Mizoram**. The campus will run the post graduate diploma courses in English Journalism and Digital Media besides short duration media & communication courses.

- The IIMC North East Campus began functioning in 2011 from a temporary building made available by Mizoram University.
- The construction work for the campus began in 2015 and was completed in 2019.
- The total cost is Rs.25 crores.
- The IIMC permanent campus on the 8 acres of land given by Mizoram University has separate Administrative and Academic buildings along with hostels and staff quarters.

93. Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri and Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan have jointly inaugurated the **15th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Expo 2022** in **Kochi**, Kerala.

- The Expo has been organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Kerala from 4th to 6th November, 2022.
- The focus of the UMI Conference Cum Expo 2022 is on the theme of ***"Azadi@75 – Sustainable AatmaNirbhar Urban Mobility".***
- The event brings together national and international experts, technology and service providers, policy makers, practitioners and officials from the urban transport sector under one roof.

94. **Vadodara** city of Gujarat has become the second city in India to successfully issue a **Municipal bond** with the assistance of the US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance. The Rs.100 crore fund raised by the bond will be used for infrastructure development in Vadodara.

Note: Pune was the first city in India to issue Municipal bonds in 2017.

95. The **Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H),** Ministry of Ayush in collaboration with the World Health Organization South East Asia Region (**WHO-SEARO**) has organized a 3-days training program in New Delhi. The program has been inaugurated by **Pramod Kumar Pathak**, Special Secretary, Ministry of Ayush. The program aims to upgrade laboratory capacity for quality control of Tradition/Herbal products in South East Asia region.

96. President of India **Droupadi Murmu** has virtually inaugurated and laid the foundation of various central and state government projects at **Manan Kendra**, **Gangtok, Sikkim**.

- She has inaugurated the Atal Setu via duct connecting West Bengal and Sikkim at Rangpo on National Highway 10; the two-lane Chisopani traffic tunnel including approach roads in East Sikkim; and the Ganju Lama Girls Hostel, Ravangla in South Sikkim under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram.

- She has laid the foundation stone for the **National Institute of Technology (NIT), Khamdong**, East Sikkim; widening and improvement of road from Namchi to Birdhang connecting West and South Sikkim; District Hospital, Singtam, East Sikkim; and the World Renewal Spiritual Brahmakumaris Centre, Namchi, South Sikkim.

97. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has issued an official Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) supplement in order to change the city and airport name from Mangalore to **'Mangaluru'** with effect from 1st December 2022.

98. **Kerala** has become the first state in India to launch a uniform price on **916 purity 22 carat gold** based on the bank rate. This means the jewellers in Kerala now charge the same price as the bank rate for gold.

It should be noted that the Bank rate on gold is the same across India, however, in most states, gold is priced Rs.150-300 per gram extra over the bank rate.

99. AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, has set up **'Chennai 1'** hyperscale data centre campus at Sipcot IT Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The 'Chennai 1' campus hosts Tamil Nadu's first pre-certified Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rated data centre.
- In Phase-1, the campus offers 17 MW (IT Load) that will scale up to 33 MW at full capacity.
- It is designed to offer robust physical protection to IT Infrastructure with seven layers of security system and commitment to provide 99.999 percent availability.
- The objective is to build 1 GW green data centre platform.

Note: India's current data centre capacity is around 600 MW and expected to grow to around 1300 MW by 2024.

100. **Maharashtra** has emerged as the largest state in **State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR)** collections between April-September 2022 i.e. first six months of the current fiscal (H1FY23) with **Rs.1,15,211 crore**.

- Maharashtra is followed by Uttar Pradesh with Rs.1,02, 687 crore, and Tamil Nadu with Rs.68, 638 crore.
- Tamil Nadu has displaced Karnataka's SOTR to emerge as the third largest in terms of own tax revenue collections in H1FY23. Karnataka's tax collection is Rs.66, 158 crore.
- Telangana's SOTR grew by 26% to Rs.50,660 crore, Karnataka recorded 24% growth to Rs.66, 158 crore.

The provisional data for the SOTR collections has been released by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR):

Strong SOTR growth is an indicator of healthy state finances as higher own tax revenue collections means lesser dependence on Centre for devolution and grants. It includes revenues earned through State GST (Gross & Revenue Tax), Stamp & registration fees, Sales Tax, State Excise duty, and Land revenue. Some states also levy other taxes.

101. The 46th edition of **Wangala Festival** has been observed in Asanang near Tura in West Garo Hills district of **Meghalaya**. The three-day festival has been observed from 10th November 2022. It has been organised by the Hundred Drums Wangala Festival Committee.

Wangala Festival:

- It is also known as the Festival of Hundred Drums.
- It is a most popular festival among the Garo tribal community in the state of Meghalaya.
- It is a harvest festival held in honour of **Saljong**, the Sun God of fertility.
- The celebration also signifies the end of a long toil period, which brings good output of fields.
- Wangala dance is also performed. Men play horn and lok drums, and women make formation around nokma in honour of Misi-Saljong.

102. **Hyderbad's** growing green space city now hosts **India's largest Miyawaki forest**. It spreads over an area of 18 acres in **Kavaguda** near Shamshabad airport. It is followed by one in Gujarat, spread over 14 acres.

- The 18-acre Miyawaki forest at Kavaguda is developed by the Stone Craft group headed by Kirthi Chilukuri and Anusha Podduturi.
- The Stone Craft team has GI-tagged each tree in the forest.
- The forest has 126 species of native fruit and flowering trees.

Miyawaki method:

It was pioneered by Japanese botanist **Akira Miyawaki**. It helps build dense, fast-growing forests with native plants. In the Miyawaki technique, various native species of plants are planted close to each other so that the greens receive sunlight only from the top and grow upwards rather than sideways.

103. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** has recently inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of **8 National Highway projects** worth **Rs 4054 crore** in **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**. The total length of the projects inaugurated is **214 km**.

- The 53 km from Hiran River to Singur River and 12 km 4-lane construction of Nauradehi Wild Life Sanctuary will save 2 hours travel time from Jabalpur to Bhopal.
- The farmers of Narsinghpur, the largest producer of sugarcane and pulses, will be able to take their grains to the mandis of Malwa and Central region.
- 23 underpasses and 5 minor bridges are being built for the convenience and safety of animals in the Wild Life Sanctuary.
- The foundation stone of 112 km, 4-lane Jabalpur Ring Road has been laid at a cost of Rs.3600 crore under Bharatmala project. This ring road will be built on Barela - Malegaon - Shahpura Bhatauni - Kushner - Amjhar - Barela road, which will include bridge over river Narmada, 750 meters Iconic Bridge and ROB at Bhedaghat and ROB at Deori.

He has also inaugurated **5 National Highway projects** of total length **329 km** in **Mandla**, Madhya Pradesh at a cost of **Rs 1261 crore.** These projects will well connect Mandla with Jabalpur, Dindori, Balaghat districts.

104. The Government of **Tamil Nadu** has notified the **'Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary'** on 68,640 hectares as the **17th wildlife sanctuary** in the state.

- The sanctuary, covering reserve forest areas in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri districts, is home to 35 species of mammals, 238 species of birds, Leith's soft shelled turtles, smooth coated otters, marsh crocodile and four horned antelopes, and is a wildlife paradise.
- The sanctuary is notified under Section 26-A of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It will connect Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu with the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary in neighbouring Karnataka.
- Two important and large elephant corridors namely, the *Nandimangalam-Ulibanda Corridor* and the *Kovaipallam-Anebiddahalla Corridor* fall in this area.

105. The Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) has launched the hull module of the '**Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization & Evaluation' (SPACE)** facility at Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (**NPOL**) in **Kochi, Kerala.**

- SPACE is a state-of-the-art testing and evaluation facility for **sonar systems** developed for use by the Indian Navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters.
- This facility has been constructed by L&T Shipbuilding, Chennai.
- The uniqueness of this facility lies in the specially designed submersible platform, which can be lowered up to depths of 100 meters using a series of synchronously operated winches.

106. The Government of **Rajasthan** has launched its first **'Handicraft Policy 2022'** to boost investment in the cultural heritage of the state. The objective of the policy is to provide better marketing arrangements for the upliftment of handicrafts, to revive traditional and extinct arts as well as to create new employment opportunities.

107. The state government of **Kerala** has launched **'Technology Transfer Scheme'**, a scheme to reimburse the expense incurred by new start-up ventures in procuring technology licenses from government research institutions for commercializing their products.

The scheme will be implemented through Kerala Startup Mission (**KSUM**), and will reimburse up to **Rs.10 lakh** for the startups.

108. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has announced that **Mathura-Vrindavan**, one of India's largest pilgrimage centres, aims to become a "**net zero carbon emission**" tourist destination by **2041.** This will be the first such carbon neutral master plan for a tourist destination in India.

Key announcements:

- Tourist vehicles will be banned from the entire Braj region, which includes famous pilgrim centres such as Vrindavan and Krishna Janmabhoomi.
- Only electric vehicles used as public transport will be allowed into the area.
- All 252 water bodies and 24 forests in the area will also be revived.

- The plan divides the entire region into four clusters, each containing two of the eight key cities.
- The idea is to form small circuits called *'Parikrama Paths'* which the pilgrim can undertake either on foot or using electric vehicles.

Mathura:

It is situated on the bank of Yamuna River. It is the abode of Lord Krishna and it has a great religious sanctity among the Hindus. It is mentioned in the epic Ramayan. It was one of the capitals of Kushan King Kanishka (130AD).
Some of the famous temples are Bankey Bihari Temple, Govind Dev Temple, Rangaji Temple, Dwarikadhish Temple and the ISKCON Temple.



109. The Governor of Uttarakhand Lt Gen Gurmit Singh, (Retd.) has inaugurated the **42nd** International Congress of the **Indian National Cartographic Association (INCA)** in **Dehradun**. It has been organized by the National Hydrographic Office from 9-11 November 2022.

The theme of the 42nd INCA Congress is "*Digital Cartography to Harness Blue Economy*".

110. **Jaipur** has hosted the **11th** edition of **India Stonemart 2022**, the International Stone Industry Exhibition, from 10th to 11th November 2022, at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC), Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- The exhibition is organized by the Centre for Development of Stones (CDOS), in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).
- It is the largest worldwide exhibition of the stone business, showcasing natural stones, associated products, and services.
- The main sponsor is the Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Limited (RICO).

111. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the **'Statue of Prosperity'**, the **108-feet** tall bronze statue of **Sri Nadaprabhu Kempegowda** in Bengaluru.

He has also inaugurated **Terminal 2** of Kempegowda International Airport at Bengaluru. The terminal, nicknamed *"Terminal in a Garden"*, is an eco-friendly structure built using bamboo and can accommodate 2.5 crore passengers per year.

'Statue of Prosperity':

- The statue is built to commemorate the contribution of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, the founder of the city, towards the growth of Bengaluru.
- The statue has been sculpted by Padma awardee **Ram V Sutar** using 98 tonnes of bronze and 120 tonnes of steel. He is also known for building the Statue of Unity in Gujarat's Kewadia and Mahatma Gandhi's statue in Bengaluru's Vidhana Soudha.
- It is 108 feet high and weighs 220 tonnes. It has a sword that weighs 4 tonnes.
- The statue has been installed inside the Bengaluru International Airport.
- It has been built at a cost of around Rs 84 crore.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda:
He was a ruler under the **Vijayanagara Empire** founded in 1537. He is widely respected by the Vokkaliga community dominant in Old Mysuru and other parts of southern Karnataka.

112. **Apis karinjodian**, a new species of endemic **honeybee** has been discovered in the **Western Ghats** after a gap of more than 200 years. The new species has been given the common name Indian black honeybee.

- This new discovery has increased the species of honeybees in the world to 11.
- It is found in the states of Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and parts of Tamil Nadu.
- **IUCN status**: Near threatened

The last honeybee discovered from India was Apis indica in 1798 by Fabricius.

113. The district administration **Patiala**, in partnership with organization Educational Initiatives, has launched **"Mindspark",** a state of the art, adaptive learning platform' for students studying in government schools of Patiala.

- Under the initiative, students will receive access to personalized, adaptive learning platform 'Mindspark'.
- The main purpose of the initiative is to connect those students who lag behind due to any reason which causes difficulty in learning the higher level concepts.
- The initiative has been launched in 82 government schools of Patiala, Punjab.

114. A new species of estuarine **crab** named **'Pseudohelice Annamalai'** has been discovered in the Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu. It has been discovered at the mangroves in Parangipettai, close to the Vellar River estuary in Cuddalore district.

The species has been named in recognition of **Annamalai University** for its contribution towards research and education for over 100 years.

115. The States of **Assam and Meghalaya** will work jointly with the **Indian Army** to transform the Umiam lake into a world-class venue for aquatic sports. This has been announced during the first-ever three-day Rising Sun Water Fest 2022 held at Umiam Sports Complex in Meghalaya.

Umiam Lake:

It is one of the biggest artificial lakes in **Meghalaya** that is situated about 15 km from Shillong. It is recognised as Bara Pani, and covers an area of about 220 sq km. It is also known for water sports and adventure facilities such as kayaking, water cycling, scooting and boating.

116. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth over **Rs 9500 crores** in **Ramagundam, Telangana**.

Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) plant:

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) plant in Telangana to achieve self-sufficiency in production of urea.
- The foundation stone for Ramagundam Project was laid on 7th August 2016.
- The plant will make available **12.7 LMT** per annum of indigenous neem-coated Urea production.
- The project has been set up under the aegis of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) which is a Joint Venture Company of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), Engineers India Ltd (EIL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL).
- RFCL was entrusted with the responsibility of setting up the New Ammonia-Urea Plant with an investment of more than Rs 6300 crores.
- Gas to RFCL Plant will be supplied through Jagdishpur – Phulpur- Haldia Pipeline.

He has also dedicated the **Bhadrachalam Road- Sattupalli** rail line to the nation, which has been built at a cost of around Rs 1000 crores.
He has also laid the foundation stone of various road projects worth over **Rs 2200 crores**, namely the Medak-Siddipet-Elkathurthy section of NH-765DG; Bodhan-Basar-Bhainsa section of NH-161BB; Sironcha to Mahadevpur Section of NH-353C.

117. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation multiple projects worth over **Rs. 10,500 crores** in **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.**

Foundation stone:

- Redevelopment of **Visakhapatnam Railway Station**, to be done at a cost of around Rs 450 crores.
- Modernisation and upgradation of **Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour**, to be done at a cost of around Rs.150 crores.
- Andhra Pradesh section of the six-lane Greenfield Raipur- Visakhapatnam Economic Corridor, to be done at a cost of more than Rs 3750 crore.
- Port Road from Convent Junction to Sheela Nagar Junction in Visakhapatnam
- **Srikakulam Angul Natural Gas Pipeline Project of GAIL** with a capacity of around 6.65 MMSCMD. This 745 km long pipeline will be built at a total cost of more than Rs 2650 crores.

Inauguration:

- Narasannapeta to Pathapatnam section of NH-326A. It is built at a cost of more than Rs 200 crore as a part of the Srikakulam-Gajapati Corridor.
- The **U-field Onshore Deepwater block project of ONGC**, developed at a cost of more than Rs. 2900 crores. It is the deepest Gas discovery of the project with a gas production potential of about 3 million metric standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD). U-field is situated in Krishna Godavari basin block KG-DWN-98/2 in Bay of Bengal.

118. The **Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)** has recently launched an **Elephant Adoption Programme** in which non-governmental organisations, institutions, trusts or individuals can sponsor the expenses of Forest Department's camp elephants.

- Leema Rose Martin, Director of the Martin Group of Companies, Martin Trust and district coordinator of the 'Go Green' programme of the Rotary Club of Coimbatore Aakruthi, has adopted two elephants of the Kozhikamuthi elephant camp, *Abhinaya* and *Sanjeev*, for a period of one year.
- Under the scheme, any donor who is willing to adopt the elephants will get an exemption under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Anamalai Tiger Reserve:

It is located in Tamil Nadu. It forms part of the Anamalai Parambikulam Elephant Reserve declared in 2003. It is surrounded by Parambikulam Tiger Reserve on the East, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary and Eravikulam National Park on the South Western side (all belong to Kerala). The important mammals include: Asiatic elephant, Sambar, Spotted deer, Barking deer, Mouse deer, Gaur, Nilgiri tahr, Tiger, etc.

119. The Government of India (GoI) has granted **265 Diplomate of National Board (DNB)** postgraduate medical seats to several Government hospitals in **Jammu and Kashmir** across 20 districts with the active contribution of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS). The 50 percent of the PG seats are also reserved for local in-service doctors to provide them with the opportunity for postgraduate training.

120. **DigiLocker**, the authentic documents exchange platform under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has successfully completed its second-level of integration with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.

- The secure cloud-based storage platform of DigiLocker can be used now as a health locker for storing and accessing health records such as vaccination records, doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital discharge summaries etc.
- The latest integration will now enable users to utilize DigiLocker as a Personal Health Records (PHR) app.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) holders can also link their health records from different ABDM registered health facilities like hospitals and labs and access them via DigiLocker.

121. The **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)**, Ministry of Finance (MoF); **Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**; and the **World Bank Group** have jointly organised a 5-day focused workshop titled **"Cities Creditworthiness Academy"** in New Delhi. The aim is to create an enabling ecosystem for financing future cities of India. The workshop has been scheduled from 14th to 18th November 2022.

122. President of India Droupadi Murmu has launched the **'e-KUMBH'** portal from Jayadev Bhawan, Bhubaneswar in **Odisha**. It is a digital platform *to provide glossary of engineering syllabus and books in 12 local languages*.

- The full form of e-KUMBH is **Knowledge Unleashed in Multiple Bharatiya Languages**.
- This is a portal on which courses and books of degrees related to engineering studies will be made available in 12 scheduled Indian languages.

She has also released engineering books of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Odia language and glossary of 50,000 technical terms in Odia language developed by Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT).

123. A total of **6 Marwari horses** have been exported from Jodhpur to **Bangladesh** where they will be used for carrying the cart of Bangladesh's President. All six horses belong to Marwar Stud of Bal Samand Lake Palace, governed by the Umaid Bhawan Palace of Jodhpur, and have been registered as a 'Marwari horse' with the Marwari Horse Stud Book Registration Society (MHSRS) of India.

Marwari Horse:
It is the original desert horse breed of **Marwar region** of **Rajasthan**. It is capable of covering long distances with good speed by virtue of its strong limbs and hooves. It can withstand intense heat and cold and adverse climatic conditions. It is genetically similar to the Kathiawari breed of Kathiawad (Gujarat).
Spiti, Bhutia, Manipuri, Zanskari, Bhimthadi, Chummarti, and Sikang are other Indian breeds of horses.

124. The Government of **Jammu & Kashmir** has introduced the **Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS)** to promote the establishment of sheep and goat units in J&K union territory. The provisions under the scheme includes procurement of shearing units, consisting of one shearing machine, one Genset and shearing accessories and spares; 50% of the unit cost as total eligible subsidy with a ceiling of Rs.75,000/- unit whichever is less.

125. **Nagaland** has hosted the first edition of the **Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC)** on the occasion of Tokhü Emong, a post-harvest festival of the Lotha Nagas.

- TEBC is a four-day documentation event that sought to list birds in Nagaland.

- The objective is to highlight the diversity of bird species in Nagaland and bring to attention the threatened habitats in the state.
- The event has been organized in collaboration with the Wokha Forest Division and the Divisional Management Unit, Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP), Wokha, and Bird Count India.

Tokhü Emong:
It is a 9-day post-harvest festival celebrated by **Lotha Nagas**, a major Naga ethnic group native to Wokha District in Nagaland. It is celebrated during the first week of November each year. The term "Tokhü" means feast (eating food or drinking) and the term "Emong" means the Halt on the appointed time.

126. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted the artistic memoirs like 'Kangra Miniature Paintings', 'Patan Patola','Silver Bowl', Kinnaur's Shawl and many others made by local artisans to all the country's heads while administering the G20 presidency at the end of Summit in Bali, Indonesia.

Gift to USA:
'Kangra Miniature Paintings': It is made by master painters from **Himachal Pradesh** using natural colors which generally portray 'Shringar Rasa' or depiction of love on a natural backdrop.

Gift to UK:
Mata ni pachedi: It is an **handmade textile** of **Gujarat** and an offering in temple shrines which house Mother Goddess. It is a religious textile folk art featuring Mother Goddess at the centre and her stories and legends filling the remaining cloth. It is hand-painted, hand spun cloth of rectangular shape, with natural colours.

Gift to Australia
Phithora: It is a ritualistic tribal folk art by the Rathwa artisans from Chhota Udaipur in **Gujarat.** These **painting** are depiction of the cave paintings that tribals used to make reflecting the social, cultural and mythological life and beliefs of those tribals.

Gift to Italy:
Patan Patola: It is ancient art of double ikat or Patola woven in pure silk. It is a traditional **saree** from the Patan town of Gujarat. The technique of dyeing is, known as 'bandhani' process. It is dyed with natural extracts of marigold, onion skin, etc.

Gift to France, Germany, Singapore:
Agate Bowl: Gujarat is known for its agate craft. Khambhat is best known for shaping agate stones and the method of processing agates used by the artisans. The existence of Agate mines at Ratnapur and Rajpipla date back to A.D. 77.

Gift to Indonesia:

Silver Bowl: The unique and finely crafted bowl is made of pure silver. This is a centuries old craft perfected by the traditional and highly skilled metalsmiths of Surat region in Gujarat.
Kinnauri Shawl: It is a type of shawl manufactured in Kinnaur district of the Indian state Himachal Pradesh. The shawls are known for their geometric designs.

127. Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched the **Jammu and Kashmir Remote Sensing Information System (JKRIS)**, a spatial data infrastructure initiative, and **g-SAM** (Gram Panchayat Spatial Assets Mapper) mobile app on the occasion of the World Geographic Information System (GIS) Day (16th November).

128. The **Tamil Nadu Forest Department** has introduced the **'Tamil Nadu Elephant Death Audit Framework'**, a first of its kind initiative in India, to document reasons for elephant deaths for better accountability.

Three objectives of the framework:

- To establish a Systematic Standard Protocol for conducting post-mortem to determine the reason(s) for death of an elephant;
- To study and understand the circumstances in cases of preventable and unnatural deaths of elephants.
- To formulate remedial measures for prevention of unnatural and preventive deaths by conducting periodical death audits and monitoring these over time.

The framework will improve transparency, assist all stakeholders in assessing the results and ultimately facilitate standardisation and more credible comparisons of cause of mortality.
Note: Elephants are among the most long-lived mammals, with a life expectancy of around 50 years in the wild, and a generation length of 22 years.

129. Secretary Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals **Arun Baroka** has inaugurated the **4th** edition of the **Indian Chemicals Council (ICC) Sustainability Conclave** in **New Delhi.**

- The conclave has been organized jointly by the United Nations Environment Program (**UNEP**) and International Council of Chemical Associations.
- The conference has been supported by the *Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers* and the *Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.*
- The theme of the conclave is *"Boardrooms to Community-ESG, Carbon Neutrality, Operational Safety, Greener Solutions".*

130. The **'Baliyatra' Festival 2022** at **Cuttack, Odisha** has entered the Guinness World Records for achieving an impressive feat of origami, with over 2,100 students making 22,000 paper boats in just 35 minutes.

- Baliyatra, literally means *'voyage to Bali'*, is one of India's largest open-air fairs.
- The annual Baliyatra celebrates the ancient trade relations between India and Indonesia.

- It commemorates the 2,000-year-old maritime and cultural links between ancient Kalinga (Odisha) and Bali and other regions like Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Myanmar and Sri Lanka.
- The week-long festival begins on **Kartik Purnima** (full moon night in the month of Kartik).
- The festival celebrated on the banks of the **River Mahanadi in Cuttack**, can be traced back more than 1,000 years.
- The sadhavas (traders) traditionally began their voyage across the sea on this auspicious day, when the winds were favourable for the boats, known as boita, to sail.

Note: The Baliyatra Festival is similar to the 'Masakapan Ke Tukad' festival of Bali, Indonesia.

131. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the first Greenfield airport **'Donyi Polo Airport'** in **Itanagar**, **Arunachal Pradesh**.

- The name of the airport reflects the traditions and rich cultural heritage of Arunachal Pradesh and its age-old indigenous reverence for the Sun ('Donyi') and the Moon ('Polo').
- The airport has been developed in an area of over 690 acres, at a cost of more than Rs.640 crores.
- With a 2300 m runway, the airport is suitable for all weather day operations.
- The airport terminal is a modern building, which promotes energy efficiency, renewable energy and the recycling of resources.

He has also inaugurated the **600 MW Kameng Hydro Power Station** in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. It has been developed at a cost of more than Rs.8450 crore and in an area spread over more than 80 kilometres.

Note: Aircraft movement in the North-East has witnessed an increase of 113% since 2014, from 852 per week in 2014 to 1817 per week in 2022.

132. Noida-based **Tech Eagle**, a drone delivery startup, has successfully carried out the **world's first vaccine delivery for animal husbandry** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The startup used its indigenously developed hybrid drone **'Vertiplane X3'**, which delivered vaccines 12 times faster than ground transportation. The first time livestock vaccines have been delivered by drone from Kangkong to Paglam in the Lower Dibang Valley district.

133. Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has inaugurated the **first Greenfield Farm Machinery Plant of Mahindra & Mahindra** at **Pithampur** in Madhya Pradesh. This New Farm Machinery Division is of M&M Farm Equipment Sector (FES), part of the Mahindra Group. The plant will manufacture affordable and accessible farm machinery equipment under the Mahindra and Swaraj brands. It is set up over an area of 23 acres.

134. The **8th Norway-India Joint Working Group (JWG) Maritime Meeting** has been held in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. The meeting has been co-chaired by **Rajesh Kumar Sinha**, additional

secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The Norwegian delegation has been led by Director General **Ottar Ostnes** from the Ministry of Trade, Industries and Fisheries.

The 7th JWG on Maritime was held in Oslo in November, 2019.

Key points:

- Both governments presented their visions and plans for a green maritime sector.
- India and Norway are part of **Green Voyage 2050 project**.
- Both parties agreed on willingness, devotion, partnership and capacity building for achieving common goals.
- India has pressed upon cooperation in the field of Maritime Training in latest maritime technology and requested Norway to extend Ship Board training and Ship Board training in the area of Polar Water Navigation.

135. The Government of **Rajasthan** has approved an outlay of **Rs.2.60 crore** for the **Camel Conservation Scheme** which is aimed at protecting camels.

- Under the scheme, each female camel and calf will be tagged by the Veterinary doctor and an identity card will be issued.
- The camel rearer will be given Rs.5,000 while the veterinarian will receive Rs.50 honorarium for each identity card.
- The rearer will get another instalment of Rs.5,000 after the came calf has completed one year.

136. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated **'Kashi Tamil Sangamam'**, a month-long programme being organised in **Varanasi**, Uttar Pradesh. The objective of the programme is to celebrate, reaffirm and rediscover the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi – two of the country's most important and ancient seats of learning.

It is being organized by the **Ministry of Education** in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. IIT Madras and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) are the two implementing agencies for the programme.
During the programme, the Prime Minister has also released a book ***'Tirukkural'*** along with its translation into 13 languages.

137. The 10-day-long **Manipur Sangai Festival 2022** has been organized by the **Manipur** Tourism Department at the main venue, Sangai Ethnic Park, Moirang Khunou, Bishnupur district in Manipur.

- The year 2022 marks the 11th edition of the celebration.
- It has been organized from 21st November to 30th November 2022 in 13 locations spread over 6 districts in Manipur.
- The theme of Sangai Festival 2022 is the "Festival of Oneness".

Sangai Festival:

It is an annual cultural festival organized by Manipur Tourism Department every year from 21 to 30 November. The 'Festival' is named after the State animal, Sangai, the brow-antlered deer found only in Manipur. It was first observed in 2010.

138. The **14th Poultry India Expo**, South Asia's largest poultry event, has been organized at Hitex, Madhapur, **Hyderabad** from 23rd to 25th November 2022. It has been organized by the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IPEMA).

The objective of the exhibition is to help farmers keep in line with the latest developments in management, animal health, and nutrition, new technologies in poultry production at affordable costs, and more.
Around 370 companies including 99 global experts have participated in the exhibition.

139. The Rajasthan Government's Department of Industry and Commerce has launched the **Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Rajasthan Dalit, Adivasi Udyam Protsahan Yojana – 2022** to ensure participation by the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in industrial development in the state.

140. The Government of Tamil Nadu has notified the 193.215 hectares of area in **Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram** villages in **Madurai** district as the first **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS).**

- The site comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (Melur block) and 53.8 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk) will be known as the **Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage site**.
- It has been notified under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

141. The Government of Odisha has launched the **'AMLAN' (Anaemia Mukta Lakhya Abhiyan)** to ensure the complete eradication of anaemia problem among women and children in the state. The programme will be rolled out in 55,000 government and government aided schools and 74,000 Anganwadi Centres across the state.

The Odisha Government has also announced a special package for the welfare of 8 lakh **Kendu leaf pluckers** and other persons engaged in the trade. Under the first Phase, each kendu leaf plucker will receive Rs.1000 and Rs.1500 for each seasonal staff and binder.

Kendu Leaf:

It refers to as green gold of Odisha. It is a significant non-wood forest product in Odisha. Odisha is the third largest producer of Kendu leaf next to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and produces about 20% of the countries annual production.

Note: The Government of India has imposed 18% GST on Kendu leaf business.

142. The **Sahyadri Farmer Producer Company (FPC)** has bagged a licence, the first in India, to set up a **private agricultural mandi** at **Dindori**, in **Nashik district, Maharashtra**.

- The mandi will come up over the next three months at a cost of Rs 25 crore.
- The private agri-mandi will have a 100-acre dedicated market space integrated with world-class infrastructure, services from banking to storage, processing, and packaging under one roof.

Note: Until now, traditional Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) played a major role in regulating the market for agricultural produce and have established a monopoly.

143. The Government of **Odisha** will launch an **'E-Detection Portal'** on national highways with effect from **1st January 2023** to keep a check on vehicles plying without valid documents and issue e-challans.

The portal aims to collect information from various toll gates on National Highways (NHs).

144. **Sultanpur village** in Solapur district in **Maharashtra** has been renamed as **'Rahul Nagar'**. The local residents of the village have changed its name in memory of its native, who laid down his life while fighting terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008.

Rahul Shinde, who hailed from Sultanpur in Madha tehsil of Solapur district, was amongst the first police personnel to enter the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in south Mumbai after reports of firing by terrorists. He was hit with a bullet in his stomach by terrorists, in which he died.

145. Chief Minister of **Bihar** Nitish Kumar has introduced the **Ganga Water Supply Scheme (GWSS)**, a "first-of-its-kind project" in India, in Rajgir, Nalanda district, under which flood waters will be treated for supply to households in the southern part of the state.

- The project will facilitate supply of 135 litres of treated Ganga water every day for each person in a household.
- The scheme, estimated to cost over Rs 4,000 crore, will also be dedicated to the people of Gaya and Bodh Gaya.

146. The **Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC)** in Madhya Pradesh has planned to issue **India's first municipal green bond**, aimed at retail investors, with the revenues going toward funding a solar power plant.

- It has planned to sell a 10-year bond in December 2022 in order to raise up to Rs.2.6 billion.
- IMC has mandated A.K. Capital Services Ltd. and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. as lead managers of the offering.
- The 60-megawatt solar plant will be built near Indore at a cost of Rs.3 billion.

147. Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal has recently inaugurated the **Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM)**, the first of its kind institute for Unani medicine in North East, in **Silchar, Assam**.

- The new complex spread over an area of 3.5 acres is built with an investment of Rs.48 crores.
- The complex is developed by the National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), a Government of India enterprise.
- It is handed over to Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Ayush, Govt of India.

148. **Uttarakhand** will launch a new scheme named **"Mukhya Mantri Pratham Gram Samekit Vikas Yojana"** to accelerate economic activities in the villages near the border region.

- The state will also launch **'Mukhya Mantri Paryavaran Mitra Yojana'** for the cleanliness of villages and **'Mukhya Mantri Chaupal'** for the planned development of village panchayats.
- Uttarakhand has an international border of 625km: 350km with China and 275km with Nepal.



149. According to a Refinitiv analyst and Refinitiv ship tracking data, **India** has received its first cargo from **Indonesia's Tangguh liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant** at the Dahej terminal in **Gujarat**. The LNG tanker "BW Helios" is transporting 132,000 cubic metres of LNG cargo.

- Tangguh LNG, operated by British oil firm BP, is located in Indonesia's West Papua province and commenced production in 2009.
- Petronet LNG Terminal (PLL) has built the first LNG receiving and regasification terminal in India and South-East Asia in Dahej, Gujarat.

150. Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently conducted the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise **'Samanvay 2022'** at the Air Force Station in **Agra, Uttar Pradesh**.

- The exercise aims to assess the efficacy of institutional disaster management structures and contingency measures.
- The exercise also aims to provide a unique platform for exchange of domain knowledge, experience and best practices with the participating ASEAN member countries.
- It promotes a synergistic approach towards HADR by various national and regional stakeholders involved in Disaster Management including the Civil Administration, the Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), etc.

HADR is an annual joint exercise involving various stakeholders from India and representatives from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) counties.

151. The Government of **Assam** has launched the **Assam Tourism Policy 2022** on the sidelines of the 'Assam Tourism Road Show 2022', hosted by the Department of Tourism, Government of Assam. The policy aims to guarantee effective standardization of processes and practices, to foster uniformity which can result in sustainability and an overall improvement in the quality of tourism products.

152. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently distributed over **71,000 appointment letters** via video conferencing to newly enlisted recruits under **Rozgar Mela** in 45 places across India (except Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh).

He has also launched the **Karmayogi Parambh module**, an online orientation course for all newly appointed employees of different government departments.

153. The **Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB)** has developed a mobile app named **'Kerala E-Mobility App' (KeMapp)**, which will serve as a common platform for accessing the services of e-vehicle charging stations.

154. Chennai-based space tech startup **Agnikul Cosmos** has launched **India's first private launchpad** and mission control centre at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

The facility, designed by Agnikul Cosmos and executed with the support of ISRO and IN-SPACe, has two sections: the Agnikul Launchpad (ALP) and the Agnikul Mission Control Center (AMCC).

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

155. **China** has launched the second lab module "**Mengtian"** to be part of its Tiangong space station, which is currently under construction and will be completed by the end of 2022.

- The name "Mengtian" means "dreaming of the heavens".
- It has been launched aboard a Long March-5B Y4 carrier rocket from Wenchnag launch centre in China.
- It will be used for studying microgravity and carrying out experiments in fluid physics, materials science, combustion science, and fundamental physics.

The first lab was **Wentian**, which was sent to focus more on biological and space life sciences.

<u>Tiangong space station</u>:

It is set to be the second permanently inhabited outpost in Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) after the NASA-led International Space Station (ISS). It will be much smaller and lighter than ISS. Chinese astronauts are currently excluded from ISS because US law bans NASA from sharing its data with China.

156. **China** has virtually hosted the **21st meeting of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Council of Heads of Government**. The meeting has been chaired by Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Keqiang.

Participants:
Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan Alikhan Smailov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic Akylbek Japarov, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation Mikhail Mishustin, Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda and Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan Abdulla Aripov.

Attendees:
SCO Secretary-General **Zhang Ming**, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure Ruslan Mirzayev, Chairman of the Board of the SCO Business Council Davron Vakhabov, and Chairman of the Council of the SCO Interbank Consortium Alisher Mirsoatov.

Key highlights:

- The heads of delegations expressed support for the Republic of India's SCO chairmanship in 2022-2023.
- The heads of delegations stressed the need to implement the 2021-2025 Action Plan to implement the SCO Development Strategy to 2025.
- A Joint Communique of SCO Heads of Government and other decisions have been adopted at the conclusion of the Meeting.
- India did not affirm to the joint communique supporting the Belt and Road' initiative" of China.
- India pitched for more trade through Iran's Chabahar port and International North South Transport Corridors (INSTC).

Note: Next session of the SCO Heads of Government (Prime Ministers) Council will take place in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2023.
India's total trade with SCO Members is only **USD 141 billion**.
SCO Heads of Government meet is held annually to focus on the trade and economic agenda of the organisation and approves the SCO's annual budget.

157. A joint Air Force exercise **'Vigilant Storm'**, previously called the Combined Flying Training Event, has been conducted between the United States of America (**USA**) and **South Korea**. The four-day training exercise involves hundreds of aircraft and designed to enhance combat readiness and interoperability.

The exercise featured more than 240 aircraft flying approximately 1,600 sorties, including American F-35B stealth fighter jets.

158. An international team of astronomers has announced the discovery of a large **asteroid** whose orbit crosses that of Earth, creating a small chance far in the future of a catastrophic collision. The 1.5 kilometre wide asteroid, named **'2022 AP7'**, has been discovered in an area normally difficult to spot objects due to the glare from the Sun.

- 2022 AP7 takes 5 years to go round the sun once. At present the asteroid remains several million kilometres away from Earth.
- The Victor M. Blanco telescope in Chile, which was originally developed to study dark matter, found the asteroid.

159. SpaceX's **Falcon Heavy**, the world's most powerful active rocket, has been launched into space for the first time since 2019 on 1st November 2022 from Florida's Cape Canaveral in the United States (US). The mission has been carried out by SpaceX, which is owned by billionaire Elon Musk, with the assistance of the US Space Force.

160. The European Commission has authorized '**nirsevimab**', a laboratory-developed antibody designed to protect infants during their first exposure to **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**, a highly contagious common infection that infects nearly all babies by age 2. This is the *world's first one-dose drug* by drugmakers **Sanofi** and **AstraZeneca** against a respiratory virus.

161. **Iran's** para-military, **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** Aerospace Force has successfully test-launched a new satellite-carrying rocket **'Ghaem 100'** into suborbital space.

- 'Ghaem 100' three-stage solid fuel carrier is capable of placing satellites weighing 80 kg into orbit 500 kilometres above the Earth's surface.
- This is the first sub-orbital stage of the rocket.

162. The **Netherlands** has emerged as the top destination for India's petroleum product exports such as petrol and diesel in the **first half of FY 2022**. Amid the Ukraine war, India continued to buy discounted crude oil from sanctions-hit Russia.

- India is a key Asian refining hub, with an installed capacity of nearly 250 million tonnes per annum across 23 refineries.
- The emergence has resulted in Netherlands becoming the third biggest market for India's overall exports, replacing China.

- The Netherlands accounted for nearly 9% of India's total petroleum product exports in April to September 2022 at Rs.4.5 trillion with a growth of 180% corresponding to the same period in FY21.

163. **China** has successfully launched its cargo spacecraft **Tianzhou-5** to transport fuel and supplies for its Tiangong space station, the construction of which is expected to be completed this year. It has been launched through Long March-7 Y6 rocket from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern island province of Hainan.

164. The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** will launch the **'Psyche'** mission on **10th October 2023** to explore the massive Golden Asteroid, worth a **USD 10,000 quadrillion** that could possibly make everyone on Earth a billionaire.

- The massive asteroid, hailed as **'16 Psyche'** is 140-mile wide which could contain a core of iron, nickel and gold worth $10,000 quadrillion and orbits the Sun between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.
- The Psyche mission is a part of NASA's Discovery Program of low-cost robotic space missions.

Project HyTEC:

NASA has recently awarded the cost-share contract to **Pratt & Whitney** with a total value of **USD 13.1 million** under the project Hybrid Thermally Efficient Core (HyTEC) to advance new combustor designs for small core engines to revolutionise air travel and combat climate change.

165. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) next-generation **moon** rocket, the **Space Launch System (SLS) rocket** with the Orion crew capsule, lifts off from launch complex 39-B on the unmanned **Artemis 1 mission** to the moon, from the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida, United States (US). The rocket Artemis 1 marks the first flight of the SLS rocket, built by Boeing Company, and the Orion Capsule, built by Lockheed Martin Corporation together, in coordination with NASA.

- It is the first integrated test of NASA's deep space exploration systems: the Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System
- (SLS) rocket.
- It is the first in a series of increasingly complex missions that will enable human exploration to the Moon and Mars.
- The launch is the first leg of a mission in which Orion is planned to travel approximately 40,000 miles beyond the Moon and return to Earth over the course of 25.5 days.

Artemis 2: It has been planned for 2024. It will be a crewed flight that will orbit the Moon but not land on the surface.

Artemis 3: It has been planned for 2026. It will land a crewed spacecraft on the Southern pole of the moon.

166. Egypt's COP27 Presidency, in partnership with World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has launched **AWARe (Action on Water Adaptation or Resilience)**, an initiative that will champion inclusive cooperation to address **water related challenges** and solutions across climate change adaptation. It is a collaboration between various stakeholders, including African Union (AU) and African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW).

The initiative will have an *Africa-first focus*. It will address water security as part of climate change adaptation.
AWARe will focus on three priorities for action:
i) Decrease water losses worldwide and improve water supply.
ii) Promote mutually agreed, cooperative water adaptation action.
iii) Promote cooperation and interlinkages between water and climate action in order to achieve Agenda 2030, in particular SDG 6.

Note: COP27 President is H.E. Sameh Shoukry.

167. Exercise Keen Sword 2023 has been held between the **US military** and the **Japan Self-Defence Force (JSDF)** from 10th to 19th November 2022 around Tokunoshima Island, situated southwest of Japan.

- It is a joint and bilateral field training exercise.
- It is held once in two years to boost the preparedness and interoperability between the military personnel of Japan and the United States.
- It aims to create comprehensive scenarios to challenge the critical capabilities required to support the security of Japan and the stability of the Indo-Pacific.

Exercise Keen Sword was first held in 1986.

168. Abu Dhabi has hosted the first edition of the **Global Media Congress (GMC)**. It has been organized by the Abu Dhabi National Exhibitions Company (ADNEC) Group in collaboration with the Emirates News Agency (WAM).

- GMC Theme: *"Shaping the Future of the Media Industry"*
- It is a conference-cum-exhibition congress that provides a platform for international-level discussions about the present-day challenges and opportunities in the media sector.
- Discussions have been held on topics like digital communications, impact of artificial intelligence on contemporary media and the integration of advanced technology and innovation in the media sector.
- During the event, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) has unveiled the "Tolerance Charter for News Agencies and Media Outlets" which seeks to unite media entities from across the

world to promote tolerance, coexistence, and intercultural dialogue via global cooperation.

169. The **third** edition of the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) 2022** has been held in Tokyo, Japan. The GPAI summit 2022 focuses on 4 themes. These are:

a) Responsible AI
b) Data governance
c) Future of work
d) Innovation and commercialisation

During the summit, **France**, the current Council Chair, has handed over the presidency of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (**GPAI**) for **2022-23** to **India**. India has become the Council Chair after it received more than two-thirds majority of the first-preference votes, followed by Canada and the United States respectively.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** has represented India at the summit.

Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI):
It is a multi-stakeholder initiative that was developed by the G7 alliance. It was launched in 2020. Its objective is to fill the gap between theory and practice on artificial intelligence by promoting cutting-edge research and related activities.

Currently, it has 25 member states. These are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the UK, the US and the EU.

India joined the GPAI in 2020 as a founding member.

Note: Artificial Intelligence is expected to add 967 billion US dollars to the Indian economy by 2035. It is also expected to add 450 to 500 billion US dollars to India's GDP by 2025 accounting for 10 percent of the country's 5 trillion dollar GDP target.

170. **Ghana** has assumed the **Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for **November 2022.** During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (adoptions, debates and consultations) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

Ghana was first given the opportunity to serve on the council from 1962 to 1963. It is the third time Ghana is holding a non-permanent seat on the Council.

171. Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has announced that India's longest train, **Vivek Express** that connects **Dibrugarh** in Assam with the southernmost tip of **Kanyakumari** in Tamil Nadu will be available twice a week beginning 22nd November 2022.

The Dibrugarh- Kanyakumari Vivek Express, which was flagged off on 19th November 2011, covers a distance of 4,189 km and traverses through nine states in over 80 hours.

172. **Chinese scientists** has been planning to send **monkeys** to space to study reproduction in zero gravity. The experiment will be conducted on China's new **Tiangong** space station, inside the Wentian lab module.

173. The 27th UN Conference of Parties (COP27) Summit has been held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. During the summit, delegates from the United Nations has agreed to create a **'Loss and Damages Fund'** to provide compensation to vulnerable countries for the damages they suffered due to climate-related disasters.

- The "Loss and Damage" Fund covers the cost of damages caused by climate crisis that the countries cannot escape from or adapt to.
- The Fund will assist developing countries in their efforts to avert, minimize, and address losses and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change considering continued global warming.
- Governments also agreed to establish a 'Transitional Committee' to make recommendations on how to operationalize the new funding arrangements.

174. **Black-Naped Pheasant-Pigeon** has been rediscovered after 140 years by a research team that was part of The Search for Lost Birds, a collaboration between Bird Life International, Rewild, and American Bird Conservancy.

In September 2022, they found the species at the western slope of Mount Kilkerran, the highest peak of Fergusson Island.

- Black-Naped Pheasant-Pigeon was first and last seen in 1882.
- It is a large, terrestrial pigeon having black and orange feathers and red eyes.
- It eats **fallen fruits and seeds**.
- The species is endemic to **Fergusson Island** in **Papua New Guinea**.
- The species is listed as **critically endangered** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

175. The **Sultanate of Oman** has hosted the **3rd High-level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)** in Muscat, Oman from 24 and 25 November 2022 to accelerate tackling AMR at the national, regional, and global levels and to enhance international cooperation.

- The conference focus on paving the way to bold and specific political commitment in the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AMR (UNGA HLM) in 2024.

- Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare **Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar** has represented India in the conference.
- The government of India has identified Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) as a key priority in its National Health Policy, 2017.

176. **China** has planned to build its **first moon base** powered by nuclear energy by **2028**, followed by landing astronauts on Moon in subsequent years, as it challenges the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)'s dominance in space exploration.

China also aims to eventually expand the base into an International Research Station (ISS).

177. The **19th Conference of Parties (COP19)** to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (**CITES**), also known as the 19th World Wildlife Conference has been held from 14th to 25th November 2022 in Panama Convention Centre, **Panama City, Panama.**

CoP19 of CITES is aimed at protecting various endangered Species by prohibiting the trade of these species.
The Conference has accepted a proposal to include **sea cucumbers (Thelenota)** in Appendix II of the Convention.

India's proposal:
The Indian delegation has been led by Chandra Prakash Goyal, Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

- CoP 19 to CITES has approved India's proposal to transfer **Leith's Softshell Turtle** from Appendix II to **Appendix I** of CITES to ensure that legal international trade in the species does not take place for commercial purposes.
- India has proposed to amend the appendices of the fresh water turtle **Batagur kachuga** (Red Crowned Roofed Turtle) and transfer it from Appendix II to Appendix I. The proposal earned the support of the parties in CoP19 of CITES.
- India's **Shisham (Dalbergia sissoo)** is included in Appendix II of the convention, thereby requiring it to follow CITES regulations for the trade of the species.

CITES:

CITES is an international agreement between governments (184 at present) to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. The convention entered into force in 1975. It has three appendices:

Appendix I: It lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants.
Appendix II: It lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.

Appendix III: It is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.

178. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has renamed monkeypox as **'mpox'**, citing concerns the original name of the decades-old animal disease could be construed as discriminatory and racist.

Monkeypox:

- It is a **viral zoonotic disease** with symptoms similar to smallpox, although with less clinical severity.
- It was first discovered in **1958** following two outbreaks of a pox-like disease in colonies of monkeys kept for research

which led to the name 'monkeypox'.

- It is caused by the Monkeypox virus.
- It is endemic in parts of Central and West Africa.
- It causes the lymph nodes to **swell** (lymphadenopathy), which does not exist in smallpox.

179. **Qatar Energy** has signed the 27-year natural gas supply deal with **China**, referring to it as the "Longest" ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia at a time when Europe is looking for alternate supplies. Qatar Energy will send 4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec).

180. **SpaceX's Dragon cargo spacecraft** has successfully docked to the International Space Station (**ISS**) to deliver tons of fresh supplies, new solar wings and even some ice cream for the orbiting lab. The SpaceX freighter launched atop a Falcon 9 rocket took off from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA.

181. The **Orion spacecraft** for the **Artemis I Moon Mission** has been successfully placed into lunar orbit by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Orion will fly approximately 40,000 miles above the moon.

On 26th November 2022, Orion has broken the record for the most distance covered by a spacecraft designed to carry humans to space and safely return them to Earth. Orion was 252,133 miles from Earth and 52,707 miles from the moon.

182. **Rolls-Royce PLC**, the British manufacturer of aircraft engines, and it's testing programme partner **easyJet**, has successfully tested the **hydrogen-fueled aircraft engine**, the world's first modern aircraft engine for the aviation industry.



REPORTS & INDICES

183. The **Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSE&L)**, Ministry of Education has released the **Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States/UTs for 2020-21**, a unique index for evidence based comprehensive analysis of school education system across State/UTs.

Performance Grading Index (PGI):

PGI was developed by DoSE&L for States/UTs to provide insights and data driven mechanism on the performance and achievements of on the success of school education across all States/UTs.

Objective: To promote evidence-based policy making and highlight course correction to ensure quality education for all.
The first PGI was released in 2017-18.
The PGI structure comprises of 1000 points across 70 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz., Outcomes, Governance Management (GM). These categories are further divided into 5 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure& Facilities (IF), Equity (E) & Governance Process (GP).

PGI for States and Union Territories for 2020-21:

- PGI 2020-21 classified the States/UTs into ten grades viz., highest achievable Grade is Level 1, which is for State/UT scoring more than 950 points out of total of 1000 points. The lowest grade is Level 10 which is for score below 551.
- The top-most score in 2017-18 was Level IV which improved to **Level II** in 2020-21.
- **7 States and UTs**, viz., Kerala, Punjab, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh have attained **Level II** (score 901-950) in 2020-21 as compared to none in 2017-18 and 4 in 2019-20.
- **Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh** are the new entrants to Level-II in 2020-21.
- **Kerala** obtained the maximum score (928) and **Arunachal Pradesh** minimum (669).
- **Ladakh** has made significant improvement in PGI from **Level 8 to Level 4** in 2020-21 or improved its score by 299 points in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20 resulting into highest ever improvement in a single year.

184. **Ministry of Education (MoE)** has released a detailed report on **Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2021-22** on school education of India.

- The UDISE+ system of online data collection from the schools was developed by Department of School Education & Literacy in the year **2018-19** to overcome the issues related to erstwhile practice of manual data filling in paper format.
- UDISE+ 2021-22 captures additional data indicators like digital library, peer learning, hard spot identification, number of books available in school library, etc. to align with the NEP 2020 initiatives.

Key findings:

- **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher secondary has made significant improvement from 53.8% in 2021-21 to **57.6%** in 2021-22.
- In 2021-22 total students enrolled in school education from primary to higher secondary stood at **25.57 crore** as compare to 25.38 crore enrolment in 2020-21, registering an increase of 19.36 lakh enrolments.
- Total Scheduled caste enrolment increased to **4.82 crore** in 2021-22 as compared to 4.78 crore in 2020-21.
- Total Scheduled Tribe enrolment increased to **2.51 crore** in 2021-22 from 2.49 crore in 2020-21.
- Total other backward students also increased to **11.48 crore** in 2021-22 from 11.35 crore in 2020-21.
- Total enrolment of Children with Special Needs (CWSN) in 2021-22 stands at **22.67 lakh** as compared to 21.91 lakh in 2020-21 showing an improvement of 3.45% over 2020-21.

185. The **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has published the **Adaptation Gap Report (AGR) 2022**. It is an annual publication which looks at progress in planning, financing and implementing adaptation actions.

Key highlights:

- Global efforts in adaptation planning, financing and implementation are not enough to prepare vulnerable communities around the world to adapt to the rising risks from the impacts of climate change.
- At least 84% of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have established adaptation plans, strategies, laws and policies.
- International adaptation finance flows are 5-10 times lower than required and this gap continues to grow.

Adaptation gap is the difference between actually implemented adaptation and a goal set by society, determined largely by preferences related to climate change impacts.

186. According to the vision document of the **Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** released in November 2022, **Delhi** has topped the chart in terms of EPFO coverage with **61.5%** of their working population under the social security ambit of the organization.

- Delhi is followed by Goa at 2nd spot with 51.4%, and Haryana at 3rd spot with 35.3%.
- Karnataka has secured the 4th spot (29.6 percent) followed by Uttarakhand (26.7 percent).
- The EPFO coverage is the lowest in Tripura (2.1%), Assam (2.8%), and Meghalaya (2.8%).
- In terms of absolute number of working age population covered by EPFO, Maharashtra leads the chart with 11.9 million EPFO subscribers, followed by Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

187. **US News and World Report**, an American media company, has released the 7th edition of the **Best Countries 2022 ranking**. The Best Countries 2022 ranking evaluated 85 countries across 73 attributes, which are categorized into 10 sub-categories, including adventure, agility, entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.

The 85 countries were chosen based on 4 benchmarks:

- Top 100 countries with high GDP
- High FDI inflows
- International tourism arrivals between 2016 and 2020
- Top 150 countries in the UN Human Development Index between 2015 and 2019

Key highlights:

- **Switzerland** has topped the list, followed by Germany & Canada.
- The worst performers in the ranking are Belarus (85th rank), Uzbekistan (84th rank) and Iran (83rd rank).
- India has been ranked **31st** among 85 countries.
- **India** has topped the list of nations with the **cheapest manufacturing costs** by global survey respondents, followed by China and Vietnam.

188. The GST (Goods & Services Tax) collection for October 2022 is **Rs.1.52 lakh crore**. This is the second highest collection since the launch of the GST. During the month of October 2022, Rs.26,039 crore is collected as central GST and Rs.33,396 crore as state GST. For integrated GST, Rs.81,778 crore is collected. This includes Rs 37,297 crore on imports.

189. The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** has proposed a **common Income Tax Return (ITR) form** for all taxpayers. A draft form has been released, to which all stakeholders can provide inputs up to 15th December 2022.

- The proposed draft merges all Income Tax Return (ITR) forms except **ITR 7** (applicable to charitable trusts, and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)) in order to introduce a user-friendly common ITR form for taxpayers for saving their time.

- However, the current ITR-1 (Salaried employees) and ITR-4 (Presumptive tax regime) will continue. This will give an option to such taxpayers to file the return either in the existing form (ITR-1 or ITR-4), or the proposed common ITR, at their convenience.

There are **seven kinds of ITR forms**, which are used by different categories of taxpayers. They are as follows:

- ITR-1, called 'Sahaj', is for small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj forms can be filed by individuals who have an income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- ITR-2 is filed by people with income from residential property.
- ITR-3 is intended for people who have income as profits from business/ profession
- ITR-4 (Sugam) is, like ITR-1 (Sahaj), a simple forms, and can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from business and profession.
- ITR-5 and 6 are for limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and businesses respectively.
- ITR-7 is filed by trusts and non-profit organisations.

190. The roadmap titled **'Our Solar Future: Roadmap to Mobilise $1 trillion by 2030'** has been released during the COP27 summit in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The roadmap is prepared by the **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and **Bloomberg Philanthropies**, in collaboration with CONCITO, the Investment Fund for Developing Countries, and the World Climate Foundation.

This roadmap provides guidance that can accelerate and scale up solar deployment and reduce regional investment gaps by equitably mobilizing US$1 trillion of investment in solar energy solutions by 2030.

Key findings:

- Scaling solar energy is a key element for delivering clean, affordable, and reliable energy access worldwide.
- Average annual investment in solar solutions needs to double from 2021 through 2030 if the world is to achieve the Paris climate goals and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) and BloombergNEF (BNEF) project that, to meet net zero emission goals, solar needs to become the largest single global energy source by 2050.
- Across all market segments, major barriers to scaling up solar include a lack of enabling policies and regulations, a lack of bankable project pipelines, and risk-management challenges.
- Governments can take action immediately, in partnership with commercial banks and development finance institutions, to address these barriers and to replicate and scale effective solutions.

- The roadmap examines scaling up opportunities in four market segments:

a) Off-grid and decentralised solar applications
b) Utility-scale and grid-connected solar
c) Energy storage and grid flexibility infra
d) Advanced solar and storage technologies (e.g.,) advanced chemistry batteries, compressed air, and solar thermal energy storage

191. The United Nations (UN) **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** has released the 2022 edition of the **State of Food and Agriculture report,** which examined how automation in agrifood systems can contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Highlights of the Report:

- The report looked at 27 case studies from all over the world, representing different technologies. Only 10 of the 27 service providers are profitable and financially sustainable.
- There is an unequal progress toward mechanization among regions, according to available statistics on the number of tractors per 1,000 hectares of arable land.
- High-income countries in North America, Europe and Oceania were highly mechanised by the 1960s. But regions dominated by low-and middle-income countries were less mechanised.
- There are wide disparities in the spread of automation between and within countries, with adoption being particularly limited in sub-Saharan Africa.

192. The **Rule of Law (RoL) Index 2022** has been released by the **World Justice Project (WJP).** It indicates that the 'rule of law' has declined globally for the fifth year in a row.

Rule of Law:

As per WJP's definition, the rule of law is "a durable system of laws, institutions, norms and community commitment" that delivers the following universal principles: *Accountability, Just law, Open Government, and Accessible & Impartial Justice*.

Eight Factors of Rule of Law:

1) Constraints on Government Powers
2) Absence of Corruption
3) Open Government
4) Fundamental Rights
5) Order and Security
6) Regulatory Enforcement
7) Civil Justice
8) Criminal Justice

RoL Index 2022:

- **Denmark** has topped the index with a score of 0.90, followed by Norway (0.89), and Finland (0.87).

- Venezuala (0.26) has performed worst in the index, followed by Cambodia (0.31), and Afghanistan (0.33).
- **India**, with a score of 0.50 on the 'rule of law' index, has ranked **77** out of 140 countries.
- China has scored 0.47 and ranked 95, Pakistan has scored 0.39 and ranked 129, and Bangladesh has scored 0.39 and ranked 127.

193. **World Travel Market (WTM) 2022**, which is one of the largest international travel exhibitions, has been held in **London, UK** from 7-9 November 2022.

- The theme of this year exhibition is ***'The Future of Travel Starts Now'.***
- The Indian delegation led by **Arvind Singh**, Secretary Tourism, Government of India have participated in the event.
- A total of 16 stakeholders, including from state governments, central ministries, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as the industry partner, DMCs, tour operators, hoteliers, travel agents, online travel agents, facilitators of medical value travel have participated as co-exhibitors in the India Pavilion.
- The objective is to showcase the diverse tourism products and services including Medical Value travel, luxury trains and the gamut of tourism products to the international business community
- The contribution of travel & tourism to India's GDP was 5.19% in 2019.

The **STREET (Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic, and Tourism hubs) Tourism Project** of **Kerala** has been honoured with the **Responsible Tourism Global Award** at WTM 2022 for the water conservation scheme taken up under the STREET Project, which is a first-of-its-kind initiative in the world.

194. The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has published the provisional **'State of the Global Climate in 2022'** report. The report is based on temperature data from January to September 2022.

Key findings:

- The global mean temperature in 2022 is around 1.15°C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial average, ranging between 1.02°C to 1.28°C.
- This is close to 1.5°C, the lower limit set by the 2015 Paris Agreement mandate. The upper limit is 2°C.
- The year 2022 is slightly cooler when compared with the past few years because of the rare phenomenon of triple-dip cooling La Niña. This is likely to be 6th or 7th warmest year ever recorded.
- The year 2022 witnessed a record rate of melting of glaciers in the European Alps.
- The Greenland's ice sheet lost its mass for the 26th consecutive year. The region witnessed rain instead of snowfall in September 2022 for the first time.
- South Asia, including India, is one of the worst affected regions in 2022 due to climate change.

- The region topped the chart in the "selected high impact events" of 2022.
- Temperature in India and Pakistan during pre-monsoon period was exceptionally high.

195. The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has recently completed the **Mother Tongue Survey of India (MTSI)** with field videography of 576 languages and dialects across the country.

As per the MHA's annual report for 2021-22, it has been planned to set up a web-archive at the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to preserve and analyse the original flavour of each indigenous Mother Tongue.

- MTSI surveys the mother tongues, which are returned consistently across two and more Census decades and analyses their linguistic features.
- As per analysis of 2011 linguistic census data, more than **19,500 languages or dialects** are spoken in India as mother tongues.
- **Hindi** is the most widely spoken mother tongue, with **43.6 per cent** of population declaring it as mother tongue. The next is Bengali, mother tongue for 9.7 crore individuals, and accounting for 8 percent of the population.

The new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the foundational stages of education, launched by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, has recommended that mother tongue should be the primary medium of instruction in schools for children up to 8 years of age.

196. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has released the **Dynamic Ground Water Resource Assessment Report 2022** in New Delhi. The assessment has been carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and with the State and Union Territories.

Key highlights:

- The total annual ground water recharge for the entire country is **437.60 billion cubic meters (BCM).**
- The annual ground water extraction for the entire country is **239.16 BCM**.
- Out of the total 7089 assessment units in the country, 1006 units have been categorized as 'Over-exploited'.
- The analysis indicates improvement in ground water conditions in 909 assessment units in the country compared with 2017 assessment data.
- The assessment indicates an overall increase in ground water recharge.

India is the largest user of groundwater in the world. Ground water is a major source of drinking water and for irrigation in India.

197. Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the **"Transport 4 All Challenge" Stage-2** and **Citizen Perception Survey 2022.**

Transport 4 All Challenge Stage-2:

The Transport 4 All Challenge is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India that aims at enhancing the mobility experience of citizens. The challenge focuses on digital innovation and invites cities, citizens, and innovators to join hands to develop contextual digital solutions to improve formal as well as informal public transport to better serve the mobility needs of all citizens.
Stage 1 of the Challenge was launched on 15th April 2021.

Three Stages of the Challenge:

Stage I- Problem Identification: Cities, with the support of NGOs, identify key recurring problems that citizens and public transport operators face
Stage II- Solution Generation: Startups develop prototypes of solutions to improve public transport with inputs from cities and NGOs
Stage III- Pilot Testing: Cities engage Startups for large-scale pilots and refine the solutions based on citizen feedback
Stage-2 of the Challenge is open for startups to develop solutions for the issues and problems identified in 46 cities.

The Transport4All Challenge is organised in partnership with The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) as co-host and challenge coordinator, the Word Bank as knowledge partner, Startup India and City Innovation Exchange as technology partners, and Association of State Road Transport Undertaking (ASRTU) as city-engagement partner.

Citizen Perception Survey 2022 (part of Ease of Living assessment):

It has been launched under the Ease of Living Index-2022 for **264 cities** to capture and reflect opinions of from more than 21 lakh citizens across the length and breadth of the country. It carries 30% of the marks under Ease of Living Index.

The survey has been commenced from 9th November 2022 and will continue till 23rd December 2022.
National Institute of Urban Affairs (a think tank) and **Quality Council of India** (non-profit organization) is undertaking CPS.
The survey was first conducted in 2020.

198. As per the latest data shared by SCORES, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has received an average of 3,011 complaints every month so far in the 2022-23 financial year (FY23).

- This is a 15.4 per cent decline over the 3,558 average monthly complaints in FY22.
- The average monthly figure of complaints was higher in FY21 (4,906), FY20 (4,627) and in the pre-pandemic year of FY19 (3,517).
- The number of days SCORES takes to resolve a complaint has dropped from 36.8 days in October 2021 to 29 days as of September 2022.

- There are now over 100 million investor accounts compared to 40 million in FY19.

SCORES:

SCORES is an acronym for *SEBI Complaints Redress System*. It is a grievance redressal platform of SEBI. It was launched in *2011*. All complaints received by SEBI are dealt through SCORES.

199. As per the recent research conducted by Germany based-Satista, **India's Ministry of Defence (MoD)** is the **world's biggest employer** with 2.92 million people, which includes combined active service personnel, reservists and civilian staff.

- MoD is followed by the United States (US) Department of Defence which employs 2.91 million people.
- In China, the People's Liberation Army, which doesn't include civilian positions, employs around 2.5 million people.
- Walmart is the biggest employer among companies with massive 2.30 million personnel. It is followed by Amazon with a 1.61 million workforce.

According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the 5 largest spenders on military in 2021 were the United States, China, India, the United Kingdom and Russia, together accounting for 62 percent of expenditure.

200. A report titled **'The Sunny Side of Asia'** has been jointly developed by energy think tank Ember, the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

Key highlights:

- The contribution of solar generation in seven key Asian countries, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Thailand, avoided potential fossil fuel costs of approximately **US$34 billion** from January to June 2022.
- India has saved **USD 4.2 billion** in fuel costs by utilising solar energy in the 1st half of 2022 and avoided the need of 19.4 million tonnes of coal which would have further stressed the strained domestic supply.
- Solar power is expected to experience exponential growth at an average annual growth rate of 22% until 2030 across 5 key Asian economies (China, India, the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia).

201. The Union Cabinet has approved the **"Guidelines for Uplinking and Downlinking of Television Channels in India, 2022"** by replacing those that have been operational since 2011.

The consolidated guidelines shall ease issue of permissions to the companies/ LLPs (Limited Liability Partnerships) registered in India for uplinking and downlinking of TV Channels, setting up of Teleports/ Teleport Hubs, use of Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG)/

Satellite News Gathering (SNG)/ Electronic News Gathering (ENG) systems, uplinking by Indian News agencies and temporary uplinking of a live event.

Key guidelines:

- Under the new guidelines, programmes of national interest and national importance will be given a 30 minutes time slot for broadcast.
- No requirement of prior permission for change of language or conversion of mode of transmission from Standard Definition (SD) to High Definition (HD) or vice versa; only prior intimation would be required.
- A news agency can get permission for a 5 year period as against one year at present;
- The TV Channels uplinking in frequency band other than C band are mandatorily required to encrypt their signals.

202. Rating agency **Moody's Investors Service** has lowered India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast for 2022 by 70 bps to **7 percent** from 7.7 percent in September 2022 in its Global Macro Outlook 2023-24.

Moody's has also lowered its growth projection for 2023 from 5.2% to 4.8%, with a recovery to 6.4% anticipated in 2024.

Other growth forecast:

As per the UBS India Report, GDP growth in India will drop to 5.5% in FY24, down from 6.9% in the current fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23).

203. The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has released a report titled **'State of the Climate in Asia 2021'**, which has been prepared jointly with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

The report has been presented during the UN Climate Change Conference, held at COP27, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

- As per the report, the Asian region was warming faster than the global average, with economic losses from extreme weather events like floods, and droughts amounting more than USD 35 billion in 2021, including at least USD 7.5 billion in India.
- The report highlights that how climate change impacts are wreaking an ever-increasing human, financial and environmental toll, worsening food insecurity and poverty and holding back sustainable development.
- In 2021, there were a total of more than 100 natural hazard events in Asia, of which 80 percent were flood and storm events.
- In 2021, flooding caused the highest economic losses in China (US$ 18.4 billion), followed by India (US$ 3.2 billion), and Thailand (US$ 0.6 billion).
- Storms also caused significant economic damage, especially in India (US$ 4.4 billion), China (US$ 3.0 billion), and Japan (US$ 2 billion).

204. **World Bank** has released a report titled **'Financing India's Infrastructure Needs: Constraints to Commercial Financing and Prospects for Policy Action**'. The report

underlines the urgent need to leverage more private and commercial investments to meet emerging financial gaps.

Highlights of the report:

- India will need to invest **$840 billion** over the next 15 years into urban infrastructure.
- By **2036**, 600 million people will be living in urban cities in India, representing 40 percent of the population.
- Currently, Central and State governments finance over 75% of city infrastructure. Share of urban local bodies (ULB) (15%) and private sector (5%) is low.
- Currently, the 10 largest ULBs were able to spend only two-thirds of their total capital budget over three recent fiscal years.
- Between 2011 and 2018, urban property tax stood at 0.15 percent of GDP compared to an average of 0.3-0.6 percent of GDP for low- and middle-income countries.
- Over the medium term, the report suggests a series of structural reforms including those in the taxation policy and fiscal transfer system.

205. The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2023** has been released jointly by three environmental non-governmental organizations viz. Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute and the Climate Action Network (CAN) International.

- None of the countries made it to the first three ranks.
- **Denmark**, with the score of 79.61, has been ranked at **fourth** position. It is followed by Sweden (5th) with a score of 73.28 points, and Chile (6th) with a score of 69.54.
- The worst performers in the index are Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Kazakhstan.

India's performance:

India, with the score of 67.35 points, has been ranked at **8th position** among 63 countries. In 2022 and 2021, India stood at 10th position. In 2020, it stood at 9th rank.
It has been ranked at 9th position in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions category and 24th and 9th position in Renewable Energy and Energy Use categories respectively. It has been ranked 8th on Climate Policy.
India earns a "High" performance rating in GHG Emissions with a score of 29.69; and Energy Use (16.03). In the Climate Policy and Renewable Energy categories, it earned a "Medium" rating.

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI):

The CCPI is released every year at the UN Climate Change Conference. It evaluates 59 countries and the European Union, which together generate over 92 percent of Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions. The climate protection performance is assessed in 4 categories, consisting of 14 indicators:
a) Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40%)
b) Renewable Energy (20%)
c) Energy Use (20%)
d) Climate Policy (20%)

206. According to the World Steel Association, **India** has become the world's **2nd largest** producer of Crude Steel after China in 2018 and 2019, replacing Japan.

- As per the Ministry of Steel, data on 5th February 2022, India's crude steel production in 2018 was 109.3 million tonnes (MT), an increase of 7.7% from 101.5 MT in 2017.
- In 2019, it furthered increased to 2 MT and moved from the 4th largest producer of steel to the 2nd largest producer of steel on a global scale.

Top 5 Crude Steel producers in the world in 2018 & 2019 are: China, India, Japan, USA, and South Korea.

207. The **Network Readiness Index 2022 (NRI 2022)** report has recently been released by a US-based Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute. The NRI 2022 report ranks a total of 131 economies that together account for about 95 percent of the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The NRI report maps the network readiness landscape of 131 economies based on their performance in four areas: technology, people, governance, and impact.

Global:

- The **United States of America (USA)** has been ranked first with an overall score of 80.3. Singapore has been ranked second with a score of 79.35, and Sweden has been ranked third with a score of 78.91.
- Singapore leads Asia Pacific, followed by South Korea and Japan.

India's performance:

- India has been ranked **61st** in the index.
- India's overall score has improved to **51.19** in 2022 from 49.74 in 2021.
- India ranked first in 'AI talent concentration,' second in 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country,' and third in 'Annual investment in telecommunication services,' fourth in 'ICT Services exports,' fifth in 'FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions,' and sixth in 'AI scientific publications.'
- India ranks **3rd** among 36 lower-middle-income countries.
- India ranked **11th** within the Asia and Pacific region.

208. According to Goldman Sachs Group Inc, India's Gross domestic product (GDP) may decline to **5.9 percent** in calendar year 2023 from an estimated 6.9 percent in 2022 amid low consumer demand from higher borrowing costs and fading benefits from pandemic reopening.

Key points:

- India's GDP grew by 8.7% in 2021-22.
- The headline retail inflation to ease to 6.1% in 2023 from an estimated 6.8% in 2022.

- Inflation has remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tolerance band of 6% for the last ten months.

209. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** has launched the *"Training Modules for the Child Welfare Committees (CWCs)", "Protocols for Restoration and Repatriation of Children"* along with the *"GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child)"* on the occasion of World Children's Day (20th November).

Training Module for Child Welfare Committees (CWCs):

The objective of the training module is to enhance functional knowledge, improve relevant skills of members and Chairperson of CWC to deliver effective and timely service for protection and rehabilitation of children.

- CWC is the primary body for addressing issues related to children in need of care and protection (CNCP).
- It is mandatory to form a CWC under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 in every district of State.
- CWC acts as facilitators for all child welfare related activities in the district.

Protocols for Restoration and Repatriation of Children:

It aims to eliminate those challenges which are being faced by authorities in repatriation and send the maximum number of children back to their native place with their families/relatives.

GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child):

The portal addresses the amended roles of CWCs and District Child Protection Units (DCPUs) in matters of children in need of care and protection.

Features:

- Digital tracking and monitoring of children who are in the JJ system and have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District.
- Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned JJB/CWC of the State. It will help in speedy repatriation of children.
- Where there is a requirement of a translator/interpreter/expert, request will be made to the concerned **State Government**.
- CWCs and DCPOs can ensure proper restoration and rehabilitation of children by digitally monitoring the progress of the case of the child.
- A checklist format will be provided in the forms so that the children who are being hard to repatriate or children who are not getting their entitled compensation or other monetary benefits can be identified.
- List of Government implemented schemes will be provided, so that at the time of restoration the CWCs can link the child with the schemes to strengthen the family and ensure that child remains with his/her family.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

It is a statutory body constituted under Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to protect the child rights and other related matters in the country. The Commission is mandated to monitor the proper and effective implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and its Rules; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

- **Chairperson:** Priyank Kanoongo

210. The United Nations (UN) has recently released the **27th edition** of **World Population Prospects (WPP) 2022** which states that the global population is projected to achieve **8 billion** on **15th November 2022**, and *India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023.*

- The global population is growing at its slowest rate since 1950, having fallen under 1 percent in 2020.
- The latest projections suggest that the world's population could grow to around **8.5 billion** in **2030** and **9.7 billion** in **2050.**
- It is projected to reach a peak of around 10.4 billion people during the 2080s and to remain at that level until 2100.
- The share of global population at ages 65 and above is projected to rise from 10 percent in 2022 to 16 percent in 2050.
- More than half of the projected increase in the global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- Countries of sub-Saharan Africa are expected to contribute more than half of the increase anticipated through 2050.

211. As per the report by Knight Frank (Q3 2022), Indian cities of **Hyderabad, Chennai and New Delhi** have emerged as three of the top data centre markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

- The market analysis includes the nine rapidly emerging markets in APAC region - Osaka, Melbourne, Jakarta, Manila, Hanoi, Taipei, Hyderabad, New Delhi, and Chennai.
- The total supply in these regions increased from just under 700 MW in 2017 to over 3,000 MW in 2022, a phenomenal increase of more than 300%.

212. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** has released a report titled **"2022 Mid-Year Trends".** The report states that a global surge in the number of forcibly displaced people by 13.6 million to **103 million** in H12022 (first half of 2022) as compared to the end of 2021.

- The increase is driven by the Ukraine-Russia war, and is more than the entire population of Belgium, Burundi, or Cuba.
- As per the report, one in every 77 people worldwide is forcibly displaced.

- Globally, refugees under UNHCR's mandate and other people in need of international protection increased by 6.3 million in H12022 i.e. from 25.7 million at the end of 2021 to 32 million by mid-2022.
- Türkiye hosted 3.7 million refugees, the largest population worldwide. It is followed by Colombia with 2.5 million, and Germany with 2.2 million refugees.
- Low- and middle-income countries hosted 74 percent of the world's refugees.

213. Rating agency **CRISIL** has lowered India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast by 30 bps for 2022-23 to **7 percent** from 7.3 percent earlier.

- For 2023-24, the Indian economy will slow to **6%** from 6.5% earlier projections due to the global slowdown and tightening financial conditions. It will average to **6.6%** between fiscals 2024 and 2026.
- India's inflation to average **6.8%** in 2022, before easing to 5% in 2023-24.
- The Q2FY23 growth will be 6.5% as compared to Q2FY22 when the economy grew at 12.7%. ICRA has also estimated the same figures.

Other GDP forecast:

- The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has lowered India's FY23 GDP forecast to **6.6 percent** from 6.9 percent, citing higher medium-term global uncertainty and slowing domestic economic activity. The GDP growth will slow to 5.7 percent in FY24.
- The **S&P Global** Market Intelligence has recently projected India's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth to average **6.3 percent** annually between **FY's 2021 and 2030**. As a result, India will surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy.

214. As per the recently released data by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** equity inflows into India has declined by **14 percent** to **USD 26.9 billion** during the **April-September FY23 (H1FY23)** from USD 31.15 billion during H1FY22.

- The total FDI inflows, which includes equity inflows, re-invested earnings and other capital, has also declined to USD 39 billion in H1FY23 by 9.1 percent as against USD 42.86 billion in H1FY22.
- **Singapore** has emerged as the top investor with USD 10 billion FDI. It is followed by Mauritius (USD 3.32 billion), UAE (USD 2.95 billion), USA (USD 2.6 billion), the Netherlands (USD 1.76 billion), and Japan (USD 1.18 billion).
- The **computer software and hardware sector** has attracted the highest inflows of USD 6.3 billion. It is followed by services (USD 4.16 billion), trading (USD 3.28 billion), chemicals (USD 1.3 billion), automobile industry (USD 932 million) and construction (infrastructure) activities (USD 990 million).

215. The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the **12th edition** of its annual **Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS) 2022-23**. It is produced and owned by the higher education HR consultancy Emerging and published exclusively by THE.

- Globally, the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA)** has topped the ranking, followed by California Institute of Technology (USA) and Harvard University (USA).
- In all there are 55 US universities in the top 250, followed by France with 18 and the UK 14.
- Singapore, Japan and the UK have one institution each in the top 10.

India:

- GEURS 2022-23 has featured 7 Indian universities among the top 250 universities in the world for graduate employability.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi** has topped among Indian institutions with a global rank of **28th**, and the only Indian institute in the top 50.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru is at the second spot (58), improving its ranking by three positions, followed by IIT-Bombay at 72, up from 97 in 2021.
- IIM-Ahmedabad (154), IIT-Kharagpur (155), Amity University (225), Noida and Bangalore University (242).

216. According to the **World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPO) 2021** report by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Global innovators submitted 3.4 million patent applications in 2021, an increase of 3.6 percent from 2020. Nearly 67.6 percent of all applications worldwide have been received by offices in Asia.

Key points:

- In 2021, **India** (+5.5 percent), **China** (+5.5 percent) and **South Korea** (+2.5 per cent) have experienced rapid increases in local patent filings.
- Local patenting activity in the U.S. (-1.2 per cent), Japan (-1.7 per cent) and Germany (-3.9 per cent) declined in 2021.
- With 18.1 million trademark class counts globally in 2021, an increase of 5.5% from 2020, most nations witnessed increases in trademark filing activity.
- The number of industrial design filings increased by 9.2 percent and highest design growth came from Asian offices.

217. The United Kingdom India Business Council (UKIBC) has released its 8th annual 'Doing Business in India' 2022 report. As per the report, **Maharashtra** has topped amongst states in terms of the operating environment, followed by Gujarat, Chandigarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Highlights of the report:

- The UK businesses want the issues of tariffs, product standards/certification, intellectual property (IP), and customs procedures to be covered under UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

- Improving turnaround time of approvals and bureaucratic processes is the most desired reform by UK Businesses. It is chosen by 54% of businesses surveyed.
- 67 percent of businesses surveyed viewed Atmanirbhar Bharat as an opportunity to do more trade and investment with India while 33% saw it as a challenge.
- Telecommunication facilities, availability of skilled labour and availability of supply chain are regarded as strong elements in India's operating environment.

Doing Business in India report:

It was first initiated in 2015. It highlights the views and experiences of UK businesses and higher education institutions on India's business environment. It also covers the challenges they face in entering and operating in India, their reform priorities, and rating of various aspects of India's business environment.



218. The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), has released the **16th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**.

- India's unemployment rate (UR) for persons aged 15 years and above in urban areas has declined to **7.2%** during July-September 2022, as against 9.8% during July-September 2021.
- UR for persons in April-June 2022 was 7.6%.
- UR among Females: **9.4%;** and UR among Males: **6.6%.**
- Labour force participation rate (LFPR) in CWS (Current Weekly Status) has increased to **47.9%** in the July September 2022 from 46.9% in July-September 2021.
- The Worker-to-Population Ratio (WPR) saw a marginal increase of 0.6 percentage points sequentially to 44.5% in Q2.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

It was launched by NSO in April 2017. The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:

- To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

219. Mercom India Research's has released the **Mercom India Rooftop Solar Market Report Q3 2022**. As per it, India has installed more than **1.2 GigaWatts (GW)** of rooftop solar capacity in a duration of 9 months of the calendar year 2022 (CY22), this accounts for a decline of 11% compared to the corresponding period in 2021.

- Rooftop solar capacity installations in India fell 29 percent to **320 megawatt (MW)** in July-September 2022.
- According to the report, at the end of Q3 2022, cumulative rooftop solar installations reached 8.3 GW.
- Maharashtra has recorded the most rooftop solar installation in Q3CY22, followed by Kerala and Gujarat.
- **Gujarat** has topped the list of cumulative rooftop solar installations with 23%, followed by Maharashtra at 13%, and Rajasthan at 10%.
- The top 10 states accounted for approximately 73 percent of cumulative rooftop solar installations.
- In the third quarter of 2022, 46 percent of rooftop solar capacity was installed in the industrial sector, followed by 32 percent in residential, commercial 21 percent and the remaining in the government sector.

220. **S&P Global Ratings** has recently lowered **India's FY23 GDP** growth forecast to **7 percent** from 7.3 percent estimated in September 2022. Subsequently, for FY24, GDP growth has been lowered by 50 basis points to 6%. The rating agency stated that domestic demand recovery will support growth in India.

S&P expects India's policy rate to peak at 6.25 percent in FY23 and come down to 5.5 percent in FY24.

Latest forecast by Bank/Institution (FY23):

- World Bank: 6.5%
- OECD: 6.6%
- IMF: 6.8%
- Fitch: 7.0%
- India Ratings: 6.9%
- ADB: 7.0%
- RBI: 7.0%

221. According to the latest State Bank of India (SBI) **Ecowrap** report, India's GDP growth rate for the second quarter (July-September 2022) of FY23 has lowered from 6.1 percent to **5.8 percent**.

The estimate is 30 basis points (bps) below average estimates due to a weak manufacturing sector and significant margin compression.
The report has also projected full year growth (FY23) at 6.8%, 20 bps lower than the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) forecast to 7%.

FY23 Real GDP Projections		
	SBI	**RBI**
Q2	5.8%	6.3%
Q3	4.5%	4.6%
Q4	4.4%	4.6%

Annual	6.8%	7.0%

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

222. A total of **13 Indian states** and **3 union territories (UTs)** along with the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (**KVS**) and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (**NVS**) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to upgrade their schools under the **Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM-SHRI)** scheme.

The MoU has been signed by Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Punjab.

PM-SHRI scheme:

It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** for upgradation and development of more than **14500 Schools** across the country. The total project cost is **Rs 27,360 crore** which include a central share of Rs 18,128 crore for the period of five academic sessions starting from 2022-23 to 2026-27.

It aims at strengthening the selected existing schools from amongst schools managed by Central Government/ State/ UT Government/ local bodies. The upper limit for each state is two schools per block.
The objective of these schools will **not** only be qualitative teaching, learning and cognitive development, but also creating **holistic and well-rounded individuals** equipped with key 21st century skills.

These schools are scheduled to be developed as **Green** schools. These schools will also showcase the components of the National Education Policy (**NEP**) 2020. PM Shri Schools will be implemented through the existing administrative structure available for Samagra Shiksha, KVS and NVS.

223. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended a public programme **'Mangarh Dham ki Gaurav Gatha'** at **Mangarh Hill**, Banswara, **Rajasthan** to pay homage to the sacrifices of unsung tribal heroes and martyrs of the freedom struggle. During the programme, he has paid homage to Bhil freedom fighter Shri Govind Guru and has also addressed a gathering of Bhil Adivasis and other tribal populations of the region.

- Mangarh is a shared heritage of the people of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
- It holds special importance for the **Bhil** community and other tribes of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

He has also declared **Mangarh Dham** a National Monument.

Mangarh Massacre:

During the freedom struggle where Bhils and other tribes engaged in a long stand-off with the British, more than 1.5 lakh Bhils rallied at Mangarh Hill on **17th November 1913** under the leadership of **Shri Govind Guru**. Britishers opened fire at this gathering, leading to Mangarh Massacre where approximately 1500 tribals were martyred.

224. The Chief Minister of **Madhya Pradesh** Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched **'Ladli Laxmi Yojana 2.0'** by transferring an amount of **Rs.1.85 lakh** for higher education to 1477 Ladli Laxmi scheme beneficiary girls from Ravindra Bhawan Bhopal.

- **Objective:** To encourage girls to pursue higher education and make them independent.
- Under the scheme, the state government will cover the college expenses of the girl child.
- Ladli Laxmi Yojana was first launched in 2007.

The Chief Minister has also inaugurated **'Ladli Laxmi Path'** developed behind Tatya Tope Nagar Stadium in Bhopal and **'Ladli Laxmi Vatika'**, which is being developed as a theme-based garden in Madhya Pradesh.

225. The Department of Tourism, Kashmir has organised a **Saffron Festival** in the Karewa of Pampore in Jammu & Kashmir to promote the concept of saffron tourism and familiarise tourists with the unique saffron cultivation. The festival has been organised in collaboration with the Agriculture Department, SKUAST Kashmir, Cooperative Societies and local saffron growers.

Kashmir Saffron:

- The unique characteristics of Kashmir saffron are its longer and thicker stigmas, natural deep-red colour, high aroma, bitter flavour, chemical-free processing, and high quantity of crocin (colouring strength), safranal (flavour) and picrocrocin (bitterness).
- It is the **only** saffron in the world grown at an altitude of **1,600 m to 1,800 m** AMSL (above mean sea level).
- It is cultivated and harvested in the **Karewa** (highlands) in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar.
- **Pampore region**, in India, commonly known as *Saffron bowl of Kashmir*, is the main contributor to saffron production, followed by Budgam, Srinagar, and Kishtiwar districts.
- Kashmir saffron is renowned globally as a spice.
- Saffron heritage and cultivation of Kashmir Valley has been recognised as Global Agricultural Heritage Systems of FAO.
- Saffron has received a GI tag in **2020**.

226. Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has inaugurated the **15th** edition of the **Agri and Food Technology Fair 2022** hosted by Confederation of Indian Industry (**CII**) at the Parade Ground in **Chandigarh.**

The fair has been organized from 4th to 7th November 2022.

Aim: to bring the like-minded people together under one roof, discuss trade and farmers concerns, showcase the latest developments and strengthen their core competencies by interacting with their targeted audience.

Theme of the fair: "Digital Transformation for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security"

227. The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has notified **India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF Scheme)**, a Central Sector Scheme (CSS) for providing Financial Support for Project Development Expenses of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects.

- **Objective:** To provide financial assistance in meeting the cost of transaction advisors and consultants engaged in the development of PPP projects.
- Under the IIPDF scheme, the Project Sponsoring Authorities (PSAs), both in the Central and State Governments, will be provided with an assistance up to **Rs.5 crore**.
- The corpus of this scheme is **Rs.150 crore** for a period of **3 years** from 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- The scheme will assist in development of quality PPP projects by providing funding support to the sponsoring authorities.

IIPDF scheme was first set up in **2007** with an initial corpus of Rs.100 crore.

228. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (**MNRE**), Government of India has notified the **National Bioenergy Programme** and has extended it from FY 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- The programme has been recommended for implementation in two Phases.
- The Phase-I of the programme has been approved with a budget outlay of **Rs.858 crore**.

Sub-schemes under the National Bioenergy Programme:

a) **Waste to Energy Programme** (Programme on Energy from Urban, Industrial and Agricultural Wastes /Residues) to support setting up of large Biogas, BioCNG and Power plants (excluding MSW to Power projects).

b) **Biomass Programme** (Scheme to Support Manufacturing of Briquettes & Pellets and Promotion of Biomass (non-bagasse) based cogeneration in Industries) to support setting up of pellets and briquettes for use in power generation and non-bagasse based power generation projects.

c) **Biogas Programme** to support setting up of family and medium size Biogas in rural areas.

229. The state government of **Goa** has formally launched **"Mukhyamantri Devdarshan Yatra Yojana"**, a state-sponsored pilgrimage scheme for people announced before the Assembly polls held in February 2022.

- The pilgrimages covered under the scheme are **Velankanni** in Tamil Nadu- a popular pilgrim center, especially renowned for the Church of Mother Mary, **Shirdi,** the famous shrine of Sai Baba located in neighbouring Maharashtra, and the famous **Tirupati** shrine in Andhra Pradesh.
- The pilgrimages under the scheme are free of cost.

230. **DigiLocker**, the authentic documents exchange platform under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has successfully completed its second-level of integration with **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**.

- The secure cloud-based storage platform of DigiLocker can be used now as a health locker for storing and accessing health records such as vaccination records, doctor prescriptions, lab reports, hospital discharge summaries etc.
- The latest integration will now enable users to utilize DigiLocker as a Personal Health Records (PHR) app.
- Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) holders can also link their health records from different ABDM registered health facilities like hospitals and labs and access them via DigiLocker.

231. The Indian Army has started a short film festival **'Dil Maange More'**, aimed at empowering young filmmakers from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Dil Maange More Short Film Festival (DMMSFF) is an initiative of the **Northern Command** of the Indian Army.

- The month-long festival, curated by Captain Rahul Bali, is being organised in association with Innovations India in Udhampur, J&K.
- The festival is dedicated to the independent, talented and discerning film makers from J&K and Ladakh, who crave to showcase their deftness and craft of film making to the world via short films.

232. The Chief Minister of **Odisha** Naveen Patnaik has launched the **Mukhyamantri Siksha Puraskar Yojana** (Chief Minister Education Award Plan), an award and scholarship scheme to encourage healthy competition between the state schools and to recognize excellence in education.

- Under the scheme, annual awards worth **Rs.100 crore** per year will be given to school students, educational institutions and principals, teachers, sarpanches, school management committee for achieving excellence in education and alumni for their contribution.

- The awards will be given to 50,000 students, 1,500 principals, school management committees, sarpanches and alumni.

He has also approved the policy, christened **'Prarambh — Odisha State Policy for Children, 2022'**. The policy has seven focus areas:

i) Survival- which includes health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, ii) Education and holistic development, iii) Child Protection which includes child abuse, exploitation, neglect, maltreatment, violence, child labour, child marriage, child trafficking, drugs/substance abuse, online abuse and other hardships, iv) Identity, Family/Alternative Care, Birth Registration, Quality of Life, v) Special Measures for the Vulnerable children, vi) Dispensation of Justice and Legal Provisions for Children, and vii) Children's Participation.

233. President of India Droupadi Murmu has launched the four schemes of the **Jharkhand** state on the occasion of Jharkhand's Foundation day (15th November 2000) to promote education and skill development of students and youths.

The schemes include Higher and Technical Education department's Mukhya Mantri Shiksha Prothsahan Yojana (**MMSPY**), Eklavya Prasikshan Yojana (**EPY**) and Guruji Student Credit Card Yojana (**GSCCY**), and Labour department's Mukhya Mantri Sarathi Yojana (**MMSY**).

Mukhya Mantri Shiksha Prothsahan Yojana (MMSPY):
Under the MMSPY, class 10 pass students will be provided free coaching at Jharkhand-based institutions of national repute for entrance examinations of engineering, medical, common law admission test, mass communication, fashion designing, hotel management and chartered accounting.

Eklavya Prasikshan Yojana (EPY):
Under EPY, job-oriented free coaching will be provided for various competitive examinations such as union public service commission, jharkhand public service commission, bank PO, bank clerk, railways and staff selection commission.

Guruji Student Credit Card Yojana (GSCCY):
Under this, students are provided with financial support for higher education, engineering, medical, and others.

234. The Government of India (GoI) has recently approved the continuation of the **Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)** with modification for the financial years **2022-23 and 2023-24**.

Key modifications:

- The applicable lending rate to farmers will be **7 percent** and the rate of interest subvention to lending institution will be **1.5%.**
- The farmers who repay loans promptly will get an additional **3% subsidy**.

- These loans will be **short-term** crop loans for allied activities including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping etc.
- The subvention will be provided to lenders including Public Sector Banks (PSBs) and Private Sector Banks (rural and semi-urban branches), Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and computerized Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) on use of their own resources.
- To ensure hassle-free benefits to farmers under the ISS, Aadhar linkage will continue to be mandatory for availing the short term loans.
- Also, farmers repaying promptly will get short-term crop loans and/or short-term loans for allied activities at **4%** per annum.

Note: In August 2022, the Union Government approved the interest subvention for 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short-term agri-loans is up to **Rs.3 lakh** to the farmers.

235. **Ministry of Rural Development** has launched **"Nai Chetna-Pahal Badlav Ki"**, a community-led National campaign against Gender-based discrimination of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission in New Delhi.

- This is an annual month-long campaign that will be conducted as a 'Jan Andolan' (people's movement) in all the States/UTs of the country from 25th November to 23rd of December, 2022.
- The 2022 campaign mainly focuses on **Gender-Based Violence**, under the theme of *'Elimination of Gender-Based Violence'.*
- This campaign will be implemented by all states in collaboration with CSO partners, and actively executed by all levels including the State, District, Block engaging the Community Institutions along with the extended community.
- As part of the campaign, there will be knowledge workshops, leadership training, seminars on sexual violence and redressal mechanisms.

The ministry has also inaugurated 160 Gender Resource Centres in 13 states, which is described as "Naari Chetna Kendras".



BUSINESS & ECONOMY

236. Tech giant **Google** has acquired **Alter**, an artificial intelligence (AI) avatar startup, for **USD 100 million** to improve its content game and compete with TikTok.

- Alter started as Facemoji, a platform that offered plug-and-play technology for helping game and App developers add avatar systems to their Apps.

- Among its investors are Play Ventures, Roosh Ventures and Twitter, which invested $3 million in the startup. Later Facemoji rebranded as Alter.
- Founders of Alter are **Jon Slimak** and **Robin Raszka**.

237. Hyderbad-based Edtech company **byteXL** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Microsoft** to offer training in emerging technologies in **Tier-II** and **III cities** of India. This collaboration is aligned with the national vision of providing 1 crore internship opportunities by 2025.

byteXL will lead the training programme, Microsoft will support the effort with necessary infrastructure, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) Labs.

238. **ReNew Energy Global PLC** has announced its Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) targets including a commitment to achieve net zero carbon emission by **2040** through its latest sustainability report for 2021-22.

- The company aims to reduce GHG (greenhouse gases) emissions by 29.4 percent by 2027 and a net-zero target of reducing GHG emissions by 90 percent by 2040.
- The 2040 commitment is 30 years ahead of India's 2070 target and more ambitious than net-zero targets of many global energy companies.

239. **Gas Authority of India (GAIL)** has signed an agreement with the **Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC)** to explore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply and decarbonisation opportunities including short and long term LNG sales agreements. The agreement represents a reworking of India's gas-sourcing strategy

It is noteworthy that up to 55% of India's local gas demand is met through imports.

240. The **Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML)** has collaborated with **Google Cloud** to improve and build an intelligent transmit management system to track buses live through Google Maps.

- The project will be implemented in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.
- Google Cloud will be working through their premium partner Niveus Solutions Pvt. Ltd on the project with PMPML.

241. **Bayer** has tied up with **Rabo Partnerships** and **Mastercard** for a five-year programme that aims to help **1 crore** small farmers in India gain easier access to formal financial services. This collaboration will establish a scalable programme to advance the digitisation of the Indian agricultural finance (**Agri-finance**) sector.

The programme is part of Bayer's commitment to reach 10 crore smallholder farmers worldwide by 2030 with much-needed inputs, digital tools and financial services.

242. **Garuda Aerospace** has recently inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru** for collaborative research projects.

- These projects will use drones, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for applications for geographical surveys for the government and society.
- The collaborative operational and research projects will be taken up by Garuda Aerospace and IISc's Department of Aerospace Engineering.

243. The Union Cabinet has recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Denmark** on cooperation in the field of water resources development and management. The MoU will also strengthen cooperation in rural water supply; and sewage/wastewater treatment through direct collaboration between officials, academics, water sectors and industry.

244. The **Indian Army** through it's 'Go-Green Initiative' has collaborated with **Tata Power Company Limited**, India's largest integrated utility, to setup **16** charging stations for Electric Vehicles (**EV**) at various locations in Delhi Cantonment.

- The first EV charging station at Taurus Station Canteen in Delhi Cantonment has been inaugurated by **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth**, GOC Delhi Area.
- All 16 charging stations can be used both for personal and official EVs in Delhi Cantonment.
- TATA Power has made it easy and user friendly to access the charging stations through its EZ charge mobile app, available on all platforms.
- This will support the implementation of Government of India's National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP).

245. The **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has collaborated with **Patanjali Ayurved** to market women's self-help groups (SHGs) products under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (**DAY-NRLM**).

- MoRD has also recognized Patanjali as National Resource Organization (NRO) for its NRLM.
- Patanjali will do co-branding of the products made by women SHGs.

246. Media groups **Sony** and **Zee** have agreed to sell three Hindi channels (**Big Magic, Zee Action and Zee Classic**) to address possible anti-competition concerns arising out of their proposed mega-merger deal. On 4th October 2022, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the proposed Zee-Sony merger deal, subject to certain modifications.

247. The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IIT Kanpur, IIT Indian School of Mines (ISM) Dhanbad and NIT Rourkela** for the establishment of 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at these institutes. This will promote excellence and leadership in teaching, research and development in the field of science and various engineering disciplines.

248. Hyderabad-based **Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL)** has received the Letter of Authorisation (LOA) to build **Mongolia's first oil refinery**. The Mongol Refinery will be developed under a government-to-government (G2G) partnership between Mongolia and India.

249. **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Motorola Solutions India Pvt Ltd** for co-operation in the field of broadband, and push-to-talk service.

Other MoUs signed:

- BEL has signed an MoU with **INERY, Singapore**, for co-operation in the field of Blockchain technology.
- BEL has signed an MoU with **Bosch Global Software Technologies Pvt Ltd (BGSW)** for jointly implementing projects in the areas of e-Governance, ERP and Cloud solutions.

250. Malaysia-based **AirAsia Aviation Group Limited (AAAGL)** has exited **AirAsia India** by selling its remaining **16.67 percent** stake to Tata Group-owned Air India for a cash consideration of **Rs 155.64 crore**.

251. The **Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC)** has launched **Apparel Industry Sustainability Action (AISA) 2022–2023** to evaluate the existing status of the Indian garment industry, encourage wider penetration of sustainability measures amongst MSMEs, hand-holding them with demonstrations and solutions, and enhance the brand visibility of sustainable companies on a global platform.

252. **Bellatrix Aerospace**, Bengaluru-based space tech startup, has announced an investment of **USD 76 million** to establish a Research & Development (R&D) Centre and manufacturing factory for space taxis in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka.

- It will begin the first phase of operations on a five-acre facility at the aerospace park near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).
- This new facility is expected to manufacture thrusters, hall thrusters, microwave plasma thruster, nano thruster, and green propulsion systems.

253. The Government of **Assam** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bright Star Investments Pvt Ltd** for the infrastructure development of the academic block of the 2nd medical college in Guwahati, Assam. This is the first time that the Assam government has collaborated with the private sector for the infrastructure development of a medical college.

254. **Google**, an American technology giant, has launched a platform to forecast flood, namely **'FloodHub'**. This platform shows the area and time where floods could occur, in order to inform people about the natural calamity and authorities can assist them with effectively.

Google has expanded its AI flood forecasting services to 18 counties across Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia: South America (Brazil and Colombia), Sub-Saharan Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Angola, South Sudan, Namibia, Liberia, and South Africa), and South Asia (Sri Lanka).

255. AdaniConneX, a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, has set up **'Chennai 1'** hyperscale data centre campus at Sipcot IT Park in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The 'Chennai 1' campus hosts Tamil Nadu's first pre-certified Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Rated data centre.
- In Phase-1, the campus offers 17 MW (IT Load) that will scale up to 33 MW at full capacity.
- It is designed to offer robust physical protection to IT Infrastructure with seven layers of security system and commitment to provide 99.999 percent availability.
- The objective is to build 1 GW green data centre platform.

Note: India's current data centre capacity is around 600 MW and expected to grow to around 1300 MW by 2024.

256. **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has collaborated with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** to support start-ups in the maritime sector.

- This collaboration will provide a platform for young and talented entrepreneurs to develop products/services in the marine space with financial support provided by CSL.
- Under this initiative, start-ups can get up to Rs.50 lakh as seed grants, Rs.1 crore as prototyping grants, and equity funding for start-ups at the scale up stage.

257. **Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (HRIDC)**, a joint venture of the Haryana government and the Ministry of Railway (MoR), has signed an agreement with **Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL)**, a joint venture between MoR and RITES Ltd, to develop renewable energy projects in Haryana.

Under the agreement, the two companies will collaborate to explore areas of renewable energy projects (wind, solar and hybrid) related to net-zero carbon emission targets of the Indian Railways.

258. The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to promote energy efficiency financing for MSMEs and explore the internet of things (IoT)-based solutions, greening MSMEs, capacity building of various stakeholders, and such others.

259. **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)** for the development of the Indigenous Communication-based Train Control System (i-CBTC).

- i-CBTC, being indigenously developed for the first time in India, will enable unmanned operations of metro and trains.
- The MoU aims at leveraging the complementary strengths and capabilities of BEL and DMRC.
- The project is being carried out under the ambit of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

BEL has also been conferred the **'Urban Infra Business Award 2022'** in recognition of its contributions, in line with the Government's 'Make in India initiative', for the transformation of Metro and Rail commutation in India.

Other MoU signed:

BEL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Aerosense Technologies Pvt Ltd** for co-operation in the development and marketing of drones and soft kill aerial anti-drone.

260. **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** to build **India's first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Catamaran Vessel** for **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh.

- The air-conditioned hydrogen fuel cell catamaran vessel will have a seating capacity for 100 passengers.
- It will be deployed at Varanasi after test and trial in Kochi.
- The design and development of this vessel will be undertaken by CSL in collaboration with KPIT Technologies Limited, Pune, Maharashtra.

Other MoUs signed:

CSL has also signed another MoU for the construction of **8 Hybrid electric Catamaran vessels** viz. six electric catamaran vessels for Uttar Pradesh and two vessels for Guwahati, Assam with an outlay of **Rs.130 crores**.

The air-conditioned electric hybrid vessels, designed for short-distance commute in riverine waters, will have seating capacity for 50 passengers. The vessels will be deployed in Varanasi, Ayodhya, Mathura-Vrindavan and Guwahati.

These MoUs have been signed during the **'PM Gati Shakti Multimodal Waterways Summit 2022'** organized in Varanasi in the presence of Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister for Heavy Industry Mahendra Nath Pandey, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and a host of other dignitaries.

261. The **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has received approval from the Government of India (GoI) to sign a **Rs 26,821 crore** deal with **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** for rolling out **4G network**.

- As part of the deal, along with setting up the 4G sites, TCS will have to maintain the network for nine years.
- With this, BSNL aims to launch its 4G services by December 2022 or January 2023 and 5G services by August 2023.

262. UAE-based bank **Emirates NBD** has announced an additional **USD 100 million** investment in its India operations, and added two more branches in **Chennai** (Tamil Nadu) and **Gurugram** (Haryana) in addition to its Mumbai branch.

263. **Amazon India** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **TVS Motor Company** to strengthen electric mobility, electric infrastructure and connected services. Under this MoU, a fleet of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers from TVS Motor will be deployed for Amazon's last-mile deliveries.

264. **Krishify**, a Gurugram-based agritech start-up platform, has integrated with the Platform of Platforms (PoPs) portal by the electronic **National Agricultural Market (eNAM)**, a unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. Krishify will cater to the needs of 14 crore farmers in India.

265. The **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has started accepting **electronic bank guarantees (E-GB)** issued by the National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) and also digitalized all its E-GBs with an aim to improve the efficiency and transparency of internal processes and to adopt digital technology.

266. The **National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)** vigilance department has released the first edition of its in-house vigilance magazine **"Subodh"** at the Head Office in Hyderabad, Telangana. It aims to reinforce the commitment of NMDC to promote honesty and transparency among all stakeholders.

267. **Adani Power** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to sell its **100 percent** equity stake in its wholly-owned subsidiary Support Properties Private Ltd (**SPPL**) to AdaniConnex Private Ltd (**ACX**) at an enterprise value of Rs 1,556.5 crore.

268. **TATA Steel Foundation** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Government of Odisha** to implement the **Jaga Mission** across 5 municipal corporations (Sambalpur, Rourkela, Berhampur, Cuttack and Bhubaneswar) in the state. Under this MoU, the Tata Steel Foundation and the state government will work together to provide land rights to over 2.5 lakh families in 1,110 slum areas.

Jaga Mission:

It was launched by the Government of Odisha in 2017. It is the world's largest slum titling and upgradation initiative. It is a unique land titling project under which land rights will be provided to eligible slum residents. It also includes upgradation of physical infrastructure in slums. It aims to transform slum areas into liveable habitats called "Adarsh Colonies".

269. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has awarded the contract of setting up **India's first multi-modal logistics park (MMLP)** near Chennai to **Reliance Industries (RIL).**

- RIL has been awarded the work to develop the 1st MMLP at Mappedu in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu.
- MMLP Chennai at Mappedu is being developed in 184.27 acre.
- The estimated project cost is Rs.1,424-crore.
- It is estimated to cater to around 7.17 million tonnes (mt) cargo over 45 years.

270. The Government of **Assam** has collaborated with the **Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIM-B)** to train working professionals in the state. Under this collaboration, 75 working professionals from the private sector will be shortlisted for training to work at the district-level under the 'Chief Minister's Young Professional Programme'. The training programme will span 2 years.

Mission Basundhara 2.0:

The Assam government has recently launched **Mission Basundhara 2.0** in an official ceremony held at Shrimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra Auditorium in Guwahati. The objective of Mission Basundhara 2.0 include several key developments which include, providing land rights to the indigenous people of Assam, especially for the people who do not have any legal claims to land.

271. The Government of **Kerala** has recently collaborated with **India Hydrogen Alliance (IH_2A)** to build the **Kochi Green Hydrogen (KGH_2) Hub**, a large-scale green hydrogen hub with multiple use cases, in Kochi, Kerala.

- The KGH_2 Hub is the first of its kind in India, in its current form and scale.
- The potential capital expenditure of the proposal is USD 575 million.

- The proposal envisages building a 60-tonnes per day (TPD) green hydrogen plant with a 150 MW Electrolyser, Storage and Infrastructure, which could achieve giga-watt scale and build the hydrogen economy in Kerala.
- The KGH_2 Hub plan is modelled after the Hydrogen Valley projects in the European Union (EU).

272. **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has completed the delivery of all **16 Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III helicopters**, as ordered by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The delivery of the chopper took place at a ceremony in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The ICG signed a contract with HAL for the supply of 16 ALH Mk-III in March 2017.
With the completion of this supply, ICG has again signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) for nine more ALH Mk-III helicopters.

ALH-Mk-III:

- It is indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- It is equipped with advanced RADAR as well as Electro optical sensors, full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, and automatic identification system.
- It is powered by two Shakti helicopter engines.

ALH-Mk-III have been deployed at Porbandar (Gujarat), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Bhubaneswar (Odisha), and Kochi (Kerala).

273. **Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)** to promote Urja Arpan initiative. The collaboration promotes the core strengths of both entities for effective utilization of green energy efficiency.

274. **ReNew Power Private Ltd**, a subsidiary of ReNew Energy Global Plc (ReNew), one of the leading renewable energy companies globally, has signed the framework agreement with the **Government of Egypt** to set up a Green Hydrogen Plant in the **Suez Canal Economic Zone** with an investment of **USD 8 billion** and a targeted annual production of 2,20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen

- This project is scheduled to be implemented in phases, the first of which is a pilot phase to produce 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen, along with derivatives, annually.
- The pilot phase project is expected to be commissioned in 2026.
- ReNew Power has also partnered with Elsewedy Electric S.A.E. (Elsewedy) which will be the local co-developer for the project.

275. **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Defence, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)** to carry out joint development, manufacturing and product

upgrades of identified products / systems. The MoU also aims to capitalise on the emerging opportunities in the domestic Defence, non-Defence and Export markets.

Other MoUs signed:

- BEL has signed an MoU with **Spacefaring Technologies Pvt Ltd** for co-operation in technology development in the field of fabric-based Radome, Shelters, deployable space habitats, aerostat, etc, for Defence and non-Defence applications.
- BEL has signed an MoU with **SVC TECH VENTURES LLP** for co-operation in the manufacturing and marketing of Heavy Duty Blast Doors.
- BEL has signed an MoU with **Yantra India Limited (YIL)** for co-operation in the areas of Ammunition Hardware and Military Grade Components to jointly address the requirements of Indian Defence and Export markets.
- BEL has signed an MoU with **Profense LLC, USA**, for cooperation in the manufacturing and marketing of light weapons.

276. The National Museum, India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Kolding Museum of Denmark to open the joint exhibition **"Silver treasures from Denmark and India"** in **March 2023**.

- The exhibition will showcase the finest of the silver collection from the Museum Kolding and the National Museum in New Delhi in March 2023.
- The collaboration and exhibition is under the recently agreed cultural exchange programme between India and Denmark for the years 2022 to 2026.
- The exhibition is focused on the Danish and Indian Silver artefacts where both museums will show the best silver objects from their collections.

277. **Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (Umeed)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with e-commerce company **Meesho** to support the growth of 1,800 self-help group (SHG) members by providing them an online platform to launch and grow their business and empower rural women entrepreneurs.

278. **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has ranked first in the Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance in the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. It is the 3rd year in a row that BPCL has topped the DJSI Indices in India, with a score of 65 percentage points against an industry average score of 31.

279. The Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Highway Logistics Management Limited (**NHLML**), a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), for infrastructure development in the state.

280. **Amazon** has unveiled the design of its new Prime Air delivery drone named **'MK30'**, which will handle high temperatures and light rain, will enter into service in 2024 by replacing MK27-2. The MK30 will be lighter and smaller than the MK27-2.

281. The Government of **Karnataka** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Google** to enhance the startup ecosystem in the state through digital skilling initiatives.

Under this MoU, Google will collaborate with Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) to offer women-led founders and startups across tier 2 and tier 3 cities access to essential training, partners, and expertise on tech giant's suite of tools and technologies.

282. The **Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI)** and the **Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate trade and investment between Telangana and Turkey.

283. The **Mahindra Group** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** to support women's economic empowerment in India. This two-year MoU marks a significant step towards achieving the Mahindra Group's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitment of impacting one million women annually from 2026.

284. **Navi Group**, a technology-driven financial products and services company founded by Sachin Bansal and Ankit Agarwal, has partnered with **Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd**., to offer **'Digital Personal Loan'** to customers across India.

- Under this partnership, borrowers can avail personal loans up to Rs.20 lakhs with a tenure of up to 72 months on the Navi app.
- Piramal Finance will fund 80% of the loan while the remaining 20% will be funded by Navi Finserv.

285. **Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **TReDS Platform** (Trade Receivable Discounting System) and **M1xchange** to enable MSME under Udyam portal to register on M1xchange to discount their invoices.

Under the MoU, all MSMEs registered with Udyam portal will now be able to register on M1xchnage and thereby enabling reach of TReDS to millions of MSMEs in India with Udyam login.

Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS):
It is the institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade receivables of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector

Undertakings (PSUs), through multiple financiers. It has been set up under the regulatory framework set up by RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007.

286. **Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF)** has been unveiled by the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (**CDRI**) at the India Pavilion of COP27 held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

- IRAF is a multi-donor trust fund created with the assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNDRR**).
- The fund will be managed by the United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (**UN MPTFO**) in New York.
- It will assist the global efforts towards creating disaster-resilient infrastructure systems, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States **(SIDS)**.
- IRAF has already received **USD 50 million** in financial commitments over a 5 year period.
- It has backing from the governments of India, the United Kingdom, Australia and the European Union.
- The initial focus of this fund will be on supporting island states in the Pacific region. In this regard, **Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS)** is one of the first initiatives supported by the IRAF.

Initiatives/Summit/MoUs signed at COP27:

- **Praj Industries Limited (Praj)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Egyptian Sugar and Integrated Industries Company (ESIIC)** of Egypt to drive sustainable climate actions to combat evils of climate change.
- **India and Sweden** have hosted the **Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT) Summit**, on the sidelines of COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt. The LeadIT initiative focuses on the low-carbon transition of the hard-to-abate industrial sector.
- The World Economic Forum (WEF), in partnership with the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), the Basel Agency for Sustainable Energy (BASE), and the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), has launched the **Toolbox of Solutions for Urban Decarbonisation**.
- India has committed in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3.0 billion tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The Ministers of Brazil, South Africa, India and China representing the **BASIC Group** have met at COP27. The meeting has been chaired by the South African Environment minister Barbara Creecy and has been attended by the Indian Environment minister Bhupendra Yadav, Brazilian Environment minister Joaquim Leite, Chinese special envoy on Climate change XIE Zhenhua.
- **General Electric** has signed a framework agreement with the **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)** to collaborate on a plan to support both climate change and energy security.

287. **Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt Ltd. (Sany Bharat)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Union Bank of India (UBI)** to make equipment financing an easy, efficient, and simple process.

Under this MoU, the network of Union Bank will extend equipment finance to customers of Sany Bharat across the country and in turn the Bank's portfolio under equipment finance is likely to strengthen and get a wider reach.

288. **Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **IDBI Bank** to offer a host of finance schemes for its customers. This collaboration will allow customers to avail of hassle-free affordable financing options and schemes for purchasing Honda Car models.

289. Bengaluru-based Plant Biosciences Company **Absolute**, in collaboration with **DigiSafe Insurance**, has launched a do-it-yourself (DIY) crop insurance product named **'Digifasal'**. The product will be introduced on Absolute's Upaj, World's First Universal AgCloud ecosystem.

The product has been developed by over 100 Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) engineers with extensive research for almost 7 years.

290. The **Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, under the Ministry of Science & Technology, to explore cooperation, convergence, and synergy for evidence-based scientific intervention in the AYUSH sector.

Ministry of AYUSH and DST have agreed to jointly undertake research and development activities on scientific validation of AYUSH concepts, processes and products.

291. **'Ikshak'**, the 3rd of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) Project, has been launched at Larsen & Toubro (L&T)'s Kattupalli facility in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)** and **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)** for the Indian Navy. The meaning of 'Ikshak' is ***Guide***.

- SVL ships will replace the existing **Sandhayak Class** survey ships with newgeneration hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.
- SVL ships are 110 m long, 16 m wide with deep displacement of 3400 tons and a complement of 231 personnel.
- The hull of these ships is made from indigenously developed **DMR 249-A steel** manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- The primary role of the ships is to undertake full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of Ports and navigational channels.

292. **Hindustan Zinc Limited**, based in Udaipur, Rajasthan, has been ranked **3rd** globally in the metal and mining sector in the latest S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) 2022. The company has retained its 1st position in Asia Pacific for the 4th consecutive year.

293. **Tata Consumer Products Limited (TCPL)** will acquire India's largest packaged drinking water company, **Bisleri**, for an estimated **Rs 6,000-7,000 crore**. Chairman Ramesh Chauhan is aiming to disinvest Bisleri International to Tata Consumer Products three decades after selling soft drink brands Thums Up, Gold Spot and Limca to Coca-Cola. The current management will continue for two years as part of the deal.

Bisleri was originally an Italian brand that set up shop in India in Mumbai in 1965.

294. **Meesho**, an e-commerce firm, has become the **4th unicorn** to join the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** after Paytm, Dunzo, and Shiprocket. Meesho's ONDC pilot will be launched in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The aim is to help connect buyers with Hyperlocal Sellers.

295. **India** and the **European Union (EU)** have signed an **Intent of Cooperation** on High-Performance Computing (HPC), Weather Extremes, and Climate Modelling, and Quantum Technologies. It is aimed at establishing collaboration on HPC applications using Indian and European Supercomputers in the areas of Bio molecular medicines, COVID therapeutics, mitigating climate change, predicting natural disasters and Quantum Computing.

296. The **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, under the Ministry of Science & Technology, has collaborated with the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** to create a platform that will support the development of new **electric vehicle (EV) batteries** to suit Indian requirements.

297. **PhonePe**, a digital payments firm, will acquire Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) startup **ZestMoney** for USD 200- USD 300 million. After the acquisition, ZestMoney will continue to operate as a separate entity with the Zest brand.

This acquisition will help PhonePe to strengthen its lending services and compete with Google Pay, Paytm, and Amazon Pay in Indian fintech, which is expected to be worth USD 350 billion by 2026.

298. The **BSE Limited** has signed an agreement with **TAC Security**, a risk and vulnerability management company, to make it the official cyber security partner of the BSE. The association aims to ensure that the BSE is empowered with the highest possible level of cybersecurity.

299. The **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA),** India's best-performing port, in association with the **Department of Civil Engineering, IIT Madras**, has developed a **Continuous Marine Water Quality Monitoring Station (CMWQMS)** & introduced an Electric Environmental Monitoring Vehicle (EV) to help achieve leadership in sustainability.

300. News broadcaster **New Delhi Television Ltd's (NDTV's)** promoter firm RRPR Holding has transferred shares constituting **99.5 percent** of its equity capital to Adani group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial (**VCPL**). The transfer of shares will give the Adani group control over a 29.18 percent stake in NDTV.

301. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the deal of M&G Group subscribing to convertible bonds and warrants issued by Trustroot Internet Pvt Ltd has been cleared under the green channel route.

302. **Castrol India Limited (CIL)** will acquire a **7.09 percent stake** in **TVS Automobile Solutions'** digital subsidiary Ki Mobility Solutions with an investment of Rs.487.5 crore in an all-cash deal.



BANKING & FINANCE

303. **South Indian Bank** has launched a foreign outward remittance service through mobile banking. The lender has enabled **'Remit Money Abroad'** through Mobile Banking on the Outward remittances front, ensuring savings on time, convenience and safety.

- 'Remit Money Abroad" facilitates Foreign Outward Remittance through the bank's **"SIB Mirror+"** mobile banking application for its Non-Resident External (NRE) and Resident Savings Bank Account customers.
- The service is also available on its Internet banking platform **'SIBERNET'.**
- With this facility, foreign currency transfers can be made by customers without visiting a bank branch.

304. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has tied up with **Zaggle**, a Software as a Service (SaaS) FinTech company, to issue contactless credit cards on the RuPay network. Zaggle and NPCI along with partner banks will use this platform to launch multiple credit cards to address the ever-growing demand of corporates, SMEs, and consumers.

305. **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** has launched a farm **Yield Insurance Policy** which is first of its kind insurance solution, where a **satellite-based index** will be used to provide localized coverage at the farm level. This is completely technology based, means, no manual examination is required in the claim assessment of the crop.

- The target group is Farmers under Corporate/Farm Input Company (FIC).
- The product is valid for food, oilseed, commercial, or horticulture crops.
- It will provide comprehensive cover across the crop life cycle from sowing to harvesting.
- A threshold Index value is calculated for every yield by using the historical satellite imaging data of the specific crop and a remote sensing mechanism available in the public domain.

306. **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** in partnership with **Visa**, the global leader in digital payments, has launched two new premium Debit Cards for its High Networth Individual (HNI) customers:

a) **BoB World Opulence** - a super-premium Visa Infinite Debit Card (Metal Edition)
b) **BoB World Sapphire** - a Visa Signature Debit Card

- The BoB World Sapphire card will come in two sub variants – bob World Sapphire (Male) and bob World Sapphire (Female), offering customised privileges to customers.
- The BoB World Opulence debit card offers lavish privileges and benefits with a distinctive card design.

The debit cards have been unveiled by Indian Badminton player **PV Sindhu** who is BOB's brand endorser.

Other initiatives launched by BoB:

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched **"Baroda Tiranga Plus Deposit Scheme",** with higher standard interest rates of up to 7.50% p.a. for 399 days with effect from 1st November 2022, which includes 0.50% p.a. for senior citizens and 0.25% for non-callable deposits.

307. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued guidelines to standardize the usage of rating scales used by Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs). The guidelines will come into effect on 1st January 2023.

Credit Rating Agency (CRA):

CRA is a company that assigns credit ratings, which rate a debtor's ability to pay back debt by making timely interest payments and likelihood of default. Securities and Exchange Board of India (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999 empowers SEBI to regulate CRAs operating in India.

Key guidelines:

- Rating Symbols (AAA, AA, A, BBB, BB, B, C and D) should have CRAs first name as prefix.
- CRAs can use modifiers (+ or -) to reflect the comparative standing within the categories of AA to C.
- Standard descriptors to be used for an issuer or security are placed on **Rating Watch**. This will include Rating Watch with positive implications, Rating Watch with developing implications, and Rating Watch with negative implications.
- **Stable, Positive, and Negative** are the standard descriptors to be used an issuer or security placed on **Rating Outlook**.
- Issuers with a rating of AAA are considered to have the **highest** degree of safety pertaining to timely servicing of debt obligations.
- Issuers with 'AA' and 'A' rating symbols are considered to have high and adequate degree of safety.
- Issuers with BBB rating are considered to have moderate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of debt obligations.
- Issuers with BB, B and C ratings are considered to have 'moderate', 'high', 'very high' risk of default, respectively pertaining to timely servicing of debt obligations and issuers with D rating are in default or are expected to be in default soon.

'Rating outlook' indicates CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the near to medium term, whereas a **'Rating watch'** indicates a CRA's view on the expected direction of the rating movement in the short term.

308. **EXIM Bank of India** has released a report titled **'Reinvigorating India's Economic Engagement with Southern Africa'** at the event "CII-Exim Bank Regional Conclave on India-Southern Africa Growth Partnership" held in Johannesburg.

Key findings:

- India has emerged as the top defence exporter to Africa.
- Mauritius, Mozambique and Seychelles are the top importers of Made-in-India arms between 2017 and 2021.
- Within Africa, Mauritius accounted for 6.6 percent of defence exports from India in 2017-2021. Mozambique accounted for 5 percent and Seychelles accounted for 2.3 percent of defence exports.
- The report highlighted the important role played by India and 9 Indian Ocean littoral countries (IOLC) in Africa in enhancing maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The 9 IOLC are Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, and Tanzania.

- The report recommended accelerating India's defence export target of 5 billion USD by 2025.

309. **Aegon Life Insurance** has launched traditional insurance policy **'iGuarantee Max Savings'** that offers savings and life cover. The policyholder can choose a policy term between 5 and 20 years, depending on their savings goal. The minimum entry age for this plan is three months, and the maximum is 50 years (for regular pay, 45 years). The minimum monthly contribution for the plan is Rs.500.

310. **Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC** has recently launched **'Sahyog'**, a first-of-its-kind initiative for empowering support staff and their families. The initiative helps an employer to start a systematic investment plan in mutual funds on behalf of the domestic help to achieve their goal.

Other partnership:
Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance has partnered with **Karza Technologies**, a part of Perfios Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd., and a few other technology vendors to launch end to end onboarding solutions to purchase insurance products on WhatsApp platform.

311. **Bank of India (BoI)** has launched a special fixed deposit scheme named **'Star Super Triple Seven Fixed Deposit'** which will offer 7.25 per cent rate of interest (7.75 percent for senior citizens) on a deposit for 777 days. This is a limited period offer by the bank.

312. **Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited (NBHIC)**, a standalone health insurer, has inked a Corporate Agency partnership with **IDFC FIRST Bank** to provide health insurance solutions to the bank's customers. This is NBHIC's first bancassurance partnership of FY23.

Other bancassurance:

Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd (ABHI), a standalone health insurer, has entered into a bancassurance partnership with **IDFC FIRST Bank** for distribution of health insurance products through the bank's digital platform and its wide distribution network.

Bancassurance:
It is an insurance distribution model where insurance companies partner with banks to sell policies. Through this, the bank earns a commission from the insurance company, and the insurer gains from the distribution network of the bank.

313. **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** has conducted India's First Floating Financial Literacy Camp with an initiative called **'Niveshak Didi'** around the Dal Lake of **Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir**.

- Niveshak Didi, a female dakiya, was launched by IPPB in collaboration with Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) under the aegis of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
- The aim is to promote Financial Literacy "By the women, for the women" concept.
- The initiative is based on the ideology of women for women as rural area women feel more comfortable to share their queries with a female itself.

314. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** will fund the farm efficiency initiative of **Smartchem Technologies Limited (STL),** a wholly-owned subsidiary of Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation (DFPCL), through a **USD 30 million** loan facility. The loan facility will be for a tenure of **5 years**.

This is ADB's first agribusiness **'Blue Loan'** and it is India's first such blue loan in this sector.

315. **Chqbook**, a neobank for small business owners, has launched a zero-balance digital current account for small business owners in collaboration with **NSDL Payments Bank**. Small business owners like kiranas, chemists, among others, can open a current account instantly on the Chqbook App. The current account is available in eight languages.

316. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has raised its stake in **Capri Global Capital** by **2 percent** at an investment of Rs.257.37 crore. Its shareholding in Capri Global has increased from 1,24,00,000 to 1,59,51,171 equity shares i.e. from 7.052% to **9.072%.**

317. **Credit card issuers** have seen significant erosion of their card base during the **July-September quarter (Q2FY23)** as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) norms mandated the deactivation of cards that have been inactive for a year.

Losers:

- **HDFC Bank**, the largest credit card issuer in the country, saw a net reduction of 1.62 million credit cards in Q2 of FY23. Its cards-in-force dropped to 16.32 million from almost 18 million in July 2022.
- HDFC Bank is followed by **Axis Bank** which saw a net reduction of over 1.10 million credit cards during this period.
- On the other hand, ICICI Bank lost 409,147 cards during this period (Q2FY23).

Winners

- **SBI Card** gained during Q2FY23 as it saw a net addition of 293,368 cards.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has seen a net addition of 247,813 cards during this period.
- IDFC First Bank, IndusInd Bank and RBL Bank saw a net addition of 161,443, 108,334 and 92,545 cards, respectively.

318. **Bain Capital** has sold nearly 16.7 million shares, equalling a **0.5 percent** stake in private sector lender **Axis Bank** for Rs.1,497 crore. The shares were sold at Rs.891.38 apiece for a total of Rs.1,487 crore by BC Asia Investments.

319. **Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank)** has launched **'Shagun 366'**, a 1 year, 1 day fixed deposit, which offers 7.80% p.a. returns for retail customers, while senior citizens will earn 8.30% p.a. for a 366-day tenure. This offer is valid for deposits made before 30th November 2022.

320. **MUFG Bank** has collaborated with **M1xchange** to facilitate digital invoice financing for the bank's clients. This collaboration allows MUFG Bank to leverage the digital ecosystem established by M1xchange, thereby enhancing the efficiency of its client services.

321. The **Asian Development Bank (ADB),** a multilateral funding agency, has approved a **USD 350 million loan** to improve the road connectivity of key economic areas in **Maharashtra.**

- The project will upgrade at least 319 kilometres (km) of state highways and 149 km of district roads, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient features.
- It will also construct 5 km of major district roads connecting Nanded and Telangana.
- The roads will be built under the Maharashtra State Road Improvement Project approved by ADB in April 2020 to upgrade state highways and major district roads.
- The Connecting Economic Clusters for Inclusive Growth in Maharashtra project will further develop the core road network in the Ahmednagar, Hingoli, Jalna, Kohalpur, Nagpur, Nanded, Nashik, Pune, Sangli and Satara districts.

322. As per the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), **Maharashtra, New Delhi, and Goa** have the highest **mutual fund penetration** in India, due to high income levels, better literacy rates and strong inflows from corporates and high net worth individuals (HNIs).

Mutual fund penetration is only 5- 6 percent in Kerala and Telangana, while Jharkhand is among the top 10 states with MF penetration of 13 percent.
Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana have the lowest penetration rates among large states.

Rank	State	Penetration	Per capita Average Assets Under Management (AAUM)	Share of Equity Schemes in AAUM
1	**Maharashtra**	60	Rs.1,36,280	36%
2	**New Delhi**	42	Rs.1,66,860	47%
3	**Goa**	28	Rs.1,47,410	73%

4	**Haryana**	21	Rs.54,970	40%
5	**Gujarat**	17	Rs.41,720	63%

323. **Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life)** has collaborated with **Tacterial Consulting Private Ltd (Ditto)** for online life insurance distribution. This collaboration aims to leverage Ditto's insurance advisory platform to offer Max Life's plans to online customers.

324. The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** has partnered with the **Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP)** to mobilize up to **USD 1 billion** for the financing of green energy transition and renewable energy projects, in both the public and private sectors. Through this partnership, both AIIB and GEAPP will address the energy transition challenges in Asia and across the world.

325. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has approved **India's first Sovereign Green Bonds framework**. This approval will strengthen India's commitment towards its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, adopted under the Paris Agreement. It will help in attracting global and domestic investments in eligible green projects.

Key highlights of the framework:

- Eligible projects under the framework include: Renewable energy, clean transportation, water and waste management, green building etc.
- It excludes, nuclear power generation, landfill projects, direct waste incineration, hydropower plants larger than 25 MW, etc.
- The proceeds generated from the issuance of such bonds will be deposited to the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)** and will be deployed in Public Sector projects which help in reducing carbon intensity of the economy.
- **Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC)** will keep a track of proceeds, and monitor the allocation of funds towards eligible green expenditures.

Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC):

- As per the provisions of the framework, the Green Finance Working Committee (GFWC) has been constituted with representation from relevant Ministries.
- The aim is to validate key decisions on issuance of Sovereign Green Bonds.
- It will be chaired by **Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)**, Government of India. The current CEA is **V. Anantha Nageswaran**.
- The committee will meet at least **twice** a year to support Ministry of Finance with selection and evaluation of projects.
- The committee will review the allocation of the proceeds in a time-bound manner to ensure that the allocation of proceeds is completed within 24 months from the date of issuance.

In the Union Budget FY 2022-23, Finance Minister announced that Sovereign Green Bonds will be issued for mobilising resources for green projects.

Green bonds:

Green bonds are financial instruments. They generate proceeds for investment in environmentally sustainable and climate-suitable projects.



326. The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL)** has collaborated with **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to promote and enhance Japanese investments in India.

Under this collaboration, NIIFL and JBIC will establish a bilateral **India-Japan Fund (IJF),** for making equity investments in environmental preservation and low carbon emission strategies.

327. Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gurugram-based **Veddis Foundation** to support setting up of effective **governance systems** under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

- The MoU with MoRD and Veddis Foundation is for three years and is non-financial in nature.
- The MoU will also strengthen the state capacities, establish innovative models and implement the national strategy for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and SHG convergence.
- As per the MoU, Vedis Foundation will set up a PMU in the Rural Livelihoods (RL) Division of the Ministry of Rural Development for the next five years.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM):

- It was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in June 2011.
- It is the flagship program of the Government of India towards creating institutional platforms for the rural poor, mainly women, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services in addition to increased access to rights, entitlements, and public services.
- With an annual budget outlay of over Rs. 13,000 crores, the program is spread across 7.15 lakh villages in 723 districts of 34 States and Union Territories, and has brought more than 8.6 crore rural households under its fold.

328. Union Minister for Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav has recently launched an online **Maternal Benefits Claim portal** of Employee's State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) for insured women in New Delhi.

The portal has been launched on the occasion of the **102nd** birth anniversary of **Dattopant Thengadi**, a social reformer and the founder of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, organized by the Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education & Development (**DTNBWED**).
He has also launched an educational video on Digital Literacy prepared by the Board along with the QR code for easy access to the training content of the DTNBWED.

Dattopant Thengadi National Board for Workers Education and Development (DTNBWED):

It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. It is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. It was established in 1958.

- **Chairman**: Virjesh Upadhyay

329. Government-backed **Self Reliant India Fund (SRIF)** has committed more than **Rs.5,000 crore** to help small businesses with growth capital in its first year of operations. The Fund has so far committed more than Rs.5,000 crore to 38 daughter funds for investment in MSMEs.

SRI Fund:

- It is **Rs.10,000 crore** fund launched by the Indian Government in October 2021.
- It is a SEBI-registered **category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** that the Indian government set up to make equity investments in micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with an aim to address the current capital gap and catalyse the flow of capital in the sector.
- It is anchored by **NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC).
- It operates through the **mother-fund and daughter-fund (Fund of Funds) structure**. The mother fund is the SEBI fund that invests up to **20 percent** of the overall corpus. The daughter fund (mostly venture capital and private equity funds) raises the rest **80 percent** of the capital from the outside sources.
- The investment by this fund will get leveraged fivefold, making the total value of the investment capital to MSMEs to Rs.50,000 crore.

330. The **Union Bank of India (UBI)** has recently observed its **104th Foundation Day** on 11th November 2022 at MMRDA Ground, BKC, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The lender started its operation on 11th November 1919 and its headquarters at Mumbai was inaugurated by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi in 1921.

As part of the occasion, the bank has launched various digital products.
1) **Union Vyom app:**
It is the super app of the Bank providing a one stop solution for all financial products. The Vyom app is equipped to provide consumers with a unique banking experience where they can transact beyond traditional banking.

2) **Union Sparsh:**
Touch debit card, specially designed for visually impaired.
3) **Union Muskaan:**
Zero balance saving account for children of 0-18 years of age, having facility of term insurance, accidental death insurance, SMS banking, NEFT, IMPS at no cost.
4) **Union Channel Finance:**
A fully automated financing solution for finance to dealers.
5) **Union Digi Sahaj:**
It is an online account opening platform to open a savings account instantly.
6) **Union SARAS:**
SARAS stands for *Stressed Asset Recovery Automated Solution*. It offers early resolution and effective management of stressed assets.

331. The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has released a report on **'EASE Reforms Index for Q1 FY 2022-23'** where EASE stands for *'Enhanced Access & Service Excellence'.*

- As per the report, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has been named the Best Bank in adopting reforms prescribed for Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- SBI is followed by the Union Bank of India (UBI) at 2nd position, and Bank of Baroda (BoB) at 3rd position.

The performance of PSBs is measured on five themes under EASE 5.0:

Rank	Digitally Enabled Customer Offerings	Big Data and Analytics	Modern Technology Capabilities	Collaborative Banking	Employee Development & Governance
1	SBI	Canara Bank	UBI	UCO Bank	UBI
2	UBI	BoB	SBI	Central Bank of India	SBI
3	BoB	SBI	PNB	SBI	Bank of Maharashtra

Enhanced Access & Service Excellence (EASE):
It is an initiative by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS),** Ministry of Finance as part of the PSB Reforms Agenda and is currently under its fifth iteration which focuses on Enhanced Digital experience, Integrated and Inclusive Banking.

332. The Government of India (GoI) has sold its entire **1.55% stake** in **Axis Bank**, held through the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (**SUUTI**). It has offloaded 46.5 million shares in the private sector lender at a floor price of Rs.830.63 per share.

The GoI sold 1.95% in Axis Bank in May 2021 to raise about Rs.4,000 crore.

333. **HDFC Mutual Fund** has launched two new exchange-traded funds – **HDFC Nifty IT ETF** and **HDFC Nifty Private Bank ETF** to expand their suite of "HDFC MF Index Solutions", that offers solutions to gain exposure to the growing Information Technology (IT) and Private Bank space.

The objective of the funds is to provide investment returns that correspond to the total returns of the securities before expenses, as represented by the Nifty IT Index and Nifty Private Bank Index, respectively.

334. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has increased its shareholding in **Voltas** by buying an additional 2 percent stake. LIC has acquired Voltas' shares worth **Rs 634.50 crore** through open market transactions. With this, LIC has increased its shareholding from 2,27,04,306 shares (equivalent to 6.862 percent) to 2,93,95,224 (8.884 percent) in Voltas.

335. The National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has introduced the **BHIM App open-source license model**, with an aim of achieving 'Digital Payments for All'. The new model will allow the source code of the BHIM app to be licensed to regulated entities participating in the UPI ecosystem.

336. The United States' Department of Treasury has removed **India** from its **Currency Monitoring List** of major trading partners. Along with India, the United States also removed Italy, Mexico, Thailand and Vietnam from the list. India had been on the list for the last two years.

With this, seven economies that are now on the current monitoring list include *Japan, China, Korea, Singapore, Germany, Malaysia and Taiwan.*
Switzerland has exceeded the thresholds of all 3 criteria and it is being labelled as "Currency Manipulator".
This move followed when the US Secretary of the Treasury **Janet Yellen** visited New Delhi and held talks with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She has also addressed the US-India Businesses and investment Opportunities event in New Delhi.

Currency Monitoring List:
The US Treasury usually puts a country's name on the list if the said nation has intervened in the currency market by higher levels than 2% of its GDP over a year, and had a current account surplus above a stipulated level. Its net purchases of foreign currency, too, also need to exceed 2% of GDP over one year.
A country that meets two of the three criteria in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 gets included in the list. If the country meets all three criteria, it gets termed as 'currency manipulator' by the US Department of Treasury. Once a country appears on the

currency monitoring list, it will remain there for at least two consecutive reports to help ensure that any improvement in performance versus the criteria is durable and is not due to temporary factors.

337. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has recently introduced a regulatory framework to facilitate providers of **online bond platforms** that are selling listed debt securities. In this regard, SEBI has amended **NCS (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations 2021.**

New rules:

- No one can act as an online bond platform provider without obtaining registration certificate as a stock broker from SEBI.
- Those acting as an online bond platform provider without registration certificate prior to the date of this regulation coming into force can continue to do so for a period of three months.
- People will have to comply with the conditions of registration and such other requirements specified by the regulator from time to time.

SEBI has also amended its **Takeover Code** to facilitate transactions involving change in control of State-owned enterprises. As per the change, acquirers will get flexibility in pricing their open offers for minority shareholders. This means the current requirement of calculating 60 days volume weighted average market price (VWAMP) for determination of open offer price in case of disinvestment of PSU companies has been dispensed with.

338. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has recently declared that **electricity bill payments service** for more than 70 electricity boards has been enabled on **123PAY**. This feature, powered by Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), will facilitate a smooth and quick electricity bill payment service through 123PAY for users to instantly make payments directly from their bank accounts.

UPI 123PAY:

It is an instant payment system for feature phone users who can use Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payment service. Through UPI 123PAY, feature phone users can undertake a host of transactions based on four technology alternatives. They include calling an IVR (interactive voice response) number, app functionality in feature phones, missed call-based approach and also proximity sound-based payments.

339. **ICICI Prudential Life Insurance** has launched a new participating savings product, **'ICICI Pru Sukh Samruddhi,'** which provides customers with guaranteed benefits and growth potential in the form of bonuses. This also provides a life cover for the entire duration of the policy, including the income period, providing financial security to the family.

340. **HDFC Bank** has collaborated with **Arzooo** to launch **Purchase cards** specially designed for offline retailers. The aim is to roll out over 1 lakh such credit cards over the next 12 months. The key feature of this card is that it offers interest-free credit for up to one month and a credit limit of up to **Rs 1 crore**.

341. According to an analysis of the quarterly financial numbers published by Public Sector Banks (PSBs), **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has emerged as the top performer among PSBs in terms of loan growth in percentage terms during the second quarter of 2022-23 (**Q2FY23**). BoM recorded 28.62 percent increase in gross advances at Rs.1,48,216 crore at the end of September 2022.

- BoM is followed by Union Bank of India with 21.54 percent growth to Rs 7,52,469 crore.
- The State Bank of India (SBI) has finished third with 18.15 percent jump in gross advances.

With regard to Retail-Agriculture-MSME (RAM) loans, **BoM** has recorded the highest growth of 22.31 percent followed by Bank of Baroda with 19.53 percent and SBI at 16.51 percent.

With respect to Current Account Savings Account (CASA) deposits, **BoM** has topped the chart with 56.27 percent followed by Canara Bank at 50.99 percent.

For Net Interest Margin (NIM), **BoM and SBI** with 3.55% stood at the top among PSBs.

BoM has 16.71 percent Capital Adequacy Ratio, highest among PSBs, followed by Canara Bank at 16.51 percent and Indian Bank at 16.15 percent.

Note: In the first half of FY23, the cumulative net profit of all PSBs increased by 32 percent to Rs 40,991 crore.

342. **Max Life Insurance** has launched the **'Smart Wealth Advantage Guarantee Plan'**, a non-linked, non-participating individual life insurance savings plan that offers guaranteed returns, life insurance cover and financial protection all combined in one product.

It is a holistic plan that endeavours to ensure customers meet their life goals and remain protected in the long-run from financial uncertainties.

343. **ESAF Small Finance Bank (ESAF SFB)** has been awarded the **"Best in Class"** rating for the Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices from Mumbai-based CareEdge Ratings.

- ESAF is pivoting against the practice of 'Greenwashing' or faking ESG credentials.
- ESAF is the first Indian member bank of the Global Alliance on Banking on Values (GAVB).
- ESAF secured four out of five points for its commitment towards ESG integration.

344. The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned **Rs 220.50 crore** to the Government of **Odisha** under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the construction of 57 flood protection projects and one bridge at a rural area.

- The projects will help districts including Kendrapara, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Rayagada, Boudh, Nayagarh, Jajpur, Khurda and Sonepur.
- In addition, a box cell bridge will be constructed over Sankha creek in Jagatsinghpur district to prevent intrusion of saline water into the farmlands at Patua and Baghadi, respectively.

345. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently signed a **150 million euro (Rs 1,240 crore)** loan agreement with **KfW Development Bank, Germany** for funding **solar projects**. The agreement of this long-term loan has been facilitated by SBI Capital Markets, investment banking subsidiary of SBI.

346. **InsuranceDekho**, an insurtech, has collaborated with the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** through which the latter's products will be available for all customers on its platform pan-India. This collaboration will empower InsuranceDekho to democratise insurance.

347. The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) has signed a **USD 40 million** financing package with GreenCell Express Private Limited (**GEPL**) to develop **255 electric battery-powered buses (e-buses)** in India with a focus on women's safety.

- This e-buses will serve 5 million people a year on 56 intercity routes in India.
- The bus will include security features such as panic buttons connected to command controls for immediate response.

ADB has also approved a **USD 400 million** loan to the Government of **Maharashtra** to bring in 5000 electric buses.

348. **Tata Power Solar Systems (TPSSL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), has joined hands with **Union Bank of India (UBI),** to help MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) sector switch to solar solutions.

- The objective of this collaboration is to improve access to green energy and save on the cost of electricity.
- The collaboration will be implemented under UBI's solar scheme called 'Union Solar'.

349. The Government of India (GoI) has raised the maximum tenure of the Managing Director (**MD**) and Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **Public Sector Banks (PSBs)** to **10 years**, from the previous 5 years, while retaining the superannuation age at 60.

The change in the rule also applies to the whole-time directors of Central Public-Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
The amendment will be known as the **Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022.**

Key points:

- As per the notification, a whole-time director, including the managing director, shall devote his whole time to the affairs of the nationalised bank.
- His initial term in office must not exceed five years and it may be extended up to a total period, including the initial term, of not more than 10 years, as the central government may, after consultation with the Reserve Bank, specify and shall be eligible for reappointment.
- The GoI has the authority to terminate the term of a whole-time director, including the MD, any time before the expiry of their tenure, by giving them a notice of not less than 3 months in writing, or 3 months' salary and allowances in lieu of the notice.

Previously, the MD or CEO of a PSB was eligible for a maximum tenure of 5 years or until they reach 60, whichever was earlier.

350. Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs **Nirmala Sitharaman** has chaired the **5th** meeting of the Governing Council (GC) of **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)**, in New Delhi.

Highlights of the meeting:

- In a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), NIIF and Japan Bank for International Development (JBIC) have proposed to establish NIIF's first bilateral fund - the **"India Japan Fund"** - with contributions from the Government of India (GoI).
- The two infrastructures Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), where NIIF has majority stakes, have increased their combined loan book from Rs. 4,200 crores to Rs. 26,000 crores in 3 years without experiencing any Non-Performing Loans (NPLs).
- The NIIF has been directed to undertake advisory activities proactively to support central and state governments to create a pipeline of investible Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

NIIF is a government-backed entity established to provide **long-term capital** to the country's infrastructure sector. It was established in December 2015 as a Category-II Alternate Investment Fund. The Government of India holds **49% stake** in NIIF with the rest held by foreign and domestic investors.

- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **MD & CEO**: Sujoy Bose

351. **Shriram Life Insurance Company (SLIC)** has been empanelled as an **Annuity Service Provider (ASP)** by the Pension Fund Regulatory Development Authority (**PFRDA**). The empanelment will help the insurer manage the annuity component of the maturity proceeds under the National Pension System (NPS).

- The PFRDA certification will help SLIC garner more NPS subscribers under its annuity plan.
- SLIC as an ASP will help in mobilising **40%** of the NPS maturity amount which will be open to investment in annuity schemes.

Note: The annuity premium mobilisation in India is above Rs.25,000 crore per year.

Annuity Service Provider:
It is an IRDA-registered insurance company empaneled by PFRDA for providing Annuity Services to NPS subscribers upon their exit from the system. ASPs will be responsible for managing the funds (allocated for buying annuity) and payment of the pension after a subscriber attains the age of 60.

352. **ICICI Venture**, the alternative investment arm of ICICI Bank, has invested **Rs.360 crore**, or around $44.3 million, in consumer houseware company **Cello World**, marking its first bet from the fifth private equity (PE) fund. This is the first private equity raise by Cello World.

353. **Kotak Investment Advisors Limited (KIAL)** has secured an anchor investment of **USD 500 million** from a wholly owned subsidiary of the **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)** for its 13th Real Estate (RE) Fund, a $1 billion platform targeting real estate investments in India. The fund will primarily target investments in residential real estate.

354. **Karnataka Bank** has recently launched the **CASA (current account savings account) campaign** of **2022-23** for 100 days. Under this campaign starting from *15th November 2022 to 24th March 2023*, the bank intends to open more than 3.65 lakh CASA accounts in all 883 branches across India.

355. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new option for appointment and removal of independent directors from the boards of companies. In this regard, SEBI has amended **LODR (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements)** rules.

Under this, the appointment and removal of independent directors could be done by way of two parameters:
i) Threshold for ordinary resolution
ii) Threshold for majority of minority shareholders

Currently, the appointment, re-appointment or removal of independent directors is made through a special resolution which needs 75% of 'yes' votes from a company's board.

356. According to the 'Micro Matters: Macro View - India Microfinance Review FY 2021-22' report by Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN), Microfinance sector grew by 16.5-times from **Rs.17,264 crore** in March 2012 to **Rs.2,85,441 crore** as of March 2022.

- NBFC-MFIs are the second-largest provider of micro-credit with an outstanding of Rs.1,00,407 crore (35.2 percent). While small finance banks (SFBs) had a total loan amount outstanding of Rs.48,314 crore (16.9 percent).
- As per the report, there are close to 6 crore unique microfinance clients. As of March 2022, about 202 entities are catering to them.
- Banks held the largest share of the portfolio with a total loan outstanding of Rs 1,14,051 crore, which is 40 percent of the total micro-credit universe.

357. Japanese investment major **SoftBank** has sold **4.5%** stake in **One97 Communications Ltd**, the owner of the Paytm payments app, for USD 215 million (Rs.1,631 crore) through an open market transaction.

As of 30 September 2022, SoftBank held a 17.45% stake in Paytm through SVF India Holdings (Cayman).

358. PE fund KKR & Co-backed clean energy platform **Serentica Renewables** has signed a pact with **Greenko Group**, to source **1500MWhr** energy storage capacity through Greenko's pumped storage projects located in India.

Under this pact, Serentica will leverage Greenko's energy storage capacity from its upcoming Off Stream Closed Loop Pumped Storage Projects (OCPSP) at Pinnapuram in Andhra Pradesh and Gandhi Sagar in Madhya Pradesh.

359. **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance** has introduced **"Meter"** (switch on/switch off), an add-on cover for Private car insurance policy to allow policyholders to pause the insurance cover when the vehicle is idle.

- With this launch, Kotak General Insurance claims to become **India's first company** to offer cashback via an add-on for a private car insurance policy.
- The 'Meter' add-on was initially introduced through Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)'s regulatory sandbox.

360. **ICICI Bank Limited** has launched two new products named **Loan Against Deposits (LAD)** and **Dollar Bonds** for its Non-Resident Indians (NRI) customers at its branch in GIFT City, the Gujarat-based emerging global financial and IT services hub.

ICICI Bank is the **first bank** to offer these products in GIFT City.

- The LAD facility is similar to a loan in foreign currency against a deposit in India and includes Non-Resident External (NRE) Fixed Deposits (FD) in rupees. The customers can avail up to 95 percent of the deposit value.

- The Dollar Bonds is an alternative investment option for NRIs, to book dollar bonds through ICICI Bank in GIFT city from among 50 marquee issuers or companies for these bonds.

361. **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB)**, one of the leading regional rural banks, has received a National Award from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

- KVGB has so far enrolled 3,34,687 (cumulative) accounts to the APY.
- During 2022-23, the bank enrolled 69, 132 accounts, exceeding its target of 50, 320.
- The bank currently has 629 locations in the 9 districts from Vijayapura to Mangaluru.

362. **Airtel Payments Bank** has launched the **Face Authentication-based Savings Bank account** opening for customers, first-of-its kind in India to ease the process of account opening.

- The new facility will help Business Correspondents (BCs) of the bank to open an account just by undertaking face authentication e-KYC.
- The authentication will be processed through a mobile application developed by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- This KYC facility uses AI/ML based Face Authentication Registered Device (RD) Application, which helps in the prevention of fraudulent activities by cross-checking individual's photo with the image captured in Aadhaar and allows secure customer onboarding.

363. **Federal Bank Limited** has launched a deposit scheme for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) titled **'Deposit Plus'**, which offers higher interest rate than the existing Non-Residential External (NRE) fixed deposits. The maximum interest rate offered in Deposit Plus scheme is 7.50% for a tenure of 700 days.

Tie-up with JCB India:

Federal Bank has recently tied up with **JCB India** to finance the prospective buyers of heavy construction equipment and boost its loan portfolio.

364. **Billbox**, an Indian payments and merchant ecosystem solution provider, has launched a wearable device for contactless payments named **'TapTap'** in association with **NSDL Payments Bank & Visa.** The aim is to simplify payments and offers users convenience.

365. **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has tied up with **Aerem Solutions Pvt Ltd (ASPL)** and its subsidiary **Aerem Finance Pvt Ltd (AFPL)** to finance solar rooftop projects for captive use by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

This will encourage MSMEs to adopt solar energy, significantly reducing power bills and increasing profitability of the business as well as supporting the development and growth of the renewable energy market in India.

BoB has also opened its **first dedicated mid-corporate branch** in Kochi, Kerala.

366. **HDFC Bank** Limited has collaborated with **Flywire Corporation**, a global payments enablement, and software company, to enable Indian payers to pay international education fees to higher education institutions all over the world digitally.

This will enhance transparency and digitizes Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) documentation process for payers.

367. **Axis Bank** has partnered with **Flipkart** to launch the **'Flipkart Axis Bank Super Elite Credit Card'** as an effort to scale the Flipkart's SuperCoins reward program and enhance the customer shopping experience.

- The card will enable Flipkart customers to earn a total of 8 SuperCoins for every Rs.100 spent and a maximum of 200 SuperCoins can be earned on every successful transaction.
- For all other transactions outside of Flipkart, customers will earn two SuperCoins with no upper limit for every Rs.100 spent on all eligible spends.
- The card will charge customers an annual fee of Rs.500 for these benefits, which is waived off on an annual expense of Rs.2 lakhs on the card.

Additional Information:
Recently, **Axis Bank** has launched the seventh edition of **'Evolve'** for MSMEs with the theme of *'Indian SMEs: Shifting Gears for Next Level Growth'* along with sub-themes such as 'Digitalisation to Building Indian SMEs' and 'Export Opportunities for SMEs in the New World Order'.

368. **ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, and SBI Life Insurance** have acquired **10 percent stake** each in a proposed joint venture of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) and Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (**CPCL**).

- The acquisition will be completed within 180 days from the date of joint venture agreement.
- The target entity is initially proposed to be incorporated through seed capital of Rs.5 lakh.
- The JV of IOCL and CPCL aims to set up a nine million metric tonne per annum refinery at Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- IOCL and CPCL will together hold 50 percent stake, i. e 25 percent each.

369. The **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** has been included in the list of Financial Information Providers (**FIP**) under the **Account Aggregator (AA) framework** to facilitate cash flow-based lending to MSMEs.

- For this purpose, GSTN will be regulated by the **Department of Revenue**, Ministry of Finance.
- The financial information will be Goods and Services Tax (GST) Returns, viz. Form GSTR-1 and Form GSTR-3B.

AA Framework:

AA framework was launched in September 2021. AA's are licensed NBFCs that enable instant exchange of financial data between FIP and Financial Information Users (FIUs). They are responsible for providing services that include the transfer but not storing of a customer's data.

370. **Canara Bank**, in partnership with National E-Governance Services Limited (**NeSL**), has launched an **Electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG)** on its **117th Foundation Day**, celebrated on 19th November 2022.

- With this launch, Canara Bank now offers an API-based digital workflow of Bank guarantees which will eliminate physical issuance, stamping, verification, and paper based record maintenance of Bank Guarantees.

- This paves way to augment integration of Environmental & Social Governance (ESG) framework into Business.

371. India's first sticker-based debit card named **'FIRSTAP'** has been launched by **IDFC FIRST Bank** in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to facilitate transactions by simply tapping the sticker on a near-field communication (NFC)-enabled point-of-sale terminal.

372. The sticker-based debit card is one-third the size of a regular debit card and can also be affixed on any surface of customers' choice, such as cell phones, identity cards, wallets, tabs, airpod cases, etc.

373. **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has signed an agreement with broking partner **SMC Global Securities Limited** to open a 3-in-1 account (SB, demat account, and trading account).

As per the agreement, the savings bank (SB) and demat account of the clients will be with IOB while the trading account will be with SMC Global.

374. **VA Tech Wabag Limited**, a water technology player, has signed an agreement with **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to raise **Rs 200 crore** through unlisted non-convertible debentures (NCDs) with a 5-year and 3-month tenor. This NCD will be subscribed by ADB over a 12-month period.

This investment is ADB's first private sector financing in India's water sector.

375. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the amendments to rules on registering insurance companies and investing in them. This aims to enable policyholders, insurers, and merchants to provide 'insurance for everyone 2047'.

Key amendments:

- **Private equity (PE)** funds can now directly put in money in insurance companies, and investment through special purpose vehicles (SPVs) has been made optional for PEs.
- Now, corporate agents, including banks, will be allowed to tie up with **9 insurers** (earlier 3 insurers), and insurance marketing firms can distribute products of **6 insurers** (earlier 2 insurers) in each line of Life, General, and Health insurance.
- The lock-in period of investment for investors and promoters will be stipulated on the basis of the age of the insurer.
- Promoters can now dilute stake up to **26%** in listed entities.
- Threshold for promoter has been increased to **25%** for single investors.
- Companies can now raise funds through subordinated debt without IRDAI approval.

376. Scientists from the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** have developed high-resolution spatial maps for South Asia to assess croplands, crop type and crop intensity data in collaboration with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB).**

377. These spatial maps make cropland mapping feasible for insurance claims, and agriculture policy decision aimed at Regenerative Agriculture (RA).

378. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has partnered with **Actyv.ai**, an AI-powered enterprise SaaS platform, to provide finance to dealers. Under this partnership, KMBL will provide short-term finance under the 'Buy Now, Pay Later' category for working capital needs of dealers.

379. The Government of **Maharashtra** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with US-based **Women's World Banking** to strengthen 5000 women of self-help groups (SHGs) to become business correspondents (**BC Sakhis**) supporting banking services in rural areas.

380. The **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has reduced its holding in **Bharat Bijlee** from 6.695 percent to **4.54 percent**. Around 1.218 lakh shares were sold at an average price of Rs.1,693.96 from 19th November 2019 to 25th November 2022.

The shares of LIC climbed 0.34 percent at Rs.630, and that of Bharat Bijlee jumped 4.15 percent at Rs.2,418.

381. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake in **Tech Mahindra** to **6.874%** from 4.863% earlier. It has increased its shareholding in Tech Mahindra from 4,73,44,343 to 6,69,25,392 equity shares.

382. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has received the approval from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Ministry of Finance (MoF), Government of

India (GoI), to sell all or a portion of its stake in **UTI Asset Management Company Limited (UTI AMC)** as part of its non-core asset sale plan to shore up its capital base.

383. The bank, which holds **15.22%** stake in UTI AMC, will sell its entire stake in the mutual fund company in single or multiple tranches for the realization of gain on investment. It's current valuation stands at Rs.1,329 crore.

Besides PNB, State Bank of India, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Bank of Baroda and US-based T Rowe Price are other sponsors.

384. Eversource-promoted Accretive Cleantech Finance Private Ltd, operating as **'Ecofy'**, has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a non-deposit taking **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).** This makes Ecofy one of its kind green retail NBFC in India. Ecofy will lend to individuals and small businesses to accelerate the transition towards a net zero carbon world.

385. The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued a uniform format for reporting **Over-The-Counter (OTC)** trades in listed Non-Convertible Securities (NCS). The new regulations will enter into force on 1st January 2023.

- SEBI has amended the **SEBI (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015** to include the buying and selling of mutual fund units under the ambit of insider trading rules. The new norms became effective on 24th November 2022.
- SEBI has announced that **municipal debt securities issuers** can now issue **green bonds** in accordance with the guidelines for issuing and listing non-convertible debentures.

386. The Ministry of Tourism (**MoT**) has organised **'CEO round table on Sustainable Tourism'** in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program (**UNEP**) and Responsible Tourism Society of India (**RTSOI**) in New Delhi.

The round table aimed to enhance awareness of industry stakeholders on national and global priorities for sustainable tourism. It is in line with the National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism.
The round table derived at **three initiatives** on Sustainable Tourism, which was signed by participants, with an objective to accelerate sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in tourism policies and practices:

- Travel for LiFE Pledge
- Responsible Traveller Campaign
- Global Tourism Plastics Initiative

387. **Max Financial Services Limited (MFSL)** has received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to purchase the remaining **5.17%**

stake held by Mitsui Sumitomo Company Limited (MSI) in Max Life Insurance Company Limited (Max Life). After this acquisition, MFSL shareholding in Max Life will increase to **87%.**

388. **Yes Bank** has acquired a **9.99% stake** representing 12,370, 050 equity shares in **JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)** at Rs.11.43 per share. The lender has also planned to acquire an additional shareholding of 10.00% in JC Flowers ARC, subject to requisite regulatory approvals.

389. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** board has approved raising **Rs.10,000 crore** through infrastructure bonds during the financial year 2023 including a green shoe option of Rs.5,000 crores.

390. **Star Health and Allied Insurance**, a standalone health insurance company, has launched its '**Star Out Patient Care Insurance Policy'**, which aims at providing complete health and wellness benefits to customers at an affordable cost. The aim is to bridge the gap between expenses related to in-patient hospitalization, which is catered to by the health insurance industry, and outpatient expenses.



RBI IN NEWS

391. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has commenced its first pilot project to implement **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee (e₹)** in the **Wholesale segment (e₹-W)** for secondary market trades in government securities (G-secs) beginning on 1st November 2022.

The first pilot of the Digital Rupee in the Retail segment (e₹-R) is planned for launch within a month in select locations.

Key Points:

- The RBI has designated **9 banks** to participate in the digital rupee wholesale pilot project.
- The nine banks are State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Yes Bank, IDFC First Bank and HSBC.
- The adoption of e₹-W is expected to enhance the efficiency of the interbank market and lower transactions costs.

Digital Rupee:

A Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) or Digital Rupee is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. It is an electronic form of money that can be used in contactless transactions.
The Indian CBDC, which will be known as **(e₹),** is a digital version of the Rupee and may be exchanged one-for-one for fiat currency.

In the Union Budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced the introduction of digital currency by the RBI in India.

CBDC can be classified into two types:
1) **Retail (CBDC-R):** Retail CBDC will be potentially available for use by all.
2) **Wholesale (CBDC-W):** It is designed for restricted access to select financial institutions.

392. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided in-principle approval to **C2FO Factoring Solutions Private Limited**, India arm of C2FO, a global on-demand working capital platform, to set up and operate **Trade Receivable Discounting Systems (TReDS)** platform in India. With this, C2FO has become the fourth platform to get the license to operate TReDS after Receivables Exchange of India Ltd (RXIL), M1Xchange and Invoicemart.

Note: TReDS was launched by RBI in July 2014 to enable discounting of MSMEs trade receivables through multiple financiers.

393. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently released the **Report on Municipal Finances**, compiling and analyzing budgetary data for 201 Municipal Corporations (MCs) across all states. The report explores 'Alternative Sources of Financing for Municipal Corporations (MCs)' as its theme.

This report has been prepared in the Division of State Finances of the Department of Economic and Policy Research.
Highlights of the report:
- Municipal Finances (MFs) are dominated by property tax collections and devolution of taxes and grants from upper tiers of government, resulting in lack of financial autonomy.
- MCs' expenditure of administrative costs and interest and finance charges is rising, but capital expenditure is minimal.
- MCs mostly rely on borrowings from banks and financial institutions and loans from centre/ state governments to finance their resource gaps in the absence of a well-developed market for municipal bonds.

MFs, consisting of tax revenue, non-tax revenue, and transfers, are estimated at 0.61 percent of GDP in 2017-18. Non-tax revenue, accounted for 30 % of total revenue receipts of MF. Property tax accounts for 50% of the total tax collections of MF.

Municipal Corporation:

It is the urban local government that is responsible for the development of any Metropolitan City having a population of more than one million people. MCs are established in the states by the acts of the state legislatures, whereas in the Union Territories through the acts of the Parliament.
The first municipal corporation in India was created in **Madras** in 1688, followed by municipal corporations in Bombay and Calcutta in 1726.

394. **Ftcash**, a Small & Medium Enterprises (SME) lending startup, has received a licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to set up a **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).** With this, the company aims to disburse loans worth **Rs.100 crore** in **FY23.**

395. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the **Scheme of Amalgamation** of **Shree Sharada Sahakari Bank Ltd**, Pune (Maharashtra) with **The Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd**., Pune (Maharashtra). The scheme has been approved in exercise of the powers under the provisions of Section 44A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

396. **Open**, a neo-banking platform, has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a **Payment Aggregator (PA)**. Earlier, Infibeam, Innoviti, Razorpay, MSwipe, Stripe, and Pine Labs received the PA license.

The RBI announced the PA framework in March 2020, requiring all payment gateways to obtain a license in order to acquire merchants and provide payment services to merchants.

397. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the opening of **nine special Vostro accounts** with two Indian lenders — **UCO Bank and IndusInd Bank** — to facilitate overseas trade in Indian rupees (INR).

- Sberbank and VTB Bank, the two largest banks of Russia, are the first foreign lenders to have received approval from the RBI.
- Russia's Gazprombank, which has no branches in India, has also created this account with the state-run UCO Bank (Kolkata, West Bengal).
- Six different Russian banks have also opened accounts with IndusInd Bank.

Vostro account:
The word Vostro means *"yours"* in Latin. It is an account that a domestic bank holds for a foreign bank in the currency of the domestic bank, which in India is INR. Vostro accounts are maintained in the domestic currency. If a person deposits money in the Vostro account, it will be transferred to the account holder's bank.

Nostro account:
Nostro is a Latin word that means *"ours"*. The account opened by an Indian bank in the foreign country is a Nostro account. Nostro accounts are maintained in the foreign currency.

Loro account:

It is a current account that is maintained by one domestic bank for another domestic bank in the form of a **third party account.**

As a result, accounts opened by IndusInd and UCO are Vostro accounts, while those opened by Russian banks are Nostro accounts.

398. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fined nine entities, including six co-operative banks and three Sahakari banks, a total of **Rs.11.60 lakh** for violating various banking norms.

- Berhampur Cooperative Urban Bank (Odisha) has been fined Rs.3.10 lakh.
- Osmanabad Janata Sahakari Bank, Osmanabad (Maharashtra) has been fined Rs.2.5 lakh.
- Santrampur Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Santrampur in Mahisagar district (Gujarat) has been fined Rs.2 lakh penalty.
- Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit, Balaghat (Madhya Pradesh); Jamshedpur Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand; and Renuka Nagarik Sahakari Bank Maryadit, Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) have been fined Rs.1 lakh each.
- Krishna Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and Kendrapara Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Kendrapara, Odisha have been fined Rs.50,000 each.
- The Nawanagar Co-operative Bank Ltd, Jamnagar (Gujarat) has been fined Rs.25,000.

399. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved **DSP Investment Managers Private Limited (DSPIM)** acquisition of up to **9.99 percent stake** in **Equitas Small Finance Bank.**

- DSPIM will acquire up to 9.99 per cent of the paid-up equity capital of the bank through the schemes of DSP Mutual Fund, following the amalgamation of parent company Equitas Holdings Limited with the bank.
- The approval is valid for one year till 15th November 2023.

400. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has released the **seventh** edition of its statistical publication titled **"Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2021-22"**. It has been prepared under the supervision and overall guidance of Dr Deba Prasad Rath, Principal Adviser, Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR), RBI.

- As per the publication, **Karnataka** has the highest installed grid-interactive renewable power capacity in India with a total installed capacity of 15,463 Megawatts (MW).
- Karnataka is followed by Tamil Nadu with 15,225 MW, and Gujarat with 13,153 MW.
- Renewable power includes power from various sources namely bio-power, solar power, small hydropower, waste-to-energy, and wind power.
- According to Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), Karnataka distribution companies (discoms) had become the top seller of renewable energy under the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM).

This publication covers sub-national statistics on socio-demographics, state domestic product, agriculture, price and wages, industry, infrastructure, banking, and fiscal indicators across Indian states over various time periods ranging from 1951 to 2021-22.
In the current edition of the Handbook, two new sections viz., Health and Environment are introduced.

401. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that overnight balances held by banks with the RBI under the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)** will be eligible as **"Level-1 High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA)"** for the computation of the **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR)**. This circular is effective immediately and applicable to all Commercial Banks (excluding local area banks, regional rural banks and payments banks).

The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has imposed Monetary Penalty on 7 Cooperative Banks for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI.

- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.20.00 lakh on Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.1.25 crore on Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bombay.
- Imposition of monetary penalty of Rs.50 Lakh on Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Limited, Maharashtra.
- Monetary penalty of Rs.1.00 lakh imposed on The Tiruchirappalli District Central Cooperative Bank Ltd., Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu.
- The Cumbum Co-operative Town Bank Ltd., Cumbum, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh for non-adherence / violation of directions issued under Frauds – Classification and Reporting and Board of Directors – UCBs is levied by monetary penalty of Rs.3.00 lakh.
- National Co-operative Bank Limited, Bengaluru, Karnataka imposed with monetary penalty of Rs.2.00 lakh.
- The Chittoor Co-operative Town Bank Limited, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh imposed with monetary penalty of Rs.6.00 lakh.

402. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the **'Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), September 2022'** on its Database on Indian Economy (DBIE) portal.

Key highlights:

- Bank credit growth improved further to **17.2 percent** (y-o-y) in September 2022 from 14.2 percent a quarter ago and 7.0 percent a year ago.
- Credit growth remained broad-based as all population groups and bank groups recorded double digit annual growth.
- Aggregate deposits growth (y-o-y), which remained in the close range of 9.5-10.2 percent since June 2021, stood at 9.8 percent in September 2022; since December 2020, bank branches in metropolitan centres have been recording higher annual growth than those in rural, semi-urban and urban areas.
- Private sector bank group has been outpacing public sector banks, foreign banks and regional rural banks in deposit mobilisation.

- Growth (y-o-y) in term deposits rose to 10.2 percent in September 2022 from 6.4 percent a year ago, whereas current and savings deposits growth moderated to 8.8 percent and 9.4 percent from 17.5 percent and 14.5 percent, respectively, a year ago.
- The share of savings deposit in total deposits, which increased from 32.4 percent in June 2019 to a peak of 35.2 in June 2022, moderated marginally to 34.7 in the latest quarter.
- All-India credit-deposit (C-D) ratio increased further to 74.8 percent in September 2022 from 73.5 percent a quarter ago and 70.0 percent a year ago; C-D ratio for metropolitan bank branches, which have a dominant share in the banking business, stood much higher at 87.6 percent in September 2022 (82.8 percent a year ago).



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

403. **"Permacrisis"**, a term that describes 'an extended period of instability and insecurity', has been named **Collins Word of the Year 2022** by Collins Dictionary. The term Permacrisis (Noun) embodies the sense of facing unprecedented events one after another.

Collins Dictionary is published by HarperCollins in Glasgow, Scotland.
Other popular words and terms chosen by the publication this year included Kyiv, Partygate, Splooting, Vibe shift and Quiet quitting.

Note: Collins Word of the Year 2021 was 'NFT' (Non-Fungible Token).

404. The **Karnataka Ratna Award 2022**, the highest civilian award of Karnataka, has been posthumously conferred on the late actor **Puneeth Rajkumar** on the occasion of the 67th Kannada Rajyotsava (State Formation Day) at an event held at the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He is the 9th recipient of the award.

Karnataka Ratna Award was last awarded to Dr. Virendra Heggade in 2009 for his social service.

Karnataka Ratna:

It was instituted in 1992 by the then Chief Minister of Karnataka S Bangarappa. The award comes with a gold medal weighing 50 gm, a citation, a memento and a shawl.

405. French Government has honoured Indian Carnatic vocalist, composer, humanitarian and speaker **Aruna Sairam** with its prestigious **Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) Award**.

- She has been selected for this award for her contribution towards development of the Indo-France relationship.

- The Minister of Culture of the French Republic, Rima Abdul Malak has appointed Aruna Sairam to the rank of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres.

Aruna Sairam:

She was born on 30th October 1952 in Bombay, Maharashtra. She is a disciple of legendary vocalist, Sangita Kalanidhi T. Brinda. She was the first Karnatic musician to perform at the BBC proms in London in 2011. She is also the first Carnatic musician to perform in Oud Festival of Israel (Jerusalem).

Awards/Honours:

- **Kalaimamani** by government of Tamil Nadu in 2006
- **Padma Shri** in 2009
- **Sangita Kalanidhi** by Music Academy in 2018

406. The **'Grama Vandi'** launched by the **Kerala Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)** has won the national 'Commentation Award in Urban Transport' in the category of 'City with the best Public Transport System'.

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs instituted the awards to strengthen public transport in all urban areas of India.
- The award is presented by Governor Arif Mohammad Khan in the presence of Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore at the **Urban Mobility India (UMI) conference** held in Kochi.

407. The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.5 lakh** on **LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL)** for non-compliance with certain provisions of "The Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 2010", regarding statutory inspection of the Company conducted by NHB with reference to financial position as on 31 March 2020 inter alia the Company's failure to create floating charge in favor of its deposits and portion of the assets invested by it in terms of section 29B of the NHB Act, 1987.

408. **Forbes** has released the **World's Best Employers Rankings 2022**. This is 6th annual ranking of the World's Best Employers. Forbes has partnered with the market research company Statista to compile the ranking.

- The global ranking list has been topped by South Korean giant **Samsung Electronics**, followed by US giants Microsoft, IBM, Alphabet and Apple.
- **Reliance Industries** has been named **India's best employer** and the world's **20th** best firm to work with. It has 2,30,000 employees.
- **Other Indian companies on the list:** HDFC Bank is ranked 137th. Bajaj (173rd), Aditya Birla Group (240th), Hero Motocorp (333rd), Larsen & Toubro (354th), ICICI Bank (365th),

HCL Technologies (455th), State Bank of India (499th), Adani Enterprises (547th) and Infosys (668th).

409. Indian physician and scientist **Dr Subhash Babu** has been awarded the prestigious 2022 Bailey K. Ashford Medal, and 2022 Fellow of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (FASTMH) award for his exemplary research work and contribution in tropical medicine.

He is the **first Indian** to receive both the Bailey K. Ashford Medal and the FASTMH award. He is the Scientific Director of the ICER (International Centre for Excellence in Research) - India Programme.

Bailey K. Ashford Medal:

It is awarded annually to one or more mid-career investigators who have done outstanding work in tropical medicine. It was established in 1941 by the ASTMH.

410. The 15th edition of **QS Asia University Rankings 2023** has been released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), the International Ranking agency.

Peking University, Beijing, China has topped the rankings, followed by National University of Singapore (NUS), and Tsinghua University, Beijing China.

Indian Universities:

- Around 19 Indian universities have been featured amongst the top 200 universities in the QS Asia Universities Ranking 2023.
- Among 19, 11 Indian Universities have made it to the top 100 on the list.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (40)** has topped among the Indian universities.
- Other Indian Universities on the list: IIT Bombay (40th), IIT Delhi (46th), IISc Bangalore (52), IIT Madras (53), IIT Kharagpur (61), IIT Kanpur (66) University of Delhi (85), IIT Rorkee (114), JNU (119), IIT Guwahati (124), VIT Vellore (173), University of Calcutta (181), Jadavpur University (182), Anna University (185), Chandigarh University (185), IIT Indore (185), BITS Pilani (188), Jamia Millia Islamia (188), and Amity University Noida (200).
- All the Indian Universities which have featured in the top 200 list have improved in their Academic Reputation and the International Research Network.

411. **Haryana** has been conferred with the **India Agribusiness Award-2022** in the category of 'Best State' by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA), for its outstanding contribution in the areas of policies, programmes, production, inputs, technologies, marketing, value addition, infrastructure and exports in the agriculture sector.

National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad, under the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, has been awarded the “India Agribusiness Awards 2022” for the best Agribusiness Award.

The award has been presented at the 'AgroWorld' 2022', an India International Agro Trade and Technology Fair – 2022 held from 9th to 11th November 2022 at Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa Campus, New Delhi. It is being organised by ICFA.

412. Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has announced the National Sports Awards 2022. The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30th November, 2022.

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2022:

The award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the period of the previous four years.

S. No.	Name of the sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Shri Sharath Kamal Achanta	**Table Tennis**

Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games 2022:

The award is given for good performance over a period of the previous four years and for showing qualities of leadership, sportsmanship and a sense of discipline.

S. No.	Name of the sportsperson	Discipline
1.	Ms Seema Punia	Athletics
2.	Shri Eldhose Paul	Athletics
3.	Shri Avinash Mukund Sable	Athletics
4.	Shri Lakshya Sen	Badminton
5.	Shri Prannoy HS	Badminton
6.	Shri Amit	Boxing
7.	Ms Nikhat Zareen	Boxing
8.	Ms Bhakti Pradip Kulkarni	Chess
9.	Shri R Praggnanandhaa	Chess
10.	Ms Deep Grace Ekka	Hockey
11.	Ms Shushila Devi	Judo
12.	Ms Sakshi Kumari	Kabaddi
13.	Ms Nayan Moni Saikia	Lawn Bowl
14.	Shri Sagar Kailas Ovhalkar	Mallakhamb
15.	Ms ElavenilValarivan	Shooting
16.	Shri Omprakash Mitharval	Shooting
17.	Ms Sreeja Akula	Table Tennis

18.	Shri Vikas Thakur	Weightlifting
19.	Ms Anshu	Wrestling
20.	Ms Sarita	Wrestling
21.	Shri Parveen	Wushu
22.	Ms Manasi Girishchandra Joshi	Para Badminton
23.	Shri Tarun Dhillon	Para Badminton
24.	Shri Swapnil Sanjay Patil	Para Swimming
25.	Ms Jerlin Anika J	Deaf Badminton

Dronacharya Award for outstanding coaches in Sports and Games 2022:

The award is given to coaches for doing outstanding and meritorious work on a consistent basis and for enabling sportspersons to excel in International events.

A. Regular Category:

S. No.	Name of the Coach (S/Shri/Ms)	Discipline
1	Shri Jiwanjot Singh Teja	Archery
2	Shri Mohammad Ali Qamar	Boxing
3	Ms Suma Siddharth Shirur	Para Shooting
4	Shri Sujeet Maan	Wrestling

B. Lifetime Category:

S.No.	Name of the Coach (S/Shri/Ms)	Discipline
1	Shri Dinesh Jawahar Lad	Cricket
2	Shri Bimal Prafulla Ghosh	Football
3	Shri Raj Singh	Wrestling

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime achievement in Sports and Games 2022:

The award is given to honour sportspersons who have contributed to sports by their performance and who continue to contribute to promotion of sports event after their retirement.

S. No.	Name of the sportsperson	Discipline
1	Ms Ashwini Akkunji C.	Athletics
2	Shri Dharamvir Singh	Hockey

3	Shri B.C Suresh	Kabaddi
4	Shri Nir Bahadur Gurung	Para Athletics

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puruskar 2022:
The award is given to corporate entities (both in private and public sector), Sports Control Boards, NGOs, including sports bodies at the State and National level, who have played a visible role in the area of sports promotion and development.

S. No.	Category	Entity recommended for RashtriyaKhel Protsahan Puruskar, 2022
1.	Identification and Nurturing of Budding and Young Talent	TransStadia Enterprises Private Limited
2.	Encouragement to sports through Corporate Social Responsibility	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology
3.	Sports for Development	Ladakh Ski & Snowboard Association

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2022: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
The overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments is given this trophy.

413. **The Print**, a news portal, has been awarded with the prestigious **International Press Institute (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism 2022** for its series of stories which exposed how hospitals, local bodies and governments in various states mismanaged the support system for the fight against COVID.

414. **Saurabh Shukla** of NDTV has also been awarded the IPI India Award for his story on hate speeches by certain religious men in Haridwar.
The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 Lakh, a trophy and a citation to each team.

415. The crews of Indian Naval Ship (**INS**) **Kochi**, **INS Kolkata** and **Greatship Ahalya** have been awarded certificates of commendation by the International Maritime Organisation (**IMO**) in recognition of "exceptional courage" shown during a rescue work. The award has been received by Vikram K Doraiswami, Indian Naval Advisor, High Commission of India (HCI), London on behalf of the Indian Navy.

416. Noted Rajasthani writers **Madhu Kankariya** and **Dr Madhav Hada** have been honoured with the **31st and 32nd Bihari Puraskar**, respectively. The award has been given by Indravardhan Trivedi, vice-chancellor of Mohan Lal Sukhadia University in Udaipur.

- Madhu Kankariya has been awarded the Bihari Puraskar 2021 for her 2018 novel *'Hum Yahan The'*.
- Madhav Hada has been awarded the Bihari Puraskar 2022 for his 2015 literary criticism book *'Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri'.*

Bihari Puraskar:

The Bihari Puraskar was instituted by KK Birla Foundation in 1991. It is named after the famous poet Bihari. It is given every year for an outstanding work published in the last 10 years by a **Rajasthani author** in Hindi or Rajasthani. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.2.5 lakh, a plaque and a citation.

417. India-born Nobel laureate Professor **Venkatraman Ramakrishnan** has been awarded the prestigious **Order of Merit** by Britain's King Charles III in recognition of his distinguished service to science.

Order of Merit:

It is an exclusive mark of honour conferred by the British sovereign. It was founded in 1902 by King Edward VII. It is conferred on individuals of exceptional distinction in the armed forces, science, arts, and literature, or for the promotion of culture based on the personal choice of the monarch.

Venkatraman Ramakrishnan:

He was born in 1952 in Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu. He is an Indian-born American and British structural biologist. He received the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** in **2009** for his work on ribosomal structure. He received India's second highest civilian honour, the **Padma Vibhushan**, in **2010**. He was knighted by the Queen in 2012. He was President of the UK's Royal Society from November 2015 until November 2020.

418. **Bhopal Junction Railway Station** of West Central Railway has been awarded a **4- star 'Eat Right Station'** certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers. This certification is granted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) to railway stations adhering to standard food storage and hygiene practices. This certification is valid up to **1st November 2024.**

- The 'Eat Right Station' certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers
- The 4-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers
- The certification is part of the 'Eat Right India' movement.

Other railway stations with 'Eat Right Station' certification are:
1) Anand Vihar Terminal Railway Station; (Delhi)
2) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus; (Mumbai)
3) Mumbai Central Railway Station; (Mumbai)
4) Vadodara Railway Station
5) Chandigarh Railway Station

419. **L Ganesh**, Chairman of Rane Group, has been conferred with **Japan's** prestigious **Deming Distinguished Service Award for Dissemination and Promotion (Overseas) 2022** for his outstanding contribution to the dissemination and promotion (overseas) of total quality management (TQM). He is the **third Indian** and the fifth globally to be bestowed with this award.

Deming prize:
It was established in 1951. It is an annual award presented to organisations and individuals that have implemented TQM catering to its management philosophy, scope, the scale of business, type, and management environment. The winner receives the Deming medal with an accompanying certificate of merit from the Deming prize committee.
The award was instituted to pay tribute to W Edwards Deming, who made a significant contribution to the spread of statistical quality control in Japan, following World War II.

420. Journalist **Danish Manzoor Bhat**, originally hailing from Kashmir Valley, has been honoured with Jaipur Foot USA's first Global Humanitarian Award for COVID-19 relief efforts, at the ceremony held at the Consulate General of India in New York, USA. He is the first person to receive this award.

Jaipur Foot USA's Global Humanitarian Award:
It was established by Jaipur Foot USA, an international non-profit organization committed to the rehabilitation of physically disabled people. The award has been constituted to honour and recognise "selfless work of Indians" who went above and beyond to help those in need during the difficult years of the pandemic.

421. The Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest has been held at Tata Theatre, National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), Mumbai, Maharashtra. During the event, the winners of **Tata Literature Live! Literary Awards 2022** have been announced.

a) Tata Literature Live! Book of the Year (Fiction): *The Map and the Scissors* by Amit Majmudar. Published by HarperCollins Publishers.
b) Tata Literature Live! Book of the Year (Non Fiction): *Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas* by Anirudh Kanisetti. Published by Juggernaut Books
c) Tata Literature Live! First Book (Fiction): *We Move* by Gurnaik Johal. Published by Hachette

d) Tata Literature Live! First Book (Non-Fiction): *Whole Numbers and Half-Truths* by Rukmini S. Published by Westland
e) Tata Literature Live! Business Book of the Year: *The Ambuja Story: How a Group of Ordinary Men Created an Extraordinary Company* by Narotam Sekhsaria. Published by HarperCollins Publishers
f) Tata Literature Live! Publisher of the Year Award: HarperCollins Publishers India

422. Himachal Pradesh Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been felicitated the **14th Dalai Lama**, Tibetan spiritual leader with the **Gandhi Mandela Award 2022** at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharamshala.

He has been selected by a jury including former Chief Justice of India KG Balakrishnan and Justice Dipak Misra, former Supreme Court Judge Gyan Sudha Misra, former Chief Justice of Nepal Justice Kedarnath Upadhyay and former Chief Justice of Bangladesh Justice MD Tafazzul Islam.

Gandhi Mandela Award:
The award was constituted by the Gandhi Mandela Foundation, a Government of India (GoI) registered Trust and a non-profit organization, in recognition of promoting the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela in the interest of global peace and freedom. It is awarded for Peace, Social Welfare, Culture, Health Care, Sports, Education and Innovation.
The award was instituted in 2019 on the 105th birth anniversary of our Father of the Nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (M.K. Gandhi).

423. **Pratham**, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) functioning in the field of education, has received the **2021 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament & Development** at Jawahar Bhawan in New Delhi.

- The award is in recognition of Pratham's work in ensuring quality education for children of the country, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The former Vice-President of India Hamid Ansari has presented the award to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Pratham Education Foundation, **Rukmini Banerji**, in the presence of Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development:
It was instituted in 1986 in the memory of the former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi. It consists of a monetary award of Rs 25 lakh along with a citation.
The award is given to individuals or organisations who work towards ensuring international peace and development, ensuring that scientific discoveries are used to further the scope of freedom and better humanity, and creating a new international economic order.

424. Chennai-based **Aquaconnect**, a technology-driven full-stack aquaculture input and output platform with embedded fintech and supported by a physical distribution network, has received the ISO 27001 certification for its Information Security Management System (ISMS).

- It is the first Indian Fisheries Start-up to earn this recognition.
- The company is now fully equipped to maintain its data and periodically monitor information security, making its platform more trustworthy.

ISO/IEC 27001 is the leading international standard focused on information security.

425. The Cambridge dictionary has chosen **"Homer"** as the **Word of the Year for 2022**. The word ''homer'' was searched for nearly 79,000 times during the first week of May 2022 owing to it being an answer in Wordle.

In the context of the game, ”homer” doesn’t refer to the Greek poet and author, or a character from Simpson, but refers to an informal American English word for a ‘home run’ in baseball.

Wordle:
It is a free online game that gives users a new word puzzle each day. It gives players six chances to guess a randomly selected five-letter word. The brainchild behind the game is Brooklyn-based software engineer Josh Wardle who created Wordle for free in October 2021 as a unique gift for his girlfriend Palak Shah. It was later acquired by The New York Times.

426. Bollywood star actor **Ranveer Singh**, who is known for his uniqueness, has been awarded the **Etoile d'or (Golden Star)** at the 19th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival held in Morocco.

The Marrakech International Film Festival has previously honoured Indian stars including Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan.

427. **Bangladesh** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has posthumously awarded the prestigious **'Friends of Liberation War'** honour to former US Senator **Edward M Kennedy** in Dhaka for his contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh. The honour has been handed over to his son Edward M. Ted Kennedy Jr.

Edward M Kennedy took a bold step against the genocide committed by Pakistan on innocent Bengali people despite the US government’s engagement in the 1971 Liberation War.

428. Indian-origin paediatrician **Angraj Khillan** from Victoria state has been honoured with the **2023 Victorian Australian of the Year Award** for his work providing healthcare education to the state of Victoria’s culturally diverse community, the City of Melbourne, Australia.

429. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India, has conferred the **Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur** (Knight of the Legion of Honour) on **Sumeet Anand**, Founder, IndSight Growth Partners, and President of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in

Mumbai. He has been honoured for his contribution to the development of bilateral relations between France and India in business.

"Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur" is the highest civilian award given by the **French Republic** for outstanding contribution to the recipient's field of expertise, regardless of nationality.

430. **India** has won the **Excellence in Leadership in Family Planning (EXCELL) Awards-2022** in the 'country category' at the International Conference on Family Planning held in Pattaya city in Thailand. The award is a recognition of India's efforts towards ensuring access to quality family planning choices based on right information & reliable services. India is the only country to have received the award in the 'country' category.

431. Kathak veteran **Uma Sharma** has received the prestigious **'Sumitra Charat Ram Award'** in recognition of her contribution in the field of Indian classical music and dance. She has received the award from former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Karan Singh and Sarod player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan in a ceremony organised at Kamani Auditorium by Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra (SBKK).

432. **11 Career Researchers** from **India and Germany** have been awarded the **'Paired Early Career Fellowship in Applied Research (PECFAR)'**, which will facilitate a short-duration visit to explore opportunities for connecting and networking for research collaborations between India and Germany in frontier areas of science and technology. This is the first time researchers have received this award under the PECFAR.

PECFAR has been launched by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC).

433. NTPC's QC Team from Unchahar ABHYUDAYA has won the "**GOLD**" award in the 47th International Convention on Quality Control Circle (ICQCC-2022). The convention has been held from 15th-18th November in Jakarta, Indonesia. The theme for ICQCC-2022 is "Built Back Better through Quality Efforts".

NTPC QC Team presented on "Frequent Choking of Collecting tanks of AHP-IV".

434. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has awarded the **Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar (SVP)** for the **2021-22** academic year to **39 schools** (34 in the overall category, and 5 in sub-categories) from across India, including 17 elementary, and 22 secondary or higher secondary schools. Cash prizes of Rs.60,000/- to 34 schools (in overall category) and Rs.20,000/-, (in sub-categories) have been given to the awardee schools.

The third edition of SVP 2021-22, saw participation from 9.59 lakh schools, which is approx. 1.5 times more than the number of schools (6.15 lakh schools) in SVP 2017-18.

Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar:

The Department of School Education and Literacy launched the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar in **2016-17** to ensure long term sustainability and behavioural change. It not only honours the schools who have taken exemplary work in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene but also provides a benchmark and roadmap for schools to make further improvement
Under this Award, schools are rated on six broad parameters of (a) Water (b) Toilets (c) Handwashing with Soap (d) Operation and Maintenance (e) Behaviour Change and Capacity building and (f) COVID-19 (Preparedness and Response).
The award is given at District, State and National level.

435. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India has announced the National Adventure Awards called **"Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award" (TNNAA)** for the year **2021.** The award is given in four categories namely, Land Adventure, Water Adventure, Air Adventure, and Life Time Achievement.

S. No.	Name	Category
1.	**Naina Dhakad**	**Land Adventure**
2.	Shubham Dhananjay Vanmali	Water Adventure
3.	Group Captain Kunwar Bhawani Singh Samyal	Life Time Achievement

Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award:
It is given every year to recognize the achievements of persons in the fields of adventure, to encourage young people to develop the spirit of endurance, risk-taking, cooperative teamwork, and quick, ready, and effective reflexes in challenging situations and to provide incentive to the young people for getting exposed to the adventure activities.
The award carries statuettes, certificates, and award money of Rs.15 lakh each.

436. The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has presented the **National Gopal Ratna Awards 2022** at Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka as a part of the **National Milk Day** (26th November) celebration 2022.

S. No.	Category	Winners	Rank
1.	Best Dairy farmer rearing indigenous cattle/buffalo breeds	1. Jitendra Singh, Fatehabad, Haryana. 2. Ravishankar Shashikant Sahasrabudhe, Pune, Maharashtra. 3. Goyal Sonalben Naran, Kachchh, Gujarat.	1st 2nd 3rd

2.	Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT)	1. Gopal Rana, Balangir, Odisha. 2. Hari Singh, Ganganagar, Rajasthan 3. Maachepalli Basavaiah, Prakasam, Andhra Pradesh.	1st 2nd 3rd
3.	Best Dairy Cooperative society/Milk Producer company/ Dairy Farmer producer organization	1. Mananthavady Ksheerolpadaka Sahakarana Sangam Ltd, Wayanad, Kerala. 2. Arakere Milk Producers Cooperative Society Ltd, Mandya, Karnataka. 3. Mannargudi MPCS, Thiruvarur, Tamil Nadu	1st 2nd 3rd

National Gopal Ratna Award:

It is one of the highest National Awards in the field of **livestock and dairy sector**, with an objective to recognize and encourage all individuals like Farmers rearing indigenous animals, AI Technicians and Dairy cooperative societies / Milk Producer Company / Dairy farmers Producers Organizations working in this sector.

The award consists of a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh for 1st rank, Rs. 3 lakh for 2nd rank and Rs. 2 lakh for 3rd rank along with a Certificate of merit and a memento in each category.

437. **'The Paradise of Food'**, authored by noted Urdu writer **Khalid Jawed**, and translated by **Baran Farooqi** from Urdu to English, has won the **JCB Prize for Literature 2022**. The author has received the prize money of Rs 25 lakh along with a trophy – a sculpture by Delhi artist duo Thukral and Tagra, titled 'Mirror Melting.'

- The Paradise of Food is the **fourth translation** and the **first in Urdu** to win the JCB Prize.
- The book published by Juggernaut books was originally written in Urdu as ***"Ne' mat Khana"*** in 2014.
- The Paradise of Food narrates the story of a middle-class joint Muslim family over a span of 50 years. Its narrator struggles to find a place for himself, at odds in his home and the world outside.

JCB Prize for Literature was instituted by the JCB Literature Foundation, a not-for-profit company, in 2018 to promote the art of literature in India.

438. The **United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP)** has announced the **2022 Champions of the Earth**, the highest environmental honour bestowed by the United Nations (UN). The award is acknowledged in 4 categories: Policy Leadership, Inspiration & Action, Entrepreneurial Vision, and Science & Innovation.

Category	UNEP Champion of the Earth 2022
Inspiration & Action	1) Cécile Bibiane Ndjebet (Cameroon), A Women's Right Activist 2) Constantino (Tino) Aucca Chutas (Peru), A Conservationist 3) Arcenciel (Lebanon), An Environmental Enterprise
Science & Innovation	Sir Partha Dasgupta (United Kingdom), An Economist
Entrepreneurial Vision	**Dr Purnima Devi Barman (India), A wildlife biologist**

439. India's **Purnima Devi Barman**, an Assam-based wildlife biologist, has received the award for her efforts to protect the greater adjutant stork, known as "Hargila", by establishing the "**Hargila Army"**, an all-female grassroots conservation movement. The women in the Hargila Army create and sell textiles with motifs of the bird, helping to raise awareness about the species while building their own financial independence.

Hargila:

Hargilas are five-foot-tall birds that live in wetlands in parts of Southeast Asia, including India and Cambodia. The species is classified as **Endangered** by IUCN. It can be found in **Assam** and **Bihar** in India.

440. India's youngest entrepreneur, **Ravi Kumar Sagar**, founder, and CEO of the INNO Group, has been honoured with Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar in 2022 for his persistent service to society.

- A young entrepreneur from the Telangana states, Ravi Kumar Sagar also known as RK'S nailed it as a budding entrepreneur during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.
- He was awarded the 'Indian Icon Award' in 2020 and the 'Young Entrepreneur of the Year' in 2021.
- He also authored a book titled *"Yuvata Vyaaparam".*

Dr. Abdul Kalam Seva Puraskar:

It is hosted every year by Vande Bharat Foundation and LeadIndia Foundation to mark the birth anniversary (15th October) of late former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. The award is given to deserving candidates to recognize people who have done extraordinary work for the society.

441. e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (eGramSwaraj and AuditOnline) of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has recently won the **GOLD AWARD** under the category *"Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation"* of the National Awards for e-

Governance. The award is a recognition of the excellent and exemplary work done by Team eGovernance and supported by Team NIC-MoPR.

The award has been presented during the 25th National Conference on e-Governance at Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir.

eGramSwaraj Portal:

It has been developed with a vision to strengthen digitisation in Panchayats. It is a simplified **work based accounting application** for Panchayati Raj. It is one of the applications developed as part of Panchayat Enterprise Suite (PES) under e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP).

It aims to bring in better transparency and strengthen the e-Governance in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country through decentralized Profiling, Planning, Physical Progress, Reporting and Work-Based Accounting. It is also integrated with **AuditOnline** for auditing.

National Awards for e-Governance:

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Government of India presents National Awards every year during National conference on e-Governance. The award recognizes and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

442. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) has organized the 11th edition of its Global Sports Summit, TURF 2022, in New Delhi. The theme for this edition is "Vision 2047: Indian Sports after 100 years of Independence".

During the TURF 2022, India Sports Awards of FICCI have been presented:

- Former Ranji cricketer **Sarkar Talwar** has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement of the Year award.
- **Avani Lekhara (Shooting),** who won two medals at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, has won the **Para Sports Person of the Year** award.
- **Shrey Kadyan (softball)** has been recognized as the Special Sportsperson of the Year.
- **Odisha** has been recognized as the best state for promoting sports.
- The All India Chess Federation has won the National Sports Federation of the Year Award for hosting another successful edition of the Chess Olympiad in 2022.
- Emerging player (male): Payas Jain (table tennis)
- Emerging player (female): Linthoi Chanambam (judo) and Antim Panghal (wrestling)
- Grandmaster R.B. Ramesh and golfer Nonita Lal Qureshi have received the best coaches awards.

443. **Prashant Wagh**, MD, AQURA Enviro Projects Private Limited, has been conferred with **'Asia's Inspirational Leader 2022'** award by White Page International, at the 'Global Business Conclave 2022', held in London, UK.

The award has been given in recognition of his exemplary achievements and immense contribution to the growth of his organisation and industry.
AQURA has also been recognised as *'Asia's Most Admired Brand 2022'*, for having made a mark due to innovative solutions, sustainability, social impact and goodwill.

444. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO**) **Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2022** has been announced which included four winners from India.

Award of Excellence	**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai**
Award of Distinction	**Stepwells of Golconda, Hyderabad**; Zarch Qanat, Yazd, Iran; and Neilson Hays Library, Bangkok, Thailand.
Award of Merit	**Domakonda Fort, Telangana**; **Byculla Station, Mumbai**; Topdara Stupa, Charikar, Afghanistan; Nantian Buddhist Temple, Fujian, China; Sadoughi House, Yazd, Iran; and 25 Chivas in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai:
The museum is a part of the Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai's world heritage property. It was established as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India in 1922.

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation:
Since 2000, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme has recognised the efforts of private individuals and organisations in restoring, conserving and transforming structures and buildings of heritage value in the region. The awards give people a sense of pride and sense of ownership of their own heritage.

445. The **53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** has been held at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa. The festival has been hosted by the Government of Goa, and the Directorate of Film Festivals.

The opening and closing films of the IFFI 2022 festival were the Austrian film **'Alma and Oskar'**, directed by Dieter Berner, and Krzysztof Zanussi's **'Perfect Number'**.
Eight movies were shown as part of the Country Focus package, with **France** serving as the "spotlight" nation.

Winners of the 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI)	
Awards	**Winners**
Golden Peacock (Best Film)	'I Have Electric Dreams'

		(Spanish film directed by Valentina Maurel)
Silver Peacock	**Best Director**	**Nader Saeivar** (Turkish film 'No End')
	Best Actor (Male)	**Vahid Mobasheri** (Turkish film 'No End')
	Best Actor (Female)	Daniela Marin Navarro (Spanish film 'I Have Electric Dreams')
	Special Jury Award	Lav Diaz ('When the Waves are Gone')
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award		Carlos Saura (Spain)
Indian Film Personality of the Year Award		**Chiranjeevi Konidela**
ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal		Payam Eskandar (Iranian film "Nargesi")
Jury Special Mention		Praveen Kandregula (Indian film 'Cinema Bandi')
Best Debut Feature Film of a Director		Asimina Proedrou (Greek film 'Behind the Haystacks')

446. American dictionary publisher Merriam-Webster has chosen **"Gaslighting"** as its word of the year for 2022. Searches for the word on merriam-webster.com increased 1,740 percent in 2022.

- The official definition for "Gaslighting" is "psychological manipulation of a person usually over an extended period of time that causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and typically leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental stability, and a dependency on the perpetrator."
- The word was first used 80 years ago in a 1938 play titled "Gas Light" by Patrick Hamilton.

447. The Ambassador of France to India, Emmanuel Lenain, has conferred the French National Order, the insignia of Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Mérite on the Director General of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce (IFCCI)/ CCI France-Inde, **Payal S Kanwar** at a special ceremony.

She has been recognized for his outstanding commitment and contribution to developing and promoting economic and bilateral relations between India and France as well as expanding the French business ecosystem in India.

448. **Steven Spielberg** will be honoured with **Lifetime Achievement award** by the **73rd Berlin International Film Festival 2023**. He will be honoured with an homage and Golden Bear for

lifetime achievement in February 2023 in Berlin, Germany. His latest film 'The Fablemans' will also screen at the festival.

449. **Sonam Wangchuk**, the Ladakh-based engineer whose life inspired a character in Bollywood blockbuster "3 Idiots", has been awarded the seventh **Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios Award** by former Vice President Venkaiah Naidu.

Earlier, he won the Ramon Magsasay Award for his community-driven reform of learning systems in remote northern India.

Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios Award

The award is instituted by the Sophia Society of the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church. The award is given every alternate year in the memory of the first Metropolitan of Delhi Diocese and noted philosopher Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios.

450. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), has felicitated **Rajendra Singh Pawar**, Chairman & Founder, NIIT with **'Lifetime Achievement Award 2022'** at the 8th FICCI Higher Education Excellence Awards ceremony held in New Delhi. He has been recognized for his immense contribution and exemplary work in the field of education as well as creating the IT Training industry.

451. British Prime Minister **Rishi Sunak** and his wife **Akshata Murty**, whose father N R Narayana Murthy co-founded Indian IT major Infosys have made their debut on the **'Asian Rich List 2022'**, which profiles the richest 101 Asians in the UK. They are ranked 17th on the list, with an estimated wealth of 790 million pounds.

- The **Hinduja family** has topped the list for the eighth time in a row, with an estimated worth of 30.5 billion pounds, up three billion pounds from the previous year.
- Lakshmi Mittal and his son Aditya (12.8 billion pounds) and Prakash Lohia and family (8.8 billion pounds) and Nirmal Sethia (6.5 billion pounds) are other richest on the list.

452. **International Snow Leopard Trust** has been honoured with the 17th edition of **BBVA Foundation Biodiversity Conservation Awards** for its role for supporting Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program (**GSLEP**).

- The GSLEP is a first-of-its-kind intergovernmental alliance for the conservation of the snow leopard and its unique ecosystem.
- It is led by the environment ministers of 12 countries in Asia that form the home range of the snow leopard. These are Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The total range spans two million square kilometres.
- The secretariat of GSLEP Program is based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and is hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

453. French Author **Rene Naba** has authored a new book titled **'Nuclearization of Asia'**. The book depicts the nuclear emergency and the threat posed by the nexus of Pakistan and China to South Asia.

454. Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh has unveiled the booklet **"Agenda for Members of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development"**. Through this booklet, information about all the schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development such as MGNREGA, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Rural Livelihood Mission, PM Awas Yojna- Grameen, PM Gram Sadak Yojna, etc. will be available to the representative and the general public.

455. Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship **Rajiv Chandrashekhar** has released two books on the achievements and legacy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in **Dubai**, UAE. These books are **"Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery"** and **"Heartfelt: The Legacy of Faith"**.

The books have been released at a programme of Vishwa Sadhbhavana, NID Foundation (Dubai chapter) to enhance and consolidate bonds of fraternity and solidarity among people in the US, Australia, and New Zealand.

456. **B.V.R Mohan Reddy**, an Indian entrepreneur, and founder and chairman of **Cyient**, has authored a new book titled 'Engineered in India: From Dreams to billion dollar Cyient'. It has been published by **Penguin Business**. The book narrates the author's journey and struggles in creating 'Cyient, which provides outsourced engineering services.

457. A new book titled **"E. K. Janaki Ammal: Life and Scientific Contributions"**, featuring the life and remarkable achievements of Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal, a pioneering botanist and the **first** Indian woman to be awarded a PhD in the botanical sciences, has been authored by retired school teacher **Nirmala James**.

- The book is published by Enview Research and Development.
- The book has been released during the event organized on the **125th** birth anniversary of E.K. Janaki Ammal.
- She was born on 4th November 1897 in Thalassery in Kannur district of Kerala.

- The book depicts how Dr Janaki Ammal fulfilled her professional dreams despite the gender and caste barriers.

Other books released: 'Chromosome Woman, Nomad Scientist: E K Janaki Ammal, A Life 1897-1984' by Savithri Preetha Nair

458. Union Education & Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has released the book titled **'India: The Mother of Democracy'** prepared and published by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in New Delhi. The book aims to demonstrate the democratic values that have been ingrained in India since the beginning of civilisation.

PERSON IN NEWS

459. **Luis Inacio Lula da Silva**, popularly known as Lula, has been elected as the **39th President of Brazil**. He has become Brazil's President for the third term, having served the first two terms from 2003 to 2010. He has secured 50.9 percent of votes compared to incumbent far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's 49.1 percent.

460. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) - **Sugarcane Breeding Institute (SBI)** has appointed **G. Hemaprabha**, as the **1st woman** Director of the institute. She has been appointed Director of the institute up to 2024 on the recommendations of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi, under the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. She has succeeded Bakshi Ram.

461. Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Officer of 2001 batch **Dr Rajesh Ranjan** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of **Cote d'Ivoire**. He will replace IFS officer of 1996 batch Y. K. Sailas Thangal. He is presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Botswana.

462. The Government of India (GoI) has appointed spiritual leader **Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma)** as the Chair of **Civil 20 (C20)**, an official engagement group of the Group of 20 (G20).

The C20 is G20s platform for **civil-society organisations (CSOs)** to bring forth non-government and non-business voices to the G20 leaders.

- The G20 is the premier inter-governmental forum for the world's developed and emerging economies to address financial stability on a global basis.
- India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023.
- The G20 Leaders' Summit will take place in New Delhi at the level of Heads of State and Government from 9 to 10 September 2023.

The G20 consists of 19 countries plus the European Union, and India has been a member since its inception in 1999. The G20 accounts for about 80 percent of gross world product (GWP), 59-77 percent of international trade, two-thirds of the world's population, and roughly half of its land area.

463. **Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta** has taken over the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, after the post superannuation of Arun Kumar Singh on 31st October 2022. He also holds the charge for Director Finance and Director (HR). He is set to superannuate in June 2031.

464. The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** has appointed two women officers **Annie Abraham** and **Seema Dhundiya** as **Inspectors General (IG)** from its cadre for the first time. An IG is the head of the sector in the CRPF. Both of them were in the first batch of women officers who were inducted into CRPF in 1987.

- IG Annie Abraham has been appointed as the head of the **Rapid Action Force (RAF)** of the CRPF.
- IG Seema Dhundiya has been appointed as the head of the **Bihar Sector** of the CRPF.

They have been decorated with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, Police Medal for Meritorious Service and the 'Ati Utkrisht Sewa Padak' during their service.

Note: CRPF was the first central armed police force to induct women in combat in 1986.

465. **Subhrakant Panda**, the managing director of Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys Ltd (IMFA), has been named the next President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**FICCI**). He is currently serving as the senior vice president of FICCI.

- He is the first Odisha industrialist to hold a top position in FICCI.
- He will succeed **Sanjiv Mehta** as President of FICCI at the end of the 95th Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is to be held on 16th to 17th December 2022.

466. The Government of India (GoI) has constituted a high-level committee to strengthen the **Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Educational Institutions.**

- The committee has been formed under the chairmanship of **K Radhakrishnan**, chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur.
- **Other members**: Mridul Hazarika, vice-chancellor, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Assam; Bharat Bhasker, Professor, IIM Lucknow and the Joint Secretary, department of higher education, ministry of education.

- The mandate of the Committee includes strengthening assessment and accreditation processes and preparing a road map for the National Accreditation Council envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.

467. **Benjamin Netanyahu**, head of the right-wing Likud party, has won the **25th elections of Knesset**, parliament of Israel, by defeating the interim Prime Minister Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid, a centre-left political party. With this, he has become the new Prime Minister of **Israel.**

Earlier, he served as the Prime Minister of Israel from 1996 to 1999 and 2009 to 2021.

468. **Jay Y Lee** has been appointed as the Executive Chairman of **Samsung Electronics Co Ltd** (Samsung), a subsidiary of Samsung Group. He has been vice chairman of Samsung Electronics since 2012.

Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. is a South Korean multinational electronics corporation headquartered in Yeongtong-gu, Suwon, South Korea.

469. **Ajit Mohan**, Vice President & Managing Director (MD), India at Facebook-parent Meta Platforms Inc. has resigned after a nearly 4 years stint. He will join Snap Inc. as the President of the Asia-Pacific region (APAC).

Manish Chopra, director and head of partnerships at Meta India, has been named the new Head (interim) of Meta India.

470. The Board of Directors of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has approved the appointment of **K.V. Kamath** as an Independent Director of the company for a period of **5 years**. He has also been appointed as an Independent Director and non-executive Chairman for Reliance Strategic Investment Limited (**RSIL**). He is currently the Chairman of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (**NaBFID**).

RSIL will be renamed as Jio Financial Services Limited (“JFSL") and the scheme of demerger approved by the board of directors for demerger of the financial services business.

471. Senior bureaucrat **Vivek Joshi** has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance. He has replaced **Sanjay Malhotra** as he will become the new Revenue Secretary. He is a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Haryana cadre.

472. Skechers South Asia Private Limited, a subsidiary of Skechers USA, has appointed Bollywood actress **Kriti Sanon** as the new brand ambassador for **Skechers India**. She will be the face of the fashion and lifestyle categories for the brand and appear in its upcoming campaign for a line of streetwear sneakers.

473. The Government of India (GoI) has recently constituted the **22nd Law Commission of India** with **Justice (retd) Rituraj Awasthi**, former Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, as its Chairman.

Other five members on the commission include former Kerala High Court judge Justice K T Sankaran, M Karunanithi, and law professors Anand Paliwal, D P Verma, and Raka Arya.
Note: The tenure of the 21st Law Commission, which was headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice B S Chauhan, came to an end on August 31 2018.

Law Commission of India

The Law Commission of India is a **non-statutory body** that is constituted by a notification of the Government of India, with definite terms of reference to carry out research in the field of law.

- It was first constituted in **1955.**
- The main function of the Commission is to research and advise the Government of India on legislative matters and its reforms.
- It consists of legal experts and is headed by a retired judge.
- The Commission is constituted for **three years** and serves as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice.

474. **GSMA**, a global organization covering mobile ecosystem across countries, has elected **Gopal Vittal**, Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bharti Airtel Group, as Deputy Chair of the GSMA Board of Directors. He has been elected for a two-year term, beginning 1 January 2023 through 31 December 2024.

475. All India Rubber Industries Association (AIRIA) has elected **Ramesh Kejriwal** of India Oil Seals and Synthetic Products, Kolkata, as its new President for the year 2022-23. He has succeeded Sawar Dhanania.

Shashi Kumar Singh of Osaka Rubber Pvt Ltd., Mumbai, has been elected as the Senior Vice-President and **Sanjeev Sikka** of Majestic Rubber Industries, Ghaziabad has been elected as the Vice-President.

476. Mahindra Rural Housing Finance Limited (MRHFL), a subsidiary of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Ltd, has appointed **Shantanu Rege** as its Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He has succeeded Rajnish Agarwal.

477. **Switzerland Tourism** has appointed Olympic gold medalist **Neeraj Chopra** as its 'Friendship Ambassador' to showcase and promote locations in Switzerland to Indian travellers. He will share his experiences in Switzerland to showcase it as the ideal destination for outdoors and the best destination for hiking, biking, soft and extreme adventure and snow sports.

478. **Religare Enterprises Limited (REL)**, a financial services company, has appointed Padma Shri awardee and Indian freestyle wrestler **Yogeshwar Dutt**, as its brand ambassador. He will be the face of the company's integrated brand marketing campaigns across mediums.

Note: Yogeshwar Dutt was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2013.

479. **Natasha Pirc Musar**, a human rights lawyer linked to former US first lady Melania Trump, has become the first female President of **Slovenia**. She has defeated Anze Logar the former Foreign Minister and a veteran of conservative politics in the elections.

480. **Elon Musk** has become the new Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) of **Twitter**, the social media company, as he acquired Twitter for USD 44 billion. He has replaced Parag Agarwal. He is also the CEO of Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink, and The Boring.

481. **Nykaa Fashion**, the multi-brand ecommerce fashion and lifestyle destination, has appointed Bollywood actress **Jhanvi Kapoor** as its brand ambassador for its website and two apps including Nykaa Beauty and Nykaa Fashion that caters to the needs of consumers.

482. The President of India Droupadi Mormu, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, has appointed senior IAS officer and former CEO of MyGov **Gaurav Dwivedi** as the Executive Member (Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in **Prasar Bharati** with effect from the date he assumes charge of the office. He has been appointed for a period of five years. He is an IAS officer of the 1995 batch of the Chhattisgarh Cadre.

Director General of Doordarshan Mayank Agrawal was given the additional charge of CEO Prasar Bharati in June 2022.

483. The Government of India (GoI) has recently approved the appointment of former Chief Economic Advisor **Arvind Virmani** as a full-time member of the **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog** with immediate effect and until further orders. He is the Founder & Chairman of Foundation for Economic Growth & Welfare.

The other existing Members of NITI Aayog are VK Saraswat, Ramesh Chand and VK Paul.

484. Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has appointed **Suraj Bhan** as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of **National Pension System Trust (NPS Trust)** with effect from 12th November, 2022. He is responsible for managing funds under the NPS Trust. He has succeeded Dinesh Kumar Mehrotra.

485. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed **Dr CV Ananda Bose** as the new Governor of West Bengal. He is a 1977 batch (retired) Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Kerala cadre. His appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

Manipur Governor La Ganesan had been holding the additional charge of West Bengal since July 2022.

486. Facebook-parent Meta has appointed **Sandhya Devanathan** as the new **Head of Meta India** with effect from 1st January 2023. In her new role, she will report to Dan Neary, vice-president of Meta's overall APAC (Asia Pacific) business. She has succeeded Ajit Mohan who resigned from Meta India on 3rd November 2022.

487. The Government of India (GoI) has extended the tenure of **Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief Sanjay Kumar Mishra** by a year till 18th November 2023. He is a 1984-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. He was first appointed as the ED chief in November 2018 for a period of 2 years.

488. Real11, an online gaming company, has appointed Indian Cricketer **Kuldeep Yadav** as its brand ambassador. This will help the company reach a wider audience in the nation.

This collaboration will play a pivotal role for the brand as the game of skill industry is growing at a brisk pace and the brand strives to set a benchmark in the space in near future.

489. **Ghana** has assumed the **Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** for **November 2022.** During the month of November 2022, Ghana shall preside over the meetings of the Council (adoptions, debates and consultations) and, under its authority, shall represent the Security Council in its capacity as an organ of the United Nations.

Ghana was first given the opportunity to serve on the council from 1962 to 1963. It is the third time Ghana is holding a non-permanent seat on the Council.

490. President of India Droupadi Mormu has appointed **Arun Goel** as the new Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India (ECI). He is a 1985 batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre. He has joined the 3 member ECI which includes, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey.

Note: As per **Article 324**, a person can hold the office of an Election Commissioner or Chief Election Commissioner for 6 years or till the age of 65.

491. American business magazine **Fortune** has released the 2022 edition of its annual **'40 Under 40'** list. The 2022 edition has featured two Indian-origin entrepreneurs: **Ankit Gupta**, Founder & CEO of Bicycle Health and **Kanav Kariya**, President of Jump Crypto.

- Ankit Gupta has been featured on the list under the Health and Bioscience category while Kanav Kariya has been featured under the Finance and Crypto category.
- The list also includes renowned Barbadian singer Rihanna, famed TikToker Khaby Lame, and French footballer Kylian Mbappe.

492. Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India **Rajiv Kumar** has been invited by the Election Commission of Nepal as an **international observer** for the forthcoming elections to Nepal's House of Representatives and Provincial Assembly.

- He will lead a delegation of ECI officials as State guest in Nepal from 18 November to 22 November, 2022.
- Elections are scheduled in Nepal on 20 November to elect 275 members of the Federal Parliament and 550 seats of the seven Provincial Assemblies.

493. **Prof. Venu Gopal Achanta**, Director, CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi, has been elected as a member of the prestigious International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM).

He has been declared an elected Member of CIPM in the recently held 27th General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) meeting in Paris, France.
He is among 18 elected members from different countries and 7th personality in Indian history elected to CIPM.

International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM):
The CIPM is a supreme international committee that functions under the authority of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM), the highest intergovernmental international organization created as a diplomatic treaty called the Meter Convention signed on 20th May 1875 in Paris.
At present, CGPM is represented by 64 member countries and meets every 4th year at the International Bureau of Weight, and Measure (BIPM), France. India became a member of the CGPM in 1957.

494. Former diplomat **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** has been re-elected as the President of **Kazakhstan**. He has secured a second term in the snap election, winning 81.31% of the vote.

495. **Vinit Kumar**, Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer of the 1993 batch, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (**KVIC**) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) at KVIC Central Office, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

496. Malaysia's veteran opposition leader **Anwar Ibrahim** has been named the **10th Prime Minister of Malaysia** by King Sultan Abdullah. He has succeeded Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

497. The Board of Directors of the National Dairy Development Board (**NDDB**) has promoted **Meenesh C Shah**, the acting Chairman of NDDB, to **Managing Director (MD)** from Executive Director. His tenure as acting Chairman of NDDB ends on 30th November 2022.

498. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has appointed Padma Shri, Khel Ratna Arjuna Awardee and the President of the Paralympic Committee of India **Deepa Malik** as Nikshay Mitra ambassador in New Delhi. She has adopted 5 TB patients as Ni-Kshaya Mitra and encouraged people to enrol in this scheme.

Nikshay Mitra:

It is an initiative under Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2018. The initiative ensures three-pronged support includes: Nutritional, Additional diagnostic, and Vocational support. This program was brought in the direction of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan with the aim of eradicating TB by 2025.

499. **Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo** has been re-elected as the President of **Equatorial Guinea** for his sixth term with 95% of the vote. He is the world's longest-serving president.

500. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of **Sundararaman Ramamurthy** as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **BSE Limited** (formerly Bombay Stock Exchange).

He has succeeded Ashishkumar Chauhan who resigned as BSE chief in July 2022 to join National Stock Exchange (NSE) as MD & CEO.



OBITUARIES

501. **Jhulto Pul (Morbi Bridge)**, a pedestrian suspension bridge over the **Machchhu River** in the city of Morbi, Gujarat, has collapsed, leading to the deaths of at least 141 people. It collapsed four days after it was reopened, after being closed for over seven months for repair and renovation work. The 754-feet bridge on the Machchu River was built during British rule in the 19th Century.

Note: Suspension bridge is a type of bridge in which the deck is hung below suspension cables on vertical suspenders.

502. Assam's noted painter **Neel Pawan Baruah** has recently passed away at the age of 86. He was born on 1st June 1936 at Teok in Jorhat, Assam. He was married to Dipali Borthakur, the 'Nightingale of Assam' who passed away in 2018. He established the Charu Karu Kala Parishad in Charaideo, Assam in 1971.

He was awarded the **'Assam Sourabh'** award by the Government of Assam in 2021.

503. Indian industrialist **Jamshed Jiji Irani**, popularly known as the **Steel Man of India**, has recently passed away at the age of 86 in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He was born on 2nd June 1936 in Nagpur, Maharashtra. He was associated with Tata Steel for over 4 decades and retired from the board of Tata Steel in June 2011.

He also served as the national president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 1992-93. He was appointed as the Chairman of the Expert Committee for the formation of the new Companies Act of India in 2004.

Awards/Honours:

- He was conferred an honorary knighthood (KBE) by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997.
- He received the **Padma Bhushan** in **2007** from Government of India.
- He was appointed an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1996.

504. Noted Gandhian, leading women's empowerment activist, and renowned founder of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), **Ela Bhatt** has recently passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. She was born on 7th September 1933 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

She was the Chairperson of Sabarmati Ashram and recently resigned as the Chancellor (from 7 March 2015 to 19 October 2022) of Mahatma Gandhi-founded Gujarat Vidhyapith.

Awards:

- Ramon Magsaysay Award: 1977
- Right Livelihood Award: 1984 for "helping home-based producers to organise for their welfare and self-respect"
- Padma Bhushan: **1986**

505. **Shyam Saran Negi**, *the first voter of independent India*, has recently passed away at his native place Kalpa in Kinnaur district of **Himachal Pradesh**. He was 106 years old. He was born on 1st July 1917 in Kalpa village in Himachal Pradesh. He had retired as a school teacher in 1975.

- He became the first to cast his vote in first general elections on 25th October 1951 at Chini village (now Kalpa).

- He was appointed as the brand ambassador of Himachal Pradesh State Election Commission in 2014.
- He exercised his right to franchise for the 34th time for the 14th Vidhan Sabha Elections through postal ballot at his home.
- He cast his vote through a postal ballot for the first time.

506. Noted Indian mathematician and electrical engineering professor **Rangasami Lakshminarayan Kashyap** has recently passed away at the age of 85. He was born on 28th March 1938. He was the founder of Sakshi Sanstha.

- He along with Harvard professor Yu-Chi Ho developed the **'Ho-Kashyap rule'**, an important result (algorithm) in pattern recognition.
- He translated 25 thousand Sanskrit mantras into English language and created more than 50 books.
- He is the **only** person in the world to translate all the 4 Vedas.
- He was awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2021** by the central government for his considerable service in the field of studying the Vedas.

507. Noted Telugu actor **Ghattamaneni Siva Rama Krishna**, popularly known as **Krishna**, has recently passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana. He was born on 31st May 1943 in Burripalem, Madras Province, British India (now Andhra Pradesh). He is the father of renowned Telugu actor Mahesh Babu.

He was honoured with the **Padma Bhushan** for his contributions to Indian cinema in **2009**.

508. Noted political analyst (psephologist) **Sir David Butler**, known as the **"Father of modern election science"**, has recently passed away at the age of 98 in the United Kingdom (UK). He was born on the 17th October 1924 in London, England. He introduced the *Swingometer*, a graphics device used to show the shift of votes from one party to another.

509. Veteran director **Rakesh Kumar**, known for films "Mr. Natwarlal", "Khoon Pasina", "Do Aur Do Paanch" and "Yaarana" with megastar Amitabh Bachchan, has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

510. India's Basketball legend **Gulam Abbas Moontasir** has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was born on 7th January 1942 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

- He represented India in the quadrangular in Colombo in 1964 and captained the Indian side in the Asian Basketball Championship held in Bangkok in 1969 and 1975.
- He became the first Indian basketball player to receive the **Arjuna Award** in 1970 for his achievement in national sport.
- He authored a book titled *'Principles of Basketball'*.

511. **Vikram Gokhale**, veteran film and TV actor, has recently passed away in Pune, Maharashtra. He was born on 14th November 1945 in Pune, Bombay Presidency.

He was known for his roles in Marathi theatre, Hindi films and television. He won the **National Film Award** for Best Actor category for his Marathi film *Anumati*.

SPORTS

512. The **Yonex French Open Badminton Tournament 2022** has been held at the Stade Pierre de Coubertin in Paris, France. It is the 18th tournament of the 2022 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour.

Category	Winners
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Women's Singles	He Bingjiao (China)
Men's Doubles	**Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty** (India)
Women's Doubles	Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Malaysia)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)

513. The 7th edition of the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup**, the multinational–international women's youth football championship, has been hosted by India at 3 cities of Bhubaneswar (Odisha) in Kalinga Stadium; Margao, Goa in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium; and Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra in DY Patil Stadium from 11-30 October 2022.

- **Spain** has won the 2022 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup by defeating **Colombia** with 1-0 in the final match held at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Spain has become the second team after North Korea to win the title twice. Spain earlier won the title in 2018.

Morocco and Tanzania, along with host India, made their debuts in the tournament.
Mascot: Ibha
Slogan: Kick Off The Dream

514. **Indian Junior Men's Hockey team**, led by Uttam Singh (Captain), has won the **10th** edition of **Sultan of Johor Cup 2022** by defeating **Australia** in a shootout 5-4 after a 1-1 draw at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. This is the **third** time India has won the Sultan of Johor Cup.

- The Top goal scorer in the tournament is India's **Sharda Nand Tiwari** (7 goals).

- The Player of the Match in the Final against Australia is **Sudeep Chirmako**.

The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sultan of Johor Cup:
It is an annual, international under–21 men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia. The first edition was held in 2011. India and Great Britain are the most successful teams having won the tournament three times.

515. **Kerala** will host the **Track Asia Cup 2022 Cycling Tournament**, one of the biggest cycling events, at the LNCPE Outdoor Velodrome from 25th November 2022 to 28th November 2022. Around 200 cyclists will participate from over 25 countries in Asia. The event is being conducted outside Delhi for the first time.

Track Asia Cup is sanctioned by the Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) and the Cycling Federation of India.

516. The **2022 Asian Continental Chess Championship** has been organized by the Delhi Chess Association in New Delhi from 25th October to 3rd November 2022. The tournament type is swiss-system.

Open Section:

Grandmaster (GM) **R. Praggnanandhaa** has won the Gold in the Open section. GM Harsha Bharathakoti has finished 2nd and GM Adhiban B has finished 3rd in the tournament.

Women's Section:

Women Grandmaster (WGM) **PV Nandhidhaa** has won the Gold in the Women's section. WGM Priyanka Nutakki has finished 2nd and WGM Divya Deshmukh has finished 3rd in the tournament.

517. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has won the **Mexico City Grand Prix 2022** to set a Formula One (F1) record of 14 victories from a single season and also scored the most points in the season. Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton has finished second, and Red Bull's Sergio Perez has finished third in the event.

518. **Mumbai**, led by Ajinkya Rahane, has won the fifteen edition of Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2022-23, a Twenty20 competition, by defeating **Himachal Pradesh**, led by Rishi Dhawan, by 4 wickets in the final match held at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- **Player of the match (final)**: Tanush Kotian (Mumbai)
- **Most runs**: Yash Dhull (363) (Delhi)
- **Most wickets**: Siddarth Kaul (19) (Punjab)

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy:

It is a domestic T-20 cricket championship in India, organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), among the teams from the Ranji Trophy. It is named after Indian former test cricketer Syed Mushtaq Ali. It was first held in 2006-07. Tamil Nadu is the the most successful team of the tournament.

519. The **2022 BWF Para-Badminton World Championships** has been held from 1st to 6th November 2022 in Tokyo, Japan. In the championship, Indonesia has topped the medal tally with 11 medals (6 Gold, 2 Silver, and 3 Bronze), followed by Japan (3 Gold, 2 Silver, and 5 Bronze), and South Korea (2.5 Gold, 2 Silver, and 5 Bronze).

India has finished **4th** in the medal tally with 2 Gold, 2 Silver, and 11.5 Bronze.

- Indian Para-badminton player **Pramod Bhagat (Odisha)** has won the **men's singles (SL3) title** by defeating Nitish Kumar in the finals.
- Nitish Kumar (Haryana) has won the silver in Men's Singles SL3 event.
- Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar (Uttarakhand) have won the silver medal in Men's Doubles SL3 event.
- **Manisha Ramadoss (Tamil Nadu)** has won the gold medal in the **women's singles (SU5) title** by defeating Mamiko Toyoda of Japan in the finals.

520. The **2022 Hylo Open**, a badminton tournament, has been held at the Saarlandhalle in Saarbrücken, Germany, from 1 to 6 November 2022. The tournament has a total prize of USD 180,000.

Category	Winners
Men's singles	**Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)**
Women's singles	Han Yue (China)
Men's Doubles	Lu Ching-yao and Yang Po-han (Taiwan)
Women's Doubles	Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard (Thailand)
Mixed Doubles	Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto and Lisa Ayu Kusumawati (Indonesia)

521. **Belgium and the Netherlands** will co-host the men's and women's International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cups in **2026**.

- The two FIH Hockey World Cups will be held in July or August 2026 in Amsterdam/Amstelveen in the Netherlands and Wavre in Belgium.

- Both the women's and men's teams will play at both venues.
- The Netherlands are the defending champions at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026.

Note: India will host the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 from January 13 to 29.

522. **Viacom18 Sports**, a joint venture between Network 18 and Paramount Global, has signed a **seven-year** partnership agreement with **Cricket South Africa (CSA)** to telecast and stream all international cricket played in the rainbow nation from **2024-2031**.

- Viacom 18 Sports will broadcast all senior men's and senior women's international matches held in South Africa.
- The partnership will cover all international cricket from South Africa, including the Mahatma Gandhi-Nelson Mandela series between India and South Africa.
- The deal includes other high-profile series like the Basil D'Oliveira against England and tours from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, and Bangladesh.
- Viacom 18 recently announced a 10-year partnership with SA20, South Africa's premier cricket league.

Note: South Africa's new Twenty20 Competition will be called **SA20.**

523. **India** will host the **2023 International Boxing Association (IBA) Women's World Boxing Championship**, elite women's competition, in 2023 in **New Delhi**, Delhi.

- The Host City Agreement has been signed between IBA and the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) in the presence of IBA President Umar Kremlev and BFI President Ajay Singh.
- It will be the third Women's World Championships (13th edition) to be conducted in India.

Previously, India hosted the Women's championship in 2006 and 2018, both times in New Delhi. India also hosted the Women's Youth World Championships in 2017.

524. West Indies batting legend **Shivnarine Chanderpaul**, England Women's team legend **Charlotte Edwards** and Pakistan conic spinner **Abdul Qadir** have been inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Charlotte Edwards and Abdul Qadir have become inductees number 107, 108 and 109 respectively.

ICC Cricket Hall of Fame:
The ICC Cricket Hall of Fame was launched on 2nd January 2009, in association with the Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA). It recognises the achievements of the legends of the game from cricket's long and illustrious history.

525. **Uttar Pradesh** will host the **Khelo India National University Games in 2023-24** in four cities of the state. These cities are **Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi and Noida.**

- Around 4,500 athletes will participate representing 150 universities across the country.
- There will be 20 disciplines including basketball, judo, kabaddi, wrestling, swimming, boxing, rowing, etc.
- Disciplines like kabaddi, judo, archery, and fencing will be organised in Noida, whereas Gorakhpur will organize rowing.
- Events of wrestling, malkhamb and yoga will be held in Varanasi, whereas the rest of the events will be organized in Lucknow.

526. Australia has hosted the **8th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022** from 16 October to 13th November 2022. The host cities are Adelaide, Brisbane, Geelong, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

- **England** has won the 8th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 after defeating Pakistan in the final match held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Melbourne.
- This is England's second title.
- **Sam Curran** of England has been named the *Player of the Match (finals)* and also the *Player of the Tournament*.

Major achievements:

- **Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav** have been named in the "Most Valuable Team" of ICC 2022 T20 World Cup.
- **Suryakumar Yadav** has become the first Indian player to score 1,000 T20 International runs in a calendar year of T20I.
- **Virat Kohli** has become the first player to end two ICC T20 World Cup as the leading run-scorer in the tournament. He has also become the first batter in history to score 4000 runs in T20 Internationals.
- Pakistan's opening pair of **Babur Azam and Mohammad Rizwan** have become the first-ever duo to have three-century stands in the history of the ICC T20 World Cup.
- **Sikandar Raza** of Zimbabwe has become the first-ever player in the history of T20I cricket to score 500+ runs and take 25 wickets during a calendar year in T20I.

527. Danish teenager **Holger Rune** has won the men's singles title at the **2022 Rolex Paris Masters** by defeating 6-times champion **Novak Djokovic** in the final held at the Accor Arena in Paris, France.

Wesley Koolhof and Neal Skupski have won the men's doubles title at the tournament.

528. Indian cricketer **Virat Kohli** has been named the **ICC Men's Player of the Month for October 2022** after some outstanding performances in the shortest format of the game.

Pakistan all-rounder **Nida Dar** has been named the **ICC Women's Player of the Month for October 2022** after some terrific performances during the Women's Asia Cup.

529. **Netherland** cricketer **Stephan Myburgh** has announced his retirement from International cricket. He made his ODI debut for the Netherlands against Kenya in 2011. He represented the Netherlands in 22 ODIs and 45 T20Is. He is the 3rd-highest run-getter for the Netherlands in T20Is.

530. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has adopted a resolution to designate **November 18** annually as the ***'World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence'***.

The day encourages commitments to raising public awareness of those affected by child sexual abuse and the need to prevent and eliminate child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence, and the imperative to hold perpetrators to account; ensuring the access of survivors and victims to justice and remedies; as well as facilitating open discussion on the need to prevent and eliminate their stigmatisation, promote their healing, affirm their dignity and protect their rights.

531. Mercedes's driver **George Russell** has won the **2022 Brazilian Grand Prix** held at the Interlagos Circuit in São Paulo, Brazil. Mercedes's driver Lewis Hamilton has finished second and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz has finished third in the race.

532. **Switzerland** has won the **Billie Jean King Cup 2022** for the first time after defeating Australia in the final in Glasgow, Scotland. Belinda Bencic has beaten Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic in straight sets in the second match of the finals to give them an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Billie Jean King Cup:

It is the premier international team competition in women's **tennis**, launched as the Federation Cup in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Tennis Federation. It was named in honour of former World No.1 Billie Jean King in 2020.

533. The ICC board has unanimously re-elected **Greg Barclay** of **New Zealand** as the Independent Chair of the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** for a second two-year term. He was originally appointed as the ICC Chair in November 2020.

He was previously the Chair of New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and was a director of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2015.

534. The **2022 Asian Amateur Boxing Championships** has been held in Amman, Jordan from 1st to 12th November 2022. **Kazakhstan** has topped the medal tally with 21 medals (6 Gold, 7 Silver, and 8 Bronze). Uzbekistan has finished second with 12 medals (6 Gold, 3 Silver, and 3 Silver), followed by **India** with **12 medals (4 Gold, 2Silver, and 6 Bronze).**

India Medal Winners:

Medals	Winners
Gold	**Lovlina Borgohain** (women's 75kg), Saweety Boora (women's 81kg), Alfiya Pathan (women's +81kg), and Parveen Hooda (women's 63kg)
Silver	**Shiva Thapa** (men's 63.5kg) and Minakshi (women's 52kg)
Bronze	Govind Sahani (men's 48kg), Mohammad Hussamuddin (men's 57kg), Sumit (men's 75kg), Narender (men's +92kg), **Preeti Dahiya** (women's 57kg), and Ankushita Boro (women's 66kg).

535. President of the Paris 2024 Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Tony Estanguet, has unveiled the mascots for **Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, **"The Phryges"** (pronounced fri-jee-uhs) in Paris, France.

The Olympic Phryge and Paralympic Phryge mascots are based on Phrygian caps, a type of **hat** that has become an enduring symbol of freedom throughout French history.

Features of Phryges:

- Phryges are small Phrygian caps, which represent a strong symbol of liberty, inclusivity and the ability of people to support great and meaningful causes.
- They are kitted out in a red, white and blue colourway, with the golden Paris 2024 logo emblazoned across their chests.
- They also have a mischievous and expressive eye made of a 'cockade of France', a knot of ribbons that is the French national ornament.

536. Noted table-tennis player **Achanta Sharath Kamal** has become the **first** Indian player to be elected in the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Athletes' Commission.

- Eight athletes have been elected from Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, North America, and Oceania region along with the two highest-voted para-athletes.
- These elected players will serve in the ITTF Athletes' Commission for a period of 4 years starting from 2022 to 2026.

Elected Athletes: Elizabeta Samara (Romania), Achanta Sharath Kamal (India), Daniely Rios (Puerto Rico), Omar Assar (Egypt), Melissa Tapper (Australia), Stefan Fegerl (Austria), Jon Persson (Sweden), and Liu Shiwen (China).

Elected Para-Athletes: Ingela Lundback (Sweden) and Kelly van Zon (Netherlands).

Note: Sharath Kamal will be honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2022, India's highest sports recognition later in November 2022.

537. The **2nd** edition of the **North East Olympics Games** has been held from 10th to 16th November 2022 in **Shillong, Meghalaya**. It has been organised by the Government of Meghalaya and the state Olympic Association under the aegis of Northeast Olympic Association.

- **Manipur** has secured the first position with a total of **240 medals** which included 88 gold medals, 75 silver and 77 bronze medals.
- Assam has finished the second spot with a total of 203 medals which included 79 gold medals, 61 silver and 63 bronze medals.
- Arunachal Pradesh has finished the third spot with a total of 112 medals which included 39 gold, 36 silver and 37 bronze medals.
- Meghalaya has finished at the 4th spot followed by Nagaland at the 5th, Mizoram at 6th, Tripura at 7th and Sikkim at the last position.

Note: The first North East Olympics games was held in Manipur in 2018 and the third edition will be held in Nagaland.

538. The 15th edition of **Asian Airgun Championship 2022** has been held at Daegu International Shooting Range, Daegu in South Korea. **India** has finished first in the championship with 38 medals (**25 Gold, 9 Silver, and 4 Bronze**).

India's gold medal winners:

Men:
Shiva Narwal (10m air pistol), Shiva Narwal, Vijayveer Sidhu, and Naveen (10m air pistol team), Rudrankksh Patil, Arjun Babuta, and Kiran Ankush Jadhav (10 m air rifle team)

Women:
Rhythm Sangwan (10m air pistol), Mehuli Ghosh (10 m air rifle), Mehuli Ghosh, Elavenil Valarivan, and Meghana Sajjanar (10 m air rifle team).

Mixed:
Rhythm Sangwan, and Vijayveer Sidhu (10 m air pistol team), Mehuli Ghosh, and Arjun Babuta (10 m air rifle team).

Junior Men:
Sagar Dangi (10m air pistol), Sagar Dangi, Samrat Rana, and Varun Tomar (10m air pistol team), Divyansh Singh Panwar (10 m air rifle), Divyansh Singh Panwar, Ravishankar Sri Karthik Sabari Raj, and Vidit Jain (10 m air rifle team).

Junior Women:
Manu Bhaker (10m air pistol), Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, and Shikha Narwal (10 m air pistol team), Tilottama Sen (10 m air rifle), Tilottama Sen, Nancy Mandhotra, and Ramita Jindal (10 m air rifle team).

Junior Mixed:
Manu Bhaker and Samrat Rana (10m air pistol team), Ramita Jindal, and Divyansh Singh Panwar (10 m air rifle team).

Youth Men:

Sandeep Bishnoi (10m air pistol), Sandeep Bishnoi, Sahil, and Amit Sharma (10 m air pistol team), Parth Rakesh Mane (10 m air rifle), Parth Rakesh Mane, Sheersh Kashyap, and Abhinav Shaw (10 m air rifle team).

Youth Women:

Yashasvi Joshi, Harnavdeep Kaur, and Kanishka Dagar (10 m air pistol team), Yukthi Rajendra (10 m air rifle), Yukthi Rajendra, Gautami Bhanot, and Hazel (10 m air rifle team).

539. Indian table tennis player **Manika Batra** has won the bronze medal in Women's singles at the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF)-Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) Asian Cup tournament held at Huamark Indoor Stadium in Bangkok, Thailand.

- She has become the **first Indian woman** and the **second Indian table tennis player** to win medal in Asian Cup Table Tennis tournament.
- She has defeated World number six and three-time Asian champion Hina Hayata by 4-2 to clinch the bronze medal.

Note: Chetan Baboor was the first Indian table tennis player to win a medal in Asian Cup. He won the silver in 1997 and bronze in the 2000 Asian Cup.

540. Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** has won the **2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix** held at the Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This is his 15th win of this season.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc has finished second, and Red Bull's Sergio Pérez has finished third in the event.

The 2022 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix is the final race of 2022 Formula One World Season.

541. World champion boxer **MC Mary Kom**, double Olympic Badminton medallist **PV Sindhu** and multiple-time winter Luge Olympian **Shiva Keshavan** are among 10 eminent sportspersons elected unopposed as members of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) Athletes Commission in the polls held in New Delhi.

The other seven members of the apex body are Tokyo Olympics silver medallist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, 2012 Olympics bronze winner shooter Gagan Narang, veteran table tennis player Achanta Sharath Kamal, ace hockey player Rani Rampal, cyclist Bhavani Devi, rower Bajrang Lal and former shot putter OP Karhana.

542. Serbian Tennis player **Novak Djokovic** has won the **Nitto ATP Finals title** for the **6th** time. He has won the title after defeating Norway's Casper Ruud in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in Nitto ATP Finals 2022 held at the Pala Alpitour in Turin, Italy. This marks his 91st career title and 5th title of the 2022 season.

American-British pair **Rajeev Ram** and **Joe Salisbury** have won the 2022 Nitto ATP Finals doubles title.

543. The **2022 Davis Cup** is the 110th edition of the Davis Cup, a tournament between national teams in men's tennis. It is sponsored by Rakuten. It is organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and is contested annually between teams from competing countries in a knock-out format.

- **Canada** has won the Davis Cup title 2022 after defeating Australia in the finals held in Spain.
- This is Canada's first ever Davis Cup title.

544. Legendary former Indian track and field athlete **Pilavullakandi Thekkeraparambil Usha (P.T. Usha)** has been elected as the President of the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA).** With this, she has become the **first woman** President of IOA. She is also the **first** Olympic winner and international medallist to take over the top post.

Earlier in 2022, she was elected as a Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha.

P.T. Usha:

She was born on 27th June 1964 in Kuttali, Kozhikode, Kerala. She is also known as the *'Golden Girl', 'Payyoli Express', and 'Queen of Indian track and field'*.



IMPORTANT DAYS

545. The **Income Tax (IT) Department** has launched the **'HARIT Aaykar'** initiative on the occasion of National Unity Day (31st October) to increase greenery and create micro forests.

- HARIT is the abbreviation of **Hariyali Achievement Resolution by Income Tax**.
- Under this initiative, the Department resolves to increase the green cover by planting trees and creating micro-forests in and around Income Tax Department's buildings and other public areas.
- The first of such micro-forest has been inaugurated by **Nitin Gupta**, Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), at Bharopal, Punjab, near the India-Pak border.

IT Department has also participated in the month-long Special Campaign for Swachhata which ends on 31st October 2022.

546. The **All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC)** has recently completed its **103 years** of formation on **31st October 2022**.

- It was founded in **1920** with **Lala Lajpat Rai** as its first President in Bombay (Mumbai). Its other founders include N M Joshi, Diwan Chaman Lall and Joseph Baptista.

- It is the oldest trade union federation of India and a representative of Indian Workers at International Labour Organisation (ILO) since 1921.
- In 1929 it faced a split (formation of Indian Trade Union Federation by VV Giri) but again merged in 1939.
- It is also among the founding members of World Federation of Trade Unions - established in 1945.

547. In India, seven states namely, **Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab & Madhya Pradesh** and two union territories **Lakshadweep & Puducherry** have observed their Foundation Day on 1st November 2022.

- Kerala was formed on 1st November 1956, by integrating Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar.
- Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1st November 1956, by bringing together all Telugu-speaking regions of Hyderabad.
- Karnataka was founded on Karnataka Rajyotsava Day on 1st November 1956, after the passing of the State Reorganisation Act.
- The State of Madhya Pradesh was formed on 1st November 1956 by merging the erstwhile Central Provinces CP & Berar, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh and Bhopal.
- Chhattisgarh was formed on 1st November 2000. Earlier, Chhattisgarh was a part of Madhya Pradesh.
- The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab on 1st November 1966.
- Punjab Day is celebrated across the state on November 1 marking the formation of the state under the Punjab Reorganisation Act (1966).
- During the reorganization of Indian states in 1956, the Lakshadweep islands were separated from Malabar District and organised into a separate union territory for administrative purposes.
- The formation of Puducherry is celebrated as Liberation Day every year on November 1. The day commemorates the transfer of Puducherry from French colonial rule to India.

Note: Earlier, Tamil Nadu also celebrates its foundation day on November 1. On October 30, 2021, ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu announced that, Tamil Nadu Formation Day will be celebrated on July 18 onwards.

548. **World Vegan Day** is observed annually on **1st November** to spread the benefits of veganism for humans, non-human animals, and the natural environment. The day was started in 1994 by then Chair of The Vegan Society, Louise Wallis, in the United Kingdom, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the organisation and the coining of the terms “vegan” and “veganism”.

Note: The term ‘vegan’ was coined by Donald Watson.

549. **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** observes Vigilance Awareness Week annually during the week in which 31st October, the birthday of late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel falls. The **Vigilance Awareness Week 2022** has been observed from **31st October to 6th November 2022.**

Theme 2022: *"Corruption Free India for a Developed Nation"*
CVC has launched a three-month (16th August to 15th November 2022) campaign highlighting certain preventive vigilance initiatives as focus areas for all the Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations.

The six focus areas include the following:
a) Property Management
b) Management of Assets
c) Record Management
d) Technological Initiatives comprising two parameters: Website Maintenance & updation; and
Identification of new areas for service delivery for customers to be brought on online portal and initiation of steps for creating Online platform.
e) Updation of guidelines / circulars / Manuals wherever found necessary
f) Disposal of complaints

550. **Zojila Day** is observed at the Zojila War Memorial near Drass on **1 November** to celebrate the gallant action by Indian soldiers in **'Operation Bison'** in **1948** which was launched on the icy heights of Zojila pass, the gateway to Ladakh.

- The day epitomises the indomitable spirit of bravery and 'Never Say Die' attitude of the Indian Army.
- Zoji La had been seized by Pakistani raiders in 1948 in their campaign to capture Ladakh.
- The pass was recaptured by Indian forces on 1 November in a daring assault.
- This battle was also historic for the reason that tanks were used for the first time at such heights.

551. The President of India Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the **7th edition** of **India Water Week (IWW) 2022**. The Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has organized the 7th edition of IWW from **1st to 5th November 2022** to promote awareness about the importance of available water.

- **Theme IWW 2022**: "*Water Security for Sustainable Development and Equity*"
- Denmark, Singapore and Finland are the partner country for IWW 2022.
- IWW 2022 international conference has been held at the India Expo Centre in **Greater Noida**, Uttar Pradesh.

Note: The 1st IWW was held in New Delhi from 10th to 14th April 2012.

552. **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** is observed annually on **2nd November** to draw attention to the level of impunity for crimes against journalists, which remains extremely high globally.

The United Nations General Assembly had chosen this day to commemorate the assassination of two French journalists in Mali on 2nd November 2013. The day was first observed in **2014.**

553. **World Tsunami Awareness Day** is observed annually on **5th November** to create awareness among people across the world in matters related to the dangers of tsunami. The day was first observed in 2016.

The United Nations has designated 5th November as World Tsunami Awareness Day on 22nd December 2015. The day aligns with the International Day for Disaster Reduction (October 13) and the seven targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Tsunamis:

The word "tsunami" comprises the Japanese words "tsu" (meaning harbour) and "nami" (meaning wave). A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean.

554. **National Cancer Awareness Day** is observed annually on **7th November** in India to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment.

Former Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan has declared 7th November as the National Cancer Awareness Day in 2014.

555. The birth anniversary of the Nobel Prize winner and Bharat Ratna Awardee Indian Physicist **Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (C.V.Raman)** is annually observed on **7th November**. The year 2022 marks the **134th** birth anniversary of him.

- He was born on 7th November 1888, in Trichinopoly, Tamil Nadu, and died on 21st November 1970, in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- He was awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics** in**1930** for his work on light scattering, known as the **Raman Effect**. He became the first person of Asia descent to win this prestigious award.
- In **1954**, the Government of India honoured him with the first **Bharat Ratna**, its highest civilian award.

556. The **Indo-German Week of the Young Researchers 2022** has been held in **New Delhi** from 7th to 10th November 2022. It has been organized by the Science and Engineering Research Board (**SERB**), India, and German Research Foundation (**DFG**).

- The Department of Chemistry, IIT Delhi has coordinated the conclave.
- The main aim of the conclave is to foster collaboration among early and mid-career researchers and scientists who will be setting the agenda of scientific cooperation in the near future.
- The conclave focuses on *Chemistry and Chemical Biology*.
- During the conclave, 30 promising young researchers from India and Germany have discussed closely on various contemporary matters in chemical sciences.
- The conclave is led by **Prof Vinod K Singh** from IIT Kanpur and **Prof Burkhard König** from University of Regensburg, Germany.

557. **World Urbanism Day**, also known as "World Town Planning Day", is observed annually on **8th November** to recognise and promote the role of planning in creating livable communities.

The day is organised by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). The day was founded in 1949 by the late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires.

558. **International Day of Radiology** is observed annually on **8th November** to promote the role of medical imaging in modern healthcare. The day is a joint initiative of the European Society of Radiology (ESR), the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR). The year 2022 marks the **11th** International Day of Radiology.

The day also marks the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays by **Wilhelm Roentgen** in 1895. The day was first observed in **2012.**
Theme 2022 (as per the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT)): ***'Radiographers at the Forefront of Patient Safety'***
Theme 2022 (as per ESR): ***"Radiologists & radiographers supporting patients"***

559. The State of **Uttarakhand** celebrates its Foundation Day every year on **9th November**. The state was formed on 9th November 2000 as the 27th State of India, when it was carved out of northern Uttar Pradesh. It was earlier known as Uttaranchal, however, in 2007, it was renamed Uttarakhand. It is located at the foothills of the Himalayan mountain ranges. It is largely a hilly State, having international boundaries with China (Tibet) in the north and Nepal in the east.

The year 2022 marks the **22nd Uttarakhand Foundation Day**.

560. **National Legal Services Day** is observed annually on **9th November** to create awareness for ensuring reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens. The day also marks the enactment of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.

The day was first started by the Supreme Court of India in 1995 to provide help and support to poor and weaker sections of the society.

561. **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is observed annually on **10th November** to focus on the important role of science and the need to engage the public widely in debates on emerging scientific issues. The day was declared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2001 and observed for the first time in 2002.

The year 2022 marks the 21st edition of World Science Day for Peace and Development.
Theme 2022: "Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development"

562. **National Education Day** is observed annually on **11th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first education minister of independent India. The year 2022 marks the **134th** birth anniversary of him.

The day was declared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on 11 September 2008.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:

He was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in 1888. He served as India's education minister from 15 August 1947 to 2 February 1958. He was awarded **Bharat Ratna** posthumously, India's highest civilian honour in 1992.

563. **World Pneumonia Day** is observed annually on **12th November** to spread awareness, promote prevention and treatment and produce action to combat the disease. The day was first celebrated in 2009 by the Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia.

564. **Public Service Broadcasting Day** is observed annually on **12th November**. This day is observed to commemorate the first and only visit of the Father of the Nation, **Mahatma Gandhi**, to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.

The day was declared as Public Service Broadcasting Day or (Jan Prasaran Diwas) in 2000.

565. **World Diabetes Day** is observed annually on **14th November** to mark the birth anniversary of Sir Frederick Banting, who discovered the insulin hormone along with Charles Herbert Best in 1922. The day was established by the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1991. The day was recognised by the United Nations in 2006.

Theme 2022: "Access to Diabetes Education"
The 2022 theme underpins the multi-year theme (2021-23) of *'Access to Diabetes Care'*.

566. **Tribal Pride Day** or 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' is observed annually on **15th November** to commemorate the contribution of tribal communities to the history and culture of the nation. The day also commemorates the birth anniversary of **Birsa Munda**, an iconic freedom fighter, social reformer, and renowned tribal leader. The year 2022 marks the **147th** birth anniversary of him.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved to declare 15 November as Tribal Pride Day in 2021.

Birsa Munda:

He was born on 15th November 1875 in Ulihatu village in Jharkhand. He was an Indian tribal freedom fighter, folk hero and a religious leader. He was also known as Dharti Aaba (Father of Earth). He started the faith of 'Birsait'. He led the famous Munda Rebellion in the south of Ranchi in 1899-1900.

567. **National Press Day** is observed annually across India on **16th November** to recognize the importance of the free and responsible press in a democratic society. The day also marks the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI). The day also aims to highlight its importance as the 4th pillar of democracy (media).

Theme 2022: "The Media's Role in Nation Building"

Additional Information:

Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory and quasi-judicial body that works as a watchdog to oversee the print media's conduct. It works under the Press Council Act 1978. It was formed on the recommendations of the First Press Commission in 1966.

- **Chairman**: Justice Ranjan Prakash Desai
- **Headquarters**: New Delhi

568. **World Philosophy Day** is observed annually on the **Third Thursday of November** to promote an academic exchange of philosophy for the development of human thought. In 2022, the day falls on 17th November.

The day was first introduced in 2002 by UNESCO. In 2005, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November.

Theme 2022: "The Human of the Future"

569. India has recently observed its 2nd edition of **'Audit Diwas'** on **16th November** to mark the historic origin of the institution of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) and the contribution it has made to the governance, transparency and accountability over the past several years.

Why 16th November?

On 16th November 1858, after the merger of the audit departments of the Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies under the Government of India Act 1858, the first Auditor General took the charge.

Note: G. C. Murmu is currently serving as the 14th CAG of India.

570. **International Day for Tolerance** is observed annually on **16th November** to raise awareness about the dangers of intolerance. The day also marks the anniversary of UNESCO's Declaration of Principles on Tolerance. The day was first observed in 1997.

UNESCO has also created **'Madanjeet Singh Prize'** to recognize that tolerance is a universal human right. The prize is awarded every two years on the International Day for Tolerance.

- **UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize 2022:** Franca Ma-ih Sulem Yoong (Cameroon)

571. **World COPD Day** is observed annually on the **third Wednesday of November** to spread awareness about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and improve COPD care throughout the world. In 2022, the World COPD Day falls on **16th November**. The day was first observed in 2002.

Theme 2022: "Your Lungs for Life"

COPD is a lung disease that blocks airflow and makes it difficult to breathe.

572. **International Students' Day** is observed annually on **17th November** to ensure that every student has access to education around the globe. The day commemorates the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi attack on the University of Prague during World War II.

573. **National Epilepsy Day** is observed annually across India on **17th November** to create awareness about epilepsy. The day is organized by the Epilepsy Foundation of India.

Epilepsy is a central nervous system (neurological) disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal, causing seizures or periods of unusual behaviour, sensations and sometimes loss of awareness.

Note: The month of November is observed as 'National Epilepsy Awareness Month'.

574. **National Naturopathy Day** is observed annually across India on **18th November** to promote positive mental and physical health through a drugless system of medicine, called as Naturopathy. It was on this day in 1945, when Mahatma Gandhi became lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust. The day was first observed in 2018 by the Ministry of AYUSH.

Theme 2022: 'Naturopathy: An Integrative Medicine'

575. The **Battle of Rezang La** has commemorated its **60th anniversary** on 18th November 2022. It was fought between Indian and Chinese troops on the icy mountain tops on the southeastern ridge of the Chushul Valley.

- In 1962, the Charlie Company (C Company) of the 13th battalion of the Kumaon Regiment fought against the Chinese attack at the Rezang La Pass in Ladakh.
- The C Company, led by **Major Shaitan Singh**, had 117 soldiers. Of these, 110 were martyred during this battle.
- The valour of the Company not only successfully stopped China's advance, but it also resulted in the Chushul airport being saved, thereby preventing a possible Chinese occupation of the entire Ladakh region in 1962.

Rezang La:
It is also known as Rechin La. It is a mountain pass on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between Indian-administered **Ladakh** and the Chinese administered Spanggur Lake basin, which is also claimed by India. It is situated on the eastern watershed ridge of the Chushul Valley that is being claimed by China.

576. **World Antimicrobial Awareness Week** is observed annually from **18th November to 24th November** to raise awareness of global antimicrobial resistance and to encourage best practices among the general public, health workers and policymakers to avoid the further emergence and spread of drug-resistant infections.

The slogan of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week remains ***'Antimicrobials: Handle with Care'.***
Theme 2022: "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together"

577. **World Toilet Day** is observed annually on **19th November** to celebrate toilets and raise awareness for the people living without access to sanitation. The day promotes action to address the global sanitation crisis and contribute to the achievement of *Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6): sanitation and water for all by 2030.*

The day was first observed in 2013.
Theme 2022: *"Making the Invisible Visible"*
The global campaign for World Toilet Day 2022 focuses on "Sanitation and Groundwater".

578. The Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Hardeep Singh Puri has launched the **'Toilets 2.0 campaign'** at a national event organized in Bengaluru, Karnataka on the occasion of the World Toilet Day 2022 (19th November).

The campaign aims to change the face of public and community toilets in urban India through collective action involving citizens and Urban Local Bodies.

The campaign has five thematic areas:
a) **People for Toilets**: Cleaning and maintaining the community and public toilets
b) **Partners for Toilets**: Adoption of Public toilets
c) **Design Toilets**: Design Challenge
d) **Rate your Toilet**: Promoting user feedback to improve public toilets and

e) **My thoughts - Our Toilets**: Gathering public opinion for toilets

A **Champion of Change** certificate will be rewarded to the participants at the end of the survey.
The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (**MoHUA**), in collaboration with knowledge partner **WASH Institute**, has conducted the 3-day capacity building workshop, between 16th to 18th November 2022 at Bengaluru, Karnataka to equip states to facilitate integrated management of used water in a time bound manner.

579. **National Integration Day** (Quami Ekta Diwas) is observed annually on **19th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's first woman Prime Minister **Indira Gandhi.** The year 2022 marks the 105th birth anniversary.

Indira Gandhi:
She was born on 19 November 1917, to Jawaharlal Nehru and Kamala Nehru in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. She was India's third Prime Minister and the country's only female PM till date. She served as India's PM from January 1966-March 1977, then again from January 1980, till her assassination by her bodyguards on 31st October 1984. She was awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1971.**

580. **International Men's Day** is observed annually on **19th November** to cherish the achievements and contribution of all men in society. The day was established in 1999 by Dr Jerome Teelucksingh in honour of his father's birthday.

In India, the day was first observed in 2007.
Theme 2022: *"Helping Men and Boys"*

581. **Women's Entrepreneurship Day** is observed annually on **19th November** to acknowledge, support and celebrate the invaluable contribution of women business leaders and entrepreneurs towards economic growth and development. The day is organized by the Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organisation (WEDO). The day was first observed in 2014.

582. **World Heritage Week** is observed annually across India from **19th November to 25th November** to promote the conservation of the heritage and the culture of monuments.

At present, there are 3693 monuments in India protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Uttar Pradesh has the highest number (745) of ASI-protected monuments.

583. **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** is observed annually on the **third Sunday of November** to remember the many millions killed and injured in road crashes, their families and communities, as well as to pay tribute to the dedicated emergency crews, police and medical professionals who daily deal with the traumatic aftermath of road death and injury. In 2022, the day falls on **20th November**.

The day was started by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) in 1995 and adopted by the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/5 on 26th October 2005 as an "appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families".

Theme 2022: "Remember. Support. Act"

584. **World Television Day** is observed annually on **21st November,** to recognize that television plays a major role in presenting different issue that affect people. In December 1996, the United Nations proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.

585. **World Fisheries Day** is observed annually on **21st November** to raise awareness about the fishing industry's environmental issues. The day was first celebrated in 2015.

The World Fisheries Forum (WFF) was established in 1997 as a forum for the World Fisheries Consortium.

586. **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** is observed annually on **25th November** to spread awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to various forms of violence and the true nature of the issue is often hidden. The day was first observed in 2000.

Theme 2022: "UNiTE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls!"

587. **Constitution Day**, also known as **'Samvidhan Divas'**, is observed annually across India on **26th November** to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the country. On this day in 1949, the constitution was adopted which came into force on 26th January 1950.

Note: The year 2022 marks the 73rd anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The Government of India has designated 26th November as 'Constitution Day' on 19 November 2015, during the year-long celebration of the 125th birth anniversary of the Father of the Indian Constitution, Dr. BR Ambedkar.
Earlier, this day was celebrated as Law Day.

588. **National Milk Day** is observed annually across India on **26th November** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of India's White Revolution, **Dr Verghese Kurien.** The year 2022 marks the **101st birth anniversary** of him. The day was first observed in 2014.

Dr Verghese Kurien is known as the 'Father of the White Revolution' in India. He led the 'Operation Flood', which is the largest agricultural dairy development programme worldwide.
Note: World Milk Day is observed annually on 1st June.

589. President of the Arab Republic of Egypt **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** will be the chief guest at the **Republic Day** celebrations on **26th January 2023.** Notably, it is the first time that an Egyptian President will be the Chief Guest on India's Republic Day.

It is worth mentioning that India had not invited any foreign dignitary as the Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations in 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Note: India and Eqypt are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2022. Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.

590. **National Cadet Corps (NCC) Day** is celebrated every year on the **fourth Sunday** of November. In 2022, the day falls on 27th November. The year 2022 marks the **74th raising day** of NCC.

National Cadet Corps (NCC):
NCC, which is the largest uniformed youth organisation in the whole world, was established on 15th July 1948. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It includes the army, the naval and the air wing.

591. **National Organ Donation Day** is observed annually across India on **27th November** to spread awareness among people and to recognize the selfless efforts made towards mankind, and re-establish our belief in humanity.

The year 2022 marks the 13th National Organ Donation Day.
The day is organised by the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

592. **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People** is observed annually on **29th November** to mark the anniversary of resolution 181, wherein the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine on 29th November 1947.

In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly designated 29 November as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

593. **Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare** is observed annually on **30th November** to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

The day was first observed in **2005**.