

## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – February 2022

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS: IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Wetlands Day: Feb 2

- February 2, 2022 is the first year that World Wetlands Day will be observed as a United Nations international day, following its adoption by the General Assembly on 30th August 2021.
- The theme for the 2022 edition is "Wetlands Action for People and Nature"

### World Interfaith Harmony Week: February 01-07

- World Interfaith Harmony Week is observed during the first week of February (1-7 February), after General Assembly designation in 2010.
- The World Interfaith Harmony Week is based on the pioneering work of The Common Word initiative.

### International Day of Human Fraternity- Feb 4:

- The 'International Day of Human Fraternity' is celebrated across the world on 4th February. The first International Day of Human Fraternity was held in 2021.

### National Women's Day in India: 13 Feb

- Every year, February 13 is celebrated as National Women's Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.

### Financial Literacy week 2022: February 14-18:

- The Reserve Bank of India will observe February 14 to 18, 2022 as Financial Literacy week 2022. The theme of Financial Literacy week 2022 is: "Go Digital, Go Secure".

### FICCI launches Anti-Smuggling Day:

- FICCI's Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy (CASCADE) has taken the initiative in establishing Anti-Smuggling Day on February 11th, 2022.

### International Childhood Cancer Day: 15 Feb

- International Childhood Cancer Day is observed on 15th February Every year is a global collaborative

campaign to raise awareness about childhood cancer, and to express support for children and adolescents with cancer, the survivors and their families.

### World Day of Social Justice – 20<sup>th</sup> February

- The **United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice** is annually observed on **February 20** to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication.
- World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: **“Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment”**

### World Pangolin Day:

- **Every year, World Pangolin Day** is celebrated on the **Third Saturday of February**.
- In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **19th February 2022**.
- It marks the **11th edition of the event**.

### International Mother Language Day: 21 Feb

- **International Mother Language Day** is observed worldwide on **21st February** every year to promote awareness of **linguistic and cultural diversity** and to promote multilingualism.
- The theme of 2022 is: **“Using technology for multilingual learning: Challenges and opportunities”**
- Every year a unique theme is chosen by **UNESCO**.

### 7th Soil Health Card Day - 19 Feb

- **Every year India** observes the **Soil Health Card Day** on **19 February** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme** on **19th February 2015** at **Suratgarh in Rajasthan**.

### World Thinking Day - 22nd February:

- **World Thinking Day**, originally known as Thinking Day, is celebrated every year on **22 February** by all Girl Scouts, Girl Guides and other girl groups worldwide.
- The theme for World Thinking Day 2022 is **“Our World, Our Equal Future”**

### Central Excise Day: 24 Feb

- **Central Excise Day of India** is celebrated every year on **February 24**.
- The day is being celebrated to honour the service of the Central Board of Excise and Custom (CBEC) to the country.

### Polio National Immunization Day- 27th February:

- The Government of India has organised the **Polio National Immunization Day 2022 (NID)** (also known as "Polio Ravivar") on **February 27, 2022**, to give two drops of oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child in the country under the age of five.

### National Science Day - 28 February

- The **National Science Day** is celebrated on **28 February** each year in India to spread the message about the importance of science in the daily life of the people.
- The **theme** of National Science Day for 2022 is **Integrated Approach in S&T for Sustainable Future**.

### Rare Disease Day:

- The **Rare Disease Day (RDD)** is observed every year on the **last day of February**. This year in 2022 it falls on **February 28, 2022**.
- **Theme** of Rare Disease Day for 2022 is **Share Your Colors**

### India Protein Day: February 27

- **February 27th** is celebrated as the **National Protein Day**, to create awareness about protein deficiency and encourage people to include of this macronutrient in their diet.
- The **theme** of India Protein Day in 2022 is **Food Futurism**

### World NGO Day: 27 February

- The **World NGO Day** is celebrated on **February 27** every year.
- It is an international day dedicated to recognize, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and nonprofit organizations, and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year around.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

### Nation Pays Homage to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 74th Death Anniversary:

- The nation remembered Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary on January 30<sup>th</sup> with President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying floral tributes to the Father of the Nation at Raj Ghat.

### Govt. mandates storage of ISD, satphone, conference calls, messages details for 2 years:

The government has mandated storage of international calls, satellite phone calls, conference calls and messages made over normal networks as well as on the internet for a period of at least two years, according to circulars issued by the telecom department.

### Govt expects \$5.5-b investments in ethanol sector by 2025:

- In a bid to push reforms aimed at promoting clean energy, India aims to blend 10 per cent ethanol with petrol this year and double it to 20 per cent by 2025, for which the government expects investments to the tune of \$5.5 billion, or roughly ₹41,000 crore in the next three years.

### Govt approves strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited:

- Government has approved strategic buyer for Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited located in Odisha.

### Govt allows Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh to avail Rs 7,309 cr additional borrowing for power sector:

- Finance Ministry has granted additional borrowing permission of 7,309 crore rupees to Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh for undertaking the reforms in power sector.

### PM addresses 30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed 30th National Commission for Women Foundation Day programme via video conference.
- The theme of the programme 'She the Change Maker' is aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields.

### Union Budget 2022-23:

- The **Union Budget for Financial Year 2022-23**, presented by the finance minister on February 01, 2022, has given further impetus to modernisation of Defence Services and Defence Security Infrastructure development, including the Border Road Infrastructure and Coastal Security Infrastructure.
- The Union Budget 2022-23 envisages a **total outlay of Rs 39.45 lakh crore**.

#### **Defence Ministry makes induction of women fighter pilots in IAF a permanent scheme:**

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** Ministry has decided to convert the Experimental Scheme for Induction of Women Fighter Pilots in the Indian Air Force into a permanent scheme.

#### **MEA organizes outreach programme on Export Controls focusing on start-ups in various sectors of the economy:**

- **Ministry of External Affairs** organised an outreach programme on Export Controls focusing on start-ups in various sectors of the economy.

#### **Government increases capital budget of BRO by 40%:**

- The Government of India in its **Union Budget for FY 2022-23** has increased the capital outlay for the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), by a record 40 percent, to Rs 3,500 crore as compared to Rs 2,500 crore in FY 2021-22.

#### **Centre implements various schemes for promotion and development of Textile sector:**

- Government is implementing various schemes viz the Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (A-TUFS), Schemes for the development of the Power loom Sector, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP).

#### **PM to kickstart 50th Anniversary Celebrations of ICRISAT and inaugurate two research facilities:**

- Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** will visit Hyderabad on 5th February 2022.
- Prime Minister will visit the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** campus in Patancheru, Hyderabad and kickstart the 50th Anniversary celebrations of ICRISAT.

#### **Blue Economy is the sixth dimension of Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030:**

- Jitendra Singh, the Government of India's Vision of New India by 2030, the Blue Economy as the sixth dimension of its vision.
- Rs. 150 Cr has been provisioned during 2021-22 under Deep Ocean Mission.

#### Beijing Winter Olympics: DD Sports will not telecast opening and closing ceremonies:

- DD Sports channel will not telecast live the opening and closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics being held in Beijing, China.

#### Ministry of Civil Aviation tableau named best ministry tableau for Republic Day 2022:

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) tableau is selected as the best central ministry tableau for Republic Day 2022.

#### India's unemployment rate declines to 6.57% in January:

- India's unemployment rate is currently at 6.57 per cent but during the second wave of the COVID-19, the unemployment rate reached 11.84 per cent in the month of May 2021.

#### Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram Scheme for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with budget allocation of Rs. 2,710.65 Crore:

- The Government has decided to continue the Scheme of "Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram" over the 15th Finance Commission Cycle (2021-22 to 2025-26) at an outlay of Rs 2,710.65 Crore.

#### Khadi Emporium at DN Singh Road in Mumbai Banned by KVIC for Selling Fake Khadi Products:

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), which, in the recent years, has adopted "zero tolerance" against the sale of spurious/non-Khadi products, has cancelled the "Khadi Certification" to its oldest Khadi Institution named Mumbai Khadi & Village Industries Association (MKVIA).

#### PM dedicates to the nation 216-feet tall 'Statue of Equality':

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the 'Statue of Equality' in Hyderabad.

- The 216-feet tall **Statue of Equality** commemorates the 11th century **Bhakti Saint Sri Ramanujacharya**, who promoted the idea of equality in all aspects of living including faith, caste and creed.

#### PM kickstarts 50th Anniversary Celebrations of ICRISAT and inaugurates two research facilities:

- The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi** visited the International Crops Research **Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)** campus in **Patancheru, Hyderabad** and kickstarted the **50th Anniversary** celebrations of ICRISAT.

#### Under SBM-U 2.0 and AMRUT 2.0, plan preparation has begun to make cities 'garbage-free' and 'water-secure':

- The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri** informed that the **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban (SBM-U) 2.0**, launched on **October 1, 2021** for a **Mission period of five years** involves urban-rural convergence.

#### Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Flags Off NITI Aayog's Fintech Open Summit:

- **NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **PhonePe, AWS and EY**, has organized a three-week-long virtual summit, '**Fintech Open**', from **7–28 February**.

#### IFLDP approved for continuation with an outlay of Rs. 1700 Crore:

- **Indian Footwear and Leather Development Programme (IFLDP)** (erstwhile IFLADP) has been approved for continuation from 2021-22 with an approved financial outlay of **Rs. 1700 crore**.

#### Mansukh Mandaviya launches Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 4.0:

- **India** is implementing the largest immunisation programme globally where we annually cover more than **3 crore pregnant women** and **2.6 crore children** through the **Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP)**.

#### NITI Aayog and USAID Collaborate to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India:

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, **NITI Aayog**, and the **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)** announced a new partnership under the **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)** initiative.



### Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has released a total of Rs 87.65 Crore till date for development of National Sports University in Manipur:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has released a total fund of Rs.87.65 crore till date including Rs.5.49 crore during current Financial Year 2021-22 for establishing/construction of main campus and for functioning of temporary campus in Manipur.

### One Khelo India State Centre of Excellence sanctioned to the State of Maharashtra during last three years:

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has sanctioned 36 proposals for establishment of Khelo India Centres, 1 proposal for establishment of Khelo India State Centre of Excellence and 11 sports infrastructure projects, to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years.

### Ministry of Culture to organize first of its kind Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India':

- Ministry of Culture, Government of India will organize a first of its kind, 2-Day Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India', on 15-16 February 2022.

### Rs. 3.22 lakh crore sanctioned under PMMY against target of Rs. 3.50 lakh crore in FY 2020-21:

- Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), the Government allocates annual targets for the amount to be sanctioned by more than 150 Member Lending Institutions (MLIs).

### India Targets 1.2 Billion Ton Coal Production By 2023-24:

- A target of all India coal production of 1.2 Billion Tonne upto the year 2023-24 has been fixed.

### Centre allocates 8 LMT foodgrains to all States/UTs under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Scheme:

- The Union Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ashwini Kumar Choubey informed that in pursuance to the economic measures announced by the Government under the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package' in May 2020.

### NITI Aayog and USAID Collaborate to Accelerate Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship in India:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced a new partnership under the **Sustainable Access to Markets and Resources for Innovative Delivery of Healthcare (SAMRIDH)** initiative.

#### **NITI Aayog announces 5 most improved aspirational districts in Agriculture, Water Resources sector:**

- NITI Aayog has announced the **five most improved aspirational districts** in the **Agriculture and Water Resources sector** for December 2021.

#### **Union Minister of Power, R K Singh has launched Powerthon-2022:**

- Union Minister of Power, **R K Singh** has launched **Powerthon-2022**, a hackathon competition to **find technology-driven solutions** to solve the complex problems in **power distribution** and to ensure quality and reliable power supply.

#### **PM to participate in the high level segment of One Ocean Summit:**

- **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi** will address the **high-level segment** of **One Ocean Summit** on 11th February through a video message.

#### **President of India opens Rashtrapati Bhavan's Annual "Udyanotsav":**

- The **President of India**, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, opened the annual **"Udyanotsav"** of **Rashtrapati Bhavan** on February 10, 2022.

#### **AAI and Other Airport Developers have targeted capital outlay of Rs. 91000 crore:**

- **AAI and other Airport Developers** have targeted capital outlay of approximately **Rs. 91000 crore** in **airport sector in the next five years** for expansion and modification of existing terminals, new terminals and strengthening of runways, among other activities.

#### **Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in energy mix to 15% by 2030:**

- The **Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas**, **Shri Rameswar Teli**, the **Government** has **set a target** to raise the share of **natural gas** in **energy mix** to **15% by 2030**.

#### President Ramnath Kovind inaugurates new Darbar hall at Rajbhavan, Mumbai:

- President Ramnath Kovind has inaugurated the new Darbar hall in Rajbhavan in Mumbai. The reconstructed Darbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Mumbai stands on the same place where the Old Darbar Hall stood.

#### India to have two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture & Utilization at IIT Bombay & JNCASR, Bengaluru:

- Two National Centres of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization are being established in India. The two Centres, namely the National Centre of Excellence in Carbon Capture and Utilization (NCoE-CCU) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai.

#### Virendra Kumar to launch "SMILE" scheme:

- Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar will launch the Central Sector scheme "SMILE: Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise" at BHIM Auditorium, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

#### Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 6 projects under Eco Theme in 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme:

- The Ministry of Tourism has identified Eco Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme to promote eco-tourism in the country.

#### India Pavilion inaugurated at 72nd Berlinale European Film Market 2022:

- The virtual inaugural session of India's participation in the annual film market at Berlin, called EFM or the European Film Market which is organised on the sidelines of the Berlin International Film Festival.

#### NITI Aayog & UNDP India launches Community Innovator Fellowship:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), **NITI Aayog** in collaboration with **UNDP**, India launched the **Community Innovator Fellowship (CIF)** marking the “**International Day of Women & Girls in Science**”.

**Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated 14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge over Ganga River in Bihar:**

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**, has inaugurated the **14.5 km long rail-cum-road-bridge** over the **Ganga River at Munger in Bihar** through video conferencing.

**Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launches ‘Samajik Adhikarita Shivr’:**

- A ‘**Samajik Adhikarita Shivr**’ for distribution of aids and assistive devices to ‘Divyangjan’ under the ADIP Scheme and Senior citizens under ‘**Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**’ (RVY Scheme) of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**.

**Union Agriculture Minister addresses 60th Convocation of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi:**

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** handed over awards and degrees to the **284 students**, which includes 8 foreign students, of the Post Graduate School of **ICAR-Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi**.

**Power Minister chairs virtual meeting with States & UTs to discuss Energy Transition Goals of India:**

- Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, **R. K. Singh**, chaired a virtual meeting with the officers of **Ministry of Power and MNRE**, Addl. Chief Secretaries and Principal Secretaries of Power/Energy Departments of States & UTs to discuss the **role of States and UTs towards Energy Transition Goals of India**.

**Railways to provide a World Class Wrestling academy in Delhi at an approximate cost of Rs. 30.76 crores:**

- **Minister of Railways** had committed Indian Railways wrestlers to provide the state-of-art wrestling academy at **Kishanganj, Delhi** at an approximate cost of **Rs. 30.76 crores** and will be another feather in the Cap of Railways.

#### Coal Ministry successfully auctions 10 Coal Mines of Five States:

- The **Coal Ministry** has successfully auctioned **ten Coal Mines of Five States** in the latest effort. Combined Coal Reserves are likely to be **over one thousand 716 Million Tonnes**.

#### Centre approves continuation of MPF Scheme for five years:

- The umbrella scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces (MPF) has been approved for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26.

#### G Kishan Reddy to inaugurate first-ever Global Summit on 'Reimagining Museums in India':

- The **Ministry of Culture, Government of India** is organising a first of its kind, 2-Day Global Summit in **Hyderabad** on 'Reimagining Museums in India', on **15-16 February 2022**.

#### APEDA celebrates 36th Foundation Day:

- **Agricultural Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** celebrated its **36th Foundation Day**.

#### PM to deliver inaugural address at TERI's World Sustainable Development Summit:

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** will deliver the inaugural address at the **Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) World Sustainable Development Summit** via video message.
- The summit is **TERI's annual flagship event** and the theme for this year is '**Towards a Resilient Planet: Ensuring a Sustainable and Equitable Future**'.

#### Punaura Dham included under PRASHAD Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism: Shri G. Kishan Reddy:

- **Ministry of Tourism** has included **Punaura Dham** in the Ramayana circuit of **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.
- The Punaura Dham has been included under the PRASHAD Scheme (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive) of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- This was proposed by the **State government of Bihar**.
- **PRASAD scheme** (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual Augmentation Drive) was **launched in 2014-2015** under the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**.

### WHO Report-COVID-19 Medical Waste Poses Threat to Environment & Health:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) warned that the huge amount of medical waste produced as a result of tackling the COVID-19 pandemic poses a threat to human and environmental health.
- The report looked at the 1.5 billion units approximately 87,000 tons of PPE procured between March 2020 and November 2021 through the UN system.

### Camp for free Assistive Devices distribution organized for Divyangjan and Senior Citizens in Tikamgarh:

- 1571 Divyangjan and Senior Citizens got free of cost Assistive Devices in a distribution camp organized in Tikamgarh, MP
- Indigenously developed "Sugamya" Cane for Visually Impaired and 'Swavlamban Kendra Container' for skill development training and repairing centre launched at Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh.

### Government bans 54 Chinese apps posing threat to national security:

- Government has banned 54 Chinese apps posing threat to national security.
- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued the list of banned apps.
- These include Beauty Camera: Sweet Selfie HD, Beauty Camera - Selfie Camera, Equalizer & Bass Booster, CamCard for Salesforce Ent, Island 2: Ashes of Time Lite, Viva Video Editor, Tencent Xriver, Onmyoji Chess, Onmyoji Arena, AppLock and Dual Space Lite to name a few.

### NHA announces integration of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with Aarogya Setu app:

- The National Health Authority has announced the integration of its flagship Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission with the Aarogya Setu app, allowing users to create the 14-digit unique Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers from the app.
- This integration takes the benefits of the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) number to the Aarogya Setu user base.

### Govt launches scheme for economic empowerment for DNTs:

- Government has launched a Scheme for Economic Empowerment for DNTs, SEED for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities in New Delhi.

#### Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone of Providing Tap Water To 9 Crore Rural Homes:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of providing **clean tap water** to every home in the country by **2024**, in a short span of two and half years and despite COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown disruptions, **Jal Jeevan Mission**, has provided tap water supply to more than **5.77 Crore** rural households.
- As a result, **9 Crore** rural households in the country are enjoying benefits of clean tap water supply.

#### Arjun Ram Meghwal Launches the Career Counselling Workshop 'Pramarsh 2022':

- The Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the career counselling workshop 'Pramarsh 2022' for the students of the **Bikaner, Rajasthan**
- Workshop conducted with the support of **The National Institute of Career Services (NICS)** which comes under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and educational start-up Edumilestones.

#### NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe launches the Fintech Open Hackathon:

- NITI Aayog in association with PhonePe will be hosting the **first-ever open-to-all Hackathon** event for ideating and coming up with the **most creative solutions** for the **FinTech** space.

#### Cabinet approves preparations for India's G20 Presidency and setting up and staffing of the G20 Secretariat:

- The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the setting up of a **G20 Secretariat and its reporting structures**, which will be responsible for implementation of overall policy decisions and arrangements needed for steering **India's forthcoming G20 Presidency**.

#### MoHUA, chairs 58th meeting of CSMC under PMAY(U):

- Project proposals for more than **60,000 houses** were approved for construction in **Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan** at the **58th meeting of Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC)** under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**.
- The meeting, held in video conference mode, was chaired by **Shri Manoj Joshi**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

#### Govt intends to ensure uninterrupted 24x7 power supply to all households:

- **Power, New and Renewable Energy Minister RK Singh**, the government intends to ensure uninterrupted **24x7 power supply** to all households.



- In the past 7 years, India has increased its installed capacity of 3 lakh 95 thousand Mega Watt whereas the peak demand is **2 lakh Mega Watt**.

#### Government approves New India Literacy Programme for Financial Years 2022 to 2027:

- **Government approved** a new scheme **New India Literacy Programme** for the period **Financial Years 2022 to 2027** to cover all the aspects of **Adult Education** to align with **National Education Policy 2020** and Budget Announcements 2021-22.
- The National Education Policy 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.
- The objective of the scheme is to **impart not only foundational literacy and numeracy** but also to cover other components which are necessary for a citizen of 21st century.

#### Govt approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme till March 2026:

- **Government** has approved the continuation of the **Capacity Development (CD) Scheme** till 31st of March, 2026.
- The outlay approved for the continuation of the Scheme during **15th Finance Commission** cycle is 3 thousand 179 crore rupees.

#### Secretary, MoHUA chairs 'Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo' initiative of Ministry:

- **Manoj Joshi**, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), in a virtual interaction held in **New Delhi** under the initiative of '**Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo**'.
- '**Labharthiyon Se Rubaroo**' has been planned as part of **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**.
- The initiative was launched by the **Ministry in September 2021**.
- This was the **22nd edition** of the programme hosted by the Ministry with beneficiaries of different States/UTs.

#### India to Showcase its Agriculture and Food Processing prowess at EXPO2020 Dubai:

- Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi**, will inaugurate the '**Food, Agriculture and Livelihood**' at the India Pavilion in **EXPO2020 Dubai** on February 17th, 2022.
- It is noteworthy here that the **UN General Assembly** has recently adopted the resolution, sponsored by India and supported by more than 70 countries, declaring **2023 as the 'International Year of Millets'**.

#### India's leadership in Energy Transition under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav:



- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)'s programme "New Frontiers: A programme on Renewable Energy" to celebrate the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced with the inaugural event "India's Leadership in Energy Transition" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The event was attended by more than 300 participants
- Twenty two compacts were submitted from India by PSUs, corporates and smart cities in addition to the national compact submitted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

#### R.K Singh chairs Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting in New Delhi:

- Power Minister R.K Singh chaired the Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting of his ministry on the topic "Dues of GENCOs and required financial discipline in DISCOM and States" in New Delhi.
- with a total installed generation capacity of 394 GigaWatt including renewable energy capacity of 104 GigaWatt, our country has transformed from a Power deficit to a Power surplus country.

#### MEA to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' Iconic Week from 21st to 27th Feb:

- External Affairs Ministry is celebrating its Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Iconic Week from the 21st to 27th of February

#### Govt approves continuation of Capacity Development Scheme till March 2026:

- Government has approved the continuation of the Capacity Development (CD) Scheme till 31st of March, 2026.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has approved the outlay for the continuation of the Scheme during 15th Finance Commission cycle is 3 thousand 179 crore rupees.

#### Ministry of New & Renewable Energy organizes "Women in Renewable Energy: Call for Action" under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav:

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) observed the second day of its programme "New Frontiers: A Programme on Renewable Energy to celebrate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav .
- The Ministry organized an online session on "Women in Renewable Energy: Call for Action" to acknowledge the role of women entrepreneurs and leaders in the Renewable Energy Space.

#### Nitin Gadkari inaugurates 51 National Highway Projects with an investment of Rs. 21,559 Crore in Vijaywada:

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri **Nitin Gadkari** has inaugurated and laid Foundation Stone of **51 National Highway Projects** of total length **1380 Km** with an investment of **Rs. 21,559 Crore** in **Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh**.
- The **4-lane road to Visakhapatnam and Kakinada ports** of Andhra Pradesh will play a crucial role in improving logistics.

#### NCB organises Darkathon -2022:

- **Narcotics Control Bureau, NCB**, is organising in **New Delhi**, the **Darkathon -2022** to find solutions to counter drug trafficking through darknet across the globe.
- The initiative **aims at involving students, youth and technical experts** to find effective solutions to unravel the anonymity of darknet markets

#### FAITH releases India tourism vision document envisaging goals and benchmarks for tourism till 2035:

- **Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH)** has released the **FAITH 2035** vision document containing goals and an execution path for making Indian tourism preferred and loved by the world by the year 2035.
- FAITH 2035 vision document lays down '**action goals**' in multiples of 75 referencing all indicators to the 75th year of independence.
- **Nakul Anand** is the chairman of FAITH.

#### Government approves Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) Scheme to continue till 31st March, 2026:

- The **Government** has approved the scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** for continuation till **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026** or till further review, whichever is earlier.
- The proposal **entails an expenditure of Rs. 12929.16 crore** out of which **Central Share** is **Rs. 8120.97 crores** and the **State Share** is of **Rs. 4808.19 crores**.

#### Prime Minister to inaugurate Bio-CNG Plant in Indore:

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **Gobar-Dhan (Bio-CNG) Plant** in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh** through video conferencing.
- Modi has recently launched the **Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0**, with the overall vision of creating **Garbage Free Cities**.
- The plant has a capacity to treat **550 tonnes per day** of segregated wet organic waste.

#### Union Minister of Ayush has laid the foundation stones of 4th section of Dhanwantri Bhawan in Delhi:

- **Union Minister of Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal** laid the foundation for the **fourth part of Dhanwantri Bhawan** organised by the **All-India Ayurveda Congress** at its headquarters in **Punjabi Bagh West, Delhi**.

#### Ministry of Power notifies green hydrogen policy:

- The Ministry of Power has notified green hydrogen policy, **the target of production of 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen by 2030** and the related development of renewable energy capacity.
- Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the National Hydrogen Mission on **India's 75th Independence Day** (i.e. 15th August, 2021).
- The Mission aims to aid the government in meeting its climate targets and making **India a green hydrogen hub**.

#### Meri Policy Mere Hath Door-step Campaign

- **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare** will launch '**Meri Policy Mere Hath**' which is a doorstep distribution drive to deliver crop insurance policies to farmers under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**.
- The campaign aims **to ensure all farmers are aware with all information** on their policies, land records, the process of claim and grievance redressal under PMFBY.

#### Govt plans 'Heal by India' for positioning India as global source for health sector:

- The government of India is looking to promote '**Heal by India**' for **strengthening the country's educational institutions in the health sector** and enhancing education to churn out quality human resources.
- '**Heal by India**' initiative is meant to generate job opportunities abroad for India's trained professionals in the health sector and enhance education to churn out quality human resources in health, thus helping them become eligible to work anywhere in the world.

#### TransUnion CIBIL and FICCI to Launch Nationwide MSME Consumer Education Program:

- **TransUnion CIBIL Limited**, formerly known as Credit Information Bureau Limited, has partnered with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) to launch a nationwide Micro,

Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) consumer education program to support MSME's across India to get awareness about credit management, **CIBIL Rank and commercial credit information**.

#### **PM has inaugurated Kisan Drone Yatra and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones':**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the '**Kisan Drone Yatra**', an initiative by **Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd and flagged off 100 'Kisan Drones'** in various cities in India.
- The 100 Kisan Drones were set off in **100 villages** in 16 states across India which includes Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Goa.

#### **Government has organised week-long Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate Science exhibition:**

- The **Government of India has organised** a week-long science exhibition titled '**Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate**' from **February 22 to 28, 2022**, as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemoration.
- The inaugural programme was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on the 22nd of February.

#### **Government approves the continuation of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS):**

- Government has approved the continuation of **Central Sector National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship (NMMSS)** over the **15th Finance Commission** cycle for a period of five years i.e. from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with **financial outlay of Rs. 1827.00 crore**
- With minor modifications in eligibility criteria such as increasing income ceiling from Rs.1.5 lakh per annum to Rs.3.5 lakh per annum and revising the renewal criteria under the scheme.

#### **25th Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council held in Mumbai:**

- The **25th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was held in **Mumbai**, under the Chairpersonship of Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.

#### **Lavender designated as brand product of J&K's Doda district, the birthplace of Purple Revolution:**

- The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh has chaired the **District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA)** meetings of several districts in **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- A key decision taken during the meeting was to designate **Lavender as Doda brand** product, to promote lavender under '**One District, One Product**' initiative of the Modi Government.

#### **Union Minister Giriraj Singh has launched PMAY Gramin Dashboard:**

- Union Minister **Giriraj Singh**, **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG)** Dashboard to monitor the implementation of the scheme.

#### “Vande Bharatam” signature tune has Released by Minister of State for Culture:

- **Minister of State for Culture & External Affairs, Meenakashi Lekhi** has released a signature tune for ‘Vande Bharatam’.
- It was produced for Vande Bharatam, Nritya Utsav of Ministry of Culture presented at Rajpath, New **Delhi** for **Republic Day event 2022**.
- The Ministry of Defence handed over the **special trophy to the Ministry of Culture** in recognition of its exemplary efforts during the Republic Day Event 2022.

#### Govt approves continuation of IVFRT scheme for five years with financial outlay of Rs 1,364 crore:

- The government has approved continuation of the **Immigration Visa Foreigners Registration Tracking, IVFRT scheme** for a period of five years with a financial outlay of over one thousand 364 crore rupees.
- The scheme will be in effect from **April 2021 to March 2026**

#### Mansukh Mandaviya to inaugurate seminar "Industry Connect 2022: Industry and Academia Synergy":

- **Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** will inaugurate a seminar- **Industry Connect 2022, Industry and Academia Synergy** in New Delhi.
- The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals in association with Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is organizing this seminar.

#### Over Rs 1.80 lakh crore transferred directly into farmer families bank accounts:

- Third anniversary of the launch of **PM-KISAN**, over **Rs 1.80 lakh crore** transferred directly into farmer families bank accounts.
- The scheme was launched on 24th of February, to provide income support to all landholding farmer's families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs.

#### IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to release National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing:

- Electronics and Information Technology Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** will release **National Strategy on Additive Manufacturing**.
- This will cater to next-generation digital manufacturing.

#### **Giriraj Singh releases Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain:**

- **Giriraj Singh**, the union minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **has released the Rural Connectivity GIS Data in Public Domain**.
- This data includes the GIS data for more than **8 lakh rural facilities** which have been collected and digitised using the GIS platform developed for the PM-GSY scheme.

#### **Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated Dredging Museum 'Nikarshan Sadan':**

- **Sarbananda Sonowal** who is India's union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and AYUSH has inaugurated "Nikarshan Sadan" – **The Dredging Museum at DCI campus in Vishakhapatnam**.
- This museum displays models of different types of dredgers, vintage photos & historical milestones from the Eastern Port City of Vizag.

#### **PM CARE for Children scheme extended by the Centre till 28th Feb:**

- The **PM Cares for Children Scheme** has been extended by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India **till February 28, 2022**.

#### **Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi Launches ERP System of Coal India Ltd:**

- Union Minister of Coal, Mines, and Parliamentary Affairs **Pralhad Joshi** **launched the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)** system of Coal India Limited (CIL).
- Inaugurating the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system implementation of Coal India Ltd (CIL), the latest **IT-enabled technologies**, the overall approach towards implementing the same in a sustained and efficient manner is the key to further enhancing coal production and supply.

#### **Giriraj Singh has launched Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA:**

- Union Minister for **Rural Development and Panchayati Raj**, **Giriraj Singh** has launched **Ombudsperson App for Mahatma Gandhi NREGA**.
- Ministry of Rural Development has developed an Ombudsperson App for smooth reporting and categorization of grievances by Ombudsperson based on complaints he received from various sources.

#### The/Nudge Foundation, Ashirvad pipes, Gol announces The/Nudge Prize Ashirvad water challenge:

- **The/Nudge Foundation** in partnership with plumbing brand **Ashirvad Pipes** and the office of the principal scientific adviser to the government has announced a **prize worth a sum of Rs 2.5 crore** for innovators working towards access to clean drinking water.

#### Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022:

- **Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** has launched the **National Polio Immunization Drive for 2022** by administering polio drops to children below five years of age in New Delhi.
- The health minister encouraged family members and NGOs to come forward in order to give polio drops to children below the age of 5 years.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### American cybersecurity firm SentinelOne released a report on ModifiedElephant

- **American cybersecurity firm SentinelOne** has released a report on **ModifiedElephant**, a hacking group that allegedly planted incriminating evidence on the personal devices of Indian journalists, human rights activists, human rights defenders, academics and lawyers.
- According to SentinelOne, **NetWire** and **DarkComet**, two publicly-available remote access trojans (RATs), were the primary malware families deployed by ModifiedElephant.

#### Israel Becomes 1st Country Allowing Drones Flight In Civilian Airspace

- **Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety** has announced the **country's first certification for unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs)** to operate in **civilian airspace**.
- The certification was issued by the **Israeli Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)** to the **Hermes Starliner** unmanned system, which was developed and manufactured by **Elbit Systems**, an Israeli defense electronics company.

#### Bangladesh-US Air forces to conduct joint air exercise - Cope South 22

- The **air forces of Bangladesh** and the **US** will conduct a **joint air exercise** named **Cope South 22** from **Feb 20-25, 2022** sponsored by **Pacific Air Forces (PACAF)**.



- The bilateral exercise will be held at **Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) Kurmitola Cantonment, Dhaka; and Operating Location-Alpha, Sylhet, Bangladesh.**

### Global trade hits record high of \$28.5 trillion in 2021 - UNCTAD

- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**'s released its annual **Global Trade Update 2022**, which shows that the **value of global trade**, both in **goods and services**, reached a record level of **\$28.5 trillion in 2021**.
- This is an **increase of 25% in 2020 and 13% higher** compared to 2019.

### France announces military withdrawal from Mali after 9 years

- **France** and its **European partners** are to begin a **military withdrawal** from **Mali** after more than **nine years** fighting a **jihadist insurgency**.
- France first deployed troops against jihadists in Mali in **2013** under the Socialist president **François Hollande**.

### UK closes Tier 1 Investor visa route over security concerns

- The **United Kingdom** has decided to close the **Tier 1 Investor visa or golden visa** route to all new applicants from all nationalities with immediate effect over **security concerns**.
- The UK Investment Visa is a Tier 1 visa offered to wealthy individuals willing to invest a **minimum of £2 million** in the UK.

### EAM S Jaishankar to visit Germany and France from Feb 18 to 23

- **External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar**, would be on a visit to Germany and France from February 18-23, 2022.
- In Germany, he will participate in the **Munich Security Conference (MSC)**.
- **58th Munich security conference** held from **18 February - 20 February 2022**, at **Munich, Germany** with the **Motto** of Munich security conference 2022 **Turning the Tide – Unlearning Helplessness**
- In Paris, S Jaishankar would hold a bilateral meeting with his French counterpart, **H.E. Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian**



### Wildfires will be more frequent, larger and intense due to climate change: UNEP report

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the report titled **Frontiers 2022 : Noise, Blazes and Mismatches: Emerging Issues of Environmental Concern**.
- According to the report, **Wildfires** are predicted to **worsen** in the coming years and decades.
- The report identifies 3 three most important environmental issues ie.
  - Wildfires
  - Noise pollution
  - Shift in biological life cycles of plants and animals
- **Urban noise pollution, wildfires and phenological shifts** - the three topics of this Frontiers Report.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : STATE NEWS

#### Telangana Governor flags off first ever all-women officers offshore sailing expedition of Indian Army

- Telangana Governor and Lt.Governor Tamilisai Sounderarajan flagged off the historic first-ever all-women officers offshore sailing expedition of the Indian Army between Chennai Vizag Chennai at Chennai Port Trust.

#### Tribal Affairs Ministry allocates Budget of ₹2.26 Cr for Medaram Jathara Festival 2022

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved a **budget of 2.26 crores** for India's second-largest fair Medaram Jathara 2022 Festivals.
- Under the **AzadiKa Amrit Mahotsav**, the Government of India has announced that **tribal culture and heritage** will be the cynosure of 2022.
- The festival will be **commemorated** from the **16th to the 19th of February 2022**.

#### Kerala CM to inaugurate 'Huddle Global' conference

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the **third edition** of the annual '**Huddle Global 2022**' conference, one of Asia's largest startup ecosystem congregations and India's biggest networking platform for entrepreneurs.
- It was **organized** by the **Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM)**, nodal agency of the Kerala government for entrepreneurship development and incubation activities in Kerala.

- The partnership was announced by **Paul Ravindranath**, **Head** of Google for Startups Accelerator, India, at the 'Huddle Global' conclave of KSUM

#### J&K Govt hosts Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal

- The **Jammu and Kashmir** administration hosted the **Janbhagidari Empowerment' portal** on a different server with higher bandwidth for swift access to it by the public.
- It also has links to **schemes** like **MGNREGA**, **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**, **Swachh Bharat Mission Urban**, **Swachh Bharat Mission Rural** and **PMGSY**.

#### West Bengal Govt to build memorial of Bhasha Shahid Barkat in Murshidabad

- The **West Bengal** Government built a **memorial of Bhasha Shahid Barkat** at his residence at **Babla village** in **Salar**, **Murshidabad**.
- Bhasha Shahid Barkat was a **protester killed** during the Bengali Language Movement protests which took place in the erstwhile East Pakistan (currently Bangladesh), in 1952.
- Abul Barkat was awarded **Ekushey Padak** in 2000.

#### Pune to get its first lotus lake at Khatpewadi

- The **Ramnadi Restoration Mission (RRM)** has announced it is setting up the city's **first lotus lake** at the **Khatpewadi lake**, **Pune**, **Maharashtra**.
- In this lotus plantation is being carried out in **three methods** including **seeds**, **saplings** and **lotus tubers**.
- The lotus plantation drive is being **led by Sanjay Gurav**, a fine arts teacher from **Khamgaon** in **Vidarbha**.

#### BMC launch dedicated electric vehicle (EV) cell in Mumbai

- The **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** launched a dedicated **electric vehicle (EV) cell** in **Mumbai**, **Maharashtra**.

#### E mobility/ EV Targets for 2025 in Mumbai:

- ❖ **1500 Charging Stations**
- ❖ **10% EV Penetration**
- ❖ **25% Fleet Operator Electrification (Taxis/ cab aggregators)**

❖ **25% Public Transport Electrification (BEST)**

- Currently, 386 BEST buses are electric and will soon touch **50 per cent by 2023** and **100 percent before 2027**.

### **Assam Govt to Launch 'Project Arohan' to Hone Students' Skills**

- The **Assam** government has launched a **mentorship programme** called 'Project Arohan' to provide guidance to students and improve their skills.

### **Mizoram CM Zoramthanga presents budget 2022-23 with an outlay of Rs 14,008.15 cr**

- **Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga** presented the **annual budget** of the state for the financial year **2022-2023** with a total outlay of **Rs. 14,008.15 crore**, which is **Rs 2,859.26 crore** higher than the budget estimate of **2021-2022**.
- **Revenue Receipt** of **2022-23** is **Rs 11,426.21 crore**.

### **Tamil Nadu overtakes Karnataka as the leader in overall renewable capacity**

- **Tamil Nadu** has achieved the **Number One position** in overall installed renewable energy capacity in India surpassing **Karnataka**.
- According to the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, as of **January 31, 2022**, **Tamil Nadu's total installed renewable capacity** stood at **15,914 MW** as compared to **Karnataka's** total clean energy capacity of **15,795 MW**.
- **Rajasthan** and **Gujarat** added the **highest renewable capacity (4.8 GW and 2.4 GW respectively)** in the current fiscal year till **January 31, 2022**.

### **Delhi Tourism facilitates Mughal Garden visits via app - Dekho Meri Dilli**

- **Delhi** government's mobile app **Dekho Meri Dilli** can now be used to book a visit to **Mughal Garden** and other major tourist spots.
- The app was **launched** by chief minister **Arvind Kejriwal** on **September 27 2021**.

### Jaisalmer Desert Festival begins in Rajasthan

- The world-famous **Jaisalmer Desert Festival**, also known as **Maru Mahotsav of the Golden City** began at **Pokaran village** in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan** from **13 to 16 February 2022**.
- **Rajasthan Minority Affairs Minister, Shale Mohammad** flagged off the event
- **Organised by Rajasthan Tourism and District Administration, Jaisalmer**, the festival will begin in **Pokhran**, with a ceremonial procession on **February 13**.

### LAHDC, Leh launches new scheme Kunsnyoms for differently-abled persons

- **Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh** has launched a new scheme **Kunsnyoms** for **differently-abled persons** in the district.
- The program was organized by the **Department of Social Welfare, Leh** in which the **Chairman/CEC, LAHDC Leh, Adv.**
- **Kunsnyoms**, meant **Equal for All, Fair for All**, aims inclusive and accessible **Ladakh**.

### Delhi Police becomes first security force in India to introduce 'Smart Card Arms License'

- The **Delhi Police** has become the **first police force** in the country to introduce '**Smart Card Arms License**' to provide **techno friendly digital services** to the citizens of **Delhi**.
- On the occasion of the **75th anniversary** of the **Delhi Police**, **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** formally launched the **smart card** and **Shastra App**.
- The **smart card** and the **Shastra App** have been **designed and developed** in coordination with **National e-Governance Division (NeGD), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**.

### MP government announces welfare schemes on Ravidas Jayanti

- On **Feb 16, 2021**, **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** announced **welfare schemes** for **Dalits**, including one related to **self-employment**, on the occasion of the **birth anniversary** of **Guru Ravidas**.
- Chouhan announced that the **Global Skill Park**, which is being **built in Bhopal**, would be **named after** **Guru Ravidas**.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING AND ECONOMY

### RBI imposes restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd:

- The Reserve Bank, it has imposed several restrictions on Indian Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd, Lucknow, including a cap of Rs 1 lakh on withdrawals.
- The restrictions came into force from closure of business hours on January 28, 2022.

### Tata Group choose SBI, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India:

- Tata Group has chosen State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank as preferred bankers for Air India.
- Recently Tata Group has taken over Air India from the government.

### PNB launches co-branded contactless credit cards with Patanjali in partnership with RuPay

- Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Patanjali Ayurved Limited (PAL) have launched co-branded contactless credit cards in partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

### CRISIL report – India's GDP growth for FY23 at 7.8%:

- Domestic rating agency CRISIL estimated 2022-23 (FY23) real GDP growth at 7.8 percent as compared with the 8.5 per cent projected in the Economic Survey.
- For 2021-22 (FY22) = 9.2%

### RBI cancels license of Nashik based Independence Co-operative Bank Limited

- Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Independence Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nashik, Maharashtra with effect from the close of business on February 03, 2022.

### Exim Bank signs \$500-million loan agreement with Sri Lanka

- The Export Import Bank (EXIM) of India and the Government of Sri Lanka signed a USD 500 million Line of Credit (LoC) Agreement, to purchase petroleum products.
- The Line of Credit spans a year, and comes at a “nominal” interest rate, of under 2%.

### LIC partners with Policybazaar for digital distribution of life insurance products

- IPO-bound Life Insurance Corporation and Policybazaar.com, one of the largest insurance marketplaces, have joined hands to offer a wide range of term and investment products to consumers.

### Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partners with CARS24 to offer Motor Insurance

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited** has tied up with **CARS24 Financial Services Private Limited** to provide **motor insurance services** to the buyers of used cars.

### ADB committed Loans Worth \$4.6 Billion To India In 2021

- The **Asian Development Bank** committed a record **\$4.6 billion** in sovereign lending to India in 2021 for **17 loans**, including **\$1.8 billion** for the country's **Coronavirus disease pandemic response**.

### Govt. does switch operation of ₹1,19,701 crore

- The **Government of India** to smoothen its liability profile has done a conversion transaction with the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on January 28, 2022 for an amount of **₹1,19,701 crore (face value)**.

### RBI extends restrictions on Karnataka's Millath Co-Operative Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has extended the restrictions on **Karnataka's Millath Co-Operative Bank, Devangere**, by another **three months till May 7, 2022**.

### PM CARES Fund Corpus Triples To Rs 10 990 Cr In FY 2020-21

- According to the latest audited statement of **PM CARES Funds**, the **total corpus** under the PM CARES Funds in 2020-21 was **Rs 10,990.17 crore & Rs 3,976.17 crore** was spent from the fund in 2020-21.

### RBL Bank partners with Creditas Solutions to automate collections

- **RBL Bank** has announced a partnership with **Creditas Solutions**, a global technology company in the field of delinquency management, for its **'Neo Collections' platform**.

### RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged at 4.0 percent

- On February 8, 9 and 10, 2022, **Reserve Bank of India** conducted the **6th** and the **last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meeting for 2021-22.

### NABARD Introduces 'JIVA' to Promote Natural Farming

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched an agroecology-based programme JIVA that will promote natural farming under its existing watershed and wadi programmes in 11 states.

### Aditya Birla Health Insurance inks bancassurance partnership with Utkarsh SFB:

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited. (ABHICL) has signed a bancassurance agreement with Utkarsh Small Finance Bank for distribution of health insurance products through the lender's network of branches across India.

### 'SEBI' Revamps Advisory Committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund

- Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).

### RBI emerged as the second largest buyer of Gold

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) emerged as the second largest buyer of Gold among the world's Central Banks in 2021.

### RBI increases e-RUPI Voucher Limit to Rs 1,00,000

- The Reserve Bank of India increased the cap on the e-RUPI prepaid digital vouchers to Rs 1 lakh from Rs 10,000.

### SBI partners with NSE Academy to offer five online courses

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced partnership with NSE Academy to launch five online courses that promote financial literacy as a necessary life skill.

### Paisabazaar ties up with RBL bank to offer credit card

- Paisabazaar.com, a digital platform for consumer credit, has tied up with RBL Bank to offer 'Paisha on Demand' (PoD), a credit card.

### Paytm has highest penetration in digital payments

- According to a Comscore **report**, **Paytm** continues to lead digital payments with over **45 per cent** penetration in Fintech.

#### **HDFC Ergo partners Visa for insurance cover on select bank cards**

- **HDFC Ergo General Insurance** announced its partnership with **Visa** to offer **curated insurance covers** for **Visa's Platinum card holders** for select public sector banks.

#### **CBI finds ABG Shipyard in Rs 22,842 crore bank fraud**

- **ABG Shipyard Limited**, one of India's largest private sector shipyard firms, has been booked by the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** for **defrauding 28 banks** to the tune of **Rs 22,842 crore**.

#### **Yes Bank launches Agri Infinity program**

- **YES BANK** announced the launch of an annual startup enabler program, **YES BANK Agri Infinity**, which seeks to co-develop **digital financial solutions for the food and agriculture ecosystem** by **mentoring entrepreneurial ventures** in the field.

#### **PayU announces integration with BigCommerce to boost SMB digitalization**

- **PayU** announced its **integration with BigCommerce**, an Open SaaS e-commerce platform for **fast-growing and established brands**.
- **PayU** can provide **payment infrastructure & solutions** to **BigCommerce's small-to-medium-sized merchants** in India.

#### **KVB & UNANU Technologies tie-up for digital freight finance**

- **Karur Vysya Bank** has joined hands with the **Chennai-based UNANU Technologies** for **digital freight finance to fund transport contractors** using the end-to-end logistics technology platform.
- **KVB** is the **first bank to introduce digital freight financing through marketplace** in the banking sector.

#### **DMI Finance to provide digital personal loans to Google Pay users**

- **DMI Finance**, a credit platform, announced the **launch of a personal loan product on Google Pay** to offer credit to **pre-qualified users of the digital wallet platform**.



- This product leverages the dual advantages of **Google Pay's customer experience** and the **digital loan disbursement process of DMI**.
- The programme will **disburse up to Rs 1 lakh per loan** which would be **repayable over a maximum of 36 months**.

### Standard Chartered Bank launches interest-only home loan facility

- **Standard Chartered Bank**, announced the launch of its **interest-only home loan facility**.
- Interest-Only Home Loan is a facility provided for purchase of completed residential properties where during a limited period of the loan tenure, the clients will pay only the interest accrued on the principal outstanding - referred as 'interest only period'.
- **No principal** will be deducted during this interest only period.

### SIDBI launches waste to wealth creation programme in West Bengal

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has launched the 'Waste to Wealth Creation' programme for **women** in the **Sundarbans in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district**.
- In this, ladies will make **ornaments** and **showpieces** from **fish scales**.
- Under this programme, SIDBI will extend benefits to **50 women** in **directly generating revenues from alternate livelihoods**.

### NITI Aayog Fintech month began on February 7, 2022; Theme- "OPEN"

- **NITI Aayog** in coordination with **PhonePe**, has started the **Fintech Open Month** from **February 07, 2022**.
- It's a **three-week-long virtual summit** organized from **February 7–28, 2022**.
- **Theme** of the **FinTech Month** : **OPEN**.

### Twitter partners with Paytm to boost 'Tips' feature in India

- **Twitter** has partnered with **Paytm Payments Services Limited**, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Paytm, India's digital payments and financial services platform, to **improve the support** for its '**Tips**' feature in India.

## NPCI International & Gateway Payment Service, and Manam Infotech join hands to deploy UPI solution in Nepal

- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the International arm of National Payments Corporation of India has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service Pvt Ltd, authorized Payment System Operators in Nepal, and Manam Infotech Private Limited to deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in Nepal.
- The firm intends to deploy UPI in Nepal for the larger "Digital Public Good" and to bolster interoperable real-time Person to person (P2P) and Merchant payment transactions (P2M).
- Nepal shall be the **first country** outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform driving the digitalization of cash transactions.

## IndusInd Bank to facilitate digital transactions on e-NAM

- IndusInd Bank has been empanelled by the Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) to facilitate digital collection and settlement services on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) portal for transactions between farmers and traders across the country.
- IndusInd Bank has been directly integrated with e-NAM platform to provide **safe** and **hassle-free** payments, clearing, and settlement services to the farmers and traders

## Kotak Mahindra bank ties up with Ezetap for integrated PoS solutions

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has tied up with Ezetap to provide integrated Point of Sale (PoS) solutions across 4,000 locations in India.
- The partnership will enable KMBL to scale up its PoS product base across merchant segments, including retail enterprises and government customers, which service lakhs of customers on a daily basis.

## SEBI : Separation of roles of Chairperson and MD made voluntary

- On Feb 15, 2022, The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) changed the requirements for listed companies to **separate** roles of chairperson and managing director (MD) or chief executive officer (CEO) to 'voluntary' from 'mandatory'.
- In 2017, SEBI had set up a committee under Kotak Mahindra Bank's chief executive Uday Kotak to study corporate governance norms for the listed companies.

### Fisdom partners with Bank of Maharashtra to offer wealth management services

- Fisdom, a wealth-tech company, has joined hands with **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)**, to offer **wealth management products and services** to over **29 million customers** of the bank.

### Canara HSBC OBC Life Insurance launches Flexi Edge

- Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has launched its new insurance plan **Flexi Edge**, a non-linked participating individual savings life insurance plan that **enables the customers with the ability to prioritize their long-term savings**.

### BSE Ebix, LIC join hands for distribution of insurance products

- **BSE Ebix Insurance Broking**, a joint venture of BSE and Ebix Fincorp Exchange Pte Ltd, signed an insurance broker agreement for the **distribution of Life Insurance Corporation's (LIC) products** on its platform.

#### Aim :

- To offer customer-centric solutions backed by technological innovations and best in class services.

### SBI Report - India's GDP growth for FY22 at 8.8% and Q3 FY22 at 5.8%

- According to the latest edition of **SBI's research report Ecowrap**, India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to **grow at 5.8%** in the **third quarter of fiscal 2022**.
- The FY22 GDP growth is now revised downwards to **8.8% from the earlier estimate of 9.3%**.
- The real GDP will be around **Rs 2.35 lakh crore more or 1.6% higher** than the FY20 real GDP of Rs 145.69 lakh crore.

### Juspay Technologies launches OpenPPI to support Interoperability of Prepaid Instruments

- JusPay, a Softbank-backed digital payments infrastructure company, introduced OpenPPI.
- This software stack aids prepaid instruments (PPI) such as digital wallets in implementing and complying with RBI's PPI interoperability guidelines.

### RBI cancels license of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the license of Mantha Urban Cooperative Bank and consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business.

### SEBI reconstitutes advisory panel for alternative investment policy

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee, which advises the capital markets regulator on a range of issues that impact further development of the AIF space.

### Govt. of India, World Bank sign loan agreement of \$115 million for implementation of REWARD Project

- The Government of India, the State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million (INR 869 crore) Programme (Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme).

### JPMorgan becomes first major bank in the metaverse

- The largest bank in the United States, JPMorgan, has become the first bank to enter the metaverse by opening a lounge in Decentraland, a virtual world based on blockchain technology.

### Equitas Small Finance Bank raises Rs 550 crore from government of Singapore, others

- Equitas Small Finance Financial institution has raised Rs 550 crore from the federal government of Singapore, Singapore's central financial institution and a number of native mutual funds within the certified institutional placement of equities.

According to reports,

- ❖ The government of Singapore - about Rs 155 crore
- ❖ The Monetary Authority of Singapore - Rs 36 crore in the QIP
- ❖ Mutual funds (Nippon Life India Trustee, SBI Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential, HDFC Mutual Fund and HDFC Trustee Firm) - Rs 359 crore in the QIP.

### BOB Financial and IRCTC launch co-branded Rupay Contactless Credit Card

- **BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda (BoB), and the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC)** have launched the **IRCTC BoB RuPay contactless credit card**.

### Mastercard partners with SBI Payments to boost digital payments acceptance infrastructure in Guwahati, Lucknow and Varanasi

- As an extension of its flagship campaign '**Team Cashless India**', Mastercard partnered with the **Auto Rickshaw Association** in Lucknow, **All Assam's Restaurant Association (AARA)** in Guwahati, local shopkeepers, and **Boat Union** in Varanasi to bolster the **digital payments infrastructure**.
- In Lucknow the partnership enables more than **700 auto-rickshaw drivers** to accept digital payments.

### Paytm Payments Bank Becomes Acquiring Partner For e-RUPI Service

- **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** has become an official **acquiring partner** for **e-RUPI vouchers**, further making it accessible at **offline stores** across India.
- e-RUPI is a cashless **prepaid voucher** that beneficiaries can present through **SMS or QR Code**.

### Moody's projects India's growth estimates to 9.5% in CY2022, 8.4% for FY23

- **Moody's Investors Service** raised India's growth forecast to **9.5 percent** for the calendar year 2022 (Earlier it was 7 percent) and to **8.4 percent** for FY23.
- It maintained a forecast for **5.5 percent growth** in CY2023.
- **Union Budget 2022** prioritizes growth, with a **36 percent increase** in allocation to **capital expenditure** to **2.9 percent** of gross domestic product for FY23.

### RBI directs NBFCs to implement CFSS by September 2025

- The **Reserve Bank** asked a certain class of **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)** to mandatorily implement '**Core Financial Services Solution (CFSS)**' by **September 30, 2025**.
- NBFC-Upper Layers (UL) have to also ensure that the CFSS is implemented at least in **70 percent** of '**Fixed point service delivery units**' on or **before September 30, 2024**.

- The implementation of CFSS is **not mandatory** for NBFC – Base Layer and NBFC – Middle and Upper Layers with less than 10 'Fixed point service delivery units.

#### TripMoney partners with SBM Bank India to launch global credit card

- TripMoney, the fintech arm of MakeMyTrip, and SBM Bank India have partnered to launch a rupee-denominated secure credit card **TripMoney Global card**.
- The TripMoney Global card offers multiple value-added benefits including **zero forex mark-up, lifetime free validity** and **100 per cent digital in-app card management**.
- The card is powered by Visa and can be used across over **150 countries**.
- The card carries **no hidden charges** such as currency exchange conversion across POS, ATMs, and eCommerce websites - offering transparency to travelers.

#### Edelweiss General Insurance Partners Ashv Finance for MSME Loan Protection Plans

- **Digital Insurer Edelweiss General Insurance (EGI)** has joined hands with **Ashv Finance**, a tech-led NBFC present in over 100 locations in India, to offer **financial protection** to the latter's business loan borrowers.
- Ashv is offering timely credit to fund the growth aspirations of **small businesses** and **MSMEs**, EGI will ensure health insurance cover to safeguard the financial interest.

#### HDFC Bank Finances Asia's Largest 'Waste-To-Energy' Plant In Indore, MP

- **HDFC Bank** has been associated with **Indore Clean Energy Private Limited (ICEPL)** for the development of **550 tonnes/day of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant** - the largest Bio-CNG plant in Asia located in **Indore, Madhya Pradesh**.
- The plant is expected to treat **50 percent of municipal waste** generated in **Indore City** and convert to **100 percent green products (biogas and manure)**.

#### Union MSME Minister Narayan Rane launches Union Bank MSME RuPay Credit

- On February 25, 2022, Union Minister for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, **Shri Narayan Rane** launched the **Union MSME RuPay Credit Card** of Union Bank of India at the **MSME Conclave** being held in **Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra**.
- The card is being **offered by Union Bank of India**.

#### Brickwork Ratings : GDP growth likely to be around 8.3% in FY22

- According to **Brickwork Ratings**, revised **downwards** India's GDP growth forecast to **8.3 percent** in the current fiscal 2021-22 (FY22).
- **Earlier** the ratings agency had given a forecast of **8.5 to 9 per cent** for FY22.

#### RBI cancels registration certificate of P C Financial Services operating 'Cashbean' app

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **canceled** the **certificate of registration** issued to **PC Financial**, which carries out lending operations through an app called **Cashbean**.
- This is the **first instance of regulatory action** against an entity, due to a surge in complaints against usurious and unfair recovery practices being followed by several digital lenders.
- In exercise of the powers conferred under **Section 45-IA (6) (iv) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**.

#### NHPC inks pact with HDFC Bank to monetise RoE of Chamara-I Power Plant

- **NHPC** has inked a **pact** with **HDFC bank** to securitise **return on equity (RoE)** of its **540-MW (3 X 180 MW) Chamara-I Power Plant** in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- The amount of the securitisation facility has been arrived at **Rs 1,016.39 crore** or **5.24 per cent per annum** discounting rate linked with three-month T-bills.

#### Star Health & South Indian Bank announce Bancassurance tie-up to offer Health Insurance

- **South Indian Bank** has joined hands with **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd.**, as a corporate agent to provide a slew of innovative health insurance products for the Bank's more than 6.5 million customers spread over 923 branches across India.

#### Standard Chartered tie up with IATA to launch payment platform for Indian airline industry

- **Standard Chartered** has partnered with the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** to launch **IATA Pay** in India.
- **IATA Pay** in India is powered by Standard Chartered's **Straight2Bank Pay**, a payment platform that helps online merchants digitalise collections via multiple payment options through single global connectivity.
- It enables participating airlines to offer instant payment options such as **UPI Scan & Pay** and **UPI Collect (Request to Pay)**.



### NDB first multilateral agency to open office in Gift City

- **New Development Bank (NDB)** will become the **first multilateral agency** to open an office in the **Gujarat International Finance Tec City (GIFT)**, Gujarat.
- NDB will open the office in **May 2022** in GIFT City.
- NDB also expects to partner with the newly launched **National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NBFID)** to support crucial infrastructure projects in India.

### RBI cautions against car pooling app sRide

- The **Reserve bank of India** cautioned public against **car pooling app sRide**, citing that the firm was operating a semi-closed prepaid instrument without authorization from the central bank under **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: BUSINESS NEWS

### Rs 1,38,394 crore gross GST revenue collected for January 2022:

- The **gross GST revenue** collected in the month of January, 2022 is **one lakh 38 thousand 394 crore rupees**.
- Of which **CGST** is **24 thousand 674 crore rupees**, **SGST** is **over 32 thousand crore rupees**, **IGST** is **over 72 thousand crore rupees** and cess is **nine thousand 674 crore rupees**.

### SEBI extends deadline for client-level segregation of funds:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has extended the deadline for implementation of client-level segregation of funds and monitoring of collateral at **stock brokers to May 2**.
- In July 2021, the regulator came out with guidelines on client-level segregation amid instances of misuse of client collateral by brokers.

### Ideal Finance rebrands itself to Mahindra Ideal Finance:

- **Ideal Finance**, a subsidiary of **Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services** (Mahindra Finance/ MMFSL), has announced the rebranding of its company name to **Mahindra Ideal Finance (MIFL)**.



### RBI enhances VRR cap for foreign investors by Rs 1 lakh crore

- The **Reserve Bank of India** introduced the **Voluntary Retention Route (VRR)** for investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** on March 01, 2019 with an amount of **₹1,50,000 crore**.

### Axis Bank set to buy Citigroup India retail banking business:

- **Axis Bank Ltd.** is nearing a deal to buy **Citigroup Inc.**'s India retail banking business in a transaction that could be valued at **about \$2.5 billion**.
- An agreement for the consumer unit may be announced as soon as the next few weeks and is contingent on **approval from the Reserve Bank of India**, asking not to be identified as the information is private.
- The deal would include a cash component of **less than \$2 billion**

### Ministry of Finance grants Rs 1154.90 crore to Urban Local Bodies of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Sikkim:

- **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance** has released an amount of **1154.90 crore rupees** to four states for providing grants to **Urban Local Bodies**.
- The States to which grants are **Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, and Sikkim**.

### RBI extends timeline by six months for NBFCs to adhere new NPA recognition norms:

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has **extended the timeline by six months** for **Non Banking Financial Companies** to adhere to the new NPA recognition norms.
- Earlier the regulator had set **March 31 deadline** for **non-bank lenders** to upgrade NPAs only after all arrears and principal dues are paid.
- NBFCs will have time **till September 30** to put in place the necessary systems to implement this provision.

### WPI inflation eases to 12.96% in Jan from 13.56% in January:

- **Wholesale price index (WPI)**-based inflation rate decelerated to **12.96 per cent** in January from **13.56 per cent** in January
- **Fuel inflation rate** marginally eased to **32.27 per cent** in January from **32.3 per cent** in December.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### Government extends tenure of LIC Chairman M R Kumar by one year till March 2023

- The **Center** has **extended** the tenure of **Life Insurance Corporation of India's Chairperson M.R. Kumar** by **one year**, till **March 2023**.
- He took charge as **Chairman of LIC** on **March 14, 2019**.

### Lt Gen Manoj Pande to take charge as the Army Vice Chief

- The Government has appointed **Lieutenant General Manoj Pande** as the **new Vice Chief of the Army Staff** on **February 1**.
- He will **succeed Lieutenant General Chandi Prasad Mohanty** who superannuated on **January 31, 2022**.

### Sergio Mattarella re-elected as Italian president for a second term

- **Italy's current president Sergio Mattarella** has been **re-elected** for a second mandate, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, **Robert Fico**.
- His re-election marks just the second time in history that an Italian president has served a second term.

### Chetan Ghate appointed as Director of Institute of Economic Growth

- The **Institute of Economic Growth** has appointed **Chetan Ghate** as the **new director**.
- He **replaces Ajit Mishra**.
- Currently, he is an **external affiliate** of the **Center for Research in Macroeconomics and Macro-Finance** at **Swansea University (Wales, UK)**.

### IOC Athletes' Commission re-elect Terho as chair, Walker elected as second vice-chair

- **South Korean International Olympic Committee member Ryu Seung-min & ice hockey player Emma Terho of Finland** has been **reelected** as **vice chair & chair** of the **IOC Athletes' Commission**.
- **Sarah Walker**, an Olympic cycling medalist from New Zealand, was elected to the newly-created position of **second vice chair**.

### Tanishka Kotia, Riddhika Kotia appointed as brand ambassadors of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'

- The international chess-playing sisters, **Tanishka Kotia** and **Riddhika Kotia** were declared **District Gurugram brand ambassadors** for the **Government of India's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'** scheme for Haryana.

#### Former SriLankan Airlines' CEO Vipula Gunatilleka appointed as Jet Airways CFO

- The former Sri Lankan Airlines CEO, **Vipula Gunatilleka** has been appointed as the **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** of Jet Airways.
- He served as the CEO of the SriLankan Airlines till January 2022 & he will join Jet Airways with effect from March 1, 2022.

#### Honda Cars India appoints Takuya Tsumura as CEO & President

- **Honda Motor Company Limited** has announced the appointment of **Takuya Tsumura** as the **President and CEO** of **Honda Cars India Limited (HCIL)** effective from April 1, 2022.
- **Nakanishi** has been appointed as **General Manager**, Automobile Business of Asian Honda (Regional office-Bangkok, Thailand).

#### Rakesh Sharma re-appointed MD & CEO, IDBI Bank for 3 years

- **IDBI Bank's Board of Directors** has approved the re-appointment of **Rakesh Sharma** as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank** for a period of **three years** with effect from **March 19, 2022**.
- Previously, he was appointed as the MD & CEO of the IDBI Bank in October 2018.

#### Sanjeev Sanyal appointed full-time member of Economic Advisory Council to PM

- Noted economist and historian **Sanjeev Sanyal** has been inducted as a **full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** for a tenure of **2 years**.
- Currently, he is the **Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance, Gol.**
- **EAC-PM**, which is an independent body constituted by the **central government**, advises the prime minister on economic and related issues.

### HUL appoints Nitin Paranjpe as non-executive Chairman

- Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) has announced the **separation** of the **position of Chairman of the Board and the CEO & Managing Director** with **Nitin Paranjpe** has been appointed as the **Non-Executive Chairman of the company** with effect from **March 31, 2022**.

### Sudha Ragunathan appointed as member of CABC

- **Sudha Ragunathan** has been appointed as a **member of the Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC)**.
- CABC has been constituted to advise the **Ministry of Culture** at the policy level to evolve programmes.
- The Board is **presided** over by the **Minister of Culture of the Government of India**.

### Coca-Cola appoints Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador for Thums Up

- Soft drinks company **Coca-Cola** has appointed film actor **Shah Rukh Khan** as the **brand ambassador of Thums Up**.
- Thums Up, which has become a billion dollar brand in 2021, has partnerships with the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and cricket.

### K.N. Raghavan appointed as Chairman of IRSG

- **K.N. Raghavan**, Executive Director, Indian Rubber Board, has been elected the new **Chairman of the International Rubber Study Group (IRSG)** for a period of two years (2022-2024).
- India succeeds the chair of the IRSG from Cote d'Ivoire.

### D2H ropes cricketer Rishabh Pant as brand ambassador

- **Dish TV India's direct-to-home brand D2H** has **roped** in **Rishabh Pant** as the new brand ambassador.
- Pant will feature in **360-degree brand communication** for D2H for the **next two years**.

### KS Mani elected director of NCDFI

- **KS Mani** has been elected to the **Board of Directors of the National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India (NCDFI)**, the apex body of dairy and edible oil cooperatives in India.
- KS Mani Hailing from **Palakkad district, Kerala**.
- He is the President of the Ennapadam Milk Co-operative Society in Palakkad.
- He had served as the Southern Region Chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) under the Union Commerce Ministry.

### Antonio Costa re-elected as Prime Minister of Portugal

- The **Prime Minister of Portugal, Antonio Costa**, has been re-elected after his center-left Socialist Party secured a landslide victory in the 2022 Portuguese legislative election.

### Games24x7 appoints Hrithik Roshan as the brand ambassador of RummyCircle

- **Games24x7** announced **Hrithik Roshan** as the brand ambassador for India's largest online skill gaming platform, **RummyCircle**

### Lt Gen GAV Reddy appointed as new chief of Defense Intelligence Agency

- **Lieutenant General GAV Reddy, SC**, has been appointed as the new head of the **Defence Intelligence Agency**.
- He replaced **Lieutenant General KJS Dhillon** & he was awarded the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** on the 73rd Republic Day.

### Govt appoints former civil servant Ravi Mittal as new chairperson of IBBI

- As per the notification issued by the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, the former secretary, **Department of Sports**, **Ravi Mittal** has been appointed as the **Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** for a term of five years or till he attains 65 years of age, whichever is early.

### Former RBI governor Urjit Patel resigns as independent director of Britannia Industries Limited

- **Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel** has resigned from the post of non-executive and independent director of **Britannia Industries Limited**.

### Gol appoints Sonali Singh as Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on additional charge

- The **Government of India** has appointed **Sonali Singh** to hold the additional charge of the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**, under the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.
- She has been appointed in place of **Dipak Dash**, who superannuated on January 31, 2022.

### Vice-Chancellor of JNU M Jagadesh Kumar Appointed Chairman Of UGC

- According to the **Ministry of Education**, **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)** Vice-Chancellor **Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar** was appointed **chairperson** of the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** for a period of **five years**, or until he turns 65, whichever is earlier.

#### **IndiGo appoints co-founder Rahul Bhatia as Managing Director**

- **InterGlobe Aviation**-run **IndiGo** has appointed its **co-founder** and **promoter** **Rahul Bhatia** as the company's **managing director** with immediate effect.

#### **PESB Picks captain BK Tyagi as next CMD of shipping corporation of india**

- Under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, **Captain Binesh Kumar Tyagi** has been picked by the **Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** to be the **next Chairman and Managing Director** at the state-run carrier **Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI)**. **Binesh Kumar Tyagi** will **replace Mrs H.K Joshi**.

#### **Unnikrishnan Nair has been appointed as director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center:**

- **Unnikrishnan Nair S** has been appointed as the **new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**. He will **replace S Somanath**, who recently took over as the chairman of **ISRO**.

#### **MediBuddy appoints Bollywood Megastar Amitabh Bachchan As Official Brand Ambassador**

- **MediBuddy**, one of **India's largest digital healthcare platforms**, has signed legendary Bollywood star **Amitabh Bachchan** as official **brand ambassador** in a two-year deal.

#### **NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg to head Central Bank of Norway**

- **NATO** chief **Jens Stoltenberg** will take over as **Governor of Norges Bank** i.e. the **Central Bank of Norway** at the end of **2022**.

#### **Sanjay Malhotra appointed DFS Secretary in Finance Ministry**

- **Sanjay Malhotra** has been appointed as **Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance**.
- He **succeeded Debashish Panda**, who completed his term as **DFS Secretary** on **January 31, 2022**.

### **Pfizer India appoints Pradip Shah as Chairman of Board**

- **Pfizer's Board of Directors** has appointed **Pradip Shah** as the **Chairman of the Board of Pfizer**. He replaced **R A Shah** as the chairman who resigned on February 3.

### **Ruchir Sharma appointed as Rockefeller International's MD, Chairman**

- **Ruchir Sharma**, the former chief global strategist for **Morgan Stanley Investment Management**, will join **Rockefeller Capital Management** as **Managing Director and Chairman** effective from **Feb. 14, 2022**.

### **Pankaj Tripathi appointed as Brand Ambassador of Krishi Network**

- **Agritech platform Krishi Network** appointed **Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi** as its brand ambassador.

### **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari appointed as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court**

- **Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari**, who had been appointed as the **Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court**, has been made the **Chief Justice of the High Court**.

### **Tata Sons reappoints N Chandrasekaran as Executive Chairman for second 5 year term:**

- **Tata Sons Pvt Ltd** board approved the re-appointment of its executive chairman **N Chandrasekaran** for next five years **2022-2027**.

### **Debashis Mitra elected as ICAI President & Aniket Sunil Talati elected as Vice President**

- **Debashis Mitra**, has been elected as the **President of The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)** for the year **2022-23**.
- Meanwhile **Aniket Sunil Talati** has been elected as **Vice President of ICAI**.

### **S. R. Narasimhan takes additional charge as CMD, POSOCO**

- **Shri S. R. Narasimhan** has assumed additional charge as **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)** with effect from **1st February 2022**.



### S Kishore appointed as Chairman, Staff Selection Commission

- According to an order issued by the **Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT)**, the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the appointment of **S Kishore** as the charge of **Chairman of Staff Selection Commission**.

### Paul Henri sandaogo damiba becomes new president of burkina faso

- The **Constitutional Council** appointed **Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba** became the new **president of Burkina Faso** after the resignation of **Roch Marc Christian Kaboré**.

### Ravi Chopra Resigns as Chairman of Supreme Court appointed Char Dham Panel

- Environmentalist **Ravi Chopra** has resigned as **chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed High Powered Committee (HPC)** for the **Char Dham** project.
- In **2019**, Chopra was appointed as **chairman of the Supreme Court's High Powered Committee (HPC)** to oversee an all-weather road widening project in **Char Dham** circuit.

### Tata Sons appoints Ilker Ayci as CEO, MD of Air India

- On **Feb 14, 2022**, **Tata Sons** appointed **Ilker Ayci** as **Chief executive officer (CEO)** and **Managing Director (MD)** of **Air India** & he will assume his responsibilities on or before **April 1, 2022**.

### German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier re-elected for second term

- **German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier** was **re-elected** for a **second term** of next five years (**2022-2027**) by a **special parliamentary assembly**.

### CBSE appoints Vineet Joshi as new CBSE chairman

- According to the order released by the **Ministry of Education's Department of School Education and Literacy**, **IAS Vineet Joshi**, **Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education**, has been appointed as new **chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education, CBSE** with effect from **Feb 14, 2022**.
- Joshi would be replacing **IAS Manoj Ahuja**.

### Manoj Tiwari to be Khadi brand ambassador for Bihar

- **Minister of Industries Syed Shahnawaz Hussain** announced, **Bhojpuri singer and BJP MP Manoj Tiwari** will be the "**brand ambassador**" for **Khadi** and **other handicrafts of Bihar**.

### Debashish Chakravarty assumes full charge as chief secretary of Maharashtra

- 1986 batch IAS officer Debashish Chakravarty, has been given the full charge as the acting chief secretary of Maharashtra,
- Chakravarty, who has been holding the charge as chief secretary since November 30.
- He will also hold the charge of the Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, Planning department.

### Gaming app A23 signs Shah Rukh Khan as brand ambassador

- A23, an app owned by online skill gaming company Head Digital Works, has announced that it has roped in Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador.
- The actor will feature in its 'Chalo Saath Khele' campaign along with a first-of-its-kind responsible gaming campaign, which showcases skill games such as rummy, fantasy sports, carom and pool.

### G Ashok Kumar appointed as India's first National Maritime Security Coordinator

- Former Navy vice chief G Ashok Kumar has been appointed as the first National Maritime Security Coordinator (NMSC) in the National Security Council Secretariat.
- The appointment is a part of the country's attempt to bolster its maritime security following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack.

### Adidas appoints table tennis player Manika Batra as brand ambassador

- Adidas has appointed India's top ranked female table tennis player Manika Batra as brand ambassador.
- This partnership focuses on Empowering women to realize their Dreams

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : AWARDS & HONORS

### PR Sreejesh becomes first Indian man to win World Games Athlete of the Year Award

- Veteran Indian hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh won the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year for his 2021 performances.

### Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards

- Neeraj Chopra, India's first-ever winner of an Olympic athletics gold medal, has been selected as one of the six Nominees for the 2022 Laureus World Breakthrough of the Year Award.

### Bill Gates conferred Hilal-e-Pakistan

- Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist **Bill Gates** has been awarded the **second-highest civilian award** the **Hilal-e-Imtiaz** – by **Pakistan** for his efforts to help eradicate polio.
- The award was conferred by **President Dr. Arif Alvi** at **Aiwan-e-Sadr** in **Islamabad, Pakistan**.

### Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022

- The **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2022** was held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** to honor and appreciate the creativity & talent of the Indian Film and Television Industry.
- The award was **presented by Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival** celebrating the legacy of **Dadasaheb Phalke – Father of Indian Cinema**.
- ❖ Best Film - Shershaah
- ❖ Best Actor - Ranveer Singh for 83
- ❖ Best Actress - Kriti Sanon for Mimi

### Coal India Limited bags India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award

- Coal India Limited, a Maharatna company of the Government of India, has been awarded the 'India's Most Trusted Public Sector Company' award at the Energy Meet 2022 & Excellence Awards of ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry).

### Aegis Graham Bell Awards : C-DOT bags 3 awards for its indigenously designed & developed innovative Telecom solutions

- On Feb 25, 2022, **Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT)**, has bagged **three awards** at **Annual Aegis Graham Bell Awards** for its indigenously designed & developed innovative Telecom solutions in various categories.

### Physicist Deepak Dhar became the First Indian To Be Conferred With Boltzmann Medal

- Professor emeritus in the **Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune** Prof Deepak Dhar will become the **first Indian** to be conferred the **prestigious Boltzmann Medal 2022** for his contribution in the **field of statistical physics**.

### Karnataka Bank Awarded With Digital Transformation Award by Confederation of Indian Industry

- Karnataka Bank has been awarded the digital transformation award, 'DX 2021 Awards', in recognition of the "innovative" best practice 'KBL VIKAAAS', by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for Best Practice in Digital Transformation.

### Nitin Gadkari to receive Late Madhavrao Limaye Karyaksham Khaasdar award

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, will be conferred for the first time, the Karyaksham Khaasdar (Efficient Member of Parliament) award for the year 2020-21, given in the memory of late Madhavrao Limaye by Sarvajanik Vachanalay, Nashik.

### ICICI Bank's Sandeep Bakhshi is Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21

- Sandeep Bakhshi, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of ICICI Bank, is the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2020-21.
- The unanimous decision was taken by a high-profile jury of five, chaired by former Reserve Bank of India deputy governor S S Mundra.

### South Indian Bank receives 6 IBA awards, including Best Technology Bank of the Year

- The Kerala-headquartered South Indian Bank has bagged six awards, including 'Best Technology Bank of the Year' at the 17th edition of the annual IBA Banking Technology Awards.
- Karur Vysya Bank Ltd. has won three IT awards from the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in the small banks category for the best deployment of technologies.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : MOU & AGREEMENTS

### India signs MoU to hand over wheat to WFP in Kandahar, Afghanistan

- India signed an agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) for the distribution of 50,000 MT of wheat that it has committed to sending to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance.

### NSDC collaborates with CSC for delivery of services to accelerate skill development in Rural areas

- National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Common Services Centers to collaborate for the delivery of services related to various skill development programmes to youth in rural and remote areas of the country.

### LKP Securities ties up with HDFC Bank Ltd to launch 3-in-1 account

- **LKP Securities Ltd** has entered into an arrangement with **HDFC Bank Ltd** to offer a special 3-in-1 online account.
- The 3-in-1 account offers a host of benefits including no annual maintenance charges (AMC) for one year from the trading account opening date and waiver on brokerage charges of up to Rs 500 for one month from the date of demat account opening.

### Gujarat government signs MoU with QX Global group

- The **Gujarat** government signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with global business process management company **QX Global Group Limited**, for the holistic development of the IT and ITeS sector in the State.

### Vedanta signs pact with Foxconn to manufacture semiconductors in India

- **Vedanta** and Taiwan-based **Hon Hai Technology Group**, also known as **Foxconn**, announced signing a **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** to form a joint venture company that will **manufacture semiconductors** in India.

### BoB signs MoU with Assam Rifles to provide 'Central Forces Salary Package'

- **Bank of Baroda** has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Assam Rifles**, the oldest paramilitary force, to provide the **Baroda Central Forces Salary Package**.
- Under the agreement, Bank of Baroda will offer the **Baroda Central Forces Salary Package** to all **personnel of the Assam Rifles**, both serving and retired.

### SIDBI signs MoU with Bihar govt to promote MSME sector

- The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has signed two **Memorandum of Understandings (MoU)** with the **Government of Bihar** to promote the micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSME**) sector in Bihar.
- **Bihar** is the **14th state** of the country with which **SIDBI has tied up** and it will play an important role in strengthening the **MSMEs**.

### Tourism Ministry and Alliance Air Aviation sign MoU to promote domestic tourism

- On 17th February, 2022, The Union Ministry of Tourism (MoT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Alliance Air Aviation Limited (AAAL) to boost tourism throughout India.

### NAFED Signs MoU With IOC For Setting Up Biofuel Projects

- National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for setting up biofuel projects, plants for post-processing of products and marketing of end products of CBG (Cannabigerol).

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : DEFENCE NEWS

### India to Showcase Tejas Light Combat Aircraft at Singapore Airshow

- India will showcase its indigenously developed Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) at the four-day Singapore Air Show.
- The defence ministry stated a 44-member contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) reached Singapore to participate in the air show to be held from February 15 to 18.

### Indian Army Conducts First Hackathon Sainya Ranakshetram

- The Indian Army had conducted a first-of-its-kind Hackathon named "Sainya Ranakshetram" from 01 Oct 2021 to 31 Dec 2021.
- The Hackathon was conducted at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow under the overall guidance of the Shimla based Army Training Command (ARTRAC).

### 3rd India-Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue held in Maldives

- Indian Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar co-chaired '3rd India Maldives Defence Cooperation Dialogue' with Chief of Defence Force (CDF) of Maldives National Defence Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal.

### BHEL bags order to supply compact heat exchanger sets for Tejas aircraft

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), the country's largest power equipment manufacturer, has received a prestigious order from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the supply of compact heat exchanger sets for 83 Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) MK1A aircraft.

### Indian Navy Test-Fires BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile

- Indian Navy's warship INS Visakhapatnam carried out the test-firing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile off the western seaboard.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : APPS & SERVICES

### Edelweiss Asset Management launches MF investing app eInvest'

- Edelweiss Asset Management has announced the launch of eInvest a mutual fund mobile app for investors for a smooth investing experience.

### WHO launches 'quit tobacco' app

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched 'Quit Tobacco App' to help people kick the cigarette butt and give up the use of tobacco in all forms - including smokeless and other newer products.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

### SBI, PNB, BoB, UBI, Canara Bank and BoM acquires stake in IDRCL:

- State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India (UBI), Canara Bank, and Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has announced subscription to the shares of India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- As per the Union Budget 2022 announcement, a National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) and an Asset Management Company (IDRCL) have been set up by lenders to consolidate and take over the existing stressed debt in the banking/ financial system and then manage and dispose the assets to Alternate Investment Funds and other potential investors for eventual value realisation.

### Bharti Airtel to acquire 4.7% stake of Vodafone in Indus Towers:

- Bharti Airtel has decided to acquire an additional 4.7 per cent stake in Indus Towers from Vodafone Group, the company has announced.

### Bank of Baroda to acquire Union Bank's stake in IndiaFirst Life Insurance:

- Bank of Baroda will acquire Union Bank of India's 21% stake in India First Life Insurance Company, a joint venture between Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India and Carmel Point Investments.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS : ENVIRONMENT

### New Bent-Toed Gecko Species was discovered In Meghalaya:

- A team of herpetologists recorded a new species of **bent-toed gecko** from a **Umroi Military Station** in **Meghalaya**.
- Its scientific name is **Cyrtodactylus Exercitus**, and its English name is 'Indian Army's bent-toed gecko'.

### Two species of fungi associated with basal stem rot found in Kerala

- Researchers from **Kerala** have identified **two new species of fungi** from the genus **Ganoderma** that are associated with **coconut stem rot**.
- They have also genotyped the two fungi species, named **Ganoderma keralense** and **G. pseudoapplanatum** and identified genetic biomarkers.

### CMFRI Identifies New Carangid Species 'Scomberoides pelagicus' From Indian Coast:

- The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has identified a new carangid (Vatta) **species from the Indian coast**.
- It belongs to the '**queen fish**' group and is named **scomberoides pelagicus** The fish is locally known as pola vatta.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS : RANKING & INDEX

### Rajasthan Tops Solar Electrification Under Saubhagya Scheme

- **Rajasthan** has the **maximum households electrified** through the **solar-based standalone system**, while **hill states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim** and the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** had **nil beneficiaries** under the initiative.

### LIC becomes world's 10th most valuable insurance brand - Brand Finance

- According to **London-based Brand Finance**, a brand consulting firm, **Life Insurance Corporation** has been ranked at **10th** in the list of **insurance brands globally**.

### Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index, 2022: India tops on readiness

- According to the **Salesforce Global Digital Skills Index**, among **19 countries**, India has the Index's highest digital readiness score at 63 out of 100.

### Gautam Adani overtakes Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person - Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- According to the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**, **Gautam Adani**, the Indian billionaire **net worth** reached **\$88.5 billion** eclipsing fellow countryman **Mukesh Ambani's \$87.9 billion**.

### TomTom Traffic Index Ranking 2021 : Mumbai, Bengaluru among top 10 global cities

- As per **TomTom's 2021 Traffic Index**, **Mumbai** and **Bengaluru** have been ranked as **5th** and **10th** in the world rating of city congestion amongst **404 cities** throughout **58 international locations** throughout 2021.

### Odisha's Malkangiri Tops in NITI Aayog Delta Ranking in Agriculture & Water Resources

- Odisha's Malkangiri** has topped NITI Aayog's list of '**Most Improved Aspirational Districts in Agriculture & Water Resources Sector**' of December 2021.

Rank	District	State
1	Malkangiri	Odisha
2	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh
3	Baramulla	J&K
4	Ramgarh	Jharkhand
5	Begusarai	Bihar

### India ranks 3rd globally in LEED certified green buildings; China Tops : USGBC

- India has ranked **third** in the world for **LEED certified green buildings** in 2021 in the **US Green Building Council (USGBC)** annual list.

### India ranks 43rd in 2022 USCC – GIPC's International Intellectual Property Index - USA Tops

- India has been ranked at **43rd** in the **2022 International Intellectual property (IP) Index** released by the **Global Innovation Policy Center of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce** out of **55 countries**.
- India's overall score has increased from 38.40 percent (19.20 out of 50) in the ninth edition to 38.64 percent (19.32 out of 50) in the 10th edition.

#### Top five countries :

1. **United States** with a score of **95.48%**
2. United Kingdom - 94.14%
3. Germany - 92.46%
4. Sweden
5. France

### Hurun India Wealth Report 2021 : India's millionaire households rose 11% in 2021

- **Hurun Report**, the world's largest rich list compiler, released the **2nd edition of Hurun India Wealth Report 2021**, a macro research on India's wealth landscape & also released the **second edition of Hurun Indian Luxury Consumer Survey 2021** (survey on more than 50 data points).

### EIU's Democracy Index 2021: Norway tops, India ranks 46th

- According to the **EIU's Democracy Index 2021**, India is placed at **46th position** with an overall **score of 6.91** on a scale of 0-10 across **165 independent countries** and **two territories**. India was ranked at **53rd spot** in **2020**.

### GEM 2021/2022 Global report: India among top 5 economies for ease of starting business:

- According to the **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) 2021/2022 report**, India is among the **top five easiest places to start a new business** unveiled at the **Dubai Expo**.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

### India wins bid to host 2023 International Olympic Committee session in Mumbai:

- India won the right to host the **2023 IOC session** in **Mumbai** during the **139th IOC session** that was held in **Beijing, China**, on the sidelines of the Winter Olympics.
- This will be the **second time** India hosts an IOC session, having done so in 1983 in New Delhi.

#### **Bihar's Sakibul Gani became 1st player to hit triple ton on first-class debut:**

- **Sakibul Gani** became the first player to score a **triple hundred on first-class debut**.
- Gani, who made his debut for **Bihar in the Ranji Trophy**, slammed a triple-ton against Mizoram in the Plate Group match in Kolkata.
- Gani scored 341 runs in 405 balls, slamming 56 fours and two sixes en route his knock.

#### **Winter Olympics Games 2022 in Beijing concludes:**

- The **closing ceremony of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games** was held on February 20, 2022, at **National Stadium (known as the Bird's Nest) in Beijing**.
- The Games featured a record 109 events across 15 disciplines in 7 sports.

#### **Indian GM R Praggnanandhaa defeats world champion Magnus Carlsen at Airthings Masters:**

- In **Chess**, Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** defeated world champion **Magnus Carlsen** in the eighth round of the **Airthings Masters** competition.
- Praggnanandhaa has become only the third Indian after Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna to beat Carlsen.

#### **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz creates history, becomes youngest ATP 500 winner:**

- The **Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz** has clinched the **Rio Open tennis** title after defeating **Diego Schwartzman** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
- The seventh-seeded Alcaraz defeated third-seeded Schwartzman 6-4, 6-2 to become the youngest ATP 500 champion

#### **Tan Kim Her appointed India's badminton doubles coach till 2026 Asian Games:**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has approved the **appointment of ace Malaysian badminton coach, Tan Kim Her**, as **India's Doubles Coach till the Asian Games in 2026**.
- The 50-year-old's return to India will raise the stock of the double's combinations in the country.

#### SAAF & National Cross-Country Athletics Championship to be held in Nagaland:

- Nagaland is all set to host the **South Asian Athletic Federation (SAAF)** cross country championship and **56th National Cross-Country** athletics championships from 26th of March in Kohima.

#### Mirabai Chanu wins gold at Singapore Weightlifting International:

- Indian weightlifter and 2020 Tokyo Olympics silver-medallist, Mirabai Chanu has won the **gold medal** at the 55kg Singapore Weightlifting International 2022 on February 25, 2022.
- Chanu lifted 191kg (86kg+105kg) to stand on top of the podium.

#### Rishabh Pant won ESPNcricinfo 'Test Batting Award' 2021:

- India's dashing keeper-batter Rishabh Pant won top **Test batting** prize for his series-winning knock of **89** against Australia in Brisbane last year while New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson was adjudged 'Captain of the Year' at the 15th Edition ESPN cricinfo awards.

#### Odisha Open 2022: Unnati Hooda Becomes Youngest Women's Singles Title; Kiran George won Men's Singles Title

- Teenager Unnati Hooda became the youngest Indian to win a **Super 100** tournament as she beat compatriot **Smit Toshniwal** in straight games to claim the women's singles title while unseeded Kiran George emerged triumphant in men's singles final of the **\$75,000 Odisha Open** badminton tournament.

#### 2028 Los Angeles Olympics: IOC approves 28 sports:

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has sanctioned the initial sports program for the **2028 Summer Olympic Games** in Los Angeles.
- At least **28 sports** have been approved for the program, including skateboarding, sport climbing, sailing and surfing.

#### Mithali Raj secured Second Rank in ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings:

- Mithali Raj has reached the **no. 2 spot** in the latest **Women's ODI Batting Rankings** released by ICC, ahead of the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022.
- Mithali Raj has a total of 738 points to her credit and sits second to Australian player Alyssa Healy with 750 points.

- Alongside Mithali, opener Smriti Mandhana is the only other Indian player to find herself in the top 10 rankings.

#### China defends choice of PLA Galwan commander as Olympics torchbearer:

- China defended choosing a People's Liberation Army (PLA) regiment commander who fought in the Galwan clash as an Olympics torchbearer, a move that led India to carry out a diplomatic boycott of the games in Beijing.

#### New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell wins ICC's Spirit of Cricket award:

- New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell was named the recipient of 2021's ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for not taking an easy single during the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as he felt he had "obstructed" the way of bowler Adil Rashid in that moment.

#### Heather Knight and Keegan Petersen voted ICC Players of the Month for January:

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Heather Knight and Keegan Petersen as the winners of the ICC Players of the Month Award for January 2022.
- South Africa's Test sensation Keegan Petersen and England women's team captain Heather Knight were voted ICC Players of the Month for January 2022.

#### 110th Australian Open Tennis 2022 held at Melbourne, Australia:

- Rafael Nadal achieved his record-breaking 21st Grand Slam Men's Singles Title at the first Grand Slam of 2022 i.e. the 2022 Australian Open was held at Melbourne Park, Melbourne in Australia.
- Organized by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), it was the 110th edition of the Australian Open, and the 54th in the Open Era.
- Rafael Nadal Parera of Spain by defeating Russia's Daniil Sergeyevich Medvedev in Men's Single
- Ashleigh Barty of Australia by defeating the United States' Danielle Rose Collins in Women's single

#### Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre lifts 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship 2022:

- Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre, LSRC, has lifted the 15th CEC Cup Men's Ice Hockey Championship - 2022.

- In a seesaw final in NDS Indoor Ice Hockey rink, LSRC beat Indo Tibetan Border Police, ITBP by 3-2 goals.

#### SAI extends employment offer to 398 coaches, to prepare for Olympic 2024 and 2028:

- The Sports Authority of India under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has extended offers of employment to 398 coaches at various levels in 21 disciplines.

#### Haryana Men's Team & Kerala Women's Team wins Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22:

- Haryana defeated the Indian Railway 3-0, to win the Men's title in Senior National Volleyball Championship 2021-22.
- Similarly, in women's category, Kerala defeated the Indian Railway 3-1, to lift the trophy.
- The 70th Senior National Volleyball (Men & Women) Championship 2021-22 was held at the Biju Patnaik Indoor Stadium, KIIT Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar.

#### Chelsea beat Palmeiras to win 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Champions:

- Chelsea wins 2021 FIFA Club World Cup Champions, beats Palmeiras – English club, Chelsea has won the 2021 FIFA Club World Cup final.
- Chelsea claimed the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time.
- The final match between Chelsea and Brazilian club Palmeiras was held at Mohammed bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi.

#### International Olympic Committee Session is coming to India in 2023:

- Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur announced the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session is coming to India in 2023.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS AND AUTHOR

#### A book titled, India, That is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution' authors by J Sai Deepak:

- A Trilogy book series titled, India, that is Bharat: Coloniality, Civilisation, Constitution' is authored by J Sai Deepak and published by Bloomsbury India.



- It highlights how colonialism changes the socio-religious culture, history, education, language and racial patterns in India.
- Further, this work also traces the origins of seemingly universal constructs such as 'toleration', 'secularism' and 'humanism' to Christian political theology.

#### A book titled **How to Prevent the Next Pandemic** by Bill Gates:

- A book titled 'How to Prevent the Next Pandemic' has authored by Bill Gates will be published this year in May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.
- The book, to be published by Penguin Random House internationally and Knopf in the US.

#### A book titled 'A Nation to Protect' authored by Priyam Gandhi Mody

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched the book titled "A Nation To Protect" authored by Priyam Gandhi Mody.

#### A book on Rabindranath Tagore authored by Uma Das Gupta has released:

- A new book explores Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's work for rural reconstruction by setting up 'Sriniketan', a wing of his Visva Bharati International University at Santiniketan in 1922.
- The book, "A History of Sriniketan: Rabindranath Tagore's Pioneering Work in Rural Construction", is written by historian and Tagore biographer Uma Das Gupta.
- It is published under Niyogi Book's 'Paper Missile' imprint."

#### Jimmy Soni authored a book titled **The Founders: The Story of Paypal**:

- A new book titled "The Founders: The Story of Paypal and the Entrepreneurs Who Shaped Silicon Valley", authored by author Jimmy Soni and published by Simon & Schuster released soon.

#### A New book titled 'The Great Tech Game' penned by Anirudh Suri:

- Indian author, Anirudh Suri has come out with his new book titled "The Great Tech Game" Shaping Geopolitics and the Destinies of Nations.

#### A New book titled 'Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War' released:

- A new book titled “**Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War**” authored by **Samuel Moyn** has released.

#### A New book titled “**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**”:

- A new book titled “**Dignity in a Digital Age: Making Tech Work for All of Us**” has authored by **Ro Khanna** released.

#### A book titled “**Atal Bihari Vajpayee**” authored by **Sagarika Ghose**:

- A book titled “**Atal Bihari Vajpayee**” authored by **Sagarika Ghose** has been launched. It is a biography of the former **Prime Minister of India**.

#### A New book titled “**India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons**”: **Rajiv Bhatia**

- Ambassador **Rajiv Kumar Bhatia**, a Distinguished Fellow at Gateway House’s Foreign Policy Studies Program, has written a new book titled “**India-Africa Relations: Changing Horizons**,”

### CURRENT AFFAIRS : OBITUARIES

#### ‘**Kabir of Karnataka**’ **Ibrahim Sutar** dies at 82:

- **Padma Shri** awardee and social worker **Ibrahim Sutar** passed away in Karnataka following a cardiac arrest. **He was 82.**

#### **Senior Advocate & Additional Solicitor General RS Suri Passes Away**

- **Senior Advocate** and **Additional Solicitor General Rupinder Singh Suri** passed away.

#### **Former Greek president Christos Sartzetakis dies at age 92:**

- **Former Greek President Christos Sartzetakis**, a judge widely respected for resisting pressure from military dictators who ultimately imprisoned him without trial in the late 1960s, has died.

#### **Legendary Bollywood music composer and singer Bappi Lahiri passes away in Mumbai:**

- **Music composer and singer Bappi Lahiri** passed away at a Mumbai hospital.

#### Veteran Singer Sandhya Mukherjee Passes Away At 91:

- Singing legend **Sandhya Mukherjee**, also known as **Sandhya Mukhopadhyay** passed away at the age of 91 after a cardiac arrest.
- The information of her demise was shared by **Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader** Shantanu Sen.

#### Veteran Kannada poet Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi passes away aged 93:

- **Veteran Kannada poet Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi**, who had recovered from Covid-19 infection, passed away at a private hospital at Sattur near Dharwad following multi-organ failure.

#### Indian football legend Surajit Sengupta passes away:

- **Former India midfielder and East Bengal legend Surajit Sengupta**, who mesmerized Kolkata Maidan with his dribbling skills in the 1970s, died at a city hospital, following his prolonged battle with COVID-19.

#### Senior journalist, retired IIS officer Pratap Bordoloi passes away at 72:

- **Senior journalist and retired IIS officer Pratap Bordoloi** passed away at his residence in **Guwahati**.

#### Senior journalist Ravish Tiwari passes away:

- **Senior journalist and Indian Express national bureau chief Ravish Tiwari** passed away following a two-year-long battle with cancer.
- Tiwari was also the national political editor of The Indian Express.
- He had previously worked at India Today and The Economic Times.

#### Freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker Shakuntala Choudhary passes away:

- **Noted freedom fighter and Gandhian social worker, Shakuntala Choudhary** has passed away at the age of 102.
- She was popularly known as 'Shakuntala Baideo'.

#### Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy passed away:

- **Andhra Pradesh Industries Minister Mekapati Goutham Reddy** has passed away.
- Reddy, was a two-time MLA from the Atmakur Assembly constituency in the Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh.

#### Renowned Malayalam actress KPAC Lalitha has passed away:

- **Veteran Malayalam film and stage actress, KPAC Lalitha** has passed away.

**Odisha's first tribal CM Hemananda Biswal passes away:**

- **Odisha's first tribal chief minister** as well as last Congress chief minister of the state, **Hemananda Biswal** passed away.

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