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October 2022 - Week 1

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has inducted the first indigenously-developed multirole **Light Combat Helicopters (LCH)** named '**Prachand**' (Fierce), into its 143 Helicopter Unit at the Jodhpur Air Force Station, Rajasthan. This induction makes India the 7th country in the world to make attack helicopters.

Prachand:

- It is designed and developed by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in collaboration with French engine-maker **Safran**.
- It is designed for **High Altitude Areas**.
- The LCH is the only helicopter in the world that has the capacity to land and take off from an altitude of **5000 meters** with weapons and fuel.
- It is a twin-engine dedicated combat helicopter with a weight of 5.8 tonnes which makes it light. It features a narrow fuselage and one tandem.
- It has a speed of 268 kilometres per hour and a range of **550 km**.
- It has night attack capability, and armour protection systems.
- It is equipped with a 20 mm turret, air-to-air missiles, and 70 mm rockets for air-to-surface capability.
- This helicopter can be used to destroy drones and slow-moving enemy aircraft.
- It is capable of neutralizing adversary air defence, conducting counter-insurgency operations and combat search and rescue (CSAR) operations.
- It is useful for conducting high-altitude bunker busting operations and counter-insurgency operations in jungle and urban terrains.

2. The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has recently confirmed that the **Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM)**, commonly referred to as **Mangalyaan-1**, has come to an end as it has lost communication with the ground station due to a long eclipse happened in April 2022 and it is non-recoverable. MOM has completed **8 years** of its work, since its inception.

Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM):

It was launched in **2013** for studying the Martian surface and atmosphere. The aim is to explore Martian surface features, mineralogy, morphology and atmosphere using indigenous scientific instruments. It was launched using **PSLV C-25**.

The spacecraft successfully entered Mars orbit in 2014, making ISRO only the fourth space agency in the world to do so.

Key findings of MOM:

- It has helped to prepare **Martian Atlas** based on the images provided by the orbiter. So far, the Mars Colour Camera (MCC) orbiter has sent thousands of pictures totalling two terabytes.
- It has sent close distance images of Phobos and Deimos-two moons of Mars.
- It has discovered that dust storms on Mars can rise up to hundreds of kilometres.

3. President of India Droupadi Murmu has launched '**herSTART**', a start-up platform for women entrepreneurs. It is an initiative of the Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council (**GUSEC**), Ahmedabad aimed at supporting women-led startups.
- This platform will boost innovation and start-up efforts of women entrepreneurs and also help them connect with various government and private enterprises.
 - The platform will include a digital platform to provide resources and training modules free of cost to aspiring women entrepreneurs, a digital community for them, and a digital publication to spread their success stories.
 - It provides women entrepreneurs with benefits such as: e-Certificate to all participants; Mentorship, Guidance, and Networking; Access to government grants and private funding; and Single-window startup support.

The President has also laid the foundation stone virtually from Gujarat University for various projects and dedicated 11 educational development projects worth Rs.164 crore.

4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the '**Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers**' in New Delhi. The conference has been held under the chairmanship of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Minister of State (MoS) MeitY Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS Communications Devusinh Chauhan and IT ministers from 12 states and UTs, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Telangana, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Puducherry have participated in the conference.

Key highlights:

- During the conference, the Government of India (GoI) has approved **Rs.26,000 crore** for installation of **25,000 mobile towers in 500 days**. The financial support for the project will be provided by Universal Services Obligation Fund (**USOF**) and it will be implemented by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (**BBNL**).
- The GoI has also approved amendments to some provisions in the Policy guidelines on expansion of FM radio broadcasting services through private agencies (Phase-III), referred to as the "**Private FM phase-III policy guidelines**".

Along with this conference, the **6th India Mobile Congress 2022 (IMC 2022)** has also been convened.

5. The **4th India-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting** has been held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and **Eamon Courtenay**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Immigration of Belize have co-chaired the meeting.

- Both sides held discussions on deepening political engagement, and increasing trade and investment and cooperation in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery.
- The two sides expressed satisfaction at the ongoing cooperation in the international fora. They agreed to work together on global issues such as food and energy security,

combating climate change as well as disaster management and resilience, the release said.

- Both sides also deliberated on development partnership and capacity building including through tailor-made and specialised training courses and deputation of experts based on the requirements of the CARICOM countries.

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM):

It was established in **1973** by the Treaty of Chaguaramas. It is a group of **20 developing countries** (15 Member states and 5 Associate Members) in the Caribbean, that have come together to form an economic and political community that works together to shape policies for the region and encourages economic growth and trade.

The 15 full-time countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

The 5 associate members are Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, and Turks and Caicos

The secretariat headquarters is in **Georgetown, Guyana.**

6. The **136 feet tall Durga Puja pandal** located at Jankipuram, Lucknow is to be certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest pandal ever built.

- The pandal is a replica of the under-construction Chandrodaya temple of Vrindavan, which is built to be one of the tallest religious monuments in the world with a height of above 700-ft and spread over 5,40,000 sq feet area.
- The pandal stands tall in the middle of Durga Puja Park in Jankipuram.
- This entire pandal has been built by 52 artisans from Kolkata and Assam.
- It is built by the Utsav Puja Committee.
- It is as high as 14-storey building.

Till now the title of the world's tallest pandal was held by Kolkata, whose height was 125 feet.

7. Brazil-based **WEG Industries Private Limited** has commissioned India's first state-of-art **4.20-MW wind turbine generator**, a single unit with the largest generation capacity, at Vadailvilai near Valliyoor in **Tirunelveli** district, Tamil Nadu. It has been installed at a cost of Rs.88 crore.

Gujarat and Tamil Nadu will be the major players in this power generation mission.

So far, the 3,000-odd windmills installed in the Aralvaimozhi Pass have the capacity to generate power up to 2 MW.

8. Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Coal Mines Pralhad Joshi has launched a security solution '**QoSec**' for **mining sector** at the India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022.

- This is a quality-of-service security module for securing Internet of Things (IoT)/machine-to-machine (M2M) communications.
- It is a unique solution that will securely encrypt the data from any tracking devices using an intelligent applet programme.

- It is developed by **Sensorise**, machine to machine service provider (M2MSP).

9. The Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar has launched the radio series **“Matdata Junction”**. It is a year-long voter awareness programme launched jointly by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** and the **All India Radio (AIR)**.

- The programme aims to address the apathy of urban population towards voting and create awareness about the importance elections in the safety of democracy.
- It will be broadcasted in **23 languages**, including Hindi, English and other regional languages.
- This radio series has a total of 52 episodes.
- The episodes will be theme-based. The theme for the first episode is “Voter Registration”.
- It also has Citizen’s Corner that enables citizens to make query and provide suggestions to improve the election process to make it more participative and inclusive.

It will cover drama, storytelling, experts’ interview, quiz as well as songs produced by the SVEEP (Systemic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation) division of the ECI.

10. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has informed about the progress under the **National Health Mission (NHM)** during FY 2020-21.

Key targets under NHM by 2025 and progress so far:

- Reduce Maternal Mortality Ratio (**MMR**) to 90 from 103 (2017-19).
- Reduce Infant Mortality Ratio (**IMR**) to 23 from 28 (2020).
- Reduce Under-five mortality rate (**U5MR**) to 23 from 32 (2020).
- Sustain Total fertility rate (**TFR**) to 2.1 from 2.0 (2019-21).
- Reduce prevalence of **Leprosy** to <1/10000 population and incidence to zero in all districts.
- Annual **Malaria** Incidence to be <1/1000. In the year 2020, malaria cases and deaths have declined by 46.28% and 18.18%, respectively.
- Prevent and reduce mortality & morbidity from communicable, non- communicable; injuries and emerging diseases.
- Reduce household out-of-pocket expenditure on total health care expenditure.
- Ending **Tuberculosis (TB)** epidemic by 2025 from the country. TB incidence per 1,00,000 population has reduced from 234 in 2012 to 193 in 2019. Mortality due to TB per 1,00,000 populations reduced from 42 in 2012 to 33 in 2019.

Other progress under the NHM in 2020-21:

- **Employment creation:** Engagement of 2.71 lakh additional Human Resources which includes Specialists, Staff Nurses, etc.
- **Strengthening of Infrastructure:** 30 additional Mobile Medical Units (MMUs), enhanced Cold Chain equipment, more than 1000 First Referral facilities were operationalized, etc.
- **Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP), 2016:** To support dialysis facilities in all district hospitals in PPP. During FY 2020-21, PMNDP has been implemented in 35 States/UT in 505 districts.

- **Implementation of Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Package (ECRP) Phase-I:** NHM acted as implementing agency for ECRP for immediate responsiveness for early prevention, detection, and management of COVID-19.

National Health Mission (NHM):

NHM, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, was introduced in **2013** subsuming the National Rural Health Mission (launched in 2005) and the National Urban Health Mission (launched in 2013). The aim is to provide financial and technical support to States enabling them to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, and effective healthcare up to District Hospitals (DHs) especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population.

11. The Government of India has committed **Rs. 7,385 crores** under **Fund of Funds for Startup India Investment** for 88 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs). These AIFs, in turn, have invested Rs. 11,206 crores in 720 startups.

Fund of Funds for Startup (FFS):

- It was launched under the Start-up India initiative in 2016.
- It was announced with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crores.
- The corpus is to be built up over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission Cycles (FY 2016-2020 and FY 2021-2025) through budgetary support by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- It is administered by the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- Under this, support is extended to SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), which in turn invest in startups.
- It has made capital available for startups at the early stage, seed stage, and growth stage.

Alternative Investment Fund (AIF):

AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India, which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors. It can be established in the form of a company or a corporate body or a trust or a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP).

12. The **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** has launched a multi-phase '**Operation Garuda**' against illicit drug trafficking network, registering 127 new cases, arresting 175 people and seizing huge quantities of narcotic drugs.
 - **Objective:** To disrupt, degrade and dismantle drug trafficking networks with international linkages through rapid exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking and coordinated law enforcement actions across international jurisdiction through Interpol.
 - This global operation was initiated in close coordination with Interpol and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), for combating the smuggling of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, with special focus on Indian Ocean region.

13. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off the new and upgraded version of the Vande Bharat Express named '**Vande Bharat 2.0**' which runs from **Gandhinagar to Mumbai**. It will take a maximum of 5.5 hours to complete the journey from Gandhinagar to Mumbai. This is the *third Vande Bharat train* in the country; the other two run between New Delhi-Varanasi and New Delhi-Katra.

Features of Vande Bharat 2.0:

- This is the first train with facilities present in flights like **bio-vacuum toilets** with touch-free amenities and special lavatory for divyang (specially-abled) passengers.
- The seats' handles are provided with seat numbers in *Braille* letters to assist the visually-challenged passengers.
- The train is equipped with **KAVACH** (train collision avoidance system) safety system.
- It also has a **photocatalytic ultraviolet air purification system** in the roof-mounted package unit (RMPU) for air purification.
- The weight of the train has been reduced by 38 tonnes to **392 tonnes** from 430 tonnes.
- This train has a Wi-Fi content on-demand facility.
- Every coach is equipped with 32" screens providing passenger information and infotainment compared to 24" in the previous version.
- It is equipped with more advancements and improved features such as reaching the speed of 0 to 100 kilometres per hour in just 52 seconds, and a maximum speed up to **180 kilometres** per hour.
- There are reclining seats in all classes while the Executive Coaches have the added feature of 180-degree rotating seats.
- It is manufactured at **Chennai based Integral Coach Factory (ICF)**.

Vande Bharat Express:

The Vande Bharat Express, also known as *Train 18*, is a semi-high speed (maximum speed of 160 kmph), indigenously designed and manufactured train each of 16 coaches. The train is self-propelled as they do not require an engine. It was designed and manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Perambur, Chennai.

The first train was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 15 February 2019 on New Delhi-Kanpur-Prayagraj-Varanasi route.

Note: ICF has set a target of manufacturing 75 Vande Bharat trains by August 2023.

14. The gross **Goods & Services Tax (GST)** revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is **Rs.1,47,686 crore**, of which Central GST is Rs 25,271 crore, State GST is Rs 31,813 crore, Integrated GST is Rs 80,464 crore (including Rs 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is Rs 10,137 crore (including Rs 856 crore collected on import of goods).

The revenues for the month of September 2022 are 26% higher than the GST revenues in September 2021. It was Rs 1,43,612 crore in August 2022.

Goods and Service Tax (GST):

It is a value-added tax levied on most goods and services sold for domestic consumption. It was launched in India on **1 July 2017** as a comprehensive indirect tax for the entire country. It is a comprehensive, multistage, destination-based tax- comprehensive because it has subsumed almost all the indirect taxes except a few state taxes. It is of three types:

- CGST to be levied by the Centre,
- SGST to be levied by the States and
- IGST a tax levied on all Inter-State supplies of goods and/or services.

The GST Council headed by the Union Finance Minister is the governing and key decision-making body for GST.

- 15.** The **Directorate General of Training (DGT)** has launched the '**Bharatskills Forum**', a digital knowledge-sharing platform for the ITIs' trainees, trainers, and industry. This facility shall act as a digital warehouse for the skilling community by allowing sharing of contents in various forms like handwritten trainers' or trainees' notes, PDFs, scanned copies, or recorded videos in any language. It is a new feature that has been added to the Bharatskills learning platform developed by DGT.

Bharatskills Platform:

It was launched in **2019** by the Directorate General of Training (**DGT**). It is a Central Digital Repository for the trainees and trainers of the ITI ecosystem, providing easy access to updated curriculum, e-books, Question Banks, mock/practice papers, learning videos for courses under the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Craft Instructor Training Scheme(CITS) and the Apprenticeship Training Scheme(ATS).

- 16.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **6th edition** of the **India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2022** that has been held from 1st October 2022 to 4th October 2022 with the theme, "*New Digital Universe*", and has also launched the first phase of 5G services in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has declared that **13 Indian cities** will have 5G services by 2022. These cities include Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Gurugram, Chandigarh, Bangalore, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Hyderabad, Pune, Lucknow, and Gandhinagar.
 - PM Narendra Modi has also launched the **5G Non-Standalone (NSA) Core** that was indigenously designed and developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**) in IMC 2022.
- 17. Bharti Airtel** has become the **first** company to launch 5G services in India. It has launched 5G services in 8 cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Nagpur, and Siliguri.

The Government of India (GoI) has planned to set up **100 labs** for 5G technology across India and at least 12 of them will be used to train students and conduct experiments.

5G Technology:

5G is the next generation of mobile broadband after 4G LTE networks. It operates in the millimetre wave spectrum (30-300 GHz) which have the advantage of sending large amounts

of data at very high speeds. It has *low latency rate* under 5 millisecond and a speed range of **20 Gbps** and more. It works in 3 bands, namely low, mid and high frequency spectrum.

- **Low-band spectrum:** It offers exceptional coverage area and wall penetration
- **Mid-band spectrum:** It provides faster speed and lower latency. However, building penetration is lower than the Low-band spectrum.
- **High-band spectrum:** It offers the highest speed, but the coverage area and building penetration are significantly compromised.

18. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested three remotely unmanned, **weaponized boats** at **Bhama Askhed Dam** in **Pune**, Maharashtra. These three remote-controlled armed boats have been tested with no man on the vessel.

- These boats have been developed by DRDO in collaboration with Sagar Defence Engineering.
- The boats are useful for surveillance purposes, patrols, and reconnaissance of overall maritime security.
- Currently, they can sail at a maximum speed of 10 nautical miles/hour and this can be further increased to 25 nautical miles.

19. Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has recently extended the deadline for the mandatory implementation of **6 Airbags in Passenger Cars (M-1 category)** with effect from **1st October 2023** due to global supply chain constraints faced by the auto industry and its impact on the macroeconomics.

20. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958** in nine districts of Nagaland including Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, Peren and Zunheboto with effect from 1st October 2022 to 30th March 2023.

In addition, the Government of India has also extended AFSPA in the areas falling within the jurisdiction of 16 police stations in four districts of Nagaland. These include five police stations in Kohima district; six police stations in Mokokchung district; Yanglok police station in Longleng district; and four police stations in Wokha district.

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21. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has appraised the work of the seven new **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)** to mark the completion of one year of operations at a meeting held in New Delhi.

- For the FY 2022-23, the seven new DPSUs have projected cumulative sales target of approx. **Rs.17,000 crore**, which is significantly higher as compared to previous achievements of erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

The seven DPSUs are: Munitions India Limited (MIL); Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); Troop Comforts Limited (TCL); India Optel Limited (IOL), Yantra India Limited (YIL), and Gliders India Limited (GIL).

The companies began operations on 1st October 2021.

22. The **Ministry of Steel** has established two advisory committees to address the challenges in the steel industry to achieve the target of **300 million tonnes** of production capacity by **2030**. The two advisory committees are constituted for **Integrated Steel Plants (ISPs)**, and the **Secondary Steel sector**. It consisted Members of the steel industry, associations, academia, and senior retired government officials.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

23. **Iran** has launched the **Saman test spacecraft**, a space tug, capable of moving satellites between orbits. The Saman test craft was built by Iran's Space Research Centre and launched by the Defence Ministry of Iran.

Iran launched the Saman test craft in 2017.

24. Search engine giant and Alphabet subsidiary **Google** will establish its first cloud region in **Greece** to provide storage and cloud services for Google customers. This will enable organisations to better use their data, help improve low latency and ensure user's security in the face of cyber security threats.

A cloud region usually is based around a cluster of data centres.

25. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, and his special envoy for global education, Gordon Brown have launched a multi-billion-dollar **International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd)** during the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) with an initial funding of **USD 2 billion**.

- The project under IFFEd are expected to be initiated in 2023.
- IFFEd will support education and skills development investments in lower-middle-income countries.
- The facility is expected to expand to USD 10 billion by 2030.

77th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA77):

- It has been organized in New York, USA under the theme *"A watershed moment: transformative solutions to interlocking challenges"*.
- The President of UNGA 77 is **Csaba Kőrösi**.
- Indian Union Minister of External Affairs, **S. Jaishankar**, has led the Indian delegation and represented India for the High Level Week at the 77th Session of UNGA.
- India's approach to UNGA 77 was five S's: **Samman** (Respect), **Samvad** (Dialogue), **Sahyog** (Cooperation), **Shanti** (Peace) and **Samriddhi** (Prosperity).

- 26.** The World Trade Organization (WTO) has lowered its forecast for growth in **global trade volume** from 3.4% to **1%** in 2023, as the global economy struggles under the impact of multiple shocks.
- The WTO, on the other hand, has raised its projection for 2022 merchandise trade growth to **3.5%** from 3% in April 2022.
 - The global economy will increase by 2.8% in 2022 and 2.3% in 2023.
- 27.** The **European Parliament** has approved the rule to introduce a **single charging port** for electronic gadgets by **2024** in the European Union (EU). It aims to minimize e-waste and empower customers to make more sustainable choices.
- 28.** United States President Joe Biden has nominated US Surgeon General **Dr Vivek Murthy** to serve as the country's representative on the executive board of the World Health Organisation (WHO). He will serve in the new position alongside his continued duties as the US Surgeon General.

STATES AFFAIRS

- 29.** Chairman of the Pratidin Media Network of Assam, Jayanta Baruah, has formally presented South-East Asia's first **Braille version** of Assamese dictionary, '**Hemkosh**' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- 'Hemkosh' is the first etymological dictionary of the Assamese Language based on Sanskrit spellings.
 - It was also the first Assamese dictionary, edited by Hemchandra Baruah in the 19th century.
 - It is conceptualized and published by the Editor of Asomiya Pratidin.
- Notably, this Braille version of Hemkosh will be the first full language dictionary in Braille, after Oxford.
- 30. Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has commissioned the world's largest **Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Plant** of **600 MW** capacity in **Jaisalmer**, Rajasthan.
- The hybrid plant comprises a 600 MW solar and 150 MW wind plant.

- The plant has a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (**SECI**) at Rs.2.69 kilowatt hour (kwh) for **25 years**.
- The solar plant uses technologically superior Bifacial PV modules and employs Horizontal Single-Axis Tracker (HSAT) technology to capture maximum energy from the sun.

31. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently retired the **No. 51 'Sword Arms'** MiG-21 fighter Squadron based in **Srinagar**, Jammu & Kashmir, which had stopped its flying operations from 30th June 2022. With this the IAF is left with three MiG-21 Bison squadrons, which shall retire in the next three years.

- The 51 Squadron, known as 'Sword Arms' was raised at Chandigarh on 1st February 1985 under the command of Wing Commander VK Chawla, but it was shifted to Srinagar on 1st May 1986.
- The Squadron got MiG-21 Bison in January 2004.
- The primary role of the Squadron is air defence of the Kashmir Valley and Sword Arms was the only fighter Squadron in the Valley, and was titled 'Guardians of the Valley'.

32. The Chief Minister of **Himachal Pradesh**, Jai Ram Thakur, has launched '**Satya Nishtha**', a mobile application in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The app has been developed by Kangra Police under the guidance of Kushal Sharma, Kangra Superintendent of Police to investigate and control criminal activities.

33. **Pullampara** Gram Panchayat in **Thiruvananthapuram**, Kerala has become **India's first fully digitally literate panchayat**.

The full digital literacy was achieved by the 'Digi Pullampara' project, which was started on August 15, 2021. The project aims to empower the residents to get access to over 800 government services available through the online mode.

Under this project, around 3,300 residents between the 14-65 age group were provided digital education. Around 250 engineering college students and members of Kudumbashree trained the residents while the process was monitored by the Kerala Technological University (KTU).

34. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** status for the **Pahari community** in **Jammu and Kashmir**. The announcement has been made at a rally in Rajouri, J&K. The community will get ST reservation benefits after the completion of the administrative formalities.

- Justice GD Sharma Commission recommended reservation for Paharis, Gujjars, and Bakerwals in the report submitted to the government.
- The Gujjars and Bakerwals were granted ST status in 1991.

Pahari community:

The Pahari Community also called as Pahadi and Parbati belongs to Indo-Aryan ethnic group inhabiting Himalayan regions of Nepal and India. This community constitutes 10 to 11 percent of the population in J&K.

35. Union Minister of State for Culture **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has participated in the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (**UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference**) held recently in **Mexico** from 28th to 30th September 2022.
- The main aim of the conference is to overcome the challenges of the global community through cultural policies in respect to UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
 - The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development-MONDIACULT 2022 is convened by UNESCO, 40 years after the 1st Mondiacult World Conference on Cultural Policies were held in Mexico in **1982**.
 - The UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference is the **3rd** such conference and the second conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1998.
36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited **Himachal Pradesh**, and has inaugurated and laid foundation stone of projects worth over **Rs.3650 crore** in Luhnu, Bilaspur, HP.

He has also participated in the famous **Kullu Dussehra** celebrations at Dhalpur Ground of Kullu. With this, he has become the **first PM** to attend Kullu Dussehra.

AIIMS Bilaspur:

PM Narendra Modi has dedicated the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bilaspur to the nation. It has been established under the Central sector scheme **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**. It is constructed at a cost of more than Rs 1470 crore. It is a state-of-the-art hospital with 18 specialty & 17 super specialty departments, 18 modular operation theaters, 750 beds with 64 ICU beds.

Other inaugurations/foundations:

- He has laid the foundation stone of 31 km long project for four laning of the National Highway from Pinjore to Nalagarh on NH-105, worth over Rs. 1690 crore.
- He has also laid the foundation stone of the **Medical Device Park** at Nalagarh, which will be built at a cost of about Rs 350 crore.
- He has also inaugurated the Government Hydro Engineering College at Bandla.

Kullu Dussehra:

The International Kullu Dussehra Festival have been observed from **5th to 11th October 2022** at Dhalpur Ground of Kullu. The festival is the congregation of more than 300 Deities of the Valley. On the first day of the Festival, the Deities in their well decorated palanquins pay their obeisance at the temple of the Chief Deity Bhagwan Raghunath Ji and then proceed to the Dhalpur Ground.

37. The Government of **Haryana** will develop the *world's largest jungle safari park* in the **Aravalli range**. The **10,000-acre** safari park will cover Gurugram and Nuh districts.

The proposed jungle safari park will be 5 times more in size than the *Sharjah safari park* in UAE, which is the largest artfully curated safari park outside of Africa.

This park will include a large herpetarium (a zoological exhibition space for reptiles and amphibians), aviary/bird park, four zones for big cats, a large area for herbivores, an area for exotic animal birds, an underwater world, nature trails, visitors, tourism zones, botanical gardens, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc.

This is a joint project of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Haryana government.

'**Bathukamma**' means '*Mother Goddess come Alive*', is an annual festival observed predominantly in **Telangana** and in some parts of **Andhra Pradesh**.

- This is a **floral festival** observed by women only.
- The festival starts on Bhadrapada Amavasya, also known as Mahalaya Amavasya or Pithru Amavasya, and ends on Ashwayuja Ashtami, popularly known as Durgashtami.
- It is celebrated for nine days which culminates on Pedda Bathukamma panduga or Chaddula Bathukamma festival.
- Bathukamma festival indicates the beginning of Sharath rathu.

In 2022, the Bathukamma festival has been observed from **25th September to 3rd October**. Ministry of Culture has also organized the festival in New Delhi.

38. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of the **World's first Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Terminal** and of the brownfield port, along with various other projects worth over Rs.5200 crores in **Bhavnagar, Gujarat**.

- This is a 3-year project that will be developed at the cost of **Rs. 4000 crore** with the state-of-art infrastructure and with the world's 4th largest lock gate system.
- The construction of the terminal will commence in the first quarter of 2023 and is expected to be made operational by 2026.
- The capacity of the proposed terminal would be 4.65 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), of which the capacity of the CNG Terminal will be 0.3 MTPA.

PM Narendra Modi has also inaugurated the **Regional Science Centre**, spread over 20 acres, in Bhavnagar, Gujarat. The centre has been built at a cost of around Rs.100 crores.

39. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone and dedicated various development projects worth over **Rs.7200 crore** in **Ambaji in Gujarat**. These projects include:

- He has dedicated and laid the foundation stone of over 45,000 houses built under PM Awas Yojana.
- He has also laid the foundation stone of Taranga Hill – Ambaji – Abu Road New Broad Gauge Line and the development of pilgrimage facilities at Ambaji temple under PRASAD scheme.

- He has also dedicated the 62 km long New Palanpur-New Mahesana section of the Western Freight Dedicated Corridor and the 13 Km long New Palanpur-New Chatodar Section (Palanpur bypass line).
- He has also dedicated various road projects including the widening of Mitha - Tharad - Deesa Road among others.
- He has also launched Mukhyamantri Gaumata Poshan Yojana and handed over cheques to gaushalas.

Ahmedabad Metro Project:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Phase-I of the **Ahmedabad Metro project** between Thaltej and Vastral at the Ahmedabad Education Society in Gujarat. The entire Phase-I project is built at a cost of **Rs.12,900 crore**.

With this, the 21-km corridor of the project between Thaltej and Vastral with 17 stations has become operational. The second phase of the project will connect Gandhinagar to Ahmedabad.

- 40.** The Government of **Telangana** has recently introduced the '**Aasara**' pensions with a view to ensure secure life with dignity for all the poor. It was initially launched on 8th November 2014. It is a welfare scheme of pensions to old people, widows, physically disabled and beedi workers. The monthly pension has been increased from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 for the old aged, widows, weavers, toddy tappers and AIDS patients, and Rs. 500 to Rs. 1500 for disabled persons.
- 41. Andaman and Nicobar Islands** has become the **first** Indian state/UT to achieve **100 percent** coverage of **precautionary dose**. More than 2,87,216 beneficiaries aged 18 have been vaccinated with a precautionary dose. The set target has been achieved before the set time limit of the 30th September 2022. The precautionary doses included Corbevax and Covishield.
- 42.** Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh has approved the proposal to change the name of **Faizabad Cantt** to **Ayodhya Cantonment** in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier in October 2021, Uttar Pradesh government following the GoI's nod announced the renaming of Faizabad railway junction as Ayodhya Cantt.

REPORTS & INDICES

- 43.** The 15th edition of the **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2022** has been released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**), a specialized agency of the United Nations, in partnership with the Portulans Institute and with the support of Corporate Network partners: the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry (CNI), Ecopetrol (Colombia), and the Turkish Exporters Assembly (TİM).

The index ranks 132 economies according to their innovation capabilities and consists of roughly 81 indicators grouped into innovation inputs and outputs.

- **Innovation inputs:** Institutions; Human capital and research; Infrastructure; Market sophistication; Business sophistication.
- **Innovation outputs:** Knowledge and technology outputs; and Creative outputs.

Global Performance:

- **Switzerland** has emerged as the world's most innovative economy for the 12th consecutive year. It leads globally in innovation outputs, and specifically in patents by origin, software spending, high-tech manufacturing, production, and export complexity.
- The second position is secured by the US followed by Sweden, the UK, and the Netherlands.

India's Performance:

- India has improved its position to **40** in 2022 from 46 in 2021. It was 81 in 2015.
- Turkey and India enter the top 40 for the first time, placed 37th and 40th, respectively.
- India overtook Vietnam (48th position) as leader of the **lower middle-income group**.
- India continues to lead the world in the Information and Communication Technology services exports indicator.
- India holds top rankings in other indicators, including Venture capital recipients' value (6th), finance for startups and scaleups (8th), graduates in science and engineering (11th), labor productivity growth (12th) and domestic industry diversification (14th).
- India has emerged as the **3rd largest startup ecosystem** in the world after the US and China and is home to over a 100 unicorns.

- 44.** The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** has released its 'Trade and Development Report 2022: Development prospects in a fractured world: Global disorder and regional responses'. As per the report, India's economic growth is expected to decline to **5.7 percent** in 2022 from 8.2 percent in 2021. India's growth will further drop to **4.7 percent** in 2023.

UNCTAD has projected world economic growth to slow to **2.5%** in 2022 and drop to **2.2%** in 2023.

As per the report, the world is headed towards a global recession and stagnation unless we quickly change the current policy course of monetary and fiscal tightening in advanced economies.

As per the recent data presented by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), India's **unemployment rate (UR)** has significantly dropped to **6.43%** in September 2022, owing to increasing labour participation in rural and urban areas. In August 2022, India's UR spiked to a year high of 8.3%, as employment declined by 2 million to 394.6 million.

- The UR in the rural areas has declined to **5.84 percent** in September 2022 from 7.68 percent in August 2022.
- The UR in the urban areas has declined to **7.70 percent** in September 2022 from 9.57 percent in August 2022.

The **highest UR** in September has been reported in **Rajasthan** at 23.8 percent followed by Jammu and Kashmir at 23.2 percent, Haryana at 22.9 percent, Tripura at 17 percent, Jharkhand at 12.2 percent and Bihar at 11.4 percent.

The **lowest UR** in September has been observed in **Chhattisgarh** at 0.1 percent followed by Assam at 0.4 percent, Uttarakhand at 0.5 percent, Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 percent, Gujarat at 1.6 percent, Meghalaya at 2.3 percent and Odisha at 2.9 percent.

45. The Registrar General of India (RGI) has released the **Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020**. As per the report, India has been witnessing a progressive reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) and Neonatal mortality rate (NMR) since 2014 towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets by 2030.

INDICATOR	SRS 2014	SRS 2019	SRS 2020
Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	21.0	19.7	19.5
Total Fertility Rate	2.3	2.1	2.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (ENMR) – 0- 7 days	20	16	15
Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR)	26	22	20
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	39	30	28
Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR)	45	35	32

Key findings of the report:

Under 5 Mortality Rate (U5MR):

- U5MR for the country has shown significant decline of 3 points (Annual Decline Rate: 8.6%) from 2019 (**32** per 1000 live births in 2020 against 35 per 1000 live births in 2019). It varies from 36 in rural areas to 21 in urban areas.
- U5MR for Female is higher (33) than Male (31).
- Highest decline of U5MR is observed in the states of **Uttar Pradesh** and **Karnataka**.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR):

- IMR has registered 2-point decline to **28** per 1000 live births in 2020 from 30 per 1000 live births in 2019 (Annual Decline Rate: 6.7%).
- The Rural-Urban difference has narrowed to 12 points (Urban 19, Rural-31).
- No gender differential has observed in 2020 (Male -28, Female – 28).

Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR):

- It has also declined from 22 per 1000 live births in 2019 to **20** per 1000 live births in 2020 (Annual Decline Rate: 9.1%).
- It ranges from 12 in urban areas to 23 in rural areas.

As per SRS 2020 Report,

- **Six States/UT** have already attained UN SDG targets of NMR of less than 12 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. These include Kerala (4), Delhi (9), Tamil Nadu (9), Maharashtra (11), Jammu and Kashmir (12) and Punjab (12).

- **Eleven States/UT** have already attained SDGs target of U5MR of less than 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. These include Kerala (8), Tamil Nadu (13), Delhi (14), Maharashtra (18), J&K (17), Karnataka (21), Punjab (22), West Bengal (22), Telangana (23), Gujarat (24), and Himachal Pradesh (24).

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

46. The Union Ministry of Education has recently launched the '**Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors(YUVA) 2.0**' scheme as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav or India @75 project. It is themed on "**Democracy (institutions, events, people, constitutional values past, present and future)**".

- The scheme is a mentoring programme for young and budding authors below the age of 30.
- It aims to promote the culture of reading and writing across India and showcase Indian writing at the international level.
- It will also provide a window to the aspiring youth to articulate themselves and present a comprehensive outlook of Indian Democratic values at domestic as well as international platforms.
- It is being implemented by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**, India.
- Under this initiative, 75 young authors will be chosen based on the manuscripts submitted.

The first phase of YUVA scheme was launched on **29th May 2021**. The theme was 'National Movement of India', with the focus on "Unsung Heroes", "Role of Unknown Places in Freedom Movement" and other subjects.

47. India has become the largest producer and consumer of sugar, and **second** largest exporter of Sugar in the world. A record amount more than **5000 Lakh Metric Tons (LMT)** of sugarcane was produced in the country during the **Sugar Season (October to September) 2021-22**, of which around 3574 LMT was crushed by sugar mills to make about 394 LMT of sugar (Sucrose). Out of this, 359 LMT of sugar was produced by sugar mills, while 35 LMT of sugar was diverted to the manufacturing of ethanol.

The Sugar Season 2021-22 has also recorded the highest sugar exports of **109.8 LMT**, without any financial assistance from the government. These exports brought in roughly Rs. 40,000 crores in foreign currency for the nation.

Sugar mills/distilleries made around Rs.18,000 crores in revenue from the sale of ethanol during 2021-22.

Top 3 Sugar producing countries: India, Brazil and Thailand in 2021-22.

48. The Department of Financial Services (DFS), under the Ministry of Finance, has recently revised the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** and raised the loan limit from Rs.400 crore to **Rs.1500 crore** to help the *aviation sector* over cash flow problems.

As per the modifications, an airline will be eligible for **100%** (earlier 50%) of its fund-based or non-fund-based loan outstanding or Rs.1,500 crore, whichever is lower.

ECLGS:

It was launched in **May 2020** as part of the Centre's Aatmanirbhar package in response to the Covid-19 crisis. The objective was to support small businesses struggling to meet their operational liabilities due to the imposition of a nationwide lockdown.

The scheme supports various sectors to get credit at a concessional rate of 7 percent and then in 2022 the Union Cabinet approved the enhancement in the limit of ECLGS from Rs.50000 crore to Rs.5 lakh crore.

- 49.** The Chief Minister of **Andhra Pradesh** Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched the '**YSR Kalyanamasthu**' and '**YSR Shadi Tofa**' schemes along with its website with effect from 1st October 2022.

Both the schemes will provide financial assistance for the wedding of girls of poor families and would also help Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Backward Community (BC), Minorities, and Construction workers. The beneficiaries of the schemes must have mandatorily passed at least Class-X.

- 50.** The Government of **Chhattisgarh** has launched a new scheme titled '**Mahatma Gandhi Rural Industrial Parks (MGRIP)**' to develop '**gauthans**' (cow shelters) as rural industrial parks for livelihood generation.

Under this scheme, 300 gauthan cum industrial parks will be set up at a total budget of Rs.600 crore in FY22 budget as its first phase.

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PRACTICE **MOCK**

- 51.** The **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)**, a body under the Department of Telecommunications, has officially launched the '**Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF)**' scheme.

Key objectives of TTDF scheme:

- Fund research and development (R&D) in rural-specific communication technology.
- Promote technology ownership and indigenous manufacturing.
- Form synergies among academia, start-ups, research institutes, and the industry.
- Develop standards to meet countrywide requirements and create the ecosystem for research, design, prototyping, use cases, pilots, and proof of concept testing, among others.

USOF:

It was formed by an Act of Parliament, and was established in April 2002 under the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act 2003. It is a non-lapsable fund. It is an attached office of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and is headed by the Administrator, who is appointed by the central government.

Funds come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) of **5%** charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) which are then deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India, and require prior parliamentary approval to be dispatched.

52. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports **Anurag Thakur** has recently launched a month-long nationwide campaign '**Swachh Bharat 2022**' from **Prayagraj** in Uttar Pradesh.

- **Objective:** To organize cleaning of public spaces and households across all the districts of the country from **01st October to 31st October 2022**.
- The campaign involve all segments of society, Government organizations including PRIs and Non- Government Organizations, to instil awareness and feeling of pride among citizens to keep their surroundings clean and waste free.
- Along with this campaign, the mantra of "**Swachh Kaal: Amrit Kaal**" has also been introduced to make this program a People's Movement through Jan Bhagidari.
- This campaign is being organised in 6 Lakh villages of 744 districts across the country through the network of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) affiliated Youth Clubs & National Service Scheme Affiliated Institutions.
- The Department of Youth Affairs has set a target of collecting and disposing of **1 crore kg plastic waste** through Swachh Bharat 2022.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY

53. The Indian Council for Cultural Relation (**ICCR**) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Google** to ease searching the internet in **Sanskrit**. The collaboration aims to improve the Sanskrit translation experience.

The MoU has been signed to advance Google's Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) language technology for translating Sanskrit literature to many other languages and vice-versa.

54. India has entered into a collaboration with **California** to do research and innovation in the area of zero-emission vehicles (ZEV), and to boost the development of its EV (Electric Vehicle) industry and address climate risks through California-India ZEV Policy programme.

- California has the world's most advanced ZEV policies. It has an ambitious 100 percent ZEV mandate by 2035.
- Under this, the University of California, research institute Davis Institute of Transportation Studies, will establish a new India ZEV Research Centre.

55. India has recently signed an export order for missiles, rockets, and ammunition to **Armenia**, which is engaged in a border conflict with Azerbaijan.

- This order includes six additional first-ever export of the indigenous **Pinaka** multi-barrel rocket launchers that are already in service with the Indian Army for the first time.
- The anti-tank rockets, and ammunitions will also be supplied from India to Armenia.
- The value of the contract is estimated to be around USD 250 Million.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in **Culture** has been signed during the India-Armenia Conference 2022, which was organized by the Indian Economic Trade Organization (IETO) in collaboration with the India Eurasia Trade Council (IETC) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

56. Bayer CropScience Limited has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)** to create and promote **50** specialized **Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs)**.

- In collaboration with SFAC, Bayer has identified clusters in 10 states and will aim to assist smallholder farmers with business planning, identification of key enablers, creation of market linkages and knowledge transfer, while working to establish 50 FPOs.
- This MoU is aligned towards achieving the goal of the Central Sector Scheme launched by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, of forming and promoting 10,000 FPOs.

57. India Navy has signed a **White Shipping Information Exchange** agreement with the **Royal New Zealand Navy** to promote greater transparency in the Maritime Domain.

The agreement has been signed between Indian Navy Chief Admiral **R Hari Kumar** and Rear Admiral **David Proctor**, Chief of Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) during Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar's recent visit to New Zealand.

Note: The white shipping information refers to the exchange of prior information on the movement and identity of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

58. Hyderabad-based GODI India Private Limited, the first Indian company to get BIS certification to sell lithium-ion cells made with home-grown technology, has manufactured **India's first ever 3000F (farad) high-power supercapacitors**. These supercapacitors along with battery packs will improve the battery life multi-fold in electric vehicle (EV) and renewable Energy Storage System (ESS) applications.

Note: A supercapacitor is a device that stores and releases electrochemical energy.

59. Britannia and Associates (Dubai) Pvt Co Ltd (BADCO), a wholly-owned arm of Britannia Industries, has acquired Nairobi-based liability firm **Kenafri Biscuits Ltd (KBL)** by subscribing to 51 percent of the equity share capital of the company. The cost of acquisition is Kenyan Shillings (KES) 13.87 crore (Rs.9.2 crore). With this, KBL has become a step-down subsidiary of Britannia Industries.

60. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its stake to **7.7%** from 5.65% in Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited (DRL).
61. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the merger of **Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEE)** and **Bangla Entertainment Pvt. Ltd (BEPL)** with **Culver Max Entertainment Pvt. Ltd (CME)** earlier known as Sony Pictures Networks India Pvt. Ltd., a part of Sony Group with modifications. The proposed combination is in the nature of an acquisition and amalgamation falls under Section 5 (a) and 5 (c) of the Competition Act 2002.
62. Adani Enterprises, the flagship company of the Adani Group, has announced the creation of **Adani Disruptive Ventures (ADVL)**, which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary, and **Alwar Alluvial Resources (AARL)**.
- The mission of ADVL is to partner with businesses and entrepreneurs who are looking to create solutions through disruptive technology and help them increase their ventures.
 - ADVL has an initial authorized and paid-up share capital of **Rs.5 lakh** each, and AARL has an authorized capital and paid-up share capital of **Rs.10 lakh** each.
63. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (**DA&FW**) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (**NAFED**) in New Delhi to promote Millet-based products towards celebration of the **International Year of Millets 2023**. Both organizations will work together for the promotion and marketing of millet-based products.

BANKING & FINANCE

64. **HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited** has launched the '**Insure India**' campaign in order to educate Indians on the benefits of life insurance as a product category. As part of this campaign, HDFC Life will host chat shows, hold on-ground activities, webinars, etc., thus engaging with consumers both directly as well as indirectly through its wide network of distributors.

Previous initiatives by HDFC Life include 'Start the Talk', 'Get Set Protect' and 'Being Responsible'.

65. **Aditya Birla Health Insurance Company Limited (ABHICL)**, the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched '**ACTIV FIT**', a comprehensive health insurance plan for young and healthy adults.
- The plan provides a 10% good health discount on the basis of an assessment done through a unique facial scan.

- Additionally, upto 50% offer on health returns on being active for 275 days in a year and 100% Binge Refill enables the policy holders to get insurance cover up to sum assured, for any illness or injury.
- All customers below the age of 35 years can avail an Early Bird Discount at renewal, 5% from 4th to 7th policy year & 10% from 8th policy year for the lifetime of the policy.
- The plan also includes modern treatments, mental care cover, HIV/ AIDS and STD, day care treatments, pre-hospitalisation & post-hospitalisation and road ambulance cover.

66. ICI Bank UK PLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of ICI Bank Limited, has launched '**HomeVantage Current Account (HVCA)**' to the Indian students aspiring to study in the UK. The new account is specially designed to meet every student's banking needs in the UK. The account comes with a VISA debit card which can be used anywhere in the world.

67. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned **Rs 221.99 crore** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to upgrade school infrastructure in rural schools in **Punjab**. The amount will be used to build 2,328 additional classrooms, 762 labs and 648 playgrounds in rural schools in all 23 districts of Punjab.

68. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Dun & Bradstreet have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create the **SIDBI -D&B Sustainability Perception Index (SIDBI - D&B SPeX)** during an event held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

SIDBI - D&B SPeX:

- It is India's first Sustainability Index dedicated to **MSMEs**.
- It is a **quarterly survey** to provide valuable insights on adoption of an ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) framework.
- The survey will cover the views of the respondents about the preceding quarter and the outlook for the upcoming quarter.
- It will also capture information on critical events that have an impact on MSMEs.
- The index will be presented as a quantitative measurement for policy makers to push businesses towards adopting an ESG framework in their business strategy.

69. JSW Cement has raised **Rs 400 crore** (USD 50 million) as its first sustainability-linked loan from **MUFG Bank India**. It is also MUFG Bank India's first transaction undertaken out of its new IFSC unit branch launched in August 2022 in the Gift City in Gujarat. The cement company has planned to deploy the fund for capital expenditure to achieve its annual capacity target of 25 million tonne by FY25.

70. Exim Bank has extended a Line of Credit (LoC) of **USD 100 million** to the Government of the Republic of the **Maldives** for the purpose of funding development projects on behalf of the Government of India (GoI).

71. The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has recently announced the adoption of **30 remote villages** across India under the fourth phase of the '**SBI Gram Seva**' program. The bank will adopt remote villages across Aspirational Districts in **Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal.**

SBI Gram Seva Program:

It is a flagship scheme of the SBI Foundation. It was launched under the Corporate Social Responsibility of the bank in 2017. The program emphasises a comprehensive development of villages by active intervention in areas like education, healthcare, livelihoods, and infrastructure.

As of now, the program has adopted 100 villages across 16 States in 3 phases.

72. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and the **Central Bank of Oman (CBO)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch the RuPay Debit Card in Oman. The MoU has been signed during the visit of the Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan to Oman.

Rupay:

It is an Indian payment gateway like Visa or MasterCard. It was launched in 2012 and was officially launched for public in India on 8 May 2014.

Singapore was the first foreign country where it was launched in May 2018, followed by Bhutan and the Maldives.

In West Asia, *UAE* was the first country where RuPay was launched in August 2019.

73. The **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, an arm of the World Bank, has launched a new **USD 6 billion** financing facility to strengthen the private sector's ability to respond to the **global food crisis** and to support food production.

- The core part of the financing will be provided through the new **Global Food Security Platform** that will facilitate trade of food commodities, delivery of inputs to farmers, and support efficient food production to those countries that are under food crisis.
- This will also focus on long-term actions to improve the resilience of the global food system and lessen its climate and ecological footprint.

74. The Government of India (**GoI**), World Bank (**WB**), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (**SIDBI**) have launched a **USD 1 billion** fund to provide guarantees against loan default to lenders financing the purchase of electric two- and three-wheelers.

- The **Niti Aayog** is the facilitating agency for the project, aimed at facilitating faster and easier financing of electric vehicles.
- Initially a USD 300 million fund will be provided as a 'first look risk sharing instrument', and will be available to all financial instruments.
- Currently, the interest rate on loans to purchase electric two- and three-wheelers is 20-25%.

75. The Ministry of Finance has increased the Interest rates on five of the 12 **Small Savings Scheme** for the **Third Quarter** of the **Financial Year 2022-23** (October 2022 to December 2022), while keeping other interest rates unchanged.

Interest Rates on Small Savings Instruments for Q3 FY23				
Small Savings Scheme	Maturity (Years)	Rate of interest	Compounding Frequency	
Public Provident Fund (PPF)	15	7.1%	Annually	
Post Office Savings Accounts (SB)	-	4.0%	Annually	
Term Deposits	1 Year	1	5.5%	Quarterly
	2 Years	2	5.7%	Quarterly
	3 Years	3	5.8%	Quarterly
	5 Years	5	6.7%	Quarterly
National Savings Recurring Deposit Account	5	5.8%	Quarterly	
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SSCS)	5	7.6%	Quarterly and Paid	
NSC (VIII issue)	5	6.8%	Annually	
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	123 months	7%	Annually	
Sukanya Samriddhi Account (SSA) scheme	21	7.6%	Annually	
Monthly Income Scheme (MIS)	5	6.7%	Monthly and Paid	

76. **Karnataka Bank Limited (KBL)** has opened an **Analytical Centre of Excellence (ACoE)** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The centre which is developed in association with Ernst and Young (EY) as project partner, will help in accelerated incubation of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) models along with their integration to business, on a scalable analytical data platform.

- 77. Paytm Mall** of Paytm E-commerce Private Limited (PEPL) has become the first app to go live on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (**ONDC**) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The network started beta testing for the public across 16 pin codes in the city.
- This will enable the purchase and sale of goods in the Indian market, driving transparency and digital independence for small businesses in the country.
 - Now, people in Bengaluru can place orders in two domains, groceries and restaurants, through buyer-side apps, giving users access to a wide range of local businesses.
 - The Bengaluru beta testing has begun with MyStore and Spice Money as buyer-side apps. Seller-side apps such as Go Frugal, Ushop, nStore, and Growth Falcons, among others, can be used to order meals or purchase groceries using the network.

- 78.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) has recently decided to extend the **Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)** for subscription transactions in units of **mutual funds**. The new framework will come into effect from **1st April 2023**.

At present, all Asset Management Companies (AMCs) are required to authenticate redemption transactions using two-factor authentication for online transactions and signature method for offline transactions.

Key highlights:

- In case of subscription and redemption of units, 2FA (for online transactions) and signature method (for offline transactions) will be used for authentication.
- In case of demat transactions, the process of 2FA as laid down by the depositories will be followed.
- In case of systematic transactions, the requirement of such authentication will be applicable only at the time of registration.

- 79.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formed a new framework for **Credit Rating Agencies (CRAs)**, involving ratings of securities having explicit credit enhancement features with effect from **1st January 2023**. It aims to enhance transparency and improve the rating process.

Key highlights:

- Under the rule, CRAs can assign the suffix 'CE' (Credit Enhancement) to the rating of instruments having explicit credit enhancement.
- While assigning such credit ratings, CRAs will have to conduct independent due diligence on the nature of specified support consideration and form a definitive internal view and, wherever warranted, obtain an independent external legal opinion for ascertaining the strength of the credit enhancement.
- CRAs will have to verify the documentation related to the specified support considerations to ensure that the support is unconditional and legally enforceable.

- 80.** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has made amendments to guidelines for **preferential issues** and institutional placement of units by a listed **Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT)** and **Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)**.

Key highlights:

- A listed InvIT and REIT may make a preferential issue of units or institutional placement of units in case units of the same class, which are proposed to be allotted have been listed on a stock exchange for a period of at least six months prior to the date of issuance of notice to its unit holders.
- With regard to the issuance of units under institutional placement, no allotment will be made, either directly or indirectly, to any institutional investor, who is a sponsor or manager or is a person related to, or related party or associate of the sponsor or the manager.
- The allotment of units can be made to the sponsor for unsubscribed portion in the institutional placement where at least 90 percent of the issue size has been subscribed.

81. Karnataka Bank, a leading private sector lender, has launched a special campaign '**KBL Utsav 2022-23**' for home loans, car loans and gold loans from **1st October to 31st December 2022** to meet the needs of customers during festive season. Under this campaign, customers can avail of home, car and gold loans with attractive interest rates, reduction in processing charges for car and gold loans, and nil processing charges for a home loan, apart from other benefits.

RBI IN NEWS

82. The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, has launched a new SupTech initiative named "**DAKSH - Reserve Bank's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System**" to make the supervisory processes more robust.

- DAKSH means 'efficient' & 'competent', reflecting the underlying capabilities of the application.
- It is a web-based end-to-end workflow application through which RBI shall monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner with the objective of further improving the compliance culture in Supervised Entities (SEs) like Banks, NBFCs, etc.
- The application will also enable seamless communication, inspection planning and execution, cyber incident reporting and analysis, provision of various MIS reports etc.

83. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Monetary Policy Committee** (MPC) has met on September 28-30, 2022 and released the RBI's 4th bi-monthly policy of FY23.

Key Highlights:

- Repo rate has increased by **50 basis points (bps)** to **5.90 percent** for the fourth consecutive time in 2022.
- GDP growth forecast for FY 2022-23 has projected at **7.0 percent** (earlier 7.2%) with Q2 at 6.3 percent; Q3 at 4.6 percent; and Q4 at 4.6 percent.
- The GDP growth for Q1FY24 is projected at **2%**.
- Inflation has been projected at **6.7-percent** in 2022-23, with Q2 at 7.1 percent; Q3 at 6.4 percent, and Q4 at 5.8 percent.

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation for Q1FY24 is projected at **5%**.
- MPC has decided to stay focused on withdrawal of *accommodative stance* to observe inflation.

Policy rates as of September 2022	
Repo rate	5.90%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	5.65%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.15%%
Bank Rate	6.15%
Reserves Ratio as of September 2022	
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

Note: The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during **December 5-7, 2022.**

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- 84. Yunqing Tang**, Assistant Professor with the **University of California**, Berkeley, U.S.A., has been awarded the **SASTRA Ramanujan Prize for 2022** for demonstrating a remarkable combination of sophisticated techniques, in which the arithmetic and geometry of modular curves and Shimura varieties (number theory) play a central role.

SASTRA Ramanujan Prize:

The award was instituted by the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) in 2005. The award carries a cash prize of USD 10,000.

It is presented annually to individuals aged 32 and below, who made outstanding contributions in the field of mathematics, influenced by Srinivasa Ramanujan.

- 85. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel** has won the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Nansen Refugee Award 2022** for her efforts to welcome more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 2015 and 2016 during the Syrian crisis.

The Nansen Award committee has also honoured four regional winners for 2022:

- **Mbera Fire Brigade** (Africa)
- **Vicenta González** (America)
- **Meikswe Myanmar** (Asia and Pacific)
- **Dr. Nagham Hasan** (Middle East and North Africa)

Nansen Award:

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honours individuals, groups or organisations that go above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, other displaced and stateless people. The award was founded in 1954 to celebrate Fridtjof Nansen, a Norwegian scientist, explorer

and diplomat who was the first commissioner for refugees in the League of Nations the predecessor of the United Nations. The award includes a USD 150,000 prize.

86. **Roxy Mathew Koll**, a scientist at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), has been awarded the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) **2022 Devendra Lal Memorial Medal**. He has been awarded for his outstanding research in **Earth and Space sciences**. His research provides insights into the mechanisms and impacts of climate change on monsoon floods and droughts, cyclones, heat waves, and the marine ecosystem.

He will also be conferred as a Fellow of the AGU.

Devendra Lal Memorial Medal:

It is given annually to an early- or mid-career scientist in recognition of outstanding research in Earth and/or space sciences. The medal is named in honour of Professor Devendra Lal, a distinguished geophysicist whose work spanned diverse areas of the Earth and space sciences.

87. Bollywood actor **Pankaj Tripathi**, who is known for his work in 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'Mirzapur', 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' and several others, has been named '**National Icon**' by the **Election Commission of India (ECI)**. The actor has been chosen for the honour by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar for keeping in view his commitment to the cause and wide appeal across the country.
88. **Carolyn R. Bertozzi (USA), Morten Meldal (Denmark), and K. Barry Sharpless (USA)** have been awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022** for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry.
- **Click chemistry** is a branch of science that explores assembly of molecules whose foundation was laid by K. Barry Sharpless, and Morten Medal.
 - Carolyn Bertozzi developed click reactions that work inside living organisms to map important biomolecules on surface of cells called glycans. She developed **Bioorthogonal** reactions that take place without disrupting normal chemistry of cell. These reactions are used to explore cells and track biological processes, helps improved targeting of cancer pharmaceuticals.

SBI PO 2022

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PRACTICE **MOCK**

89. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and Valley of Words (VoW), a not-for-profit initiative of the Valley of Words Foundation Trust, Dehradun have joined hands to acknowledge the best

of Indian literature, written in both English and Hindi through the PFC-VoW Book Awards among 8 categories.

The 2022 PFC-VoW Book Awards is the **6th edition** of the award and is considered to be the most comprehensive independent literary award in India.

Winners of PFC-VoW Book Awards 2022

Category	Book	Author	Publication
English fiction	The Odd Book of Baby Names	Anees Salim	Penguin Random House
English non-fiction	Tagore and Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together	Rudrangshu Mukherjee	Aleph Book Company
Hindi fiction	Khela	Neelakshi Singh	Setu Publications
Hindi non-fiction	Jeete Ji Allahabad	Mamta Kalia	Rajkamal Prakashan
Writings for young adults	Savi and the Memory Keeper	Bijal Vachharajani	Hachette
Writings/picture books for children	Aai and I	Mamta Nainy	Pickle Yolk Books
Translation to Hindi	Yaadon Ke Bikhre Moti: Batware ki Kahaniyan	Aanchal Malhotra, translated by Brig Kamal Nayan Pandit	HarperCollins
Translation to English	Amader Shantiniketan	Shivani, translated by Ira Pande	Penguin Random House

90. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has presided over the **Swachh Bharat Diwas 2022** celebration, which was organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The President has honoured the winners of the **Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2022** and **Jal Jeevan Mission Functionality Assessment Awards**.

Winners under Swachh Bharat Grameen (SBG):

1. Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) Awards 2022:

Category	Ranking	Awardee State /District
Large States	1	Telangana
	2	Haryana
	3	Tamil Nadu
Small States/UTs	1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
	2	Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu
	3	Sikkim

Top Performing Districts	1	Bhiwani (Haryana)
	2	Jagtial (Telangana)
	3	Nizamabad (Telangana)

2. Swachaata Hi Seva (SHS) 2022:

Karnataka has topped, followed by Bihar and Lakshadweep.

3. Sujlam 1.0 & 2.0:

- **Madhya Pradesh** has topped, followed by Maharashtra, and Telangana in Sujlam 1.0.
- **Karnataka** has topped, followed by Telangana, and Odisha in Sujlam 2.0.

Winners under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Functionality Assessment 2022:

Category	Ranking	Awardee State /District
More than 60% Coverage	1	Puducherry
	2	Goa
More than 60% Coverage	1	Tamil Nadu
	2	Meghalaya
Special Recognition for First Har Ghar Jal District	Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh	

Additionally, the DDWS has launched two campaigns:

- **"Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan"** for promoting twin pit toilets in households towards improved faecal sludge management. This campaign will conclude on World Toilet Day i.e. 19th November 2022.
- **"Swachh Jal Se Suraksha"**: The campaign on water quality will help create awareness on the importance of clean and safe drinking water and also help to monitor the quality of water supplied in rural households.

- 91. Vivek Lall**, an Indian-origin CEO of General Atomics Global Corporation, has been honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** by US President Joe Biden. He has been awarded with citation of 'With Grateful Recognition' by the US President.
- 92. The India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida** has been awarded the **Best Standalone Convention Centre award** by the Ministry of Tourism during the National Tourism Awards 2022 ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The venue is a prominent meetings, incentives, conferences & exhibitions (MICE) destination in India and hosts over 200 exhibitions a year.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

93. The biography of Lata Mangeshkar titled "**Lata: A Life in Music**" has been authored by **Ira Pande**. The book is the first English translation of **Yatindra Mishra's** award-winning Hindi book "**Lata: Sur-Gatha**". The book will be released in January 2023. The book will be published by Penguin Random House India.

The original Hindi version of this book, *Lata: Sur-Gatha*, won the 64th National Film Award and the MAMI Award for Best Writing on Cinema (2016–17).

94. A book titled "**Ambedkar: A Life**" has been authored by **Shashi Tharoor**, an author, politician, and former international civil servant. The book is published by Aleph Book Company. The book depicts the role of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar as a constitutionalist and a builder of democracy.

95. The book titled '**India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship**' has been authored by **Sharat Sabharwal**, a former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, who also served as Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN. The book is published by Routledge India. The book highlights several strategic majors that India has to opt to deal with Islamabad.

96. A book titled '**The Last Heroes: Fights of Indian Freedom**' has been authored by Ramon Magsaysay Award winning author-journalist **P Sainath**. The book will be released on 21st November 2022 and will be published by Penguin Random House India. The book talks about the Indian freedom struggle and fight for Independence.

He also authored "*Everybody Loves a Good Drought: Stories from India's Poorest Districts*".

PERSON IN NEWS

97. **Akash Tripathi**, a 1998 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), MyGov, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

MyGov:

It was launched in 2014. It is a platform that serves as a medium for the people, especially the youth, to connect with the Government actively and facilitates their engagement towards the nation's development. The platform empowers people to contribute towards good governance through various tasks and discussions.

98. The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has appointed **Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.)**, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, to discharge the functions of the **Governor of Meghalaya**, in addition to his own duties from the date he assumes charge of the office of the Governor

of Meghalaya, until regular arrangements are made. He has succeeded Satya Pal Malik whose tenure completed on 3rd October 2022.

- 99.** SBI General Insurance Company Limited has announced the appointment of **Kishore Kumar Poludasu** as its new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with effect from 4th October 2022. He has succeeded Paritosh Tripathi.
- 100.** **Captain Ibrahim Traore** has been appointed as the new **President of Burkina Faso**, after the second coup in less than nine months in the country. He has replaced Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who had seized control in January, sending the poor Sahel, a region that, like Burkina Faso, is grappling with an escalating Islamist insurgency.
- 101.** Hero MotoCorp Limited, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, has appointed Telugu actor **Ram Charan** as the new Brand Ambassador. He will be featured in the campaign of Hero Glamour XTEC-Gazab Style, Gazab Technology.
- 102.** **Dr A. K. Anil Kumar**, Senior Scientist in ISRO, has been elected as the Vice President of the **International Astronautical Federation (IAF)** during its Annual Conference International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2022 held in Paris, France. He is one of the 12 Vice-Presidents recently elected by the IAF. He is currently working as Associate Director at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) in Bengaluru.
- 103.** **N S Rajan**, Director of August One Partners LLP, has been unanimously elected as the new Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). He will succeed Subhash Kamath.

Other appointments by ASCI:

- **Vice-Chairman:** Saugata Gupta, Managing Director & CEO, Marico Limited
- **Honorary Treasurer:** Shashidhar Sinha, Chief Executive Officer at IPG Mediabrands India
- **Board members:** Arun Srinivas, Director of GMS India (Meta), and Virat Tandon, Group CEO of Lintas India

- 104.** The Central Government has appointed **Sujoy Lal Thaosan**, a 1988-batch IPS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, as the new Director-General of the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. He is currently working as the Director General (DG) of the border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and holding the additional charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

The government has also appointed **Anish Dayal Singh**, a 1988-batch officer (Manipur cadre), as the new DG of **ITBP**. He is currently serving as a special director in the Intelligence Bureau.

- 105.** Audio and wearable brand **Fire-Boltt** has appointed Bollywood actress **Kaira Advani** as its new brand ambassador. She will be a part of the marketing campaigns of the brand alongside cricketer Virat Kohli and actor Vicky Kaushal.
- 106. Sanjeev Kishore**, a 1985 batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS), has taken over as the **Director General Ordnance (C&S)** at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata under the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence with effect from 1st October 2022. He has replaced M K Garg.

OBITUARIES

- 107. Jayanti Patnaik**, the first chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and a former member of parliament, has recently passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. She was born on 7th April 1932 in Aska, Odisha. She served as the first Chairperson of the NCW from 3 February 1992 to 30 January 1995.

National Commission for Women (NCW):

NCW was set up as statutory body on 31st January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990 (Act No.20 of 1990 of Govt.of India) to review the Constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

- 108.** Noted Indian businessman **Tulsi Tanti** has recently passed away at the age of 64 years due to cardiac arrest. He was born on 2nd February 1958 in Rajkot, Gujarat. He was the Founder and Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of **Suzlon Energy**.

He was regarded as the *"Wind man of India"* and was the President of the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA).

SPORTS

- 109.** The 41st Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) General Assembly has chosen **Saudi Arabia** to host the **Asian Winter Games in 2029** in mountains near the USD 500 billion futuristic city project Neom. Trojena, a part of the Neom project, will be the first West Asian city to host the Asian Winter Games.

Saudi Arabia will also host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh.

- 110.** India's **Mumtaz Khan** (Lucknow) has won the International Hockey Federation (FIH) **Rising Star of the Year 2021-22 Award** in the women's category by scoring 8 goals in 6 matches.

Timothee Clement of France has won the FIH Rising Star of the Year 2021-22 Award in the men's category.

Other awardees:

- **FIH Goalkeepers of the Year 2021-22 (Men):** PR Sreejesh (India)
- **FIH Goalkeepers of the Year 2021-22 (Women):** Savita Punia (India)

111. The 2022 Tel Aviv Open, also known as the 2022 Tel Aviv Watergen Open, has been held in Tel Aviv, Israel. It is the indoor hard-court ATP 250.

Men's Singles:

Novak Djokovic from **Serbia** has won the men's singles title after defeating Maric Clic of Croatia. It is his 89th overall victory and third championship of 2022.

Men's Doubles:

Rohan Bopanna (India) and **Matwé Middelkoop (Netherlands)** have won the men's doubles title in the championship.

112. The 19th edition of the International Basketball Federation (**FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup 2022**) has been held in Sydney, Australia. The **United States** has won its 11th title after defeating China in the final match.

Other awards:

- **Most Valuable Player:** A'ja Wilson (USA)
- **Best Defensive Player:** Alyssa Thomas (USA)
- **Best Coach:** Zheng Wei (China)

113. Red Bull Racing driver **Sergio Perez** (Mexico) has won the **2022 Singapore Formula 1 (F1) Grand Prix** after defeating Ferrari Racing driver Charles Leclerc (Monaco) in the race held at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Marina Bay, Singapore.

IMPORTANT DAYS

114. **World Habitat Day** is observed annually on the **first Monday of October** to address the problems of rapid urbanisation and its impact on the environment and human poverty. In 2022, the day is being observed on **3rd October**. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared the first Monday of October to be celebrated as World Habitat Day every year in 1985. The day was first observed in 1986.

Theme 2022: "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind"

115. The **National Pension System Diwas (NPS Diwas)** is observed annually on **1st October** to promote pension and retirement planning among the citizens of India, and enjoy financial independence post retirement. The day is observed by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The day was first observed in 2021.

As on 24th September 2022, total number of subscribers under NPS is 571.86 lakhs (5.72 crore) and total Assets Under Management (AUM) is 7,99,467 crore (7.99 trillion).

116. The **Military Nursing Service (MNS)** has observed its **97th Raising Day** across India on 1st October 2022.

The Military Nursing Service (MNS) in India was setup in March 1888. It later transformed into the permanent Nursing Service on 1st October 1926, and designated as Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS). The force took its present form on 15 September 1943. The mission of MNS is 'Excellence in patient care' both in peace and war.

117. The **Defence Accounts Department (DAD)**, under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, and headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), has observed its **275th Annual Day** on 1st October 2022. During the occasion, Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh has launched several digital initiatives of DAD in New Delhi.

Key digital initiatives:

- **SPARSH Mobile App:** An end-to-end solution to all pension-related processes, for pensioners of Armed Forces and defence civilians.
- **Agniveer Pay System:** This will facilitate efficient pay management for Agniveers, who will join the Armed Forces through Agnipath scheme.
- **Defence Accounts Receipts and Payment System (DARPAN):** It is unified solution for third party bill payment and accounting.
- **Pay and Accounts Office (PAO)-Bharti:** Through this, Armed Forces personnel will be able to get real-time data related to pay & allowances and claims. Personnel can also register their complaints.
- **Defence Pay Civilian System:** The System envisages disbursement of pay of all defence civilians through a single, centralised and fully automated system.
- **Defence Accounts HR Management System:** The platform has various self-service modules like e-service book, leave management, pay roll generation and promotion details which will be accessible to the employees through a mobile app, anywhere anytime.
- **Defence Travel System:** The system provides end-to-end solution, from booking of rail and air tickets to claim submission on its portal for Defence Services and Civilians in cashless and paperless environment. It will provide facility of booking of air tickets for foreign travel to defence services replacing Air Exchange Warrants.

Defence Minister has also presented the **Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2022** to three teams for exhibiting exemplary initiative in implementing key department projects:

- (a) Development, testing and implementation of SPARSH
- (b) Implementation of E-Concurrence in DRDO
- (c) Pay and Accounts Office (PAO) Bharati: Your PAO, A call away 24*7

Note: e-Praaman is a National e-Authentication service offered by the Department of Electronics & IT (DeitY).

118. International Day of Older Persons is observed annually on **1st October** to raise awareness about the challenges and issues faced by the elderlies across the globe. The year

2022 marks the observance of the 32nd anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons. The day was first observed in 1991.

2022: "Resilience of Older Persons in a Changing World"

119. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has observed its **6th Annual Day** on 1st October 2022 to commemorate the establishment of the IBBI.

During the occasion, an annual publication, "IBC: Idea, Impressions and Implementation" has also been released.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

It was established on **1st October 2016**. It is responsible for implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016. It aims for reorganisation and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximization of the value of assets, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interests of all the stakeholders.

- **Chairperson:** Ravi Mittal

120. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed annually in the month of October (1st October to 31st October) to spread awareness about the impact of breast cancer. The '*Pink ribbon*' is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness.

Breast Cancer is a type of cancer that arises in the epithelium (lining cells) of the ducts or lobules in the glandular tissues of the breast.

121. India has observed the **118th** birth anniversary of **Lal Bahadur Shastri** on 2nd October 2022. He served as the second Prime Minister of India from 1964 to 1966.

- He was born on 2nd October 1904 in Mughalsarai, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- He participated in the freedom movement since 1930.
- He gave the slogan '**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**'.
- He was minister in the Union Cabinet from 1951 to 1956 when he resigned taking responsibility for the railway accident and later from 1957-1964.
- He was the first person to be posthumously awarded the **Bharat Ratna (1966)**.

122. The **International Day of Non-Violence** is observed annually on **2nd October** to commemorate the birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**, a leader of India's freedom movement and a pioneer of the philosophy of Non-Violence. The objective of the day is to spread awareness about the idea of non-violence through education. The day was proposed by Iranian Noble Laureate Shirin Ebadi. The day was first observed in 2007.

The year 2022 marks the **153rd** birth anniversary of him.

Mahatma Gandhi:

He was born on 2nd October 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat. He played an important role in the independence of India. He successfully led India's non-violent movement against the British

which in turn inspired many civil rights movements across the world. He believed in religious pluralism. He wanted India to be a secular nation and he fought to make it a reality. His major writings include: The Story of My Experiments with Truth, The Moral Basis of Vegetarianism, and Peace: The Words and Inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi (Me-We), Hind Swarajya, **Mangalprabhata**, **From Yeravda Mandir: Ashram Observances**, The Good life, **Conquest of Self**, etc.

123. World Animal Day is observed annually on **4th October**. The day marks the feast day of Francis of Assisi, who was regarded as the patron saint of animals. It is also known as 'Animal Lovers Day'. It is also celebrated to raise the status of animals and help improve welfare standards across the world.

The day was observed for the first time in 1925 by cynologist Heinrich Zimmermann to address the plight of animals and initiate work towards their protection both in the wild and domestic world.

Theme 2022: "Shared Planet"

124. International Teachers Day is observed annually on **5th October** to focus on appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. The day is observed since 1994 to commemorate the adoption of the 1966 International Labour Organization (ILO)/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommendation concerning the status of teachers.

Theme 2022: "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers"

125. World Cotton Day is observed annually on **7th October** to show the enduring positive impact on Cotton and raise awareness of the importance of cotton and cotton-related products. The year 2022 marks the observance of the 3rd World Cotton Day. The day was first observed in 2019.

Theme 2022: "Weaving a better future for Cotton"

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