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September 2022 - Week 3

# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## Contents

NATIONAL AFFAIRS .....	2
STATES AFFAIRS .....	10
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS .....	16
REPORTS & INDICES .....	18
GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES .....	21
BUSINESS & ECONOMY .....	24
BANKING & FINANCE .....	27
RBI IN NEWS .....	31
AWARDS & RECOGNITION .....	32
BOOKS & AUTHORS .....	36
PERSON IN NEWS .....	36
OBITUARIES .....	38
SPORTS .....	38
IMPORTANT DAYS.....	42

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## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has introduced a new digital publication '**BLO e-Patrika**' to establish direct communication with Booth Level Officers (BLOs).
  - The bimonthly 'BLO e-Patrika' is being introduced with an aim to ensure a cascading information model for a more informed and committed BLO.
  - The magazine will be available in English, Hindi and regional languages.
  - The themes of the bimonthly e-Patrika will include subjects like EVM-VVPAT training, IT applications, Special Summary Revision, Minimum SVEEP Activities at polling booths, Postal Ballot facility, accessible elections, Electoral Literacy Clubs, unique voter awareness initiatives and National Voters' Day.

### **Booth Level Officers (BLOs):**

The institution of BLO was set up by ECI in 2006. A BLO is a Local Government/ Semi-Government official who is familiar with the local electorate and is typically a voter in the same polling area.

2. Union Minister of State (MoS) Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh, has launched the "**Swachhata**" Portal for the Special Campaign 2.0, which is scheduled to begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022. It will focus on Swachhata and reduce the pendency of work in government offices.

- The portal has been developed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** under the Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, & Pensions.
- The Special Campaign 2.0 has been expanded to include all regional offices apart from all Ministries/ Departments and all Attached/ Subordinate and Autonomous Bodies of Government of India.

He has also released three reports of DARPG, the Special Campaign July Progress Report, the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 7.0 Brochure and the CPGRAMS Monthly Progress Report for August, 2022.

3. The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tarkash** has recently participated in a Joint Maritime Exercise with Nigerian Navy Patrol Ships (NNS) which is currently mission deployed in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) for anti-piracy operations.

- During the exercise, Nigeria has been represented by its NNS Kano, Osun, Sokoto and Nguru.
- The exercise marks the first joint operational deployment by India and Nigeria, in support of Anti-piracy operations, in the GoG.

#### **INS Tarkash:**

It is the second Talwar-class frigate constructed for the Indian Navy. It was built at the Yantar shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia. It was commissioned to Indian Navy service in 2012 at Kaliningrad and joined the Western Naval Command on 27 December 2012.

4. Minister of Defence of India, Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa, Minister of Defence of Japan, Mr. HAMADA Yasukazu, have held the **second India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting** in **Tokyo**, Japan.

#### **Key highlights:**

- India and Japan agreed to uplift the security and defence cooperation, including holding the first **Air Force fighter exercise** at the second 2+2 Dialogue.
- Both nation's ministers concurred to launch the **Joint Service Staff Talks** between the Japan Joint Staff and the Indian Integrated Defence Staff.
- The Ministers also welcomed the participation of Japan, for the first time, in the "MILAN" multilateral naval exercise organised by the Indian Navy.

- The Ministers also reaffirmed their firm support for ASEAN's unity and centrality and their full support for the "ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP)".

**Note:** India & Japan celebrate 70 years of diplomatic relations in 2022.

5. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (**ICAR**) along with its National Agricultural Higher Education Project (**NAHEP**) and Crop Science Division has organized a hackathon '**KRITAGYA 3.0**' to *promote speed breeding for crop improvement*.
- KRITAGYA is: KRI for Krishi meaning Agriculture, TA for Taknik meaning Technology and GYA for Gyan meaning Knowledge.
  - This will give opportunities for students, faculties, entrepreneurs, innovators and others to demonstrate innovative approaches and technological solutions for the crop improvement.
  - In this hackathon, students can collaborate with local start-ups, students from technology institutions and can win a maximum of Rs.5 lakhs.
  - It is in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

**National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):**

ICAR commenced NAHEP with the assistance of World Bank (WB) in **November 2017**. The objective of NAHEP is to support participating Agricultural Universities (AUs) and ICAR in providing more relevant and higher quality education to the students. It was set up with a total outlay of USD 165 million for five years from 2017-18.

6. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently launched the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** in New Delhi. The policy aims to promote smooth movement of goods across India and boost competitiveness of the Indian goods in the domestic and international markets.

It also aims to bring down the logistics cost, which in turn would improve efficiency of various sectors of the economy, boosting value addition and economic growth.

The policy was announced for the first time in Union Budget 2020. It was again announced by the Finance Minister in the 2022-23 Union Budget.

**The National Logistics Policy (NLP) sets the following targets:**

- (a) To reduce costs of logistics in India to be comparable to global benchmarks by 2030.
- (b) To improve the Logistics Performance Index ranking and bring India in the top 25 countries by 2030.
- (c) Create a data driven decision support mechanism for an efficient logistics ecosystem.

**Key elements of the National Logistics Policy (NLP):**

- **Integration of Digital System (IDS):** It will integrate data from several ministerial departments to smooth cargo movement.

- **Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP):** It will display all modes of transport available to facilitate cargo movement.
- **Ease of Logistics (ELOG):** It will simplify rules for logistics business.
- **System Improvement Group (SIG):** Officers from ministries will monitor all logistics projects regularly to remove bottlenecks in a time-bound manner.

NLP also focuses on areas such as process re-engineering, digitisation, and multi-modal transport. An Empowered Group of Secretaries (**EGoS**) has been constituted under the PM Gati Shakti to monitor and review the implementation of the NLP.

7. Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Lea Wermelin, Minister of Environment, Denmark and Flemming Møller Mortensen, Minister of Development Co-operation, Denmark along with the Indian Delegation have launched a Whitepaper on '**Urban Wastewater Scenario in India**' during the **International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress & Exhibition 2022 in Copenhagen**, Denmark.

- The whitepaper is prepared by the Atal Innovation Mission (**AIM**), NITI Aayog, Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Mission for Clean Ganga (**NMCG**), Innovation Centre Denmark (**ICDK**) and Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (**IITB**).
- This whitepaper is an outcome of **Green Strategic Partnership** between India and Denmark with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management between India and Denmark and their bilateral ties.
- This whitepaper holistically captures the current status of wastewater treatment in India and potential pathways for future treatment structures, co-creation and collaborations.

**Note:** India has committed investments of more than USD 140 billion by 2024 in the water sector.

8. The Ministry of Textiles, under Union minister Piyush Goyal, has approved **23 strategic research projects** worth Rs.60 crore under its flagship programme National Technical Textiles Mission (**NTTM**). These projects have been launched in the areas of Specialty fibres, Sustainable Textiles, Geotextiles, Mobiltech and Sports textiles.

This includes 12 projects of Speciality fibres having application areas in agriculture, smart textiles, healthcare, strategic application and protective gears were cleared, 4 projects from sustainable textiles having application area in agriculture and healthcare sector, 5 projects from Geotextile, 1 from Mobiltech, and 1 from Sportech.

#### **National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM):**

The NTTM was launched by the Ministry of Textiles for positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles and improving their penetration level in the country. It will be implemented from FY 2020- 21 to 2023-24. The focus of the Mission is for developing the usage of technical



textiles in various flagship missions, programmes of the country including strategic sectors. It has four components:

- **Research, Development and Innovation**
- **Promotion and Market Development**
- **Export Promotion**
- **Education, Training and Skilling**

9. The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** has recently revised the definition of “**small companies**” under the Companies Act 2013 by increasing the thresholds for paid up capital from “not exceeding Rs. 2 crore” to “not exceeding Rs. 4 crore” and turnover from “not exceeding Rs. 20 crore” to “not exceeding Rs. 40 crore”.

The revisions will allow more entities to come under the category of small companies.

Criteria	Prior to 2021	Old (2021)	New (2022)
Paid-Up Capital	Rs.50 lakh	Rs.2 crore	Rs.4 crore
Turnover	Rs.2 crore	Rs.20 crore	Rs.40 crore

Key benefits of reduction in compliance burden as a result of the revised definition for small companies are as under:

- No need to prepare cash flow statement as part of financial statement.
- Advantage of preparing and filing an Abridged Annual Return.
- Mandatory rotation of auditor not required.
- An Auditor of a small company is not required to report on the adequacy of the internal financial controls and its operating effectiveness in the auditor’s report.
- Holding of only two board meetings in a year.
- Annual Return of the company can be signed by the company secretary, or where there is no company secretary, by a director of the company.
- Lesser penalties for small companies.

10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently attended the **22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) 2022** in **Samarkand, Uzbekistan**. The summit has been chaired by the President of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

#### Key highlights:

- **Samarkand Declaration** has been signed by the member states, which contained a decision on the **Comprehensive Action Plan for 2023-2027** for friendship and cooperation among the SCO member states.

- The Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO-CoHS) started the process to include Iran and Belarus as Members and granting the Maldives, Bahrain, Myanmar, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait the status of SCO dialogue partner.
- Member states have to prepare a single list of terrorist, separatist and extremist groups whose activities are banned on the territories of the member states.
- Creating a transparent international energy market and reducing the existing trade barriers and for more effective World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- **Iran** has been admitted as a permanent member of the SCO at the Samarkand summit. Iran will attend the SCO as a full member from the Summit to be hosted by India in 2023.

### **India at Samarkand:**

- **Varanasi** was nominated as the first-ever SCO Tourism and Cultural Capital for 2022-23 at the SCO Summit.
- Uzbekistan has handed over the rotating presidency of the SCO to India. India will hold the post for one year till September 2023. India will also host **SCO Summit 2023**.
- India will take an initiative for a new SCO working group on traditional medicines and Start-ups & Innovation.
- India called upon the SCO members to give transit access to each other to boost connectivity to ensure resilient supply chains in the region.

### **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO):**

It is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation of Eurasian Nations with a secretariat in Beijing, China. It is an eight-member economic and security bloc established in 2001 with six founding members, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan joined as full members in 2017. Its Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) deals with issues relating to security and defence.

- 11.** The **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ajay (P34)**, an Abhay class anti-submarine warfare corvette of **Western Naval Command**, has recently been decommissioned after rendering 32 years of glorious service to the nation. The ceremony has been conducted at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- INS Ajay was commissioned on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1990, in the then USSR's Poti port, Georgia.
  - It is a part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron under the Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area.
  - INS Ajay (1960) was the first indigenously built ship in Independent India, delivered in 1961 by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (**GRSE**), Kolkata, West Bengal.
- 12.** The Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Satpura** and **P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft** have arrived in Darwin in Australia to participate in a multinational naval **Exercise Kakadu 2022**. This two week-long Exercise, both in harbour & sea, is being conducted in Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise area (NAXA) from 12<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Around 19 vessels, 34 aircraft and more than 3000 personnel from 25 countries have participated in the exercise.

**Theme:** *Partnership, Leadership, Friendship*

### **Exercise Kakadu**

It is a joint-enabled, biennial exercise hosted by the **Royal Australian Navy** and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force. Kakadu is the Navy's premier maritime exercise, developing interoperability between nations in the maritime and air domains, and providing training opportunities for maritime security and surveillance. It started in 1993.

- 13.** The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** has onboarded **76 startups** under the '*India Water Pitch-Pilot-Scale Start-Up Challenge*' in New Delhi.
- The shortlisted start-ups will be provided financial support of up to Rs.20 lakh each to work in the fields of water supply, used water management, water body rejuvenation and ground water management etc.
  - The start-ups have been shortlisted by MoHUA through a challenge process launched in March, 2022 under **AMRUT 2.0 Mission**.
  - In this regard, a '**Startup Gateway**' has also been launched wherein the start-ups can apply and be shortlisted by MoHUA for financial support.
  - The MoHUA has also launched a Toolkit for '**Pey Jal Survekshan**' in 485 cities. Pey Jal Survekshan, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, will assess cities with respect to the quality of water and the quality of water delivery to the citizens, along with sewerage, septage management, grievance redressal, water body conservation, ground water management etc.
- 14.** General Manoj Pande, Chief of Army Staff, has reviewed Exercise Parvat Prahar, on his 2-day visit to Ladakh. The exercise comes as India and China are undertaking disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 in eastern Ladakh.
- Exercise Parvat Prahar:**
- The exercise has been conducted in the **Ladakh plateau** at an altitude of 14,000 feet, by the Mathura-based 1 strike Corps of the Indian Army.
  - This exercise used newly inducted all-terrain vehicles transported by Chinook heavy lift helicopters and K9-Vajra howitzers.
  - The exercise featured a display of operational capabilities by artillery guns and other key weapon systems.
- 15.** The Union Minister of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the **SCALE (Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees)** app during his visit to Council of Scientific & Industrial Research-Central Leather Research Institute (CSIR-CLRI), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.



- The SCALE App is developed by the **Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC)**.
- The App provides a one-stop solution for the skilling, learning, assessment, and employment needs of the leather sector.
- It will allow people from all age groups interested in leather craft to access online live streamed classes from the state-of-the-art studio at its office.

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), CLRI and LSSC will collaborate to set up Common Facility and Skilling Centre across India.

#### **Additional Information:**

The Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to meet the demand for skilled workforce in the leather industry in India. It was set up in 2012 as one of the key sector skill councils approved by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

- **Chairman:** P.R. Aqeel Ahmed
- **Headquarters:** Chennai, Tamil Nadu

- 16. Saudi Arabia** has beaten Russia to become India's second-largest oil supplier in August 2022. India, the world's third biggest oil importer and consumer, shipped in 863,950 barrels per day (bpd) of crude from Saudi Arabia, up 4.8% from July 2022, while purchases from Russia fell 2.4% to 855,950 bpd. Iraq remained the top oil supplier to India in August 2022.
- 17.** Union Minister of MSME, **Narayan Rane**, has recently chaired the 18th meeting of the **National Board of MSME (NBMSME)**. During the meeting, he has inaugurated the portal for the scheme for promotion of MSMEs in North East Region (NER) and Sikkim.
- He has also launched the integration of Udyam and National Career Service (NCS) portals, which was announced in Budget 2022.
  - A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed between the Ministry of MSME and Common Service Centre (CSC) in connection with Udyam Registration Portal.
- NBMSME was established under Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006, as a statutory body.
- 18.** Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has launched the **Dashboard of Department of Science & Technology (DST)**, for countrywide monitoring and feedback to ensure effective implementation of projects, schemes, scholarships and fellowships funded by DST.
- This Dashboard is an institutional mechanism of the DST to drive the process of building, harnessing as well as augmenting and monitoring the statistical and data analytical capabilities of the Department.

## STATES AFFAIRS

19. The Government of **Maharashtra** has started the e-registration of properties to be sold by realty developers to digitise the process, which will also involve the usage of Blockchain technology.
- The portal launched for e-registration is called '**Self Help**', this helps homebuyers to upload their own template for the agreement, which once approved can be used by the developers for several such transactions.
  - With this, Maharashtra has become the first state to enable e-registrations of properties.
20. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the inclusion of several communities in the **Scheduled Tribes (STs) list** of the Constitution across 5 states, as a part of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 2022.

The 5 states include, are Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, and Chattisgarh.

### Communities included in STs List:

- '**Hatti**' community of the Trans-Giri region of Sirmaur district, **Himachal Pradesh** has been granted the status of ST.
- '**Narikoravan**' and '**Kurivikkaran**' community from **Tamil Nadu**.
- '**Binjhia**', who were listed as ST in Jharkhand, and Odisha, has now been listed in **Chhattisgarh**.
- '**Betta-Kuruba**' as a synonym for the Kadu Kuruba tribe In **Karnataka**.
- The Cabinet approved a proposal to bring the Gond community residing in 13 districts of Uttar Pradesh, under the ST list from the Scheduled Caste list. This includes the five subcategories of the Gond community (Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, and Rajgond).

### Other cabinet approvals:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of a **Value-Added Agriculture Mission (VAAM)** aimed at increasing the farmers' income in **Kerala**. The mission envisages the branding of ethnic Kerala foods so that they find markets in West Asian countries.

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21. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of **Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo 2022** will be held at India Exposition Mart, **Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh** from 28-30 September 2022. It will be organized by the Indian Biogas Association (IBA). The expo is expected to bring in investment opportunities worth Rs.800 crore for the biogas sector.

22. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has inaugurated India's longest rubber dam '**Gayaji Dam**' built on the **Falgu (Phalgu) River**, near Vishnupad temple in Gaya, Bihar. The banks along the Falgu River have also been developed and a steel bridge has been built for pilgrims to visit Sita Kund.

**Gayaji Dam:**

- The Gayaji Dam has been constructed by Rubina Company of Austria in collaboration with Nagarjuna Construction Company of Hyderabad on the advice of experts from IIT Roorkee.
- It is **three meters** high and **411 meters** long. It has six spans of 60-65 meters in length.
- The dam has a bulletproof structure with rubber sheets laid at the bottom that does not allow it to deteriorate for almost 100 years.
- This rubber dam, built at a cost of about 312 crores, will keep water throughout the year in the Falgu River.

**Falgu River:**

It originates in the Palamu district of Jharkhand, and passes through the holy city of Gaya in Bihar. The length of the Falgu River in Bihar is about 135 km. This river starts near Gaya at the confluence of Lilajan River and Mohana River and finally joins Punpun River.

23. The "**Food Security Atlas of Rural Jharkhand 2022**" has been launched in Ranchi, Jharkhand. With this, **Jharkhand** has become the third state after Bihar and Odisha in eastern India to have Food Security Atlas for its rural areas.

The Atlas has been prepared by the Delhi-based Institute for Human Development (**IHD**) as part of the research initiative of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai.

**Note:** Odisha and Bihar had their Atlas launched in 2018.

24. The Telangana Legislative Assembly and Council has recently approved the **University of Forestry (UoF) Act, 2022**, opening the way for the transformation of FCRI (Forest College and Research Institute) Hyderabad into a full-fledged "University of Forestry (UoF)". The university will be the first of its kind in India to provide forestry education. The main campus of UoF will be in **Mulugu, Telangana**.

The University aims to develop Agro-Forestry models suitable for different Agroecological situations, apart from conventional forestry operations so as to reduce pressure on natural forests, economic upliftment of farming communities and enhance ecological conditions. Globally, it will be the third University of Forestry after Russia and China.

25. The Government of **Delhi** has collaborated with the Government of **Punjab** to use **Pusa bio-decomposer**, a microbial solution that can decompose paddy straw in 15 to 20 days, on 5,000 acres of land in the agrarian state to prevent stubble burning.
- Stubble burning is a major cause of air pollution in the northern region of India.
  - As part of a pilot project to be implemented with the help of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), bio-decomposer will be sprayed over 5,000 acres or 2,023 hectares of land in Punjab.
26. The Chief Minister of **Manipur** N. Biren Singh has recently launched a web portal in Imphal to receive complaints and grievances from the general public. The name of the web portal is '**CM Da Haisi**' (English translation- Inform to CM). The portal enables people to quickly rectify their grievances and provides a platform to raise corruption-related issues.
27. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently reintroduced wild **Cheetahs (Acinonyx jubatus)** in **Kuno National Park** in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, as part of "Project Cheetah", the world's first inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project.
- India has brought **8 Cheetahs** (five females and three male cheetahs) from Namibia.
  - The Kuno National Park being home to other cats like leopard and lions have abundant prey and grasslands to support cheetahs.
  - Reintroduction of Cheetah holds significance as it is a keystone species (organism that helps define an entire ecosystem) of dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.
  - It will revive grasslands and its biomes and habitat and also enhance local community livelihoods through eco-tourism prospect.

The cheetah was officially declared extinct by the Indian government in 1952 due to issues of over-hunting, decimation of its relatively narrow prey base species and the loss of its grassland-forest habitat.

### **Cheetah:**

The Cheetah, widely regarded as the planet's fastest land animal, is also the least deadly big cat. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species classifies **African Cheetah** as "**Vulnerable**", and **Asiatic Cheetah** as "**Critically Endangered**".

Cheetah has been protected under Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1 July 1975.

28. Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has declared **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** as *India's first Swachh Sujal Pradesh*. With this, all villages on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have received the Har Ghar Jal certification and have been verified as ODF plus open defecation free.

Three important components of Sujal and Swachh state:

- (a) Safe and secure drinking water supply and management;
- (b) ODF Plus: ODF Sustainability and Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and
- (c) Cross-cutting interventions like convergence, IEC, action planning, etc.

On World Water Day, 22 March 2021, Andaman and Nicobar Islands were declared to have achieved 100% coverage of rural households with tap water connection. It became the third State/UT in the country to achieve 100% coverage of rural households with tap water supply after Goa and Telangana.

29. The U.S. Agency for International Development (**USAID**) and the United Nations Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) have formally launched the Doordarshan and YouTube series titled '**Duur Se Namaste**' ("Greetings from a distance!") at an event held in **New Delhi**.
- Duur Se Namaste is a new television series which promotes healthy behaviours in a post-pandemic world.
  - It is a fictional Hindi series developed in an entertainment education format highlighting the challenges of a post-pandemic world and promotes the adoption of healthy behaviour and practices.
  - The series is produced by National Film Award winner and Padma Shri, Nil Madhav Panda's production house, Elleenora Images Pvt. Ltd.
30. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar has recently inaugurated the **9th Session of Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)** in **New Delhi**. It has been organized from 19 to 24 September 2022 under the theme "*Celebrating the Guardians of Crop Diversity: Towards an Inclusive Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*".
- During the event, Union Agriculture Minister has highlighted the importance of the protection of plant genetic resources, which are currently threatened because of habitat loss and climate change. Plant genetic resources are critical to solve breeding challenges.
  - India has also proposed an Awareness, Outreach and Capacity Building Programme that will promote farmers' rights across the globe.

#### **ITPGRFA:**

It is also known as seed treaty. It is a major international agreement to conserve, use and manage Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) around the world for benefit of people everywhere.

It is a legally binding agreement that was adopted by 31st session of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 2001 in Rome, Italy and entered into force in 2004. It currently has 149 contracting parties, including **India**. It was created in lines with the Convention on Biological Diversity.



- 31.** The Chief Minister of **Gujarat** Bhupendra Patel has unveiled the state's first '**Cinematic Tourism Policy 2022-27**' to promote and develop an ecosystem for film production industries and to stimulate the tourism economy.
- Four Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) worth **Rs.1,020 crore** have been signed between organisations and individuals with the department for the development of film infrastructure and film production.
  - The policy will be effective for five years and will help in strengthening the film infrastructure in the state.
- 32.** The Government of **West Bengal** has approved a proposal for issuing a Letter of Intent (LoI) to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (**APSEZ**) for the development of a greenfield deep sea port at **Tajpur** in East Midnapore district. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 25,000 crore.
- 33.** The **World Bank (WB)** has approved a loan of **USD 150 million** to **Punjab** for the management of its financial resources and improve access to public services. The loan has a maturity of **15 years** including a grace period of 6 months.
- This new project will support the implementation of the state's new data policy, which aims to bring together various social protection initiatives and reduce potential leakages while delivering essential services.
  - The project will pilot two initiatives: (a) To introduce a performance-based grants system for incentivising municipal corporations to improve service delivery, and (b) To demonstrate 24x7 water supply in select areas in Amritsar and Ludhiana.
- 34.** The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has inaugurated **International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022** organised at India Expo Centre & Mart, **Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh.
- The summit has been held for four days from 12<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> September under the theme "Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood".
  - The summit provides a forum to industry experts to share knowledge and ideas on how the sector can contribute to nourish the world with safe and sustainable dairying.

The last such Summit was held in India in 1974.

#### **Dairy Sector in India:**

- India's dairy sector is characterized by '*production by masses*' more than 'mass production'.
- India is ranked first in milk production contributing **23%** of global milk production followed by the United States of America, China, Pakistan and Brazil.
- Top 5 milk-producing states: Uttar Pradesh (14.9%), Rajasthan (14.6%), Madhya Pradesh (8.6%), Gujarat (7.6%), and Andhra Pradesh (7.0%).

- 35.** Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, **Sarbananda Sonowal** has launched multiple projects for the development of the Bogibeel region near Dibrugarh in **Assam**.

**Two Floating Jetties:**

- The Two floating jetties at Bogibeel in Dibrugarh district and Guijan in Tinsukia district have been inaugurated.
- Both the jetties are being constructed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) over the National Waterways - 2 (NW-2), popularly known as River Brahmaputra.
- The work has been awarded to Coastal Consolidated Structures Pvt. Ltd on an EPC contract mode (engineering, procurement, construction).
- The two jetties are estimated to be built at a cost of Rs.8.25 crores and scheduled to be completed by February, 2023.

**Bogibeel Riverfront Passenger Jetty:**

- It has been developed by the Northeast Frontier Railways (NFR) as part of Riverfront Development near the Bogibeel Bridge.
- The estimated cost of the project is Rs.2.5 crores.

- 36.** A joint exercise named “**Abhyas-01/22**” between the Indian Coast Guard (**ICG**) and the United States Coast Guard (**USCG**) has been conducted in **Chennai**, Tamil Nadu.

The exercise focused towards acquainting the Coast Guards with each other’s capabilities and strengthen their working level relationship towards enhancing inter-operability in the field of maritime search and rescue, boarding operations and other maritime law enforcement duties.

It should be noted that the United States Coast Guard cutter **Midgett** has participated in the exercise.

The Chief Minister of **Telangana** K Chandrasekhar Rao has decided to name the State's new Secretariat, which is under construction, after **B R Ambedkar**. The seven-story Secretariat building with a built-up area of seven lakh square feet is being built at a cost of Rs 650 crore.

- 37.** According to the latest data shared by Law Minister Kiren Rijju with the chief justices of the High Courts, **Uttar Pradesh** accounts for more than 70 percent of the 13.81 lakh pending trials in **Fast-Track Courts (FTCs)** in cases of heinous crimes against women, children and senior citizens.
- More than 9.33 lakh cases are pending in FTCs of Uttar Pradesh, followed by over 1.4 lakh cases in Maharashtra, 1.06 lakh cases in Tamil Nadu, 71,260 cases in West Bengal and 12,538 cases in Telangana.

- Uttar Pradesh also tops the list of the states where trials in rape cases and matters under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are yet to be concluded, with more than 60,000 cases pending in the Fast-Track Special Courts (FTSC).
- As many as 3,28,556 cases are pending currently in the FTSCs across 28 states and Union territories.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**38.** The **7th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)** has been held in **Vladivostok, Russia**. The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi has virtually addressed the meet.

- The Prime Minister emphasised the necessity to resolve the Ukrainian problem through diplomatic channels.
- India is eager to strengthen its cooperation with Russia on Arctic issues.
- India made a pledge to an "**Act Far-East**" policy public in 2019. This policy is a crucial component of a unique and privileged strategic alliance with Russia.
- Connectivity projects like the International North-South Corridor, the Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor or the Northern Sea Route, will play an important role in the development of India and Russia.
- Russia can become an important partner for the Indian steel industry through coking coal supply.

### Eastern Economic Forum

EEF is an international forum organised each year in **Vladivostok, Russia**. It was founded in **September 2015**, at Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, to support the economic development of Russia's Far East and to expand international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The main objective is to **increase the Foreign Direct Investments** in the Russian Far East region. This forum is sponsored by the organizing committee appointed by Roscongress.

### Far East:

It is the easternmost part of Russia. It borders two oceans, the Pacific and the Arctic, and five countries (China, Japan, Mongolia, the United States and the DPRK). The Far Eastern Federal District covers more than a third of the country's territory. It is rich in natural resources like diamonds, stannary, borax materials, 50 gold, tungsten, and fish and seafood. About 1/3 of all coal reserves and hydro-engineering resources of the country are here.

**39.** The **United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)**, along with UK-based charity **Reef-World Foundation**, has recently introduced the "**Green Fins Hub**", a global digital platform for diving and snorkelling operators worldwide.

- The Green Fins Hub is the first-ever global marine tourism industry platform.
- It is expected to scale up to reach a potential 30,000 operators worldwide from about 700 operators across 14 countries.

- The platform will help diving and snorkelling operators worldwide to make simple, cost-efficient changes to their daily practices by utilising tried and tested solutions.
- It is intended to catalyse a seismic shift towards sustainability in the marine tourism sector, by hosting two types of Green Fins membership:

(a) **Digital membership** that will be available to dive, snorkel and liveaboard operations globally.

(b) **Green Fins Certified Members** will continue to be assessed annually and trained in person at their operation. The assessment process will continue to be based on set criteria using a scoring system (0-330 point system, with a low score implying low impact of a business on coral reefs).

**Additional features on the Hub include:**

The **Green Fins Community Forum** for operators around the world to raise industry needs, discuss environmental issues and share lessons.

The **Green Fins Solutions Library** gives access to over 100 proven environmental solutions to common daily operational challenges.

The **Action Plan Tracker**: Members will receive an annual sustainability action plan with set goals. An advanced user interface now allows them to track their progress over time.

40. The President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, has signed constitutional amendments that extended the nation's Presidential term to 7 years from 5 years, and brought back the old name of **Kazakhstan's** capital to **Astana** from the current Nur-Sultan.
- The amendment bar any President from running for a second term in office.
  - It should be noted that Astana became the capital of Kazaksthan in 1997. The capital was renamed Nur-sultan in 2019 in honour of outgoing president Nursultan Nazarbayev.
41. The **Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE)**, a lunchbox sized instrument operated by NASA, has successfully generated **oxygen (O2)** by carrying out the work of a tiny tree on Mars.
- MOXIE is a technology demonstration on the NASA Mars 2020 rover Perseverance investigating the production of oxygen on Mars.
  - On April 20, 2021, MOXIE produced oxygen from carbon dioxide in the Martian atmosphere by using solid oxide electrolysis.
  - In each experimental run, MOXIE produced **6 grams** of O2 per hour, which roughly equals the O2 produced by a small tree on Earth.
42. The European Parliament has declared in a non-binding but highly symbolic report, that **Hungary** is no longer a fully functioning democracy. The declaration states that Hungary will be considered a **"hybrid regime of electoral autocracy"**, in which elections will be held regularly without following basic democratic norms.

This is the first time an EU institution has declared that its member state is not a proper democracy, an essential prerequisite to join the European Union (EU).

43. A first-of-its-kind database for tracking the world's fossil fuel production, reserves, and emissions named "**Global Registry of Fossil Fuels**" has been launched. The inventory includes data from more than 50,000 oil, gas and coal fields in 89 countries, covering 75 percent of global production.

The database has been developed by **Carbon Tracker**, a non-profit think tank, along with the **Global Energy Monitor**, an organization that tracks a variety of energy projects around the globe.

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## REPORTS & INDICES

44. As per the list released by the Central Zoo Authority, the **Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZA)** in Darjeeling, West Bengal has been recognized as the best zoo in India. The PNHZA was established on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1958. The zoological park is internationally recognised for its breeding and conservation programmes of endangered animal species of the eastern Himalayas, including the Snow Leopard and the Red Panda.

A zoo directors' conference has been held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where the Central Zoo Authority released the ranking list. There are around 150 zoos across the country.

- As per the list, the **Arignar Anna Zoological Park** in Chennai, Tamil Nadu has secured the second position, followed by the **Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens** in Mysore, Karnataka.
- Kolkata's Alipore Zoological Garden has secured the fourth position.

45. As per the Kantar Brandz Top-75 Most Valuable Indian Brands 2022 report, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has emerged as India's most valuable brand, with a brand value of **USD 45.5 Billion**.

- TCS has replaced HDFC Bank, which held the number one spot since 2014. HDFC Bank (USD 32.7 billion) has ranked number two on the 2022 rankings.
- HDFC Bank is followed by Infosys (USD 29.2 billion), and Airtel (USD 17.4 billion).



The combined value of India's top-75 brands are worth USD 393 billion, that is equivalent to 11 percent of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

46. Fitch Ratings, a global ratings agency, has slashed India's economic growth forecast for fiscal year 2022-23 (FY23) as measured by Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to **7 percent** from its June 2022 estimate of 7.8 percent in its Global Economic Outlook-September 2022 special report.

It now forecasts a further slowdown in India's GDP in FY24 to **6.7 percent** as compared to its earlier forecast of 7.4 percent.

47. **India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra)** has recently lowered India's GDP growth forecast for FY23 by 10 basis points to **6.9%** from 7.0% earlier. As per Ind-Ra, the **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** has increased from USD 13.4 billion (1.5% of GDP) in the January-March quarter (Q4 FY22) to USD 28.4 billion (3.4% of GDP) in the April-June quarter (Q1 FY23).

48. According to the Verite Research, a Colombo-based independent interdisciplinary think-tank, **India** has become the top lender to Sri Lanka in 2022, disbursing **USD 377 million** in loans to the island nation as it faced political crisis and economic unrest.

- The Asian Development Bank (**ADB**) follows India with USD 360 million in loans. They account for 76 percent of total disbursements from January to April 2022.
- Between 2017 and 2021, China has been the largest bilateral lender to Sri Lanka.

49. Blockchain analysis platform Chainalysis published its 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the **2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index**. The report ranks 154 countries on the basis of the following five sub-indexes:

- (a) On-chain cryptocurrency value received at centralized exchanges, weighted by purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita.
- (b) On-chain retail value received at centralized exchanges, weighted by PPP per capita.
- (c) Peer-to-peer (P2P) exchange trade volume, weighted by PPP per capita and number of internet users.
- (d) On-chain cryptocurrency value received from DeFi protocols, weighted by PPP per capita.
- (e) On-chain retail value received from DeFi protocols, weighted by PPP per capita

**Key points:**

- **Vietnam** has topped the index for the second consecutive year with an overall index ranking of 1.
- It is followed by Philippines (0.753), and Ukraine (0.694).
- **India** has secured the **4<sup>th</sup> rank** with an index score of 0.663.

In the index, **Ten are lower middle income countries:** Vietnam, Philippines, Ukraine, India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Morocco, Nepal, Kenya, and Indonesia; **Eight are upper middle income countries:** Brazil, Thailand, Russia, China, Turkey, Argentina, Colombia, and Ecuador; and **Two are high income countries:** United States and United Kingdom.

- 50.** The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, in its September 2022 update of the report titled *“Asian Development Outlook 2022: Entrepreneurship in the Digital Age”* has lowered India's GDP Growth forecast for **FY23** by **0.2 percent** i.e. from 7.2% to **7%** due to high inflation and monetary tightening.

ADB has also reduced the overall growth projections for Asia and the Pacific regions due to global challenges. The region's economy is expected to grow 4.3 percent (earlier 5.2%) in 2022, and 4.9 percent (earlier 5.3%) in 2023.

**Other growth projections for India's growth in FY23:**

- SBI: 6.8%
- Goldman Sachs: 7%
- Citigroup: 6.7%
- Moody's: 7.7%
- Fitch: 7%
- India Ratings: 6.9%

- 51.** Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw has launched the **“Swachhta Pakhwara 2022”** and has also released the Annual report on Environment Sustainability 2020-21 in New Delhi.

- Ministry of Railways is observing Swachhata Pakhwara from **16th September to 2nd October 2022.**
- Its focus is **Seva, Sushasan, and Gareeb Kalyan.**
- The participating ministries will focus on an intensive cleanliness campaign, service for TB (Tuberculosis) patients, and Mega Blood Donation Drive.

The annual report on Environment Sustainability 2020-21 is a comprehensive document highlighting the steps taken by Railways to promote green and clean energy. This report brings out Railways' effort towards net zero emission.

- 52.** According to the **Global Wealth Report 2022** by Credit Suisse, India witnessed a **12 percent** year-on-year (YoY) jump in total household wealth in FY21, at **\$14,225 billion**. The report also forecasts the number of millionaires in the country to more than double from 796,000 in 2021 to 1.6 million in 2026. Wealth per adult also saw an increase of 9% in 2021 to stand at \$15,535.

- The report highlighted that India's Gini coefficient has steadily increased from 74.7 in 2000 to 82.3 in 2021.
- India houses about **1 percent** of the world's millionaires.

The number of global millionaires will exceed 87 million in 2026 which is an increase of 25 million from 2021. The USA has topped the world millionaires list, followed by China, and Canada.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES

**53. NITI Aayog** has hosted the first Shoonya Forum in Delhi to commemorate the first anniversary of **Shoonya campaign**, India's zero pollution e-mobility campaign.

The *National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Energy Storage (Part III)* report has been launched during the event.

The report highlights that India's USD 2.5-billion Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) energy storage is critical for meeting the projected cumulative battery demand of 106–260 GWh by 2030 to successfully realize the country's vision for EV adoption and grid decarbonisation.

### Shoonya Campaign:

NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India's launched the Shoonya Campaign in September 2021. It is an initiative to **promote zero-pollution delivery vehicles** by working with consumers and industry. The campaign has 130 industry partners, including ride-hailing, delivery and EV companies.

**54.** Union Minister of MSME Narayan Rane in the presence of Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) Manoj Kumar has inaugurated **72 Units** assisted under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (**PMEGP**) and disbursed margin money subsidy to 720 PMEGP beneficiaries at KVIC Office, Mumbai.

A training programme at Varanasi for PMEGP entrepreneurs has also been inaugurated.

### Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):

- It is a flagship scheme launched in **September 2008** by merging the erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) implemented by KVIC and Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) implemented by District Industries Centres.
- This is a credit linked subsidy scheme for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas of the country.
- **Administered by:** Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)
- **Implemented by:** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- The maximum cost of the project eligible for subsidy under this scheme in manufacturing sector is **Rs.50 lakh** and in service sector is **Rs.20 lakh**.

Till 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022 under this scheme, KVIC has sanctioned 25,105 projects, released more than 802 crore margin money and has generated employment for 2,00,840 people.

**55.** Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan has launched **Ramakrishna Mission's 'Awakening' Programme** for students of **Classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>**.

- This initiative will ensure holistic personality development of a child aligned with the philosophy of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Value-based education is important for building a future-ready and socially conscious generation.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (**CBSE**) has been authorized by the Ministry of Education to create an advisory framework for encouraging value-based education in all schools from Balvatika to Class XII for creating a talent pool ready for the challenges of life and committed to national progress and global welfare.

**Ramakrishna Mission:**

The Ramakrishna Mission engages in major philanthropic and educational activity and presents a contemporary interpretation of the Advaita Vedanta School of Indian Philosophy. Swami Vivekananda established the group in 1897 in Kolkata with the twin goals of advancing Indian society and disseminating the Vedic teachings as manifested in the life of the Saint Ramakrishna (1836–86).

The organisations were founded by Sri Ramakrishna, a revered Bengali saint who lived from 1836 to 1886 and is known as the Prophet of the Modern Age, and his most important follower, Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902).

**56.** The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) has introduced the '**Capacity Building of First Time MSE Exporters' (CBFTE)** component of International Cooperation (IC) Scheme. This scheme is intended to assist Micro and Small Enterprises (MSE) to promote their products in the international market by offering incentives at various stages of the business cycle.

**Nodal Agency:**

The Ministry of MSME has designated **ECGC Limited** (earlier known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited) as the nodal agency of the scheme. With this, the export credit insurance premium paid by the MSE exporters, holding the ECGC Small Exporter's Policy, will now be eligible for reimbursement from the Ministry of MSME.

**Key points:**

- The grant under the scheme will be released to ECGC on reimbursement basis by the Ministry of MSME, on submission of the reimbursement claim in the proforma accompanied by the documents as prescribed by the Ministry.
- The amount received from the Ministry of MSME, will then be transferred by ECGC to the beneficiaries.
- The maximum reimbursement to an exporter in a financial year will be **Rs.10,000/-** or actual, whichever is lower.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

MSE must have a valid Udyam Registration and the Import Export Code No. of the MSE must not be older than 3 years on the date of export shipment to be eligible for availing the benefits under the scheme. The scheme is applicable to the MSE exporters engaged in the Manufacturing Sector.

**Additional Information:**

ECGC Limited, a premier Export Credit Agency (ECA) of the Government of India, was established in 1957 under the Companies Act to provide export credit insurance services to exporters and banks on a "no-profit no-loss" basis to promote and support exports from India. The Company functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **CMD:** M. Senthilnathan

**57.** The Union Cabinet has recently approved the second tranche of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme on '**National programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules**' for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt scale in High Efficiency Solar PV Modules. Cabinet has approved an outlay of **Rs.19,500 crore** for achieving manufacturing capacity of Giga Watt scale.

- The scheme aims to create an ecosystem for manufacturing high efficiency solar PV modules.
- Under this, about **65 thousand MW** per annum manufacturing capacity of fully and partially integrated solar PV modules will be installed annually.
- This scheme will bring direct investment of about **Rs.94,000 crore** and will provide direct employment to about 2 lakh people and indirect employment to about 8 lakh people.

The Cabinet has also approved modifications in Programme for Development of Semiconductors and Display Manufacturing Ecosystem India. Under modified programme, a uniform fiscal support of **50 percent** of Project Cost shall be provided across all technology nodes for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs or semiconductor fabrication plant.

**58. SBI Foundation** and World Wide Fund for Nature- India (**WWF**) have collaborated to generate fine-scale information on the **Red Panda** species at a transboundary level and engage in safeguarding key habitats in the Khangchendzonga landscape of Sikkim and West Bengal.

- An event has been organised at the **Himalayan Zoological Park** in Gangtok, Sikkim to commemorate International Red Panda Day.
- The event has been hosted to raise awareness about the endangered Red Panda among young visitors.
- International Red Panda Day is observed annually on the *third Saturday of September*, aimed at supporting Red Panda conservation. In 2022, the day falls on **17<sup>th</sup> September**.



**Note:** Himalayan Zoological Park is the first-of-its-kind, where animals are kept in their natural habitat.

**Red Panda (Ailurus fulgens):**

They are shy, solitary and arboreal animals and considered an indicator species for ecological change. They live in high-altitude forests of Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar and China.

- **IUCN Status:** Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix I
- **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

**59.** Rattan India Enterprises has launched its first anti-drone product '**Defender**' that can work both manually and via Artificial Intelligence (AI) which helps it to adjust its position.

- The anti-drone has been developed by Throttle Aerospace Systems, a step-down subsidiary of RattanIndia Enterprises.
- The Defender will be a 70% indigenous product with a 30% import component of BLDC motor and batteries.

**60. Bharti Airtel** has collaborated with **IBM** to deploy Airtel's edge computing platform which will enable large enterprises across multiple industries including manufacturing and automotive to accelerate innovative solutions.

- **Maruti Suzuki**, India's largest passenger car maker, intends to use the edge platform to increase accuracy and efficiency for quality inspections on the factory floor.
- Airtel's edge computing platform in India includes 120 network data centres across 20 cities, under its data centre arm Nextra Digital.

**61. NTPC Limited** and **REC Limited**, two major Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under Ministry of Power, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Sports Development Funds (**NSDF**) and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) to promote sports in India by committing **Rs. 215 crores**.

- NTPC Limited has committed **Rs.115 crore** in 5 years for development of **Archery** Sports.
- REC has committed an amount of **Rs.100 crore** over 3 years to support **Women's hockey, Boxing and Athletics**.

**National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):**

It was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890. It was notified by Government of India in November 1998. The purpose is to impart momentum and flexibility to assisting the cause of sports. The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government. Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.

62. The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** to collaborate on strengthening the safe migration of Indian citizens. The main objective is to create an opportunity for these two internationally reputed entities to collaborate on a range of initiatives related to the safe, orderly, and regular migration of Indian skilled professionals and youth internationally.

CII has recently decided to adopt over **35,000 tuberculosis (TB)** patients by providing nutritional support. It has committed over Rs.25 crore for the same. In this regard, it is working closely with the Central TB Division, to catalyse private sector participation and involvement in this critical mission.

Tata group-owned **Air India** has unveiled a comprehension transformation plan '**Vihaan.AI**' to establish itself, once again, as a world-class global airline of India origin.

- The plan aims to focus on growing both its network and fleet, revamping its customer proposition, enhancing reliability and on-time performance, taking a leadership role in technology, sustainability, and innovation, and investing in the best talent in the industry.
- Air India will also strive to increase its market share to at least 30% in the domestic market.

63. The **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** and the **International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)** have signed a FinTech Co-operation Agreement to facilitate regulatory collaboration and partnership in FinTech technology.

- Under this agreement, both entities will utilize their respective Regulatory Sandboxes (RS) to support experimentation of technology innovations.
- This co-operation agreement builds on the Memorandum of Understanding on Supervisory Co-operation signed between MAS and IFSCA in July 2022.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is Singapore's central bank and integrated financial regulator.

64. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the **Indian Navy** and **Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AUUP)** to establish a long-term symbiotic relationship for Academic Cooperation.

Under this MoU, Amity University will conduct customised courses for the Indian Navy in niche domains, such as, 5G Technology and IoT, Control System Integration, AI, Blockchain, Machine Learning, Cryptology, Data Science, Big Data Analysis, Digital Marketing, Computer Networks, Anti Drone Warfare, Cyber Warfare Security, Automation, Surveillance and Tracking etc.

65. The **Israel embassy** in India in collaboration with **Khushi Foundation** has launched a special project "**Saaras**" to promote women's empowerment, menstrual hygiene, and awareness in Arthala, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ambassador of Israel to India **Naor Gilon** along with Anirudh Khaitan President Khushi Foundation has inaugurated a centre under this project to produce eco-friendly cost-effective sanitary napkins.
  - This manufacturing unit has been established with the help of MASHAV- the Agency for International Development Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. The machine can produce 10,000 pads per day.

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66. The Government of **Meghalaya** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Tamil Nadu** to support Meghalaya in the recruitment and training of medical professionals.

This is a first-of-its-kind medical partnership between the two Indian states for collaboration on knowledge sharing, capacity building and improving health service delivery.

67. Clean energy firm **ENGIE** has collaborated with the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**) through its arm Solaire Direct Energy India to train **600 youths** in solar module programmes. The project is part of Engie's corporate social responsibility (CSR) for 2022-23.
- The goal is to impart knowledge, skills, and training which young graduates need to enter the employment market.
  - The training will be provided in Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh), Kadappa (Andhra Pradesh), and Bikaner (Rajasthan).

The training programs will be in line with the Qualification Pack (QP)/National Occupation Standards set by the Sector Skill Councils (SSC).

68. The Government of India (GoI) and **Assam Government** has signed a tripartite peace accord with eight armed tribal groups of Assam, in the presence of Amit Shah, Union Ministry of Home Affairs for bringing peace in the areas.
- The tribal groups that signed the agreement include Birsa Commando Force (BCF), Adivasi Cobra Military of Assam (ACMA), Santhal Tiger Force (STF), Adivasi People's Army (APA), and All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA).

A special development package of **Rs.1000 crore** will be provided to improve the tribal areas of Assam.

**69. Adani Group** has recently completed the acquisition of **Ambuja Cements & ACC Ltd** through their special purpose vehicle Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd. With this, Adani Group has now become *India's second largest cement manufacturer*. Currently, Ambuja Cements and ACC have a combined installed production capacity of 67.5 MTPA.

**Note:** Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech leads the cement sector with an installed capacity over 100 MTPA.

**70. Google Cloud** in collaboration with FutureSkills Prime, a Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and **NASSCOM** Digital Skilling Initiative, has launched the first cohort of its computing foundations with Kubernetes course.

- The beginner-level course aims to provide participants an opportunity to experience cloud computing, cloud basics, big data and machine learning (ML).
- The course will be offered free to students at higher education Institutions and freshers seeking to skill themselves on emerging technologies.

**71.** Canada-based Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board (**OTPP**) will buy a **30%** stake in Mahindra Group's renewable energy firm **Mahindra Susten Private Limited**. The value of a stake is Rs.2,371 crore.

**72.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the proposed merger of **Jio Cinema OTT** with **Viacom18 Media**, following an investment by BTS Investment and Reliance Projects & Property Management Services. Under this partnership, Reliance's popular Jio Cinema OTT app will be transferred to Viacom18.

## BANKING & FINANCE

**73.** The **Ministry of Finance** has issued draft guidelines for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** to raise funds from capital market, private placements with select investors such as large banks and insurance companies, and Initial Public Offerings (IPO).

### Key guidelines:

- Prior to issuing shares to the public through the IPO route, the RRBs should consider issue of bonus shares (to reward existing shareholders who so far have not been paid dividends and have first claim on the existing reserves) and a Rights Issue in consultation with the merchant bankers and the sponsor bank.

- The entire value of the issue may first be placed through rights offer with the provision to facilitate promoter shareholders to subscribe/renounce the offer.
- Large banks and insurance companies like LIC may be granted equity shares.
- Other private insurance companies, pension funds and mutual funds may be approached to subscribe in a book building process.
- The Department of Financial Service may consult the concerned State Government (SG) if the level of shareholding in the RRB of such SG can be reduced below 15 per cent (in compliance of the section 69 (b) of RRBs Act, 1976, after amendment).

#### Parameters for selecting RRBs for capital raising include:

- Net worth of at least **Rs.300 crore** in each of the preceding three years.
- Minimum Capital to Risk-weighted Assets Ratio above the regulatory requirement of **9 percent** in each of the preceding three years.
- A track record of profitability - pre-tax operating profit of minimum **Rs.15 crore** for at least three out of previous five years, excluding extraordinary times.
- RRBs should have return on equity of minimum **10 percent** in three out of preceding five years, and return on assets of minimum **0.5 percent** in three out of preceding five years.
- RRBs should not have accumulated losses.
- RRBs should adhere to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and RBI Act, 1935, and they should not be under prompt corrective action by RBI/NABARD.

#### Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):

RRBs are jointly owned by the Government of India (GoI), the respective State Governments (SGs), and the Sponsor Banks (SBs), with equity contribution in the ratio (GoI: SG: SB :: 50:15:35).

Currently, there are **43 RRBs** sponsored by 12 Scheduled Commercial Banks with 21,892 branches across the country.

As of March 2022, RRBs had deposits and loans and advances (net) aggregating Rs.5,62,538 crore and Rs.3,42,479 crore, respectively.

- 74.** IndusInd Bank has approved the re-appointment of **Sumant Kathpalia** as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank for a further period of three years with effect from March 24, 2023 up to March 23, 2026. He was appointed as MD & CEO of IndusInd Bank in March 2020.

The re-appointment is subject to approval from the lender's shareholders and the Reserve Bank of India.

- 75. Reliance General Insurance** has collaborated with **Paytm**, a digital payments and financial services company, to offer the **Reliance Health Gain policy**, a customizable health cover, to customers through the Paytm app.



- Reliance Health Gain policy was launched in May 2022.
- The policy aims to enhance insurance penetration among people of India.
- It offers three different plans, **Plus, Power and Prime**, with features that provide customisation to customers.

**76. SOVA Android Trojan**, a new type of mobile banking malware, has now reached India. This malware encrypts an Android phone for ransom and is hard to uninstall. It has the ability to harvest user names and passwords via keylogging, stealing cookies, and adding false overlays to a range of famous apps.

- SOVA is essentially a banking malware but is capable of distributed denial-of-service (DDoS), and man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks.
- CERT-In has issued an advisory for SOVA malware to be active in India.

**Note:** SOVA means Owl in Russian.

**77.** The Tata Memorial Centre (**TMC**), Mumbai, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Vedanta** Medical Research Foundation's flagship initiative, BALCO Medical Centre (BMC), Raipur, Chhattisgarh, to drive excellence in **cancer** care across India.

- With this MoU, the TMC will empanel the BMC as a referral centre for patients from Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states.
- The BMC will also take part in the National Cancer Grid Virtual Tumour Boards to drive excellence in patient care.

**78.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of **Pralay Mondal** as the Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **CSB Bank**. He has been appointed for a period of three years from September 15, 2022 up to September 14, 2025.

**79. Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has tied up with Chennai-based **Repco Home Finance Ltd (RHFL)** to offer insurance solutions to all home loan customers of RHFL. Under this, EGI will offer property insurance cover and loan protection cover to RHFL's customers through their branches spread across India.

**80.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** special fixed deposit scheme "**WECARE**" for senior citizens has been extended upto **31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**. The scheme was initially launched in 2020 to secure senior citizens' income by paying additional interest on term deposits. The scheme is offered for new deposits as well as the renewal of maturing accounts.

**Period of Deposit:** Minimum 5 years & Maximum 10 years

**Interest Rate:** Additional premium of 30 bps (over & above the existing 50 bps as detailed in the above table) over card rate for Public i.e. 80 bps over card rate for Public.

- 81.** The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has collaborated with **Remitly** to enable Non Residents Indians (NRIs) to send money through SBI via Remitly to their family members, using mobile and web applications. Under this collaboration, NRIs can now transfer money to 17 Remitly nations.
- 82.** Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) to launch the “**Kotak IITM Save Energy Mission**”, which has been inaugurated by the Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan at the IITM Campus, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- KMBL and IITM will establish five satellite centres across India to promote energy efficiency for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector under Kotak’s CSR Project on the Environment and Sustainable Development.
  - Kotak IITM Save Energy Mission will offer assistance and training to MSMEs for periodic audits.
- 83.** Recently, **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched a special type of **Everyday Savings Account** (Daily Savings Account) to help customers in spending and saving every day. This account includes a power-packed Everyday RuPay Platinum Debit Card.

With this account, the customers can make 30 transactions of any value in a month and get minimum balance charges waived or choose to maintain an average monthly amount of Rs 20,000. It offers a higher daily limit of Rs.3 lakhs within India and abroad for transactions along with higher ATM withdrawal limits of Rs.1 lakh.

- 84.** Life Insurance Corporation of India (**LIC**) has cut its stake in GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals (**GSK Pharma**) from 6.402 percent to **4.357 percent**. LIC has sold about 34.20 lakh shares or 2.045 percent of its holding in the global pharma major during September 2018-22 period.
- 85.** The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the investment of **Rs 665 crore** in primary capital insurance by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (**ADIA**) in Aditya Birla Health Insurance (**ABHI**) in exchange for a **9.99%** equity.
- 86.** The State Bank of India (**SBI**) has acquired the **13.82%** equity of existing shareholders, that is 2,20,98,780 equity shares, of **SBI Global Factors (SBIGFL)** from its existing shareholders Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) 6.53%, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) 4.34%, and Union Bank of India (UBI) 2.95%.

This transaction entails a cash consideration of Rs.67.84 crore. Prior to this acquisition, SBI held an 86.18% stake in SBIGFL.

87. The Board of Directors of **Yes Bank** has approved the sale of stressed loans worth **Rs.48,000 crore** to **JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC)**. YES Bank will also pick up a **19.99% stake** in the ARC, subject to regulatory approvals.

JC Flowers ARC won Yes Bank's non-performing loan portfolio for Rs.11,183 crore in a Swiss Challenge auction, after a consortium of Cerberus Capital and Asset Reconstruction Company of India (ARCIL) withdrew its bid.

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## RBI IN NEWS

88. The **Institute for Development & Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, a unit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has developed a novel technology that allows people in remote hilly and forest areas without satellite signal to access banking services.

- IDRBT is the first in the world to build a network based on **Long Range Radio (LoRa) technology**.
- LoRa is a spread spectrum modulation technique derived from chirp spread spectrum (CSS) technology.
- It is a new dedicated low-cost financing network that banks may use privately to transmit encrypted texts and make financial transactions.

89. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor, Shaktikanta Das, has launched three key digital payment initiatives at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Global Fintech Fest 2022** in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The three digital payment initiatives are:

### UPI Lite:

- UPI Lite has been designed for small-value transactions. It is an on-device wallet.
- The upper limit of a UPI Lite payment transaction will be **Rs.200**. The total limit of the UPI Lite digital payment mode on the wallet on a device would be **Rs.2,000** at any point in time.
- In Phase-I, UPI Lite will process transactions in **near offline mode**, i.e., debit (payments) can be made without Internet connection and credits into the account will be done online.
- UPI Lite feature has been enabled on the BHIM app.
- Customers of these **eight banks** will be able to use UPI Lite digital payment system. These are Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India (SBI), Union Bank of India and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.

### Bharat BillPay Cross-Border Bill Payments:

- **Federal Bank** has partnered with the NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited (**NBBL**), and **Lulu Exchange (UAE)** to enable Utility Bill Payment System services for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) diaspora. With this, Federal Bank and Lulu Exchange has become the **first** to accept BBPS cross-border bill payments.

#### **RuPay Credit Card on Unified Payments Interface (UPI):**

- The customers of **Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, and Indian Bank** will be the first to be able to use RuPay Credit Card on UPI with BHIM App.
  - RuPay credit cards will be linked to a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) i.e. UPI ID, thus directly enabling safe, and secure payment transactions.
  - Currently, UPI is linked through debit cards and bank accounts.
90. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to allow foreign inward remittances received under the Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA), to be transferred to the KYC (Know Your Customer) compliant bank account of the biller (beneficiary) through **Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)**, subject to conditions.

Thus, RBI has allowed BBPS to process Cross-Border Inbound Remittances. The direction has been issued under Section 10(4) and Section 11(1) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

91. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has removed **Central Bank of India** from its Prompt Corrective Action Framework (**PCAF**) after the lender showed improvement in various financial ratios, including minimum regulatory capital and Net Non-Performing Assets (NNPAs). RBI had placed Central Bank under PCA in June 2017 due to high net NPAs and negative return on assets.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

92. **Federal Bank** has been ranked **63rd** on the **Best Workplaces in Asia 2022** and becomes the **only bank in India** to be listed by Great Place to Work, the global authority on workplace culture.
- The list is based on over 1 million survey responses across Asia and West Asia, representing the experience of over 4.7 million employees in the region.
  - According to Great Place to Work India, 88 percent of employees at the best workplaces in Asia on average reported having a positive employee experience. For the average global workforce, only 55 percent of workers report a similarly positive experience.
93. Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh has recently presented **INSPIRE awards** to 60 startups and financial support to **53,021 students**. The award is instituted by

the Department of Science & Technology (DST), and these innovators will be extended complete incubation support for their entrepreneurship journey.

The Indian Government confers INSPIRE Award – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) every year under the SEAT Program.

- MANAK was launched by DST in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) in 2017.
- The objective is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.

**Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scheme:**

It has been implemented by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** to encourage people aging 10 to 32 years to pursue science and a career in research. It has three components: Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent (**SEATS**), Scholarship for Higher Education (**SHE**) and Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (**AORC**).

**94.** The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, the sister organisation of the World Economic Forum, and the Jubilant Bhartia Foundation of Jubilant Bhartia group have awarded **Aniket Doegar of Haqdarshak**, a tech platform that connects citizens with their eligible government welfare schemes, with the prestigious '**Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award - India 2022**'.

- The annual award recognises entrepreneurs who implement innovative, sustainable and scalable solutions to solve India's social problems.
- The award has been presented by **Anurag Thakur**, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting and Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports.

**95.** Indian scientist & industrialist **Swati Piramal**, Vice Chairperson of Piramal Group, has been conferred the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), France's top civilian honour. She has been awarded for her outstanding achievements and contribution in the fields of business and industry, science, medicine, art and culture, both nationally and internationally.

She was also awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the Order of Merit), France's second highest honour in 2006.

**Legion of Honour:**

It was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte. It is conferred by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.

**96.** Indian billionaire, industrialist and Adani Group's Chairperson **Gautam Adani** has become the 2<sup>nd</sup> Richest person in World on Forbes real-time billionaire list by surpassing **Jeff Bezos**



(Amazon). As per Forbes real-time billionaires list, Gautam Adani's net worth stands at USD 155.7 billion as of September 16, 2022, up by USD 5.5 billion or nearly 4%.

- Tesla founder, Elon Musk has remained the world's richest man with USD 273.5 billion net worth.
- Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the list with USD 93.4 billion net worth.

**97.** Bollywood actress **Alia Bhatt** has been awarded the Best Actor at the prestigious "**Priyadarshni Academy Smita Patil Memorial Award 2022**". She has been awarded for her commendable contribution to Indian cinema at the 38th-anniversary celebrations of the premier non-profit, socio-cultural and educational organization, Priyadarshini Academy.

**Note:** Kiara Advani received Priyadarshni Academy's Smita Patil Memorial Award 2021 for Best Actress.

The Smita Patil Memorial Award for Best Actress is an honour established in 1986 by the Priyadarshni Academy in memory of actress Smita Patil.

**98.** The Film Federation of India (FFI) has selected a **Gujarati** film '**Chhello Show**' (**Last Film Show**) as India's official entry for the 95th Academy Awards (Oscar 2023) in the Best International Feature Film Category.

The film is directed by **Pan Nalin** and is produced by **Siddharth Roy Kapur**.

The film's story is inspired by Pan Nalin's memories of falling in love with movies as a child in Gujarat's Saurashtra village. The film is a coming-of-age drama which focuses on a nine-year-old who loves cinema and how he bribes his way into a movie palace and spends his summer vacation watching movies from the projection booth.

In 2021, the Tamil drama 'Koozhangal' (Pebbles), directed by filmmaker Vinothraj PS, was India's official entry at the Oscars.

**Note:** The 95th Academy Awards are scheduled to take place on March 12, 2023 in Los Angeles.

**99.** **Radhika Batra** of India, **Zahra Joya** of Afghanistan, **Vanessa Nakate** of Uganda and EU chief **Ursula von der Leyen** of Germany have been honoured by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation with the **2022 Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards** for their extraordinary work towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Winners of 2022 Goalkeepers Global Goals Awards

Name of the Award	Presented by	Awardee	Associated Field	About
Global Goalkeeper Award	Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates	Ursula von der Leyen	Politician	She was awarded for her contribution to

				maintaining peace and stability in the region.
Campaign Award	Malala Yousafzai	Vanessa Nakate (Founder of Rise Up Climate Movement & Green School Movement)	Climate Activist	She is progressing SDG 4: Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 13: Climate Action.
Changemaker Award	Angelina Jolie	Zahra Joya (Founder of Rukhshana Media)	Journalist	She is progressing SDG 5: Gender Equality and SDG 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions.
Progress Award	Lilly Singh	Dr. Radhika Batra (Founder of Every Infant Matters)	Pediatrician	She is progressing SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

**100.** Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur has inaugurated the **47th Annual Gathering** and **20th Meeting of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** in New Delhi. The theme of the event is *"Building a stronger future for broadcasting in the post pandemic era"*.

- During the meeting, India's Presidency of the prestigious AIBD has been **extended** for one more year.
  - A five-year plan for co-operative activities and exchange programmes have also been finalised.
  - All the participating countries and member broadcasters pledged to work together for a sustainable broadcasting environment, latest technology know-how, and finest content.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur has presided over the award presentation for 2021 and 2022.

**Awards:**

**Appreciation Award for 2021:** Radio Television Brunei.

**Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021:** Khieu Khanharith, Minister of Information and Communication, Cambodia.

**Appreciation Award for 2022:** Ministry of Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development, Republic of Fiji and Fiji Broadcasting Corporation.

**Lifetime Achievement Award for 2022: Mayank Agarwal**, CEO of Prasar Bharti, Director-General of Doordarshan, and President of AIBD.

**Note:** India hosted the AIBD Governing Council Meetings (GC) in 1978, 1985, and 2003.

### **Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD):**

It was established in 1977 under the aegis of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

It is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation servicing countries of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) in the field of electronic media development.

Its secretariat is located in **Kuala Lumpur** and is hosted by the Government of Malaysia.

It currently has 26 Full Members (countries), represented by 43 organisations, and 50 Affiliate Members (organisations) with a total membership of 93 representing 46 countries and regions and over 50 partners in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- 101.** Noted Film Actor Manoj Bajpayee has released a book titled '**Muskurate Chand Lamhe aur Kuchh Khamoshiyan**' in New Delhi. The book offers a bouquet of poems. It has been authored by **Jiwesh Nandan**, a retired IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre. The book is published by Shobit Arya.
- 102.** Former President Ram Nath Kovind has launched a book titled '**Ambedkar and Modi: Reformer's Ideas Performer's Implementation**'. The book is published by Prabhat Prakashan Private Limited in New Delhi. The book illustrates life, works and achievements of Dr. B.R Ambedkar. The book has been compiled by Bluekraft Digital Foundation and has a foreword by music composer and Rajya Sabha member Ilaiyaraaja.

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## **PERSON IN NEWS**

- 103.** Senior IAS **BVR Subrahmanyam** has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the India Trade Promotion Organization (**ITPO**) for a period of two years. He has succeeded LC Goyal. He is a 1987 batch Indian Administrative Services officer of Chhattisgarh cadre.

**104. Vanessa Nakate**, a climate activist from **Uganda**, has been appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), affirming her collaboration with the organisation and recognising her outstanding global advocacy for climate justice for current and future generations.

She began her activism in January 2019 with a protest with her siblings and cousins on the streets of Kampala, inspired by Greta Thunberg (Sweden).

**105. Pratap Pawar**, Chairman of Sakal Media Limited that publishes the Marathi newspaper Sakal, has been elected as the Chairman of the **Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)** for 2022-2023. He served as the former president of The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries & Agriculture, Pune.

**106.** President of Senegal Macky Sall has reinstated the post of Prime Minister and has appointed former Economy Minister **Amadou Ba** as the **Prime Minister of Senegal**. The post of Prime Minister was abolished in 2019.

**107.** The Central Government has appointed Tata Sons Chairman Emeritus **Ratan Tata**, former Supreme Court Judge **KT Thomas**, and former deputy Lok Sabha speaker **Kariya Munda** as the trustees of the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (**PM-CARES Fund**).

The Trust has also decided to nominate other eminent persons for the Constitution of Advisory Board to the PM CARES Fund. These eminent personalities included: **Rajiv Mehrishi**, Former Comptroller and Auditor General of India; **Sudha Murthy**, Former Chairperson, Infosys Foundation, and **Anand Shah**, Co-founder of Teach for India and Former CEO of Indicorps and Piramal Foundation.

#### **PM CARES Fund:**

- It was established in **2020** as a **Public Charitable Trust**.
- The primary objective of the fund is to deal with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected individuals.
- The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals/organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
- Donations to PM CARES Fund would qualify for 80G benefits for 100% exemption under the Income Tax Act.
- **Prime Minister** is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and the Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

**Note:** As per Centre's data, a total of Rs.7,031.99 crore was collected under PM CARES Fund between 2020-21.

## OBITUARIES

**108. Tun S. Samy Vellu**, former Cabinet Minister of Malaysia, has passed away recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1936 in Kluang, Johor, British Malaya (now Malaysia). He was an Indian descend, who served as Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) President from 1981 to 2010.

He was the 1st Malaysian to receive **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**, the highest Indian award for Non-resident Indian and Overseas Citizen of India.

**109.** Noted Comedian and Politician **Raju Srivastava**, popularly known as **Gajodhar**, has recently passed away in New Delhi at the age of 58. He was born as **Satya Prakash Srivastava** on 25 December 1963 in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

- He appeared in Hindi films such as "*Maine Pyar Kiya*", "*Baazigar*", "*Bombay to Goa*" (remake) and "*Aamdani Atthani Kharcha Rupaiya*". He was one of the contestants on "*Bigg Boss*" (Season 3).
- He was the chairman of the Uttar Pradesh Film Development Council.
- He also participated in the first season of the reality stand-up comedy show *The Great Indian Laughter Challenge* in 2005.
- He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi nominated him to be part of the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*.

**110. Keshav Rao Dattatreya Dikshit**, the senior most pracharak of Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, in Bengal has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal. He was born in 1925 at Pulgaon village of Wardha district in Maharashtra.

### **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS):**

It was founded in 1925 by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, a physician living in the Maharashtra region of India, as part of the movement against British rule and as a response to rioting between Hindus and Muslims.

## SPORTS

**111.** The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of **2022 SAFF U-17 Championship**, an international football competition, has been organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) in Racecourse Stadium Colombo, Sri Lanka.



- **Team India** has won the 2022 SAFF U-17 Championship after defeating Nepal in the final match, and has emerged as the champion for the fourth time (2013, 2017, and 2019).
- **Most Valuable Player of the Tournament:** Vanlalpeka Guite (Indian Captain)
- **Best Goalkeeper:** Sahil (India)

**112.** Australian women's team cricketer and Vice- Captain **Rachael Haynes** has announced her retirement from international and state **cricket**. She has won six world championships as a member of the national women's team. She made her debut in 2009 and represented Australia in 6 Tests, 77 ODIs, and 84 T20Is, and won ODI World Cups, and three T20 World Cups with the team.

**113.** Indian cricketer **Robin Uthappa** has recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He last played for India in 2015 tour to Zimbabwe. He played 46 ODIs, and 13 T20Is for India. He has won two Indian Premier League (IPL) trophies for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in 2014, and for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in 2021.

**114.** The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of guarantees for hosting **FIFA Under-17 Womens' Football World Cup 2022** in India. Notably, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11-30 October 2022 in Navi Mumbai, Goa, and Bhubaneswar.

**115.** Tennis player **Roger Federer** has recently announced his retirement from the international tennis. The Laver Cup, which is set to commence on 23<sup>rd</sup> September in London, will be Roger Federer's final tournament. He will retire at the age of 41.

- He was born on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1981 in Basel, Switzerland.
- He was the first person in the world to win **20 grand slam titles**. These are 8 Wimbledon, 6 Australian, 5 US Open and a solitary French title.
- He is known for becoming the oldest ever World Number 1 at the age of 36.
- He held the world's top spot in the ATP ranking for more time than any other player except Novak Djokovic.
- He was nominated for the Sportsmanship Award for a record of 13 times and has won ATP Fan's Favourite for 17 consecutive years.
- He was named the ATP Player of the Year and ITF World Champion 5 times.
- He holds the record of being the only individual to win the BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year award 4 times.

**116.** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has named **Zimbabwe** all-rounder **Sikandar Raza** as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for August 2022. He has received the award after scoring

three centuries in ODI cricket against Bangladesh and India. He has become the first Zimbabwe cricketer to receive the honour.

Among women, **Australian** all-rounder **Tahlia McGrath** has been named the ICC Player of the Month for August 2022 for her match-winning performances at the Commonwealth Games (CWG) in Birmingham.

**117. Bengaluru Football Club**, led by Sunil Chhetri, has won the maiden **Durand Cup 2022** title after defeating Mumbai City in the final match held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata, West Bengal.

- The 131st edition of the Durand Cup 2022, Asia's oldest football tournament, has been hosted by West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur.
- The inaugural match has been held at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.
- A total of 20 teams have participated in the tournament.
- Durand Cup 2022 has been sponsored by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC).

**Other Awardees:**

**Golden glove for best goalkeeper:** Antonio Dylan (Odisha)

**Golden boot for top scorer:** Lallianzuala Chhangte (Mumbai City)

**Golden ball for most valuable player:** Greg Stewart (Mumbai City)

**118.** The 17th edition of the **World Wrestling Championships 2022** has been held in Belgrade, Serbia. The United States of America (USA) has topped the medal tally with 15 medals, followed by Japan (13 medals), and Turkey (7 medals).

India has been ranked 24<sup>th</sup> with 2 bronze medals.

**Bajrang Punia (Haryana):**

He has won the Men's 65kg Bronze medal by defeating Sebastian Rivera of Puerto Rico. He is the only wrestler from India to have 4 medals in the World Wrestling Championships.

**Vinesh Phogat (Haryana):**

She has won a bronze medal in women's 53kg freestyle after defeating Emma Malmgren of Sweden. This is her 2<sup>nd</sup> bronze medal at the World Wrestling Championships.

**119.** Bangladesh cricketer **Mohammad Rubel Hossain** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. He will continue to play in the Dhaka Premier League (DPL), Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), along with other white-ball tournaments. He has the highest bowling average of any pacer who has bowled at least 2,000 deliveries in Test cricket.

He holds the record of the fastest bowled delivery (149.5kph) by a Bangladeshi cricketer. He innovated a technique of delivery named '**Butterfly**'.

**120. Bangladesh** has won the **2022 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship** after defeating Nepal in the final match held at Dasharath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The 2022 SAFF Women's Championship is the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of this championship.

**Top scorer:** Sabina Khatun (Bangladesh)

**Best player:** Sabina Khatun (Bangladesh)

**Best goalkeeper:** Rupna Chakma (Bangladesh)

**121.** Bengaluru teenager **Pranav Anand** has become India's **76<sup>th</sup> Chess Grandmaster** after winning against International Master (IM) Emin Ohanyan of Armenia in Round 10 of the World Youth Under-16 Open. He received the title after he crossed the 2,500 Elo points in the ongoing World Youth Chess Championship in Mamaia, Romania.

**122.** The Men's Cricket Committee (MCC) led by former India captain **Sourav Ganguly** has recommended changes to the **Playing Conditions** in MCC's updated 3rd Edition of the 2017 Code of the Laws of Cricket. The conclusions have also been shared with the Women's Cricket Committee, who endorsed the recommendations.

The main changes are as follows:

- Batters returning when caught
- Ban on the use of saliva to polish the ball
- Incoming batter ready to face the ball
- Striker's right to play the ball
- Unfair movement by the fielding side
- Running out of the non-striker
- Bowler throwing towards striker's end before delivery

The new Playing Conditions will come into effect on **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**, which means the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia next month will enforce the new rules.

**123. Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL)**, the commercial partner of Indian football and the organizer of the Indian Super League, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **DFL Deutsche Fußball Liga**, the organizing body of Bundesliga, a professional association football league in Germany. Both will raise awareness and find ways to grow their fan bases and also focus on 'eFootball' to develop a commercial model for e-Indian Super League.

FSDL is run as a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited and is a commercial partner of the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

**124.** The **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer** is observed annually on **16<sup>th</sup> September** to raise awareness about the importance and need of the Ozone layer which is the single protection on Earth against UV rays coming out from the sun.

The day also commemorates the signing of 'Montreal Protocol' on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in September 1987. The day was first observed in 1995.

**Theme 2022:** *"Montreal Protocol@35: Global cooperation protecting life on earth"*

The ozone layer is a region in the earth's stratosphere that contains high concentrations of ozone and protects the earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiations of the sun.

**125. World Patient Safety Day** is observed annually on **17<sup>th</sup> September** to spread awareness about different safety measures that should be taken to ensure patient safety. The day was established in 2019 by the 72nd World Health Assembly through the adoption of resolution WHA 72.6 - 'Global Action on Patient Safety'.

**'Medication Safety'** has been selected as the theme for World Patient Safety Day 2022, with the slogan 'Medication Without Harm'.

**126.** Union Minister Amit Shah has started off **"Hyderabad Liberation Day"** or National Integration Day celebrations from the Parade ground in Secunderabad, Telangana to commemorate 75 years of liberation of Hyderabad.

The Government of India has recently approved the yearlong commemoration of the "Hyderabad Liberation Day" for the period **17th September 2022** to **17th September 2023**. This aims to pay tribute to all those who gave their lives for the liberation of Samsthan and its merger with the India Union.

### Historical Background:

Nizam of Hyderabad **Mir Osman Ali Khan**, the 7<sup>th</sup> in the line of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, had surrendered Hyderabad and on **September 17, 1948**, more than one year after India got Independence, the erstwhile state of Hyderabad, comprising the entire state of Telangana and some districts in Maharashtra and Karnataka, got liberated from the Nizam rule.

This was possible due to the swift and timely action by the first Minister of Home Affairs of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel under Operation Polo.

**Note:** The state governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka officially observe September 17 as Liberation Day.

**127. World Bamboo Day** is observed annually on **18<sup>th</sup> September** to spread awareness about Bamboo, which is considered *Green Gold*.

The day was declared official on 18 September 2009 at the event of the 8th World Bamboo Congress conducted in Bangkok. The day was conceptualized by Kamlesh Salam (Assam), former President of the World Bamboo Organization (WBO), and delegates from around a hundred countries.

**Bamboo (Bambusoideae):**

This tree, which comes from the grass family, is known as a poor man's timber and green gold. It grows fast and requires low maintenance. There are 110 different species of bamboo found in North East India. It is used as food, biofuel, furniture, fabrics and so on. India contributes only 2% of the world's bamboo supply.

**128. International NFT (Non-Fungible Token) Day** is observed annually across the globe on **20<sup>th</sup> September** to commemorate the anniversary of publication of 'NFT' and also to celebrate the efforts of the creators and collectors in the NFT community.

- The term was coined by Dapper Labs Chief Technology Officer **Dete Shirley** in the form of the *ERC-721* standard on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017, marking its existence.
- NFTs are digital assets that can be stored, transferred, and traded just like traditional assets. They provide a secure way for people to exchange information and money without having to trust third parties.
- The process of creating an NFT is known as '*minting*'.

**129. The Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI)** has recently observed its **11th Foundation Day** on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022. As part of 11th Foundation Day, a series of events have been organized including plantation of 1100 trees, blood donation camp wherein 88 units are donated, distribution of 2100 food packets, guest lectures for around 2200 school-kids, indoor sports tournament comprising of Table-tennis, Chess, Carom, Foosball and various team-building activities.

- SECI is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India, established to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM).
- It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) dedicated to the solar energy sector.
- It was set up in 2011.

**130. The Raising Day of the Railway Protection Force (RPF)** is observed annually on **20<sup>th</sup> September** by the members of the force and their families. In 2022, the RPF has observed its



**38th Raising Day** and the parade has been organized as a part of the celebrations for the first time at the Central Level at Jag Jeewan Ram RPF Academy in Lucknow.

The Chief Guest of the Raising Day Parade was **Darshana Vikram Jardosh**, the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways & Textiles. During the event:

- She has presented the 'President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service', 'Indian Police Medal for Meritorious Service', 'Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak', 'Uttam JeevanRaksha Padak' and 'Jeevan Raksha Padak' to 23 RPF personnel, including award of Sarwottam Jeewan Raksha Padak posthumously to Late Gyan Chand, Head Constable RPF NCR.
- She has inaugurated and hoisted a **100 feet** high monumental national flag at the academy campus and unveiled the installation of a railway coach with engine for train intervention training.
- She has announced the sanction of **Rs. 55 crores** for enhancing training facilities in RPF.
- She has also announced the set-up of a skill up-gradation training centre in the premises of 3rd Battalion RPSF, Lucknow for up-gradation of skills of family members of RPF personnel, especially women, at the cost of **Rs.3 crores**.
- She has announced construction of rest shelters cum mobilization halls for lady RPF train escorting personnel at 75 locations across the country.

**Note:** The Railway Protection Force was constituted by an Act of Parliament in 1957 for providing security to Railway property.

**131.** The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Peace** is observed annually across the globe on **21<sup>st</sup> September** to strengthen the idea of peace both within and among all nations and people by observing non-violence and ceasefire for 24 hours. The day was first observed in 1982.

**Theme 2022:** "End racism. Build peace"

**132. World Rhino Day** is observed annually on **22nd September** to spread awareness about all the threats to the five extant species Sumatran, Black, Greater One-horned, Javan, and White rhino. The day was first observed in 2011.

**Theme 2022:** "Five Rhino Species Forever"

**Rhinoceros:**

There are five species of rhino: White and Black rhinos in Africa, and the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhino species in Asia.

**IUCN Red List Status:**

- White Rhino: Near Threatened.
- Black, Javan, and Sumatran Rhino: Critically endangered.
- Greater One Horned: Vulnerable.

India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world. At present, there are about 2,600 Indian rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in **Kaziranga National Park** in Assam.

**133.** The **International Week of Deaf People (IWDP)** is observed annually across the globe in the last full week of September to recognise that deaf people have their own communities, own cultures, own languages, and sign languages that unite all. It is an initiative of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and was first launched in 1958 in Rome, Italy.

- IWDP 2022 is being observed from **September 19 to 25 September 2022**.
- **Theme 2022:** "Building Inclusive Communities for All"

**134.** The **Border Security Force (BSF)** will deploy its first **female camel riding squad** along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan and Gujarat. The squad will participate for the first time in the BSF Raising Day Parade on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. This squad will be the first of its kind in the world.

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