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August 2022 - Week 4

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The Indian Railways has conducted a test run of its latest train '**Super Vasuki**'. The train is operated by the **South East Central Railway (SECR)** zone of the Indian Railways. The train has several unique features.
 - The freight train is **3.5 km** long.
 - During the test run, the train had **6 locos, 295 wagons** and of **25,962 tonnes** gross weight, making it the longest and heaviest freight train.
 - The train was formed by amalgamating **five rakes** of goods trains as one unit.
 - The amount of coal carried by the train is enough to fire **3000 MW** of power plant for one full day. This is three times the capacity of existing railway rakes (90 cars with 100 tonnes in each) which carries about 9,000 tonnes of coal in one journey.
 - The train took **11.20 hours** to cover a distance of 267 km.

2. The Government of India (GoI) has signed a Headquarters Agreement (HQA) with the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)** to grant CDRI the status of an 'Independent and International Legal Entity'.
- This will enable the institution to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.
 - The agreement has been signed by **Amit Prothi**, Director General, CDRI and Noor Rahman Sheikh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

CDRI was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September 2019. It is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions that aims to promote the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development.

3. The **Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM)** has been successfully flight-tested by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. This is the 4th test for VL-SRSAM.

VL-SRSAM:

- It is a surface-to-air missile.
 - It has been designed and developed jointly by three facilities of DRDO for deployment of Indian Naval warships.
 - The missile has the capability of neutralizing various aerial threats at close ranges including sea-skimming targets.
 - The missile has been designed to strike high-speed airborne targets at the range of 40 to 50 km and at an altitude of around 15 km.
 - Its design is based on Astra Mark-I missile which is a Beyond Visual Range Air to Air missile.
4. India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, has announced that the country has contributed **USD 400,000 (over Rs 3 crore)** to four Voluntary Trust Funds. The contribution has been made to demonstrate India's support for the United Nations Human Rights and its dedication to the global promotion and preservation of human rights.

The four **Voluntary Trust Funds** to which contribution has been made are:

- Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
- Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

- Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review
- Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in the work of the council.

Recently, India contributed USD 800,000 (over Rs.6 crore) to promote use of Hindi language at UN.

5. The 3rd Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) between the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Ministry of Business, Enterprises and Cooperatives of **Republic of Mauritius** for cooperation in the field of MSMEs has been held in New Delhi.

Participants:

- Indian side has been led by **Narayan Rane**, Union Minister for MSME
- Mauritius side has been led by **Soomilduth Bholah**, Union Minister of Industrial Development, SMEs and Cooperatives.

During the meeting, two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed on cooperation.

- **First** between SME Mauritius Ltd. and Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) - Ahmedabad in Ahmedabad.
- **Second** between SME Mauritius Ltd. and National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Ni-msme), an institute under the Ministry of MSME in New Delhi.

6. India GABON Business Council has been launched by the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) and the **Embassy of Gabon** at the ITC Maurya to accelerate the trade relationship between both India and Gabon.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between **Josephine Patricia Ntyam-EHYA**, the Charge D Affaires of the Gabon Embassy, and **Dr Asif Iqbal**, the President of the IETO and pledged the commitment of support for a robust partnership.
- The business council will put efforts to educate and create a conducive business atmosphere in the Indian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SME) Investor sector.

Note: The Bilateral Trade between India & Gabon has reached USD 1.12 billion in 2021-22. India is the 2nd largest destination for Gabonese exports.

7. The 38th meeting of the ministerial-level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) of India and Bangladesh has been held in New Delhi. This meeting has been held after a gap of 12 years.

Participants:

- **Indian side:** Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Jal Shakti

- **Bangladesh side:** Zaheed Farooque, State Minister for Water Resources

Key highlights:

Both the nations have finalized the text of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on interim water sharing of the **River Kushiya**.

Both sides also welcomed the finalisation of the design and location of the water intake point on **Feni River** to meet the drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura as per the October 2019 India-Bangladesh MoU.

Note: India and Bangladesh share **54 rivers**, of which seven have been identified earlier for developing the framework of water-sharing agreements on priority.

Kushiya River:

It is a *distributary river* in **Bangladesh** and **Assam**. It forms on the India-Bangladesh border as a branch of the Barak River when the Barak separates into the Kushiya and Surma. The waters of the Kushiya pick up tributaries from Manipur, Mizoram, and Assam. It rejoins with the Surma at Markuli in Ajmiriganj upazila (Bangladesh) and flows south upto Bhairab Bazar (Bangladesh) receiving the name Kalni. The Kalni meets with the Dhanu (Bangladesh), a branch of the Surma and renamed as the Meghna.

Feni River:

It originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh. **Maitri Setu**, a 1.9 km Long Bridge Over Feni River is constructed in Tripura to link India-Bangladesh.

Joint Rivers Commission (JRC):

The JRC of India and Bangladesh was constituted in 1972 as a bilateral mechanism to address issues of mutual interest on common / border / Trans Boundary Rivers. It is headed by Water Resources Ministers of both countries.

8. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently attended the two-day **Millet Conclave 2022** on the theme of '*Making Many Millet Magnets - Making Many Millet Entrepreneurs*'. It has been organized jointly by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) and University of Agricultural Sciences (**UAS**), Raichur, Karnataka.

Key announcements:

Millet Challenge:

- It will be administered by the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** under NITI Aayog, with University of Agricultural Sciences (**UAS**), Raichur as its field partner.
- It will provide a platform to promote research & innovation, stimulate overall innovation, increase competitiveness of Indian start-ups and SMEs and improve profitability of millet farming.

- It will encourage **startups** to develop products that address problems along the millet value chain.
- The Millet Challenge will award seed grant of - **Rs 1 crore** each to three winners, **Rs 20 lakhs** to 15 selected candidates, and **Rs 10 lakhs** to 15 other selected candidates.

Announced a funding of **Rs 25 crore** by NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to **UAS, Raichur**, to complement the efforts of the Government of Karnataka for establishment of Millet Value Chain Park, incubation centre for processing and value-addition and capacity-building for promotion of millet cultivation and nutritional security.

Note: Year 2023 has been announced as the 'International Year of Millets'.

9. Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh has unveiled a dedicated Website to give further boost to the ongoing **"Swachh Sagar Surakshit Sagar/ Clean Coast Safe Sea Campaign 2022"**, a 75-day citizen led campaign to improve ocean health through collaborative action. The target of the campaign is to clean **75 beaches** across India in 75 days.
- He has also launched the Campaign Logo-'**Vasuki**', dedicated to the **youth** of the country, as they are along with the school students taking keen interest and joining the coastal and beach cleaning activities.
 - More than 200 ton of garbage, mainly single use plastic, have been removed from the sea coasts during the first 20 days of the ongoing 75-day Coastal Clean-Up campaign launched on 5th July 2022.
 - The campaign will culminate on "*International Coastal Clean-up Day*" on 17th September 2022.
 - The '**Eco Mitram**' mobile app has been launched to spread awareness about the campaign and to encourage the general public to volunteer for the beach cleaning activities on 17th September 2022.
10. **Ministry of Culture** has launched the '**Badhe Chalo**' Campaign, with the aim of connecting with youth of India and infuse a deep sense of patriotism among them. It has been held from 5-10 August 2022, across 10 cities every day. The Grand Finale of the campaign culminated at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, on 12th August 2022. The movement features Flash Dances across 75 cities, at prime locations all over India. It aims to proliferate the message and spirit of Amrit Mahotsav, through these flash dances.
11. Union Minister of State Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced that India's **Bio economy** will grow from USD 70 Billion to **USD 150 Billion** by **2025**. It has been announced during the launch of **75 "Amrit" Grants** for Biotech initiatives involving StartUps, industry, academia and research bodies in integrated collaboration.

The 75 inter-disciplinary, multi-institutional grants would be supported for high-risk, ambitious research ideas, milestones-driven collaborative research in all domain-specific areas of the biotech sector in Public-Private Partnership mode.

12. India has developed the first indigenously-developed **RT-PCR kit** for testing **Monkeypox** disease. The kit is developed by **Transasia Bio-Medicals**. The kit has been unveiled by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Centre Ajay Kumar Sood. The kit will help in early detection and better management of the infection which the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern.

Monkeypox is a viral zoonosis, a virus transmitted to humans from animals, with symptoms similar to smallpox although clinically less severe.

13. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal has unveiled the **digital version** of the One District-One Product (**ODOP**) gift catalogue during the Export Promotion Councils and Industry Associations meeting at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi. The ODOP gift catalogue includes a wide range of products like Fragrances and Oils, Indian Spirits, Home Decor products, Fabrics, and Silks and Shawls. This will promote a brand image for local products in the international market.
14. India's first Adenoviral Intranasal COVID vaccine **BBV154** has proven to be safe, well-tolerated & immunogenic in subjects in controlled clinical trials by Bharat Biotech for COVID-19. It has completed clinical development for phase III trials.

Note: BA.5 is one of the latest sub variants of the original Omicron lineage.

15. Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released the '**Department of Commerce Restructuring Dossier**'. It aims at preparing India to become a key global player in world trade.

Restructuring is based on 5 major pillars:

- Increasing India's share in global trade
- Assume leadership role in multilateral organisations
- Democratisation of trade
- Creating 100 Indian Brands as Global Champions
- Setting up Economic Zones in India to strengthen manufacturing base and attract greater investments to India.

16. The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** has published the **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022** to ensure environmentally sound management of waste batteries. These rules will replace Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001.

Key points:

- The rules cover all types of batteries, viz. Electric Vehicle batteries, portable batteries, automotive batteries and industrial batteries.
- The rules' function based on the concept of **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** where the producers (including importers) of batteries are responsible for collection and recycling/refurbishment of waste batteries and use of recovered materials from wastes into new batteries.
- The rules will enable setting up a mechanism and centralized online portal for exchange of EPR certificates between producers and recyclers to fulfil the obligations of producers.
- This will mandate the minimum percentage of recovery of materials from waste batteries which will bring new technologies and investment in recycling and refurbishment industry.
- Prescribing the use of certain number of recycled materials in making of new batteries will reduce the dependency on new raw materials and save natural resources.
- There will be online registration & reporting, auditing, and committee for monitoring the implementation of rules.
- Under the rules, the consumers will have to discard waste batteries separately from other waste streams.

17. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for amendment of policy of exemption for **Wheat or Meslin Flour** (HS Code 1101) from export restrictions/ ban.

The approval will now allow to put a restriction on the export of Wheat Flour which will ensure a curb on rising prices of wheat flour and ensure food security of the most vulnerable sections of the society.

18. The Department of Consumer Affairs under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) rules 2011 with the **Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) (Third Amendment) Rules, 2022** for ease of doing business and reducing the compliance burden for the garment or hosiery sold in loose or open.

It has exempted the garment or hosiery industry selling in loose or open from 6 declarations. They are:

- Common/ generic name of the commodity
- Net quantity, in terms of standard unit of weight or measure or number of the commodity in the package
- Unit sale price
- Month and year of manufacture or pre-packing or import
- Best before or use by date, month and year in case of commodity becoming unfit for human consumption with time
- Consumer Care name & address

Now, only the following information relevant to consumers is to be given:

- Name and address of the manufacturer/ marketer/ brand owner/ importer with country of origin or manufacture in case of imported products.
- Consumer care email id and phone number.
- Sizes with internationally recognizable size indicators such as S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL along with details in metric notation in terms of cm or m.
- Maximum retail price (MRP).

- 19.** The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has drafted a proposal to give specific names to all the **23 All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**, which include those fully functional, partially operational or under construction, based on regional heroes, freedom fighters, historical events or monuments of the area or their distinct geographical identity.
- Six new AIIMS: Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Odisha (Bhubaneswar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur), and Uttarakhand (Rishikesh) were approved in Phase 1 of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and are fully functional.
 - Out of the 16 AIIMS established between 2015 and 2022, MBBS classes and outpatient department services have been started in 10 institutes, while only MBBS classes have been started in another two. The remaining four institutes are at different stages of development.
- 20.** The Indian Navy has received its first-ever fully Made in India **30mm** ammunition for **AK-630 guns** fitted on warships. It is produced by the M/s Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), Maharashtra, a subsidiary of Solar Industries India Limited.
- 21.** The **8th India International MSME Start-up Expo & Summit 2022** has been unveiled by Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir **Manoj Sinha** in New Delhi. This summit gives SMEs, startups, business, industry, and service providers a much-needed platform to discover new prospects, connect with buyers and sellers, and exchange information about federal, state, and local programmes, among other things.

22. IIT Guwahati researchers has developed a fermentation process using ultrasound to produce Xylitol from sugarcane bagasse. Sugarcane bagasse is the byproduct of crushing sugarcane.

Xylitol: It is a natural sugar alcohol found in plants, including many fruits and vegetables. It has anti-obesogenic and anti-diabetic properties with other properties such as mild prebiotic and guarding teeth against caries. It can be used as a safe alternative sweetener as it has less calories and doesn't raise blood sugar levels.

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STATES AFFAIRS

23. Indore, Madhya Pradesh will host the **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** in January 2023. For this, Secretary, Consular, Passport and Visa Division, Ausaf Sayeed, and Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh Iqbal Singh Bains have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for hosting the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas:

The day is observed annually on 9th January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India on 9th January 1915. The day was formally established in 2003.

Note: The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was held in New Delhi with theme "Contributing to Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

24. The Chief Minister of **Assam** Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the '**Vidya Rath -School on Wheels'** project at the premises of Guwahati High Court in Assam. This project aims at providing economically challenged underprivileged children to access elementary education for a period of 10 months. Children will be provided with uniforms and textbooks and free-mid day meals under the project.

25. Uttar Pradesh will establish *India's first Education Township*. It will be developed on the idea of '**Single Entry, Multiple Exit**'. The aim is to provide high-quality education to the youth and equip them with a variety of professional skills in one place.

Education Township of Uttar Pradesh:

- Prestigious government and private universities of the country and the world will be able to open their campuses in the township.
- There will be primary and secondary schools like Atal Residential Schools in the same place.
- Universities and colleges will be established for undergraduate and postgraduate studies wherein studies and research works related to management, technology, law, and medicine will be carried out.
- The education township will also feature skill development universities where training will be imparted to the youth in different types of skills.
- Accommodations will be provided to both teachers and students at the education township.

26. Digantara, a space sector start-up of India, will set-up India's first commercial **Space Situational Awareness (SSA)** observatory in the **Garhwal region of Uttarakhand**. The aim is to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth.

The observatory will assist in tracking any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region.

Note: At present, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris.

27. The Chief Minister of **Tamil Nadu** M.K. Stalin has introduced the **Footwear and Leather Products Policy 2022** to develop existing clusters in leather manufacturing for domestic as well as the export market.

- Tamil Nadu is a dominant player in the footwear industry at both the national and global levels, accounting for 26% of national manufacturing output and 48% of national exports.
- The goal of the policy is to attract Rs.20,000 crore investments in footwear and leather products manufacturing and employ more than 200,000 people.
- The policy also introduces a subsidy skilling programme where women, transgender persons, people with disabilities, and those from the SC/ST community can avail Rs.6,000 each monthly for six months.

Tamil Nadu government has also signed an MoU with five companies for Rs.2,250 crore for manufacturing leather and non-leather footwear and other items.

28. The **Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL)** has launched the beta version of the **DigiYatra** app for the Android platform. It is among the first few airports to introduce this system in the country. DIAL had installed the required facility at Terminal 3 of Delhi Airport and conducted its trials.

The new version will make the boarding process significantly faster and more seamless. Their face would act as their documents, like ID proof, Vaccine proof and also act as boarding pass.

'DigiYatra':

It is a Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel experience (BEST) based on Facial Recognition Technology. It aims to provide paperless and seamless travel experience to the passengers. It is a unique initiative of the Government of India, coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in **Mohali, Punjab**. It is built on an around 50 acres area at Mullanpur in Punjab.

The hospital has been built at a cost of **Rs. 684 crore** by Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institute under Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. It is a tertiary care hospital of 300-bed capacity and is equipped with modern facilities to treat all types of cancers using every available treatment modality.

30. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Amrita Hospital in **Faridabad** district of **Haryana**. It has been built at a cost of **Rs. 6000 crores**.

The hospital, founded by Mata Amritanandamayi 'Amma', is the largest and state-of-the-art hospital in the region. It is managed by Mata Amritanandamayi Math. The super-speciality hospital will be equipped with 2,600 beds. It will provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to the people of Faridabad and the entire NCR region.

31. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has approved the proposal of the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department to start *India's first night safari* in Lucknow. **Kukrail Forest Area** in **Lucknow** will develop the night safari on the lines of *Singapore's* night safari.

The night safari will be developed on 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area spread over an area of 2027.46 hectares and a zoological park will be built in 150 acres. The interpretation centre, Butterfly Interpretation Centre will also be built here. The night safari will also include train rides and jeep rides with local guides.

- 32. RailTel**, a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) of the Ministry of Railways, has collaborated with **CloudExtel**, a known Full Stack Network as a Service (NaaS) Provider, to launch India's first Shared **Radio Access Network (RAN)** solution for congested locations with the objective of enhancing telecom users' experience.
- The Pilot project of this RAN solution had successful results with the partnership of Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Nokia, and the Telecom Infra Project (TIP)'s NaaS Solutions Group, with support from the Railways, at **Mumbai Central railway station**.
 - The outcomes of the pilot project have been impressive with 5 times increase in average user speed of mobile data from 3 Mbps to 15 Mbps for the mobile phone networks of both Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea, while the data consumption increased by 20 percent.
- 33.** The Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** has become the first amongst States/UTs to establish an **Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL)** in partnership with the government think tank NITI Aayog.
- To foster entrepreneurship and innovation, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog has established over 10000 ATLs across the country so far enabling over 3 million students between Grade VI to Grade XII acquire a problem solving, tinkering and innovative mindset.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** & **J&K** with 50:50 cost sharing basis to establish **500 ATL** within two years. Under this MoU, both will provide Rs.10 lakh each to establish ATLs in UT. One ATL cost Rs 20 lakh provided by AIM.
 - NITI Aayog will replicate the J&K model of Atal Tinkering Lab to rest of the country on 50:50 cost sharing basis.

Note: ATL was started with an aim to build 10,000 labs and target was achieved in July 2022.

Atal Innovation Mission (AIM):

It is Government of India's flagship initiative to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country. It was setup in 2016 under NITI Aayog.

The initiatives of the AIM are: *Atal Tinkering Labs, Atal Incubation Centres, Mentor India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE, Vernacular Innovation Program, Atal New India Challenge, and Atal Community Innovation Centre.*

Chintan Vaishnav is the Mission Director.

34. The **Temple of Vedic Planetarium**, the world's largest religious monument, will be setup in **Mayapur** in Nadia district of **West Bengal**. The project worth USD 100 million is expected to open in 2024.

- This monument will serve as the headquarters of the **International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON)**.
- The temple is the vision of **Srila Prabhupada**, founder of ISKCON.
- This temple with the world's biggest dome will offer guests a tour of the various parts of the cosmic creation.
- It will replace Cambodia's 400-acre-large **Angkor Wat** temple complex.
- The monument is bigger than the **Taj Mahal** in Agra and **St Paul's Cathedral** in the Vatican City.
- It will also be among the tallest Hindu temples in the world.
- The design is inspired by the Capitol building in the United States.

Note: Mayapur is the birthplace of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, 15th-century Indian Vaishnava saint considered to be the combined avatar of Radha and Krishna.

35. The Chief Minister of **Delhi** Arvind Kejriwal has launched '**Make India No.1 Mission**', and he has also urged all citizens and political parties to join it. The mission aims to make India the number one country in the world. He has also unveiled his 5 point vision: Providing free Education and healthcare to citizens, employment to youths, equal rights and dignity to women, and fair price to farmers for their produce.

36. The 20th edition of **BioAsia 2023**, the marquee life sciences and health tech event, will be hosted by the Government of **Telangana** in the city of Hyderabad. It will be held from **24-26 February 2023**. The theme of BioAsia 2023 is "*Advancing for ONE: Shaping the next generation of humanised healthcare*".

37. The state government of **Rajasthan** has launched '**Mahila Nidhi**', a loan scheme for the social and economic development of women. It has been launched on the occasion of *Women's Equality Day (26th August)*. With this, Rajasthan has become the second Indian state after Telangana, where Mahila Nidhi was set up.

38. **Rajasthan and Maharashtra** has become the first states to use end-to-end digital platforms during the third National Lok Adalat of 2022. Over **75 lakh cases** including 16.45 lakh pending and 58.33 lakh pre-litigation cases settled across the country by 'Digital Lok Adalat' for the first time in India.

The Digital Lok Adalat was launched by Justice UU Lalit on 17th July 2022 during the '18th All India Legal Services Authorities Meet'.

- 39.** The **Taurus Sainik Aramgrah** has been inaugurated by **Lt Gen Nav K Khanduri**, AVSM, VSM, GOC-in-C, Western Command at Delhi Cantt. The facility is first of its kind as it is constructed by Indian Army in collaboration with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as an Equal Value Infrastructure Project. This 148 bed state of the art facility has an aesthetically designed waiting lounge, in-house dining, a green area and ample parking.
- 40.** **Nagaland** has recently got its second Railway station on the **Dhansari-Shokhuvi railway line** after a gap of more than 100 years. Dimapur station was opened in 1903. Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio has officially flagged off the first passenger train service- the Donyi Polo Express from Shokhuvi Railway station in Choumukedima District.
- Shokhuvi Railway station is part of the Dimapur-Zubza Railway project. This railway station is an alternative train route for Nagaland and Manipur passengers to Guwahati

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 41.** **Germany** has introduced the first fleet of **hydrogen-powered passenger trains** named '**Coradia iLint**' in the world. This has replaced 15 diesel trains that were previously operated on non-electrified tracks in Lower Saxony, Germany.

Key features of 'Coradia iLint':

- Coradia iLint trains have a range of up to **1,000 kilometers** and a maximum speed of **140 kmph** (87 mph).
 - By using hydrogen produced with renewable energy the trains will save **1.6 million litres** (more than 422,000 gallons) of diesel fuel a year
 - The train emits only steam and condensed water.
 - The hydrogen fuel cells installed on the roof of the train combine with oxygen atoms present in the air to generate electricity.
- 42.** **Egypt** has released a postage stamp to commemorate the **75th anniversary** of diplomatic relations with **India**. The diplomatic relations between both the nations was established on 18th August 1947, three days after India's independence. The two countries became even closer in the 1950s, which resulted in a historic Friendship Treaty in 1955.
- 43.** Belgian-British pilot **Mack Rutherford** has become the **youngest person to fly solo** in a small aircraft around the world in five months. The 17-year-old landed on an airport runway west of Sofia, Bulgaria. He started his journey on 23rd March 2022, and covered 52 nations

and five continents. He set the record for the youngest person to do it and secure two Guinness World Records. He is also the **youngest person to circumnavigate the globe** in a microlight plane.

In 2021, Travis Ludlow of Britain, who was 18, completed a solo flight around the world.

- 44. Colonel Abdoulaye Maiga** has been appointed as the interim Prime Minister of **Mali**. He has replaced the veteran civilian politician Choguel Kokalla Maiga, who was named premier after the military took power in August 2020 and carried out a second coup in May 2021.

REPORTS & INDICES

- 45.** The Union Government of India has set the target to eliminate **Kala-azar** from country by **2023**. According to the data released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, out of 633 Kala-azar endemic blocks, 625 blocks have successfully eliminated the kala-azar in 2021.

Note: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set a target to eliminate Kala-azar by 2030.

Kala-azar:

It is also known as **Visceral leishmaniasis**. It is characterized by irregular bouts of fever, substantial weight loss, swelling of the spleen and liver, and anaemia. It is a **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)** affecting almost 100 countries including India. It is caused by a parasite called **Leishmania**, which is transmitted through the **bite of sand flies**.

There are three types of Leishmaniasis:

- Visceral leishmaniasis, which affects multiple organs and is the most serious form of the disease.
- Cutaneous leishmaniasis, which causes skin sores and is the most common form.
- Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, causes skin and mucosal lesions.

- 46.** As per the latest State Bank of India (SBI) Ecowrap report, **India's GDP growth in Q1 (April-June) FY2023** is expected at **15.7%**. It is released by SBI's Economic Research Department (ERD).

- Out of the 41 high frequency leading indicators, 89 percent are showing acceleration IN Q1FY23, compared to 75 percent acceleration in Q1FY22.
- The private final consumption expenditure in real terms had declined significantly by Rs 4.77 lakh crore in Q1FY21 owing to Covid-19 pandemic, recovered by 46 percent in Q1FY22.

Other projections of India's GDP growth in Q1FY2023:

ICRA Limited has projected India's GDP growth to increase a four-quarter high **13 percent** in Q1 (April-June) FY23 due to low base of COVID 2.0 and robust recovery in contact-intensive services.

- 47.** The **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** has implemented '**One Nation One Fertiliser**' scheme by introducing a "*Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo*" under the fertiliser subsidy scheme named "*Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna*" (**PMBJP**).
- Under this scheme, companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo and other relevant product information only on **one-third** space of their bags. On the remaining **two-thirds** space, the "**Bharat**" brand and PMBJP logo will have to be shown.
 - With this, the single brand name for UREA, DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate), MOP (Muriate of Potash) and NPK (nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K)) etc. would be *BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP and BHARAT NPK* etc. respectively for all Fertiliser Companies, State Trading Entities (STEs) and Fertiliser Marketing Entities (FMEs).
- 48.** Practus, earlier known as MyCFO, and Hurun India have released the first edition of the **Practus Hurun India PE (Private Equity) Performers 2022**, a report that ranks India's best performing PE backed companies.
- **Honasa Consumer Private Limited (HCPL)**, the parent company of **Mamaearth**, has topped the list of companies that attracted private equity investments in India in 2020-21 with an average revenue growth of 491%.
 - *Encube Ethicals*, an integrated pharmaceutical company, has been ranked second with an average growth of 343%. *Ecom Express*, a technology enabled logistics solutions provider, has been ranked third with a growth of 283%.
 - **Sequoia Capital India**, led by Ravishankar GV, is the top investor in the Practus Hurun India PE Performers 2022. *Norwest Venture Partners*, led by Niren Shah and *Tiger Global Management*, led by Alex Cook take the second spot with investments in 3 companies each.
- 49.** As per the latest report tracking the performance of the industry by Benori Knowledge, a new-age provider of specialized research and analytics, the life insurance penetration rate in India has grown to **3.2%** in **December 2021** from 2.8% in December 2019.
- India is now the **10th largest** Life Insurance market in the world almost at par with the global average of **3.3%** and is ahead of China (2.4%) and the United Kingdom (3%).
 - The life insurance sector has grown at a CAGR of 11% from 2017-2022 and is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 9% in the next 5 years.

- Insurance agencies' share in the distribution mix has been declining, falling from 30% in 2017 to 23% in 2022.
- HDFC Life is the leader in the online distribution space, with 11% of its sales coming from direct-to-consumer (D2C) channels.
- Companies will invest in Data Science and Analytics to better understand the customer personas and needs.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has relaxed its regulations for product approval and distribution, which is projected to result in increased penetration.

50. The report titled 'Tech Cities: The Global Intersection of Talent and Real Estate', studied as many as 115 different 'tech cities' across the globe, has been released by Cushman and Wakefield.

As per the report, **Bengaluru** has been ranked **second** after Beijing (China) on the list of top technology hubs in the Asia-Pacific region.

The list has three other Indian cities, **Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad. Mumbai and Pune** has also made it to the top-10 list with eighth and ninth position in a list of 14 cities from the APAC.

51. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a daily ranking of the world's richest people, as on 30th August 2022, Adani Group's Chairman **Gautam Adani** has become the **world's third-richest person** with a total net-worth of USD 137 billion, after overtaking Louis Vuitton chief Bernard Arnault (France).

Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX & Tesla, has topped the list with a net worth of USD 251 billion, followed by Jeff Bezos (Amazon) with a net worth of USD 153 billion.

Mukesh Ambani, CMD of Reliance Industries, has been ranked 11th with a total net-worth of USD 91.9 billion.

52. The report, titled "**Renewing wind growth to power the energy transition: India Wind Energy Market Outlook 2026**", has been released by Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and MEC Intelligence (MEC+). As per the report, India can add another **23.7 GW** of capacity within the next five years provided necessary enabling policies, facilitative instruments, and the right institutional interventions are put in place.

As of March 2022, Wind power constituted the majority of the renewable energy mix in India, with 37.7% of cumulative installed capacity.

53. A latest report by Bank of America Securities India has stated that India will have **1.8 lakh km** highways and **1.2 lakh km** rail lines by **2025**.

Key Points of the report:

- Between 1950 and 2015, India built only 4,000 km of national highways, taking the total length to 77,000 km in 2015.
- In 1950, the railway network in India was only 10,000 km of rail lines and by 2015 there were 63,000 km of railway lines.
- The port capacity which was only 777 MTPA (Million Tonnes per Annum) in 1995 rose to **1,911 MTPA** in 2015 and now the government aims to increase it up to **3000 MTPA** by **2025**.
- India will be spending **USD 385 billion** over 2015-30 to meet its 2030 de-carbonisation goals, which will accelerate materially over time and help it transition to the net-zero goal by 2070.
- The bank account penetration has reached **80%** now from 35% in 2011.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

54. The Government of **Jammu & Kashmir** has launched the '**Village Defence Guards Scheme (VDGS) 2022**' to prevent the incidents of terrorist acts inspired and supported from across the border and to boost the security grid in the Union Territory.

- The scheme has come into operation with effect from 15th August 2022.
- The scheme organizes a small group of volunteer armed civilians in identified villages along the borders and in-depth areas of the Jammu division to instill a sense of self-protection, ensure the safety and security of such villages, and infrastructure installations in and around them, and check trans-border movement.
- The members of the Village Defence Group shall be designated as **Village Defence Guard (VDG)** in more vulnerable areas which will be headed by retired officers of the Army.
- VDGs will be divided into two categories: (1) Those who have a valid arms license and to whom weapons have been provided by the J&K Police and (2) Those who have a valid license and weapons or are willing to purchase weapons on their own.
- The VDG will be responsible for defending communal installations and infrastructure inside their village, and they would undertake routine night and day patrols.

Earlier, this scheme was known as **Village Defence Committee** in which volunteers from villages were trained by Indian Army and Police.

55. 'Samajik Adhikari Shivir' has been organized by the Department of Social Justice & Empowerment in association with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), and District Administration Nagpur.

It has been organized for the distribution of aid and assisting devices to Senior Citizens under '*Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana*' (RVY Scheme) and 'Divyangjan' under the *Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase / Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP)* scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Chief Guests: Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment **Dr. Virendra Kumar**.

Divyang Park:

It has been announced that Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has provided all possible support to establish the first "Divyang Park" of **Maharashtra** in **Nagpur**. It will have different kind of facilities for Divyangjans like sensory garden, textile Pathway touch and smell garden, skill training facility, rehabilitation facility, Sports & infotainment etc.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):

- It is a Central Sector Scheme.
- It is being implemented by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (**ALIMCO**) which is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Under this scheme, aids and assistive living devices are provided to **senior citizens** belonging to **BPL category** or those senior citizens who earn less than 15000/- per month.
- The aids and assistive devices are walking sticks, elbow crutches, walkers/crutches, tripods/quadpods, hearing aids, wheelchairs, artificial dentures and spectacles are provided to eligible beneficiaries, free of cost.

56. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), the National Mission for Financial Inclusion, has completed eight years of successful implementation on 28th August 2022. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **28th August 2014**.

Achievements under PMJDY:

As on 10th August 2022, the total number of PMJDY Accounts are **46.25 crore**; 55.59% (25.71 crore) Jan-Dhan account holders are women and 66.79% (30.89 crore) Jan Dhan accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.

- In August 2022, out of total 46.25 crore PMJDY accounts, **37.57 crore** (81.2%) are operative

- Only 8.2% PMJDY accounts are zero balance accounts.
- Total deposit balances under PMJDY Accounts stand at **Rs. 1,73,954 crore**.
- Total RuPay cards issued to PMJDY accountholders: **31.94 crore**.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

It is the National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.

Objectives:

- To ensure access of financial products & services at an affordable cost
- Use of technology to lower cost & widen reach

Basic tenets of the scheme: *Banking the unbanked, Securing the unsecured, and Funding the unfunded.*

Initial Features:

- Universal access to banking services.
- Basic savings bank accounts with overdraft facility of **Rs. 10,000/-** to every eligible adult
- Financial Literacy Programme to promoting savings, use of ATMs, getting ready for credit, availing insurance and pensions, using basic mobile phones for banking.
- Creation of Credit Guarantee Fund to provide banks some guarantee against defaults\
- Accident insurance cover up to Rs.1 lakh and life insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 on account opened between 15 Aug 2014 to 31 January 2015.
- Pension scheme for unorganized sector.

Key changes introduced from 2018:

- Focus shift from 'Every Household' to '**Every Unbanked Adult**'
- RuPay Card Insurance: Free accidental insurance cover on RuPay cards increased from Rs. 1 lakh to **Rs. 2 lakh** for PMJDY accounts opened after 28.8.2018.
- Enhancement in overdraft (OD) facilities: OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to **Rs 10,000/-**; OD upto Rs 2,000/- (without conditions), and increase in upper age limit for OD from 60 to **65 years**.

57. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited Gujarat to address '**Khadi Utsav**' at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The event has witnessed 7500 women khadi artisans from various districts of Gujarat spinning Charkha live at the same time and at the same place.

The event has featured an exhibition showcasing the 'Evolution of Charkhas' by displaying 22 Charkhas from different generations used since 1920s including "**Yerwada Charkha**" which symbolises the charkhas used during the freedom struggle.

Key inaugurations:**Atal Bridge:**

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the iconic 'Atal Bridge' over the **Sabarmati River** in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat.
- It is a foot over/ Pedestrians-and-Cyclists-only bridge.
- It is equipped with attractive design and LED lights.
- This bridge is about **300 meters long** and 14 meters wide.
- 2,600 metric tons of steel pipe has been used in the construction of this bridge and the railing is made of glass and steel.
- The total cost of construction of this bridge is Rs 74.29 lakh crore.

Smriti Van Memorial:

- It is India's first earthquake memorial.
- It is located in the **Bhuj** district of Gujarat.
- This Memorial is associated with the tragic **Earthquake of 2001** in which several people lost their lives.
- It has been built on 470-acre area and carries the names of around 13,000 people who had lost their lives during the earthquake.
- It has been segregated into seven blocks based on seven themes: *Rebirth, Rediscover, Restore, Rebuild, Rethink, Relive and Renew.*

Veer Balak Samarak:

- It is dedicated to 2001 Earthquake Victims in Bhuj.
- It is built near Anjar town as a tribute to 185 school children and 20 teachers who were killed during a Republic Day Parade on 26th January 2001, when an earthquake hit.

Kachchh Branch Canal of Sardar Sarovar Project:

- It has been built at the cost of Rs 6493 crore.
- It is 357.18-kilometer-long.
- The project began around 2008 and passes over Dudhai village which was the epicentre of the 2001 earthquake.
- It will help in providing irrigation facilities in Kachchh and drinking water in all 948 villages, and 10 towns of the Kachchh district.

Maruti Suzuki's new plant:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually laid the foundation stone of Maruti Suzuki's new vehicle manufacturing plant at Kharkhoda in Sonapat district of **Haryana**. It will be set up with an investment of around Rs.11,000 crores.

- He has also laid the foundation stone of Suzuki Motor Gujarat Electric Vehicle Battery Manufacturing Facility at Hansalpur, **Gujarat**. It will be set with an investment of around Rs.7300 crores.

Maruti Suzuki has completed **40 years** in India.

- 58.** The Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand** Pushkar Singh Dhami has launched the **“Mukhyamantri Udyaman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana”** on the occasion of National Sports Day (29th August). Under the scheme, a sports scholarship of **Rs 1500** per month will be given to budding sportspersons between the age group of eight to 14 years. Every year a total of 3900 budding sportspersons will be given scholarships, which will include 1950 boys and 1950 girls.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

- 59.** The governments of **Punjab & Haryana** have agreed to name the **Chandigarh International Airport** after freedom fighter **Shaheed Bhagat Singh** for its collective contribution of both states. After the implementation, the airport will be known as Shaheed Bhagat Singh Airport.
- The **Rs.485 crore** airport project is a joint venture of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the governments of Punjab & Haryana.
 - Punjab & Haryana have 24.5% share each while the AAI has 51% share.
- 60.** The Government of India (GoI) and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **USD 96.3 million loan** agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The project aims to construct 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 kms of water distribution pipelines.
 - The project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing uninterrupted water supply to about 3,70,000 residents across 10 districts.
 - A pilot fecal sludge management and sanitation programme will also be implemented in Sirmour district, benefiting 250,000 residents.
- 61.** **Godrej Agrovet** has signed three Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Assam, Manipur, and Tripura** state governments for the development and promotion of **oil palm** cultivation in the region under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (**NMEO-OP**) scheme.

Under this MoU, Godrej Agrovet will be allotted land across the three states for promotion and development of sustainable palm oil plantations in the region to support the farmers.

NMEO-OP scheme:

In August 2021, the Government of India had launched the **National Mission on Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)** with planned outlay of **Rs.11,040 crore**. Under this mission, Government has envisaged to raise area under cultivation of oil palm to 10 Lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 Lakh hectares by 2029-30 with special focus on the North East region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- 62. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)** has started its first cow dung-to-compressed biogas project at **Sanchole** in **Rajasthan**. This is HPCL's first project under the waste-to-energy portfolio.
- The plant will utilise 100 tonnes of cow dung per day to produce biogas, which will then be used as automotive fuel.
 - The project is being developed under the **Gobar-Dhan scheme** launched by the government in April 2018.
 - The project is coming at Pathmeda in the Jalore district of Rajasthan.
 - The project will be commissioned in a year.
- 63.** The Government of **Jharkhand** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Foreign Office of Commonwealth and Development (FCDO), **British High Commission** to award the '**Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Pardeshi Scholarship 2023**'. This is the first MoU signed between FCDO and Indian state.
- 'Chevening Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Pardeshi Scholarship 2023':**
- The scholarship will be provided to the meritorious children of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Minorities community of Jharkhand.
 - It will start in the UK academic year of 2023-24.
 - The scholarship will be provided to a maximum of five students for every academic year.
 - The entire education expenditure of the five selected youth will be jointly funded by the Government of Jharkhand and FCDO.
- 64.** The **National Health Authority (NHA)** has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)**, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE), to deliver an inclusive and comprehensive health package for **transgender** persons under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (**AB-PMJAY**).

Features of MoU:

- The MoU will extend all healthcare benefits to transgender persons (holding a transgender certificate issued by the National Portal for transgender persons) across India.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE) will fund **Rs.5 lakh insurance** cover per transgender beneficiary per annum.
- A comprehensive package is being prepared for transgender category including the existing AB PM-JAY packages and specific packages like Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and treatment for transgender.
- The scheme is applicable to all transgender people who do not currently get benefits from existing centre/state sponsored schemes.

65. The **Ministry of Ayush** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)** for Ayush Grid Project. Under this MoU, MeitY will provide technical support to the Ministry of Ayush to digitise Ayush Sector, for a period of 3 years. This MoU is continuation of the MoU that was signed in 2019.

Advisory inputs on Ayush Grid project will be provided by a High-Level Advisory Committee (HLAC). This committee will be chaired by Secretary of Ayush and co-chaired by Secretary of MeitY.

Ayush Grid Project:

Ayush Grid Project was launched by the **Ministry of Ayush** in **2018** to create a backbone for IT sector. It was launched under **Digital India Program** that support 'Information and Technology' in transforming operational efficiency, enhancing service quality and improving delivery of service. It will allow integration of all stakeholders and services or functions related to Ayush systems of health care. The project seeks to bring all onboard all the facilities of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy), including laboratories and hospitals besides promoting traditional healthcare systems.

- 66. BASIX** Social Enterprise Group has launched an agritech platform **BASIX Farmers' Market (BFM)** in collaboration with **Mastercard** to integrate farmers into the digital economy.
- Under this collaboration, both the companies aim to connect 10 lakh farmers with technology to their benefit, including the new cohort of 200 Farmer Produce Organisations (FPO), being promoted under SMART Project partnering with Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission.
 - The agritech platform is an extension of **Mastercard Farm Pass**, a rural and agriculture digitization solution that serves more than 3.5 lakh farmers across five states in India, and one million farmers globally.

67. The National Highways Logistics Management Limited (**NHLML**), Inland Waterways Authority of India (**IWAI**) and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (**RVNL**) have signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the swift development of modern Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) under **Bharatmala Pariyojana**.

The objective of the agreement is to centralize freight consolidation and reduce logistics costs from 14 percent to less than **10 percent** of GDP at par with International Standards.

Multi Modal Logistics Park (MMLP):

MMLP is an inter-modal freight handling facility with mechanised material handling provisions, warehouses, specialised cold chain facilities etc. Developed under 'Hub and Spoke Model', it integrates multiple freight transport modes for seamless modal shift ensuring economic growth and environmental friendly logistics.

Bharatmala Pariyojana:

It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India. Cabinet had approved the Bharatmala Pariyojana Phase-I" in 2017. It was approved for an estimated cost of Rs. 6,92,324 crore including other ongoing schemes. It is an umbrella program for highways sector with focus on optimizing the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country. It has set the target of developing Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors, Feeder Routes, etc. to bridge critical infrastructure gaps.

68. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) has joined hands with **Royal Enfield** to promote and safeguard the '**Intangible Cultural Heritage of India**', beginning with the Himalayas.

Under this unique partnership, a four-day creative exhibit will be displayed at the Bikaner House in Delhi, curated by Dr Monisha Ahmed and Mary Therese Kurkalang.

The programme is curated as an experiential and creative showcase of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) practices in the Western Himalayas and the North Eastern region. This includes an exhibition, panel discussions, film screenings, performances and lecture demonstrations.

69. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** and **LFV Air Navigation Services of Sweden** to facilitate smart and sustainable aviation technology collaboration.

Key elements of the MoU:

- Exchange of aviation knowledge and technical transfer program
- Promote close and friendly relations between the two agencies

- Aim to expand technical cooperation in airports
- Support the development of a safe, secure, sustainable, and efficient aviation sector
- Positive contributions in promoting bilateral and international trade

Both the agencies will jointly collaborate on the following co-operation areas: *Air Traffic Management, Air Traffic Control, Remote Airport Management and Traffic Control, Airspace Design and Planning, Airport Design and Infrastructure, Digitalized Airport and Aviation, Capability and Training, Sustainable Airports and Aviation, Processes for pilots, and Processes for scale-up.*

A Joint Working Group will be established to prioritize interest areas and drive collaboration between the two countries.

70. The Government of **Andhra Pradesh** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with USA-based '**Parley for the Oceans**' environmental organization for plastic waste management. The aim is save seas from pollution.

- Parley for the Oceans will set up "**Parley Super Hub**", preferably in Visakhapatnam, where recycling and upcycling of plastic wastes will be done.
- A "**Parley Future Institute**", a cutting edge research centre for future new materials, will be also set up in Andhra Pradesh.

Note: Andhra Pradesh govt. has set a target to become plastic free by 2027.

71. **Tata Steel** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Punjab** to set up a 0.75 million tonne per annum (MnTPA) long products steel plant with a scrap-based electric arc furnace (EAF) at Kadiana Khurd, Hitech Valley in **Ludhiana**.

This MoU is a part of Tata Steel's commitment to investing in a circular economy and transitioning to low-carbon steelmaking through the steel recycling route. It is to achieve the Company's goal of Net Zero carbon emission by 2045.

72. **AirAsia India** and **Canadian Aviation Electronics Limited (CAE)** have collaborated to integrate the CAE Rise™ Training System into the airline's simulator training program. With this, AirAsia India has become the first airline in India to adopt a data-driven training program using CAE Rise.

73. The **Indian Navy** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) **Space Applications Centre (SAC)** in Ahmedabad on data sharing and cooperation on satellite-based naval applications in oceanology and meteorology.

- 74.** Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has approved the amalgamation of **Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL)** with its parent company **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**.
- BGRL, set up in 2018, is a wholly owned subsidiary of BPCL for handling the Natural Gas business.
 - The amalgamation is effective from 16th August 2022.
- 75. NHPC Limited** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** to set up a GigaWatt Scale Vertically Integrated solar manufacturing unit. The MoU has been signed by Biswajit Basu, Director (Projects), NHPC and Vinay Kumar Katyal, Director (Bangalore Complex), BEL.
- 76.** The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited (**MAHAPREIT**), Maharashtra to provide loans for **Green Energy** projects. Under this MoU, IREDA will provide Techno-Financial consultancy to MAHAPREIT for renewable energy projects. This collaboration will support India's target to achieve 50% share of energy from non-fossil fuels by 2030.
- 77. Nutrihub**, a technology Business Incubator hosted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research (**IIMR**) and the **Akshaya Patra Foundation** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to integrate millets under the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) scheme**. The aim is to increase the consumption of millets and thereby help improving children's nutritional status.
- This collaboration is an initiative towards the run-up for 2023 as the International Year of Millets led by the Government of India.
- The test project is set to be launched in some schools in Bengaluru and Hyderabad.
- 78.** The National Workshop on **Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)** in Panchayats through Thematic Approach on 'Village with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure' has been inaugurated by **Kapil Moreshwar Patil**, Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj and **Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal**, Minister of Rural Development & Panchayat, Punjab at Mohali, Punjab.
- About 1,300 Elected Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from across the country have attended the two-day workshop.
 - On the occasion, Kapil Moreshwar Patil has released the **SDG's Anthem** and **Booklet** and launched a **Prime App** and Punjab State Rural Livelihood Mission (**PSRLM**) website.

79. The Norwegian **Climate Investment Fund (CIF)**, managed by Norfund and KLP, has recently signed an agreement to acquire a **49 percent** stake in a 420 MW solar power plant named **Thar Surya 1** in Rajasthan.
80. The Adani Group subsidiary, AMG Media Networks Limited (AMNL), has announced that it will indirectly acquire a 29.18% stake in media and news broadcaster New Delhi Television (NDTV) and launch an open offer to acquire another 26% stake for Rs.493 crore to get a majority stake in NDTV. RRPR is a promoter group company of NDTV and holds 29.18% stake in NDTV.
81. Bharti Airtel promoter **Bharti Telecom** will buy a **3.33 percent** Airtel stake from **Singtel** for 2.25 billion Singapore dollars or about Rs12,895 crore in 90 days. Bharti Telecom at present holds 35.85 percent stake in country's second largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel.
82. **TVS Motor** Company will acquire **48 percent** stake in **NKars Mobility Millennial Solutions Pvt Ltd (NMMSP)** for Narain Karthikeyan's pre-owned two-wheeler startup '**DriveX**' for a cash consideration of Rs 85 crore. The acquisition is expected to be completed by 30th November 2022.
83. The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Nagaland** Government to collaborate and unleash the potential of entrepreneurial talents in Nagaland.
- Under this MoU, CII will establish startup cohorts and conduct capacity-building programmes for Nagaland Government officials, financial institutions & banks in Nagaland, incubators, and academic innovation cells for engaging with startups.
 - The **Indian Navy** will be facilitated to partner with entrepreneurs and startups in Nagaland to provide support for their innovation and indigenization initiatives.
 - A training school will be set up in Nagaland, facilitated by the CII Institute of Logistics, to mobilize candidates from Nagaland for various roles in the logistics sector.
 - A **Model Career Centre (MCC)** will also be set up in Nagaland in partnership with the State Government
84. **Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Limited** has signed an agreement with **Kalpataru Power Transmission Limited** for construction of 220 KV Direct Current (D/C) single zebra transmission line for 210 MW **Luhri Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-1**. The agreement envisages an expenditure of **Rs.71.18 crore** and includes end to end delivery of commissioned transmission line by August 2024. Luhri Hydro Electric Project (HEP) Stage-1 is

designed to generate 758 Micro Units (MUs) energy per annum, transmitted through the ISTS network line.

85. The Government e-Marketplace (**GeM**) portal has procured over **8200 crore** worth of products and services from around 12165 registered startups across 1.42 lakh orders since its inception in 2016. Under the Startup Runway initiative for unique products with no comparable, startups can register and sell such products.

The registered sellers count in the portal has crossed 50 lakh and the number of orders placed has crossed 1 crore.

Maharashtra has ranked first with 8.83 lakh vendors who are registered with GeM, followed by Uttar Pradesh (4.09 lakh), and Tamil Nadu (4.07 lakh).

86. The **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**, the nation's top oil firm, has announced that it will invest **Rs 2 lakh crore** to achieve net-zero operational carbon emissions by **2046**. It will use a combination of energy efficiency measures, electrification of processes, and fuel replacement. The target set is in line with India's aim to reach net-zero emissions by 2070.
87. Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs and Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh has handed over a cheque of **USD 1 million** for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (**BIMSTEC**) Secretariat's operational budget.

Key points:

- BIMSTEC Secretary General **Tenzin Lekphell** was on a visit to India, during which discussions were held on the consolidation and further development of the BIMSTEC institutional architecture under the BIMSTEC Charter adopted at the last Summit on March 30, 2022.
- He has also participated in a public interactive session hosted by Research & Information Systems for Developing Countries (RIS) titled "**Rejuvenating Growth through partnerships-Role of BIMSTEC**".

88. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (**NMDFC**), under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **ICICI Bank** for the development of financial accounting software and mobile application.
- The MoU provides for the development of financial accounting software for NMDFC and *State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs)*, loan accounting software for receiving and processing of loan applications and accounting of repayments from beneficiaries.
 - ICICI Bank will design, develop and deploy the application for NMDFC, provide source code and executable database information among others.

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89. Bangladesh and India have signed two contracts for the construction of a new broad-gauge line between **Khulna- Darsana** and conversion of metre gauge line into dual-gauge line between **Parbatipur and Kaunia**. The two projects are being implemented with financing under the Indian Line of Credit (LoC) of **USD 2 billion**.

- The 126 kilometre long Khulna-Darshana broad gauge rail line will have 147 bridges over it including 4 Girder bridges and 143 RCC box culvert bridges. The project cost is Taka 3506 crore out of which Taka 2689 crore will come from the Indian LoC.
- The Parbatipur to Kaunia rail project will cover a distance of 57 kilometres. It has seven railway stations as well as 47 bridges including 14 girder bridges and 33 box culvert bridges.

90. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Bharat Heavy Engineering Limited (BHEL)** to make components and equipment manufacturing, infrastructure development, and project execution indigenous.

The MoU aims to identify and explore the execution projects, both in India and abroad, and set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with equity contribution and through synergy of their respective capabilities.

91. IndiGo Airlines has joined a sustainable initiative led by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to achieve a significant scale of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). The airline has become a signatory to the **Clear Skies for Tomorrow (CST)**, India Coalition campaign.

In February 2022, IndiGo operated its brand new A320 neo plane from Toulouse, France to New Delhi with a 10 percent blend of SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel).

Clean Skies for Tomorrow (CST):

It was launched in January 2019 to provide a crucial mechanism for top executives and public leaders, across and beyond the aviation value chain, to align on a transition to sustainable aviation fuels as part of a meaningful and proactive pathway for the industry to achieve carbon-neutral flying.

BANKING & FINANCE

92. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the payments solutions provider **PayXpert** to introduce UPI payment and RuPay cards in the **UK**.

This collaboration will make the Indian payment solutions available in the UK on all PayXpert's android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments, starting with UPI-based QR code payments and later integrating the possibility for RuPay card payments.

Note: UPI has achieved a volume of USD 940 billion, which is equal to 31% of GDP in India in 2021. RuPay card scheme is a first-of-its-kind global card payment scheme with over 700 million cards issued from India.

93. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has planned to launch a revamped grievance redressal mechanism to make complaint redressal more efficient with the option of customers filing their complaints in regional languages.

- The **Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS)**, launched in 2011, is being upgraded to make it more convenient for customers. It is to be renamed as '**Bima Bharosa**'.
- The aim of this new version is to file complaints with more efficient options of customers that can be filled in up to 13 regional languages.

94. Muthoot Finance has launched '**Milligram Reward Programme**' for its customers. It is a two-year long programme aims to strengthen the relationship between customers and bring back inactive customers.

- Under this programme, all transactions with The Muthoot Group will be rewarded with at least a milligram of gold.
- The reward programme will be applicable for 30 plus services offered by the company.
- It will be effective for all transactions from 1st April 2022.
- Every customer referral transaction with the company will earn **20 mg of gold** and also **Rs 50 crore** worth of gold (100 kg) is expected to be paid off through the programme annually.

With this, Muthoot Finance has become the **first gold loan NBFC** to launch such a new reward programme.

95. HDFC ERGO General Insurance has introduced "**All things EV**", India's first electronic vehicle ecosystem. It is a one-stop-solution portal for electric vehicles (EV).

- The platform aims to facilitate and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles by addressing the needs of current and future EV owners.

- The platform has a roadmap with features like slot booking at charging stations, roadside assistance, RTO services and creation of an EV community.
- It will also provide the cost ownership and subsidies offered by different State Governments.

96. Castler, a digital escrow platform, has collaborated with **Yes Bank** to provide digital escrow services to the bank's customers. Castler will offer domestic and cross-border escrow solutions.

Escrow banking:

Escrow banking is a legal arrangement in which the bank temporarily holds money or equivalent transaction asset unless one or both parties have delivered on the contract terms they enter into.

97. Edelweiss General Insurance has collaborated with the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** to create digital health IDs under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for all in India.

- The **Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)** is the first step towards creating digital health records which is currently optional.
- ABHA is a **14-digit number** that helps users to share and access their health records digitally with registered healthcare providers.
- This program empowers people to access medical diagnosis, treatment, and financing from verified healthcare providers and payors, from across the country.

98. KreditBee, a fintech platform, has joined hands with **Cashfree Payments**, an API banking solutions company, to offer cardless Equated Monthly Instalment (EMI) options for its non-credit card holders. The checkout finance loans range from Rs.2,400 to Rs.2 lakhs with a tenure of 3-18 months.

99. Universal Sampo General Insurance has collaborated with Chennai-based **Repco Home Finance Limited** to offer insurance against home loans. Under this partnership, affordable insurance solutions will also be provided by Universal Sampo General Insurance like Group Credit Protection, Long-Term Fire, and Personal Accident policies to Repco's customers.

100. According to the latest data by PGA Labs, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has topped the **debit card** chart with **30%** market share. SBI is followed by Bank of Baroda (8 percent), Bank of India, Canara Bank, Union Bank, and Punjab National Bank with 5% market share.

HDFC Bank has topped the **credit card** chart with **22%** market share. It is followed by SBI (18%), ICICI Bank (17%), Axis Bank (12%), RBL Bank (5%), and Kotak Mahindra Bank (5%).

- 101. Tata Neu**, the 'super app' of the Tata Group, has tied up with **HDFC Bank** to launch co-branded credit cards. The card will be launched in two variants: Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card and Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card. Each of the two variants of the card will be available on both RuPay and Visa networks.
- The customers will earn rewards on all spends, both online and in-store in the form of NeuCoins (1 NeuCoin = One Rupee).
 - The customers will earn 2 percent NeuCoins with Tata Neu Plus HDFC Bank Credit Card, and 5 percent NeuCoins with Tata Neu Infinity HDFC Bank Credit Card on all purchases on partner Tata brands.

- 102. BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and the **Indian Army** have launched '**Yoddha**', a co-branded RuPay Contactless credit card for the Indian Army personnel, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**). The co-branded credit card will be equipped with contactless features and will be offered on the RuPay platform. The co-branded credit card will be offered Life Time Free (LTF) to all Indian Army personnel.

- 103.** The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (**PFRDA**) has announced that a trail commission of **0.20%** of the National Pension System (NPS) D-Remit (Direct Remittance) contribution amount will be paid to **Points of Presence (POPs)** from **1st September 2022**.
- The trail commission on D-Remit contributions made by NPS subscribers who were onboarded by the respective PoPs will be similar to eNPS.
 - The PoPs will get a minimum Rs.15 and maximum Rs.10,000, under this.

PoPs are banks, non-banking financial institutions, pension fund managers, and brokerage firms that provide their services to investors for a small charge. They are the first point of interaction between the subscriber and NPS.

D-Remit:

The PFRDA has introduced the D-Remit (Direct Remittance) facility for the subscribers wherein they could deposit their voluntary contributions with greater ease by creating a static Virtual ID linked to their Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) and remit the amount from their Bank Account. A D-Remit contribution must be at least Rs.500 in value.

- 104. HDFC Bank** has decided to acquire a **9.94 percent** stake in **Go Digit Life Insurance**. The lender has entered into an indicative and non-binding term sheet with Go Digit Life Insurance worth amount between Rs.49.9 crore to Rs.69.9 crore, in two tranches, by subscribing to equity shares of the company.

105. The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has partnered with **TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG)**, a subsidiary of Tata Power, to establish **1,000 green energy** enterprises across India.

- **Objective:** To empower rural entrepreneurs and promote sustainable entrepreneurship models throughout India.
- The driving forces behind this partnership are '*Sustainable is Attainable*' program of Tata Power and '*Empowering MSMEs*' campaign of SIDBI.
- The entrepreneurs shortlisted under this initiative will have to complete a capacity-building activity organised by TPRMG to receive an impetus called **Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi)** from SIDBI.

106. **Axis Bank**, which partnered with Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) in 2016 to enable cashless commute in the metro, has announced to launch a campaign for **Kochi-1 smart card** holders in connection with Onam.

The lender has partnered with **Amazon Pay** to offer discounts on recharges, utility, and bill payments. The lender has released a special offer, the '*Dinning Delights*' extended to Kochi 1 card which can avail reduction on food and beverages bills.

107. **PGIM India Mutual Fund** has launched a new investor education and awareness website: '**MoneyAndMe**'. The website contains exhaustive content on various aspects of personal finance including household budgeting, protection, savings and investing.

The company has also launched a consumer awareness campaign '**Aapka HappinessPlanned**' to promote the MoneyAndMe Initiative.

108. The **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has introduced a new Fixed Deposit (FD) scheme namely, '**Maha Dhanvarsha**'. The highest interest rate on this special deposit is 5.50% for non-senior citizens and 6% for senior citizens. The interest rate is only valid for a 400-day term.

Recently, Bank of Maharashtra revised FD interest rates on fixed deposits under Rs 2 crore with effect from August 22, 2022. The bank offers interest rates between 2.75 percent to 5.40 percent (now 5.50) interest on FD tenures between 7 days to 10 years.

Senior citizens will be offered an additional rate of 0.50 percent interest rate only for all maturities slabs of 91 days and above for deposit up to Rs 2 crore only.

- 109.** The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned the financial assistance of **Rs.230 crore** to **Mizoram** for critical rural infrastructure development under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) XXVIII.
- 110.** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (**IRDAI**) has recently provided insurers with more flexibility in paying commission by linking limits to the overall portfolio and company management expenses.

Commission Cap:

- IRDAI has proposed a cap on commissions paid by the health and general insurance companies at **20 percent** of gross written premium (GWP).
- For life companies, IRDAI proposed to link commissions with expenses of management (EoM), wherein if the actual EoM in the previous financial year is not over **70%** of the allowable EoM limits, the life insurer can adopt commission limits as approved by its board.
- IRDAI has also proposed a **20%** commission cap on first-year premium (FYP) and 10% renewal premium (RP) compared to 35-40% and 5-7.5%, respectively.

The commission and remuneration of insurers should be based on a board-approved policy which will be reviewed on a yearly basis. No commission is payable to insurance agents or the insurance intermediaries in the direct business, and the insurers must grant discounts on the premium.

- 111. ICICI Bank** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch a range of credit cards on RuPay, the indigenous payments network. The ICICI Bank RuPay Credit Card is available in the *Coral* variant of the Bank's Gemstone series. This will be followed by *Rubyx* and *Sapphiro* variants.
- 112.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has enhanced disclosure rules for **credit rating agencies (CRAs)** and issued a framework for rating withdrawal of perpetual debt securities. The new framework will be applicable to credit ratings of securities that are already listed or proposed to be listed on a stock exchange.

Key norms:

- New methodology for computation of sharp rating action (SRA).
- Frame a detailed policy on Issuers Not Cooperating (INC).
- Withdraw ratings of perpetual debt securities.

Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs):

CRAs evaluate and assess an individual's or a company's creditworthiness. They consider a debtor's income and credit lines to analyse the debtor's ability to repay the debt or if there is any credit risk associated.

In India, CRAs are regulated by SEBI under **SEBI (Credit Rating Agencies) Regulations, 1999**.

113. The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has amended the pricing norms for preferential allotment of units by **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**.

Under the new framework, the pricing formula for allotment of units under preferential issue will be the **Volume-Weighted Average Price (VWAP)** of weekly highs and lows for **90 trading days** or **10 trading days**, whichever is higher.

At present, the pricing formula in a preferential allotment is the VWAP of the last two weeks or the last 26 weeks, whichever is higher.

Key guidelines:

- The preferential issue of units to "institutional investors" not exceeding five will have to be made at a price not less than the 10 trading days' VWAP of the related units quoted on a stock exchange preceding the relevant date.
- The preferential issue of units will not be made to any person who has sold or transferred any units of the issuer during the 90 trading days preceding the relevant date. At the present, the limit is six months.
- In case any person belonging to the sponsor has sold or transferred their units of the issuer during the 90 days preceding the relevant date, all sponsors will be ineligible for allotment of units on the preferential basis.

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RBI IN NEWS

114. The **Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has recently joined the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) **Account Aggregator (AA) network**. This will allow customers to share information about their mutual fund and stock holdings with financial service providers.

- Under the framework, Financial Information Providers (FIPs) in the securities market, like depositories and asset management companies (AMCs) through their Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) will provide financial information pertaining to securities markets to the customers and consented Financial Information Users (FIUs) through any of the account aggregators registered with the RBI.

- This move will make the entire trading system, depository system, as well as mutual fund system, online.
- It is noteworthy that all the **12 public sector banks (PSBs)** have joined the AA framework.

AA System:

In 2021, the central government unveiled the Account Aggregator network, a financial data-sharing system that could revolutionize investing and credit, giving millions of consumer's greater access and control over their financial records.

An Account Aggregator (AA) is a type of RBI regulated entity (with an NBFC-AA license) that helps an individual securely and digitally access and share information from one financial institution they have an account with to any other regulated financial institution in the AA network. Data cannot be shared without the consent of the individual.

- 115.** As per the latest Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) data, the remittance by Indians under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) increased **64.75 percent** to over **USD 6.04 billion** in **Q1FY23** from USD 3.67 billion in Q1FY22.
- The amount remitted in Q1FY23 is even higher than that in Q4FY22, where outward remittance under LRS reached USD 5.8 billion.
 - In April 2022, about USD 2.02 billion was remitted, followed by USD 2.03 billion in May 2022, and USD 1.98 billion in June 2022.
 - International travel contributed USD 2.92 billion of the USD 6.04 billion remitted under LRS in Q1FY23, thus constituting almost 48 percent of the money remitted under the LRS scheme.
 - Maintenance of close relatives formed the second largest segment after international travel, with Indian's remitting just over USD 1 billion in Q1FY23.
 - Money remitted under the category "gift" constituted the third largest segment, with India's remitting around USD 770.66 million in Q1, as against USD 489.15 million in the year-ago period.
 - Overseas education constituted the fourth largest segment, with USD 738.42 million remitted in the April – June quarter, against USD 1.16 billion in the year-ago period.

Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

The scheme was introduced on **4th February 2004**, with a limit of USD 25,000. Now, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to **USD 250,000** per financial year for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.

- 116.** In line with the amendment in the Foreign Exchange Management Act 2015, Outward Investments Rules, officially called, **Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment)**

Regulations, 2022 have been framed by the Government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). These rules are applicable with effect from 22nd August 2022.

Currently, the overseas investment by a person resident in India is governed by the *Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Any Foreign Security) Regulations, 2004* and the *Foreign Exchange Management (Acquisition and Transfer of Immovable Property Outside India) Regulations, 2015*.

Key amendments:

- Under the new amendment, the net worth of a registered partnership firm or LLP (Limited Liability Partnership) will be the sum of the capital contribution of partners and undistributed profits of the partners after deducting therefrom the aggregate value of the accumulated losses, deferred expenditure, and miscellaneous expenditure not written off, as per the last audited balance sheet.
- The amendment guides where investment by a person resident in India in the equity capital of a foreign entity is classified as ODI (Overseas Direct Investment), such investment will continue to be treated as ODI even if the investment falls to a level below 10% of the paid-up equity capital or such person loses control in the foreign entity.
- Any Indian resident who has acquired and continues to hold equity capital of any foreign entity can invest in the equity capital issued by such entity as a rights issue; or may be granted bonus shares subject to the terms and conditions under these rules.
- Any Indian resident whose account is classified as non-performing assets, or as a wilful defaulter by any bank, or is under investigation by a financial service regulator will have to obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' from the lender bank or regulatory body or investigative agency before making any financial commitment or undertaking disinvestment.
- The pricing will be on an arm's length basis.
- Any Indian resident may transfer equity capital by way of sale to a person resident in India, who is eligible to make such investment under these rules, or to a person resident outside India.
- **No** person resident in India can make a financial commitment to a foreign entity that has invested or invests in India.
- An Indian entity having an overseas office may acquire immovable property outside India for the business and residential purposes of its staff.
- An Indian entity not engaged in financial services activity in India may make ODI in a foreign entity, which is directly or indirectly engaged in financial services activity, except banking or insurance, subject to the condition that such Indian entity has posted net profits during the preceding three financial years.

- An Indian entity **not** engaged in the insurance sector may make ODI in general and health insurance where such insurance business is supporting the core activity undertaken overseas by such an Indian entity.

117. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently imposed certain restrictions on Kerala-based **Thodupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank** for a period of six months. RBI has banned the bank from granting or renewing loans and advances and making any investments. RBI has also suspended withdrawal in the bank's savings and current accounts for depositors.

RBI has also lifted the business restrictions imposed on **American Express Banking Corp** after the latter has demonstrated satisfactory compliance with regard to Storage of Payment System Data.

The RBI had on 23 April 2021 imposed restrictions on American Express from on-boarding new domestic customers onto its card network from 1 May 2021 for non-compliance with RBI's circular dated 6 April 2018 on Storage of Payment System Data.

118. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs.2.33 crore** on **Spandana Sphoorty Financial Limited, Hyderabad** for noncompliance with certain provisions, and failed to attach to credit pricing guidelines for Non-Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs).

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58 G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58 B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

119. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the '**Quarterly Statistics on Deposits and Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) for June 2022**'. This data is collected from all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), which include Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and Payments Banks (PBs).

- Bank credit growth has accelerated to **14.2 percent** in Q1FY23 (quarter ended June 2022) from 6 percent in Q1FY22.
- In Q4FY22 (quarter ended March 2022), bank credit had expanded by 10.8 percent.
- Credit growth has been broad-based: all the population groups (i.e., rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan), all the bank groups (i.e., public/private sector banks, foreign banks, RRBs and SFBs) and all the regions of the country (i.e., central, eastern, north-eastern, northern, southern and western) recorded double-digit annual credit growth in June 2022.
- Aggregate deposit growth (year-on-year) has remained in the range **9.5 - 10.2 percent** during the last five quarters.

- Metropolitan branches continue to account for over half of the bank deposits and their share increased marginally over the last one year.
- The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits has been increasing over the last three years (42 percent in June 2020, 43.8 percent in June 2021 and 44.5 percent in June 2022).
- In June 2022, the credit-deposit (C-D) ratio stood at **73.5 percent** at all-India level (70.5 percent a year ago) and **86.2 percent** for metropolitan branches of banks (84.3 percent a year ago).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

120. "Mithila Makhana" from **Bihar** has been awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. This will help the farmers who grow the foxnuts (Makhana) get the maximum price for their premium produce.

- The GI has been registered under the name of Mithilanchal Makhana Utpadak Sangh, facilitated by Bihar Agricultural University.
- Districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Begusarai, Madhubani and Katihar have been defined as the geographic location for the production of Mithila Makhana.

121. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will be conferred with the **2022 Liberty Medal**. He will be honoured at the National Constitution Center (NCC), Philadelphia, USA in October 2022. He will be honoured with the medal and a prize of USD 100,000 to recognize his leadership in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. He has planned to donate the prize to the new Ukrainian Veteran Fund.

Earlier, the Ukrainian President received the Ronald Reagan Freedom Award and the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award as well as honours from the governments of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia.

Liberty Medal:

The Liberty Medal, established in 1988 to mark the U.S. Constitution's bicentennial, is presented to individuals who strive to secure the blessings of liberty for people around the globe.

122. Bangladesh-born **Fahmida Azim** working for the Insider online magazine of United States has been selected for the **2022 Pulitzer Prize** under the category of Illustrated Reporting and Commentary. She is among the four journalists including **Anthony Del Col, Josh Adams and Walt Hickey** of Insider being published from New York, selected for their work on the

Chinese oppression of the Uyghurs. The work *'I escaped a Chinese internment Camp'* has illustrations by Fahmida Azim.

Fahmida Azim:

She was born in Bangladesh and now settled in the US. She is an illustrator and story teller. Her work centres on themes of identity, culture and autonomy. She has illustrated a number of books including her own notable project *'Muslim Women Are Everything'*.

Pulitzer Prize:

It is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine, online journalism, literature, and musical composition within the United States. It was established in 1917.

- 123.** Former German chancellor **Angela Merkel** has won the **UNESCO Peace Prize 2022** for “her efforts to welcome refugees”. She has been awarded for making a courageous decision in 2015 to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees, notably from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Eritrea.

UNESCO Peace Prize:

The honour, which is officially called Felix Houphouet-Boigny-UNESCO Peace Prize, is named after the former president of Ivory Coast. It has been awarded each year since 1989 to individuals, organisations or institutions that have made a special effort to promote, research or secure peace. The prize includes a cheque of USD 150,000, a gold medal and a peace diploma.

- 124.** The **Anang Tal Lake** in **South Delhi** has been declared a **Monument of National Importance** through a gazette notification by the Ministry of Culture.

The Monuments of National Importance are designated by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**. The Government of India is authorised to maintain, protect and promote the Monuments of National Importance.

Anang Tal Lake:

It was built by the founder King of Delhi Anang Pal Tomar in 1052 AD. It is situated to the north of Jog Maya temple and approximately 500 metres to the northwest of Qutub Complex. It is believed that Alauddin Khalji, in 1296-1316 AD, utilised the water of this tank when he built (Qutub) minar and extended the Qutub-ul-Islam mosque.

- 125.** **Divita Rai** of **Karnataka** has won the **Miss Diva Universe 2022** title held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She has been crowned by the outgoing titleholder Harnaaz Sandhu. She will represent India at the 71st Miss Universe 2022 pageant.

Other winners:

Pragnya Ayyagari of Telangana has won the LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2022 crown.
Ojasvi Sharma has won the Miss Popular Choice 2022.

126. India has recently nominated the dance form '**Garba**' to be inscribed on *UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list*. Garba is a dance form that originated in the **Gujarat** region. It is performed during the nine-day Hindu festival Navaratri.

Note: In 2021, 'Durga Puja' (West Bengal) was included on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list.

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BOOKS & AUTHORS

- 127.** **Hindol Sengupta** has authored a book titled "**Sing, Dance and Pray: The Inspirational Story of Srila Prabhupada Founder-Acharya of ISKCON**". The book is a biography of A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The book is published by India Penguin Ananda imprint of Penguin Random House India (PRHI).
- 128.** Former Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu has unveiled a book titled "**A New India: Selected Writings 2014-19**". The book is a compilation of selected articles penned by former Union Minister and Padma Vibhushan **Arun Jaitley** who passed away on 24th August 2019. The book is published by Juggernaut Publication to pay tribute to Arun Jaitley on his 3rd death anniversary. The book explains the clearest, most authoritative discussions on the policies of the BJP government of 2014-19.
- 129.** Indian economist **Pulapre Balakrishnan** has authored a book titled "**India's Economy from Nehru to Modi: A Brief History**". The book highlights the significant economic policies and development made during the British Raj (1900-1 to 1946-7), Nehruvian period (1950-1 to 1964-5), and current time. The book is published by Permanent Black.
- 130.** Acclaimed classical dancer and activist **Mallika Sarabhai** has authored a book titled "**In Free Fall: My Experiments With Living**". The book is published by Speaking Tiger. The book is about "coming to terms with yourself, your body and finding the lifestyle that works for you".

131. An autobiography titled “**The Hero of Tiger Hill: Autobiography of a Param Vir**” tells the inspiring story of **Subedar Major** (Honorary Captain) **Yogendra Singh Yadav** (Retd.), the youngest Param Vir Chakra awardee, India’s highest gallantry award, at the age of 19 for his actions in the 1999 Kargil conflict.

The autobiography is published by **Srishti Publishers & Distributors**.

The book focusses on the night of 3rd July 1999, Grenadier Yogendra Singh Yadav, was given a very crucial task along with the Ghatak Platoon of 18 Grenadiers Regiment in order to capture the impenetrable Tiger Hill.

PERSON IN NEWS

132. Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of financial services platform Paytm for another 5 years. The decision has been taken during the 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of One97 Communications Limited (OCL) which owns the brand Paytm.

133. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed India's Electronics and Information Technology Secretary **Alkesh Kumar Sharma** to the 10-member Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel.

- Internet pioneer **Vint Cerf** and Nobel Prize-winning journalist **Maria Reesa** have also been appointed to the panel.
- The IGF Leadership Panel also has 5 ex-officio members, including Amandeep Singh Gill, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology.
- The members will have a tenure of 2 years from 2022 to 2023.

IGF Leadership Panel:

The panel was set up under the mandate of the IGF and the recommendations in the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. The panel aims to deal with strategic and urgent issues of the Internet and provide strategic advice to the IGF.

134. The Central Government has extended the tenure of **Meenesh C Shah**, Executive Director (ED) of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), for another six months until 30th November 2022. This marks the 2nd extension after the first extension on 4th January 2022.

135. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Odia Scientist **Dr Debasisa Mohanty** as the new Director of the National Institute of Immunology

(NII). He has been appointed with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post and upto the age of his superannuation.

The National Institute of Immunology (NII) is an autonomous research institute located in New Delhi, under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for research in immunology.

Other appointments:

- Revenue Secretary **Tarun Bajaj** has been given additional charge as Corporate Affairs Secretary.
- Seasoned diplomat **Vikram K Doraiswami** has been appointed as India's new High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. He has succeeded Gaitri Issar Kumar.

136. SBICAP Securities, a unit of SBI Capital Markets and part of the government-owned State Bank Group, has named **Deepak Kumar Lalla** as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). He has succeeded Naresh Yadav.

137. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Indian scientist **Dr Samir V Kamat** as **Secretary** of the **Department of Defence Research and Development** and **Chairman** of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**. He has succeeded **G Sathesh Reddy** who has been named as **Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister** Rajnath Singh. He will hold the charge of chairman at DRDO till he attains 60 years of age or until further notice.

Earlier, he served as the Director General Naval Systems & Materials (NS & M) at DRDO since July 2017.

138. The Government of India (GoI) has recently appointed former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), **KV Subramanian** as the Executive Director for India at the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. His term will begin from November 2022 and will continue for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He will succeed eminent economist Surjit S Bhalla.

139. Petcare brand **Heads up for Tails (HUFT)** has announced the Bollywood actor **Kriti Sanon**, who is an animal lover and a pet parent, as its first brand ambassador. HUFT aims to help remove hunger and provide health, safety, and shelter for street animals.

140. Disney's international content and operations group has announced the appointment of Sajith Sivanandan as Executive Vice-President and Head of Disney+ Hotstar. He will take up his new role in October 2022. He will be reporting to Chairman of Disney's International

Content and Operations Group, Rebecca Campbell, and President of Disney Star, K. Madhavan.

- 141.** The All India Chess Federation (AICF) has appointed **Vipnesh Bharadwaj** as its interim secretary after the Delhi Excessive Courtroom reiterated its order of removing former chief Bharat Singh Chauhan.
- 142.** The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed **Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan**, an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management & Research, as a whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**).
- He has been appointed for a period of **3 years** from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier. With this, he has become the **4th whole-time member (WTM)** of SEBI. The other three WTM's include SK Mohanty, Ananta Barua and Ashwani Bhatia.
- 143.** Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president **Adille Sumariwalla** has been appointed as the interim President of the Indian Olympic Association. He has replaced Narinder Dhruv Batra, who resigned in July 2022 citing personal reasons.

OBITUARIES

- 144.** Former India football team captain **Samar 'Badru' Banerjee** has recently passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born on 30th January 1930 in Bally, Howrah, Bengal Presidency, British India. He captained team India during the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne. India finished fourth in the Olympics that year. He played for the iconic Mohun Bagan club for seven years between 1952-59.
- 145.** Veteran filmmaker **Abdul Gaffar Nadiadwala** has recently passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was known for backing over 50 Hindi films including 1965 film "Mahabharat" and hit comedies in the 2000s such as "Hera Pheri" and "Welcome". He had started his film production and media entertainment company in 1953.
- 146. K. Sadananda Shetty**, former Vijaya Bank chairman and founder and serving Chairman of Soham Group of Companies, has recently passed away in Nice city, France. He served as the Chairman of Vijaya Bank, which has now merged with Bank of Baroda (BoB) from 1983 to 1990. He was currently serving as the President of Renewable Energy Developers Association of Karnataka.

SPORTS

147. Indian Football striker **Manisha Kalyan** (Punjab) has become the first Indian footballer to play in the Union of European Football Association (UEFA) Women's Championship League by making her debut for Apollon Ladies FC in the European Club competition in Engomi, Cyprus.

148. India has secured the **3rd rank** in the medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) held in Kutaisi, Georgia. India has secured the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning **3 gold** and **2 silver** medals.

Iran's official team (5 golds) has topped the medal tally, followed by Iran's guest team (4 golds, 1 silver).

Details of the Individual performance are given below:

Contestant	Place	Medal
Raghav Goyal	Chandigarh	Gold
Md Sahil Akhtar	Kolkata	Gold
Mehul Borad	Hyderabad	Gold
Malay Kedia	Ghaziabad	Silver
Atharva Nilesh Mahajan	Indore	Silver

In all, 28 gold, 38 silver and 55 bronze medals have been awarded at the 15th IOAA. Raghav Goyal has won a special prize for the best solution to the most challenging theoretical question.

149. India's opener **Shubman Gill** has broken the legendary Sachin Tendulkar's record by scoring his maiden international century against Zimbabwe during the Kajaria cup India Tour of Zimbabwe ODI Series 2022. He has scored **130 runs** off 97 balls, which included 15 fours and a six.

The previous highest score in ODIs against Zimbabwe by an Indian was by Sachin Tendulkar, who scored 127 runs in 1998 in the first ODI of three-match series.

Notably, **Indian cricket team** has won the Kajaria cup India Tour of Zimbabwe ODI Series 2022 by defeating Zimbabwe in the 3rd and final ODI held at Harare Sports Club, Harare, Zimbabwe.

150. Japan men's volleyball team has won the **2022 Asian Boys' U18 Volleyball Championship** after beating Iran in the final match held at Volleyball Federation Hall, Tehran, Iran.

Indian men's volleyball team has won the **bronze medal** by defeating South Korea in the championship.

Other awards in the tournament:

- Most Valuable Player: Hiroki Bito (Japan)
- Best Setter: Emran Kook Jili (Iran)
- Best Outside Hitters: Shunta Ono (Japan), and S.Matin Hosseini (Iran)
- Best Middle Blockers: Taha Behboudnia (Iran), and Kush Singh (India)
- Best Opposite Spiker: Aryan Baliyan (India)
- Best Libero: Sena Kameoka (Japan)

151. DreamSetGo, a sports experiences and travel platform, has appointed former Indian cricketer, and current President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) **Sourav Ganguly** as its first brand ambassador. He has also become the 'Supercaptain' for the company DreamSetGo. The key partnerships of DreamSetGo are with Manchester City, Chelsea FC, ICC Travel and Tours, AO Travel, F1 Experiences etc.

152. UEFA Awards 2022 have been presented, recently.

UEFA Awards 2022		
Category	Winner	Club
Men's Player of the Year	Karim Benzema (France)	Real Madrid
Women's Player of the Year	Alexia Putellas (Spain)	Barcelona
Men's Coach of the Year	Carlo Ancelotti (Italy)	Real Madrid
Women's Coach of the Year	Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands)	England
President Award	Arrigo Sacchi (Italy)	-

153. Indian judoka **Linthoi Chanambam (Manipur)** has scripted history by winning **India's first-ever medal in Judo World Championships** with a gold in the Women's 57kg category at the World Judo Cadet (U18) Championships 2022. She has defeated Brazilian Bianca Reis, the Pan-American junior champion, in the final match. She is the first Indian to win gold in the world judo championships in any category.

154. The 2022 BWF World Championships, a badminton tournament, has been held at Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium in Tokyo, Japan.

Category	Winner
Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
Women's Singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
Men's Doubles	Aaron Chia & Soh Wooi Yik (Malaysia)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (China)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (China)

India's performance:

Indian badminton players **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy**, and **Chirag Shetty** have won the **first bronze medal** in Men's doubles. With this, they became the first Indian pair to win a medal in the Men's doubles event at the world badminton championships.

155. The 45th edition of the World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022 has been held in Sofia, Bulgaria. In the championship, **Japan** has topped the medal tally with 9 Gold, 1 Silver & 5 Bronze (15 medals), followed by Iran & Azerbaijan.

India has finished **5th** in the championship with **1 Gold, 4 Silver & 11 Bronze** (16 medals). **Antim Panghal (Haryana)** has become the **first Indian woman** to become a world champion in U20 wrestling.

Indian medallists at World U20 Wrestling Championships 2022:

Women's freestyle

- **Gold: Antim Panghal (53kg)**
- **Silver:** Sonam Malik (62 kg), Priyanka (65 kg), and **Priya Malik (76kg)**
- **Bronze:** Priyanshi Prajapat (50 kg), Sito (57 kg), and Reetika (72 kg)

Men's freestyle

- **Silver:** Mahendra Gaikwad (125 kg)
- **Bronze:** Abhishek Dhaka (57 kg), Mohit Kumar (61 kg), Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg), Mulayam Yadav (70 kg), Sagar Jaglan (74 kg), and Neeraj Bhardwaj (97 kg).

Greco-Roman

- **Bronze:** Sumit (60 kg), and **Rohit Dahiya (82 kg)**

156. World No.1 GM **Magnus Carlsen (Norway)** has won the FTX Crypto Cup 2022 despite losing his final match in a tiebreak to GM R. Praggnanandhaa, who thereby secured second place in the tournament. GM Alireza Firouzja has finished in third place. The tournament has been held in Miami, Florida, USA.

- 157. Virat Kohli** has become the **first Indian** and overall **second cricketer** to play at least 100 matches in each of the three international formats. He played his 100th T20I during the Asia Cup 2022 against Pakistan. He has played 102 Tests and 262 ODIs. Former New Zealand batter Ross Taylor had become the first cricketer to achieve the feat in February 2020.
- 158.** Indian Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** has won the **28th Abu Dhabi Masters Chess Tournament** after defeating David Anton Guijarro from Spain in the ninth and final round. He has won the tournament with 7.5 points.
- 159.** Red Bull's **Max Verstappen** (Belgian-Dutch) has won the 2022 Belgian Grand Prix and extended his lead in the Formula 1 World Championship followed by Red Bull's Sergio Perez in second position and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in third position.
- 160.** Olympic champion and javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** has finished first at the **Lausanne Diamond League**. With this, he has become the **first Indian** to clinch the top spot in a Diamond League Meet, after registering an **89.08m** throw in his first attempt.
- 161.** Tokyo Olympics silver medalist **Jakub Vadlejch** has finished second with a best throw of 85.88m, followed by **Curtis Thompson** (USA) has finished third with a best effort of 83.72m.
- 162.** The Bureau of the FIFA Council has decided to lift the suspension that was imposed on the All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to undue third-party influence.
- As a result, the **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022** event to be held on 11-30 October 2022 will be held in India as planned.
 - ATK Mohun Bagan will also be able to participate in the AFC Cup Inter-Zonal semi-finals where they will be facing Kuala Lumpur City FC.
 - The Indian national team were scheduled to play two friendlies in September, against Singapore and Vietnam on the 24th and 27th of September, respectively. They will now be allowed to take part in the same.
- 163.** The **Athletics Federation of India (AFI)** has partnered with **HSBC India** to support women athletes of the country, especially the youngsters.
- Under this partnership, promising girls will be picked from the National Inter District Champion-ships for Under-14 and Under-16 categories and would be nurtured to perform on the global stage.
 - Special coaching camps will be set up for the selected athletes and all their needs will be taken care of.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

164. World Water Week 2022 has been observed from **23rd August** to **1st September 2022** to address the global water issues and related concerns of international development. It is an annual event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991.

Theme 2022: **"Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water"**

165. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on **23rd August** to inscribe the tragedy of the slave trade in the memory of all peoples. The day was chosen by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

166. Internaut Day is observed annually on **23rd August** to mark the invention of the **World Wide Web (WWW)**. On this day in 1991, the WWW was opened to the public for the first time by WWW inventor **Tim Berners Lee** as he allowed its access. Tim Berners Lee invented WWW in 1989, while working at the CERN.

An "internaut" is a person who possesses a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.

167. World Gujarati Language Day is observed annually on **24 August** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great writer of Gujarat 'Veer Narmad'. He has made Gujarati literature international.

Veer Narmad:

He was born on 24th August 1833 in Surat, Gujarat. His full name was Narmadashankar Lalshankar Dave. He is considered to be the founder of the Gujarati language. His poem Jai Jai Garavi Gujarat is now the state anthem of Gujarat.

168. Women's Equality Day is observed annually across the United States of America (USA) on **26th August** to honour the women of America for gaining the constitutional right to vote. The day honours the 'Nineteenth Amendment' made to the US constitution in 1920 to give equal voting rights to women.

169. National Sports Day is observed annually across India on **August 29** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hockey Wizard **Major Dhyan Chand**. The day was first observed in 2012 as a tribute to Major Dhyan Chand. The day aims to spread awareness about the importance of sports and the benefits of being physically active in life.

The President gives away sport-related awards such as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (formerly known as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna), Arjuna Award and Dronacharya Award on this day.

Major Dhyan Chand:

He was born on 29th August 1905, in Prayagraj (formerly known as Allahabad), Uttar Pradesh. His original name was Dhyan Singh. He joined the British Indian Army as a sepoy at the age of 16. He exclusively played in army hockey tournaments between 1922 and 1926. He played his first international match in 1948.

He played a key role in India's three consecutive Olympic triumphs in 1928, 1932 and 1936. He is often referred to as **'The Wizard'** for his incredible hockey skills, he scored over 400 goals in his career that lasted from 1926 to 1948. He was the Captain of the Indian hockey team who won the gold medal at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. He was awarded India's third highest civilian honour of **Padma Bhushan** in **1956**.

Additional Information:

On the occasion of National Sports Day, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has hosted the **"Meet the Champion project"** in 26 schools across the nation. In this, the champion athlete gives school children an overall inspirational boost during the visit by sharing their experiences, life lessons, and dietary advice.

170. National Small Industry Day is observed annually across India on **30th August** to encourage and shape government policies to enhance the efficiency of the small-scale sector. The day was first observed in 2001.

Government Initiatives for Small Industries:

- Champions Portal
- UDYAM
- National SC-ST Hub

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